



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20318-9999

AIR FORCE BIRTHDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2006

This year marks the 59th anniversary of the establishment of the United States Air Force. Dating back to the early years as the Aeronautical Division of the Army Signal Corps, visionary Airmen risked their lives in the quest for dominance of the air. Due to the vision of aviation pioneers then, the US Air Force now stands above all challengers as the world's premier air and space force.

Our Airmen have risen to the challenges of the post 9/11 era and will continue to serve our Nation with distinction. Whether it is a C-17 on the ground in Baghdad, a Predator in the skies over Afghanistan, an orbiting satellite, or the support personnel who make the mission successful, the United States Air Force is the image of freedom and democracy throughout the world. To every member of the Air Force, thank you for your steadfast dedication and commitment to defending the United States. To echo the words of General Curtis LeMay, "if we maintain our love of freedom and superior global air power, the future of the US looks good."

On behalf of the Joint Chiefs, the men and women of the Armed Forces, and a grateful Nation, I would like to wish the United States Air Force a happy birthday!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Pace".

PETER PACE
General, United States Marine Corps
Chairman
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff