



AIMS TOOLBOX

This document is intended to provide some ideas that may be helpful in telling the Air & Space Forces story. Use any or all of it, and feel free to improve it. Please contact the POC with updates and suggestions.

Topic/Title: My AF Story Template

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I enlisted (or got commissioned through ____ program or joined) the Air Force in ____ (or ____ years ago). What motivated me to join the Air Force was _____. My job was _____. I served in the Air Force ____ years and had ____ (number) assignments. My favorite assignment was _____ because _____. My favorite part of serving in the Air Force was _____. The Air Force taught me _____.

Examples

Topic/Title: My AF Story

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I grew up loving being a part of a team, a group of individuals that had their own talents, their own strengths and weaknesses that would come together to create something bigger, they created magic. When I went to college, I'll be honest, I was a bit lost, I was struggling to find my purpose, my why. Growing up the daughter of a fighter pilot, as much as I tried to fight it --- the gift to serve was in my blood. The Air Force pulled me in and I was drawn to it like a magnet. The order, the discipline, the camaraderie... that sense of purpose and being a part of something bigger that I longed for and didn't know how much I need. Being part of the 'magic' completely consumed me. The Air Force found me when I didn't even know how lost I was and it gave me that team... it gave me mentors, peers, and a family – people who will be by me in my life forever. Through it all – the training, the adventures, the travel. the highs and the lows, I have been able to find my why. I get to take care of people, I get to lead, make a difference, and serve in the greatest 1% of the population --- a group of collective souls who come from all walks of life, but have the common goal and desire to serve, protect, and be that magic our country so desperately needs.

Topic/Title: My AF Story

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Date: 4/19/2024

I joined the Air Force during the turbulent times of the Vietnam War with the intention of becoming a jet engine mechanic. However, the needs of the Air Force led me to be trained as a parachute rigger and deployment to Vietnam.



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Despite my initial plans being sidelined, a unique opportunity presented itself for an overseas assignment in England. This experience broadened my horizons while exposing me to different cultures and perspectives.

The Air Force and my personal experiences fueled my passion for photography. What was a hobby eventually evolved into a new Air Force career path; demonstrating how a personal interest can lead to unexpected professional opportunities.

A significant turn came with the selection as the team photographer for the USAF Air Demonstration Team, the "Thunderbirds." This role was both thrilling and demanding, capturing the high-energy performances of one of the most prestigious aerial demonstration teams in the world, documenting the awe-inspiring displays in front of a world-wide audience.

My journey didn't end there as my Air Force career progressed, I transitioned into the role of a photojournalist. From documenting humanitarian missions, covering global events and at the forefront of history as the story played a role for Department of Defense and Air Force decision makers which also included the public.

My career path may have been unconventional but it's a testament to the transformative power of following one's passions, while the Air Force provided the opportunity and career path. From conflict to the heights of aerial performance, my camera documented all aspects of the Air Force mission and the men and women to support it.

My Air Force journey reminds me that the most unexpected detours lead to the most remarkable destinations.