

Preface

Compelling and creative leadership is one of the most critical demands of our time. Our Air Force is made up of people, doctrine, organizations, weapons, and equipment. It is leadership, however, that brings these elements together and makes them work effectively. Leaders make things happen. They make it easier for people to adapt to change, accept risk and uncertainty, and help others reach their full potential. This fourth edition of *Concepts for Air Force Leadership* reemphasizes the Air Force's commitment to inspired leadership, especially the kind of leadership needed in the military community during these times of unprecedented change occurring in our Air Force. Our objective in this edition is to examine the latest thinking about the art of leadership to achieve a better understanding of the process and to improve leadership effectiveness. This has been accomplished by creating a better understanding of the purpose, direction, and motivation involved in leading people in a pluralistic Air Force. Good leaders develop through a never-ending process of self-study, education, training, and experience. This text provides a guide for what you should be, know, and do to lead people. Our approach is more analytical than descriptive; it is not prescriptive because leadership is still more of an art than a science. And like any other art, it cannot be developed to perfection nor applied as a scientific formula.

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