

## **Training and Education for Air Power**

Realizing the unique nature of air power and its potential, Mitchell also realized that airmen could not be trained or educated within the traditional land or naval systems. Mitchell wrote: **“We therefore need an entirely different system of training, education, reserves, and replacements, from that of the other services.”**<sup>242</sup>

- Many people think that the training of flyers is a very easy thing. This is more difficult, probably, than that in any other branch of the service.<sup>243</sup>
- The education of the highest type of airman embraces more subjects and more thorough knowledge of world conditions than has been required of one person or profession.<sup>244</sup>
- As the training of the air personnel in flying and mechanics is common to every use—whether it be with the Army, the Navy, or any other department of the Government—the primary aeronautical schools should be the same.<sup>245</sup>
- Certain of those who have shown themselves most proficient are selected for training at the Field Officers’ School, where the use of all branches of aviation in combination is taught, including the solution of air problems, plans of employment, operations, reconnaissance, bombardment, and the various branches of work in the Air Staff Departments—that is, operations, information, equipment, lighter-than-air, and administration.<sup>246</sup>
- When the young men [in attack aviation] have completed their courses in the special schools, they join their squadrons or actual air troops. After serving there for a period of two years and becoming entirely familiar with the tactics, supply, and handling of their organization, certain of those who have shown themselves the most proficient are selected for higher tactical education, and

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some for higher technical education. Those for a higher tactical education are sent to the Air Service School at Langley Field on Chesapeake Bay. . . . Those chosen for a technical education are sent first to the School of the Engineering Division of the Air Service, which at present is at Dayton, Ohio.

There [at the Air Service School] they are taught how to handle the air arms in combination, how to work with the ground troops, how to fight other air troops, navies, and ground troops—in other words, it is here that officers are given their education which combines all the different elements of aviation.<sup>247</sup>

- In America, where our pilots had been trained under non-flying officers who knew nothing about aviation, acrobatics and maneuvers in the air had been frowned upon as being dangerous. The result was that pilots became afraid to fly as they should, and when they got into a dangerous place and had to maneuver, they were incapable of doing so, and disaster ensued.<sup>248</sup>