



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

WASHINGTON DC 20330

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My Fellow Airmen,

Today's Airmen are among the military's best educated and most inquisitive. We Airmen are innovators because we embrace the word "why" and mine it for better, smarter ways to operate. Our history is replete with examples of those who faced daunting tasks with limited resources beyond their minds and fortitude to forge a stronger, straighter path.

Their experiences are one of the cornerstones of the 2012 Reading List. This year's list also includes supplementary films, treatises, and internet-based resources that address today's issues and provide the tools to contemplate and discuss the role of our Air Force, both now and in the future. The topics run the gamut of foreign policy, diversity, technology, the Constitution, and even reality-based fiction.

So, with enthusiasm, I present the 2012 CSAF Reading List:

- *Airpower for Strategic Effect*, by Colin Gray
- *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*, by Laura Hillenbrand
- *Start with Why*, by Simon Sinek
- *The Forever War*, by Dexter Filkins
- *Paradise Beneath Her Feet*, by Isobel Coleman
- *The Words We Live By: Your Annotated Guide to the Constitution*, by Linda Monk
- *The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers*, by Richard McGregor
- *Adapt: Why Success Always Starts with Failure*, by Tim Harford
- *Catch-22*, by Joseph Heller
- *Freedom Flyers: The Tuskegee Airmen of World War II*, by J. Todd Moyer
- *Physics of the Future*, by Michio Kaku
- *A Country of Vast Designs: James K. Polk, the Mexican War, and the Conquest of the American Continent*, by Robert Merry
- *The Hunters*, by James Salter


Each quarter, I will highlight a few of these books in order to foster our steady professional development. For the next three months, I recommend the following:

Airpower for Strategic Effect, by Colin Gray. *Airpower for Strategic Effect* provides a critical, strategic history of airpower as well as a new general theory. A wholly original work combining ideas that are drawn from existing literature on airpower with Dr. Gray's own research on strategy, this study situates the story of airpower

within a larger history of modern strategy, reevaluating the benefits of airpower from World War I to recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Gray rethinks airpower's strategic history and its general strategic theory in light of the information that he has provided, concluding with a look at the relationship between theory and current practical issues. The history of airpower might be full of strategic successes; yet, like every other type of military power, airpower can be misused. Gray's study marks a major effort to improve our grasp of airpower's strategic potential within different political, cultural, military-strategic, and technological contexts.

- *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*, by Laura Hillenbrand. *Unbroken* is the inspiring true story of a man who lived through a series of almost too incredible catastrophes. In evocative, immediate descriptions, Hillenbrand unfurls the story of Louie Zamperini—a juvenile delinquent, turned Olympic runner, turned Army hero. During a routine search mission over the Pacific, Louie's plane crashed into the ocean, and the story of what happened to him over the next three years of his life will keep you glued to the pages. You will cheer for a man who somehow maintained his selfhood and humanity despite the monumental degradations that he suffered, and you will want to share this book with everyone whom you know.
- *Start with Why*, by Simon Sinek. Why do you do what you do? Why are some people and organizations more innovative, more influential, and more profitable than others? Why do some people command greater loyalty from customers and employees alike? Even among the successful, why are so few able to repeat their success? In studying the leaders who have had the greatest influence in the world, Simon Sinek discovered that they all think, act, and communicate in the exact same way—and it's the complete opposite of what everyone else does. Sinek calls this powerful idea "The Golden Circle," and it provides a framework upon which organizations can be built, movements can be lead, and people can be inspired. And it all starts with "why." Drawing on a wide range of real-life stories, Sinek weaves together a clear vision of what it takes to truly lead and inspire. This book is for anyone who wants to inspire others or who wants to find someone to inspire them.

You can find information on these books and the many additional resources of the 2012 CSAF Professional Reading Program at <http://www.af.mil/information/csafreading/index.asp>. I urge all Airmen to make the most of these valuable resources. Through them, I look forward to another year of personal enrichment, and I hope that the New Year will be one of rewarding professional development for you as well.


NORTON A. SCHWARTZ
General, USAF
Chief of Staff