

Core Values is more than just a catch phrase to ALS graduates

Integrity. For all of us in the Air Force, there is one value that has taken us to where we are today.

Honesty, honor, perfection and stability. All these words are used to describe integrity. Most people think of **Integrity** as "Doing what is right, even when no one is looking." We believe it is more than that.

Integrity is taking responsibility for things that go wrong as well as things that go right. It is saying "Yes, I did it." Even when you know there might be consequences.

We all need **Integrity** on and off duty, in our home, community and especially in our workcenter. Whether you have been in the Air Force for one year or 20, this value does not change. It's needed to continually improve the great Air Force we have today. Without it, we have no leadership.

Integrity goes hand in hand with all other core values including **Service Before Self**.

Service Before Self is the act of putting aside personal wants, needs and beliefs and stepping up to the challenge laid before us.

Giving your life for your country

is the ultimate act of **Service Before Self**. It can be summed up in the words honor and commitment. We realize what an honor it is to live in the greatest country in the world and be part of the greatest fighting force.

Then by applying that sense of honor to the commitment that we make when we took the oath of enlistment, we display the essence of **Service Before Self**.

We gave away some of our individual rights so citizens of the United States could retain theirs. Many tend to lose sight of the reason our military exists; people view **Service Before Self**

as putting family and loved ones last, but in serving, we truly put them first by protecting their

rights and freedoms provided to them in the Constitution.

The only way **Integrity** and **Service Before Self** can thrive is by applying **Excellence In All We Do**.

Excellence In All We Do is to give 100 percent in everything we do.

There are many different types of people, with very different jobs in our Air Force and in Class 2000E. We vary from flying crew chiefs, to computer

technicians, to Office of Special Investigations personnel,

but our commitment to excellence toward the mission is the same.

As tomorrow's leaders, it is our responsibility to provide the living example of

Excellence In All We Do. With our new understanding of what is expected of us as noncommissioned officers, leaders, mentors for our present and future Air Force, we accept the challenge of excellence set forth by the Air Force.

Excellence In All We Do can be summed up in a quote someone once said; "I'd rather make my days count than simply count my days."

These Core Values are the key to today's Air Force. They are the history and benchmark for future generations. The Air Force Core Values must never be diluted. They are the foundation on which to build a stronger Air Force, ready to conquer any challenge set before us.

We as Senior Airmen, the leaders of the 21st Century, will do our utmost to support these core values and instill these values in our peers and all those we may be entrusted to supervise. We will be true to the Air Force and live by the core values: **Integrity, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do.**

(Submitted by Charleston ALS Class 2000E)



Graphic by Senior Airman Tim LaVoie, 437 APS