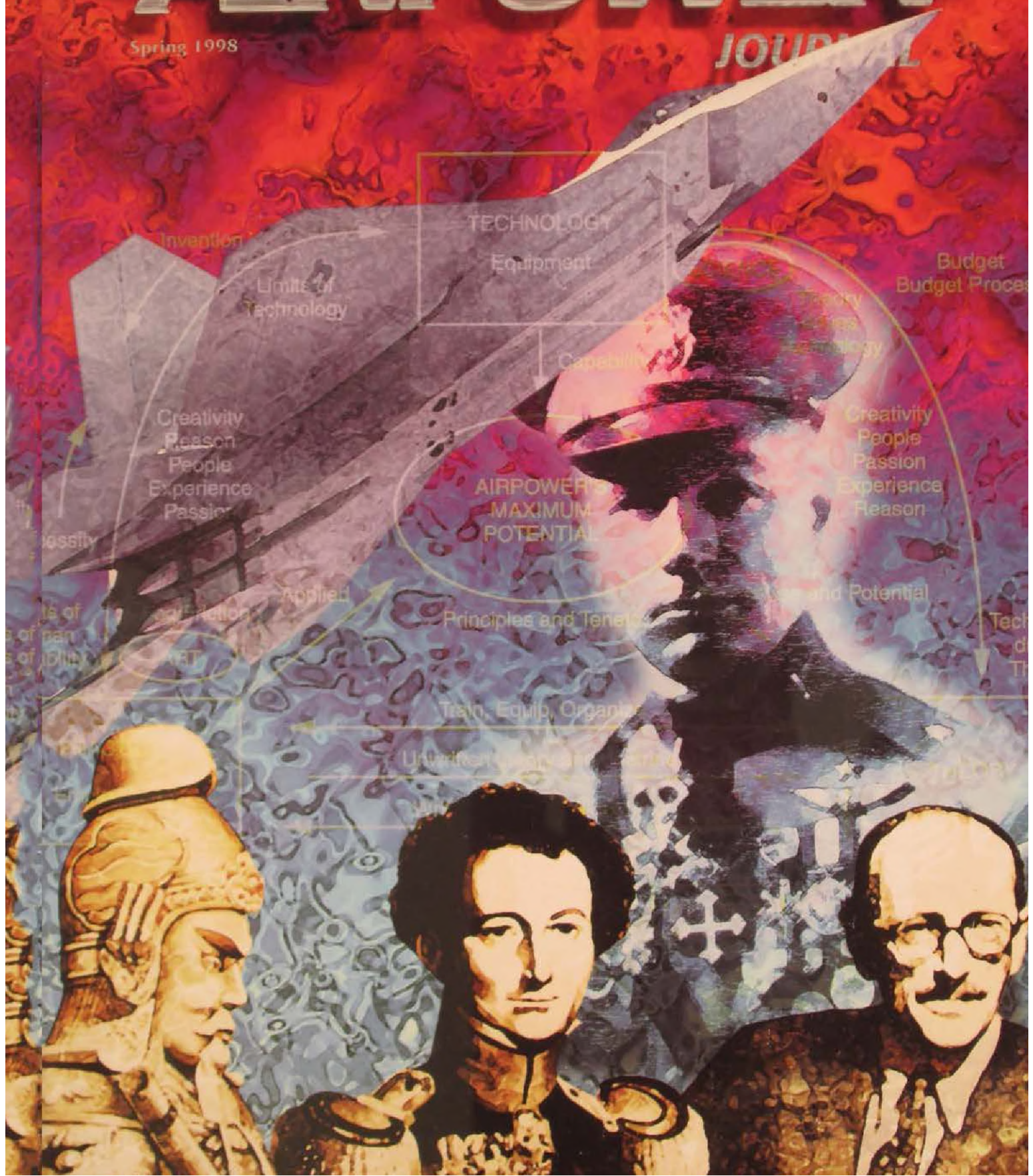


# AIRPOWER

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JOURNAL





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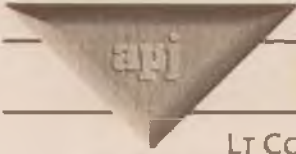
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## Flight Lines

LT COL JAMES W. SPENCER, EDITOR

### Giants in the Land!

THESE DAYS IT SEEMS that everyone has an op-ed on the problems with the military. They warn of giants in the land: the decline of the warrior culture, caving in to feminism, and attacks on the relevance of character and values. I enjoy reading them as much as you do. My favorites—Kate O’Beirne (*National Review*), Walter McDougall (*Commentary*), Wesley Pruden, and Suzanne Fields (*Washington Times*)—package their reasoning in something instructor pilots hopefully gave up years ago: fear, sarcasm, and ridicule. Unfortunately for many of you, we can’t publish fear, sarcasm, and ridicule. We report our ideas in a format that’s sensitive to the dialectic—we present both sides.

We need you to come forward with cogent arguments that are well researched and documented to prove that the warrior culture—the American fighting man’s and woman’s way of war—is or isn’t on its way out. Are we too hunkered down in our “don’t ask/don’t tell” or counterfeminist revetments to even comment? We’ve received a number of innovatively thoughtful spleen-ventings, but usually all we can offer in response is some gel caps. Your ideas need to be professionally presented, or they’re no better than the “I feel better” pieces that run in *Air Force Times*. We’ve said it before—scholarship and passion are not mutually exclusive.

The media types are running polemic after polemic, castigating our civilian leadership. A large percentage of the executive branch and Congress lack military service, but the media isn’t going to convince them of the existence of any cultural incorrectness if the media’s support resembles flubber. In the early part of this century, A. J. Liebling first popularized the notion of criticizing the free press. A reporter himself, he once said, “Freedom of the press

is limited to those who own one.” If I owned some of the press, I wouldn’t sleep at night. Although its commentaries are fun to read, the media isn’t convincing anyone on this story for us. Besides, you should “never argue with people who buy ink by the barrel.”

We need to hear from you on this subject very soon. From what we’ve seen already, we could conclude that there *are* giants in the land. Sensitive to the dialectic, we could be wrong. Give us something we can run. Need a place to start? Consider the advice of Merrit Malloy: “What we might consider is how we are good rather than how good we are.”

### Of Legacies and Hope

When I received the singular honor of being selected for this position, I was once again experiencing the rare privilege of living out a chosen dream. The dream has since become reality, and the three complete volumes of *Airpower Journal* that record my name as editor will be conveniently easy to point to someday on a distant library shelf. Collectively, they represent—in microcosm—the professional era they chronicled.

Having had the very great fortune of working as caretaker of the professional dialogue during General Fogleman’s tenure as chief of staff, I can understand why it’s easy to see our success. From the confusion of our information-warfare cover on the Spring 1995 issue, to the clarity of four colors, to the expansion in our size and editorial focus, to the advocacy of a reinvigorated editorial-board process, to flagship publication status, to the increased readership garnered by our award-winning web site, it’s easy to see why we’re pleased with this body of work.



All commanders or division chiefs desire to conclude their tour of duty with a planned departure or a scheduled change-of-command ceremony. It appears mine will end that way in the next several months. That's part of the process of being selected to the next higher grade—an experience I share with only three other incumbents in the 50-year history of USAF professional journals.

It doesn't seem right that General Fogleman's departure was more hastily arranged. Although he confidently predicted that his action would be a "one-day" media event, the lingering effects of the professional echoes he left behind continue to gently remind us of how right he was for our times and how good he was for our service. Members of Congress bristled over the general's *nerve* (synonym for *mettle* or *grit*), but it seems as if the Washington elite has been only slightly annoyed by one man of principle whose earlier-than-expected retirement represents a casual irritant to agendas that rarely included his stock-in-trade—his military advice.

What hope is there for his successor? Should we ask the 107 highly promotable captains who won't be majors or the scores of

top pilot-training graduates who won't be fighter pilots? If the new chief completes his tour on time, will it mean that he will have acquiesced in the face of similar circumstances?

What hope is there for my successors? I've taken the risk of more than slightly annoying the Washington elite by happily engaging in controversial dialogue, but I did so under the provision of top cover—from the chief of staff on down. Nevertheless, we inexorably remain a wholly owned subsidiary of the parent company that could, and should, remain the object of routine criticism from our published ideas. Will my successors commute to work wearing any less of a smile than mine?

Privately, I'll appropriately thank the people at Air University and the College of Aerospace Doctrine, Research, and Education who have supported me so well. But when I leave, I will pay them no greater honor than to declare to you that not once was I told what to print and not once was I told how to print it by anyone in my chain of command. That is the best legacy any incumbent could leave. That is the legacy I hope for my successors—and for their chiefs of staff. □



## Ricochets and Replies

*We encourage your comments via letters to the editor or comment cards. All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, Airpower Journal, 401 Chennault Circle, Maxwell AFB AL 36112-6428. You can also send your comments by E-mail to editor@max1.au.af.mil. We reserve the right to edit the material for overall length.*

### NO ATTACK?

I am concerned about the quality of the articles that are released by your publication. In the article "'Handmaid' of the Army? The American Perception of German Bombard-

ment Doctrine prior to the Battle of Britain" (Summer 1997), Capt Alexis Grynkewich mistook the state of Air Corps attack aviation in 1939. He wrote that "the Air Corps needed the parenthetical clarification due to the lack of dedicated attack aircraft in its own inventory" (page 61). I take exception to this statement. The following attack aviation units were in the Air Corps at that time: 3d Attack Group, Barksdale Field, Louisiana (8th, 13th, and 90th Attack Squadrons); 17th Attack Group, March Field, California (34th, 73d, and 95th Attack

*Continued on page 104*

**Ricochets and Replies***Continued from page 3*

Squadrons); 26th Attack Squadron, Wheeler Field, Hawaii; and 74th Attack Squadron, Albrook Field, Panama.

Although the doctrine of strategic bombing was and continues to be the "Holy Grail" of airpower, the interdiction, battlefield preparation, and close air support missions had the biggest impacts on the war. With that one sentence, Grynkeiwich shortchanged Air Corps attack aviation. It was Professors Morrow's and Leary's responsibility to have led this young man down the proper path.

Drew Taylor  
Dayton, Ohio

**NO FOOLING**

As a doctor and US Air Force reservist, I must object to the article "Fooling Mother Nature: An Ethical Analysis of and Recommendations for Oversight of Human-Performance Enhancements in the Armed Forces" (Summer 1997). We have already "fooled" Mother Nature. The US military is the only force in the world that "owns the night." We fight at night with vision that's enhanced by night vision goggles (NVG).

But more importantly to me is the implication in the article that we should not even protect our soldiers, sailors, and airmen. We have body armor to protect against projectiles—why not immune enhancers and antioxidants to protect against chemical-biological warfare agents? I consider that defensive—indeed preventive—medicine.

Likewise, the use of pharmacological agents to enhance wakefulness is defensive. I want my potential patients to avoid being on a stretcher when they see me. Our troops should have all the protection and advantage our technology can deliver. And we should not share any of these technological advances with potential enemies.

Col Robert W. Feldtman, USAFR MC FS  
Houston, Texas

**NO MITCHELLS**

I read the Fall 1997 edition of *APJ* with a higher-than-normal level of interest. I'm about to end a long career, the vast majority spent in the Air Force—both active and full-time Air Force Reserve. Your editorial comments and those in Lt Col Timothy Kline's article "Where Have All the Mitchell's Gone?" hit a sensitive spot in me because I've lived those things.

I was full of excitement and energy as a young officer because I thought I could make a difference. I was also very naive. A lot of us did make some minor differences in the late sixties and early seventies because our focus was on the mission and our country. Things began to change in the eighties, and our focus gradually changed from the mission to worrying about the color of paint on the buildings—and whether or not everyone had his or her own office with an executive desk. The number of workers began to decrease although the number of senior managers increased. We spend enormous amounts of money to convince pilots to stay in the Air Force, yet all the while we seem to have forgotten why we even have one. We listen to top leaders speak of integrity—something that should be taught in our families—yet we constantly hear of other senior people in trouble. And the list of troubles seems to have no end.

That's why there are no Mitchells. Mitchell was a true patriot who wanted to improve his armed forces. Today, we are tripping over O-6s who are concerned about performance indicators and running a business. Our young people seem more concerned about money than patriotism. We really do need a Mitchell now, but it will take the same courage and risk that he had—something I don't think anyone in today's Air Force is willing to do.

Col Terry E. Paasch, USAFR, Retired  
Hill AFB, Utah