

## Air Force Creed

**I** do not choose to be a common man.

It is my right to be uncommon.

**I** seek whatever talents God gave me -- not security.

**I** do not wish to be a kept citizen,

Humbled and dulled by having the state look after me.

**I** want to take the calculated risk; to dream and build,

To fail and to succeed.

**I** refuse to barter incentive for the dole.

**I** prefer the challenge of life to the guaranteed existence;

The thrill of fulfillment to the stale calm of utopia.

**I** will not trade freedom for beneficence nor my dignity for a handout.

**I** will never cower before any earthly master nor bend to any threat.

**It** is my heritage to stand erect, proud and unafraid;

To think and act for myself,

Enjoy the benefits of my creations and to face the world boldly and say,

**“This, with God’s help, I have done.”**

**All** this is what it means to be an American.

Dean Alfonge  
American Statesman, December 7, 1899  
United States Air Force Academy Contrails