

Faith

Current as of
22 July 2019

Lesson Plan

OBJECTIVE: While participating in a guided discussion, each airman will discuss the importance of faith in self and beyond oneself.

SURVEY QUESTIONS:

- After participating in the discussion, do you have a clearer understanding of how faith contributes to your Airman identity? (Scale: Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree)
- How important is it to you for your fellow Airmen to be able to place their faith in you? (Scale: Highly Important to Not Important at All)
- How important is it for you to be able to place your faith in the Air Force system? (Scale: Highly Important to Not Important at All)
- I recognize something beyond myself to place my faith into when faced with challenges, adversity and/or failure. (Scale: Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree)

Instructional Aids: Video Clips, Print outs of Airman’s Creed, Oaths of Office & Enlistment, Code of Conduct Articles

FOUNDATIONAL COMPETENCIES: Perserverence & Resilience

REFERENCES: AFH-1, AFI 1-1, & AF DOCTRINE Vol 2

Lesson Outline

Introduction	
MP 1. Introduction a. Attention Step b. Overview	5 Minutes
MP 2. Faith – Small Group Discussion a. Creed, Oath & Code of Conduct b. Discuss Importance of Faith	15 Minutes
MP 3. Faith Facilitated Discussion a. Self, Others & Beyond b. CAF – Spiritual Pillar c. Imporatnce of Faith to the Airman Identity	20 Minutes
MP 4. Conclusion / Remotivation a. Summary b. Re-motivation	10 Minutes

Attention: Show music video clip from USAF Band, Max Impact *This Flag* (3:40)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0xNa7tZRtQ>

Overview: Today we are going to talk about faith and how important it is to believe in yourself and something bigger than yourself.

MP2: Faith – Small Group Discussion

Facilitator Note: Break class into three groups. Give each group a printout of one of the following (Airman’s Creed, Side-by-side Oath of Office and Enlistment, and Code of Conduct Articles) to read through and discuss how faith is identified in the document and what it means to them. After discussing in the small groups, bring the groups back together to the large group. Ask the groups to read their document aloud and share what their group discovered about the importance of faith. (15 minutes)

Facilitator Action: State/share with class:

- *Civilian Airmen take the Oath of Office too.*
- *When it comes to the Code of Conduct and surviving a POW situation, our Air Force doctrine advises:

 - o *Maintaining the qualities of being an “American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life,” requires a love of and faith in the U.S. and a conviction that the U.S. cause is just.*
 - o *Honorable survival in captivity depends on faith in and loyalty to fellow prisoners of war.*
 - o *The best way for a prisoner of war to keep faith with the U.S., fellow prisoners of war, and him or herself is to provide the enemy with as little information as possible.*
 - o *To best survive the situation, military personnel must maintain faith in their country, in fellow detainees or captives and, most importantly, in themselves.**
- *When it comes to Ethical Values, being faithful to one’s convictions is part of integrity. Fidelity, faithfulness, allegiance, and devotion are all synonyms for loyalty.*
- *In our Air Force Core Values, Service Before Self demands that each Airman keep faith in the system.*
- *Trust is important in creating a healthy team because information needs to be shared and accepted in good faith.*

MP3: Faith - Guided Discussion

LOQ: Does it surprise you that our civilian Airmen take an Oath of Office? Why do we need to have faith in our civilian Airmen?

Anticipated Responses

Commander in Chief is a civilian; we are all Airmen, need to trust our wingmen

LOQ: How important is the ability to call upon faith for a prisoner of war? How is faith depicted in the Code of Conduct Articles?

Anticipated Responses

Might mean the difference between surviving or not; faith in self, fellow POWs, in the system, in my God.

LOQ: Were you surprised that our Air Force guidance ties faith to integrity, loyalty, service, and trust? If so, why? If not, why not?

Anticipated Responses

(Student responses will vary)

LOQ: In what aspects do you have faith in yourself? What about in others? Is there something larger than you or another person that you have faith in? Like what?

Anticipated Responses

(Student responses will vary)

Facilitator Action: State – *Comprehensive Airman Fitness has four pillars. Can anyone tell me what they are?*

Anticipated Responses

Mental, Physical, Social & Spiritual

LOQ: How does faith fit into the Spiritual Pillar of Comprehensive Airman Fitness? How might faith be different from Airman to Airman? Why is it important for us to honor other's faith traditions?

Anticipated Responses:

- Various Faith groups are represented, some Airmen do not have faith in a higher being/God but do in humanity, the flag, the U.S.
- It is important to respect others, 1st Amendment Right, being able to practice faith can build resiliency

FINAL QUESTION: How does faith contribute to the identity of Airmanship?

Facilitator Note: The definition of Airmanship is: An Airman's relentless mindset bound by our Air Force Core Values, forged through a culture of pride and professionalism, inspired by our innovative heritage, and exemplified through actions in defense of our nation.

MP4: Conclusion / Remotivation

Facilitator Action: State – *As we close today, I want to leave you with a few quotes that address faith. After that, we have a short video that rings true to the faith we have in ourselves, fellow service members and the system.*

"Only our individual faith in freedom can keep us free." -- Dwight D. Eisenhower

*"Observe good faith and justice towards all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all."
-- George Washington*

"A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent." -- Gen. Douglas MacArthur

REMOTIVATION:

Show A Moment of Truth Video, *Not Forgotten* (3:51)

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQT9e3YvAvM>

Supporting Documents

Code of Conduct for Members of the United States Armed Forces

I

I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

II

I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.

III

If I am captured I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

IV

If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

V

When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank, service number and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I

will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

VI

I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.

AF Doctrine Vol 2, APPENDIX A: THE OATHS OF OFFICE AND ENLISTMENT

(Breaks out the oaths side by side to see how the two compare)

The Airman's Creed:

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.

I AM A WARRIOR.

I HAVE ANSWERED MY NATION'S CALL.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.

MY MISSION IS TO FLY, FIGHT, AND WIN.

I AM FAITHFUL TO A PROUD HERITAGE,

A TRADITION OF HONOR,

AND A LEGACY OF VALOR.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN,

GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE,

MY NATION'S SWORD AND SHIELD,

ITS SENTRY AND AVENGER.

I DEFEND MY COUNTRY WITH MY LIFE.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN:

WINGMAN, LEADER, WARRIOR.

I WILL NEVER LEAVE AN AIRMAN BEHIND,

I WILL NEVER FALTER,

AND I WILL NOT FAIL.