



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

22 MAY 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL ACQUISITION PERSONNEL

FROM: SAF/AQ

SUBJECT: Century Goal

Team, yesterday we reached our Century Goal of removing 100 years from Air Force acquisition programs! It was achieved in steps large and small, but every month is precious and important, not for the number itself, but the many things it represents: empowering programs, applying new practices, and most importantly, bringing a competitive mindset to acquisition to win against this century's challenges.

I know not every year will be realized. Challenges, setbacks, and spectacular learning events are whens—not ifs—when building the world's preeminent Air Force. Do not let them demotivate you. Find those gremlins earlier—with more time to troubleshoot—to field ahead of historical norms. Like every year attempted, every year achieved is precious too.

I tell myself daily that there is more technology in the world today than ever before, with a pace of change never seen, that is accelerating. That frightens me. So many technologies could peak to change national security and nearly all of them are driven by private investment. That peak will happen despite our actions, so we must streamline our acquisition process, making it agile and adaptable to paddle ahead of the wave as it breaks. You have taken an impressive steps towards this in reaching this goal. And that excites me!

The Secretary will celebrate your achievement with Members of Congress tomorrow, thanking them for the authority with 100 cupcakes. I hope you will take time to celebrate too. But I ask we also celebrate by keep going, keep tailoring, keep competing—keep reaching toward the next century mark and then the next!

The future is made by those who see and reach it first; it happens to all others. See it. Reach it. Win.

Well done!
-LW

Celerity!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Roper, Jr.", is positioned below the typed name.

William B. Roper, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
(Acquisition, Technology & Logistics)