



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330

JAN 10 2022

Airmen,

Today, we often spend as much time in the digital environment as we do in the physical environment. This is especially true as we've experienced life in a global pandemic. Social media, gaming, streaming, forums, blogging, and even dating are just a few of the ways our social interactions have become digitized. While the environment of our interactions may be expanding, the standards we expect every Airman to uphold remains unchanged.

AFI 1-1, *Air Force Standards*, clearly prohibits bullying, hazing, or any instance where an Airman inflicts any form of abuse that degrades, insults, dehumanized, or injures another Airman, and holds ALL Airmen accountable for preventing such conduct. This standard applies to both environments, physical and digital.

Cyberbullying and cyber harassment have become a recurring theme in reports of harassment and abuse. The elimination of physical barriers in the digital environment creates an illusion of invisibility and lack of consequences. Failing to comply with the basic standards expected of each of us as Airmen is not conducive to creating an environment in which every Airman can reach their full potential.

Additionally, there has been an increase in the release of controlled unclassified or sensitive information on social media platforms. Unauthorized release of information is unacceptable regardless of the circumstances and is an operations security violation. ***Simply put, the standards of acceptable behavior and handling of controlled unclassified or sensitive information do not change when you are online, on-, or off-duty.*** Like in the physical environment, digital misconduct in these areas is subject to disciplinary actions.

We are *One Team*, and our strength as an Air Force is in our people. Treat each other, with dignity and respect, in-person and online, whether it's your peer, supervisor, or subordinate. Hold each other accountable and do not accept toxic behaviors. Let's ensure that our actions and words, whether in the physical or digital environment, are appropriate and allow every Airman to excel.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Q. Brown, Jr.".

Charles Q. Brown, Jr.
General, U.S. Air Force
Chief of Staff

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JoAnne S. Bass".

JoAnne S. Bass
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force