



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
7 February 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL VANDENBERG:

Subject: U. S. Air Force Song.

In February 1949 Mr. Crawford, composer of the song "The Army Air Corps" submitted revised words to make this song "The U. S. Air Force Song." This new version did little more than substitute the words U. S. Air Force for the original Army Air Corps.

During the intervening period the new version of the words, submitted by Mr. Crawford, plus a few local ideas, have been kicked around without much support by anyone. Colonel Howard finally, and I think reluctantly, accepted one version of the new words. A sample of local opinion, and my own very definite belief, is that despite any new lyrics that might be accepted and published as the official version, the original lyrics are so firmly established with the original music that it is doubtful if we can ever put over new words to the old song. Another point that is very generally accepted by the boys who like to sing in the atmosphere of good fellowship is that the original song (music) requires practically an opera star to handle it. In other words, the official song does not lend itself to spontaneous and enthusiastic singing by the rank and file of officers and airmen.

I firmly believe that the Air Force should now get a new singable song. I further believe that this new song can be obtained without any expensive publicity or offer of reward. I would like to suggest that we let it be known that the Air Force is interested in a new song more in keeping with our growing traditions. This can be done by well-thought out and clever releases to the newspapers. This word will get around and I am confident that we will soon be receiving numerous song proposals with the chance that there will be one that is "the" U. S. Air Force Song.

*Take up Smith
with Gen Van*

RAG
R.A.G.