



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: Your Supervisor

SUBJECT: Academic Education

TO: A New Lieutenant

Your Professional Military Education Program should be balanced with a continuing Academic Education Program in your specialty. As you progress throughout your career, the body of knowledge of your academic specialty will change and an excellent way for you to maintain your currency is to continue your academic education. A few ways in which this can be accomplished include attending formal advanced degree programs in college, participating in educational opportunities provided by various professional associations, and reading current literature of your specialty. Completing a master's degree is virtually a prerequisite for promotion to major, but don't chase a master's degree just for the sake of promotional competitiveness. The purpose of the master's degree or any other academic education is to sharpen your current inventory of tools and provide new ones to better enable you to do your job in an outstanding manner.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul G. Patton".

Paul G. Patton, Colonel, USAF  
AN OLD LIEUTENANT