

Commander's Call Topics



November 20, 2014

*"It is not the honor that you take with you,
but the heritage
you leave behind."*

Branch Rickey
American athlete
(1881-1965)

Holiday
[shipping deadlines](#)
and other tools and tips
have just been updated.

Giants Among Us ... Past and Present

Roll Call! Every Friday on a large parade field in San Antonio, Texas, roughly 600 to 800 young men and women cross into the blue and become Airmen in our Air Force. As their family and friends celebrate around them, the new Airmen humbly join the less than one percent of Americans who have answered our nation's call. They step in and fill the void, taking hold of the fiery torch that has been passed on by generations of men and women who have shown us what it means to *Win the Fight, Strengthen the Team, and Shape the Future*.

As Airmen, each of us is linked to each other. Our history, distant and recent, is brimming with service men and women who sacrificed for the cause of freedom. They fought the fights before us, struggling through conditions at times rougher than our own. They held tight to their morals and modeled what it means to live according to core values. They pushed through the challenges of their time and came out victorious ... as we always have; we will never falter.

Airmen remain *Faithful to a Proud Heritage, a Tradition of Honor, and a Legacy of Valor*.

We are all part of that lasting legacy paved by Airmen who conducted bombing, aeromedical, maintenance and other missions in the cities of Europe, the jungles of Vietnam and the deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan. The tradition of honor we celebrate was built by those who have served before us, and continues in our service today.

We must celebrate our veterans for more than a holiday. As you gather with your team, take the time to remember those who have built the legacy we carry forward. Tell their stories, display their pictures and celebrate their service.

Then reflect on how you continue to write our Air Force story. This short video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAD67gS_Mn4) clearly shows you are carrying on the legacy in a unique and special way.

For years our veterans have built higher platforms from which we look into the future. We see more clearly from those platforms because the possible is now visible. When our newest Airmen march across the parade field every Friday morning, they walk a path cleared of rubble by more than 45 million men and women who have served in uniform. We can never forget their service, or their sacrifice. They are truly giants among us, and we proudly stand on their shoulders and serve with purpose today.

[Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James A. Cody](#)

► TRENDING...

"We've implemented improvements that have bubbled up from our Airmen in the field, Airmen who are closest to the mission," [Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James](#) said [in releasing the results](#) of the Defense Department's Nuclear Enterprise Review with Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel. "We value the nuclear mission as evidenced by making the appropriate investments in people, weapon systems and infrastructure. We have and will continue to work to identify funds to make needed improvements throughout our missile and bomber forces."

► RESOURCES

Website access to the following resources can be gained by clicking on the name.

[AF.mil](#)

[Airman magazine](#)

[Military OneSource/HomeFront](#)

[Air Force Personnel Center](#)

[Air Reserve Personnel Center](#)

[Department of Defense News](#)

[Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

[TRICARE](#)

[U.S. Government Website](#)

[Air Force Association](#)

[Scholarships](#)

[Air Force Safety Center](#)

[Civil Service Employment Opportunities](#)

[NAF Employment Opportunities](#)

[Air Force Bands/Outreach](#)

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

Nov. 20, 1963 - The Air Force accepted the first two F-4C fighters. They went to 4453rd Combat Crew Training Wing at MacDill AFB, Florida.

Nov. 21, 1994 - Air Force and NATO aircraft bombed Serb targets to retaliate for a Serbian attack on Bihac. The raid was the largest NATO operation to date.

Nov. 22, 1952 - While leading a flight of four F-80s against enemy gun positions in Korea, [Maj. Charles J. Loring](#) deliberately crashed his damaged aircraft into enemy gun emplacements. For that sacrifice, he received the Medal of Honor.

Nov. 23, 2002 - The F/A-22 Raptor accomplished its first guided AIM-9M Sidewinder launch at 24,000 feet over the White Sands Missile Range at Mach 1.4. The AIM-9 passed within lethal range of a QF-4 drone flying at Mach 1.

Nov. 24, 1975 - A C-141 crew from Travis AFB, California, airlifted 100 penguins from McMurdo Station, Antarctica, to Miramar, California.

Nov. 25, 1956 - Tech Sgt. Richard J. Patton made the first successful polar parachute jump when he bailed out of a C-124 Globemaster II from 1,500 feet at the South Pole.

Nov. 26, 1968 - While flying a UH-1F helicopter, 1st Lt. James P. Fleming twice exposed his aircraft to intense hostile fire while rescuing a special forces reconnaissance patrol near Due Co, Vietnam. He later received the Medal of Honor for his heroic action.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Three bases identified as F-16 aggressor candidate bases](#)

Eielson Air Force Base and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, both in Alaska, and Nellis AFB, Nevada are candidate bases to host the 18th Aggressor Squadron and its [F-16 Fighting Falcons](#).

[Air Force announces criteria for KC-46A Reserve basing](#)

Evaluating all Reserve-led global mobility wings with a runway of at least 7,000 feet, as well as other criteria such as mission, capacity and environmental requirements and cost factors, will identify candidate bases for the [KC-46A](#).

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[AF expands digital library content for Airmen](#)

Airmen at 19 installations around the world will help test digital access to a new audiobook and eBook digital library which includes best-sellers, classics, professional development and entertainment.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE, TECHNOLOGY

[Air Force debuts first plug-in vehicle fleet](#)

The Air Force is debuting the largest operational vehicle to grid, or V2G, demonstration in the world with the capability for a plug-in electric vehicle to both draw energy from the utility grid and discharge energy back to the grid.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit <http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>

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