

Commander's Call Topics



August 22, 2013

“The future cannot be predicted, but futures can be invented.”

Dennis Gabor (1900-1979)
Physicist, Nobel Laureate

Women's Suffrage Day is
August 26th.
Find out [if and where](#) you are
registered to vote.

Fortificare et Emendare Vires To Strengthen and Improve the Force

In June of this year, the Under Secretary of the Air Force signed a directive implementing the new Air Force Inspection System (AFIS). On the heels of this directive, SAF/IG quickly published a significantly revised AFI 90-201, *The Air Force Inspection System*, which fundamentally changes the way we think about and conduct inspections.

The days of “cramming for the exam” are over, eliminating the hours of work preparing for the inspectors. The new AFIS, termed Unit Effectiveness Inspection (UEI), is a **continual internal and external evaluation program**, producing a “photo album” of results rather than a snap-shot of the one or two weeks while inspectors are visiting. While the idea of internal and external inspections is nothing new, inspecting units *virtually* and on a *continual basis* is. This ongoing evaluation will shape the on-site Capstone visit by MAJCOM inspectors, culminating in a final UEI report to commanders.

Internal Assessment

The cornerstone of the internal assessment is the CCIP or Commander's Inspection Program. This program ensures Airmen across the wing, including wing, group and squadron commanders are getting the “right information at the right time to assess risk, identify areas of improvement,

determine root cause and focus limited resources” (AFI 90-201, pg. 49) according to wing commander's priorities.

So, how does the CCIP work? There are two key components to determine the wing's overall health – self-assessment and inspections. The self-assessment program reports unit compliance through *continuously* updated, self-assessment checklists while inspections, conducted by the Wing IG, assess organizational and program performance. The results from these internal wing activities are analyzed and presented to the wing leadership at the Commander's Inspection Management Board. The focus of the CIMB is to highlight undetected non-compliance, manage known non-compliance areas and ensure the wing inspection plan meets commander's requirements. Through the CCIP, commanders will have the information they need to validate and verify their wing's ability to execute their primary mission, deploy AEF Airmen, and to provide superior command and control.

External Assessment

To verify and validate the wing's CCIP, MAJCOM IGs will conduct an on-site Capstone visit. The Capstone visit is the conclusion of many months of work by the MAJCOM IG team. In addition to the virtual inspections and analysis they administer an online survey to “capture candid,

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► TRENDING...

“Eliminating sexual assault from the armed forces remains one of the Department of Defense's top priorities. This effort requires our absolute and sustained commitment to providing a safe environment in which every service member and DoD civilian is free from the threat of sexual harassment and assault.” From a [statement](#) issued by Defense Secretary Hagel, August 15, 2013.

► RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Airman magazine

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil>

Air Force Outreach

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil>

Military OneSource

<http://militaryonesource.af.mil>

Military HOMEFRONT

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod>

Air Force Personnel Center

<https://mypers.af.mil> <http://www.afpc.af.mil>

Air Reserve Personnel Center

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil>

Department of Defense News

<http://www.defense.gov>

Department of Veteran Affairs

<http://www.va.gov>

TRICARE

<http://www.tricare.mil>

U.S. Government Website

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

Employment Opportunities

www.usajobs.com www.nafjobs.org

Air Force Association Scholarships

www.afa.org/AFA/InformationFor/Military/Scholarships

Air Force Safety Center

www.afsec.af.mil.asp

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Regional African Air Chiefs Symposium begins](#)

The U.S. 3rd Air Force commander and Ghana's chief of air staff hosted opening ceremonies for the second Regional Air Chiefs Symposium at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center in Accra, Ghana Aug. 20.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[DOD facilities gear up to issue ID cards to same-sex couples](#)

DOD facilities are gearing up to issue identification cards to same-sex spouses beginning Sept. 3, Pentagon officials said today.

[New ASVAB pretest available for applicants](#)

Applicants who hope to join the Air Force can now take the Armed Services Aptitude Battery pretest from any computer with internet access thanks to a new program.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[PT test enhancements to start Oct. 1](#)

Air Force senior leadership announced enhancements to the Air Force's Physical Fitness Assessment program, to be implemented Oct. 1.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[Communications capability surpasses 50,000 flight hours](#)

The Battlefield Airborne Communications Node, or BACN, reached a significant milestone Aug. 11, when it achieved over 50,000 flight hours of service.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit

<http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>

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confidential beliefs, attitudes and opinions” (AFI 90-201, pg. 43) of wing Airmen. The surveys update data from the last on-site visit, assist in determining the inspection team composition and develop a sample strategy for the on-site visit.

The on-site Capstone visit, lasting approximately one week, serves three purposes:

1. Validate and verify the CCIP
2. Conduct individual and group interviews
3. Assess effectiveness through task evaluations, audits and observations.

The inspection team’s efforts culminate in a UEI report for wing leadership which covers the entire period, not just the on-site visit, and provides a rating of the Major Graded Areas. The four MGAs include:

1. Managing Resources
2. Improving the Unit
3. Leading People
4. Executing the Mission.

Additionally, MAJCOM/CCs will receive a separate “adequacy of resources” grade which provides an assessment of the support the wing is getting from headquarters staffs.

Once the report is submitted, the entire UEI cycle starts again. However, it is important to remember that although the on-site evaluation only happens every two years, both the internal and external virtual inspections are continual. Any given day, a functional manager at the MAJCOM can view the status of the wing’s compliance. This “view” creates a photo in the photo album that will be used for the next Capstone visit. This means self-assessment checklists must be current at all times!

Finally, the new AFIS ensures that mission ready equals inspection ready, thus eliminating the need for inspection preparation.

*by Col. Greg Urtso
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► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

August 22, 1938 - Civil Aeronautics Act became effective to coordinate all nonmilitary aviation under the CAA.

August 23, 1990 - The 89th Military Airlift Wing receives the first of two Boeing VC-25A presidential transport aircraft at Andrews AFB, Md. The VC-25A is a modified 747-200B commercial transport that replaces the VC-137.

August 24, 2001 - An EC-18B Advanced Range Instrumentation Aircraft made its final Air Force Flight Test Center flight, ending that mission at Edwards AFB, Calif. For 30 years, the aircraft recorded and relayed telemetry information from intercontinental ballistic missiles and manned spacecraft, both U.S. and foreign. The U.S. Air Force intended to use the two EC-18Bs in the JSTARS program.

August 25, 1932 - Flying from Los Angeles to Newark, N.J., Amelia Earhart became the first woman to complete a nonstop transcontinental flight.

August 26, 1943 - The U.S. Army Air Forces used a new type of perspective maps with targets drawn as seen from the air to improve high altitude precision bombing abilities.

August 27, 1950 - Two F-51 Mustang pilots accidentally strayed into China and strafed an airstrip near Antung, mistaking it for a North Korean airstrip at Sinuiju on the border with China. The Chinese used the incident for propaganda and diplomatic purposes. The 92nd Bomb Group sent 24 B-29s to Kyomipo to bomb the largest iron and steel plant in Korea. Far East Air Force experimented with delayed action bombs to discourage enemy repairs on bridges.

August 28, 1942 - The War Department directed Air Training Command to provide aircraft and equipment to evacuate sick and wounded American servicemen and women throughout the world.

August 29, 1970 - The Army's Safeguard anti-ballistic missile system completed its first full-scale test, when a Spartan area defense interceptor missile launched from Kwajalein Atoll intercepted a Minute I reentry vehicle launched from Vandenberg AFB, Calif.