

Commander's Call Topics



December 12, 2013

“For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.”

Nelson Mandela (1918 -2013)
South African politician and philanthropist

“And to all a good night...”

Commanders Call Topics
goes on hiatus until January 2014.

Force Management Programs Announced

Air Force leadership announced a five-year force management program designed to reduce total personnel by thousands of Airmen and civilians over the next five years. The program is a direct result of sequestration, and is in addition to the announcement made in July to meet budget reduction requirements through several force management programs.

This early announcement of the overall strategic plan allows Airmen the necessary time to consider all their career options.

Several programs will be announced in the coming weeks. Boards will consider an Airman's entire record of performance and will be conducted in accordance with Air Force promotion board standards. These programs—enlisted only, officer only and officer and enlisted—apply only to active-duty Airmen. There is also a civilian management program.

The enlisted-only programs include [a two-phase chief master sergeant program](#) and a quality [force review of senior master sergeants and below](#). The officer-only program targets career fields and year groups based on sustainment levels. The officer and enlisted program concentrates on those in over-manned career fields with more than 15 but less than 20 years of service. They will be eligible for Temporary Early Retirement Authority (TERA).

The [civilian workforce will be reduced](#) by about 900 positions, in addition to maintaining 7,000 vacancies across the force to meet the demands of a constrained fiscal year 2014 budget. Targeted hiring to comply with mandatory funding targets and rebalancing the civilian workforce to meet skill demands are the cornerstones of the reduction plan, although specific reductions by location have not been determined.

These measures are part of the Air Force's comprehensive Force Management Program designed to shape the future force, and [additional information](#) in a questions-and-answer format is available.

“The Defense Department used administrative furloughs to meet civilian pay budget demands in the compressed time frame between sequestration and the end of the FY13. We will meet a similar budgetary challenge in FY14 through a reduced workforce,” said [Brig. Gen. Gina Grosso](#), director of force management policy for the Air Force. The general added that the Air Force's strategy to meet civilian pay budget targets does not include a furlough.

For more information and force management, force shaping, reduction in force and other personnel programs, go to the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>.

► TRENDING...

“The difference from years past is that we announced voluntary programs first, then involuntary,” said [Lt. Gen. Samuel Cox](#), deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services, as he announced the [force management program](#). “This year, due to the limited timeframe, we're announcing all programs at once to allow Airmen time to consider their options and ensure their personnel records are up to date.”

► 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 Veteran Affairs](#)

[TRICARE](#)

[U.S. Government Website](#)

[Air Force Association Scholarships](#)

[Air Force Safety Center](#)

[Civil Service Employment Opportunities](#)

[NAF Employment Opportunities](#)

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

Dec. 12, 1944 – Maj. Richard I. Bong, 49th Fighter Group, 9th Fighter Squadron, with 38 aerial victories, received the Medal of Honor from General MacArthur in ceremonies at Tacloban in the Philippines.

Dec. 13, 1958 - Gordo, a one-pound squirrel monkey, survived a flight to a height of 300 miles in a Jupiter missile nose cone. The nose cone returned and landed in the Atlantic Ocean some 1,700 miles southeast of the Cape Canaveral launching site; however, Gordo died before the nose cone could be recovered.

Dec. 13, 1941 - In an executive order, President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized the Secretary of War to take control of any civilian airline needed for the war effort. Contracts with the airlines permitted the purchase of aircraft and airline services.

Dec. 14, 1903 - Wilbur Wright made a first powered airplane flight at Kill Devil Hills, Kitty Hawk, N.C. Although he flew 105 feet in 3.5 seconds, the plane crashed, and this effort was not recognized as the first sustained or controlled flight.

Dec. 15, 2006 - An F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter took off for its first flight as part of system development testing in Fort Worth, Texas.

Dec. 16, 1958 - Launching operations began down the Pacific Missile Range with a successful Thor missile launch from Vandenberg AFB, Calif. This was the first ballistic missile flight over the Pacific Ocean.

Dec. 17, 1903 - Orville Wright made the first sustained, controlled power airplane flight in the Kill Devil Hills, near Kitty Hawk, N.C. In the fourth and longest flight of the day, the Wright Flyer flew 852 feet in 59 seconds.

Dec. 18, 1958 – The First Atlas satellite, a 4-ton communications relay, was placed in orbit. President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivered a Christmas message through the satellite on Dec. 19, which was the first time a human voice had been heard from space.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[AF announces additional force management programs to reduce force size](#)

Voluntary and involuntary programs to reduce the force by thousands of Airmen and civilians have been announced.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[VA warns of marketing scam](#)

Looking for help in all the right places requires careful dialing.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[DOD officials order disability board results review](#)

A department-wide review of mental health diagnoses made between September 11, 2001 and April 30, 2012 may make some previously separated airmen eligible for reevaluation.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE, TECHNOLOGY

[Space badge renamed, new guidance issued](#)

The newly named space operations badge will be worn primarily by space operations specialties and selected individuals who have performed operations-focused duties.

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

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