

# Commander's Call Topics



November 14, 2013

“The best way to predict your future  
is to create it.”

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)  
Sixteenth President of the United States

Saturday, November 16th is  
[Family Volunteer Day](#)  
celebrating the power of families  
who volunteer together, supporting  
their communities..

## A Deliberate Step Toward Our Future

by Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody

Roll Call! Here we are...66 years after the birth of our Air Force as a separate service and we are undeniably the world's greatest airpower. We dominate in air, space and cyberspace simply because we have the world's greatest asset: you, our Airmen. As we *Shape Our Future* we must maintain that decisive edge. We must continue to deliberately develop the most capable and ready Airmen on the planet.

Developmental Special Duties support this effort. This month we will select approximately 1,000 Staff Sergeants, Technical Sergeants and Master Sergeants to serve as Military Training Instructors, Recruiters, USAF Honor Guardsmen, First Sergeants, Professional Military Education Instructors, Career Assistance Advisors, Technical Training Instructors, USAFA Military Trainers, Military Training Leaders, and Airman and Family Readiness Center NCOs. These Airmen were nominated by their MAJCOM leadership and selected from a pool of approximately 7,500 nominees. They are the best of the best - the first to be hand-picked for these roles under the new process. These Airmen will now be in a position to leverage their proven performance across the force.

Consider the impact these NCOs will have on our team. Beginning in the recruiter's office and on through basic training, technical school, Airman Leadership School and many points throughout a career, these Airmen will directly guide and develop our force. They will then head back into their career fields where they will use their added experience to influence countless Airmen.

This is a big step for our future. It's a necessary step, and it maximizes the impact and professional growth of our sharpest Airmen. It also opens the door to an important conversation.

We should gather as a team and discuss the impact developmental special duties have on our enlisted force. Leaders, consider which of your Airmen is best fit for these positions. Talk to them about the possibility...the next round of nominations is early next year.

Also be sure to listen to the goals and interests of all your Airmen. Be honest with them, lead them. Steer them towards the best possible path at this moment in their career...even if that path is not towards a special duty, for now.

A nomination to a developmental special duty is an honor. It expresses the faith and confidence we have in an Airman to purposefully *Shape Our Future*. We will continue to move forward; we will continue to evolve with the changing times; and we will always commit to developing our Airmen. Our Air Force is too important to do otherwise, our mission is too important...you are too important.

**The World's Greatest Air Force**  
*Powered by Airmen...Fueled by Innovation*

### ► TRENDING...

“Whatever our nation requires us to do in the future, I'm extremely confident that we will be an extremely capable Air Force, capable of doing what our nation needs us to do,” said [Chief Master Sargent of the Air Force James A. Cody](#) during a [worldwide CHIEFchat session](#) at Defense Media Activity headquarters.

## ► RESOURCES

### **AF.mil**

<http://www.af.mil>

### **Airman magazine**

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

### **Air Force Outreach**

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

### **Military OneSource/HomeFront**

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/>

### **Air Force Personnel Center**

<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.usa.gov/>

### **Air Force Association Scholarships**

[www.afa.org/AFA/InformationFor/Military/Scholarships](http://www.afa.org/AFA/InformationFor/Military/Scholarships)

### **Air Force Safety Center**

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

### **Employment Opportunities**

[www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)

[www.nafjobs.org](http://www.nafjobs.org)

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### [CSAF launches new initiative to improve communication with Airmen](#)

Airman to Airman is a monthly, two-minute YouTube presentation launched this month by [Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III](#) to address issues of concern. This month's topic: Force Management.

### [Top Air Force official stresses need for modernization](#)

Confronting the threats of the future is the major reason that the Air Force must modernize and invest in next-generation platforms, according to [acting Air Force Secretary Eric Fanning](#).

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [AF activates accountability system in response to Philippine crisis](#)

The status and location of all Air Force personnel and dependents affected by Typhoon Haiyan is tracked by the Air Force Personnel Accountability and Assessment System.

## ► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

### [DOD, VA collaborate to serve nation's veterans](#)

Caring for veterans, their families and survivors is greatly enhanced through joint education programs and increased web access.

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

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## ► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

**Nov. 14, 1974** - McDonnell-Douglas delivered the first F-15 to Tactical Air Command at Luke AFB, Ariz.

**Nov. 15, 1942** – The first women entered U.S. Army Air Forces flight training. The Army designated the Women's Flying Training Detachment at the Houston Municipal Airport as the 319<sup>th</sup> Army Air Force Flying Training Detachment.

**Nov. 16, 1944** – In the largest air and ground cooperation to date, over 4,000 allied planes, with 750 fighter escorts, dropped more than 10,000 tons of bombs in front of the 1st and 9th Armies to prepare for a ground attack.

**Nov. 17, 1961** – Airmen at Cape Canaveral AFS, Fla., launched the first Minuteman missile from an underground silo on a 3,000-mile flight down the Atlantic Missile Range.

**Nov. 18, 1950** - A USAF fighter group moved to N. Korea for the first time. The 35th FIG, the first fighter group based in S. Korea, settled at Yonpo Airfield, near Hungnam.

**Nov. 19, 2007** - Air Mobility Command passed a major milestone when one of its aircraft flew the command's one millionth sortie since Sept. 11, 2001. A C-17 mission flown from McChord AFB, Wash., to Manas AB, Kyrgyzstan, flew the landmark flight.

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