

Commander's Call Topics



August 7, 2014

"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome."

*Booker T. Washington
Educator, author, orator and adviser to the presidents
(1856-1915)*

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for the November General Election.
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CSAF: Challenge Airmen to 'be better than they think they can be'

In a recent video to Airmen, Air Force Chief of Staff Mark A. Welsh III shared a story about Airman 1st Class Devin Nothstine, an Airman from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. Airman Nothstine sent the chief of staff an email, first apologizing to the general for being "merely an Airman first class," then asked Gen. Welsh to challenge Airmen to be better than they think they can be.

Welsh began by making it clear that there's no such thing as merely an A1C, or merely a GS-06 or merely a lieutenant. He emphasized that everyone in our Air Force is critically important to what we do, and everyone should be treated that way.

Nothstine asked the chief of staff to challenge Airmen to be better at their jobs, be better supervisors, better leaders, better commanders, better husbands, fathers, brothers, wives, mothers, sisters, and friends. Welsh said Devin inspired him to be a better chief of staff and a better person.

Since taking the helm as Air Force chief of staff in August of 2012, Welsh has focused on Airmen and how people make the Air Force and airpower so effective. Welsh believes that it has been its Airmen, both in uniform and as civilians, who have "shaped the fight" with new and innovative ways of winning on the battlefield.

During a trip to Osan Air Base, South Korea, last fall, Welsh told Airmen in the audience, "Every Airman has a story. Their stories are incredible, unique, uplifting, sad, inspirational, just incredible, and everybody in here has one. If you don't know their story you can't lead someone as well as you could otherwise. It's really that simple. It's all about understanding each other, because the better we know each other, the better we'll take care of each other, the prouder we'll be, and the better our Air Force will be. That's the Air Force I think we all want to be part of."

According to the chief of staff's Global Vigilance, Global Reach, Global Power document, "Make no mistake—whether you're a pilot, maintainer, special operator, medical specialist, instructor, knowledge operator, or any other job in the Air Force, you're an absolutely critical member of our team."

Welsh believes that, when all is said and done, it's our Airmen who transform equipment, aircraft, strategy and tactics into success on the battlefield. "The Air Force's competitive advantage begins with its ability to recruit, develop and retain innovative warriors with strong character, a belief in respect for others, and a commitment to high standards and our core values of 'integrity first,' 'service before self,' and 'excellence in all we do.' In the face of an unknown and unpredictable future, the American military's ability to conduct successful joint operations is enhanced by the power of Airmen."



► 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](#)

[Air Force Bands/Outreach](#)

► CURRENT ISSUES

[12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year announced](#)

Representing the major commands and direct reporting units, the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year were selected based on superior leadership, job performance and personal achievements. Related story [here](#).

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Team works to solve POV shipment issues](#)

Challenges and concerns surrounding the shipping of privately owned vehicles (POV) will be addressed by a team of experts assembled by the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command and the U. S. Transportation Command.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Air Force tests new chief master sergeant EPR form](#)

A newly developed *Enlisted Performance Report (CMSgt)* is being tested to see if it will enable senior raters to capture a chief's overall performance to provide an opportunity for senior raters to recommend the chief for future roles.

[Pulse on AF force management](#)

The most recent details on temporary early retirement authority, voluntary separation, reduction in force and other force management practices are updated.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[45th Space Wing supports SpaceX launch of AsiaSat 8 satellite](#)

Military members, government civilians and contractors made up the team that supported the 45th Space Wing successful launch of the AsiaSat 8 satellite providing a broad range of applications and technological advances.

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

Aug. 7, 1990 - Operation Desert Shield begins in response to Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. The operation's immediate objective is to protect Saudi Arabia from Iraqi aggression and build up allied military strength.

Aug. 8, 1990 - Operation Desert Shield. The first USAF transport, a C-141, arrived in Dhahran. The aircraft had a reserve aircrew.

Aug. 9, 1962 - The USAF first demonstrated a multiple countdown capability when a 389 SMW crew from Francis E. Warren AFB successfully launched two Atlas D missiles at Cape Canaveral on 5,000-mile flights.

Aug. 10, 1968 - The 375 AAW at Scott AFB received the first McDonnell-Douglas C-9A Nightingale. It was the first military aeromedical evacuation aircraft to be jet powered.

Aug. 11, 1950 - Korean War. C-119 Flying Boxcars began airlifting trucks from Tachikawa AB to Taegu.

Aug. 12, 1972 – Lt. Col. Wendell Shawler became the first USAF pilot to fly the F-15.

Aug. 13, 1952 - The USAF ordered the Boeing B-52 Stratofortress, an eight jet heavy bomber, into full-scale production.

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

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