

Commander's Call Topics



February 20, 2014

"To fight and conquer in all your battles is not supreme excellence; supreme excellence consists in breaking the enemy's resistance without fighting."

-Sun Tzu, the Art of War

February is American Heart Month. The CDC has tips for [preventing heart disease and stroke](#).

A Higher Calling...A Higher Standard

Roll Call! As Airmen we step to a higher calling and hold ourselves to the highest standards. We have certain beliefs and truths that strengthen our organization and our nation. At the very heart of this is our Core Values; they are a clear illustration of the price of admission to our Air Force, and the common bond by which we win the fight, strengthen the team, and shape the future.

To win the fight, these values must be much more than words...they must guide us and point us to what is universal and unchanging in our profession of arms. Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do are the very fabric that bonds our commitment and dedication to duty, honor, country, fidelity, and competence.

Integrity defines our character. It is our moral compass that directs us always towards the right path. We must never waiver from this basic tenant, nor can we condone or tolerate those that do. The American people have placed a sacred trust in each of us, a trust that has been bolstered by countless Airmen who both came before us and serve alongside us today...we cannot take this for granted or squander such selfless sacrifice.

The strength of our team is directly linked to Service Before Self. We follow the rules and understand the need to maintain discipline and self-control. To do anything less is to lose faith in the system and place ourselves before service to our great nation. The fundamental respect we have for each other as human beings is a constant to comrades in arms.

Our Core Values guide Airmen and "serve as beacons vectoring us back to the path of professional conduct; they allow us to transform a climate of corrosion into a climate of ethical commitment." Our heritage is a testament to years of Excellence In All We Do, and this value remains critical as we shape the future. We are intrinsically tied to a tradition of honor and a legacy of valor, and our Core Values must pave the way if we are to remain the world's greatest Air Force.

So, why a Roll Call on Core Values? We know the words by heart, and on any given moment 99 percent of our Airmen live up to these high standards...but we must continue to guard against complacency. When one percent of Airmen fail to live according to our values, it reflects poorly on our Air Force as a whole. The nation questions our resolve and our trustworthiness to maintain the most powerful and destructive weapons the world has ever known. We can ill afford to lose this trust. Don't ever apologize for living our Air Force Core Values. Ignoring them is not an option, and there is simply no room in our Air Force for those who do. We own this as Airmen. There's no question we will right the course of the few and stay the course of the many. Integrity First...Service Before Self...Excellence In All We Do.

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James A. Cody

► TRENDING...

"When we initially announced [these force management programs](#) in December, we knew the dynamic nature of the programs would result in some changes," Lt. Gen. Sam Cox, the deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services, speaking about a change to the officer reduction in force board, or RIF, originally scheduled to convene June 16 at the Air Force Personnel Center.

► 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](#)

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

Feb. 20, 1944 – Sgt. Archibald Mathies, Lt. William R. Lawley and 2nd Lt. Walter E. Truemper later received the Medal of Honor for actions during a bombing mission over Leipzig, Germany on this date.

Feb. 21, 2001 - An RQ-1 Predator fired a Hellfire missile at a tank at Nellis AFB, Nev. It became the first unmanned aerial vehicle to destroy a ground target in the test.

Feb. 22, 1967 – Twenty-three Air Force C-130s carried 700 troops from the 173rd Airborne Brigade on the first parachute personnel drop in the Vietnam War. Heavy drops of equipment and supplies followed the personnel drop.

Feb. 23, 1912 - War Department Bulletin No. 2 established a “Military Aviator” rating.

Feb. 24, 1958 - General Curtis E. LeMay, VCSAF, said the Air Force wanted to establish a single tanker force to support all combat operations requiring air refueling.

Feb. 25, 1975 – Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager, the first pilot to exceed the speed of sound, flew his last Air Force sortie in an F-4 at Edwards AFB, Calif.

Feb. 26, 1960 - A TM-61C Matador tactical missile launched from Pad 1 at Osan AB South Korea failed to destruct on command. An F-100D chase plane fired a Sidewinder missile to shoot it down.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[LaPlante confirmed for top acquisition leadership position](#)

Dr. William A. LaPlante brings more than 28 years of experience around systems technologies and acquisition programs as the next assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition.

[Security forces members receive nuclear-focused breacher training](#)

The Airmen charged with protecting Air Force family and assets learn to make nuclear surety a focus.

► FAMILY HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Electronic cigarette use increasing among Airmen](#)

Air Force health-care providers are concerned with the known and unknown health risks of e-cigarettes.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Airmen can 'chat' live via myPers for personnel support](#)

AFPC uses emerging commercial technologies to ensure Airman can engage 24/7 with personnel specialists.

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

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