

Commander's Call Topics



August 6, 2015

"A mind that is stretched by a new experience
can never go back
to its old dimensions."

*Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. (1841-1935)
American Jurist*

August is
National Picnic Month.

(Food tastes better
when we eat outdoors.)

Seek a mentor, be a mentor with MyVector

Although the word vector has different meanings, its mathematical definition is "the combination of magnitude and direction." This unparalleled force provides the MyVector site not only its name, but also the inspiration to be each Airman's road map to the future. Recently [launched as an improved and rebranded Career Path Tool](#), MyVector encourages mentorship, career planning and knowledge sharing among Airmen at all levels.

The reconfigured online platform provides an intuitive architecture and a modern look and feel. These reconfigurations support a personalized mentoring experience by providing not only a traditional by-name method of requesting a mentor, but also a mentor-matching capability based on weighted characteristics identified by the Airman-mentee searching for a mentor. Airmen can also build career planners and view their duty experience and career pyramid to support their future growth.

MyVector offers a real-time platform with an individualized bullet tracker to document accomplishments, as well as the ability to engage in private mentor-mentee dialogue, receive important information from your career field managers and teams, and join public and private discussion groups within the firewall. A resource page is also available with information on the mentoring process and links to resiliency sites. Following are more detailed descriptors of the mentoring network's components:

- **Mentoring Connections.** Find a mentor! Be a mentor! Mentoring Connections enables an Airman to direct connect to a mentor, as well as find a mentor who is the right match.
- **See your experience.** View your career job history and education and where you are on your career pyramid. Do you have the breadth and depth needed for the next step in your career?
- **Career planning.** Interactively build a career plan using your Career Field Pyramid to select valid jobs and professional military education using the drag-and-drop method. Share your plan with your mentors, development teams and supervisors, or senior raters for review and feedback.
- **Track accomplishments.** Maintain your accomplishments throughout the year with an easy to use bullet tracker application. Start by identifying a time period and grade. Keep track of specific actions and share your accomplishments with your mentor.
- **Join the discussion.** Join a forum or create a forum. This is where you can go to find answers to questions about any topic. Groups can be both public and private.
- **Update Your Profile.** See your data. Review and update your personal profile within MyVector. In this area, you will be able to update your supervisor, senior rater, hobbies, and interests. You will also be able to view basic data about yourself that comes over from MiIPDS or DCPDS. If you'd like to be available to anyone searching for a mentor, you can link to the "Create Mentor Profile" and build a mentor profile that is searchable in the Find a Mentor database.

Mentorship requires time, effort and dedication. To assist with this process, there is a "Mentoring Checklist" in *Air Force Manual 36-2643, "Air Force Mentoring Program,"* which outlines how to plan for the different mentoring sessions.

"No matter your age, it's important to help each other," [Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James](#) said. "Seek a mentor and be a mentor."



► 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

August 6, 1945 - B-29 Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb "Little Boy" on Hiroshima, Japan.

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

August 8, 1990 - The first Air Force transport, a C-141, arrived in Dhahran. The aircraft had a reserve aircrew.

August 9, 1962 - The Air Force first demonstrated a multiple countdown capability when a 389th Strategic Missile Wing crew from Francis E. Warren Air Force Base successfully launched two Atlas D missiles from Cape Canaveral on 5,000-mile flights.

August 10, 1968 - The 375th Aeromedical Airlift Wing at Scott Air Force Base received the first McDonnell-Douglas C-9A Nightingale. It was the first military aeromedical evacuation aircraft to be jet powered.

August 11, 1950 - C-119 Flying Boxcars began airlifting trucks from Tachikawa Air Base to Taegu during the Korean War.

August 12, 1972 - Lt. Col. Wendell Shawler became the first Air Force pilot to fly the F-15 Eagle.

The OPM data breach, massive in its identity theft implications, gives rise to other crimes, too. One such crime is attempted when imposters pretending to be from the Federal Trade Commission call OPM data breach victims and offer money to "reimburse" or "help" those who were victimized. Participating with these callers only leads to further victimization. The catch: The caller is not from the FTC or any part of the government. Moreover, the data breach victim is asked to provide sensitive and personal information. Don't do it! It's a scam. It's called phishing, and you can learn how to protect yourself [here](#). To learn more about the Office of Personnel Management data breach, legitimate assistance being provided to impacted individuals, and to understand cybersecurity as it is grounded in the Air Force tradition, a special [Air Force Cybersecurity](#) web page has been created.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Roll Call: "This is your Air Force"](#)

[Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody](#) urges Airmen to [follow the legacy](#) of leadership of the late James Binnicker, ninth chief master sgt. of the Air Force.

[Selva confirmed as Joint Chiefs vice chairman](#)

Promising to be a "passionate advocate to ensure we remain the best-trained, best-led, best-equipped and most capable military in the world," [Gen. Paul J. Selva](#) expressed his gratitude as he was confirmed by the Senate to serve as the 10th vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[AF implements restricted endorsement, stratification for senior master sergeant EPRs](#)

As part of the ongoing Air Force enlisted evaluation and promotion system changes, restricted senior rater endorsement and stratification for senior NCO enlisted performance reports will be implemented in conjunction with the July 31 senior master sergeant EPR closeout date.

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

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