

# Commander's Call Topics



September 17, 2015

"Throughout our history, our Nation has been enriched by the storied pasts of all who call the United States of America home. America's Hispanic community has woven unique threads into the diverse fabric of our country and played an important role in shaping our national character as a people of limitless possibility."

*--From the Presidential Proclamation  
National Hispanic Heritage Month  
2015*

It's **National  
Hispanic Heritage  
Month**  
**September 15  
through  
October 15**

## America's Airmen: What Do You Bring to the Team?

- What is it that makes you, as an individual, special or unique? How do you leverage it to make the team better?
- The Air Force broadly defines diversity as a composite of individual characteristics, experiences and abilities consistent with the Air Force Core Values and the Air Force Mission. Air Force diversity includes but is not limited to: personal life experiences, geographic background, cultural knowledge, educational background, work background, language abilities, physical abilities, philosophical/spiritual perspectives, age, race, ethnicity, and gender.
- With the challenges we face in today's dynamic environment, we cannot afford to do less than fully leverage the talents of every member of our team. Air Force decision-making and operational capabilities are enhanced by diversity and inclusion in our force, making us more agile, innovative and effective.
- Diversity of thought, enabled by an organization of innovative Airmen who represent and are valued for different backgrounds, cultures, experiences and competencies contribute to the greater agility we seek.

### **Diverse Service**

Our Airmen come together to produce an incredible team that can accomplish any mission and overcome any challenge. Capitalizing on this asset is a national security imperative and force multiplier.

### **National Security Imperative**

By ensuring we have the most talented, culturally competent and operationally relevant force possible, we will be more agile, and will be able to better meet nascent requirements quickly and decisively.

### **Hispanic Heritage and Traditions of Service**

- Hispanic Airmen serving in the Air Force can trace their tradition of service back to the early days of World War II.
- In 1944, Puerto Rican aviators went to the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama to train the famed 99th Fighter Squadron of the Tuskegee Airmen.
- Lt. Gen. Elwood Quesada was the most influential Hispanic Airman of World War II. He was responsible for directing his unit in aerial cover and air support for the Allied invasion of Europe.

### **Airpower Heritage**

While it is natural to define the Air Force in terms of its aircraft, missiles, or satellites, the Air Force's unmatched capacities exist only and precisely because of the imagination, innovation, and dedication of its people.

### **Reflecting the Nation**

We must identify and recruit those who possess the character, critical thinking skills, and aptitude to thrive in dynamic environments. We need Airmen with diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives.

## ► 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

**September 17, 1908** - Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge, flying as a passenger with Orville Wright, died when the Wright Flyer crashed at Fort Myer, Virginia. This event was the world's first fatal airplane accident and Lt. Selfridge was the first military casualty. Mr. Wright also received serious injuries.

**September 18, 1954** - The Air Force assigned the first F-100A to the Tactical Air Command's 479th Fighter-Bomber Wing at George Air Force Base, California. It arrived on September 27.

**September 19, 1972** - A Minuteman III completed its first operational test launch from a regular launch facility at Vandenberg AFB, California.

**September 20, 2005** - The Air Force's last remaining active-duty C-9 Nightingale (Tail No. 876) left Ramstein Air Base, Germany for Andrews AFB, Maryland. The C-9 flew to its final resting place at the Andrews air museum.

**September 21, 1952** - During the Korean War, F-86 Sabre pilot, Capt. Robinson Risner destroyed two MiG-15s to become an ace when the enemy responded to an attack on the Pukchong munitions plant by 41 F-84s.

**September 22, 2005** - From Vandenberg AFB, a Minotaur rocket carried a 920-pound Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency military research satellite into a yearlong orbit to gather information about the Earth's environment in low orbit. The Minotaur rocket was made from decommissioned first and second stages of a Minuteman II missile.

**September 23, 1959** - The Department of Defense reorganized its space and missile programs to give the Air Force responsibility over space transportation and ultimately all space booster rockets.



The OPM data breach, massive in its identity theft implications, gives rise to other crimes, and often one crime can result in two more. For example, phishing scams can morph into credit card fraud and social security abuse. 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, please go to the specially created [Air Force Cybersecurity](#) web page.

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

[Top 3 releases AF birthday message](#)

In a letter to the Total Force – Active Duty, Guard, Reserve and Civilian Airmen – in celebration of the Air Force's 68<sup>th</sup> birthday, it was noted that "although the methods and means of employing airpower have changes, our charge to *Fly, Fight and Win* remains the same, as does the indomitable spirit of the American Airman."

## ► FAMILY HEALTH AND SAFETY

[AF leaders, spouses talk improvements in family programs, voice concerns](#)

During the Air Force Association's Air and Space Conference, Air Force senior leaders and their spouses made it clear that their priority is the total force Airmen and their families, and that communicating the opportunities will yield high returns for families and for the Air Force.

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

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