

Families of high school seniors may get to stay in place

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Some families with a child entering his or her senior year of high school may get to stay longer at their current duty stations thanks to a new policy announced in March.

The High School Seniors Assignment Deferment Program allows

senior master sergeants and below, and officers up through the rank of lieutenant colonel, to apply for a one-year assignment deferment. Back-to-back deferments may be possible, and dual-military couples may also apply.

Even with the changes, officials

said the mission comes first and will be the overriding factor in granting deferments.

“Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis,” said Col. **Kathleen Grabowski**, chief of assignment

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programs and procedures at the Air Force Personnel Center here. “The goal is to approve as many requests as mission needs allow without being unfair, but the reality is that some requests won’t be possible due to Air Force needs.”

To be eligible, the senior in high

school must be a dependent of and living with the Airman requesting the deferment, and he or she must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility System.

Officers will need to apply before being put on assignment while enlisted people won’t apply until after being matched

to an assignment, said Master Sgt. **Letty Inabinet**, superintendent of assignment procedures. Applications are available from military personnel flights and commander support staffs.

— Air Force Personnel Center
Public Affairs

CMSAF becomes honorary master chief

PETALUMA, Calif. — Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force **Gerald Murray** became an honorary master chief petty officer at the U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Academy graduation here in April.

Chief Murray spoke at the ceremony to salute four Airmen graduates.

“What a great honor to be recognized by this sister service,” he said. “It gives us great encouragement to see how an organization such as our Coast Guard has stood the test of time and evolved to meet the demands of the world today.”

During his remarks, the chief emphasized the importance of capitalizing on each other’s strengths in today’s security environment.

“Joint education allows us to learn more about each other’s culture, heritage, organization and language in an academic environment,” he said. “We then can take what we learned and apply it in joint operations, in the field or operational environment. It allows us to work together in these environments with a little more knowledge of each other.”

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard **Frank Welch** also attended the graduation.

“Not any single service has all the responsibilities to protect American interests to the degree we jointly can,” he said. “The Air Force offers a fresh viewpoint on organizational issues.”

The academy reserves 30 slots a year for Air Force senior noncommissioned officers, and 10 Coast Guard chief petty officers attend the Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Gunter Annex, Ala.

— Senior Airman Alice Moore
60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

Face of the future

by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier



HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. — Caroline Brereton cradles the American flag during a practice retreat at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., in April. Caroline and other Girl Scouts from Brownie Troop 32 learned how to display the flag while preparing to become Junior Scouts.