

# Commander's Call Topics



November 26, 2013

"There is one day that is ours.  
Thanksgiving Day is the one day that is purely American."

O. Henry (pen name of William Sydney Porter) (1862-1910)  
American author

By [Presidential Proclamation](#),  
November is  
National Native American  
Heritage Month

## Two Words, Two Syllables, Two Seconds

Thank You. Those two little words pack a powerful punch. When conveyed with sincerity, a small note of thanks can heighten an Airman's self-worth, increase the motivation they need to move forward, and ultimately **Strengthen Our Team**.

Two little words, two syllables...less than two seconds. We should use them more often.

We've been through a lot this year; we've been challenged on all fronts. Today we are still at war and actively engaged around the world. The impacts of sequestration have been unprecedented and we continue to work through this new reality. Readiness has declined and unfortunately we've seen our civilian Airman furloughed, twice. Yet through every challenge our Airmen and their families push forward. You serve our nation proudly and are the reason we remain the most dominant airpower in the world. For that, we owe you our thanks.

As fellow Airmen, we—Secretary Fanning, General Welsh and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Cody—thank you for your loyalty and perseverance. We are remarkably proud to lead this team. Everything you do, from the sacrifices you make to the endless actions you take to accomplish the mission, contributes to our greatness. We are forever grateful for you and your families' service.

We also ask that each of you pass on the gratitude to the members of your team...not just from us, but from you.

When you gather as a group, look around the room. Consider the impact your fellow Airmen have on your team. Who goes above and beyond? Who does the little things that ease the stress of your day? Who does it all without expecting an ounce in return? Find those people – our bet is they make up your entire team – and say thank you. Pass on the gratitude they absolutely deserve...sometimes it's just that simple.

Every year we set a day aside to give thanks. That day, Thanksgiving, is soon upon us. We'll gather with family, friends and fellow Airmen and reflect on the many things we often take for granted. We go through a lot to serve our nation. We are focused, we are busy and we are often stressed, but know you can truly make a difference—you can **Strengthen Our Team**—with two little words, two syllables...less than two seconds...Thank You.

*Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James A. Cody*

**The World's Greatest Air Force**  
*Powered by Airmen...Fueled by Innovation*

### ► TRENDING...

"Whether united by blood or bonds of kinship—whether led by a mother and father, same-sex couple, single parent, or guardian—families are the building blocks of American society." With those words, President Obama [proclaimed November 24 through 30, 2013 National Family Week](#).

## ► RESOURCES

Website access to the following resources can be gained by clicking on the name.

[AF.mil](#)

[Airman magazine](#)

[Air Force Outreach](#)

[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](#)

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

[Welsh: Air Force Must Get Handle on Pay, Benefits](#)

Noting that pay, benefits and medical costs constitute about half of the Air Force's budget, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III called on leaders to manage the growth of the AF personnel costs while remaining ready to perform its primary mission to fight and win America's wars.

[Air Force launches updated doctrine website](#)

Five core volumes—basic doctrine, leadership, command, operations and support—are now easier to access and process after a year-long restructuring at the [Curtis E. LeMay Center for Doctrine Development and Education](#).

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Air Force meets recruiting goal for 14<sup>th</sup> straight year](#)

Nearly 98 percent of recruits in the Delayed Entry Program scored at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).

## ► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

**Nov. 26, 1943** – When a B-17 suffered an engine failure on the way to the target in Germany, enemy fighters repeatedly attacked the aircraft. TSgt Maurice V. Henry manned his guns, destroying one and damaging another. Then an incendiary shell hit the aircraft, and Henry put out the fire. Later, when the B-17 crashed in the English Channel, Henry helped the other crewmen from the sinking craft with utter disregard for his own safety. When he was last seen, he was still grasping the emergency radio, calling for rescue. For his courage, Henry received the Distinguished Flying Cross posthumously.

**Nov. 27, 1962** - Davis-Monthan AFB received the first Titan II ICBM.

**Nov. 28, 1947** - The Air Force added strategic aerial mining to SAC's list of mission responsibilities.

**Nov. 29, 1961** - Enos, a chimp trained at Holloman AFB, N.M., became the first U.S. "spaceman" when he launched from Cape Canaveral, AFS, Fla., in a Project Mercury capsule and orbited twice around earth.

**Nov. 30, 1956** - The Air Force received its first F-86L Sabre.

**Dec. 1, 2003** - Colonel Linda K. McTeague assumed command of the 113<sup>th</sup> Wing (DC Air National Guard). She became the first woman to command an Air National Guard wing.

**Dec. 2, 1993** - Through December 13<sup>th</sup>, Air Force Colonel Richard O. Covey piloted the Space Shuttle Endeavour during a mission to repair the \$2 billion Hubble Space Telescope.

**Dec. 3, 1988** - After a one-year trial program, the Air Force decided to continue its policy of assigning mixed male/female crews to 24-hour missile duty.

**Dec. 4, 1942** - Ninth Air Force sent 24 B-24s to attack ships at the Naples docks in the first U.S. Army Air Forces air strike against mainland Italy in World War II.

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

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