

Commander's Call Topics



March 13, 2014

"They [women] have served our country with valor, from the battlefields of the Revolutionary War to the deserts of Iraq and mountains of Afghanistan."

The White House Proclamation
naming March 2014
[Women's History Month](#)

[Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment](#)
is the theme of
Women's History Month 2014

Senior Leaders Challenge Airmen to Reaffirm Commitment

[Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James](#), [Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III](#) and [Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody](#) issued the following message to the Airmen of the United States Air Force:

Being an Airman is more than a job. When we voluntarily raised our right hands and took an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, we became members of the profession of arms. Underpinning that profession is the sacred trust given to us by the American people. To meet their expectations, we must build our lives and shape our service on the foundation of our core values: *Integrity First, Service Before Self* and *Excellence In All We Do*. Throughout our history as a service, Airmen with tremendous moral courage have taught us there is no replacement for virtue, character, dignity and respect. Today's Airmen—active, Guard, Reserve and civilian—must continue this tradition.

When Airmen fail to live up to our core values, the reputation of all who serve is tarnished. We must have the strength of character to do and say the right things at the right times, always with diplomacy, tact and respect. Being a wingman does not mean protecting those who lack integrity or fail to uphold the core values; it means not tolerating them. You are accountable not only for your actions, but also for failing to take action if you see bad behavior.

Today we challenge each and every Airman to reaffirm their commitment to our core values by finding new ways to live these values each and every day. This reaffirmation will strengthen the trust between Airmen, and our commitment to one another. It also reassures the American public we are worthy of their trust.

Thank you for representing the Air Force so well and exhibiting pride and courage in our service. If you have questions about our core values, please seek out guidance and assistance from people who can help: commanders, first sergeants, chaplains and inspectors general are available to provide counsel and advice. Because of who we are, and what we do, *Integrity, Service* and *Excellence* carry special meaning for all of us. Always remember that it is an honor to be called "Airman." We must earn that honor, every day.



► TRENDING...

"This [force structure plan](#) balances capability, readiness and capacity and prioritizes global, long-range capabilities and multi-role platforms required to operate in a highly-contested environment," said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James commenting on the plan to ensure that the service successfully transitions to a leaner force that remains ready resulting from FY15 budget announced March 4th.

► 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](#)

► CURRENT ISSUES

[AF undersecretary: Budget uncertainty worries Airmen](#)

With an eye on FY2016, when the Budget Control Act of 2011 may again result in full sequestration, Air Force Undersecretary Eric Fanning stressed the balance among capacity, capability and readiness while acknowledging the uncertainties of in fiscal 2014 and 2015, speaking to the Defense Writers Group in Washington this week..

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Voluntary application processing continues during force management pause](#)

Eligible officers and enlisted Airmen are being encouraged to continue applying for the Temporary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Pay programs while potential changes to the timing, composition and eligibility criteria of all force management programs are being reevaluated.

[Squadron, group command applications due April 18](#)

Eligibility requirements and grade criteria, which vary among specialties, can be found on the respective career field web pages on the AFPC myPers website.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[Department of Energy seeks award nominations](#)

Having won 21 awards since 2010—more than any other Service—the Air Force is encouraging its members to enter the Federal Energy and Water Management Awards.

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

March 13, 2007 - The first MQ-9 Reaper, a newer, larger and stronger version of the MQ-1 Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, arrived at Creech AFB, Nev. The 42nd Attack Squadron commander, Lt.Col. Jon Greene, flew the MQ-9 more than 250 miles in two hours to land there.

March 14, 2001 - An Army CH-47 *Chinook* released the X-40A at 15,000 feet successfully for its first free flight and autonomous landing at Edwards AFB.

March 15, 1956 - The USAF issued a requirement for an air-to-surface missile for the B-52. This missile became the Hound Dog.

March 16, 1926 - Dr. Robert H. Goddard test flew the world's first liquid-fueled rocket at Auburn, Mass. It flew 184 feet in 2.5 seconds at about 70 MPH.

March 17, 1967 - The US and Thai governments announced that USAF units in Thailand were flying missions against North Vietnam.

March 18, 1977 - All 10 members in the first group of women undergraduate pilot students completed the Phase II Training program in the T-37 Tweet. They then started Phase III with the T-38 Talon.

March 19, 1910 - Orville Wright opened the first Wright Flying School at Montgomery, Ala. This site became Maxwell AFB.

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

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