

Commander's Call Topics



September 25, 2014

“Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world.”

*Nelson Mandela
(1918-2013)*

*South African anti-apartheid revolutionary,
politician and philanthropist
Past-president of South Africa(1994-1999)*

This is an election year, with all of the congressional seats and 36 senate seats open.

Find out about [your voting rights, responsibilities and resources.](#)

Answering the Call to the Future

Roll Call! Evolution is inevitable, so we must deliberately move forward. Technology continues to open doors and present opportunities to step beyond the well-trodden paths of the past. As we *Shape Our Future* Air Force, we must capitalize on these opportunities to move to the next level – a level that meets the needs of today, but is agile enough to respond to the needs of tomorrow. This is especially true in the education arena.

The science of education is changing before our eyes. Information technology is producing new delivery methods that tailor the pace of study to the students' strengths and weaknesses, ensuring a more effective learning experience. The blended learning approach – combining distance and in-residence learning – takes advantage of these technologies to deliver the highest quality education. It's the approach we're already taking in our Senior NCO Academy, and will soon implement in every NCO Academy.

The distance portion is about the information. Students can take up to a year, moving at their own pace, to learn theories and concepts that expand their understanding of the institutional competencies we need to *Win the Fight*. The competencies are at the root of the critical thinkers, adaptable leaders and influential innovators we need to lead the world's greatest Air Force.

The in-residence portion goes beyond the books and the tests. It builds on the roots planted in the distance component by combining scenarios, exercises and interaction with fellow Airmen. There is dialogue, leadership reflection and opportunities to seek and receive feedback – everything students need to become more self-aware, deliberate and influential leaders ready and able to *Strengthen the Team*.

The blended learning approach delivers a higher quality education to all Airmen. The model is used at top universities around the world because it's recognized as the most effective way to educate. We, too, recognize its value and are taking that next step. We are deliberately evolving our professional military education.

Education is and will always be critical to our development. As we look to the dynamic environment of the future, we must capitalize on technologies available today. The doors are open, the well-trodden paths of the past are behind us, opportunities lie ahead ... and we are answering the Call to the Future.

*[Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force
James A. Cody](#)*

► 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

Sept. 26, 2000 - An F-15 team from Edwards AFB successfully used the Joint Helmet-Mounted Cueing System (JHMCS) to fire an AIM-9X *Sidewinder* air-to-air missile over the Navy's China Lake range. The missile destroyed an unmanned *Phantom II* drone.

Sept. 27, 1993 - Gen. James H. Doolittle, who led the first air raid on Tokyo and commanded the Eighth Air Force during World War II, dies at the age of 96.

Sept. 28, 1912 - Cpl. Frank S. Scott became the first enlisted fatality in Signal Corps Aviation.

Sept. 29, 1964 - The first of 36 Minuteman II launches occurred at Cape Kennedy, Fla. In this flight, the missile successfully delivered its payload nearly 5,000 miles downrange on target.

Sept. 30, 1949 - The Berlin airlift, gradually reduced since May 12, officially ended. Allied aircraft carried 2,343,301.5 tons of supplies on 277,264 flights. U.S. planes carried 1,783,826 tons.

Oct. 1, 1957 - USAF personnel launched their first intercontinental missile, the XSM-62 Snark in a flight from Cape Canaveral.

Oct. 2, 1981 - President Reagan reversed several of President Carter's defense decisions to support force modernization. He planned to construct and deploy 100 B-1B aircraft, continue the ALCM and M-X program, and develop an advanced stealth bomber. He also cancelled the horizontal multiple shelter basing scheme for the M-X in favor of basing in super-hard silos.

Recent promotion? Change of command? Increased number of flight hours?

There are many reasons to update a biography!

Keep your leadership current by ensuring that their AF.mil biography is up to date.

Send us updates in real-time using the **NEW** link below:

afbiographies.dma@mail.mil

► FAMILY HEALTH AND SAFETY

[TRICARE shines light on suicide prevention awareness](#)

Veterans make up 20 percent of suicide deaths each year, and Vets4Warriors is a free, confidential peer-to-peer support service with a call center staffed by veterans and family members representing all branches of the services. Anyone in need can connect with them anytime by phone (1-855-838-8255), [online chat](#), or [e-mail](#).

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Phased rollout to improve enlisted evaluation system](#)

A new enlisted evaluation and promotion system will replace the existing 45-year-old Weighted Airman Promotion System.

[Air Force recruiting system gets overhaul](#)

The Air Force Recruiting Information System has been upgraded to be total-force capable, revolutionizing the recruiting process for more than 5,000 recruiters and interface partners within the Air Force active-duty, Guard and Reserve components.

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

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