

Commander's Call Topics



January 30, 2014

"Common sense and a sense of humor are the same thing, moving at different speeds. A sense of humor is just common sense, dancing."

William James, M.D.
American philosopher, psychologist and physician

[Blood Donor Awareness
Month](#)

stresses the need for donors
throughout the year

The Future...The Team

[Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody](#) discusses why the Air Force needs to manage the force, while also discussing steps Airmen should take to better prepare themselves and how supervisors can help their Airmen through a period of drawdown. Though Cody admits these times are challenging, he promises Airmen senior Air Force leadership will remain transparent, and release as much information as they can, as quickly as they can.

Roll Call! The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. It's a phrase often used to convey the importance of working as one...a synergistic team. In the Air Force it's undeniably true. We have dedicated, intelligent, and talented Airmen who bring strength to our nation, but the greater strength is only possible when we are connected with our fellow Airmen. We need each other, perhaps never more so as we move forward with force management.

The force management programs are a necessary step we must take as a force. We have to **Win the Fight** in a fiscally constrained environment, so we are purposefully **Shaping Our Future** to maintain the Airmen and skills we need to accomplish the mission and remain the world's greatest Air Force...but we must **Strengthen the Team** by supporting each other and working as one.

We must each commit to supporting our fellow Airmen whenever and however we can.

As Air Force senior leaders, we commit to transparency; we will share information as early and often as possible. We've notified the majority of Airmen that are vulnerable for voluntary and involuntary programs. It is important to understand the number of overages and vulnerable Airmen in each AFSC is fluid...we'll continually update guidance with the latest information and send it to the field as quickly as possible.

Supervisors and leaders, seek out that knowledge. Stay well versed on force management initiatives and how they affect your team; commit to sitting down with each individual Airman to talk through options and refer as appropriate to agencies that can provide additional information and support. Don't hesitate to discuss Palace Chase, retention boards, quality force indicators, or other programs that may draw questions. Airmen must fully understand what's in front of them so they can make clear, informed decisions. You must be honest and straightforward with Airmen about where they stand and what options are available.

All Airmen must support their teammates, the men and women who serve beside you. When Airmen do leave our team, voluntarily or involuntarily, we must be there for them and their families. They do not cease to be Wingmen as they begin to move out of the Air Force. No Airman should feel alone. We have to rely on and be there for each other.

We have tremendous Airmen in our Air Force, strong men and women who serve our nation proudly. But even the strongest Airman is made stronger by the team. Up and down the chain of command we have to support each other. As we push forward through the programs ahead, our commitment to each other will be the fabric that holds us together...the force that propels us to victory.

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

► TRENDING...

"If this department is going to maintain a future force that is properly sized, modern and ready, we clearly cannot maintain the last decade's rate of military compensation growth," [testified Acting Deputy Defense Secretary Christine H. Fox](#) before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

► RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Airman magazine

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil>

Air Force Recruiting

www.airforce.com

Military OneSource

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil>

Air Force Personnel Center

<http://www.afpc.af.mil>

Air Reserve Personnel Center

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil>

Department of Defense News

<http://www.defense.gov>

Department of Veteran Affairs

<http://www.va.gov>

Employment Opportunities

www.usajobs.com

www.nafjobs.org

TRICARE

<http://www.tricare.mil>

U.S. Government Website

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

Air Force Association Scholarships

<http://www.afa.org/AFA/InformationFor/Students>

Air Force Safety Center

www.afsec.af.mil

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Super Bowl preparations include air defense exercises](#)

Carefully planned and closely controlled defense exercise flights, coordinated among government agencies and fighter jets from the Continental United States North American Aerospace Defense Command Region, assure that the skies around MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, site of Super Bowl XLVIII, are safe

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[3rd AF top enlisted leader identifies key leadership characteristics](#)

Using a baseball team analogy and stressing attitude, work ethic and standards of discipline, Chief Master Sgt. Mark Marson, Third Air Force Command Chief, spoke to senior NCOs about acquiring and maintaining leadership skills.

[June officer RIF board to offer voluntary separation pay](#)

In addition to convening an officer reduction in force (RIF) board to evaluate eligible officers for retention, the Air Force Personnel Center is establishing procedures and protocols for separation pay, forgiving some debt associated with education and other programs and transition assistance planning. (See, also, [Force shaping board to convene in July.](#))

[MyICP gives military spouses new career planning tool](#)

The Spouse Education and Career Opportunities (SECO) program has launched a new, goal-based online tool, My Individual Career Plan (MyICP), to provide career education and guidance to military spouses worldwide.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[FitFamily provides families tools for success](#)

An initiative which encourages families to develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle while becoming more active together also provides tangible recognition and awards.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[Space squadron optimizes wideband communication constellations](#)

The wideband communications system of satellites provides flexible, high-capacity communications for U.S. forces throughout the world.

The Defense Media Activity produces Commander's Call Topics weekly. For questions or comments about this or any other DMA product, send an email to afproducts@dma.mil.

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

Jan. 30, 1951 – KOREAN WAR. The 61st Troop Carrier Group's C-54s were the first USAF aircraft to land at the recaptured Suwon Airfield, Republic of Korea. They delivered 270 tons of supplies for the advancing United Nations forces.

Jan. 31, 1997 - An Air Force Flight Test Center crew from Edwards AFB, Calif., conducted the first live launch of an AGM-142 *Raptor* missile from a B-52 at the White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

Feb. 1, 1950 - Continental Air Command was directed to set up a civil air raid warning system.

Feb. 2, 1983 - F-16 pilot training began at Luke AFB.

Feb. 3, 2007 - The F-22 *Raptor* flew in its first Red Flag exercise at Nellis AFB, Nev.

Feb. 4, 1985 - After studying the abilities of women in missile crews,

the Strategic Air Command decided to employ gender-specific (all-female) crews in Minuteman units.

Feb. 5, 1905 - Thomas S. Baldwin took part in a 10-mile race between his dirigible and an automobile. The dirigible and its pilot won by three minutes.

For more information, visit [Air Force Heritage](#) on the web.