

Commander's Call Topics



March 5, 2015

*"I have found adventure in flying, in world travel, in business
and even close at hand...
Adventure is a state of mind—and spirit."*

Jacqueline Cochran
American Aviatrix
(1906-1980)

["Weaving the Stories
of Women's Lives"](#)

is the theme of
National
Women's History Month

CHEIFchat Focuses on Tuition Assistance, Pay and Benefits, and Careers

During his most recent CHIEFchat, [Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody](#) put to rest rumors of changes to tuition assistance, reviewed military pay and benefits, discussed the growing cyber domain, and shared his insight into the master sergeant evaluation boards.

On tuition assistance: "There are no specific discussions going on right now about anything to do with tuition assistance or our educational benefits from within the department," Cody said as he talked about understanding the importance of education; it is, for many service members, one of the top three reasons why they joined the military. The Air Force will continue to ensure that technical training and professional military education programs are accredited.

"There's no lack of commitment by the Air Force to continue to press forward and make sure there is funding available."

On slowing the growth of pay and benefits: "I think it's important that we understand, between 2001 and 2012 our pay and benefits increased 40 percent," Cody said. "I think everybody can appreciate we can't sustain that kind of growth."

He added that the slowing in growth in no way implies that Airmen and their families are not entitled to what they earn today. "They have earned it," Cody said.

On the growing cyber career field: "The cyber domain is constantly evolving, and trying to get on the front side of that curve is extremely challenging," Cody said. However, he also stated that feels the Air Force is prepared, ready to respond, and able to defeat any threats that exist. To identify and beat those threats, Cody said the 1B4X1, Cyber Warfare Operations career field will grow from 200 Airmen to nearly 800 Airmen during the next two years.

On the master sergeant board: For technical sergeants who will be meeting the [master sergeant evaluation board](#), Cody stressed there's nothing they should worry about, as expectations have remained the same. "(We) haven't added anything into what was required before – nothing," Cody said. "We expect our Airmen to be working hard, doing their very best and we're going to acknowledge that by looking at their records."

CHIEFchat is a recurring initiative, designed to give Airmen around the world a direct connection to the chief master sergeant of the Air Force. See this month's chat [here](#).

► TRENDING...

"Sometime today, write their motto on a small piece of paper, and put it in your wallet or in your purse," said [Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Walsh III](#) at the [commemoration of the Air Force's involvement in the Vietnam War](#) at the Air Force Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. "And every time you notice it in the future, take it out, unfold it and read the words: 'Return with honor.' Then put it back, and quietly thank the heroes we honor today..."

► 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 Veterans 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

March 5-9, 1985 - Airlift crews flew 123 tons of food and medicine as part of four famine relief missions to Sudan, Niger and Mali.

March 6, 1942 - The U.S. Army Air School at Tuskegee, Alabama, for black aviators graduated its first class. The five black military pilots included Capt. Benjamin O. Davis.

March 7, 2003 - President George W. Bush issued an ultimatum giving Saddam Hussein and his sons 48 hours to leave Iraq.

March 8, 1944 - Eighth Air Force attacked Berlin with 623 bombers, escorted by 891 fighters.

March 9, 1955 - In an F-84F Thunderstreak, Lt. Col. Robert R. Scott set a 3-hour, 44-minute, 53-second record for the 2,446-mile flight from Los Angeles to New York.

March 10, 1967 - F-105 Thunderchiefs and F-4C Phantoms bombed the Thai Nguyen steel plant in North Vietnam for the first time. At the time, Thai Nguyen was the only plant in Southeast Asia making bridge sections, barges and drums for fuels and lubricants. While attacking the steel plant, Capt Merlyn Hans Dethlefsen used his severely damaged F-105 to silence enemy defenses, despite intense enemy ground fire and fighter attacks, to earn the Medal of Honor.

March 11, 1974 - The YF-16 attained Mach 2 for the first time in test flights at Edwards AFB, Calif.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[AF leaders seek relief from sequestration-level funding](#)

Testifying before the House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations' Defense Subcommittee, [Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James](#) and [Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III](#) proposed a FY 2016 budget that is about \$10 billion more than current funding levels.

[Top AF senior enlisted leader testifies on AF quality of life](#)

During a hearing of the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Military Construction, [Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody](#) testified about the looming sequestration and how it would affect Airmen and their families.

[Women's History Month: Remembering the past, looking toward the future](#)

The jobs and job descriptions may have changed, and Women's History Month honors the hard work and contributions made in the past and present.

[Vietnam War veterans honored during ceremony at AF Memorial](#)

Service members, civilians and veterans honored prisoners of war and those missing during the commemoration of the beginning of the 1965 Operation Rolling Thunder bombing campaign, where joint-service aircraft bombed targets throughout North Vietnam.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[2015 Total Force Climate Survey slated for March](#)

An opportunity to comment on how to improve the unit and an expanded recognition and resources sections will facilitate feedback that will directly impact leaders' decisions on issues that affect the Total Force.

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

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