

Commander's Call Topics



February 19, 2015

"Judge a man by his questions rather than by his answers."

— Voltaire
Writer, historian, and philosopher
1694 –1778

February is
[Heart Health Month](#)
a good time to learn all the ways
to take care of your heart.

Core Values Are Prime Motivators Throughout the Air Force

The annual Air Warfare Symposium earlier this month featured, [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](#). They each addressed key issues that are of concern to Airmen. Together they stressed the Air Force's core values in response to those concerns. Following is a compendium their remarks.

Secretary James spoke of the importance of a healthy budget, innovation and developing Airmen as key to maintaining the world's greatest air power.

On the budget: "Our budget proposal actually busts the sequestration caps. For the Air Force, this represents the difference between an Air Force that our combatant commanders require, and our nation expects, as compared to an Air Force that with \$10 billion less, (which) will not be able to meet the National Defense Strategy – period."

On innovation: "Air Force ingenuity and creativity, in concert of course with our industry partners, can make the impossible, possible."

On developing Airmen: "When we take care of Airmen and their families and we focus on resiliency for all that means our Airmen can focus on getting ready for the many, many missions that we must undertake in our Air Force."

Welsh presented a view of the Air Force today and how to get where the Air Force needs to be in the future by making adjustments.

"We need to refocus on the things that really matter to us as members of this service and this profession," he said. "I think we have to start with a refocus on our mission and our primary job, which is to fight and win the nation's wars."

Gen. Welsh also carried this idea of refocusing at the personal level, as well: "We've also been refocusing on our core values. We've kind of been reminded that if these three simple words with elegant meaning: integrity, service, excellence; if they're really going to be foundational values for our service then they have to be cared for and sustained. They have to be embraced; they have to be discussed over and over and over."

The enlisted perspective and the need for specific core values was presented by Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody: "You just can't care enough – resiliency is not a program, (it's) a core strength." Chief Cody elaborated on how core strengths would be developed by talking about the innovation of the Capstone Week as the culminating event of basic training. This final week will focus on building character skills necessary for success, "to understand what they're a part of, to really internalize those core values (and) to help them understand that character is important."

Themes of innovation and strength repeated throughout the addresses of the Air Force leadership just as they will throughout the future of the Air Force.

► 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

Feb. 19, 1936 – Brig. Gen. William “Billy” Mitchell died at Doctor’s Hospital, New York City. He is buried in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Feb. 20, 1944 – Sgt. Archibald Mathies, Lt. William R. Lawley and 2nd Lt. Walter E. Truemper later received the [Medal of Honor](#) for actions during a bombing mission over Leipzig, Germany on this date.

Feb. 21, 2001 - During testing, an RQ-1 Predator fired a Hellfire missile at a tank at Nellis AFB, Nevada. It became the first unmanned aerial vehicle to destroy a ground target.

Feb. 22, 1967 – Twenty-three Air Force C-130s carried 700 troops from the 173rd Airborne Brigade on the first parachute personnel drop in the Vietnam War. Heavy drops of equipment and supplies followed the personnel drop.

Feb. 23, 1912 - War Department Bulletin No. 2 established a “Military Aviator” rating.

Feb. 24, 1958 – Gen. Curtis E. LeMay, Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force, said that the Air Force wanted to establish a single tanker force to support all combat operations requiring air refueling.

Feb. 25, 1975 – Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager, the first pilot to exceed the speed of sound, flew his last Air Force sortie in an F-4 at Edwards AFB, Calif.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Carter takes office as 25th Defense secretary](#)

Practical Pentagon experience over a career that has, so far, included serving as deputy defense secretary, defense acquisition chief and assistant secretary for global strategic affairs, is the solid background of Ash Carter, newly-confirmed Secretary of Defense.

[Priorities of AF acquisition outlines at symposium](#)

Air Force procurement strategy and challenges to meet the needs of today’s Air Force were outlined by Dr. William A. LaPlante, assistant secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition.

► FAMILY HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Free tax preparation, advice available to military families](#)

Military OneSource and H&R Block are combining efforts to offer no-cost tax consultation, preparation and filing to service and family members, reservists, survivors and some separated service members.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[75 day leave carryover ends Sept. 30](#)

Airmen have more than seven months to use accrued leave in excess of 60 days - the new carryover leave limit - by Oct. 1, 2015, unless approved for special leave accrual.

[AF releases colonel, major selection board results](#)

Airmen with the Air Force Personnel Center have announced the promotion of 456 lieutenant colonels to the rank of colonel and 2,126 captains to major.

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

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