



February 18, 2016

Airmen Powered by Innovation

API encourages Airmen to challenge the status quo, question legacy processes and suggest innovative solutions to improve the way we do business. The program aims to reinvigorate Airmen's innovative spirit by giving their ideas the leadership support and oversight necessary to achieve maximum impact. The following is a review the program to date:

- **Key Facts** (current as of Jan. 6, 2016):
 - Total ideas received: **6,138**
 - Total actionable ideas: **1,715**
 - Projected savings: **\$117.1 million**
- **Top API Ideas:**
 - Brian Grissom from Tinker AFB submitted the "New source of Hardness Critical Items (HCI) for B-2 avionics." His idea was approved and is projected to save the Air Force more than \$63 million.
 - Andrew Kay from Tyndall AFB submitted the "Missile/Drone Retriever Boat Re-power Plan." His idea was approved and is projected to save the Air Force more than \$29 million.
 - 1st Lt Kyle Smathers from Scott AFB submitted the "USAF PC Power Management" idea. It was approved and is projected to save the Air Force more than \$15 million.
- **Questions & Answers:**
 - **How do I submit my idea?** Airmen can participate by visiting the API website which is located on the Air Force Portal ([click here](#)).
 - **Where can I find help submitting my idea?** Installations' manpower offices provide submission assistance. Questions can also be emailed to the API Idea Cell at afpc.api.1@us.af.mil.
 - **How long is the approval process?** Implementation decisions are made within 30 calendar days of receipt.
 - **What is the status of my idea?** Airmen can see the status of their idea 24/7.
 - **Will Airmen whose ideas are approved receive cash awards?** Cash awards can be made for approved ideas that delivered confirmed results in effectiveness and/or efficiency when implemented. However, not all suggestions will earn Airmen a cash award. The value of the cash award is based upon the associated dollar savings for the Air Force.



AF Communication Waypoints Winter 2016 edition is now available

The Air Force Winter version the Air Force Communication Waypoints is available now. The document provides a common set of themes, messages and reference materials designed to provide Airmen the tools needed to effectively "Tell the Air Force Story" across a wide range of topics. To access the latest version of Waypoints, visit the AF Portal or [click here](#).

► 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. 18, 1943 – The first class of 39 flight nurses graduated from the U. S. Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuations at Bowman Field, Kentucky.

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 Air Force Base, Nevada. It became the first unmanned aerial vehicle to destroy a ground target in the test.

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 the Air Force wanted to establish a single tanker force to support all combat operations requiring air refueling.



The OPM data breach, massive in its identity theft implications, gives rise to other crimes, and often one crime can result in two more. For example, phishing scams can morph into credit card fraud and social security abuse. Learn how to protect yourself [here](#).

To learn more about the Office of Personnel Management data breach, legitimate assistance being provided to impacted individuals, and to understand cybersecurity as it is grounded in the Air Force tradition, please go to the specially created [Air Force Cybersecurity](#) web page.



► CURRENT ISSUES

[Air Force continues to improve care in the air](#)

Research and development advancing the effectiveness of en route patient care is focusing on health issues related to the stresses of flight and various impacts of transport, pain control and the potential for additional risk for traumatic brain injury patients.

► FAMILY HEALTH AND SAFETY

[AF implements new DOD-wide changes to maternity leave](#)

A policy of granting up to 12 continuous, nontransferable weeks of fully paid maternity leave, allowing those currently on maternity leave an automatic 42-day extension, took effect Feb. 2, 2016. (*Ed. Note: A later effective date was reported in earlier editions, and CCT regrets the error.*)

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

The Defense Media Activity produces **Commander's Call Topics** weekly. For questions or comments about this, or any other DMA product, send an e-mail to afbiographies.mil@mail.mil.

To subscribe to AF news and information products online, go to <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDODAF/subscriber/new>.