



COMMANDER'S CALL TOPICS

NOTE: This product has embedded hyperlinks and is best viewed online.

24—28 July 2017

Priority Topic
of the
Week

EPME Redesign

Results of 2017 Enlisted PME Triennial Review

- Time in service will no longer dictate an enlisted Airman's in-residence PME enrollment.
- Changes will provide a 100% in-residence PME opportunity for all enlisted Airmen.
- Airmen will be required to complete distance learning courses (DLC) as a prerequisite to their residence attendance.
- All active duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen will have an opportunity to attend Airman Leadership School, the NCO and senior NCO academies prior to promotion.
- This change enables all Airmen an opportunity to attend in-residence PME in order to leverage the educational experiences gained from instructors and peers.

What Airmen need to know

- Each Airman can now decide the best time frame to complete their applicable DLCs.
- Airmen will not be notified by Air Force Personnel Center or Air University to enroll in DLCs, but must do so themselves.
- Once staff and master sergeants complete their respective DLCs they are immediately eligible for in-residence PME.
- Non-completion of NCO DLC or SNCO DLC renders a member ineligible for in-residence EPME.
- This new policy is effective with the 18E8 promotion cycle.

What leaders are saying

- The new changes provide Airmen greater flexibility and time, allowing them to refocus their energies on mission and warfighting tasks.
- The Air Force must ensure timely, focused and operationally relevant training and education at all levels.
- The change is a positive move in our efforts to develop our force and support our Airmen.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. Why are we changing again?

A1: The 2017 Enlisted PME Triennial Review Committee agreed that changes were needed to align with the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) policy and allow all Airmen regardless of time in service to attend enlisted PME.

Q2. What is the new timeline for enlisted professional military education?

A2: Airmen will have the flexibility to complete their prerequisite distance learning course to be eligible for in-residence PME. Airman Leadership School is required for promotion to SSgt, the NCO Academy is required for promotion to MSgt, and the SNCO Academy for promotion to chief master sergeant.

Q3. What are the consequences for not completing my distance learning course?

A3: Airmen become ineligible to attend in-residence enlisted PME if their applicable prerequisite distance learning course is not completed.

**EPME Redesign
(Cont.)**

Q4. What about those Airmen who completed distance learning courses under the previous policy, but did not attend in-residence PME because it was beyond their time-in-service window?

A4: These Airmen will still receive PME credit and will not be required to attend the in-residence portion.

Q5. If an Airman believes he/she was marked down under the previous policy, can they challenge their EPR? Additionally, if an Airman received a referral evaluation for non-completion of distance learning course, what are their options?

A5: There is no official Air Force policy that forced evaluators to mark down Airmen for non-completion of PME. Evaluators have the sole discretion when determining performance standards and expectations and will assess Airmen accordingly.

Q6. What happens to Airmen who were ineligible for promotion under the former policy and can they be considered for promotion for a previous cycle?

A6: This new promotion eligibility policy with regards to enlisted PME distance learning is effective with the 18E8 promotion cycle and forward as all previous promotion eligibility cutoff dates have passed. Supplemental consideration will not be granted to those who were ineligible during previous promotion cycles as the new policy was not in place. Air Force members must adhere to the policies that are in place at the time of their promotion cycle.

Q7. Will PME remain a promotion requirement?

A7: The Air Force policy is that in-residence PME is a promotion requirement.

Q8. Where can Airmen go for more information?

A8: All Airmen can get additional information at [myPers](#) and Airmen with specific questions about their individual situations are encouraged to immediately contact the Total Force Service Center at (800) 525-0102.

For more information, visit [AFPC.AF.MIL](#).

Personnel Topics of Interest

- AF rolls out Phased Retirement Program for eligible civilians ([AFPC](#))
- AF selects 8,167 for promotion to TSgt ([AFPC](#))
- Mentoring is for the Total Force ([AF.MIL](#))
- Air Force selects 2,311 BSC, LAF officers for promotion ([AF.MIL](#))

Commander's Call Topic Archive: <http://www.af.mil/AboutUs/CommandersCallTopics.aspx>

Commander's Call Topics is published weekly by SAF/PA to ensure leaders at all levels remain current on issues concerning Airmen and families. Requests for information to be included in future editions should be sent to SAF/PAX via [email](#).

Submissions should include:

- 1) 1-2 sentence synopsis of the issue
- 2) hyperlink to further details
- 3) a POC name and contact information.

*Only submissions that pertaining to the majority of Airmen or specifically to command leadership teams will be considered. Local or limited-interest items will not be included.