



# COMMANDER'S CALL TOPICS

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

12—16 February 2018

## Priority Topic

of the  
Week

## Military Standards: Social Media

Whether on and off duty, military members are required to maintain the high standards of personal conduct set for Air Force members. Airmen are accountable for their words and actions, including those conveyed by means of electronic communication.

### **Military Standards Policy**

In November 2017, the Air Force updated guidance reinforcing military standards after an extensive review of current Air Force publications.

Guidance memorandum AFGM2017-36-29-01 reemphasizes expectations of military standards as they pertain to social media and electronic communication, while providing additional guidance on non-consensual posting of sexual imagery.

It addresses the importance of upholding professionalism while using social media and maintaining interactions that treat others with dignity, fairness and respect.

### **Why is this important?**

- The Air Force is built upon the core values of integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do. We expect our Airmen to adhere to these core values at all times, to include their behavior on social media.
- The guidance memorandum reinforces existing standards and outlines clear prohibitions to non-consensual sharing of sexually explicit material on social media.
- The guidance memorandum will help ensure our ability to enforce accountability when standards are not met.
- All Airmen (active-duty, Guard, Reserve, civilian) are expected to create and maintain an environment free of discriminatory and inappropriate practices, both on and off duty. This includes conduct on social media websites as well as all forms of electronic communication.
- We understand we must continue to reinforce our expectations for professional and appropriate behaviors both in and out of the workplace, on and off-line, as well as remain vigilant for behaviors and materials that hinder a professional working environment or harm fellow Airmen.
- All military members shall treat others with dignity, fairness, and respect at all times.
- All existing standards of professionalism and mutual respect apply to social media and electronic communication as well.



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#### **Applicable Uniform Code of Military Justice Actions**

- Failure to obey the prohibitions listed in the guidance memorandum is a violation of Article 92, UCMJ.
- While every case must be reviewed based on its specific facts, some applicable Uniform Code of Military Justice provisions regarding disrespectful behavior using social media and electronic communication include:
  - Article 88, Contempt towards officials
  - Article 89, Disrespect towards a superior commissioned officer
  - Article 93, Cruelty and maltreatment of subordinates
  - Article 117, Provoking speech or gestures
  - Article 120c, Other sexual misconduct
  - Article 133, Conduct unbecoming an officer
  - Article 134, Behavior bringing discredit on the armed forces or prejudicial to good order and discipline (including communicating a threat and indecent language).
- Adding a disclaimer such as “opinions are my own and not shared by the Air Force” does not mean you can say or share whatever you want. Generally, actions prohibited in person are not otherwise condoned or tolerated through social media or electronic communication.
- Air Force Policy Directive 36-29, *Military Standards* applies to all military members on active duty in the Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard (in Title 10 status). Air National Guard Airmen not in Title-10 status, are subject to the guidelines in their state’s Uniform Code of Military Justice.

#### **Additional Resources**

- [AFGM2017-36-29-01](#)
- [AFPD36-29, Military Standards](#)
- [DoDI1020.03 Harassment Prevention and Response in the Armed Forces](#)

## Personnel Topics of Interest

- AF streamlines voting prgm to help optimize Airmen’s core missions ([AFPC](#))
- AF selects 875 in CY17C captains quarterly selection process ([AFPC](#))
- FYI: Blended Retirement System ([AF.MIL](#))
- AF to institute new method to protect PII ([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.