



# COMMANDER'S CALL TOPICS

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

## Priority Topic of the Week:

### Stripes for Exceptional Performers Program

Based on feedback from commanders and senior enlisted leaders in field, and comments received during the 2018 Enlisted Force Development Panel, Air Force officials have announced changes to the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program. The program is designed to early promote enlisted Airmen who demonstrate exceptional potential. The following changes will take effect immediately:

- Increase in the number of stripes, also known as promotions.
  - For FY 2018, officials have increased the number of stripes available from 96 to 180.
  - The increase provides all major commands and the Central Base Board with at least two STEP quotas.
- The timing of the STEP process will shift to no earlier than September, allowing in-cycle promotions to be announced prior to STEP nomination deadlines.
- The requirements for the Central and Combatant Command STEP boards have been aligned to more closely match the Enlisted Force Development Process. The board process will now require up to the last three enlisted evaluations in the nominee's current grade and an AF Form 1206 with up to five bullets detailing recent accomplishments that occurred since the close out of the member's most recent enlisted performance report.

The change should have no measurable impact on the traditional enlisted promotion process and will not reduce promotion allocations available to Airmen competing for promotion under the Weighted Airmen Promotion System.

Commanders must ensure Airmen promoted under STEP meet eligibility requirements including completion of the appropriate enlisted professional military education. An individual may not receive more than one promotion under any combination of promotion programs within a 12-month period. STEP promotion opportunities are limited, therefore commanders are encouraged to recognize and promote their exemplary performers who meet minimum promotion eligibility criteria.

The Air Force Personnel Center will release full guidelines for the FY 2018 STEP process, including quotas for all MAJCOMs, COCOMs and units meeting the central board, via myPers at <https://mypers.af.mil>.

### Personnel Topics of Interest

- FY 2018 mid-year Selective Retention Bonus takes effect May 30 ([AFPC](#))
- Air Force strengthens partnerships through International Enlisted Engagements Program ([AF.MIL](#))
- Retired Air Force rated officers welcomed back on active duty ([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/PAI via [email](#).

Submissions should include:

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

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