

October 4, 2013

People...Our Greatest Source of Strength

Roll Call! Today's challenges remind us to not lose focus on our teammates...the *Strength of Our Team*. Unfortunately we have begun this fiscal year without an agreement by our government on funding for our nation, and as a result the government has shut down and a new period of uncertainty has begun.

For many of us, questions about pay have been answered, but that is not the case for our entire team. Many of our Reserve, National Guard and Civilian Airmen, who serve our nation with honor and pride, have been sent home without pay.

The shutdown affects us all in different ways, beyond our paychecks. Concerns continue to emerge and generate questions, many without answers. The uncertainty and stress of those directly affected, specifically those furloughed, are tremendous and we need to be there for each other. We're working to get you updated information as quickly as possible.

If you or a teammate is in need of assistance, there are available resources for help. The Air Force has posted and continues to update the <u>AF.mil web site</u> with the most current information we have.

And of course, we have each other.

Gather as a team, reach out to one another for support, and commit to care for each other when needed most. Be honest with your concerns and share them with your teammates; let them know how they can support you. And don't forget to reach out to those at home; make sure they are OK and keep them informed.

Although there are still many uncertainties ahead, one thing is absolutely clear: The shutdown and resulting furloughs in no way reflect on the value of the work you do every day. Your fellow Airmen, your Air Force leaders, even your civilian DoD leaders forced to make these tough decisions understand the extreme effort and dedication you give to the service of our nation.

As a service, we have a long history of celebrated accomplishments, but perhaps the accomplishment we should be most proud of us is our ability to *Strengthen Our Team* during periods of overwhelming challenges. Today our Air Force family is dealing with the needless strain of furloughs, reductions in service, and reduced readiness. Now is a time to come together, again, and show our true colors.

We are a team, a family...always have been. Today we must be resolute in maintaining our strength.

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Airman's Roll Call is designed for supervisors at all levels to help keep Airmen informed on current issues, clear up confusion, dispel rumors, and provide additional face-to-face communication between supervisors and their teams.