

August 2017

RABBIT TALES

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP



A new era of Homeland Defense?

513th successfully
generates 1-hour alert sortie

INSIDE:

AF to radically reduce instructions // Enlisted PME redesign announced

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

513TH UPDATE

Upcoming Events

Saturday – 1000 – Green Dot Training
(970th AACS Auditorium)

Saturday – 1530 – Cow Bell
(970th AACS Lounge)

Sunday – 1400 – Enlisted Call
(970th AACS Auditorium)

Monday – 1930 – Reserves Softball Playoff Game
(Champ Field)

Sep. 9 – 1500 – 513th ACG Change of Command
(970th AACS Auditorium | TENTATIVE)

Sep. 10 – 1100 – 513th Family Day
(38th CEIG Complex)

Cover Photo

In support of the alert exercise, conducted July 30-31, Maj Larry Jackson had his personal vehicle specially outfitted to support alert operations. (Courtesy photo)



Promotions

Congrats to our August promotees!



SSgt Garrett Greer
(970th Airborne Air Control Squadron)

SSgt Tyler Lawrence
(513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)



TSgt Nicholas Endsley
(513th Maintenance Squadron)

TSgt Roger Blankership
(513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)

TSgt Aaron Stelzer
(970th Airborne Air Control Squadron)

TSgt Jesse Egert
(970th Airborne Air Control Squadron)

Fit to Fight MVPs

Maj Robert Atkins
Unit: 513 ACG
Score: 100%



Capt Jocelyn Chang
Unit: 970 AACS
Score: 99.5%

SECAF, CSAF release new AF priorities



WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- In a recent letter to the Total Force, Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright released their new priorities and addressed issues Airmen face day to day.

“For more than 70 years, our fellow Americans have asked you to be the sentinels of air and space for the nation, and you continue to deliver unmatched air and space power every day,” the leaders said. “Looking forward, our obligations to the country will never change. We will always lead and support the joint force in defending our homeland, owning the high ground and pro-

Restore readiness ...
to win any fight, any time.

Cost-effectively modernize ...
to increase the lethality of the force.

Drive innovation ...
to secure our future.

Develop exceptional leaders ...
to lead the world’s most powerful teams.

Strengthen our alliances ...
because we are stronger together.

jecting power with our allies.”

As the demands for Air Force capabilities continue to increase, the senior leaders established the following priorities to ensure the Air Force is always able to answer the nation’s call and win.

“Everything we do as a team should advance or augment these priorities,” they continued. “Each and every one of our Total Force Airmen has a role to play in making us successful in this endeavor. We will prevail through the power of our people. You and your families represent the absolute best of our nation. We are humbled to lead our great Air Force and honored to serve with you every day.”

Air Force to radically reduce instructions

The Air Force has too many directive publications. They are often outdated and inconsistent, breeding cynicism when Airmen feel they cannot possibly follow every written rule. They are sometimes too rigid, slowing adaptation and discouraging new ideas. The result is distraction and inefficiency – when we specify the trivial, we lose focus on the important.

Over the next 24 months, we will systematically review, reduce, and clarify all Air Force directive publications. The men and women of the United States Air Force command history’s most lethal force. Therefore, we trust you can make the right decisions based on our values, your training, the mission, and your experience. Where possible, instructions will allow commanders to exercise good judgment and waive requirements at the lowest appropriate level. The focus will be identifying best practices and concentrating on values, mission, and results.

At the end of this effort, there will be fewer publications and those that remain will be shorter. All publications will be current; approvals and authorities will reside at the lowest appropriate level; and all publications will be written clearly and concisely, without jargon or acronyms. Additionally, instructions rescinded or made optional by Headquarters Air Force will not be replaced by

comparable instructions at lower levels of command. The intent is to be less directive, not to decentralize direction.

The Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of the Air Force for Management (SAF/MG) is the lead for this effort. Within the next year, their cross functional team will review and revise, or else rescind the most problematic instructions. Before September 2019, the team will review the remaining directive publications. To address the root cause of the current situation, we will also develop and implement an agile process that changes how publications are created, maintained, and disseminated.

Reviewing and revising publications is not your job, but no one knows how instructions impact the mission better than you. Your opportunity to be part of this institutional shift will come within the next several weeks when we circulate an Air Force wide survey. We encourage you to take part. We also encourage you to visit the Airmen Powered by Innovation portal. There, you can provide input on which publications should be prioritized for review.

We are honored to serve with you and respect your time and dedication. Thank you for helping us drive a culture of innovation and focusing on mission success – today and tomorrow.

Heather Wilson
Secretary of the Air Force

David L. Goldfein
General, USAF
Chief of Staff

Air Force announces enlisted professional military education redesign

By Senior Master Sgt. Katherine Grabham
Office of the Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Air Force officials announced major changes to the enlisted professional military education program today via an initiative called Enlisted Professional Military Education for the 21st Century, or "EPME 21."

A major initiative of EPME 21 is that time in service will no longer dictate an Airman's EPME enrollment -- Airmen will only be required to complete distance learning courses as a prerequisite to their resident attendance. This initiative is now in effect.

Also, the Air Force will transition to 100 percent resident EPME, allowing all active duty, Guard and reserve Airmen an opportunity to attend Airman Leadership School, the NCO and senior NCO academies prior to promotion.

The changes are a result of the 2017 EPME triennial review, said Chief Master Sgt. JoAnne Bass, the Chief of Air Force Enlisted Developmental Education at the Pentagon.

"The committee determined changes were needed to the existing EPME structure in order to align EPME with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's policy requiring rank-based educational opportunities," Bass said. "This also enables all Airmen an opportunity to attend resident PME in order to truly leverage the educational expe-

riences gained from instructors and peers."

One of Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright's three priorities is leadership -- developing Airmen who are ready to lead. One of his objectives in this is to cement EPME changes and infuse agility into Air University processes to improve the ability to provide timely, updated content delivery.

"If this sounds familiar, it should. It was the staple of our EPME for almost 43 years before a recent change to a time in service model," Wright said. "While this model was effective for some, we quickly found it didn't meet the needs of all our Airmen, causing many NCOs to lose the opportunity to attend in residence at all."

Rather than requiring Airmen to complete EPME at set times based on how long they've been in the Air Force, the new model transitions to a rank-based continuum of learning.

Removing the TIS determination "just makes sense," Wright said. "We must ensure timely, focused and operationally relevant training and educational solutions at all levels. Providing Airmen with the appropriate PME at the right times in their career is a must. If we deliver it too soon, it's not effective for where they are in their careers. If we deliver it too late, it's not effective at all."

Wright notes that the model provides Airmen greater flexibility and time, allowing them to focus their

energies on the mission.

"Commanders, superintendents, first sergeants and supervisors remain central to inspiring a culture of innovation, agility and excellence, while promoting a continuum of learning that spans an Airman's career," he said.

Airmen will not be notified from the Air Force Personnel Center or Air University on when to enroll themselves into distance learning, but must manually enroll themselves.

"This new EPME structure allows Airmen to decide the best timeframe to complete their distance learning," Bass said. "They will have to complete the distance learning prior to being scheduled for the resident portion, but each Airman now has more flexibility as to when the right time is for them."

Bass explained that distance learning provides students with basic competency development and the resident courses allow students to apply what they learned.

"It is necessary to complete both the distance learning and the resident courses to achieve development of the required competencies at the appropriate proficiency levels," she said. "We expect staff and master sergeants to complete their respective distance learning so when they become technical and senior master sergeants, they are immediately eligible for resident attendance."

Resident EPME is a promotion

TO
EPME
3 BIG TICKETS
TO
REMEMBER

- 1**
EVERY AIRMAN
will be allowed to attend resident PME
- 2**
DISTANCE LEARNING
now with a FLEXIBLE suspense must be completed to get to the school house
- 3**
TIME IN SERVICE
gates are removed

requirement -- Airman Leadership School, NCO Academy, SNCO Academy and the Chief Leadership Course are required for promotion to E-5, E-7 and E-9, respectively.

Airmen who have previously completed NCO or SNCO distance learning courses under the previous policy and have not attended resident EPME, will still receive EPME credit and will not be required to attend the resident portion. Additionally, those currently enrolled in NCO or SNCO distance learning courses may still complete the course and receive credit upon completion. Or, they may withdraw with no adverse actions and reenroll at a later date, prior to attending resident EPME.

"This change clearly sends a sig-

nal that our senior leaders value deliberately developing our enlisted corps," said Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services. "This is a positive move in the right direction, as we continue to develop the force and support our Airmen."

Additionally, EPME 21 will institute a new requirement called Professional Development Unit that will capture diverse education, training and life experiences. This will allow the AF to capture those experiences. Each Airman will complete 24 PDUs per year with one PDU equaling approximately one hour of learning, which equates to three days of development in the span of a year.

Many activities that enlisted Airmen already do will count towards the 24 PDUs. Professional Enhancement Seminars, Senior Enlisted Joint PME, college classes and even earning professional certifications accumulate points. Many Airmen have already attended programs like Profession of Arms Center of Excellence or other major command courses. Additionally, Airmen actively plan and participate in Air Force, Joint and coalition exercises, gaining experience in warfighting activities ranging from aircraft generation, command and control and force protection. And finally, Airmen deploy and lead both small and large teams across our Combatant Command Areas of Responsibility. These all count.

Airmen can now manage life insurance online



By Richard Salomon
AFPC Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas -- Airmen no longer need paper forms to manage their Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, thanks to the new SGLI Online Enrollment System, or SOES.

SGLI provides automatic life insurance coverage of \$400,000 to service members when they enter the service. Members with SGLI also get automatic coverage for their dependent children and non-military spouses under the Family SGLI program.

Notification emails containing the SOES link and other helpful information will be sent out to Total Force Airmen on their birthday month reminding them to update their SGLI information.

Total Force Airmen who are deploying, separating and retiring (including those on the permanent disability retired list and the temporary disability retirement list) should update their elections and coverages before out processing. They can log into SOES using their common access card or Department of Defense self-service, or DS Logon.

"This new system gives total force Airmen with full-time SGLI coverage the ability to make online changes to their insurance and beneficiary information at any time without having to complete a paper form or visit their military personnel flight," said Lt. Col. Gerald Cullens, the Air National Guard advisor for force management integration at the Pentagon.

Veterans Affairs has been working with the Department of Defense, Defense Manpower Data Center, Defense Finance and Ac-

counting Service, and the military services to develop the new system.

Transitioning from the paper-based system to the electronic process is expected to save the DOD about \$12 million a year by reducing errors and overpayments. SOES also helps to eliminate unclear designations and missing or incomplete forms.

SOES is available through DMDC's milConnect web application at www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect. After signing in, click on "SOES" under the "Benefits" tab. The VA website under Life Insurance <http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/sgli.asp> has more information.

Airmen can also visit myPers, select "Any" from the dropdown menu and enter "SOES" in the search menu.

Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following [these instructions](#).