



Jan. 24, 2013

CMSAF: Position stands for 'excellence in all you do'

Although it embodies the ideal of military leadership, the rank of Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force is relatively new by military standards. For the most part, Air Force rank and leadership titles followed traditional military designations—sergeant, major, colonel—since its founding as an independent service in 1947. The rank of Chief Master Sergeant did not come into being until 1958, with the authorization of the Military Pay Act of 1958, which established the pay grades of E-8 and E-9, but did not specify titles for those pay grades. It was late in 1958 that the title of Chief Master Sergeant—and the accompanying rank insignia—was decided.

Prior to 1958, the highest rank achievable by an enlisted service member was Master Sergeant. Today, the highest rank—Chief Master Sergeant—is achieved by only one percent of the enlisted men and women. It is that one percent of the Air Force's best-qualified enlisted that provides the pool from which the office of the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (CMSAF) is appointed by the Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF).

The office of CMSAF serves as a personal advisor to the Air Force Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Air Force on all issues regarding the welfare, readiness, proper utilization, and progress of the enlisted force and their families. It is the highest enlisted level of leadership. It provides the direction for the enlisted corps, representing their interests to the all levels of government and the American public.

There is no certain career path that leads one to be CMSAF, unless "excellence in all you do" is specific enough. CMSgt. James A. Cody is the 17th to be appointed to that position, and his journey is hallmarked by excellence as are the journeys of those who have preceded him.

The first Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, chosen from a field of 21 major command nominees, was CMSAF Paul W. Airey, who served as chief from April 3, 1967 until July 31, 1969. He entered military service in 1942 after only two years of high school and earned his high school equivalency and over 60 semester hours of college credit while serving his country in both World War II and the Korean War. During his career, the much-decorated Airey was awarded the Legion of Merit, an uncommon award for an enlisted man.

CMSAF Donald L. Harlow also enlisted in 1942. As part of the Army Air Corps, he fought in World War II, was discharged in 1946 at the end of the war, and became a member of the Air Force Reserve. He was recalled to active duty in 1950 during the Korean War and became a chief master sergeant in 1963 after a total of only 16 years active duty. He served as CMSAF 1969-71.

Although Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force is the pinnacle of one's military career, some have continued their service to their country and their fellow airmen upon retirement.

The ninth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James C. Binnicker, who served in that capacity from July 1, 1986 through July 31, 1990, has had an interesting and service-centered post-military career. In 1992, Chief Binnicker became involved in leadership positions as a board member and, subsequently, CEO of the Air Force Enlisted Village (AFEV), a Florida-based non-profit organization that provides a home for the surviving spouses of enlisted military personnel.

As Chief James A. Roy retires and Chief James A. Cody assumes the CMSAF leadership responsibilities, the hallmark of excellence continues.

-- Martha Lockwood
Chief, Information Products, Defense Media Activity

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

Jan. 24, 1946 – Gen. Carl Spaatz is named the first chief of staff of the Army Air Forces.

Jan. 25, 1990 - A Titan II booster launched Clementine I, a space probe to the moon. This mission was the first American lunar effort since Apollo 17 in 1972.

Jan. 26, 2004 - The Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB, Calif., carried out the first mission its new KC-135 "rain and ice" tanker. The aircraft could replicate rain, snow or icing conditions through a four-foot shower head, with 100 air and water nozzles, mounted at the end of its refueling boom. In the mission, the tanker produced a saturated cloud for an F-22 *Raptor* performance test.

Jan. 27, 1967 – Air Force lieutenant colonels Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom and Edward White, and Navy Lt. Cmdr. Roger B. Chaffee died when their Apollo

spacecraft caught fire at Cape Kennedy, Fla. They were rehearsing for a 21 February flight.

Jan. 28, 2003 - The Air Staff waived the U.S. Air Force General Flight Rules to allow Air Combat Command to deploy the RQ-4A *Global Hawk*. At the time, the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB, Calif., still had the *Global Hawk* in developmental testing.

Jan. 29, 1915 – The first 20 aviation mechanics received their designations after passing exams.

Jan. 30, 1992 - Air Force Space Command assumed control over Department of Defense satellites and the operation and management of Air Force Satellite Network Control.

► RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Airman magazine

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>

Air Force Outreach

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/>

Military OneSource

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

Air Force Personnel Center

<https://mypers.af.mil>

<http://www.afpc.af.mil>

Department of Defense News

<http://www.defense.gov>

Department of Veterans Affairs

<http://www.va.gov>

TRICARE

<http://www.tricare.mil>

U.S. Government Website

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

Employment Opportunities

www.usajobs.com

www.nafjobs.org

Air Force Association

Scholarships

<http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/scholars.asp>

Air Force Safety Center

www.afsec.af.mil

15 minutes all it takes to save a life

Since 1970, January has been designated as national Blood Donor Month, selected for the time of the year when donations tend to be at their lowest. With a national requirement of providing blood to someone in the U.S. every two seconds, equating to about 44,000 donations needed each day, it's easy to see why the topic needs to be on the national agenda.

Close to 10 million Americans give more than 16 million times during the year, representing only about 10 percent of the 38 percent of Americans eligible to give blood. According to the American Red Cross, here are some facts and figures that may help you decide whether or not you make a good candidate for blood donation, why it's safe and why it's such a good cause:

Donating blood is a safe process. A sterile needle is used only once for each donor and is then discarded. Donation is a simple four-step process: registration, medical history and mini-physical, donation and follow-up refreshments.

The actual donation only takes about 10 to 15 minutes, and usually only one pint of blood is drawn. With the body holding about 10 pints of blood, there's no danger of "giving too much." A healthy donor may donate red blood cells as often as every 56 days, and for platelets, as few as seven days apart.

Donating blood helps patients in several ways. There are four types of transfusable products derived from donations: red cells, platelets, plasma and cryoprecipitate. Typically, two or three of these products can be extracted from each donation, meaning multiple lives can be saved from just a single pint of blood.

Of all the blood types needed, the greatest is for O-negative. Only about 7 percent of Americans have this type and this type is considered the universal blood type and can be given to all types. Close to half of all Americans have type O positive and those with AB positive represent about 3 percent of the population and are considered universal donors of plasma.

With the need for blood donations so great, this is a great example of just one person making a dramatic difference. According to the American Red Cross, if a person began donating blood at age 17 and donated every 56 days until age 76, that one person would have donated 48 gallons of blood. That's enough to save more than 1,000 lives. What are you waiting for?

-- Rich Lamance
Chief, Air Force News Service

"These are uncharted waters concerning the federal budget and the effect it will have on the Air Force," – In a memo from Lt. Gen. Darrell Jones, deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services, concerning a [force-wide hiring freeze](#).

► **CURRENT ISSUES**

[Air Force Officials Aim to Eliminate Sexual Assault](#)

Following a nine-month investigation into sexual misconduct at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in San Antonio, the Air Force has implemented a comprehensive program aimed at eliminating sexual assault, senior Air Force leaders told Congress today.

[Air Force releases results of health and welfare inspection](#)

The Air Force released the results of the service-wide health and welfare inspections that were completed in an effort to emphasize an environment of respect, trust and professionalism in the workplace.

[Pentagon to lift rule excluding women from combat](#)

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are expected to announce the lifting of the direct combat exclusion rule for women in the military, a senior defense official said today.

► **PERSONNEL ISSUES**

[ACC seeks air liaison officers](#)

Eligible officers interested in air liaison officer duty have until Feb. 7 to complete and submit their application package to Air Combat Command, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

► **FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY**

[Military youth website also helps parents, educators](#)

The Defense Department website for military children has added new features to help parents and educators explain difficult topics of the military lifestyle to children.

[Examination fee implemented for pets shipped to Europe](#)

An examination fee of 55 Euro per pet will be implemented Feb. 1, for all non-EU citizens who import a pet to Germany.

► **ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY**

[Despite Smaller Budget, Air Force Seeks to Protect Satellites](#)

Despite tremendous budget uncertainty and a shrinking bottom line, the commander of the Air Force Space Command said that he will do his best to protect all of the Air Force's satellite constellations.

[Air Force Space Command to bolster cyber force](#)

Air Force Space Command expects to be directed to add 1,000 new people, mainly civilians, to its base of about 6,000 cyber professionals for fiscal 2014, the command's chief said here Jan. 17.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit <http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>.

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