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Sharing the 2020 Vision

By Col. Dean B. Martin
189th Airlift Wing Commander



I hope each of you had a relaxing and wonderful holiday season. This time of year brings New Year's resolutions for many. According to Forbes, studies have shown that less than 25 percent of people actually stay committed to their resolutions after 30 days and only eight percent accomplish them. I'm not writing this to discourage you, but encourage you to use the beginning of a new decade to set goals rather than resolutions. What's the difference? Goals are specific and much more actionable. By breaking down your resolutions into manageable and measurable tasks, you're more likely to stay focused. For example, if you are seeking financial goals, the 189th Airman and Family Readiness office can assist you in setting up an appointment with a financial advisor. The advisors will be at the wing during the month of January and are available by appointment only. Call (501) 987- 5952 for more information or to sign up for a time slot.

This year, I want to continue our emphasis on readiness. The Air National Guard is being tasked more and more to support the Air Force's mission. Traditional Guardsmen need to get as much hands-on training as possible and continue to seek ways to make their training more in-depth and realistic. In the coming year, we will continue to focus on providing space for AFSC-specific training balanced with professional development during UTAs. We will lead off the year with exercising Continuity of Operations in the event of power loss (https://www.airforcemag.com/USAF-Learns-Lessons-from-Travis-Power-Outage/) followed by exercise scenarios involving lack of support agencies in event of max simultaneous deployments. In addition, each of your groups have developed master training plans for this year that are tied to OPLANS and FTU readiness. Both will be exercised throughout the year and in conjunction with June's annual training at Alpena.

Let's continue to instill a family culture at the 189 AW where every Airmen is protected, respected and connected. With a spotlight on resilient Airmen, quarterly down days will be observed with a focus on AFSC specific training and group connectedness activities. This is not meant to just "check a box." We should all take time daily to know and listen to our Wingmen. Leadership will continue to fight the stigma that asking for help damages a career. I can tell you from personal experience that it doesn't. Let's continue to be real with each other in 2020.

Many new things will be implemented this year, that will help us reform our organization. In March, we plan to host a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps expo at the wing campus. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase the Arkansas Air National Guard to potential recruits. The wing continues to lead the ANG in innovation. We have 22 innovation proposals for this year and room for more. Keep bringing your creative ideas to Maj.Tom Guillebeau or your Group Innovation POC's.

I know it's been tight around here with so many of our Airmen gone, but we have held the fort and kept our mission going strong. Hats off to our recruiters who added 15 Airmen to our ranks during a historically slow season in December. I am so proud of each and every one of you for what you have done and continue to do for our Guard family. - Follow Through!

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Reaching out and looking forward

By Lt. Col. Ron Pierce
189th Airlift Wing Chaplain

Ringing in the New Year on January 1 st is a celebration of things to come and also a time to reflect on the previous year. We can assess how we did and resolve to do better. It is important, however, that we do not dwell on the past. We can't change it. It already happened and I don't think anyone has invented time travel…yet. The apostle Paul in the passage of scripture above hits on a couple of very important points. He knows he is not perfect and he knows the past is riddled with mistakes. In spite of that, he optimistically looks to the future and the chance to do things better; to focus on what matters and give it his best. Good advice for all of us. So, with our thinking forward attitudes on, here are a few tips on making the New Year a great year!

PAUSE

While we can't change the past, we can certainly learn from it. Take some time to reflect on the previous year – the good and the bad. What attitudes and habits need to be addressed? What actions worked well? What hurt and pain needs to be released? What are some great memories to carry with you? What lessons were learned?

"Of course, my friends, I really do not think that I have already won it; the one thing I do, however, is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead."
-The Apostle Paul

PLAN

"A wise man thinks ahead; a fool doesn't, and even brags about it!" (Proverbs 13:16). Spend some time planning for the coming year and beyond. Make some short term and long term goals. Figure up what expenses you will have for the year, leave room for the unexpected, save for future goals and retirement, and tackle any debt. Relationships – make sure to plan things throughout the year that will foster bonds between your spouse and family. Put plans in place to get a healthy amount of exercise, nutrition, and sleep. We tend to stay too busy, too stressed, and neglect good habits. Make a plan to correct in the right direction.

PURSUE

Stick to your plans! Easier said than done? Yes… but, you can do it! Also remember, while bad habits can form quickly, good habits can take a while! Don't give up too soon and don't let falling short one day or week stop the whole plan. Just get back up on the horse and keep on riding!

Having accountability partners, starting small and increasing over time, and putting some type of rewards system in place (such as a cheat day on the diet or some fun money in the budget) are all ways to help you succeed!

Intentionality is the key here – nothing will change for the better unless it is pursued. In order to pursue the right things, we need to plan. In order to plan, we should first take stock on what to learn from the past, assess what needs to change in the present, and think about what we want for our future. We can't change the past, but each minute, day, week, and month ahead is an opportunity to change the future. Will it be status quo? It's up to you.



189th Airlift Wing Marksmanship Team tryouts most successful in years

By Master Sgt. Jessica Condit
189th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

On a cold and foggy morning, men and women of the 189th Airlift Wing made their way to range seven at Camp Robinson. The air was chill and fingertips stung as Airmen loaded ammunition into cartridge after cartridge of M1's and .22's. The 189th Airlift Wing's Marksmanship Team successfully completed its yearly tryouts with more than 30 service members showing up to take their chance at a position on the team. According to Master Sgt. Matt Smith, the marksmanship team captain, the turnout was higher than the past five years. The contenders used pistols and rifles to test their skills and were judged based on accuracy at different distances and positions while firing their weapon. The team distinguishes itself yearly by competing in and winning state, national and international shooting matches.

The members also pride themselves in sharing cameraderie and sportsmanship between all ranks of the Air National Guard. All ranks are welcome and participate in the team's events.

















With the stroke of a pen, U.S. Space Force becomes a reality

By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

President Trump signed into law Dec. 20 the sprawling, $738 billion defense bill, making history by creating the Space Force as a stand-alone, sixth branch of the U.S. military and guaranteeing for the first time 12 weeks of paid parental leave for federal workers.

"Today [also] marks another landmark achievement as we officially inaugurate the newest branch of the military [United States Space Force], this is a very big and important moment," said President Donald J. Trump."

The Space Force and parental leave were two of the most high-profile elements of the 2020 National Defense Authorization (NDAA), a law running 1,976 pages that serves as comprehensive, annual blueprint for military spending and policy priorities and operating standards. The law touches almost every corner of the military and beyond since it is one of the rare pieces of legislation that regularly passes Congress and is signed into law.

In addition to Space Force and paid parental leave, the law calls for a 3.1 percent pay raise for active -duty personnel; it prohibits Turkey from participating in the F-35 program as long as it continues to possessing a Russian-made missile



President Donald Trump speaks during an event at Joint Base Andrews, Md., Dec. 20, 2019. Trump visited Andrews to thank service members before signing the National Defense Authorization Act of 2020, which support the Air Force's advanced capabilities to gain and maintain air superiority and the Airmen that are essential to our nation's success. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Spencer Slocum)

system. It prescribes active-duty strength for all the services while also carrying provisions to improve military housing and health care, purchasing 60 F-35s for the Air Force and thousands of other directives and recommendations.

Trump mentioned a number of the law's signature items in a 20-minute address in a hangar at Andrews before signing the legislation into law. He was surrounded by hundreds of military personnel, members of Congress and senior leaders from the Pentagon including the Joint Chiefs as well as Air Force Secretary Barbara M. Barrett and Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein. Air Force Gen. Jay Raymond, who was named the first Chief of Space Operations, was also present.

Trump, who first mentioned the Space Force idea in March 2018 and for whom bringing it to reality was a personal priority, offered a rationale for the first new branch of the military since 1947.

"There are grave threats to our national security," said Trump. "American superiority in space is absolutely vital. The Space Force will help us deter aggression and control the ultimate high ground."

He was echoed by Secretary of Defense Mark Esper who said, "We are at the dawn of a new era for our Nation's Armed Forces. The establishment of the U.S. Space Force is an historic event and a strategic imperative for our Nation. Space has become so important to our way of life, our economy, and our national security that we must be prepared as a Nation to protect it from hostile actions," said Secretary of Defense, Mark T. Esper. "Our Military Services have created the world's best space capabilities. Now is the time for the U.S. Space Force to lead our Nation in preparing for emerging threats in an evolving space environment. This new service will help ensure we are postured to deter aggression, defend our national interests and outpace potential adversaries."

For many in the Air Force-heavy crowd at Andrews, the Space Force and the historic moment were particularly meaningful.

Barrett, for example, has made creating Space Force her highest priority since becoming Air Force secretary in October.



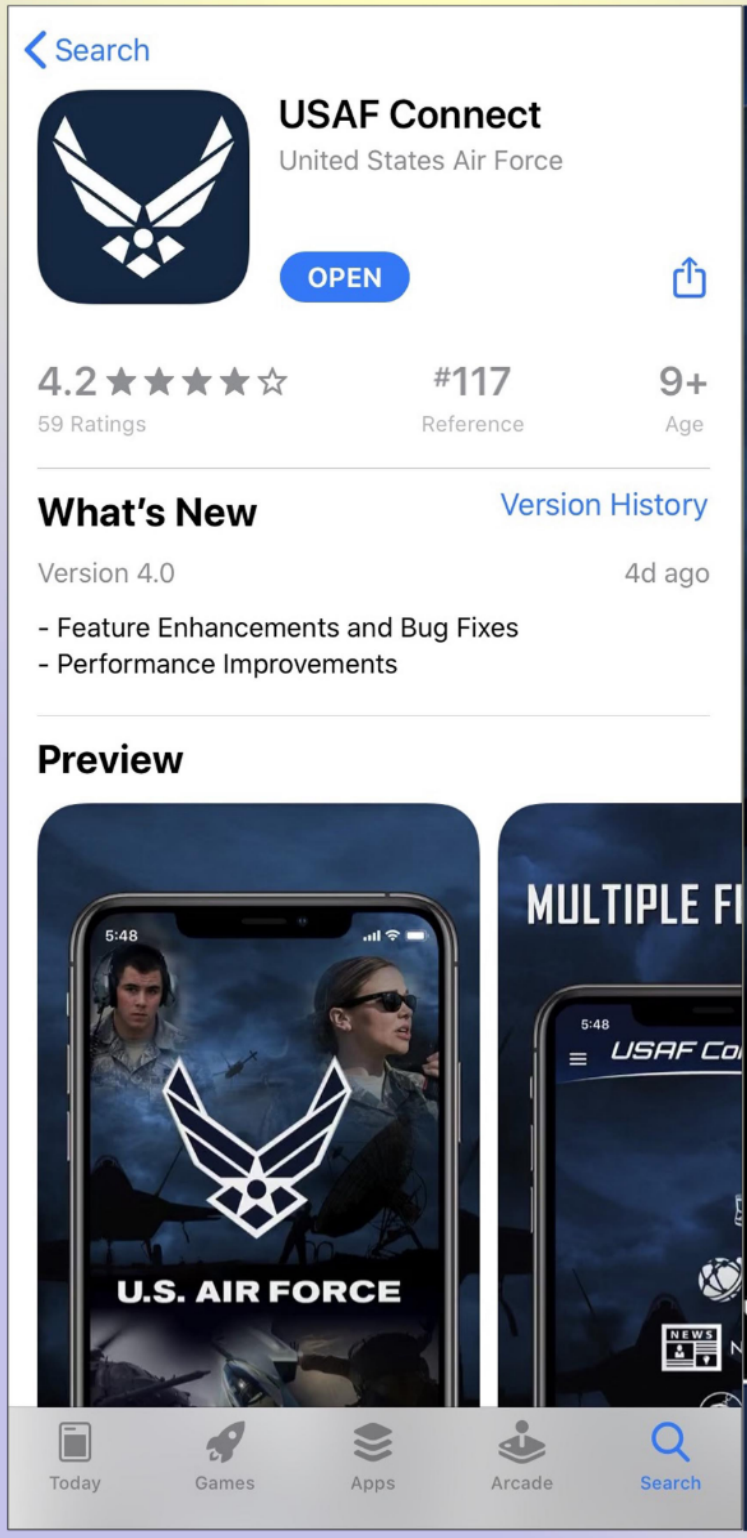
President Donald Trump speaks during an event at Joint Base Andrews, Md., Dec. 20, 2019. Trump visited Andrews to thank service members before signing the National Defense Authorization Act of 2020 which support the Air ForceÕs advanced capabilities to gain and maintain air superiority and the Airmen that are essential to our nationÕs success. (U.S. Air Force photo by Wayne Clark)

Now is the time for a separate service totally focused on organizing, training, and equipping for space, she said. While once a wide open "domain" reserved only for the United States and Russia, space today has become far more congested and crowded with other nations and commercial interests actively operating in space. At the same time space has also become a crucial factor in protecting national security and supporting activities of everyday life ranging from cell phone service, GPS, banking and the ability to easily and instantly transmit data anywhere in the world.

As such, the United States says space must be protected and preserved and that the United State's superiority in space maintained. "The U.S. Space Force will help the DoD meet the challenges of the future security environment," a Department of Defense statement says. "Space is integral to national security and our way of life, and this service will posture us to compete, deter, and win in an era of great power competition."

By creating a new, separate service with a dedicated purpose, the United States will maintain space superiority, even as space becomes more crowded and contested. The new defense law also directs that the Space Force "shall provide the freedom of operation in, from, and to space, while providing prompt and sustained space operations."

Steps to download t

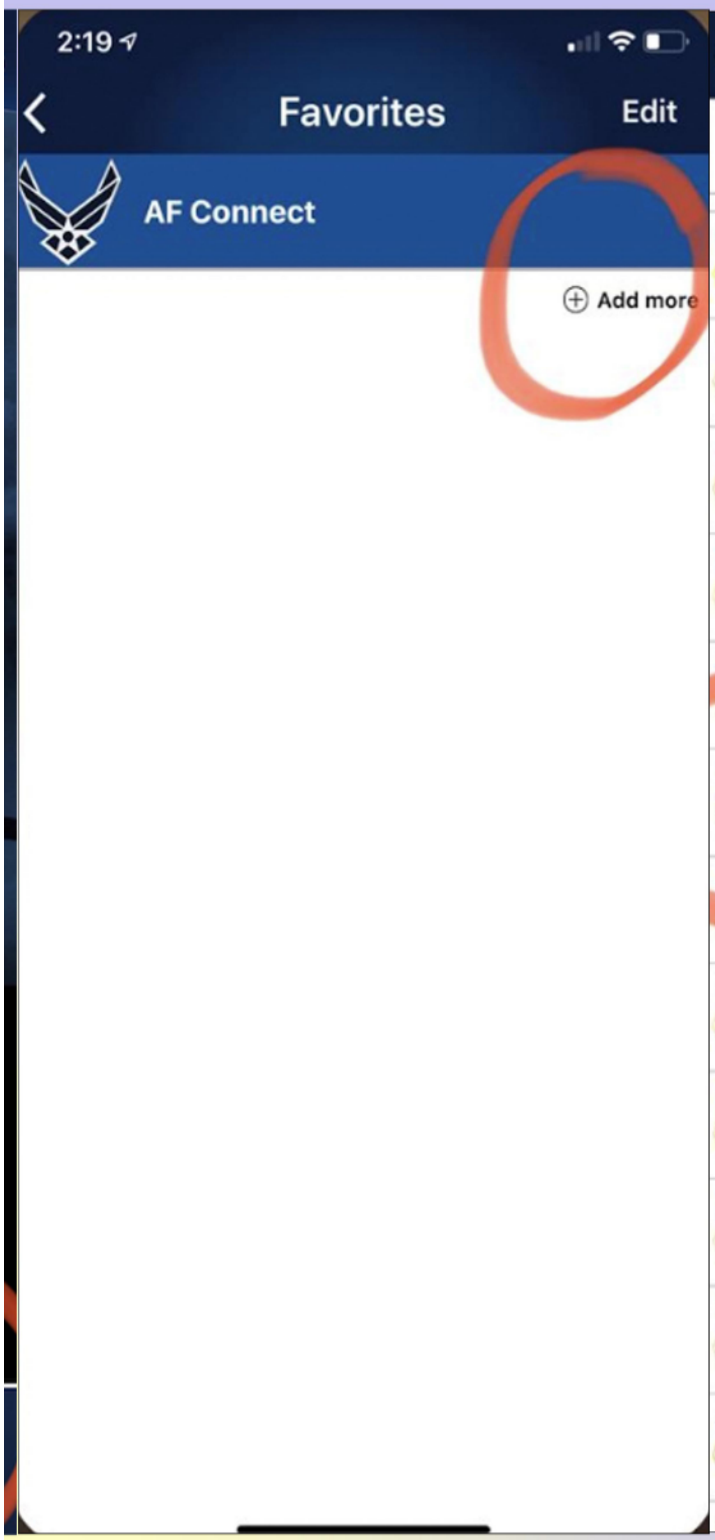


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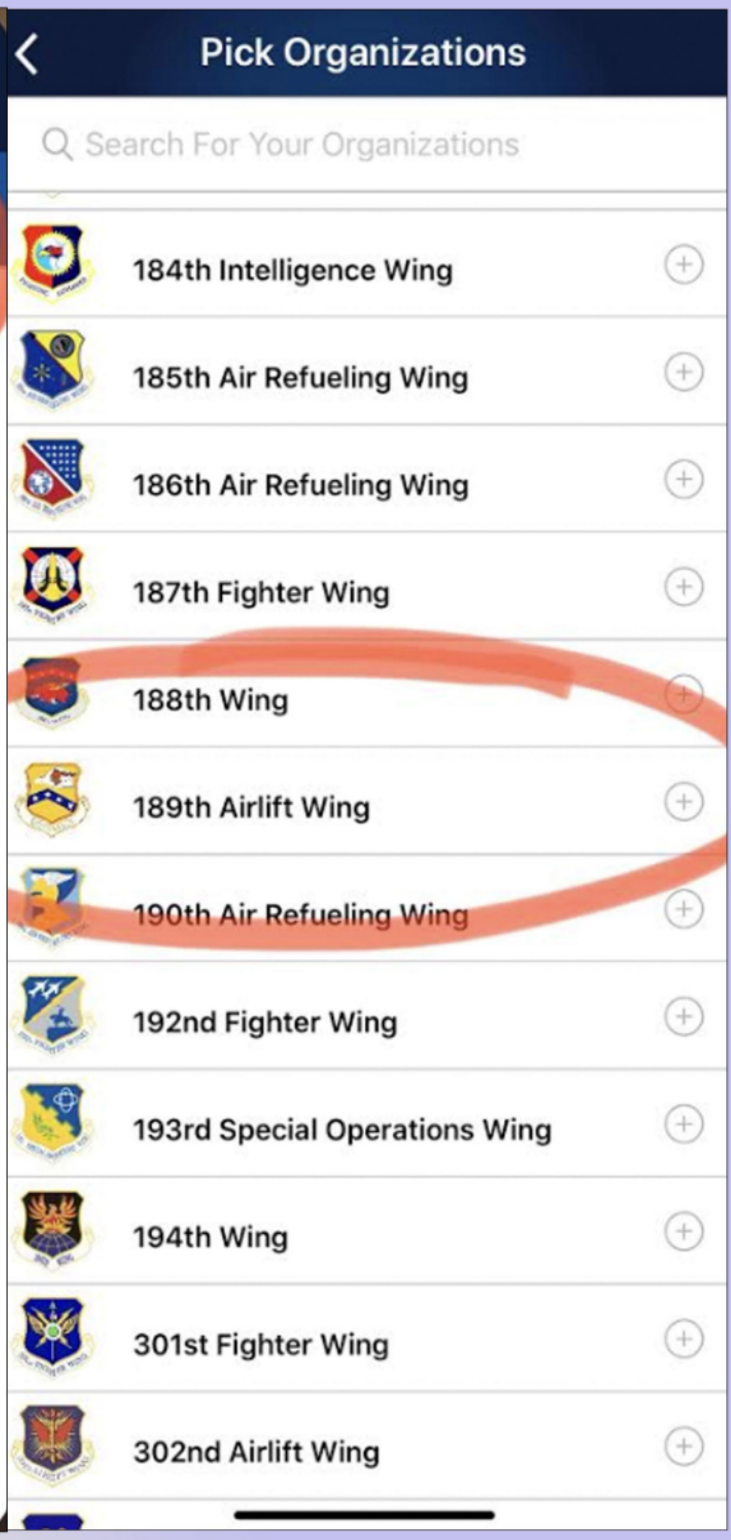


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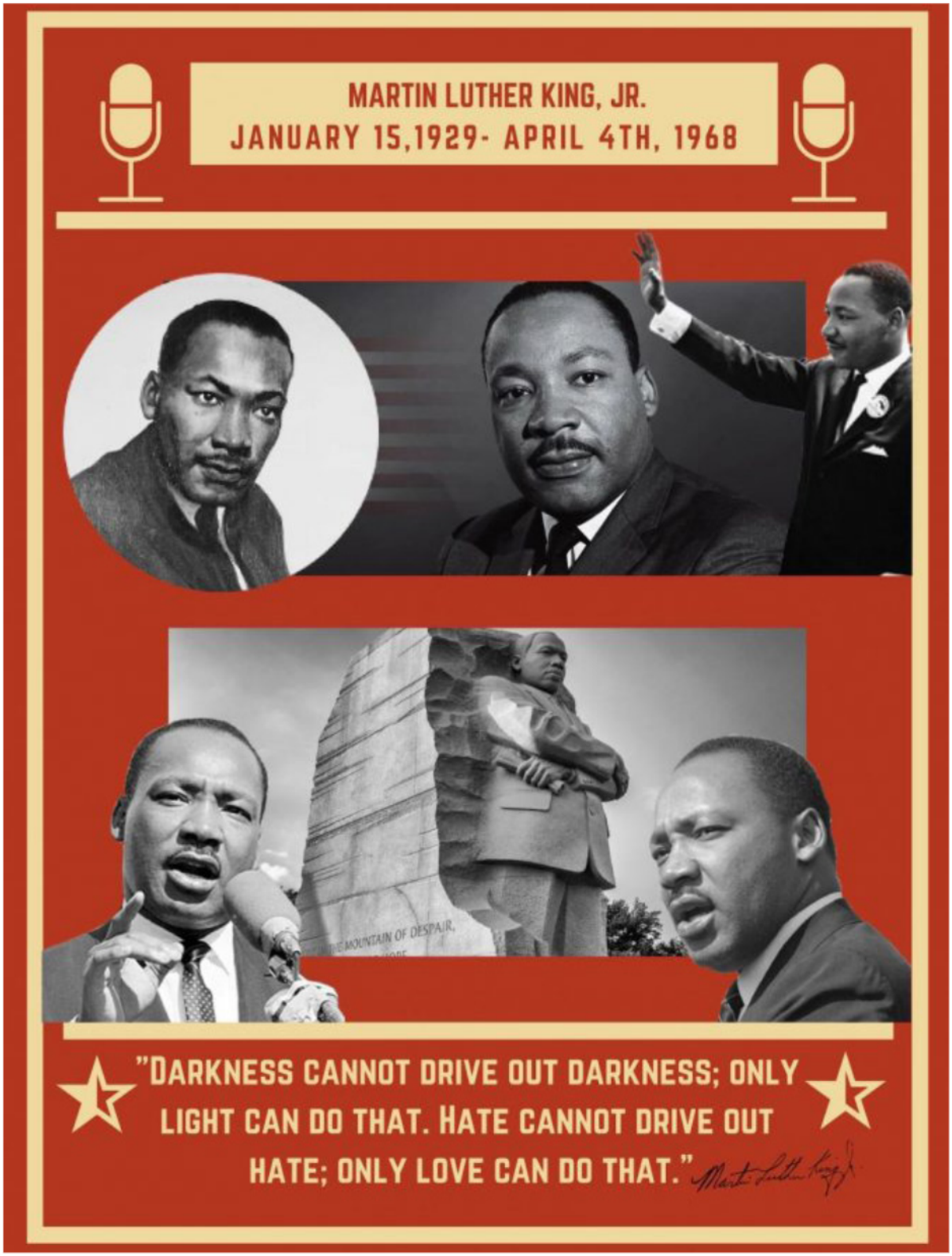
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STEP 4

January 20 is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Martin Luther King Day, held on the third Monday of January, celebrates the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The U.S. Department of Defense senior leaders encourage the entire military family to use Martin Luther King Day as an opportunity to engage in community activities to help others in need.



January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

DOD has a program office dedicated to Combating Trafficking in Persons. The CTIP program is designed to prevent human trafficking, also known as trafficking in persons. The majority of the men and women in the armed services are proud to serve and they serve honorably. But the Defense Department is a society within a society, and like any other, DOD's society has the good and bad, along with some ugly. While the good far outweighs the bad, the few bad members who engage with trafficking in persons tarnish DOD's good reputation. (Source: www.defense.gov)





DoD delays Post 9/11 GI Bill changes

By Staff Sgt. Courtney Dotson-Essett
434th Aerial Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The Department of Defense delayed the implementation of a policy that would limit a service member's ability to share education benefits with family members.

The policy, originally slated to take effect July 12, will discontinue the transfer benefit for members with 16 years or more of service.

The implementation has been delayed until January 12, 2020, giving long-serving members more time to transfer their education benefits to spouses or dependents.

Currently, members who serve a minimum of six years and commit to serving another four years can transfer their education benefits to dependents.

Those who agree to four additional years but who are unable to complete them because of a service-connected injury, medical discharge or receive a waiver can also keep their transfer benefits.

If a service member has more than 16 years of service after January 12, 2020, he or she will not be able to transfer GI bill benefits.

Purple Heart recipients will be able to transfer any unused benefits regardless of years of service.

"This extension will be significant for our Airmen, or any service member, with longer careers," said Senior Master Sgt. Adam Oswalt, 434th Air Refueling Wing training technician. "It gives them more time to make an informed decision or start the transfer process."

To learn more about education benefits, visit: https://www.va.gov/education/ or contact Master Sgt, Jaclyn Cole at (501) 533-8370 or email jaclyn.l.cole.mil@mail.mil.



Warrior of the Month: Staff Sgt. Matthew Sewell



Staff Sgt, Matthew Sewell, a 189th Mission Support Group cyber systems operator, troubleshoots equipment Dec. 28, 2019, at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. The equipment is only a portion of the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability which is built for emergency preparedness and allows users to take a preemptive strike against disaster and its consequences.(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Jessica Roles)

Rank/Name: Staff Sgt. Matthew Sewell
Unit: 189th Mission Support Group
Guard Status: Full-time
Position: Cyber Systems Operator
Hometown: Little Rock
Time on Station: 10 years
Time in Service: 10 years
Goals: Work of the military
Hobbies: Computers, programming, spending time with family and friends
Core Value Portrayed: Excellence
How this core value is portrayed: While deployed, SSgt Sewell produced an innovative PowerShell remote access too to safeguard a $47.5 million dollar network. He trained 13 personnel on the implementation and operational use of the program, enabling vulnerability mitigation. The removal of 21,000 vulnerabilities and enhancements of security on 1,509 workstations significantly improved the cyber readiness of 3,700 users. This best practice was submitted for open call on the Air Force Ideation Platform and is currently being reviewed for the widest dissemination across the area of responsibility.

Wanted: special skills and talent within the wing

Do you have a unique skill or quality that you've developed through previous work experience or other similar methods? The wing skills analysis questionaire will help you become more aware of the skills and qualities you have. A visual on your skills can helpdetermine what jobs you may be able to use your skillsin, no matter how similar or different these jobs are to your previous position.

