

Air Force Policy Letter for Commanders

From the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force

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Washington, D.C. 15 September 1981

WHY WE'LL BE SPENDING CONSIDERABLY MORE ON DEFENSE. In a speech to the American Legion Convention in Honolulu on 3 Sept., Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger said:

"Since 1973... the Soviets have increased their systematic use of diplomacy, military aid, proxies, the support of terror, and actual invasion in order to obtain wider access to facilities overseas and intervening air space, which the conquests of other countries represents. The resulting increased capability of the Soviet Union to project its power abroad presents the United States with challenges of enormous scope. These challenges are particularly serious because they occur after a long-term decline in American, British, and other allied access to bases and air space in, or enroute to, many areas critical for the alliance.

"Handling the simultaneous contingencies which these challenges present could stretch our military resources thin. Many areas of key importance for us and our allies are close to the Soviet Union and distant from the United States. This is true of the Arabian Gulf, for example, and it is true of Western Europe itself. The growth of the Soviet ability to project its power to many key points near its periphery means that the Soviets can threaten any of these points, while we may have to be ready to defend all. The hub and the rim on the wheel — these facts illustrate the necessity for a global strategic approach capable of dealing with Soviet aggression on a worldwide basis. Achieving that capability is one of our chief goals....

"I have instituted the strategic changes necessary to improve our ability to fight a long war, as we may well have to do if we value our freedom. These changes mean that we will have to pay more attention to our industrial base, to improving mobilization planning, to mobility for our forces and to air and sea lift, and to powerful naval forces. What this means is that together with the changes we have put in place to improve our overall readiness, we will be spending, as I'm sure you know, considerably more on defense in the next few years."

DRUG ABUSE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE. In an action memorandum for all Air Force personnel, Secretary of the Air Force Verne Orr and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Lew Allen Jr. outlined Air Force policy on drug abuse. Excerpts from the 28 August memorandum follow.

"The abuse of drugs is unacceptable in the United States Air Force and will not be tolerated. Not only does such behavior violate fundamental Air Force standards, but, if unchecked, it can also have serious consequences in terms of readiness and the personal health and safety of our people.

"Each individual has specific responsibilities in combating this problem. The charge is simple: do not abuse drugs, encourage those with an actual or potential problem to seek help, and report known or suspected incidents of illegal use. Those who require rehabilitation will receive it, but they must also realize that they will be held responsible for their behavior. Individuals who continue to violate our standards must understand that they are jeopardizing their retention in the Air Force.

"All commanders, especially at the squadron level, must understand that a key ingredient in achieving an environment free of the effects of drug abuse is strong leadership. That means commanders must clearly state Air Force policy, set the example, and use the full range of preventive, investigative, administrative and rehabilitative tools, including firm and swift discipline, in dealing with the issue.

"Drug abuse does not belong in the Air Force. It is essential that everyone receive this message, understand it, and comply."

Air Force is Bearing Down Further on Drug Abuse

The top Air Force leadership is taking steps to ensure that every commander and key supervisor and all other Air Force members understand that the Air Force is getting tougher on drug abuse.

While every case must be addressed on its own merit, and unit commanders must not be unduly influenced in their choice of actions, the Air Force expects to see a proper administration of Article 15 punishment for first offenders that will enhance rehabilitation and serve as a deterrent.

Where rehabilitation has failed, as in the case of repeat offenders, the Air Force expects to see commanders take the full range of actions to include firm Article 15 punishment, court-martial and administrative discharge.

It is appropriate that dealers, traffickers and smugglers normally be considered for court-martial action. In any event, the policy of treating each case on its own merits should be respected. However, it is also important that punishments for similar offenses at an installation be reasonably consistent.

Basic Air Force drug abuse policy is contained in AFR 30-2, Social Actions Program (revised 22 June 1981). Some extracts of special importance to commanders:

- Drug and alcohol abuse can hurt both the Air Force and the individual. Programs should receive priority consistent with the potential impact of abuse.
- Drug and alcohol abuse cases must receive prompt evaluation and disposition.
- Those whose use represents only a disciplinary problem should be punished, educated and returned to duty quickly, as appropriate.
- Repeat offenders, traffickers, addicts, and those who do not respond favorably to rehabilitation, should be considered for appropriate separation action as soon as possible.
- Officers and NCOs, by virtue of their grade and position, must lead by example and enforce the rules and regulations. Any illicit drug use or inappropriate use of alcohol by these people can have grave consequences and should be viewed as serious failure to meet Air Force standards.

The overall objectives are maximum deterrence and swift, firm action when abuse occurs.

All personnel must understand that violating prohibitions against drug abuse will not be tolerated. They also must understand that decisions about entry into rehabilitation are distinct from decisions about punishment.

All Air Force members must understand that they will be held accountable for their actions.

Properly followed, these guidelines should lead to firmer and more consistent handling of drug abuse cases. All personnel must understand that the Air Force means business.

Unit commanders are the key to both communicating this message and acting upon it.

BRIEFS ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE AIR FORCE

U.S. Armed Forces will be part of the new MFO (Multinational Force and Observers), which is being established in connection with the withdrawal of Israeli forces to the international border with Egypt, in keeping with the Treaty of Peace between them. Testifying on this to a congressional committee, Nicholas D. Veliotis, Assistant Secretary of State, said: "Beginning in FY 1983, Egypt, Israel, and the U.S. will each provide one-third of the annual operating costs of the MFO, which we tentatively estimate will be approximately \$35 million for each country. . . . We have agreed to contribute to the force an infantry battalion, a logistics support unit and a group of civilian observers. The number of American personnel will be slightly more than 1,000, or a bit less than one-half of the total complement of the MFO, which may approach 2,500 persons." The MFO is scheduled to be in place by 20 March 1982.

Air Force air traffic controllers with six to 14 years service can earn more money under the selective reenlistment bonus program if they re-enlist on or after 1 Sep. Recent changes allow re-enlisting air traffic controllers in SRB Zones B and C to reach the maximum \$16,000 before-tax SRB payment permitted by law.

The growing recognition of the importance of families to Air Force retention, motivation, productivity and combat readiness was made clear by Maj. James E. Cochran, Deputy Assistant for Family Matters, HQ USAF, in an article in the August Air Force Magazine. Among his statistics: two out of three Air Force members have families. The majority of families are members with civilian spouses. Military men with civilian wives account for 59% of all Air Force personnel. Female military members with civilian husbands represent less than 1% of the total force, but account for 35% of married female officers and 23% of married enlisted women. 52% of all wives married to Air Force members are employed either part-time or full-time. There are about 21,000 military couples (both in the Air Force) representing approximately 6% of all Air Force families. More than 6,500 single member parents are on active duty.

Observing that the defense budget now proposed for fiscal year 1982 is well over \$200 billion, former Secretary of Defense Harold Brown said in a lecture at the University of Michigan: "That used to dwarf individual business enterprises -- but I note that now it's only about double the annual sales volume of Exxon."

Personal financial responsibility was the subject of a letter to commanders from Lt. Gen. Andrew P. Josue, DCS/Manpower and Personnel. Excerpts: "The results of a survey recently conducted by the Defense Credit Union has indicated an 86% increase in military bankruptcy notices from FY 1978 to FY 1980. The Air Force Aid Society has likewise reported an increase in losses due to an annual average of 150 loan recipients declaring bankruptcy. . . . Military personnel are expected to meet their financial obligations in a just and timely manner. AFR 35-18, Financial Responsibility, defines the responsibilities of commanders and base agencies on this subject. . . . When potential problems are identified, the first objective should be to assist the individual in resolving the situation. This may be accomplished through counselling and assistance from the Personal Financial Management Program (PFMP), the Staff Judge Advocate, and appropriate personnel officials. When individuals facing financial difficulty are reluctant to voluntarily seek such help, commanders have the option to make attendance at appropriate counselling sessions mandatory."

An issue of Background Notes on the Peoples' Republic of China (PRC) produced by the U.S. State Department, has been distributed for the notebook files of Air Force Public Affairs officers. The 20-page pamphlet has basic facts, key leaders, maps, statistics, history and reading list. It explains the pinyin system for spelling Chinese names in Roman letters. The capital of China is now spelled "Beijing" instead of "Peking." The U.S. Government has adopted the pinyin system for all PRC names. (State Department Publication 7751; for sale (\$1.50) by Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.)

A recent executive order now permits civilian convictions to be admitted in the sentencing phase of a court-martial, the Air Force judge advocate has announced. Previously, only military convictions within the previous six years could be considered when a military member was sentenced.


Leadership training will soon be offered to more junior noncommissioned officers in the Strategic Air Command. In addition to the present three leadership schools, the command is establishing five more schools at key bases in the Midwest, North and Northeast. The new schools are part of an effort to reduce the escalating cost of travel and to provide training for more of SAC's sergeants (E-4s) and staff sergeants. The command's goal is to offer each sergeant and staff sergeant the chance to attend the school before his or her ninth year of service.

Hispanics working for the Air Force total 18,457 -- 9.4% of the work force. Of these, 8,345 are General Schedule employees -- 6.68% of the GS work force. Hispanics in wage-grade occupations total 8,938 -- 14.58% of wage-grade positions. The Air Force has an active program to achieve the objectives of the Air Force Hispanic Employment Program (HEP) to facilitate the employment and advancement of Hispanics in the work force.

Douglas Aircraft Co. of Long Beach, Calif., a division of McDonnell Douglas Corp., has been selected as the Air Force's prime contractor to develop the C-X cargo aircraft. There will be no contract award until the Secretary of Defense has approved the plan for satisfying DoD airlift requirements and has furnished required certifications to Congress as contained in Public Law 96-342, Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1981. The selection of McDonnell Douglas as the prime contractor does not represent an Air Force commitment to build the C-X. The Air Force is evaluating several mixes of outsize and oversize bulk-capable aircraft to correct the current shortfall in airlift capability. The specific aircraft or aircraft mix to be acquired will be specified in the approved acquisition strategy.

The United States Readiness Command's (USREDCOM) Joint Readiness Exercise Bold Eagle 82, scheduled for 13 Oct. to 6 Nov. at Eglin AFB, Fla., will evaluate the effectiveness of joint tactics, techniques and procedures of multi-service units. Approximately 23,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines will be involved. The USREDCOM forces come from elements of its two major components: The U.S. Army Forces Command, Ft. McPherson, Ga. and the U.S. Tactical Air Command at Langley AFB, Va. Some Navy and U.S. Marine Corps units also will participate.

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