



Policy Letter

Digest

U.S. AIR FORCE

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President nominates Air Force general for top military post

Calling Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers a man of “steady resolve and determined leadership,” President George W. Bush tapped the Kansas native to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during a news conference in Texas Aug. 24.

If confirmed by the Senate, General Myers would succeed Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton as the top uniformed officer in the U.S. military, and become the first Air Force officer to hold that post since Gen. David Jones (1978-1982).

President Bush also nominated Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, currently commander of U.S. Southern Command, to become vice chairman, replacing General Myers, who has held that position since March 2000.

President Bush, speaking before reporters at his ranch near Crawford, Texas, called General Myers “the right man to preserve the best traditions of our armed forces, while challenging them to innovate to meet the threats of the future. His is a skilled and steady hand.”

Those sentiments were echoed by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and Secretary of the Air Force James Roche.

“I’ve had the great fortune to work closely with Dick Myers and with General Hugh Shelton over these past few months,” Secretary Rumsfeld said. “What I have come to know and expect of General Myers is candor, deliberation, judgment, keen insights, fiber and good humor. His career is the embodiment of the transformation with which he will be charged as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is a leader.”

Secretary Roche spoke confidently of the general’s qualifications for the job at hand.

“I am extremely proud that President Bush has decided to nominate General Richard Myers to be the next chairman of

the Joint Chiefs of Staff,” Secretary Roche said. “His long service to our country and extensive knowledge and broad range of experience of command in important geographic and regional assignments will ably serve the president and Secretary Rumsfeld as we proceed into a new era.

“The entire Air Force is proud to have one of our own nominated to this high position of trust and responsibility representing all our men and women in uniform,” Secretary Roche said. “Should he be confirmed, I look forward to serving with him as we ensure our armed forces remain the best in the world.”

Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, said that General Myers possesses all the right qualities to help the U.S. armed forces remain the very best in the world.

“I’ve known and worked with General Dick Myers for over two decades ... I’m both personally and professionally pleased to see his nomination as the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff,” General Ryan said. “He is a man of great integrity, combat proven, with an extremely sharp mind. His operational command expertise circles the globe and spans into space. His experience reaches into the political realm as the assistant to the chairman working closely with the secretary of state.

“With all these credentials, he is still as down to earth as the Harley he drives, the sheep dogs he owns, or the TR6 (car) he has rebuilt,” General Ryan said.

“He and Mary Jo are a couple who have given their lives to the service of our country,” said General Ryan. “As the vice chairman he has earned the trust, respect and confidence of the administration, Congress and each of the services. If confirmed, I am confident he will make a superb chairman.”

General Myers is a 1965 graduate of Kansas State University and a veteran of the

Vietnam War with more than 600 combat flying hours.

He said he is ready to roll up his sleeves and get to work, building the kind of military envisioned by President Bush — one that will meet “current obligations and emerging threats.”

“If confirmed,” General Myers said, “I very much look forward to remaining part of this terrific defense team, captained by a dedicated

and principled secretary of defense.”

General Myers joined the Air Force in June 1965 and has seen a variety of assignments, ranging from squadron and wing commander to inspector general. Before taking the position of vice chairman of the JCS, he served as commander in chief of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, and commander of U.S. Space Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

F-22 gets green light for low-rate production

The Defense Acquisition Board approved the F-22 Raptor to enter low-rate initial production, Pentagon officials announced Aug. 15.

The decision means Lockheed-Martin will build 10 F-22s using fiscal 2001 funds, and 13 in fiscal 2002. There are currently eight F-22s already flying.

“The program has met all its exit criteria for entering into low-rate production and is performing to its design goals,” said Pete Aldridge, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics.

The acquisition board unanimously approved low-rate production, Mr. Aldridge said. Low-rate production will run through fiscal 2005, then shift into high-rate production.

The program will provide air dominance through the next 20 years, Mr. Aldridge said.

The board’s decision requires the Defense Department and the Air Force to seek a lift in the F-22’s current \$37.6 billion budget cap. The production budget would rise to \$45 billion. Research, development and testing of the aircraft cost about \$18 billion, raising the total cost to about \$63 billion.

The acquisition board also cut the total number of F-22s to be produced from 331 to 295. The board reached this decision because

of a difference in the cost estimates between the Air Force and the independent Cost Analysis Improvement Group.

The Air Force estimated greater savings than the independent group once the F-22 enters high-rate production, Mr. Aldridge said.

The board’s solution was to accept the Air Force program cost estimates, but the independent group’s estimate of the number of aircraft the money will buy.

The decision gives the Air Force incentive to achieve the savings it forecasted.

“If the Air Force can, in fact, get the cost estimate at their level, they can buy more airplanes,” Mr. Aldridge said.

Low-rate production is set to rise to 30 aircraft in fiscal 2005. High-rate production calls for 90 aircraft per year beginning in fiscal 2006.

Mr. Aldridge said the plan can change as circumstances dictate.

“Anything can happen next year,” he said. “It depends on what happens to the budget, what happens to the production, what happens in the operational test and evaluation. We address these programs every year, but we have to layout a plan. Right now, this is our plan.”

Personal property test program ends

Increased quality for bluesuiters and lower costs for the government equals a win-win situation.

That was the plan for the Department of Defense’s new Full Service Moving Project, a quality-of-life initiative intended to streamline and simplify the movement of household goods for military people.

The moving project initiative began as a test program at a handful of stateside bases earlier this year. The program concept offered point-to-point move management, guaranteed pickup and delivery with a two-hour window, binding cost estimates, full replacement value protection, and direct claims processing. The intent was to reduce

government administrative costs, claims and overhead.

But, with the results falling short of an accepted level of quality for its members, the Air Force will end its participation in the program Sept. 30, said Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff.

It is all about taking care of Air Force people, said Lt. Gen. Michael E. Zettler, the deputy chief of staff for installations and logistics at the Pentagon.

“The Air Force is committed to improving the quality of life for our people,” he said. “And we know changes need to be made to the existing personal property program that services the majority of Air Force members unaffected by the test program.”

Surveys were taken of those who participated in the moving project to get customer feedback of the test program.

“Our Air Force members indicated they’re more concerned about reducing their out-of-pocket expenses than they are about personal property movements,” said retired Lt. Gen. Donald L. Peterson, former deputy chief of staff for personnel at the Pentagon.

“Moves can place a lot of financial stress on our members,” General Peterson said. “By

reducing their out-of-pocket expenses through increased dislocation allowances and temporary lodging expenses, we can alleviate much of that financial stress. And, a less stressful move is likely to be a better experience for the military family.”

Although the moving project will be discontinued, traffic management officials at the Pentagon said valuable lessons, were learned from it, and will be incorporated into future endeavors.

“We’re recommending the best quality initiatives of the test program be used to build the world-class personal property shipment program of the future,” said Lt. Col. Andrew Kiracofe, chief of the Air Force traffic management division at the Pentagon. “We’ve learned valuable lessons and we’ll apply that knowledge in ongoing efforts to improve the Air Force’s household goods moving process.”

Most Air Force members will not be affected by the termination of FSMP, which impacted less than 10 percent of Air Force moves, Colonel Kiracofe said.

The program covered moves from Minot Air Force Base, N.D.; Moody AFB, Ga.; and the National Capitol Region.

Initiatives raise drug abuse awareness

The Air Force has announced nine initiatives designed to promote awareness of drug abuse and educate people on the problem.

The initiatives are the result of the Air Force Inspector General’s concerns about what appeared to be rising drug abuse trends in the Air Force — especially in the area of new “club drugs.”

The inspector general tasked the IG special investigations directorate to pool together various experts and determine if there was, in fact, an increase in the drug abuse trend, and if so, why.

The Air Force Drug Abuse Reduction Team was created in October 2000 to address those questions.

The team, composed of air staff-level experts from legal, medical, security forces, personnel, public affairs, recruiting, Air Force Office of Special Investigations and the

Reserve and National Guard components, began meeting in November, said Maj. Janice Pegram, team chief.

The team’s goal was to attack the problem from a variety of angles, focusing on prevention and deterrence, she said.

With respect to IG concerns about increased drug use, the team has determined the number of Air Force members identified as abusing drugs is growing. The higher number can be attributed to higher use and better detection through testing and investigations, Major Pegram said.

The team came up with the following recommendations and initiatives the service can implement to help reverse the drug abuse trend:

- Recommend the Defense Department test recruits at military entrance processing stations for the same drugs the Air Force tests for. Currently, DOD only tests for marijuana

and cocaine. The Air Force tests for marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, methamphetamines, PCP, LSD, opiates and barbiturates. Additionally, they test for Ecstasy when the methamphetamine test is positive;

- Emphasize the periodic use of Air Force-wide weekend and holiday urinalysis testing, for detection and deterrence of club drugs;

- Expand instruction at squadron, group and wing commander courses and add officer professional military education classes. Emphasis will be put on commanders' options and the impact of drug abuse on readiness and mission;

- Field a standardized substance abuse prevention awareness program at all Air Force bases;

- Design commander's call topics that discuss the effects substance abuse has on health, and the potential consequences of using drugs in the military;

- Highlight zero tolerance, increased drug testing, and integrity issues with internal media to promote awareness within the Air Force community;

- Continue with Air Force chief of staff messages that focus on drug abuse and readiness, the importance of drug testing, drug prevention activities and commander involvement and responsibility;

- Create awareness videos on topics such as the chief of staff's expectations on drug abuse and the adverse effects of drug use on the body; and

- Establish the judge advocate general as the Air Force focal point to integrate drug abuse

data from various Air Force agencies and determine drug trends.

Based on the statistics, Major Pegram said the population most at risk for drug abuse is people in the ranks of E-1 through E-4.

In a memo to commanders, Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, urged commanders to take innovative approaches to the drug problem. He said the rising negative trends in drug abuse by airmen are troublesome. "We need to be fair, firm and proactive as we enforce our standards," he said.

General Ryan also told commanders to ensure they leveraged initiatives like the Limited Privilege Suicide Prevention Program or the Alcohol Drug Abuse and Treatment Program.

"We can save lives and sometimes careers with programs like these," he said. "Use them. That's why they are there."

This program is a positive thing, Major Pegram said.

"We're not looking at drug abuse from a punitive standpoint, but, instead are looking at ways to help our troops stay away from drugs in the first place," she said. "We believe we can do that with good education programs on the potentially devastating physiological and mental effects of drug abuse, a clear understanding of the reasons for zero tolerance, and widespread awareness of the stiff punishments and consequences if you're caught using drugs."

The team hopes to have all initiatives implemented by summer 2002.

Changes made to force protection program

The word "THREATCON," for terrorist threat condition, is fast becoming a thing of the past. As the military moves ahead, a force protection condition — or FPCON — is the wave of the future.

This change is effective immediately, said Maj. Melvin Allen, from Air Force Security Forces at the Pentagon.

Even though there has been a name change, he said the condition levels — normal, alpha, bravo, charlie and delta — remain the same.

The Defense Department, however, is

updating the associated protective measures, and these will be released to the field within the next few months.

The conditions are used to describe progressive levels of protective measures taken in response to terrorist threats to U.S. military facilities and people.

The USS Cole Commission recommended the name change to avoid confusion with the term "Threat Level." That term is used to quantify the terrorist level of threat on a country-by-country basis. Threat level terms are low, moderate, significant and high.

The challenge will be educating people to recognize FPCON as they do THREATCON, Major Allen said.

“Installations routinely post their THREATCON status at entry control points and building entrances,” he said. “These will all be changed to read FPCON.”

Another change is the classification of the antiterrorism plan and force protection condition measures. In the past, measures were generally for official use only, Major Allen said.

The new policy requires the antiterrorism plan to be classified confidential, at a minimum, if it contains a complete listing of site-specific antiterrorism measures linked to a FPCON.

To keep awareness at the forefront, level one antiterrorism awareness training is now an annual requirement for all active-duty military, regardless of duty station.

“Furthermore, level one training is also now required annually for all (Defense Department) personnel who are based overseas or eligible for overseas deployment,” Major Allen said. “Previously, training was only required within six months of deploying or (making a permanent change of station move) overseas.”

Web-based level one training will be available for individuals to complete on any Web-accessible computer. This will alleviate the need for training classes at installations.

Commander’s call now mandatory

A July change to Air Force Instruction 35-101, Public Affairs Policies and Procedures, requires the commander of every active-duty and Air Force Reserve Command unit to personally conduct commander’s call on a scheduled basis, normally monthly or quarterly. The change was directed by the chief of staff of the Air Force after discussion with Air Force leaders at a recent Corona.

“It’s important for Air Force leaders to

provide clear and consistent communication to everyone,” said Brig. Gen. Ron Rand, director of Air Force public affairs. “Mandatory commander’s calls will help Air Force people understand what we’re doing, why we’re doing it, and how they fit in.”

Public affairs offices can help commanders develop effective commander’s call programs and topics of interest to unit people.

Officials emphasize safety as number of fatalities increase

Despite the fact that the annual 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign has ended for another year, Air Force officials are stressing a single message to airmen stationed around the world, “Don’t let your guard down – safety is a 24-hour-a-day, 365-day-a-year proposition.”

That’s the word at the Pentagon as the number of Air Force fatalities reached new levels this year. More Air Force members have lost their lives in 2001 – 53 airmen to date – than either of the previous two years.

The majority of fatal accidents have occurred in off-duty vehicle accidents.

As the 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign entered its last few weeks, Air Force officials reminded people that safety should be practiced year-round, both on and off duty.

Gen. Michael Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, is urging commanders to focus attention on protecting airmen and their families. “Our

troops are our most vital asset. You can have the most modern and reliable equipment, but without people, it is merely machinery,” he said.

“Motor vehicle operations and recreational activities are our top killers and leading causes of serious injuries,” said General Ryan. “We need to focus our efforts to avoid dangerous driving and recreational risk environments.

“Any accident is one accident too many,” he said. “And while accidents do happen, more can be done to prevent them.”

The primary causes of death include drinking and driving, failure to wear seatbelts, excessive speed for conditions and violation of traffic laws.

“While we can’t control the other guy, we can make sure we do the right thing,” General Ryan said. “Follow basic common sense guidelines – wear your seatbelt, drive

defensively, and if you're going to drink, don't drive."

This year's 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign has also seen an increase in on-duty deaths. Four airmen lost their lives while on the job.

The Air Force's top enlisted member, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch, said it's important to not only look out for one's own personal safety, but that of others as well.

"Our people make us the best Air Force

in the world. It's important that we take care of them," he said. "Watch over your buddies. Make sure they follow proper safety procedures and that they're OK.

"Accidents do happen and sometimes they're caused by humans," Chief Finch said. "If there is an accident, do your best to make sure the human error wasn't yours."

For more information on historical and summer season mishap information, visit <http://safety.kirtland.af.mil>.



RONALD T. RAND
Brigadier General, USAF
Director of Public Affairs

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QUOTABLE QUOTE

"We want to have air-to-air dominance. We do not want any fair fights in the air. We don't want any of our troops in harm's way on the ground from air. We've never had that happen since the Korean War, and we're not — hopefully not going to let it happen in any future war. And we need an air-to-air capability like the F-22 to get us there."

Pete Aldridge, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics

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