

Service demographics offer snapshot of force

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Air Force Personnel Center here has published its quarterly report on the active-duty populace. Civilian data will be available within the next few weeks.

The report offers a snapshot of the service's active-duty employees, providing a more descriptive look at the service.

The latest version covers Oct. 1 through Dec. 31. This demographic information is also available on the center's Web site under the public affairs area. More statistical information about the Air Force is available under the center's analysis page in the personnel statistics area.

Active-Duty Demographics:

Force Strength

- Approximately 352,536 individuals are on active duty; 68,920 officers and 283,616 enlisted personnel
- The Air Force has 12,583 pilots, 5,022 navigators and 33,284 non-rated line officers in the grades of lieutenant colonel and below

Age

- The average age of the officer force is 35; for the enlisted force it's 29
- Of the force, 35 percent are below the age of 26
- 41 percent of enlisted versus 12 percent officer

Gender

- 18 percent of the force are women
- 17 percent of the officers and 19 percent of the enlisted
- 53 percent of the female officers are line officers; 47 percent are non-line
- 84 percent of the male officers are line officers; 16 percent are non-line
- The population of women has increased from 33,000 (5.4 percent) in 1975 to 65,167
- Women first began entering pilot training in 1976, fighter pilot training in July 1993 and navigator training in 1977

- Currently there are 364 (3 percent) female pilots and 131 (3 percent) female navigators

Race/Ethnic Group

- Racial minority representation has risen from 14% in 1975 to 25 percent
- 75 percent of the force are Caucasian, 16 percent Black, 5 percent Hispanic, and 5 percent Other
- Officers: 86 percent Caucasian, 6 percent Black, 2 percent Hispanic, and 6 percent Other
- Enlisted: 72 percent Caucasian, 18 percent Black, 5 percent Hispanic, and 4 percent Other

Marital Status

- 63 percent of the current force are married
- 74 percent of the officers and 61 percent of the enlisted
- There are 17,068 military couples in the Air Force
- 1,147 of these are married to members of other services

Family Members

- Active duty members supported 523,155 dependents
- 430,539 are family members in household

Overseas

- 21 percent of the current force are assigned overseas
- 10,216 officers and 64,243 enlisted personnel

Total Active Federal Military Service

- The average total active federal military service is 11 years for officers and 9 years for enlisted

Academic Education

- 57 percent of the officers have advanced or professional degrees
- 45 percent have a master's, 10 percent have professional degrees, and 2 percent have doctorates
- 30 percent of company grade officers have

advanced degrees; 22 percent have a master's, 8 percent have professional degrees, and 0.3 percent have doctorates

- 91 percent of field grade officers have advanced degrees; 74 percent have a master's, 14 percent have professional degrees, and 3 percent have doctorates
- 100 percent of the enlisted force have at least a high school education
- 92 percent have some semester hours towards a college degree
- 14 percent have an associate's degree or equivalent semester hours
- 4 percent have a BA/BS
- 0.7 percent have a MA/MS

Component

- 58 percent of the officers have a Regular commission
- 62 percent of the line officers have a Regular commission

Professional Military Education

- 62 percent of the officers have completed one or more PME courses
- As their highest PME, 8,578 have completed at least one Senior Service School, 14,614 have completed an Intermediate Service School, while 19,802 have completed Squadron Officer School

Source of Commission

- 20 percent of the officers were commissioned through the Air Force Academy, 42 percent through Reserve Officer Training Corps, and 20 percent through OTS. The remaining 18 percent were commissioned from other sources (direct appointment, etc.)

Term of Enlistment

- 35 percent of the enlisted personnel are serving in their first term of enlistment
- 16 percent are on their second and 49 percent are on their third or greater term of enlistment (AFPN)

Travel card

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- Individuals employed or appointed on a temporary or intermittent basis when the individual's supervisor or other appropriate officials determine the duration or other circumstances pertaining to the employment or appointment does not justify issuing a travel card.

DoD has authorized exempted personnel to use personal funds or a personal charge card, travel advances and government travel requests. Though individuals may be exempt from the mandatory use rule, those with cards in good standing may still use them voluntarily for official travel expenses.

"If an individual is not authorized a card for financial problems, Finance will only make an Electronic Funds Transfer advance and not a cash payment. We will also need a letter from the squadron commander explaining the individual does not have a card and needs an EFT advance," said Capt. Irma Brussow, 437th Financial Analysis Flight commander.

"This is required to ensure TDY

orders are done on time to get the EFT in the system and into the individuals account."

While the travel card is to be used for such big-ticket items as hotel stays, transportation tickets and car rentals, government travelers are not required to use the cards for the following:

- Local transportation fares
- Taxis
- Parking.
- Laundry and dry cleaning.
- Expenses incurred at a vendor who doesn't accept the card.
- Meals in restaurants that don't accept the card.
- Group dining situations and other meals when use of the card would be impractical.
- Telephone calls, when a government calling card is available for use in accordance with agency policy.

In addition, DoD personnel need not use the card for expenses covered by any expense contained within the per diem allowance or for local and long distance telephone calls.

The amendment also requires timely reimbursement of travel expenses. It requires agencies to pay



Staff Sgt. Andrew Rodier

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interest to travelers whose travel vouchers are not paid within 30 calendar days. The only exception is when the payment would be less than \$1. Until travel payment systems can be modified to meet this requirement, the individual traveler must determine if an interest payment is due and request payment. Interest paid

will be reported to the Internal Revenue Service as additional wages.

DoD must reimburse travelers for any late fees the travel card contractor would have charged had the traveler not paid the bill on time.

For more information on the use and restrictions of using the card, call base finance at 963-3695.