

Honorary Commander Program

Target Audience: Commanders

Purpose

The Air Force has a responsibility to establish and maintain personal contact with local civic leaders in order to increase public awareness of the missions, policies, and programs of the United States Air Force and an understanding of the Department of Defense. The goal is to partner with members of the local community while exposing them to the missions of the armed services. The Honorary Commander's Program is an Air Force program that can be used to meet this objective and the intent is to create one-on-one opportunities to inform and educate local community leaders about the missions of the United States Air Force and your Air Force Base.

Description

The mission of the Honorary Commanders Program is twofold; one, to educate key community leaders about a unit's mission and to foster a supportive relationship with the community, increase military involvement in civic endeavors and organizations and make members of the local community feel part of the unit.

Employ

- Use AFI 35-105, Community Relations to implement your Honorary Commander Program.
- Key civic leaders or groups should be invited to the base for informational briefings and meetings hosted by the commander and staff, to include Honorary Commanders, as applicable.
- Commanders must ensure these individuals or groups will not be given preferential treatment that implies or confers authority or access to base services they would not be otherwise entitled to.
- Commanders and the public affairs office should be made aware of any misuse of commander-granted access to the base, to include use of services meant exclusively for Airmen, their families and DoD employees.
- In the event command considers rescinding base access or privileges afforded to a key civic leader or group, to include Honorary Commanders, maintaining base security is the paramount factor to be considered along with the potential impact on community ties and/or local factors.
- Work with your local Public Affairs office to outline recommendation and selection procedures for your Honorary Commander Program
- Develop an application form for the program which should include the following three areas: (1) contact information, (2) ask nominee to briefly describe why they would like to participate in the program and how they can help disseminate the information they gain in this capacity, and (3) include a current biography or resume.