

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE

CHIEF
MASTER
SERGEANT
RECOGNITION
CEREMONY
2025



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
10 APRIL, 2025



SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

MEDALLION CEREMONY

1700 Hours

SOCIAL

1730 Hours

CEREMONY

1800 Hours

HONOREE INTRODUCTIONS

NATIONAL ANTHEM

INVOCATION

GUEST INTRODUCTIONS

POW/MIA RECOGNITION

DINNER

INTERMISSION

GUEST SPEAKER

Command Chief, Air Force Materiel Command
Chief Master Sergeant James E. Fitch II

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

CMSGT CHARGE AND CREED

RECOGNITION CEREMONY

CLOSING REMARKS

Commander, 88th Air Base Wing
Colonel Dustin C. Richards

&

Command Chief, 88th Air Base Wing
Chief Master Sergeant Tessa M. Fontaine

AIR FORCE SONG

SEMPER SUPRA



HONOREES



Tricia Adolphues | National Air and Space Intelligence Center



Michael Booth | Air Force Research Laboratory



Joe Borrasso | Air Force Materiel Command



Michael Casper | Air Force Installation Contracting Center



Ryan Dawson | National Space Intelligence Center



Shelly Gent | National Air and Space Intelligence Center



Anisa Haney | 88th Medical Group



Tiffany Hernandez | 88th Medical Group



Christopher Knight | 445th Maintenance Squadron



Daina Taylor | National Air and Space Intelligence Center



Sara Wright | Air Force Materiel Command





GUEST SPEAKER



Chief Master Sergeant James E. Fitch II Command Chief, Air Force Materiel Command

Chief Master Sgt. James "Bill" Fitch is the Command Chief Master Sergeant, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. He is the senior enlisted leader and the primary advisor to the commander on all matters regarding the readiness, training, professional development and effective utilization of the command's 89,000 total force Airmen. Chief Fitch develops and implements command policy to ensure strategic focus and synchronized efforts across the enterprise. AFMC directs and oversees activities across multiple centers, responsible for installation and mission support, discovery and development, test and evaluation, life cycle management services and sustainment of virtually every major Air Force weapon system, to include the entire scope of nuclear weapons sustainment.

Chief Fitch entered the Air Force in November 1995. His background includes duties as an Evaluator/Instructor Boom Operator with over 3,600 hours in KC-135R/T aircraft. His assignments include bases in North Dakota, Texas, England, Hawaii, Washington, Maryland and New Jersey. He has numerous deployments supporting Operations SOUTHERN/NORTHERN WATCH, DESERT FOX, ALLIED FORCE, ENDURING/IRAQI FREEDOM, JOINT GUARDIAN and INHERENT RESOLVE. Prior to assuming his current position, he served as the Command Chief, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.





HISTORY OF THE CHIEF

The rank of Chief Master Sergeant and Senior Master Sergeant were created by Congress as part of the Career Compensation act of 1958 and are a direct by product of the explosion in technology that took place during and immediately following World War II. These ranks did not exist prior to 1958 when E-7 was the highest enlisted grade. Congress created the super grades as part of the Career Compensation Act of 1958 to relieve grade suppression by enabling services to promote above E-7. The basic law provided that each service could promote 2 percent of the enlisted force to E-8 and 1 percent to E-9 while requiring E-7's have 8 years and E-8's 10 years enlisted service to be promoted. The Air Force opted to require a minimum of 10 years service to be promoted to SMSgt and 11 years to be promoted to CMSgt.

The first Air Force promotions to SMSgt were effective 1 September 1958 and another group was promoted 1 March 1960. Quotas, for the first time in Air Force history, were allocated by specific Air Force Specialty Code and selection boards were held at command level. The Air Force promotion to CMSgt were effective 1 December 1959. Command boards selected 1700 for advancement from those promoted to SMSgt in September 1958 and March 1959, however, only 620 actually assumed the rank of CMSgt on 1 December 1959. The remaining 1080 selected were withheld until 1 June 1960 due to budgetary constraints. There was no line numbers at the time and everyone selected moved up as a group. Many old timers still believe that SMSgt and CMSgt were authorized to replace the Warrant Officer Program, but this was not the case. The Air Force had already eliminated the Flying Sergeants and Flight Officers and was not eliminating the Warrant Officers. The 1 December 1959 Chief Master Sergeants became one of the most elite rank groups in the Air Force-similar the ratio of General Officers. Those promoted to CMSgt in the first increment can be justly proud of their achievement.

They are our charter chiefs or founding fathers.

Every man or woman promoted to Chief Master Sergeant has every right and should feel just as proud of their accomplishment as the Charter Chiefs.



1958 - 1991



CURRENT



Gen. McPeak and CMSAF Gary Pfingston reveal proposed changes to the enlisted chevrons. The proposal moved one of the stripes from the bottom of the master sergeant, senior master sergeant, chief master sergeant, and CMSAF chevrons and placed it at the top. After a long test and transition period, the new chevrons became mandatory on 1 October 1997.





CHIEF'S CREED

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANTS

are individually to be regarded as people:

Who cannot be bought;

Whose word is their bond;

Who put character above wealth;

Who possess opinions and a will;

Who will not lose their individuality in a crowd;

Who do not hesitate to take chances;

Who will be as honest in small things
as in great ones;

Who will make no compromise with wrong;

Whose ambitions are not confined to their
own selfish desires and interests;

Who are true to their friends
through good report and evil report,
in adversity as well as prosperity;

Who do not believe that shrewdness, cunning,
and hardheadedness are the best qualities for
winning success;

Who are not ashamed or afraid to stand
for the truth when it is unpopular,
who can say "No" with emphasis,
although all the world is saying "Yes."



Congratulations to our newest
Chief Master Sergeants
and their families.

Welcome to the Top 1%



To whom much is given,
much is required.





SPECIAL THANKS

National Museum of the
United States Air Force

Wright-Patterson AFB Club

Volunteer Airmen

Kohler Catering

88 ABW Protocol Office

88 ABW Public Affairs Office

Air Force Band of Flight

First Command



AIR FORCE SONG

Off we go into the wild blue yonder,
Climbing high into the sun;
Here they come zooming to
meet our thunder,
At'em now, Give'em the gun!
(Give'em the gun!)
Down we dive, spouting our
flame from under,
Off with one helluva roar!
We live in fame or go down in flame.
Hey!
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!

SEMPER SUPRA (U.S. Space Force Song)

We're the mighty watchful eye,
Guardians beyond the blue.
The invisible front line,
Warfighters brave and true.
Boldly reaching into space,
There's no limit to our sky.
Standing guard both night and day,
We're the Space Force from on high!



