



# **MEDIA ADVISORY**

## **United States Air Force**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **NINETEENTH AIR FORCE ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND CEREMONY**

*Media interested in attending the ceremony scheduled for June 23, 10:30 a.m., Parr Club, should contact AETC Public Affairs at (210)652-4400 or [aetc.pao@us.af.mil](mailto:aetc.pao@us.af.mil), no later than June 23, 9 a.m. Please arrive at the main gate visitor's center, no later than 10 a.m. Media will be escorted from the visitor's center to the ceremony location.*

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas** –The assumption of command ceremony of the 19th Air Force commander will be held Tuesday, June 23, 10:30 a.m., at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.

Brig. Gen. James B. Hecker will assume command of 19th Air Force. Previously, Hecker was commander of the 18th Wing at Kadena Air Base, Japan. Hecker has flown the F-15 Strike Eagle, MQ-1B Predator and the F-22 Raptor, amassing over 3,200 pilot hours. He was commissioned through the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1989.

Air Education and Training Command officially activated the numbered Air Force Oct. 1, 2014, marking another milestone in its flying education and training program for the Air Force, other services, and the nation's allies.

19th Air Force is responsible for the training of world-class aircrews, air battle managers, weapons directors, Air Force Academy Airmanship programs, and survival, escape, resistance, and evasion to sustain the combat capability of the United States Air Force.

The numbered Air Force includes 19 training locations, with 16 total force wings: 10 active duty, one Air Force Reserve, and five Air National Guard units. It commands more than 32,000 personnel and operates over 1,350 aircraft of 29 different models, flying more than 490,000 hours annually, which is 44 percent of the Air Force total flying hours.