



Martin Luther King Jr. A Brief Biography

Martin Luther King, Jr., (January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968) was born Michael Luther King, Jr., but later had his name changed to Martin. Martin Luther attended segregated public schools in Georgia, graduating from high school at the age of fifteen; he received the B. A. degree in 1948 from Morehouse College. After three years of theological study at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania where he was elected president of a predominantly white senior class, he was awarded the B.D. in 1951. With a fellowship won at Crozer, he enrolled in graduate studies at Boston University, completing his residence for the doctorate in 1953 and receiving the degree in 1955. In Boston he met and married Coretta Scott. Two sons and two daughters were born into the family. Early in December, 1955, King accepted the leadership role of the first great Negro nonviolent demonstration of contemporary times in the United States, the bus boycott described by Gunnar Jahn in his presentation speech in honor of the laureate. The boycott lasted 382 days. On December 21, 1956, after the Supreme Court of the United States had declared unconstitutional the laws requiring segregation on buses, Negroes and whites rode the buses as equals. In 1957 he was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization formed to provide new leadership for the now burgeoning civil rights movement. The ideals for this organization he took from Christianity; its operational techniques from Gandhi. In the eleven-year period between 1957 and 1968, King traveled over six million miles and spoke over twenty-five hundred times, appearing wherever there was injustice, protest, and action. In these years, he led a massive protest in Birmingham, Alabama, that caught the attention of the entire world, providing what he called a coalition of conscience and inspiring his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"; he directed the peaceful march on Washington, D.C., of 250,000 people to whom he delivered his address, "I Have a Dream", he conferred with President John F. Kennedy and campaigned for President Lyndon B. Johnson; he was arrested upwards of twenty times and assaulted at least four times; he was awarded five honorary degrees; was named Man of the Year by *Time* magazine in 1963 and became a world figure. At the age of thirty-five, Martin Luther King, Jr., was the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize. When notified of his selection, he announced that he would turn over the prize money of \$54,123 to the furtherance of the civil rights movement. On the evening of April 4, 1968, while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was to lead a protest march in sympathy with striking garbage workers of that city, he was assassinated.

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Mentoring and My Enlisted Development Plan

SMSgt Chad Gibson

128th ARW Human Resource Advisor

Leave a Legacy – Be a Mentor

Mentoring is a tool that organizations can use to nurture and grow their people. It can be an informal practice or a formal program. Associates observe, question, and explore. Mentors demonstrate, explain and model. The following assumptions form the foundation for a solid mentoring program.

Deliberate learning is the cornerstone. The mentor's job is to promote intentional learning, which includes capacity building through methods such as instructing, coaching, providing experiences, modeling and advising.

Both failure and success are powerful teachers. Mentors, as leaders of a learning experience, certainly need to share their "how to do it so it comes out right" stories. They also need to share their experiences of failure, i.e., "how I did it wrong". Both types of stories are powerful lessons that provide valuable opportunities for analyzing individual and organizational realities.

Leaders need to tell their stories. Personal scenarios, anecdotes and case examples, because they offer valuable, often unforgettable insight, must be shared. Mentors who can talk about themselves and their experiences establish a rapport that makes them "learning leaders."

Development matures over time. Mentoring -- when it works -- taps into continuous learning that is not an event, or even a string of discrete events. Rather, it is the synthesis of ongoing events, experiences, observations, studies, and thoughtful analyses.

Mentoring is a joint venture. Successful mentoring means sharing responsibility for learning. Regardless of the facilities, the subject matter, the timing, and all other variables. Successful mentoring begins with setting a contract for learning around which the mentor, the associate, and their respective supervisors are aligned.

As a mentor, you have several responsibilities:
Log into MyEDP through the AF Portal
Inform associates if you are unable to accept them as an associate
Establish a mentoring agreement with the associate
Help the associate develop appropriate goals and provide feedback
Provide guidance based on the associate's learning and development needs
Help the associate access appropriate experts
Be a resource, advisor, role model, sponsor, etc.

For more information on Mentoring and Force Development visit the Wisconsin ANG Enlisted Development Communities of Practice (COP) through the AF Portal at:
<https://wwwd.my.af.mil/afknprod/ASPs/CoP/EntryCoP.asp?Filter=AN-DP-02-25> or through AF Knowledge Now at:
<https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/ASPs/CoP/EntryCoP.asp?Filter=AN-DP-02-25>

The Commanders Guide to Diversity January: Trust

Delivering on our Promise: Trust flows from being trustworthy. We must all honor our commitments, speak the truth, stand for what is right, and listen to the voice of our conscience.

Be Trustworthy: In order to lead today, or become future leaders, we must be trusted. In order to gain this trust we must be trustworthy. If we do this our integrity will always stay intact.

Each day we need to ask the questions:

1. Are we consistently accountable for our actions and the actions of our subordinates?
2. Have we created a culture of conscience by maintaining integrity and forming an unbreakable bond between leadership and Airman?

Human Resource Advisors

State Human Resource Advisor
CMSgt F. Mike Busdicker
Office: (608) 242-3126
Frederick.busdicker@wimadi.ang.af.mil

128th Air Refueling Wing Human Resource Advisor
SMSgt Chad Gibson
Chad.gibson@wimilw.ang.af.mil
Office: (414) 3367404

115th Fighter Wing Human Resource Advisor
SMSgt Alice Sischo
Alice.sischo@wimadi.ang.af.mil
Office: (608) 245-4042

Leadership Focus

Involvement in Professional Organizations

SMSgt Alice Sischo
115th FW Human Resource Advisor

Make a Difference

I was reading the latest edition of New Patriot, the quarterly publication of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), and was very disappointed in National Guard Members. HR 208, the bill presented to make provisions for early retirement retroactive to September 11, 2001 did not pass. Although failure of the bill was disappointing the lack of EANGUS membership in supporting this effort was very discouraging. EANGUS put out a call to its 45,000 members to contact their representatives and only 673 members responded. What is even more troubling is the fact this bill would impact the retirement of over 300,000 guardsmen mobilized since the attacks of 9-11-2001. Think about that, out of 300,000 guardsmen, only 673 responded to a call for action. You do the math. AFI 36-2618, The Enlisted Force Structure, states every rank should join professional organizations. Yet joining a professional organization is not enough and there are times when everyone needs to get involved. Sitting through council meetings, paying dues every year and reading meeting minutes is not enough, there are times when members need to step up to the plate and swing. Getting involved can take less time than you think. Organizations such as EANGUS, The Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA), or Air Force Association (AFA) have websites and send emails that will easily guide members through contacting the right representative. They even provide prewritten letters for members to send to representatives supporting actions taken by the organization. Maybe you think you don't know enough about a given issue or bill. Visiting web address www.Thomas.gov will give you details of specific bills. Does this still sound like too much work and time? Call the capital operator at 1-888-762-8760 and talk to your representative office. Other avenues of participation include getting involved on base, especially through active participation in council activities. You don't have to run a project to help. Some of the things you may view as small can actually make a tremendous difference in the life and career of Guard Members. These areas include staffing a booth at base events, doing some research for a project, or simply proofreading someone's work. Many times projects never make it out of the gate because some view obstacles as reasons to quit rather than opportunities to overcome. The next step is yours. Are you going to sit idly by and complain when your needs are not being met or are you going to help make it happen?

January 2010 Awareness Items

Jan 16th National Religious Freedom Day
Jan 18th Martin Luther King Jr. Day
National Mentoring Month