DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE SERVICES AGENCY

MEMORANDUM FOR HQ ACC/A1S, HQ AFSPC/A1S, HQ USAFE/A1S, HQ AFSOC/A1S, HQ AETC/A1S, HQ AMC/A1S, 10 FSS/CL, HQ AFGSC/A1S, HQ AFMC/A1S, HQ PACAF/A1S, HQ AFDW/A1S

FROM: HQ AFSVA/SVP
2261 Hughes Ave, Suite 156
Lackland AFB, TX 78236-9854

SUBJECT: Air Force (AF) Chess Program (SUSPENSE: 15 Apr 11)

1. The AF Chess Program creates an opportunity to partner with other installation activities and engage the entire community. Chess stimulates the mind and encourages strategic thinking, planning and is a challenging recreational and educational program. The AF Chess Program includes installation, MAJCOM, and AF-level tournaments. Chess events may be conducted by the Community Center, Youth Center or other installation activities, if there is no Community Center. All persons eligible to use Community Centers may participate in the installation-level tournaments. The program culminates with selected AF active duty members' participation in the Inter Service and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Chess Tournaments.

2. The AF Chess Tournament is scheduled 8-13 May 11 at Wright-Patterson AFB OH and is for active duty AF members. All participants must be United States Chess Federation (USCF) members. A six-person AF team will be selected from those participating in the AF Tournament and will participate in the Inter Service Chess Tournament. The top finishers from each Service are selected to represent the United States at the NATO Chess Tournament. The Marines will host the Inter Service Chess Tournament, 12-17 Jun 11 at MCAS Miramar, San Diego CA. Lithuania will host the NATO Tournament, 7-13 Aug 11.

3. MAJCOMs may nominate a maximum of four players to participate in the AF Chess Tournament. In addition to the two players selected from installation and/or MAJCOM tournaments, the other two nominees may include any active duty AF player who is a current United States Chess Federation (USCF) member with a USCF rating of 2000 or more who was unable to compete in an installation or MAJCOM tournament. The names of all players funded or not funded must be submitted by their MAJCOM for final selection to compete in the AF Tournament. Twenty participants will be selected for the AF Tournament. The HQ AFSVA Community Center Program Specialist may select additional active duty, USCF members to complete the tournament roster.

4. Attached is guidance on how to conduct installation or MAJCOM-level tournaments, including Air Force Chess Program Guidelines (atch 1) and Suggestions: How to Start a Chess Tournament (atch 2). The United States Chess Federation (USCF) web site www.uschess.org

provides valuable information, including supply catalogs and official rules to help prepare for a tournament and step-by-step instructions on how to run a tournament.

5. Installations or MAJCOMS are responsible for funding, organizing, and holding installation and MAJCOM tournaments. Individual installations or MAJCOMS should fund their selected active duty AF members to compete in the AF Tournament. Any active duty AF player providing their own funding must be recommended by their MAJCOM. HQ AFSVA will not fund costs for selected players to the AF Tournament but will fund costs associated with the Inter Service and NATO chess tournaments.

6. Please provide this office with the names of the active duty AF members nominated to participate in the AF Tournament by 15 Apr 11. Include the member's installation, rank, organizational address, commercial and DSN phone numbers, e-mail address, USCF rating, and a statement from the Commander stating the availability of the participant for the Inter Service and the NATO tournaments. Nominations cannot be accepted without the statement of availability from the participant's Commander. Participants selected for the NATO tournament must have a valid US passport.

7. Please pass this information to your installations and encourage them to conduct chess programs and host tournaments. If you have any questions please contact, Ms. Margaret Barnett, HQ AFSVA/SVPY, Comm: (210) 395-7146, DSN: 969-7146, or e-mail: Margaret.Barnett@us.af.mil.

FRANK BLACK, JR., GS-14, DAF
Chief, Community Programs

2 Attachments:
1. Air Force Chess Program Guidelines
2. Suggestions: How to Start a Chess Tournament

cc:
HQ USAF/A1SA
HQ USAF/A1SO

AIR FORCE CHESS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

1. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this program is to provide opportunities for families, youth, and other community members to participate in a recreational/educational chess activity. These guidelines also establish policies and operational procedures for selection of a six-person Air Force (AF) Chess team to participate in the Inter Service and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Chess Tournaments.

2. **ELIGIBILITY:** All persons eligible to use Community Centers and Youth Centers may participate in the installation-level tournaments. Only active duty USAF members are eligible for advancement to the AF Chess Tournament, Inter Service Chess Tournament, and the NATO Chess Tournament. Reserve members may participate if they are on active duty at the time they are selected for the AF tournament through completion of the NATO tournament.

3. **SCHEDULE:** Installation-level tournaments and MAJCOM selections for the AF Tournament should be completed and forwarded to HQ AFSVA/SVP by 15 Apr 11. MAJCOMs may submit a maximum of four players. Two of the nominees may include any active duty AF player who is a current United States Chess Federation (USCF) member with a USCF rating of 2000 or more who was unable to compete in an installation or MAJCOM tournament, in addition to the two players who have been selected from installation and/or MAJCOM tournaments. The names of all players funded or not funded must be submitted by their MAJCOMs. The HQ AFSVA Community Center Program Specialist, may select additional active duty, USCF members to complete the tournament roster.

A six-member team from the AF tournament will be selected to represent the AF at the Inter Service Chess Tournament. The top two finishers from each Service participating in the Inter Service Chess Tournament will be selected to represent the United States at the NATO Chess Tournament. The remaining two positions on the team are the next two top finishers regardless of their Service. Active duty personnel must have a signed release from their Commander authorizing them to participate and stating they will be available for the Inter Service and the NATO tournaments.

4. **RULES:**

a. All rated tournaments must be conducted in accordance with the rules of the United States Chess Federation (USCF).

b. Complete rules, membership information, and information on running a chess tournament is available at the USCF website: www.uschess.org.

c. All active duty participants wanting to advance to the Inter Service and NATO Chess Tournaments must be members of USCF before they are selected for the AF Tournament. The USCF can be contacted for a provisional rating if a player is not a current member but has been a rated player. All participants are responsible for purchasing their own USCF membership and US passports.

5. **AWARDS:**

a. Each installation should provide participation certificates and awards for installation-level competitions.

b. MAJCOM should provide certificates and awards for MAJCOM competitions.

6. **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

a. Community Centers will provide:

(1) A project officer to coordinate and conduct the competition.

(2) Coordination with the marketing staff for multimedia promotion and publicity.

(3) A USCF-certified tournament director, if a rated tournament is held.

(4) A site for the competition and awards administration.

(5) Leadership representation at the awards ceremony.

(6) Chess sets, seeding charts, chess clocks, score sheets, and other incidental supplies necessary to conduct the tournament. All items can be purchased online through the USCF web site or through the USCF catalog.

(7) A system to ensure contestants may purchase membership in the USCF during registration.

b. MAJCOM will provide:

(1) Information to each installation to ensure active duty participants meet the requirements for selection/participation in the AF, Inter Service, and NATO Chess Tournaments.

(2) Information on participants selected to compete in the AF Chess Tournament forwarded to the HQ AFSVA/SVP POC by 15 Apr 11.

(3) Notification to participants when final selection is completed.

(4) Information on possible resources for funding selected AF personnel to attend the AF Chess Tournament.

c. HQ AFSVA/SVP will provide:

(1) Selection of the six-person AF team based on the following criteria:

(a) Placement in the AF Chess Tournament.

(b) USCF rating.

(c) Availability for the Inter Service and the NATO Chess Tournaments.

(2) Notification to each MAJCOM of team selected to represent the AF.

(3) Information to the Inter Service Chess Tournament POC for the AF team.

(4) Coordination with the selected AF team members to ensure their participation in the Inter-Service and NATO Chess Tournaments.

(5) Fund Cite letters to individual team members selected to participate in the Inter Service and the NATO Tournaments.

SUGGESTIONS: HOW TO START A CHESS TOURNAMENT

1. If you have anyone playing chess in your facility, show them the Air Force Chess Program Guidelines and ask if they would like to help set up a tournament.

2. Check your local community on and off the installation for existing chess clubs.

3. Purchase a USCF affiliate membership for your facility. Log on to the United States Chess Federation (USCF) website http://www.uschess.org, for the Official Affiliate Application. With the purchase of an affiliate membership, catalogs for chess equipment, chess rule books and guidelines are available. You will receive the *Chess Life* magazine, and be able to check current ratings for all USCF members on the website.

4. If you do not have chess equipment, order or purchase the necessary equipment to run a tournament. Minimum equipment necessary to start a tournament: eight chess boards, eight sets of chess pieces, eight chess clocks, and score sheets. A computer program is available to set up the pairing and games for a tournament. Also purchase the Official Rules of Chess compiled and sanctioned by the USCF and published by David McKay.

5. Advertise in the installation newsletter, local radio, commander's channel, etc., for certified USCF tournament directors and interested players.

6. Select a tournament director and date for the tournament. Having a good tournament director is your most valuable asset in setting up and running a successful chess tournament.

7. If you are not holding a rated tournament, a certified tournament director is not necessary, and any interested chess player may act as the tournament director.

8. Reserve space for the tournament.

9. Work with the installation marketing and advertise the tournament in all available mediums.

10. Identify funds for certificates and awards. Certificates are available to download on the Community Center website.

11. An entry fee may be charged to help defray costs if you have to pay for a certified tournament director and you do not have funds available.