

# Commander's Call Topics



**Nov. 8, 2012**

"Any opportunity we have to streamline and improve the timeliness of Air Force doctrine will have an immediate impact on the way we team with Joint and Coalition partners." -- Air Force Chief of Staff [Gen. Mark A. Welsh III](#) speaking during an announcement that by next fall, [Air Force doctrine will be restructured](#), streamlined and accessible to anyone with an e-reader, smartphone or tablet.

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### [National Parks free to veterans this weekend](#)

America's 398 national parks will offer the public free admission Nov. 10-12 during Veterans Day weekend in honor of those who serve and have served in the U.S. military, according to a National Park Service news release.

### [Top AF engineers help clear flood waters](#)

A team of nearly 50 Air Force civil engineers from duty locations across the country pulled together to form the 331st Air Expeditionary Group this week, to pump flood waters affecting New York coastal communities following Hurricane Sandy.

### [Air Force selects 800+ for developmental education](#)

More than 700 officers and 120 civilians were selected for intermediate and senior developmental education during the 2012 Developmental Education Designation Board held last month at the Air Force Personnel Center, officials announced today.

### ['Airman' magazine enters digital era](#)

A year after publishing the final print edition of *Airman* magazine, the Air Force is unveiling a new digital version of the service's official magazine specifically geared for tablet devices.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [AF officials delay MilPDS upgrade](#)

Air Force officials are delaying the upgrade of the Military Personnel Data System that was originally scheduled for December.

## ► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

### [AF safety chief shares vision](#)

With two months in the seat as Air Force Chief of Safety, [Maj. Gen. Margaret H. Woodward](#) doesn't need a palm reader to glimpse the future.

### [Nomination deadline approaches for Military Child of the Year](#)

An organization whose primary mission is to provide emergency financial and other services to the families of service members and wounded warriors is opening nominations for one of their top recognition programs.

## ► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

### [AFRL played major role in historic near-space jump](#)

For more than nine minutes Oct. 14, an international audience watched as Austrian daredevil Felix Baumgartner egressed from a capsule 128,000 feet above the earth and fell toward the planet reaching speeds of 834 miles per hour, to become the first person to break the sound barrier outside of a vehicle.

## ► RESOURCES

### **AF.mil**

<http://www.af.mil>

### **Airman magazine**

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>

### **Air Force Outreach**

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/>

### **Military OneSource**

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

### **Military HOMEFRONT**

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.>

### **Air Force Personnel Center**

<https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

### **Air Reserve Personnel Center**

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/>

### **Department of Defense News**

<http://www.defense.gov>

### **Department of Veterans Affairs**

<http://www.va.gov>

### **TRICARE**

<http://www.tricare.mil>

### **U.S. Government Website**

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

### **Employment Opportunities**

[www.usajobs.com](http://www.usajobs.com)

[www.nafjobs.org](http://www.nafjobs.org)

### **Air Force Association Scholarships**

<http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/scholars.asp>

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## **Air Force Veterans Share a Tradition of Excellence**

The tradition of excellence that is the hallmark of the Air Force is rooted, to a great degree, in the intangible benefit of being able to stand on the shoulders of greatness. Among those strong shoulders are epic heroes like Medal of Honor recipients Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle, Maj. George A. Davis, and Airman 1st Class John L. Levitow, and 56 other recipients. And there are blockbuster heroes like Buzz Aldrin (Apollo 11), Michael P. Anderson (the Columbia), Eileen Collins (STS-84, STS-93, STS-114), and Gus Grissom (Mercury, Gemini and Apollo), and 18 others—all astronauts in that chasm called space. Yet, the heroes who provide an abiding type of inspiration are those legendary people who have touched our lives while excelling in their own.

This Veterans Day, it is an honor to call attention to many more of those heroes—all Air Force veterans.

Doolittle's Raiders, the Tuskegee Airmen, and the 1,074 women pilots of World War II, the WAFS and the WASPs, are solid examples that a dedicated group with the same mission and vision can achieve more than ever imagined, and can achieve their goals on a higher level.

On a lighter side, there are Air Force veterans who went in to the entertainment business. There are legendary tough guys like actor Charles Bronson, good guys like the singing cowboy Gene Autry, funny guys like George Carlin, and academy-award performers like Morgan Freeman.

Sports have had their share of Air Force veterans, too. Detroit Tigers Hall of Famer and two-time MVP Hank Greenberg, a U. S. Army Air Forces first lieutenant, represents the player end of the sports spectrum, while George Steinbrenner, a Korean War-era second lieutenant at Lockbourne Air Force Base (Columbus, Ohio), represents the owners.

Air Force veterans who inspired us as politicians—for good or ill—include, Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska, Alabama Governor and presidential candidate George Wallace, Fiorello LaGuardia, Mayor of New York for whom the airport is named, and Lloyd Bentsen, senator, vice-presidential nominee and Secretary of the Treasury.

There are some Air Force veterans who inspire us because they are in a class by themselves. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., who was the Air Force's first African-American general officer and Charles Lindbergh who saw his time with the U. S. Army Air Service to be "the critically important one" in his development as both a focused, goal-oriented individual, as well as a skillful and resourceful aviator, show us the fine balance between derring-do and an adherence to convention. Both qualities are necessary for greatness.

And who could forget the modern-day hero who used his Air Force experience to influence the lives of others? Chesley ("Sully") Sullenberger called on the experience and discipline he honed as an Air Force pilot to safely set down US Airways Flight 1459, the "Miracle on the Hudson."

There are heroes all around us—those whose way of life inspires no Hall of Fame elections, no first-ever non-stop flights to Paris, or even a laugh that peels out across the audience. There are people who motivate us, who give us a hand, who encourage us to dig a little deeper, and who just make our day. And they do this just by showing up. Look a little closer: Chances are they're an Air Force veteran.

*Martha Lockwood  
Chief, Information Products, Defense Media Activity*

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## One day in November

Armistice Day. Remembrance Day. Veterans Day. Throughout the world—from Australia to the U.S, one day in November is set aside to remember those who served—and continue to serve--their country.

Originally proclaimed in the U.S. in 1919, Armistice Day, commemorated the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month when the World War I Armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany was signed in 1918. Twenty years later, in 1938, November 11th became an annual, legal holiday dedicated to the cause of world peace. In 1954, Congress amended the 1938 Act that created Armistice Day—replacing the word “armistice” with the word “veterans”—and created Veterans Day, a day to honor American veterans of all wars. Not subject to the Uniform Holiday Bill that ensures a three-day weekend for Washington’s Birthday, Memorial Day, and Columbus Day, the historical significance of November 11th maintains its integrity.

Counting all veterans who have served in war and in peacetime, there are 22 million veterans, and of those, about four million are Airmen. Following are additional statistics.

Over all, the Air Force population is better educated than America as a whole. According to the 2011 American Community Survey, 28.5 percent of the total population has, at least, a bachelor’s degree. In the Air Force, the most recent numbers show that just over 50 percent have a bachelor’s degree or better.

It’s not surprising that veterans are likely to vote. Although the numbers of 2012 have not yet been calculated, in 2008, the U. S. Census reported that 15.8 million veterans—or 71 percent of veterans—cast a ballot in the presidential election. The turnout rate among non-military, voting-age population was only 56.9 percent, according to the United States Election Project.

As reported by the U. S. Census, in 2011 there were 5.1 million veterans who served during the Gulf War, 7.5 million Vietnam-era veterans, 2.4 million Korean War veterans, and 1.8 million veterans of World War II. Peacetime-only veterans number 5.4 million.

With all these numbers, the bottom line is this: For every veteran, there is a family who also serves and lends its support. For every veteran, there is a story as unique as the person who serves. And for every veteran there is an unfathomable depth of American gratitude.

*Martha Lockwood  
Chief, Information Products, Defense Media Activity*

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## ► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

**Nov. 8, 1942** - Through Nov. 11, Army and carrier-based airplanes supported the invasion of North Africa, and American troops landed on French-held territory. [Col. Demas T. Craw](#) volunteered to negotiate an armistice between the U.S. and French. On the way to the negotiations, he was killed by machine gun fire. [Maj. Pierpont M. Hamilton](#), who accompanied Colonel Craw, was captured but completed the mission. For their actions, both men were awarded the **Medal of Honor**.

**Nov. 9, 1944** – [1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Donald J. Gott](#) and [2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William E. Metzger](#)’s B-17 received several flak hits while flying in formation. With only one engine operable, the pilots jettisoned the bombs and made for Allied territory. The rest of the crew parachuted, leaving the pilots and the radio operator, who was too injured to jump, to try a crash landing. As Gott banked into a landing approach at about 100 feet, the fire reached the fuel tank and the bomber exploded and crashed, killing all three occupants. Gott and Metzger received **Medals of Honor** for their action.

**Nov. 9, 1967** – [Capt. Gerald O. Young](#), earned the **Medal of Honor** as an HH-3 pilot in a combat rescue mission near Khe Sanh, Vietnam. Despite ground fire that damaged one HH-3, Captain Young and his crew, Capt. Ralph Bower, SSgt. Eugene L. Clay, and Sgt. Larry W. Maysey, tried to rescue the remaining reconnaissance team. Wounded with second and third degree burns over one-fourth of his body, Young prevented the capture of the survivors. Some 17 hours after the crash and six miles from the crash site, Young escaped the North Vietnamese and signaled for a pick up. Clay and Maysey received an Air Force Cross posthumously.

**Nov. 9, 1967** - Ejecting from his F-4C Phantom over North Vietnam, [Capt. Lance P. Sijan](#) evaded capture for more than six weeks. Enemy forces captured him, but the severely weakened and injured Sijan managed to escape. After his recapture and torture, he contracted pneumonia and died. He received the **Medal of Honor** posthumously.

**Nov. 10, 1988** - The Pentagon announced the existence of the Lockheed F-117A Stealth Fighter.

**Nov. 11, 1956** - Convair's B-58 Hustler, the first supersonic bomber and delta-winged aircraft capable of 1,000-MPH speeds, completed its first flight at Fort Worth.

**Nov. 12, 1921** - Wesley May, with a 5-gallon can of gasoline strapped to his back, stepped from the wing of a Lincoln Standard to the wing skid of a JN-4 and climbed to the engine to pour gas into the tank. Frank Hawks flew the Lincoln and Earl S. Daugherty the JN-4. This was the first known air-to-air refueling.

**Nov. 13, 1964** - The solid propellant rocket for Titan II Space Booster's first stage fired at the United Technology Center in Sunnyvale, Calif. It had more than a million pounds of thrust.

**Nov. 14, 1974** - McDonnell-Douglas delivered the first F-15 to Tactical Air Command at Luke AFB, Ariz.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit  
<http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>.

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