

# Commander's Call Topics



Nov. 29, 2012

"Cops, at this point to them, have been the enemy, but we are not judging them, [we are here to help and mentor.](#)" -- Staff Sgt. Hannah Havenar, 325th Security Forces Squadron Resource Protection NCO in charge speaking about his squadron's program to help troubled youth.

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### [DoD notifies troops of South Carolina cyber intrusions](#)

The Defense Department and South Carolina officials are notifying military members and families who paid state income taxes there that they may have been victims of information/identity theft as a result of several recent cyber intrusions.

### [F-22's success more than 'skin deep'](#)

The F-22 Raptor, much like the human body, has a layer of skin called low observable.

### [Two Kandahar Airmen receive Thanksgiving phone calls from President Obama](#)

Two Airmen deployed here received Thanksgiving-day phone calls from President Barack Obama Thanksgiving evening Nov. 22, 2012.

### [QF-16 drone arrives for testing, prepares warfighters for tomorrow's threats](#)

The 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group marked an important milestone in continuing to prepare the warfighter for tomorrow's threats as the first QF-16 drone arrived for developmental testing at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., Nov. 19.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [Language Enabled Airman Program announces selections](#)

Foreign language experts from around the Air Force recently met at the Air Force Culture and Language Center at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., part of Air University's Spaatz Center for Officer Education, to select the latest participants for the Air Force's Language Enabled Airman Program. More than 500 people from across the Air Force applied, and on Nov. 8, officials notified 206 Airmen of their selection to LEAP.

## ► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

### [Military OneSource connects troops, families to resources](#)

As the Information Age continues to shape modern communication, the Defense Department has revitalized and consolidated the Military OneSource website to better serve military members and their families, a Pentagon official said in a recent interview.

## ► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

### ['Space junk' growing issue for AF space operations](#)

Members of the 1st and 7th Space Operations Squadron took notice when an upper stage Russian rocket disintegrated in low earth orbit Oct. 16.

## ► 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://mypers.af.mil>

<http://www.afpc.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>

### **Air Force Safety Center**

[www.afsec.af.mil](http://www.afsec.af.mil)

## Safety never out-of-season

As we approach year-end, I invite every Airman - total force, civilian and Air Force contractor - to consider the extraordinary accomplishments of our Air Force over the last year. Together with the Joint Force, we've defended America's interests from every corner of the world, meeting incredible challenges with courage, commitment and innovation.

Today, our Air Force remains the most capable and respected in history, and despite the inevitable uncertainty that lies in the future, there is no doubt we will continue to be the greatest fighting force on the planet for decades to come. This optimism comes from you, each and every Airman. As our most important and valuable resource, it is your energy, your strength and your resilience that will take our Air Force to the next level in terms of combat effectiveness, efficiency, and capability.

To be part of the solution, part of the answer...part of the future of the greatest Air Force in history, not only must you commit yourself to Integrity, Service, and Excellence, you must commit yourself to safety as well. An operationally focused and fully combat-capable unit, organized, trained and equipped to defend America, can be crippled by the loss of just one Airman. You and your wingman matter...a lot...and you owe your family and your country a commitment to value your safety and the safety of those around you, with the same intensity that you hold for our other core values.

I urge you to consider all that you've learned about risk management and use those lessons in your decision-making every day. Losing an Airman to a preventable accident is the most tragic thing any unit can endure. You know what to do....make responsible choices and avoid a lapse in judgment that could jeopardize your safety or that of others, today, tomorrow, throughout the holidays and the New Year.

I wish you all happy holidays and a winter season filled with great memories.

-- [Maj. Gen. Margaret H. Woodward](#)  
Air Force Chief of Safety

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## Winter Holidays Are a Perfect Time for a Memorable Homecoming, If Only In Your Dreams

“There’s no place like home for the holidays,” according to the perennial Christmas hit. The very idea that one might not be around loved ones and family traditions for the holidays is so ludicrous that movies such as “Home Alone” and “Planes, Trains & Automobiles” exploit the humor of the unimaginable. Yet, even with these dire warnings in words and pictures, millions of travelers throw caution to the wind and journey to the place they call home for the major winter holidays—Hanukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and New Years—or to celebrate the winter solstice (December 21st) or Boxing Day (December 26th). And for Seinfeld lovers who embrace no tradition at all, there’s the absurdity of Festivus (sometimes December 23rd).

It’s almost as if the permafrost of winter could be forever banished by a few days of warmth of a family gathering.

For those who are deployed to war zones and far-off air bases, the loneliness in the midst of a crowded base can wreak havoc with one’s self-esteem, just when one needs to be strongest. The key to survival, psychologists have found, lies in the ability to adapt by accepting the melancholy of nostalgia and embracing new “traditions.”

Two Air Force broadcasters with the Defense Media Agency are prime examples of facing down sadness and celebrating the moment.

Senior Airman Alina Richard was deployed to Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan just before Christmas 2010. Although she expected to miss the traditional decorations and cookies of home and childhood, she underestimated just how much. Looking back on that first Christmas away, there were novel times: She had pizza for Christmas dinner, and skyped with celebrities and athletes who made themselves available through MWR. She fondly remembers, also, the Red Cross providing the opportunity for deployed parents to read and record a book. The book and the recording were then sent home to their children.

For Staff Sgt. Michael Hutchinson, who grew up moving about in an Air Force family, the traditions of Christmas are differentiated only by time and place. It was that well-honed skill of embracing nostalgia and newness that fueled a very special just-for-today radio program that he produced and broadcast in Baghdad Christmas morning 2007.

Until the winter solstice on the 21st, the daylight hours grow fewer and fewer. Perhaps that’s part of the grand design to provide time for daydreaming and remembering, time to adapt by accepting the melancholy of nostalgia and embracing new “traditions.”

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

## ► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

**Nov. 29, 1961** - Enos, a chimp trained at Holloman AFB, N.M., became the first U.S. “spaceman” when he launched from Cape Canaveral, AFS, Fla., in a Project Mercury capsule and orbited twice around earth.

**Nov. 30, 1956** - The Air Force received its first F-86L Sabre.

**Dec. 1, 2003** - Colonel Linda K. McTeague assumed command of the 113<sup>th</sup> Wing (DC Air National Guard). She became the first woman to command an Air National Guard wing.

**Dec. 2, 1993** - Through December 13<sup>th</sup>, Air Force Colonel Richard O. Covey piloted the Space Shuttle Endeavour during a mission to repair the \$2 billion Hubble Space Telescope.

**Dec. 3, 1988** - After a one-year trial program, the Air Force decided to continue its policy of assigning mixed male/female crews to 24-hour missile duty.

**Dec. 4, 1942** - Ninth Air Force sent 24 B-24s to attack ships at the Naples docks in the first U.S. Army Air Forces air strike against mainland Italy in World War II.

**Dec. 5, 1974** - Sikorsky Aircraft delivered the last HH-53 Super Jolly Green Giant helicopter to the Air Force.

**Dec. 6, 2005** - During a ten-second ground test at Edwards AFB, Calif., the Boeing YAL-1 Airborne Laser’s megawatt-class chemical laser released enough energy to destroy a ballistic missile in its boost phase. The test met a major program milestone.

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

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