

Commander's Call Topics



August 8, 2013

"A good leader encourages followers to tell him what he needs to hear, not what he wants to hear."

John C. Maxwell
Author and leadership coach

Safety counts.
Some say it counts more when you're on a motorcycle. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation provides these [tips for drivers and riders](#).

TSA Tips for Military Travel

Ed. note: [The TSA Blog](#) from the Transportation Security Administration offers tips, topics and comments to facilitate an ongoing dialogue with the traveling public about security and screening. One blog in particular—"Tips for Military Travelers"—provides helpful advice for those deploying, those returning and their families. Following is the text of the May 7, 2013 blog.

Here are a few helpful hints to help members of the armed forces achieve a trouble-free travel experience at the airport.

Packing tips

- If you wish to lock your checked baggage, use a TSA-recognized lock, otherwise the lock could be cut.
- If your unit is traveling with weapons, please go [here](#) for more information.
- If it looks like a bomb, grenade, land mine, or other incendiary, don't pack it. Even if it's not the real deal, it will slow the screening process.

Military Family Member Gate Passes. Family members who want to accompany a deploying service member to the boarding gate or greet them returning from deployment at the arrival gate may receive passes to enter the secure area of the airport. Interested military family members should contact their air carrier representative at the departure/arrival airport for proper local procedures. Remember, the family members will have to be screened through the TSA checkpoint just as if they were flying.

Assistance for America's Veterans: Disabled, Injured and Wounded Warriors. TSA wants to facilitate the

screening of injured and wounded service members and veterans including individuals associated with a [Wounded Warrior](#) program. Once flight arrangements are made with the airline, the injured service member or veteran, family member, or other representatives can contact the TSA Cares helpline with details of the itinerary.

- Toll-free telephone number is 1-855-787-2227, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. (Eastern Time, and weekends and holidays, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.)
- Email: TSA-ContactCenter@dhs.gov.

TSA Pre✓™ for Active Duty Military - As part of our intelligence-driven, risk-based approach to security, TSA now offers TSA Pre✓™ expedited screening benefits to active duty service members at select airports. [Click here for more info.](#)

Bonus Factoid Nugget - Did you know that 25 percent of TSA employees are prior military? Some are even still serving in the reserves and guard. We have the greatest respect for our men and women serving in the military and strive to screen them with the dignity they deserve.

Bob Burns
TSA Blog Team

► TRENDING ...

"This has been one of the most volatile and uncertain budget cycles the Department of Defense has ever experienced. Our fiscal planning has been conducted under a cloud of uncertainty with the imposition of sequestration and changing rules as Congress made adjustments to our spending authorities." – From a statement by [Secretary of the Department of Defense Chuck Hagel, announcing a reduction in civilian furlough days.](#)

► 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://militaryonesource.af.mil>

Military HOMEFRONT

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod>

Air Force Personnel Center <https://m>

<ypers.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 Veteran Affairs

<http://www.va.gov>

TRICARE

<http://www.tricare.mil>

U.S. Government Website

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

Employment Opportunities

www.usajobs.com www.nafjobs.org

Air Force Association Scholarships

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

Air Force Safety Center

www.afsec.af.mil

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

Aug. 8, 1990 - Operation Desert Shield. The first USAF transport, a C-141, arrived in Dhahran. The aircraft had a reserve aircrew.

Aug. 9, 1962 - The USAF first demonstrated a multiple countdown capability when a 389 SMW crew from Francis E. Warren AFB successfully launched two Atlas D missiles at Cape Canaveral on 5,000-mile flights.

Aug. 10, 1968 - The 375 AAW at Scott AFB received the first

McDonnell-Douglas C-9A Nightingale. It was the first military aeromedical evacuation aircraft to be jet powered.

Aug. 11, 1950 - Korean War. C-119 Flying Boxcars began airlifting trucks from Tachikawa AB to Taegu.

Aug. 12, 1972 – Lt. Col. Wendell Shawler became the first USAF pilot to fly the F-15.

Aug. 13, 1952 - The USAF ordered the Boeing B-52 Stratofortress, an

► CURRENT ISSUES

[AF upgrades official website](#)

The Air Force has recently migrated to a new platform to host its public websites.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Early retirement application window closes August 19](#)

Airmen interested in early retirement through the Temporary Early Retirement Authority Program must submit their application no later than Aug. 19, Air Force personnel Center officials said.

[Air Force accepting applications for medical commissioning programs](#)

Eligible Airmen interested in Biomedical Sciences Corps careers can apply for academic opportunities in the physical therapy, clinical psychology and physician assistant fields.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[24/7 fitness center access coming to a base near you](#)

As part of an Air Force Services Transformation Initiative test concept, Joint Base Andrews, Md., was one of six installations to implement unmanned hours at their fitness center, making it accessible 24/7.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[Department of Energy recognizes Air Force energy program](#)

It's the Oscars of the energy world and the Air Force has stolen the show again.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit

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

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eight jet heavy bomber, into full-scale production.

August 14, 1945 – Final B-29 Combat Mission Against Japan. This Twentieth Air Force mission included a record number of effective aircraft: 754 B-29s and 169 fighters. One phase of the mission, against Tsuchizaka, produced the longest unstaged mission (3,650 miles) of the war from the Marianas.

