

Commander's Call Topics



October 10, 2013

“The future belongs to those who see the possibilities before they become obvious.”

John Sculley (b. 1939)
American businessman, entrepreneur, investor

October is
National Domestic Violence
Awareness Month.
If you need help, go to
www.TheHotline.org
or call **1-800-799-SAFE (-7233)**

People...Our Greatest Source of Strength

by Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody

Roll Call! Today's challenges remind us to not lose focus on our teammates...the *Strength of Our Team*.

Unfortunately we have begun this fiscal year without an agreement by our government on funding for our nation, and as a result the government has shut down and a new period of uncertainty has begun. For many of us, questions about pay have been answered, but that is not the case for our entire team. Many of our Reserve, National Guard and Civilian Airmen, who serve our nation with honor and pride, have been sent home without pay.

The shutdown affects us all in different ways, beyond our paychecks. Concerns continue to emerge and generate questions, many without answers. The uncertainty and stress of those directly affected, specifically those furloughed, are tremendous and we need to be there for each other. We're working to get you updated information as quickly as possible.

If you or a teammate is in need of assistance, there are available resources for help. The Air Force has posted and continues to update the [AF.mil web site](http://AF.mil) with the most current information we have.

And of course, we have each other.

Gather as a team, reach out to one another for support, and commit to care for each other when needed most. Be honest with your concerns and share them with your teammates; let them know how they can support you. And don't forget to reach out to those at home; make sure they are OK and keep them informed.

Although there are still many uncertainties ahead, one thing is absolutely clear: The shutdown and resulting furloughs in no way reflect on the value of the work you do every day. Your fellow Airmen, your Air Force leaders, even your civilian DoD leaders forced to make these tough decisions understand the extreme effort and dedication you give to the service of our nation.

As a service, we have a long history of celebrated accomplishments, but perhaps the accomplishment we should be most proud of us is our ability to *Strengthen Our Team* during periods of overwhelming challenges. Today our Air Force family is dealing with the needless strain of furloughs, reductions in service, and reduced readiness. Now is a time to come together, again, and show our true colors.

We are a team, a family...always have been. Today we must be resolute in maintaining our strength.

The World's Greatest Air Force
Powered by Airmen...Fueled by Innovation

► TRENDING...

"Today, I am announcing that most DOD civilians placed on emergency furlough during the government shutdown will be asked to [return to work](#) beginning next week," said Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on October 5, citing President Barack Obama's signing of the [Pay Our Military Act](#).

► 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://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 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

www.afa.org/AFA/InformationFor/Military/Scholarships

Air Force Safety Center

www.afsec.af.mil.asp

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Government Shutdown: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Do you have questions you need answered in regard to the government shutdown and its impact on the Air Force? Post your questions [here](#). The AF will research and try to find the answer(s) for you and respond to the post(s) [here](#). There is also a list of websites/points of contact that can be accessed throughout the government shutdown.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[No FY14 budget, tuition assistance suspended](#)

With the U.S government failing to pass a fiscal 2014 budget, all tuition assistance for classes starting on or after Oct. 1 will be suspended until further notice.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[New Defense Health Agency to streamline functions](#)

The government shutdown did not stop the official opening Oct. 1 of the Defense Health Agency, a major streamlining effort of military medicine that has been in the works for three decades and signed into law earlier this year.

[Continuing family support through government shutdown](#)

The government shutdown is affecting quality of life, family support, and child and youth programs that service members and families value.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit

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

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► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

Oct. 10, 1950 - The U.S. Air Force activated the first Air National Guard units to support the Korean War. The U.S. eventually mobilized 66 flying units and 45,000 guardsmen into federal service.

Oct. 11, 1968 - Apollo VII, the first manned mission in the lunar landing program launched from Kennedy Space Center Complex 34 on a Saturn IV booster.

Oct. 12, 1977 – The Air Force's first class of five women navigators graduated. Three were assigned to MAC aircrews.

Oct. 13, 1952 – SAC submitted a requirement for an air-launched decoy missile to defeat an enemy's radar defenses. This action led to the development of the GAM-72A Quail missile.

Oct. 14, 1940 – Maj. Reuben Moffat, the 33rd Pursuit Group Commander, became the first Army Air Corps pilot to fly an aircraft off a carrier. He flew his Curtiss P-40 off the USS Wasp.

Oct. 15, 1997 – Retired Brig. Gen. Charles "Chuck" Yeager broke the sound barrier again in front of a crowd of more than 5,000 people at Edwards AFB to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of his historic supersonic flight.

Oct. 16, 2001 – An AFFTC pilot guided two Global hawks concurrently for the accelerated Replace-On-Station program at Edwards AFB. The test showed that one pilot could control two UAVs with a little additional effort.