

Commander's Call Topics



Oct. 17, 2013

"If everyone is thinking alike, then somebody isn't thinking."

U.S. Army General George S. Patton

Air Force returns to normal, tuition assistance back on

The Air Force is in the process of [returning operations](#) to normal, pre-shutdown status.

October focus helps Airmen become energy efficient

October is Energy Action Month and provides an opportunity for Airmen to learn more about the impact of energy to the Air Force's mission as part of a national campaign led by the Department of Energy.

The theme continues to be, "I am Air Force Energy," with the goal of inspiring the total force to be more efficient so they can give the Air Force an assured energy advantage in air, space and cyberspace.

Beginning this month, the Air Force will highlight specific steps Airmen can take in their jobs to be more energy aware.

More efficient flight descent procedures, new ways of loading cargo, and vehicle idle time reduction are just a few of the ways Airmen can help the Air Force achieve its energy goals and maximize its energy advantage to support the mission.

"Energy is a key part of the effort to modernize our Air Force and do more with less," said Kathy Ferguson, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Logistics. "Every gallon of fuel and watt of energy we save allows us to have more resources to meet other Air Force priorities."

In FY 2012, the Air Force spent \$9.2 billion on energy, almost 10 percent of the total budget. In a time of fiscal uncertainty, Airmen have gone above and beyond to help increase our energy security. A few examples include:

-- Energy Manager David Morin led an energy program at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, that collected and analyzed energy use data to increase energy efficiency and implemented xeriscopic landscaping wherever possible. Through these efforts, Morin helped reduce base energy consumption by 27 percent, water by 24 percent and overall utility bills in FY 2012 by \$1.9 million.

-- U.S. Air Forces Europe Energy Manager Kelly Jaramillo oversaw an energy program that included 46 projects estimated to save more than \$5.5 million a year. She also implemented an energy awareness campaign that engaged the residents in Military Family

Housing , helping them reduce energy consumption 25 percent and natural gas 17 percent .

-- The Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. Support Center earned a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold rating by consolidating five functional organizations into a single facility, cutting energy consumption 60 percent and costs 50 percent. The building utilizes a high-efficiency variable refrigerant flow air-conditioning system, centrally maintained temperature set points and low-flow plumbing. These features helped the base reduce potable water use 50 percent, and save 2,862 MMBTUs and \$55,000.

-- The Air Combat Command facility energy team at Langley AFB, Va., oversaw facility energy optimization at 16 installations, reducing energy use by 5.9 percent from 2011 and awarded 39 energy projects to save 447,471 MBTUs and \$5.4 million annually. In total, the programs implemented by ACC reduced energy consumption by 538,809 MMBTU, cut CO2 emissions by 62,835 tons, and saved \$6.67 million annually.

-- The 22nd Operations Group Fuel Efficiency Office at McConnell AFB, Kan., designed and implemented measures to reduce and eliminate inefficiency in the fuel management of the KC-135. These measures included reducing KC-135 landing fuel, changing the KC-135 standard landing configuration, incorporating fuel efficiency software to inform flight speed, routing, and altitude, pioneering a new training configuration which reduced aircraft basic weight, air maximizing simulator usage and training 400 aircrew on the importance of fuel management. These efforts saved the Air Force \$4.3 million despite sorties being increased by 42 percent.

Besides learning from their colleagues, Airmen are encouraged to take an online energy module available to all personnel with a Common Access Card on the Advanced Distance Learning System.

(Courtesy 82nd Training Wing Public Affairs)

► TRENDING...

[Congress passes bill reopening federal government](#)

President Barack Obama signed legislation late Oct. 16 bringing federal employees back to work after Congress finally resolved the budget logjam, which led to a 16-day shutdown.

► RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Airman magazine

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

Air Force Safety Center

www.afsec.af.mil.asp

Air Force Association Scholarships

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

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

<http://www.usajobs.com>

www.nafjobs.org

► CURRENT ISSUES

[20th Air Force commander relieved of command](#)

Lt. Gen. James Kowalski, commander of Air Force Global Strike Command, relieved Maj. Gen. Michael Carey from command of 20th Air Force today due to a loss of trust and confidence in his leadership and judgment.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Civilian retiree identification card to be replaced](#)

Retired Air Force civilians who use the Air Force Form 354, Civilian Identification Card, to access Air Force installations have until early 2014 -- when the AF354 will be rescinded -- to get a Department of Defense Civilian Retiree ID Card or other access credentials, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Service Members Should Start Saving Early for Retirement](#)

It's never too soon to start saving for retirement, Barbara Thompson, the director of the Defense Department's office of family policy/children and youth advised service members today.

[FDA warns against dietary supplement](#)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is advising consumers to stop using OxyElite Pro, a dietary supplement, because of suspected links to acute hepatitis.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[Maxwell AFB civil engineers use construction technology to cut energy costs](#)

During a time when government shutdown, furlough and recapitalization are a part of the military landscape, Airmen are constantly looking for ways to save money for the Air Force.

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

Oct. 17, 1967 - Air Force engineers accomplished the final balloon launch in a series to test the feasibility of using parachutes with the Voyager capsule for a soft landing on Mars.

Oct. 18, 1918 – Maj. Charles Biddle, the 13th Pursuit Squadron's Commander, downed his eighth German fighter in a fierce dogfight over Verdun, France.

Oct 19, 1950 - During the Korean war, 5th Air Force fighters provided crucial air support to U.S. 1st Cavalry Division troops for the Battle of Hukkyori, some 10 miles south of Pyongyang. Afterwards, UN forces entered the North Korean capital.

Oct. 20, 1960 - The Jupiter IRBM made its first test launch from a tactical-type launcher. It flew 962 miles from Cape Canaveral, Fla., down the Atlantic Missile Range to the target area. This launch ended Army responsibilities for the program.

Oct. 21, 1965 - Gen Curtis E. LeMay, former CSAF, received the 1965 Collier Trophy, American aviation's highest honor.

Oct. 22, 1985 – Airmen with Tactical Air Command launched their first missile from Vandenberg AFB, Calif. The Tomahawk ground launched cruise missile was also the first of its kind flown from this base.

Oct. 23, 1909 - Wilbur Wright gave Lt. Benjamin D. Foulois his first flying lesson at College Park, Md.

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

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