

Commander's Call Topics



October 31, 2013

“Discover what you want most out of this world,
and set yourself to work on it.”

John Homer Miller (1722-91)
American author

It's time to re-set the clocks!

[Daylight Saving Time](#)

officially ends early
Sunday morning.

‘Military Family’ more than service member – parents, partner, children key to success

It's no wonder that the president has proclaimed November “Military Family Month.”

November is typically the month when we start thinking of the holidays, and that often includes thoughts of family, near and far. Soon there will be plans for mailing packages in plenty of time to reach loved ones serving far from home. With the help of the Military Postal Service Agency, there is a [chart](#) that simplifies this task.

The idea of Military Family isn't just about the service member. It's about the parent, the partner and the significant other who plays a key role in the service member's life, one who may be far from home. Sometimes, the focus of the Military Family is on the child coping with the absence of one or both parents or a family move to a new duty station. More often than not, the idea of the military family is in a gesture of friendship, or in reaching out to one another in a life-defining moment, or in re-focusing on a single important issue that affects us all.

The "We Are Family" campaign at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., is just such a refocus. Looking at the Department of Defense's sexual assault prevention stand down earlier this year, Langley's leadership created the 60-day campaign to revitalize the family concept and bolster the wingman culture in an effort to eliminate sexual assault.

"We're creating a culture here of family," said Chief Master Sgt. Trae King, 633rd Air Base Wing command chief at Langley. "If we can take care of (wingmen) and think of each other as family instead of (only) coworkers, then we can start preventing issues that are deteriorating our force."

The campaign is aimed to reinforce the concepts of trust, respect and other components leaders believe are key to stamping out sexual assault. Events to help foster the family concept included an enlisted call, a base retreat ceremony, a family reunion and a block party.

"Since the beginning of the campaign, we've had more than 10 individuals come forward with reports of sexual assault or sexual harassment," King said, noting the program's success. "It shows that the campaign is having a positive effect and people are feeling more comfortable coming forward."

According to Capt. John Riley, 633rd ABW Sexual Assault Prevention and Response deputy coordinator, "We're not stopping there. We plan to keep the conversation going."

*With special thanks to
Sr.A Teresa Aber
633rd Air Base Wing Public Affairs*

► TRENDING...

"If sequestration is fully implemented over the next 10 years, it will be a struggle to meet tomorrow's challenges. [The Air Force will be forced to cut thousands of total force Airmen and hundreds of platforms,](#)" said [Lt. Gen. Michael Moeller](#). The Air Force deputy chief of staff for strategic plans and programs testified October 23, on the significant impacts of the continuing resolution and sequestration to the House Armed Services Committee's Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces.

► RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Airman magazine

<http://airman.dodlive.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

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Leaders advise against merging Guard, Reserve](#)

Air Force Reserve leaders told members of the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force that merging the Air Force Reserve with the Air National Guard would create little value and cause numerous adverse impacts - detracting from the broader goal of improving the Air Force structure.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Final clause in cadet Honor Oath made optional](#)

After reviewing the cadet Honor Oath, and in the spirit of determining a way ahead that enables all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy has decided to make the final clause optional.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Military parenting website assists communication](#)

Service members who deploy or are otherwise separated from their families due to mission needs now have an online resource allowing them to hone their parenting skills as they reconnect with their children.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit

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

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► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

Oct. 31, 1972 - The Air Force inactivated the last BOMARC surface-to-air missile squadron, the 22d Air Defense Missile Squadron, at Langley AFB, Va.

Nov. 1, 1998 - The FAA waiver allowed the pilotless Global Hawk UAV to fly within the National Airspace System, or outside of dedicated military airspace, during its remaining test program.

Nov. 2, 1944 - On a mission over Merseberg, Germany, a bomber sustained three hits from anti-aircraft shells, and the wounded navigator, Lt. Robert E. Femoyer, refused morphine, keeping his head clear so he could direct his plane out of danger. For over two hours, he navigated his lone bomber away from flak. Only when he reached the English Channel did he agree to take a sedative. He died after the plane landed in England. For his sacrifice, [Femoyer received the Medal of Honor](#).

Nov. 3, 1969 - Air Force leaders asked airframe and engine manufacturers to submit proposals on the full scale engineering development of an Advanced Manned Strategic Aircraft, or B-1.

Nov. 4, 1950 - B-26s provided close support for the Eighth Army during the Korean War near Chongju, killing an estimated 500 enemy soldiers to relieve the hard-pressed U.S. troops.

Nov. 5, 1984 - Tactical Air Command received its first F-16C/D Fighting Falcon at Luke AFB, Ariz.

Nov. 6, 1909 - The French government awarded Wilbur and Orville the Legion of Honor Cross at its New York consulate.