

Commander's Call Topics



Feb. 21, 2013

"The very essence of leadership is [that] you have to have a vision. It's got to be a vision you articulate clearly and forcefully on every occasion. You can't blow an uncertain trumpet."

Theodore M. Hesburgh, S.J.
Educator

*Also in this issue...
Cultivating a habit of saving
with the help of a program
just for the military. Please
see Page 2...*

History Happens at the Intersection of the U.S. Military and the American Red Cross

March is Red Cross Month, and the history connecting the American Red Cross and the U. S. military is strong and deep.

Mostly, we think of the Red Cross alleviating human suffering after the fact—post-hurricane relief, providing aid to thousands of families after an earthquake, responding to the terrorist attacks of September 11th. And while no one can fault this unique and necessary outpouring, it's the pro-active quality of the Red Cross that establishes it as a world-class partner with the military. Its World War I actions serve as a good example: The Red Cross "Mercy Ship" sailed to Europe with medical staff and supplies following the outbreak of World War I. The Red Cross held the first War Fund drive, and in a single week it surpassed its goal of raising \$100 million. Seeing a healthcare need to be fulfilled, the organization introduced medical social work in servicemen's hospital; they also initiated a nurses' aide training program to make up for nurse shortages during wartime.

During World War II, the Red Cross was just as proactively impressive, ready to jump into service hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and willing to die in service to humanity. During the Korean Conflict the Red Cross became the blood collection agency for the military, and aided in the exchange of nearly 90,000 POWs immediately following the war. In 1962, the Red Cross sent the first of its field directors, hospital personnel and recreation workers who would log more than two million miles in jeeps, trucks and helicopters over a seven-year period.

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► TRENDING ...

"I can assure you that, if we have to implement furloughs, all affected employees will be provided at least 30 days' notice prior to executing a furlough, and your benefits will be protected to the maximum extent possible," -- Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta in a memo to all DoD employees concerning the threat of sequestration.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Welsh: Sequestration will 'undermine' readiness](#)

During his opening remarks, the chief of staff of the Air Force stressed the severity of the current fiscal situation.

[2012 climate survey shows overall satisfaction with jobs, leaders](#)

More than 163,000 Airmen voiced their opinions in the online Air Force Climate Survey conducted May 11 - June 22, with results indicating Airmen are satisfied with unit performance and trust their leaders, Air Force Personnel Center officials said today.

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► 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

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

Air Force Safety Center

www.afsec.af.mil

Saving Equals Survival, Wealth Equals Living

In order to survive, we must save money, reduce debt and build wealth. That is the single most compelling message of Military Saves Week 2013 observed Feb. 25 to March 2 and coincides with the national-level America Saves campaign.

Since 2003 Money Saves has been the social marketing arm of a Department of Defense financial readiness campaign to persuade, motivate and encourage military families to save money every month and to convince leaders and organizations to aggressively promote automatic savings.

Military Saves provides savings-themed resources throughout the year. Leaders are encouraged to go to the Military Saves website (<http://www.militarysaves.org/>) and make the Military Saves on-line pledge. Further, as they receive money-saving tips via email or social media, leaders can convey the importance saving to their Airmen, civilian employees and family members. Programs to reinforce financial readiness are available at Airman and Family Readiness Centers worldwide.

Getting started is often the hardest part, and this year's campaign is an opportunity to encourage military and civilian members to begin a life-long path of financial planning, saving and debt reduction. It's also an ideal opportunity to promote the government's Thrift Savings Program and encourage members to enroll or, if already enrolled, to consider increasing automatic contributions. The TSP offers both Traditional and ROTH retirement savings options and the government provides a matching contribution.

Survival is important, so is living life to the fullest. A systematic approach to saving and building wealth enables Airmen and family members to build the financial-footing it takes overcome rainy days and make life-long dreams come true. Support Military Saves Feb. 25 to March 2 and throughout the year!

Tom Budzyna

Senior Editor/Writer, Air Force Production

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

Feb. 21, 2001 - An RQ-1 Predator fired a Hellfire missile at a tank at Nellis AFB, Nev. It became the first unmanned aerial vehicle to destroy a ground target in the test.

Feb. 22, 1977 - The Carter Administration ended Minuteman III production.

Feb. 23, 1912 - War Department Bulletin No. 2 established a "Military Aviator" rating.

Feb. 24, 1967 - Capt Hilliard A. Wilbanks would later receive the Medal of Honor for actions on this day. A1C John L. Levitow would go on to receive the Medal of Honor for actions on the same day in 1969.

Feb. 25, 1944 - Eighth and Fifteenth Air Forces bombed German aircraft factories in southern Germany. The Fifteenth launched 400 bombers, including 176 to Regensburg, to end "Big Week."

Feb. 26, 1980 - Pacific Air Forces hosted and participated in the first multinational exercise, RIMPAC 80, in Hawaiian waters. The exercise included Japanese forces.

Feb. 27, 1971 - The Air Force launched Operation Haylift in response to blizzards in Kansas. Aircrews dropped 35,000 bales of hay for 275,000 cattle stranded in deep snow. The American Humane Society provided the hay.

TRENDING *(Continued from Page 1)*

[If sequestration triggers, furloughs begin in late April](#)

If sequestration is triggered next week, unpaid furloughs for civilian Defense Department employees will start in late April, Pentagon officials said.

► **PERSONNEL ISSUES**

[SecDef announces Distinguished Warfare Medal](#)

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta has approved a new medal designed to recognize service members directly affecting combat operations who may not even be on the same continent as the action.

[AF splits space, missile career field for officers](#)

The Air Force has split the space and missile career field in an effort to ensure more focused development for officers performing these critical missions in increasingly complex operational environments, Air Force officials announced today.

► **FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY**

[Commentary: 'Domestic violence can't happen to me' -- yes it can](#)

Too many people believe that domestic violence can't happen to them. In fact, perhaps even you may be a member of that group.

[Medical wing, San Antonio hospital collaborate to hone AF nursing skills](#)

The Air Force partnered with a community hospital to develop highly-skilled nurses who are trained for humanitarian and peacetime missions.

Red Cross *(Continued from Page 1)*

During Operation Desert Storm and Operation Desert Shield the Red Cross provided emergency services, carried 215,000 emergency messages to and from the troops, and provided support and comfort. Bagram AB in Afghanistan was the headquarters for the Red Cross during Operation Enduring Freedom, providing emergency messaging to and from troops, a canteen and libraries. Operation Iraqi Freedom was the largest Red Cross deployment since Operation Desert Storm and Operation Desert Shield. Living and working in the same environment and conditions as the military, the Red Cross staff handled emergency messages, and distributed comforts kits, calling cards, blank greeting cards and personal care items.

Throughout its 134 years of service, the American Red Cross has aided and recovered those injured in battle, they have established and operated state-of-the-art emergency communications programs for military families to contact those who serve in times of peace and in times of war, and they have helped countless victims of war rebuild their lives. They have done all of this while providing post-disaster aid, initiating the program that provides for the early detection of HIV and Hepatitis C in blood, and spearheading a program to admit the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The American Red Cross has been an eyewitness to Americans' most historic events, never viewing them from the sidelines.

Martha J. Lockwood
Chief, AFPRO Information Products

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

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