

Commander's Call Topics



March 7, 2013

"Our job is to continue to provide at least some level of the Global Vigilance, Global Reach and Global Power America expects. The resource shortfall won't make it easy, but we'll get it done."

Gen. Mark A. Welsh, III
Air Force Chief of Staff

Also in this issue... What some bases are doing in the face of Sequestration... Please see page 3.

HOT Topic: Sequestration

From DoD to individual communities, Sequestration will make an impact

From the overall concerns addressed in the new Secretary of Defense's first press conference to the effects sequestration will have on our civilian workforce to long-term training and the effect on individual communities, below are links to keep you abreast of how sequestration will impact the Air Force.

The Department of Defense continues to adjust to the fiscal realities imposed by the severe budget cuts. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel [detailed the concerns](#) of the Pentagon leadership in his first press conference in that post: the imposition of arbitrary and abrupt cuts, and the inflexibility faced under the current continuing resolution, which guides government spending in the absence of an approved budget. The ultimate effect is that \$47 billion in cuts will be added to the \$487 billion in cuts defense agreed to under the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Subsequently, Secretary Hagel outlined the "particular pain" that will be felt by the 800,000 civilian workforce who will be [furloughed beginning in late April](#).

Late last month, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III told the House Appropriations Committee's defense subcommittee that combat units, which will curtail flying training starting in March, will "[drop below acceptable readiness levels...by mid-May](#)." A day later, Michael Moeller, the deputy chief of staff for strategic plans and programs, and Charles Davis, the military deputy, office of the secretary of the Air Force acquisitions, testified to the Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee of the House Armed Services explained how these [fiscal hardships have already impacted modernizing an aging fleet](#).

And yet, Air Force pride, ingenuity and action continue to inspire.

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► TRENDING...

"In view of this increased integration, as well as upcoming strategic shifts driven by post-Afghanistan reconstitution and the new Defense Strategic Guidance, the Air Force needs to undertake a comprehensive review of total force requirements and develop a strategic plan to ensure the Air Force correctly balances the strengths of each of the components to sustain the capabilities required in the years ahead," -- Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III in a memorandum about the new [task force](#).

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Service chiefs ask congress for fiscal help](#)

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert and Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James F. Amos testified about 2013 military construction March 5, before the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Military Construction and Veteran Affairs.

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► RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Airman magazine

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

Air Force Outreach

HO<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

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

March 7, 2003 - President George W. Bush issued an ultimatum giving Saddam Hussein and his sons 48 hours to leave Iraq.

March 8, 1944 - Eighth Air Force attacked Berlin with 623 bombers, escorted by 891 fighters.

March 9, 1955 - In an F-84F Thunderstreak, Lt Col Robert R. Scott set a 3-hour, 44-minute, 53-second record for the 2,446-mile flight from Los Angeles to New York.

March 10, 1967 - F-105 Thunderchiefs and F-4C Phantoms bombed the Thai Nguyen steel plant in North Vietnam for the first

time. At the time, Thai Nguyen was the only plant in Southeast Asia making bridge sections, barges, and drums for fuels and lubricants. While attacking the steel plant, Capt Merlyn Hans Dethlefsen used his severely damaged F-105 to silence enemy defenses, despite intense enemy ground fire and fighter attacks, to earn the Medal of Honor.

March 11, 1974 - The YF-16 attained Mach 2 for the first time in test flights at Edwards AFB.

March 12, 1980 - Through 14 March, two 410 BMW B-52Hs from K. I. Sawyer

AFB, Mich., flew nonstop, 19,353 nautical miles around the world in 42 hours 30 minutes, averaging 488 MPH. Majors William H. Thurston and John M. Durham commanded the flight from Offutt AFB, across Canada, the North Atlantic, Europe, the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean, the Strait of Malacca, the South China Sea, and back to Offutt. They earned the Mackay Trophy for the flight.

March 13, 1917 - The birth of Army air intelligence took place when Chief Signal Officer Brig Gen George O. Squier approved an intelligence subdivision office in the Aeronautical Division.

Time to Spring Forward

Daylight Saving Time (DST), the World War I effort to alleviate hardships from wartime coal shortages and air raid blackouts, takes effect Sunday morning, March 10th, at 2 A.M. Clocks move forward to 3 A.M. in an effort to provide daylight hours later in the day for retailing, sports and tourism. In the 1970s, DST was promoted as one of the solutions to alleviating the energy crisis.

Almost all of North America and Western Europe adopt DST annually; Russia has dropped the practice, altogether. Most of South America does not participate, nor do countries near the equator, since equatorial countries experience very little change in the number of hours of sunlight no matter what season.

DST clock shifts are not without their challenges. Scheduling between DST observers and those who don't is complicated. Billing, recordkeeping, transportation schedules, medical devices and sleep patterns are often disrupted. And in the age of the virtual face-to-face meeting via telecommunications, extra care in scheduling can pre-empt long silences at one end of the conversation or the other.

To find out who's participating in DST worldwide, timeanddate.com, a Norwegian company, tracks that and posts it on their website.

*Martha Lockwood
Chief, Information Products, AFPRO*

TRENDING *(Continued from Page 1)*

[USecAF nominee testifies before Senate committee](#)

Eric Fanning testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee Feb. 28 during his confirmation hearing to be the next undersecretary of the Air Force. Fanning, who has been in his current position as deputy undersecretary of the Navy since June 2009, answered questions from members of the Senate Armed Services Committee about acquisition programs, cyber security, sequestration and budget, sexual assault prevention and response, and other areas.

► **PERSONNEL ISSUES**

[MilPDS upgrade begins](#)

The Military Personnel Data System will be offline for 23 days, as of March 4, to allow the Air Force Personnel Operations Agency to upgrade and transfer military personnel data to the Defense Information Systems Agency Defense Enterprise Computing Center, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

[President nominates 1st female Air Force Academy superintendent](#)

The president of the United States nominated Maj. Gen. Michelle Johnson for the appointment to the rank of lieutenant general and for assignment to serve as Air Force Academy's 19th superintendent.

► **FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY**

[Sequestration to affect DOD schools, commissaries](#)

Civilian personnel at Department of Defense Education Activity schools and the Defense Commissary Agency will be affected by sequestration, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said March 4. The Defense department will struggle to ensure DODEA -- which serves 84,000 students at 194 schools -- maintains an accredited school year while DOD teachers will be subject to furlough.

► **ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY**

[F-35s cleared to resume flight](#)

F-35 Lightning IIs were cleared for flight Feb. 28, following a temporary suspension after a .06-inch crack was discovered in a third-stage turbine blade in a test aircraft at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Feb. 19. A thorough series of tests on the blade concluded prolonged exposure to high-heat levels and other operational stressors on the engine were contributing factors.

[Reserve activates cyberspace operations group](#)

Air Force Reserve Command activated the first cyberspace operations group in the Air Force March 1. The newly activated 960th Cyberspace Operations Group is charged with providing combat-ready forces with specialized expertise in the operation and defense of Air Force and Defense Department global information grids.

HOT Topic - Sequestration *(Continued from Page 1)*

In a [March 1st email to all Airmen](#), Gen. Welsh acknowledged the expected cuts and shortages, and he promised that "we'll hang together and get through this." Gen. Welsh also recognized the importance of individual effort and gave examples of Airmen whom he recently observed thriving in some tough environments. And he wrote of his certainty that "we can all get through the turmoil....You do the impossible every day; you'll keep us on track during this tough time."

Actions at Aviano Air Base, Italy, are [exemplary of preparations taken on many bases to mitigate the effects of tighter budgets](#): civilian hiring freezes (in addition to the required furloughs), putting on hold work orders and construction projects that are not mission critical, and restricting flying time and training.

Scott Air Force Base, Ill., is [responding to reduced flying hours and impacts from civilian furloughs](#) by closing the airfield during non-peak hours, instead of operating 24/7, among other accommodations.

Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., which supports about 21,000 Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, retirees, and civilian employees and their families, has posted a [Sequestration Fact Sheet](#) to their website, providing general information, furlough guidance, current ACC status and actions, and other Sequestration news.

The mandatory reduction in federal budget resources affects all budgets that have not been exempted by statute, impacting schools, commissaries and all aspects of military and civilian life. How is it affecting you, and what are you doing to respond effectively? [Let us know](#).

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

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