

# Commander's Call Topics



April 4, 2013

*"Tell me to what you pay attention and I will tell you who you are."*

Jose Ortega y Gasset (183-1955)  
Spanish philosopher

*There's help  
for victims of sexual assault  
[here.](#)*

## Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Is a Core Value

Shining a bright light on a problem is the first step in defining its solution, and sexual assault awareness and prevention is in the spotlight this month at all levels.

Nationally, in a Proclamation issued by the White House last week proclaiming April as National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention month, the president noted that in the last two decades the nation has made "meaningful progress toward addressing sexual assault."

But the Commander-in-Chief didn't stop there. He called special attention to the military where incidents of sexual assault often go unreported: "Just as we keep fighting sexual assault in our neighborhoods, we must also recommit to ending it in our military -- because no one serving our country should be at risk of assault by a fellow service member. Where this crime does take place, it cannot be tolerated; victims must have access to support, and offenders must face the consequences of their actions. Members of our Armed Forces and their families can learn more about the resources available to them at 1-877-995-5247 and [www.SafeHelpline.org](http://www.SafeHelpline.org)."

Earlier this week, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel re-emphasized the message that stopping sexual assault and supporting victims is everyone's responsibility with this message: "We own it ... we'll solve it ... together."

"Together we must work every day to instill a climate that does not tolerate or ignore sexist behavior,

sexual harassment, or sexual assault," he continued. "These have no place in the United States military and violate everything we stand for and the values we defend. Creating a culture free of the scourge of sexual assault requires establishing an environment where dignity and respect is afforded to all, and where diversity is celebrated as one of our greatest assets as a force."

Bringing the focus even closer, on the Air Force web page reinforcing the Air Force's commitment to eliminate incidence of sexual assault and support victims, [Sexual Assault and Response Program](#), Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, Air Force Chief of Staff, emphasizes "Sexual assault has no place in our Air Force. We live in a culture of respect. We cherish our core values of integrity, service, and excellence. But in order to ensure all Airmen experience and benefit from those values, we must eliminate sexual assault in our ranks."

At the personal level, it's obvious that eliminating sexual assault is not defined by a month, nor is it purged by a Presidential Proclamation or a web page, no matter how important each of those elements is. At the personal level sexual assault as a primal non-starter can be found in the words of every Airman on his or her first day in the service, the words of the Airman's Creed declaring "... I am faithful to a proud heritage, a tradition of honor, and a legacy of valor."

*Martha Lockwood  
Chief, Information Products, AFPRO*

### ► TRENDING ...

"Our alliances and partnerships bring with them years of mutual trust and respect, significant interoperability, and information sharing -- all of which build multilateral relationships and underpin [security and prosperity in the region.](#)" -- Deputy Undersecretary of the Air Force, International Affairs, [Heidi Grant](#), at the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition 2013 at Langkawi Island, Malaysia, as part of ongoing efforts to build relationships in the Asia-Pacific region,

### ► CURRENT ISSUES

[U.S. seeks 'peace and stability' on Korean Peninsula](#)

The U.S. will continue to conduct military exercises such as Foal Eagle 2013 with South Korea as part of its commitment to that nation and its desire to maintain peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the region, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said.

## ► 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](http://www.usajobs.com)

[www.nafjobs.org](http://www.nafjobs.org)

### **Air Force Association Scholarships**

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

### **Air Force Safety Center**

[www.afsec.af.mil](http://www.afsec.af.mil)

## ► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

**April 4, 1944** - Fifteenth Air Force conducted the first American bombing raid on Bucharest, Romania.

**April 5, 1958** - An Atlas ICBM flew from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla., to an impact area some 600 miles away.

**April 6, 1980** - The first air refueled C-141B mission flew from Beale AFB, Calif., to RAF Mildenhall, England.

An aircrew assigned to the 443rd MAW made the flight in 11 hours 12 minutes with one refueling.

**April 7, 1999** - The Air Force and DARPA selected Boeing to build two unmanned combat air vehicles for testing at the Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards AFB.

**April 8, 1918** - The 1st Aero Squadron, I Corps, was the first American squadron assigned to the front in World War I.

### [PACAF, Japan Airmen conduct ISR exchange](#)

Pacific Air Forces' Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Airmen visited their Japanese counterparts at Naha and Kadena Air Base, Japan March 11 to 13 to find new ways to enhance ISR bilateral cooperation between the U.S. Air Force and the Koku-jieitai, or Japan Air Self Defense Force.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [SecDef says furlough days reduced for civilians](#)

The Defense Department has revised from 22 to 14 the number of days hundreds of thousands of civilian employees could be furloughed this year because of the budget sequester, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced.

## ► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

### [Air Force reservists and retirees eligible for TRICARE healthcare programs](#)

TRICARE has affordable healthcare programs available for all Air Force Reserve retirees - including "gray-area retirees" and actively-participating Air Force reservists, no matter what orders they are on.

## ► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

### [Space mission continues despite restructure](#)

Critical Air Force missions continue from their current locations after today's restructure of Air Force Space Command's Space Innovation and Development Center at Schriever AFB, Colo.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit

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

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**April 9, 1997** - Lockheed-Martin and Boeing rolled out the F-22 at its Marietta plant.

**April 10, 1974** - C-130 Hercules aircraft, crews, and communicators supported Operation Nimbus Star to sweep the Suez Canal free of mines and other obstacles to navigation.