

# Commander's Call Topics



April 11, 2013

*"I do not know anyone who got to the top without hard work. That is the recipe. It will not always get you to the top, but should get you pretty near."*

Margaret Thatcher (1925-2013)  
Prime Minister of Great Britain (1979-1990)

*Tuition Assistance restarts with same benefits.*

*More information [here](#).*

## The Month of the Military Child Highlights Benefits That Last All Year

In an April 8 post on the White House blog, Dr. Jill Biden, wife of the vice president, noted that April, the Month of the Military Child, "gives us the opportunity to celebrate our nation's youngest heroes—the children whose parents serve in our Armed Forces."

Ever an educator, Dr. Biden noted that there is a much-needed raised awareness and understanding about how to help the military child in the classroom. Through the combined forces of the [American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education \(AACTE\)](#) and the [Military Child Education Coalition \(MCEC\)](#), more than 100 colleges have committed to educating the educators to be more responsive to the social, emotional and academic needs of children in military families.

Military children are often "passively volunteered" to serve their country: They move and change schools three times as often as their civilian-family classmates. Parental deployments pose another set of challenges as the children face birthdays and holidays without one parent or both, and often become preoccupied with that parent's safe return. Family transitions, reintegration, and the eventual return of the deployed parent—who may or may not be profoundly different—have unique impacts. Often the youngsters find they must face a situation with wisdom and caring far beyond their years.

"Selfless" doesn't begin to describe them. They are resilient. They are self-sacrificing. They are remarkable.

Today there are nearly two million Americans under the age of 18 who have parent serving in the military. Approximately 900,000 Americans have experienced the deployment of one or both parents multiple times. Put another way, if there was a "City of the Military Child," the population would equal that of Houston's.

While the world focuses on The Military Child in April, the Air Force offers resources year-round. At the [Military One Spot](#) website there is page for Children, Youth & Teens providing age-appropriate information on topics ranging from child care to changing schools to summer camp. This month, there is a separate page that focuses on the [Military Child](#). Again, the topics vary, from caring for an exceptional child to moving to help with parenting situations unique to military families. A link to a [directory of installations](#) lists Family Center Offices and a wealth of information on all things related to Family Members.

At a granular level, [Adventures of a Military Child](#) is a blog that personifies the military child and allows a glimpse into their life in a way that no one else could.

This month's special focus on "The Military Child" underscores for the rest of the world what military parents, teachers and youth leaders understand intrinsically: In so many ways, these youngsters are the future of America, and it never looked better.

*Martha Lockwood  
Chief, Information Products, AFPRO*

### ► TRENDING ...

*"Military tuition assistance will be the same program Airmen are used to," -- Russell Frasz, the director of Force Development, speaking about the Air Force's decision to officially [restarted military tuition assistance, effective immediately](#).*

## ► 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 11, 1918** - The 1st Aero Squadron, I Corps Observation Group, equipped with bi-place Spads, made the first U.S. observation patrol over enemy lines in World War I.

**April 12 1966** – Strategic Air Command B-52s hit targets in North Vietnam for the first time, when they attacked a supply route in the Mu Gia Pass, 85 miles north of the border.

**April 13, 1925** - Henry Ford started airplane freight operations between Detroit, Mich., and Chicago. This was the first regularly scheduled commercial freight operation in the U.S.

**April 14, 1970** - The Minuteman III deployment in North Dakota began when Minot AFB accepted its first missile. It arrived on board a C-141 in a flight from Hill AFB, Utah, in the first airlift of an operational Minuteman III.

**April 15, 1972** - The last F-100 Super Sabre left USAFE.

**April 16, 1969** - The first Minuteman II operational test launch was unsuccessful.

**April 17, 1989** - Lockheed delivered the 50th and last C-5B Galaxy transport to the Air Force.

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### [Air Combat Command stands down units due to budget cuts](#)

Air Force officials will begin to stand down active-duty combat units starting April 9 to ensure the remaining units supporting worldwide operations can maintain sufficient readiness through the remainder of the fiscal year.

### [DOD releases FY 14 defense budget proposal](#)

President Barack Obama today sent to Congress a proposed defense budget of \$526.6 billion in discretionary budget authority to fund defense programs in the base budget for fiscal year (FY) 2014.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [DEERS streamlined for better efficiency](#)

A modification in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System is expected to streamline personnel records for better efficiency, the director of the Defense Manpower Data Center said.

## ► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

### [New resources promote fitness culture](#)

To help improve Total Force fitness levels, Air Force Personnel Center officials are fielding new fitness resources accessible online, in person or on DVD.

## ► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

### [Cyber Airman-development strategically critical to the nation](#)

Cyber Airman development became the focus of discussion at Cyber 1.3 in Colorado Springs April 8, as Chief Master Sgt. Linus Jordan, command chief, Air Force Space Command, addressed space and cyber industry leaders at the conference prior to official opening of the 29th National Space Symposium.

*For more information on Air Force heritage, visit*

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

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