

# Commander's Call Topics



April 25, 2013

*"Leadership is solving problems. The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership."*

Retired Army Gen. Colin L. Powell  
(Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 1989-93)

*Also in this issue...Sequestration's effect on force readiness. Please see [Current Issues, page 2](#)....*

## Child Abuse Prevention: Bases Put Personal Touch to Sensitive Issues

As we begin to wrap up child abuse prevention month in the Air Force it's easy to get caught up in numbers and statistics that show how pervasive physical and emotional abuse of our children has become. But this past month, there were many Air Force bases around the globe that put their own spin on child abuse awareness and have made the month much more than simply a month to become "aware."

At MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., the base Family Advocacy Program has launched a [New Parent Program](#) that hosted a lunch brown bag series that discussed issues ranging from toddler toilet training to how to deal with tantrums and single parenting (moms wearing combat boots). A similar program at Fairchild AFB in Spokane, Wash., promotes year-around efforts that teaches young parents everything from baby feeding to providing water babies classes and even extends the month to include a basics course for dads during the month of May. Their sentiments are that "it takes a village to raise a child" and shows through various programs that it's much more than just a quotable quote.

At Seymour Johnson AFB in Goldsboro, N.C., the base has partnered with the city of Goldsboro to, not only get involved with the city's official proclamation, but put teeth into [child abuse prevention and education](#). One such class, "a child lures," stresses street safety and provides 16 strategies abductors use to lure children away from their caregivers.

Ellsworth AFB, S.D., puts more of an Air Force specific spin to their program and looks at the common factors facing families overwhelmed by military-specific issues such as lengthy deployments, financial issues and others that contribute to life stresses. [Their New Parent Support Program](#) allows teams to visit families about to have a child or who have a child under the age of 3 and educate them on child development and military-related stressors.

At Tyndall AFB in the Florida panhandle, the base has partnered with the Panama City Beach Fire Rescue to provide [car seat safety checks](#). Automobile accidents are the number one killer of children between the ages of one to 12.

At most bases throughout the Air Force, family advocacy programs highlight the month with educational tips on how to deal with such issues as neglect, physical and emotional abuse and shaken baby syndrome and the symptoms behind them. Many other family advocacy managers posted first person accounts as counselors or in some cases as victims of child abuse, providing tips or shattering myths. Whatever the method, bases throughout the Air Force have made the month much more than simply a theme to check off their list.

*Rich Lamance  
Chief, Air Force News, AFPRO*

### ► TRENDING ...

*"Air-to-air combat, suppression of enemy defenses [and] operations in a contested air environment have not gotten the attention they deserve, and [readiness has declined](#) in that respect," -- Air Force Secretary [Michael B. Donley](#) on the Air Force's state of readiness and modernization.*

## ► 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 25, 1944** - Flying a Sikorsky YR-4 helicopter, Lt Carter Harman, 1st Air Commando Group, rescued four men from the jungle in Burma, the first combat rescue by helicopter in the US AAF.

**April 26, 1952** - In air-to-air operations, Maj. William H. Wescott, 51st Fighter-Interceptor Group, destroyed his fifth MiG in four weeks, becoming the Korean War's twelfth ace.

**April 27, 1963** - A Titan II, launched from an underground silo at Vandenberg AFB, made the first successful flight of intercontinental range.

**April 28, 1993** - SECDEF Les Aspin announced that women would be allowed to serve in combat roles. This policy change allowed female pilots to fly USAF combat aircraft.

**April 29, 1918** - Lt Edward V. Rickenbacker, the leading American ace of World War I, downed his first aircraft.

**April 30, 1999** - The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards AFB unveiled the X-34, a technology demonstrator for a reusable space launch vehicle.

**May 1, 2001** - The Space Shuttle Endeavour landed at Edwards AFB after a mission to the International Space Station to deliver a robotic arm, a multipurpose logistics module, and an UHF antenna. Germany, via Gander, Newfoundland and Shannon, Ireland.

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### [Sequestration will affect force readiness](#)

The four branches of the military delivered another warning to Congress that a prolonged budget sequester will significantly affect military readiness, and could leave the services unable to carry out defense strategy.

### [General, wife die in private plane crash](#)

Maj. Gen. Joseph D. Brown IV and his wife, Sue S. Brown, were killed April 19, when the Cessna 210 he was piloting crashed in Williamsburg, Va. General Brown has been the commandant of The Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy in Washington D.C. since October 2010.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [SecAF discusses Airmen morale](#)

Deployed airmen are ready and motivated, but those based in the United States face fiscal challenges that sap morale, Air Force Secretary Michael B. Donley said here today.

## ► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

### [VA expedites decisions for long-standing claims](#)

The Veterans Affairs Department is expediting compensation claims decisions for veterans who have waited one year or longer, VA officials announced today.

## ► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

### [EPA recognizes Air Force renewable energy efforts](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Top 50 list of Green Power Partners released this month ranks the Air Force number one in the Department of Defense and number two in the federal government for its purchase and on-site production of green power.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit

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

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