

Commander's Call Topics



May 16, 2013

"The supreme quality of leadership is integrity."

Dwight D. Eisenhower
34th President of the United States

[Retrain, re-credential
and rescreen....](#)

Please see page 2.

Armed Forces Day 2013 Celebrates Excellence

Armed Forces Day is Saturday, May 18th this year, and like the 63 Armed Forces Days before, it focuses our attention on the military's dignity, honor, courage and dedication. It brings to mind the tradition of freedom and security that would only be obvious in its absence. Military service is, in many ways, a calling unto itself, where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, individuals who exemplify strength of character and who stand united in their love for their country.

Yet, these patriots, for all their dedication, are not only service members. The members of the armed forces are also spouses, partners, parents, daughters, sons, and best friends. These loyal service members receive love and respect from those they hold most dear as they protect the inalienable rights of all, known and unknown to them. These warriors may return home unscathed by foreign conflict, or they may show no outward scars of war while working through the darkness of trauma. They may return so battered and wounded that the strongest will and best physical therapy can return them only to near-normal in body, although they remain unrelentingly undaunted in spirit. Or they may return not at all, having made the ultimate sacrifice for the country they love and its citizens.

This is why there is a need for a single day called Armed Forces Day.

In years past, there have been concerts, parades, wreath-laying ceremonies and other traditional observances on the third Saturday of May, the regularly-observed Armed Forces Day. And there will be those this year, as well.

The paradox, this year, however, is that while more troops than in recent years are returning home and the celebrations might have been just a bit more joyous and a bit more proud, spending cutbacks, from the local to the federal level, restrict the more traditional ways America will show their respect. Some localities will not be able to host a parade. Some counties will select a single site for a wreath-laying, though in years past there were multiple sites. And there will be no Armed Forces Day Air Show at Joint Base Andrews, Md.

Going beyond a single-day celebration of patriotism, the "Show Schedule" page of the [Thunderbirds website](#) displays a blank calendar and the explanation that cuts in federal spending have curtailed the 2013 show season. However, on that same calendar page is the following statement of Air Force pride that reminds us of shows gone by and projects the promise of more to come:

"The Thunderbirds have the privilege and responsibility to perform for people all around the world, displaying the pride, precision and professionalism of American Airmen. In every hour-long demonstration, the team combines years of training and experience with an attitude of excellence to showcase what the Air Force is all about."

So, this year, we have the opportunity to honor that "attitude of excellence" as we observe Armed Forces Day—just as joyous, just as proud—in a more sequestered way.

*Martha J. Lockwood
Chief, AFPRO Information Products*

► TRENDING ...

"While the Air Force and Department of Defense have made every effort to minimize impacts to readiness and people, the resource choices we have available are now very limited, and we've reached the point where we simply can't avoid furloughs," – From a statement by Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh III explaining that [only half of the 22 days originally envisioned as temporary layoffs will now be necessary.](#)

► 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

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Hagel orders retraining of recruiters, sexual assault responders](#)

Amid a spate of allegations of criminal behavior by military recruiters and service members involved in the Defense Department's efforts to prevent sexual assaults and help that crime's victims, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has ordered the services to retrain, re-credential and rescreen all sexual assault prevention and response personnel and military recruiters.

[Stratcom Chief: Minot AFB case shows integrity of nuclear enterprise](#)

The Air Force's aggressive response when missile-launch crews at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., fell short of established standards during an inspection in March underscores the integrity of the nuclear weapons program, the commander of U.S. Strategic Command told Congress May 9.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Beneficiaries must sign up for TRICARE automatic payment by May 31](#)

Beneficiaries enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select or TRICARE Retired Reserve who pay monthly premiums by check must switch to an electronic form of payment by May 31 to avoid losing coverage.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Royalty visits Academy, provides awareness for Warrior Games](#)

British royalty was on hand to kick off Warrior Games and to have a bit of fun with cadets May 12.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[GPS IIF-4 successfully launched from Cape Canaveral](#)

A U.S. Air Force Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite built by Boeing was successfully launched May 15.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit

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

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► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

May 16, 1940—President Roosevelt asked for the production of 50,000 planes a year.

May 17, 1998—An Air Force Flight Test Center pilot, Lt. Col. Steven M. Rainey, became the first Air Force pilot to fly the F-22 *Raptor*.

May 18, 1953—Jacqueline Cochran, flying a Canadian-built F-86 Sabre at Edwards AFB, Calif., became the first woman to fly faster than sound. She averaged 652,337 mph on a 100-

kilometer closed-course to earn the women's jet speed record.

May 19, 1961—First Titan I arrived at Lowry AFB, Colo.

May 20, 1970—An FB-111 launched a short-range attack missile successfully for the first time at the White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

May 21, 1927—Charles A. Lindbergh, a captain in the Missouri National

Guard's 110th Observation Squadron, landed his Ryan Monoplane, the "Spirit of St. Louis," in Paris after the first nonstop solo flight across the Atlantic. He set a 3,609-mile FAI record for straight-line distance in his 33-hour, 39-minute flight. For this feat, President Calvin Coolidge presented Capt. Lindbergh with a Medal of Honor.

May 22, 1941—The Curtiss Hawk 87A Warhawk first flew.