

Commander's Call Topics



June 20, 2013

"The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office."

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969)
Thirty-fourth President of the United States

The Dangerous Days of Summer
are upon us.
Find out more about
[food safety](#)
before you pack your picnic basket.

Air Power Was the Decisive Element of the Korean Conflict

War tactics were forever changed by the Korean War (1950-53), and the strategic initiative and innovation of the Air Force led the way.

On June 25, 1950, the Korean War began, and it was during the Korean conflict that the newly formed Air Force was called on to participate—indeed innovate—with little preparation and almost no precedent. Even though it was the first war for the newly independent U.S. Air Force, it was also the first war in which the United States used jet aircraft and showed the superiority of equipment and personnel. Not only did the Air Force's F-86 Sabre jets best the Soviet-built MiG-15s, the U.S.-trained pilots were better prepared for combat, and their tactical approach was better thought out.

The twentieth century had already seen two destructive and costly global wars. Towards the end of World War II, Allied summits decided the future of the Japanese empire, some say, by leveraging the future independence of the Korean peninsula. Although only intended as a short-term, pre-independence arrangement, Korea, a Japanese colony since 1910, was to be occupied north of the 38th parallel by Soviet Russia; to the south, the United States. However, war-impooverished Russia viewed this as an opportunity to rebuild its economy, and the newly created and Russian-equipped North Korean Peoples' Army, headed south to capture the important port of Pusan and natural resources of coal, lead, tungsten, and iron ore.

Even though the Air Force faced a conflict that was almost entirely tactical in nature, limiting how and where airpower could be applied, this newest armed service had

learned its lessons well during World War II and knew the strategic role it played in attacking an enemy's homeland.

By mid-1951, the land battle was in a stalemate, and both sides agreed to armistice talks, which dragged on for two years. The main haggling point was the future of the tens of thousands of communist prisoners: Communist negotiators demanded their return to their country of origin. Yet, thousands of prisoners were not willing to be repatriated. Finally, in July 1953, a formula granting repatriation and asylum for prisoners of war was worked out, a demilitarized zone (DMZ) was established extending two meters either side of the 38th parallel, and a United Nations Commission was set up to supervise the armistice.

The USAF suffered 1,841 battle casualties, of which 1,180 were killed in action. Hostile action and other causes resulted in the loss of 1,466 aircraft. The Korean War was the last (and only) time large numbers of piston-engine and jet-engine aircraft engaged in war simultaneously. It was also the last major war of the US without some space support.

With the end of fighting in Korea, the newly inaugurated President Eisenhower called for a greater reliance on nuclear weapons and air power to deter war. This resulted in a strategic investment in the Air Force. The nuclear arms race had shifted into high gear, and the Air Force retired nearly all of its propeller-driven B-29s and B-50s. They were replaced by the B-47 Stratojet. By 1955, the B-52 Stratofortress was being ordered in huge supply, and the prop-driven B-36s were being rapidly phased out of heavy bombardment units.

Innovation and initiative combined to form the hallmark of the U.S. Air Force and the strategy of war forever.

► TRENDING ...

"We can't just all of a sudden accelerate training and catch up. [It costs up to 2 1/2 times as much to retrain a squadron as it does to keep it trained.](#)"— Sequestration has hit the Air Force hard, said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III.

► 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

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

June 20, 1930 - The Army Air Corps dedicated Randolph Field in San Antonio as its West Point of the Air for primary and basic pilot training.

June 21, 1972 - The McDonnell Douglas DC10-30 first flew.

June 22, 1943 - Eighth Air Force bombed Germany's Ruhr industrial area for the first time, hitting the chemical works and synthetic rubber

at Huls so severely that it could not resume full production for six months.

June 23, 1952 – (through June 24) combined air attacks by the Air Force, Navy, and Marines nearly destroyed the electric power potential of North Korea.

June 24, 1963 - SAC accepted the first flight of 10 Minuteman I (Model B) missiles at Ellsworth AFB with the 66 SMS.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[SecAF farewell ceremony set for June 21](#)

Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley will be honored during a ceremony June 21 at 1 p.m., at Joint Base Andrews, Md.

[Website allows units to claim repurposed supplies, save money](#)

Units in U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa now have the ability to obtain equipment and supplies for free through the command's Business Transformation Office Airmen's List SharePoint site.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[AF updates CJR constrained list, remaining fiscal year quotas](#)

Air Force officials have updated the career job reservation constrained list and released remaining fiscal 2013 quotas for career fields on the list, as well.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[NASA selects Airman for 2013 astronaut candidate class](#)

NASA officials selected an Airman as one of the eight military and civilian candidates to become an astronaut trainee.

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

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June 25, 1996 - Terrorists bombed Khobar Towers near King Abdul-Aziz AB, Saudi Arabia, killing 19 Air Force personnel and injuring 300 others. It was the worst terrorist attack against American military personnel since the 1983 bombing of a US Marine barracks in Lebanon. USAF personnel were in Saudi Arabia to support Operation Southern Watch.

June 26, 1942 - The F6F Hellcat first flew.