

Commander's Call Topics



April 10, 2014

"Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen volunteer to protect and defend this country and all its citizens, and do so with honor, integrity and excellence. Our nation continually asks them to do more and more, with less and less."

Allen West
American Politician
(b. 1961)

It's [National Child Abuse Prevention Month](#).

Need help?

Know a child who does?

Call 1-800-4-A-CHILD

'Volunteer Week' helps Airmen make a difference

In an Airman's enlisted performance report, block 2. Standards, Conduct, Character & Military Bearing, volunteer duty, both on and off base, is an important part of an Airman's overall performance. But with 10 to 12-hour days spent focusing on the mission, finding the right volunteer opportunity and the time to set aside performing volunteer service is often an almost impossible task. A big question on the minds of many Airmen is "where do I go to volunteer and how can I make a difference at my base or in my community?"

April is Military Volunteer Month when those in service to their country are encouraged to engage in the betterment of others through unpaid service. Specifically, April 6 – 12 is National Volunteer Week, so named by the [Points of Light Foundation](#), recognizing those who seek to help others. Thousands of volunteer projects and special events are planned for this week, and Americans everywhere are getting involved.

One organizations that can help with matching volunteers with groups in need is [Volunteer Match](#) providing thousands of opportunities in hundreds of communities. But finding opportunities specifically for Airmen and their families to reach out to one another has been difficult until now.

Now the [National Military Family Association](#) is the best hope for military-to-military volunteer opportunities. The National Military Family Association Volunteer Corps supports currently serving families with a volunteer cadre of service members, spouses, parents, retirees, survivors, veterans and concerned citizens whose volunteer activities strengthen and protect military families. The volunteer opportunities—advocacy, information dissemination in local communities, shepherding applications through the various association programs, kids camps, family retreats, assisting spouses as they navigate the many adventures of military life, among other volunteer opportunities—are varied and satisfying.

For military members who would like to give their time to projects closer to home, almost every base or BRAC entity has a volunteer coordinator who promotes unpaid partnerships between military personnel with base-related needs. Opportunities vary by location, and can range from one-day clean-up campaigns to multi-year literacy programs. The volunteer coordinator can usually be found through the search function on the individual base website.

Volunteerism isn't just about giving of oneself. Volunteerism has its own rewards. If one volunteers close to home or on base, there's the satisfaction of seeing the fruition of one's efforts right there in the community. Volunteering for a cause makes a strong commitment to good outcomes for others. Volunteerism also provides hands-on opportunities to learn a skill and to grow in understanding through active involvement.

It's the ultimate "gain by giving." And National Volunteer Week is just the beginning.



► TRENDING...

"We've come a long way the last sixty years. We have established ourselves as a leader alongside the other military service academies, and among the best universities in the nation," said [Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson](#), Academy superintendent, celebrating the [Air Force Academy's 60th anniversary](#).

► RESOURCES

Website access to the following resources can be gained by clicking on the name.

[AF.mil](#)

[Airman magazine](#)

[Military OneSource/HomeFront](#)

[Air Force Personnel Center](#)

[Air Reserve Personnel Center](#)

[Department of Defense News](#)

[Department of Veteran Affairs](#)

[TRICARE](#)

[U.S. Government Website](#)

[Air Force Association Scholarships](#)

[Air Force Safety Center](#)

[Civil Service Employment Opportunities](#)

[NAF Employment Opportunities](#)

[Air Force Bands/Outreach](#)

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Air Force leaders lay out budget priorities, concerns](#)

Testifying before the Senate Appropriations Committee on Defense, [Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James](#), with [Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III](#) and leaders from the Air Force Reserve and the National Guard, stressed the difficulty in maintaining the Air Force's world class reputation while facing tomorrow's budget challenges.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[AF recognizes 2013 Exceptional Sexual Assault Response Coordinator](#)

The Air Force announces their nominee for the Department of Defense-level award for the 2013 Exceptional Sexual Assault Response Coordinator award.

[USAFE-AFAFRICA Airmen must revalidate dependents](#)

As part of the service-wide revalidation of dependents effort, more than 16,000 Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa Airmen are being asked to complete their revalidations by Oct. 31.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[Space superiority remains vital to national security](#)

[Gen. William Shelton](#), the commander of Air Force Space Command, stressed the importance of space to Americans on American soil and to the warfighters of partner nations when he testified to the House Armed Services Committee

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

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.

April 11, 1918 - The 1st Aero Squadron, I Corps Observation Group, equipped with bi-plane 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.

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

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