

# Commander's Call Topics



October 23, 2014

**“Those who stand for nothing, fall for anything.”**

*Alexander Hamilton  
(1757-1804)  
American Statesman*

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

[The Office of Disability Employment Policy](#) provides, policy, practice and ways to achieve full inclusion.

## There's No Good Reason Not to Vote

If there were one action you could take that would honor those service members who have gone before you assuring freedoms throughout the world, help to shape your children's future, and serve to support the ideals of your hometown, would you do it?

What if you could do it in less than half an hour, right from your computer or smart pad? Would you do it?

What if it were free? Why wouldn't you do it?

That's what absentee voting is all about, and this is the right time to take that step.

There are two websites that can help you file for absentee voting. One is the [Federal Voting Assistance Program](#), geared especially to the military voter and the overseas citizen voter. The other website is the [National Association of Secretaries of State](#), a site that offers assistance with voting (both in-person and absentee) and with state business matters.

FVAP is the more hands-on, nuts and bolts approach to voter registration. A [one-minute message](#) by Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel reminds service members and their families of the importance of their votes, and he explains how to get answers to over-arching voting questions of eligibility and deadlines.

While the [Can I Vote](#) section of the NASS website offers detailed information about each voting district in terms of finding one's polling place and what kind of ID to bring. The page featuring the [2014 Midterm Elections](#), also lists the toll-free number of each state's voter hotline.

There's no good reason not to vote, although the chart below lists the reasons that people give as to why they couldn't or didn't vote.

Percentage	Reason
17.5	Too busy; conflicting schedule
14.9	Illness or disability
13.4	Not interested
12.9	Did not like candidates or campaign issues
11.3	Other
8.8	Out of town
7	Don't know
6	Registration problems
2.7	Inconvenient polling places
2.6	Transportation problems
2.6	Forgot
0.2	Weather

Source: Statistic Brain ([www.statisticbrain.com](http://www.statisticbrain.com))

Although the local meteorologist will probably proclaim that the weather plays an important part in the turnout, if the numbers above are to be believed, the weather actually has little to do with it. That's the good news.

The even better news is that every vote counts — especially yours!



## ► 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](#)

## ► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

**Oct. 23, 1909** - Wilbur Wright gave Lt. Benjamin D. Foulois his first flying lesson at College Park, Maryland.

**Oct. 24, 2000** - The Space Shuttle *Discovery's* successful landing on the Edwards AFB, California, main runway, its 46th, ended the system's 100th mission. The 13-day mission prepared the International Space Station for its first full-time residents. Mission Commander Col. Brian Duffy and Pilot Lt. Col. Pamela Melroy both graduated from the Air Force Test Pilot School.

**Oct. 25, 1923** - The court martial of Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell for insubordination began. He was found guilty on Dec. 17 and sentenced to a five-year suspension from active duty without pay or allowances. After reviewing the sentence, President Coolidge made it a five-year suspension at half pay. On Feb. 1, 1926, Mitchell resigned his commission. During the trial, he succeeded in championing the cause of airpower as a separate entity.

**Oct. 26, 1962** - Strategic Air Command received its last B-52H Stratofortress and last three B-58 Hustlers from the production lines.

**Oct. 27, 2006** - The 49<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing flew 25 F-117 Nighthawks in formation over Holloman AFB for the largest flyover in its history to commemorate the aircraft's 25th anniversary.

**Oct. 28, 1985** - The first six female officers started initial qualification training for Minuteman crew duty. All six women previously worked with the Titan II system. They finished the class on Feb. 7, 1986.

**Oct. 29, 1950** - C-47s made aeromedical flights from Sinanju Airfield, North Korea, the northernmost Korean airfield ever used by Far East Air Forces aircraft, some 40 miles north of Pyongyang.

Recent promotion? Change of command? Increased number of flight hours?  
There are many reasons to update a biography!  
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Send us updates using the **NEW** link below:  
[afbiographies.dma@mail.mil](mailto:afbiographies.dma@mail.mil)

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### Air Force TV premieres four new features

Air Force TV is debuting three new features available on both the web and television, and a fourth featurette that is web-only to keep Airmen up to date on issues, technology and personnel updates. The three that are available on both TV and web are: [BLUE](#) is a new feature series that delves into the lives of Airmen through in-depth storytelling, with an unflinching look into the blood and sweat that makes America's Air Force what it is. Marines bleed scarlet and gold, the Army bleeds green ... Airmen bleed BLUE. [Yesterday's Air Force](#) is a weekly history and heritage featurette of one to three minutes profiling significant people and missions from the Air Force's past. [The Air Force Tech Report](#) is a quick (almost all are only a minute long) look at current technology the Air Force uses to fly, fight and win. A fourth new feature is web-only. In [FYI](#), topics range from emergency preparedness to a variety of personnel updates and are condensed into short, readily understandable segments about new programs or changes happening in your Air Force. FYI- For all the stuff you need to know.

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

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