

Commander's Call Topics



July 31, 2014

"I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who overcomes his enemies."

Aristotle
Greek philosopher (384-322 BCE)

Don't forget the baby!

Experts tell us to
put the diaper bag on the front seat
and your cell phone in the backseat
with the baby
to avoid a deadly accident.

Strategic Agility is the Future of the Air Force

As the Air Force prepares for new challenges and opportunities of the coming decades, it faces sobering 21st-century realities: global centers of power have become more distributed and the terrorism threat more dispersed. Most importantly, the emerging environment is demonstrating a trend that could prove to be the defining one of current times: the accelerating pace of change.

Thus, the Air Force's ability to continue to adapt and respond faster than the potential adversaries is the greatest challenge it faces during the next 30 years.

To meet the challenge, [Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James](#) and [Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Mark A. Welsh III](#) have developed a strategic framework that will guide Air Force planning and resourcing over the next several decades. The framework has three main elements: a long-term future look that provides the vectors and imperatives necessary to guide planning activities, a 20-year resource-informed plan, and a 10-year balanced budget, based on fiscal projections.

The first document of the trilogy, "[America's Air Force: A Call to the Future](#)," is the cornerstone guidance for a unified path to the future. The document emphasizes the need for strategy-driven resource decisions. But more important is the courage to make bold changes, because Airmen must think and do things differently to thrive in the 21st century.

In an era defined by rapid change, the institution that can keep pace in its processes, thinking and actions will be the one best poised for success in deterring conflict—and winning, should a fight be required. This is what "A Call to the Future" refers to as strategic agility.

Agility combines the attributes of flexibility and adaptability to leverage speed. The rate at which the Air Force develops capabilities needs to increase to match the pace of change and the opportunities to incorporate new technologies and improve existing systems.

James explained further that, "In addition to strategic agility, our nation demands an Air Force capable of harnessing diverse ideas and perspectives. Diversity, total force integration and building internal and external partnerships provide the nation with the Air Force it expects, deserves and needs."

The most important responsibility of a military service is to provide decision-makers with viable solutions for the challenges of tomorrow and, true to Air Force heritage, it will meet that challenge. The Air Force will continue to deliver enduring, responsive airpower for national security through both the strength of Airmen and the responsive and effective application of global vigilance, global reach, and global power for America.

As Welsh stated earlier in 2014, "The five core missions of the Air Force are not going to change. These missions are what the combatant commanders and the nation expect us to provide, but the way we think about how they are provided has to change. The Air Force must have the strategic agility required to successfully respond to the complex challenges that will confront our nation."



► 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

[AF launches successful satellite mission](#)

The 45th Space Wing launched two operational satellites in near-geosynchronous Earth orbit as part of the Air Force's Geosynchronous Space Situational Awareness Program (GSSAP).

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[TRICARE Nurse Advice Line offers health care guidance](#)

It's the middle of the night. An acute health care crisis arises. No need to wait it out until morning if you're a TRICARE beneficiary. Call 1-800-TRICARE (1-800-874-2273), and a registered nurse will answer—24/7.

[AF Assistance Fund may not hit 2014 goal](#)

It's close: Nearly \$6 million of the \$6.4 million needed to meet the projected needs of Airmen faced with an emergency has been contributed to the [Air Force Assistance Fund](#).

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[AF implements career intermission pilot program](#)

Aug. 15 to Oct. 15 is the window of opportunity for Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard officers and enlisted members to apply for the Career Intermission Pilot Program (CIPP), which authorizes selected members to take sabbatical and seamlessly return to their active-duty or Reserve Component role.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[Vice chief of staff talks STEM to local educators](#)

Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) was [Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Larry O. Spencer's](#) focus as he spoke to middle school science educators during their week-long summer camp in Washington.

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

July 31, 1995 - The 351st Missile Wing, the last Minuteman II unit, inactivated at Whiteman AFB, Mo.

Aug. 1, 1943 - During the Ploesti raid, the lead aircraft flown by Lt. Col. Addison Baker, the 93rd BG Commander, received serious damage and caught fire. Baker, who was a mobilized guardsman from Ohio, continued to lead the formation and dropped his bombs before trying to gain enough altitude for the crew to parachute. The attempt failed and the B-24 crashed. For that gallant leadership and intrepidity, Col. Baker received the [Medal of Honor](#).

Aug. 2, 1911 - Harriet Quimby became the first woman pilot to get an FAI certificate in the United States. She received number 37 at Mineola.

Aug. 3, 1963 - Sam Miller and Louis Fodor completed a round-the-world flight from New York and returned in 46 hours and 28 minutes to set a FAI record.

Aug. 4, 1964 - First U.S. air strikes against North Vietnam.

Aug. 5, 1954 - A production-model B-52 flew for the first time.

Aug. 6, 1945 - B-29 "Enola Gay" dropped an atomic bomb "Little Boy" on Hiroshima, Japan.

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

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