

Commander's Call Topics



July 16, 2015

"There is no greater name for a leader than mother or father. There is no leadership more important than parenthood."

*Sheri L. Dew (b. 1953)
American author*

July is
[Park and Recreation Month.](#)
What's going on
in your neck of the woods?

Family Friendly Policy Will Impact Fitness Requirements and Deployment Deferrals

The six-month deferment for female Airmen to accomplish their fitness assessments following childbirth will be increased to 12 months to align with recent changes to the deployment deferrals.

The deployment deferment policy, as part of the Air Force's 2015 Diversity and Inclusion initiatives, increases the deferment from deployment, short tour or dependent-restricted assignment, and temporary duty to one year, unless waived by the service member.

"The goal is to alleviate the strain on some of our talented Airmen who choose to leave the Air Force as they struggle to balance deployments and family issues, and this is especially true soon after childbirth," said [Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James](#).

The one-year deferment applies to female Airmen who gave birth on or after the effective date of March 6, 2015, to provide predictability with minimal disruption to Airmen and the deployment process.

As dwell times for deployment, permanent change of station and temporary duty assignments increase, so too will the exemption from the current fitness assessment for female Airmen following pregnancies lasting 20 weeks or more (delivery, miscarriage, etc.). The service does not anticipate significant mission or readiness impacts associated with extending this action.

"Like many other programs announced earlier this year, such as the Career Intermission Program, we recognize the potential retention benefits associated with providing our female Airmen options that allow them to serve and support their family without having to choose one over the other," James said.

Air Force Guidance Memorandums will be available detailing the changes to both policies in the coming weeks.

The Air Force continues to research opportunities, in conjunction with the Department of Defense, to extend the maternity and convalescent leave period, similar to the recent changes announced by the Secretary of the Navy.

Airmen currently receive six weeks (42 days) of maternity leave, in line with the Department of Defense policy. By direction of the president, federal agencies can advance up to six weeks of paid sick leave to federal employees with a new child.

"We want to make sure we develop an equitable policy that supports all of our Airmen and also maintains the ability to execute our mission," James said.



TRENDING....

"This (the ability to be a learning organization) is true in war, where we have adapted to counterinsurgency, unmanned systems, and new battlefield requirements, such as mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles. It is also true with respect to institutional activities," Defense Secretary Ash Carter said when [announcing the formation of a working group](#) to study the implications of transgender service.

► 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

July 16, 1969: From Kennedy Space Center, Apollo XI -- the first manned lunar landing mission -- began for Astronauts Michael Collins, Neil A. Armstrong, and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. Four days later, Armstrong would take that all-important "one small step."

July 17, 1929: Dr. Robert H. Goddard, the "father of American rocketry," fired a liquid-fueled, 11-foot rocket in Auburn, Massachusetts. The rocket carried a small camera and a working barometer. Both items were recovered intact after the flight.

July 18, 1967 - For the first time, an HH-3E Jolly Green Giant helicopter was refueled during a rescue mission. The helicopter was successfully refueled by an HC-130 Hercules.

July 19, 1957 - An F-89J fired the Air Force's first air-to-air nuclear defense rocket, the Douglas-built MB-1 Genie, over Yucca Flat, Nevada.

July 20, 1969 - Astronauts Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., flew the lunar module Eagle to the Sea of Tranquility, where Armstrong took the first step on the moon.

July 21, 1994 - The final remaining F-16 Fighting Falcon left the 86th Flight Wing at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, for Aviano Air Base, Italy. This action ended U.S. Air Forces in Europe fighter operations at Ramstein AB.

July 22, 1950 - U.S. Navy aircraft carrier, the USS Boxer, arrived in Japan with 145 Air Force F-51s on board. The 3rd Air Rescue Squadron deployed the first H-5 helicopter in Korea to Taegu Air Base, South Korea.

As the result of an interagency forensics investigation by the Office of Personnel Management into the cybersecurity breach, [OPM has announced](#) it will continue to provide assistance for impacted individuals by providing a comprehensive suite of monitoring and protection services, establishing an online cybersecurity incident resource center, as well as a call center to respond to questions, and other measures.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[CMSAF visits Kadena](#)

"We are currently the smallest Air Force in the history of the Air Force since 1947, yet we are more globally engaged today than ever before," [Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody](#) said during a visit to Kadena Air Base, Japan, addressing a variety of questions posed by Airmen as he toured the facility.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[AF revolutionizes study material delivery for FY16](#)

The Air Force saves \$5.9 annually and moves into the future, allowing Airmen access their Air Education materials online.

[Decorations processing now initiated through virtual Personnel Center](#)

Active-duty Airmen supervisors can now process decorations through a newly created virtual Personnel center.

► FAMILY HEALTH AND SAFETY

[PTSD can create a new normal that's a lot worse](#)

Because not all symptoms of PTSD can lead to a diagnosis, Air Force psychiatrists want to make sure all affected Airmen and families get the help they need.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[Infographic: Global Strike](#)

An innovative infographic spotlights aircraft that help the Air Force attain the mission of providing global strike capabilities.

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

The Defense Media Activity produces *Commander's Call Topics* weekly. For questions or comments about this, or any other DMA product, send an e-mail to afproducts@dma.mil.

Subscribe to AF news and information products online, go to <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDODAF/subscriber/new>