

Commander's Call Topics



August 20, 2015

"How important it is for us to recognize
and celebrate our heroes
and she-roes."

*Maya Angelou (1928-2014)
American author*

August 26 is
[Women's Equality Day](#).
(I'll vote for that!)

AF Adopts New Dragon

[Lt. Gen. Bill Bender](#), the Air Force chief information officer, and [Maj. Gen. Martin Whelan](#), the Air Force director of future operations, have partnered to increase awareness of the importance of operations security and cybersecurity (OPSEC) to protect the Air Force mission, our personnel and their families.

"We are thrilled with this new partnership," Whelan said. "Cybersecurity is such an integral part to ensuring operations security in our Air Force. We want our Air Force personnel to understand that cybersecurity is everyone's responsibility and that their daily actions can make or break a mission and/or put themselves and their families at risk."

Gen. Bender agreed. "We are hoping that by pairing our OPSEC and new cybersecurity logos together, it will remind personnel of the relationship that OPSEC and cybersecurity share in keeping our personnel and our mission safe."

OPSEC has always been an important factor in the military. The official OPSEC program launched during Vietnam in 1966 with OPERATION PURPLE DRAGON. "Purple Dragon" was the unclassified nickname given by the Joint Chiefs of Staff for a study done on the loss of B-52's in South East Asia. National leadership became concerned that there was a security breach, since our B-52 Bombers were being shot down at a very high rate. It was apparent that the North Vietnamese had been gaining prior knowledge of our bombing mission times and locations. Operation Purple Dragon was born and they soon discovered that existing procedures allowed our flight plans to be received directly by Hanoi.

OPSEC has since become an established process used by military, federal, state, and local agencies as well as private companies. Each year, additional businesses realize the importance of OPSEC in their day-to-day operations to protect proprietary and sensitive information from disclosure, espionage, and exploitation. Even at home, OPSEC can help you protect your personal identity, family and home from those who strive to exploit your information for personal gain.

In today's world, modern technology instantly enables any individual to share information around the globe. Though we may intentionally share this information with relatives and business partners we could also be unintentionally providing access of this same information to terrorist and criminal organizations. Cybersecurity and OPSEC can help you protect your personal and critical information. As threats around the world continue to grow, OPSEC will always be there to protect our most precious commodity: information.

Today, the OPSEC (Purple) Dragon symbolizes the importance of protecting critical information and observable actions about mission capabilities, limitations and intentions in order to prevent or control exploitation by an adversary. The new Cybersecurity Dragon falls in the same family by symbolizing the importance of cybersecurity to protect and secure our personnel and their mission, allowing the Air Force to fly, fight and win in a cyber-contested environment.

The OPSEC Dragon has done a superb job reminding Air Force personnel of the importance of operations security for decades. When partnered with the new Air Force Cybersecurity Dragon, [the two act as a powerful reminder](#) to help protect our personnel, their missions and their families.

"Virtually every mission across the range of military operations depends on cybersecurity and every Airman has an important role to play with respect to OPSEC and cybersecurity," Bender said. "We are much more effective when everyone plays their part."



► 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

August 20, 1990 – Operation Desert Shield. More than 15,300 reservists, roughly 22 percent of the reserve force, volunteered to serve.

August 21, 1923 – The Test Pilot School at Edwards AFB received a Czech L-39 *Albatross* for a six-month trial of its flight capabilities, studying it as a possible partial replacement for its retired T-39 fleet.

August 22, 1917 - Air-to-ground radiotelephones went into production.

August 23, 1990 - The 89th Military Airlift Wing receives the first of two Boeing VC-25A presidential transport aircraft at Andrews AFB, Maryland. The VC-25A is a modified 747-200B commercial transport that replaces the VC-137.

August 24, 2001 - An EC-18B Advanced Range Instrumentation Aircraft made its final Air Force Flight Test Center flight, ending that mission at Edwards AFB, Calif. For 30 years, the aircraft recorded and relayed telemetry information from intercontinental ballistic missiles and manned spacecraft, both U.S. and foreign. The U.S. Air Force intended to use the two EC-18Bs in the JSTARS program.

August 25, 1932 - Flying from Los Angeles to Newark, N.J., Amelia Earhart became the first woman to complete a nonstop transcontinental flight.

August 26, 1943 - The U.S. Army Air Forces used a new type of perspective maps with targets drawn as seen from the air to improve high altitude precision bombing abilities.

The OPM data breach, massive in its identity theft implications, gives rise to other crimes, too. One such crime is attempted when imposters, pretending to be from the Federal Trade Commission, call OPM data breach victims and offer money to “reimburse” or “help” those who were victimized. Participating with these callers only leads to further victimization. The catch is this: The caller is not from the FTC or any part of the government. Moreover, the data breach victim is asked to provide sensitive and personal information. Don't do it! It's a scam. It's called phishing, and you can learn how to protect yourself [here](#). To learn more about the Office of Personnel Management data breach, legitimate assistance being provided to impacted individuals, and to understand cybersecurity as it is grounded in the Air Force tradition, a special [Air Force Cybersecurity](#) web page has been created.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Making every dollar count through Airmen Powered by Innovation](#)

Creating a culture that is focused on minimizing costs, harnessing efficiencies and redefining AF business paradigms is a major component of the continuing effort to make the Air Force more cost efficient, people focused and mission effective.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[AF selects 13,269 for staff sergeant, release date Aug. 20](#)

Roughly one in three – 13,269 out of 39,260 being considered – were selected for promotion to staff sergeant, posted to the [myPers enlisted promotion page](#) at 8 a.m. CDT.

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

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