

# Commander's Call Topics



Nov. 1, 2012

*"[Telling the Air Force story](#) is a big deal to me. The one thing I'm finding is ... our own Airmen don't know where we're going; they don't know where they fit in it."* -- Air Force Chief of Staff [Gen. Mark A. Welsh III](#) during his speech to leaders from Air Education and Training Command.

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### [In wake of Sandy, mobility Airmen poised to 'answer the call'](#)

Across the nation, mobility Airmen are assessing the damage left by Hurricane Sandy at their own Air Force bases along the East Coast and beginning the process of recovery, while also standing ready to answer the call for support of relief efforts from civilian authorities.

### [McGuire continues recovery efforts, FEMA base of operations](#)

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst personnel are continuing with recovery efforts and expect to resume most operations.

### [National Guard members responding to Hurricane Sandy](#)

More than 7,400 Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen had been mobilized in 11 states to respond to Hurricane Sandy by 4:30 a.m., Oct. 30, and more were on the way.

### [NORTHCOM supports hurricane response efforts](#)

U.S. Northern Command is poised to provide Defense Department support to Federal Emergency Management Agency, tribal, state and local response efforts due to Hurricane Sandy.

### [SecAF visits basic military training](#)

In the wake of ongoing investigations into misconduct that occurred at basic military training, Air Force Secretary Michael Donley met with BMT leaders at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [AF accepting distinguished civilian award nominations](#)

Air Force officials are accepting nominations for the 58th Annual Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award.

### [Officials eliminate civilian skill code requirements](#)

Air Force officials have rescinded the manual used to define civilian position skill codes in one of several ongoing administrative actions geared toward transforming civilian hiring, determining employee training and development needs, and selecting employees for training under competitive procedures, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

## ► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

### [Former Little Rock AFB commander and spouse receive 2012 O'Malley award](#)

Col. Michael Minihan and his wife, Ashley, received the 2012 General Jerome F. O'Malley and Diane O'Malley Award during a ceremony at the Pentagon Oct. 24.

## ► RESOURCES

### **AF.mil**

<http://www.af.mil>

### **Airman magazine**

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>

### **Air Force Outreach**

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/>

### **Military OneSource**

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

### **Military HOMEFRONT**

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod>

### **Air Force Personnel Center**

<https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

### **Air Reserve Personnel Center**

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/>

### **Department of Defense News**

<http://www.defense.gov>

### **Department of Veterans Affairs**

<http://www.va.gov>

### **TRICARE**

<http://www.tricare.mil>

### **U.S. Government Website**

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

### **Employment Opportunities**

[www.usajobs.com](http://www.usajobs.com)

[www.nafjobs.org](http://www.nafjobs.org)

### **Air Force Association Scholarships**

<http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/scholars.asp>

## ***One vote can decide an election***

It was George Jean Nathan, a 20th Century drama critic, who pointed out the dire consequences of not voting. "Bad officials are elected by good citizens who don't vote," he said. In other words: Your vote counts.

This year, it appears, each vote counts more than ever. ABC News reported recently (October 27th) that this could be a year where the popular vote takes a back seat to the Electoral College in determining the winner of the presidential election.

The framers of the Constitution designed the Electoral College as a compromise, an attempt to even out the impact of states with higher populations. Each state's electors equal the number of U.S. Congressmen from that state, which is based on population counts, plus two. In that way, less populous states that have only one congressman, like Vermont, triple their number of electoral votes, while more populous states, like neighboring Massachusetts with 10 congressmen only increases its electoral clout by 20 percent.

The 2012 election will be the 57th presidential election, and it's an exceedingly close race. Urban legends abound about the impact of a single vote. Speaking at the 2000 Democratic National Convention, Jesse Jackson offered this inspiration to vote: "One vote decided that America would speak English rather than German in 1776. One vote kept Aaron Burr, later charged with treason, from becoming our president. One vote made Texas part of the United States of America in 1845. One vote changed France from a monarchy to a republic. One vote has the power to change our course."

The problem: These are not facts, even though they appear to have come from a seemingly credible source. The information was part of an Ann Landers column Nov. 4, 1996—Election Day!

Urban legend or simple slogan, the truth is, every vote really does count. Throughout the 236 years of our republic, there have been four presidential slates that won the popular vote but lost the election. In 1824, Andrew Jackson won the popular vote and lost the election to John Quincy Adams. In 1876 Samuel J. Tilden ultimately lost to Rutherford B. Hayes. Grover Cleveland won the popular vote in 1888, but lost to Benjamin Harrison. And recent history shows us that hanging chads proved the undoing of Al Gore's campaign in 2000, who won the popular vote but lost the election to George W. Bush.

In 1880, a virtual dead-heat pointed to the importance of the individual vote. James A. Garfield received 48.3 percent of the popular vote, or 4,446,158 votes. His opponent, William H. English received 4,444,260 votes, which represented 48.2 percent of the popular vote. Each was the favorite in 19 states. Yet, the electoral vote went to Garfield, 214 to 155.

However, one needs only look to 1960 for the greatest example of the importance of a single vote and its impact on the Electoral College. That year, John F. Kennedy defeated Richard Nixon by less than one vote per precinct, or 0.16 percent of the popular vote. Kennedy's 34,220,984 votes carried 22 states and garnered 303 electoral votes, while Nixon's 34,108,157 votes carried 26 states—four more than Kennedy—but netted only 219 electoral votes.

Nov. 6, 2012 could be your opportunity to shape our country's future.

*Martha J. Lockwood*  
Chief, Information Products, Defense Media Activity

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## Wartime effort still on the 'clock'

Perhaps no other practice in the known world has produced so much political action, disputes over its benefits, imagined energy savings, and economic hoopla than Daylight Saving Time (DST).

In April 1916 the idea of modern-day DST began when Germany and its World War I allies were the first to use DST as a way to conserve coal during wartime. Britain and most of Europe followed, with the U.S. adopting it in 1918. Since then, DST has morphed, disappeared, and resurrected itself.

The disputes over the benefits and pitfalls of DST are many, and its effect on energy use is minimal—only about 3.5 percent energy conservation in the U.S. and Canada combined. In 1984, *Fortune* magazine estimated that a seven-week extension of DST would lend millions of dollars to the bottom lines of 7-Eleven stores and the National Golf Association. On the other hand, DST is said to have a negative impact on prime-time broadcast ratings, drive-ins and outdoor theaters.

Health benefits are debated, as well. For every authority touting the advantages of more afternoon sunlight for outdoor exercises, there seems to be an equal and opposite reaction warning about skin cancer and sleep disruptions.

Whether you're for DST or against it, the law is in your favor: The federal law that established "daylight time" in the United States does not require any area to observe daylight saving time. But if a state chooses to observe DST, it must follow the starting and ending dates set by the law. From 1986 to 2006 this was the first Sunday in April to the last Sunday in October, but starting in 2007, it was observed from the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November, adding about a month to daylight saving time. Those who have declined to observe DST include Arizona (except the Navajo Nation), Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa.

Love it or hate it, make sure you set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night. DST officially ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday morning.

*Martha J. Lockwood  
Chief, Information Products, Defense Media Activity*

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## ► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

**Nov. 1, 1954** - The Air Force retired its last [B-29 Superfortress](#) from service. The aircraft had less than 12 years in the active inventory.

**Nov. 2, 1944** - While on a mission over Merseberg, Germany, a bomber sustained three hits from anti-aircraft shells. Severely wounded navigator [Lt. Robert E. Femoyer](#) refused morphine to keep his head clear so he could direct his plane out of danger. For more than two hours, he navigated his lone bomber away from flak. Only when he reached the English Channel did he agree to take a sedative. He died after the plane landed in England. For his sacrifice, Femoyer received the Medal of Honor.

**Nov. 3, 2007** - U.S. Southern Command had a C-130 Hercules deliver 27 crates of potable water to San Isidro Air Base, Dominican Republic, for victims of Tropical Storm Noel. Two ANG UH-60 Blackhawks also conducted search and rescue missions in the area. By Nov. 12, American and British aircrews delivered more than 241,000 pounds of provisions to the Dominican Republic.

**Nov. 4, 1985** - Rescuers with the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center saved 47 people during flood relief operations in the Shenandoah Valley, Va.

**Nov. 5, 1950** - During the Korean War, 21 B-29s from the 19th Bomb Group began incendiary bomb attacks on North Korean cities and towns. They dropped 170 tons of fire bombs on Kanggye, near the Chinese border, and destroyed 65 percent of the town's center.

**Nov. 6, 1930** - [Edward V. Rickenbacker](#) received the Medal of Honor for his service in World War I. As a pilot with the 94th Aero Squadron, Capt. Rickenbacker became the leading American ace of the war with 24.33 aerial victories.

**Nov. 7, 1967** - The last Atlas D in the Air Force inventory launched from Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

**Nov. 8, 1968** - Tactical Air Command received the first [AC-119K](#), the latest in a series of multi-weapon attack aircraft.

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

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