

Commander's Call Topics



December 5, 2013

"It [trust] is a belief in two old-fashioned qualities called consistency and integrity. Trust opens the door to change."

Peter F. Drucker (1909 -2005)
American management consultant, educator and author

By [Presidential Proclamation](#)

December is
National Impaired Driving
Prevention Month

Take Control of the Holidays

Most adults today harken back to their youth to pull out their favorite images of the holiday season. We remember the tree, with its sparkling lights, laden with ornaments from Christmas past and present, with brightly colored packages crammed around its base, with smells of hot chocolate, cinnamon and vanilla wafting through the air.

But as we morph into adulthood, our images of the holiday season tend to sour somewhat. Replacing thoughts of the tree, fuzzy slippers, presents and a roaring fireplace, are thoughts of crowded malls, insane traffic, frazzled, angry shoppers and a holiday budget that seems to shrink while prices tend to skyrocket. It makes us want to scream "enough already."

Oftentimes the reality of getting through the holidays can be a mix of holding on to holiday traditions, while looking for new traditions that work in today's environment. Get family, extended family and friends involved in planning holiday events. Get each person to go back to their childhood and pull out one or two traditions that can be freshened and updated to hold the interest of family members today and passed along to future generations.

There's no need to spend a ton of money on these traditions; look for low- or no-cost activities such as ice skating, visiting a downtown holiday display or attend an interfaith or cultural celebration. Even start a tradition of volunteering in the community. If the family is split up across the country or on the other side of the world, look to take advantage of today's technology and opportunities to video chat to bring the family closer together.

If holiday budgets seem to be getting less and costing more, consider alternatives to buying expensive gifts. Determine how much to spend on each person on your list and look for ways to stay within or even trim that budget. Look at such things as homemade gifts through handmade crafts, or baked goods to supplement store bought items. Try to buy gifts before the holiday season gets here to avoid last minute "spending sprees." And, when possible, try shopping alone rather than with friends and other family members. It's less distracting, and will help stay on budget.

When you're in control of the holidays (instead of the other way around), you can greet the new year with an optimistic outlook instead of mounting debt.

► TRENDING...

"We have the capacity to do these things on a theater scale. Nobody else can resupply on a theater scale, do intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance on a theater scale or provide space capabilities," said [Air Force Chief of Staff Mark A. Welsh III](#) emphasizing that the U.S. military is a joint force in the truest sense of the word. He made these comments on the Air Force mission, following a visit to Airmen at Grand Forks Air Force, N.D. and Ellsworth AFB, S.D.

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[AF appoints new space deputy](#)

Dr. Troy Meink sets the goal of championing the space mission across DOD.

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

Dec. 5, 1974 - Sikorsky Aircraft delivered the last HH-53 Super Jolly Green Giant helicopter to the Air Force.

Dec. 6, 2002 - The Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB had the X-45A *unmanned combat air vehicle* and a Global Hawk airborne on test missions at the same time. This marked the first time that two unmanned aircraft from two different programs were airborne simultaneously.

Dec. 7, 1941 - The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and brought America into World War II. Two waves of Japanese fighters sank four U.S. battleships and damaged nine others. Overall, the surprise attack killed 2,390 personnel, including 193 Airmen at Hickam, Wheeler, and Bellows Fields. They also destroyed 64 Hawaiian Air Force planes. Six Army Air Force pilots shot down 10 enemy planes with 2nd Lt. George S. Welch garnering four kills.

Dec. 8, 1976 - The full-scale development version of the F-16A Fighting Falcon made its maiden flight at Fort Worth, Texas

Dec. 9, 2006 – TSgt. Eric M. Olson, a loadmaster from the 313th Airlift Squadron, helped his aircrew safely land a C-17 hit by enemy fire while leaving Baghdad International Airport. Olson executed his emergency checklists, tended to a wounded passenger, and calmly readied the other passengers for an emergency landing. For his actions, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross Jan. 11, 2005.

Dec. 10, 1965 - Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara announced the development of the FB-111, a strategic and tactical F-111 bomber to replace the retiring B-58s and B-52s.

Dec 11, 1986 - The F-15E dual-role fighter made its first flight at St. Louis.

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

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