

Commander's Call Topics



Jan. 22, 2010

[Airmen integral to overall relief efforts](#)

"Airmen are supporting U.S. Southern Command efforts in Haiti as part of the Department of Defense team, in conjunction with other U.S. government agencies and the international community, to help provide critical aid and comfort to hundreds of thousands of Haitians at a time of great need. Whether helping to ensure planes carrying much-needed supplies and personnel get into Port-au-Prince around-the clock, repatriating U.S. citizens out of Haiti, or assisting with desperately needed medical care, the contributions made by the men and women of the Air Force supporting USSOUTHCOM have been integral to overall relief efforts."

– Air Force Secretary Michael Donley

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[CSAF: Air, Space and Cyberspace Conference 'jump starts' Air Force's future vision](#)

Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz spoke about the U.S. Air Force's "unique brand of air-mindedness" and the contributions the service has made, and continues to make, to national security. General Schwartz said the Air Force's most significant and enduring contributions to national defense -- global mobility; long-range strike; and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities -- require stewardship so that they may be applied to today's challenges and developed for employment in the future security environment.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Cyber is the focus](#)

Gen. C. Robert Kehler, Air Force Space Command commander, spoke recently at the Defending America Cyberspace 2010 Symposium. He discussed the many changes in AFSPC including standing up 24th Air Force, an operational command responsible for cyberspace, and transferring the intercontinental ballistic missile mission to the Air Force's newest command, Global Strike Command.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus provides Airmen incentives](#)

All Airmen, regardless of career field, are now eligible for FLPB in a broad range of languages including Spanish, Tagalog, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Korean and Russian. For more information, contact local education centers for testing opportunities. Visit the Air Force A1DO Culture, Region and Language Force Development Web site on the Air Force Portal for the complete Air Force Strategic Language List.

[Developmental opportunities in WMD for civilians/officers](#)

Selected officers or civilians can submit nominations for a professional military education course in the study of weapons of mass destruction at the Center for the Study of Weapons of Mass Destruction, National Defense University. Nominations for captains or majors, or civilians in grades GS-09 through GS-13 or pay band 2, are due to NDU by Feb. 19.

[Air Force officials extend deadline for warrior games applications](#)

Air Force officials are accepting applications until Feb. 15 for the inaugural Warrior Games in Colorado Springs, Colo. Wounded, ill and injured servicemembers will compete across all branches of the military in a joint effort between the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Olympic Committee. Active duty, Guard, and Reserve members as well as retired personnel and veterans are eligible to compete regardless of their injuries, including those diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries.

CIVILIAN

[New NSPS transition office announced](#)

The Department of Defense established the National Security Personnel System Transition Office to manage the transition of employees from NSPS to pre-NSPS personnel systems. Department personnel plan to proceed with the least disruption to organizations, mission and workforce. Employees will not experience decrease in pay during the transition.

[Select bases to implement new civilian application procedure](#)

As early as mid-February, the rollout of a civilian hiring test initiative will require current Air Force civilian employees to follow new procedures when applying for jobs at select bases. Air Force civilians who want to apply for jobs at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas; Osan Air Base, Korea; or any of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe bases will apply for those vacancies through [USAJOBS](#) instead of the Air Force civilian employment self-nomination application found on the Air Force Personnel Center's secure Web site.

[Air Force officials participating in summer program](#)

Air Force organization officials may begin hiring students March 17 for temporary, funded positions as part of the 2010 Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students with Disabilities. The program offers flexibility for both summer internships that guarantee students 14 weeks of employment and permanent positions for organizations that choose to convert students when the summer program concludes. Organizations should contact their local civilian personnel office for more information.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Tricare dives into social media to engage beneficiaries](#)

Tricare is active on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Flickr, and officials are getting ready to launch a new media center Web page in March. The media center will include Tricare news and links to Tricare's social media channels. It will also allow beneficiaries to share benefit information with friends and families online.

In the coming weeks, Tricare officials will ask beneficiaries for feedback on the issues they want to know more about through the Tricare Facebook account at www.facebook.com/Tricare, or Twitter account at www.twitter.com/Tricare. Beneficiaries can also visit www.tricare.mil/subscriptions to sign up for e-mail alerts about Tricare benefits and news.

FINANCES AND EDUCATION

[Air Force Association scholarship and grant opportunities](#)

The Air Force Association is an independent, nonprofit, civilian education organization promoting public understanding of aerospace power and the pivotal role it plays in the security of the nation. AFA has a variety of scholarships available for Airmen and their families. For more information, go to <http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/scholars.asp>.

[VA officials reaching out to students and schools to speed benefit payments](#)

In an effort to speed up the processing of Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits this spring, Department of Veterans Affairs officials are reaching out to student veterans, servicemembers, university officials and other partners to meet an aggressive processing goal by Feb. 1. VA officials released a "hip pocket" guide and checklist, with helpful tips to assist veterans in the application process. The guide and checklist can be found on college campuses and VA's GI Bill Web site, www.gibill.va.gov.

RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Air Force Community

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

Air Force Highlights

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/usafhighlights/index.asp>

Military OneSource

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

Military HOMEFRONT

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

Year of the Air Force Family

<http://www.af.mil/yoaff/index.asp>
www.MyAirForceLife.com

Air Force Personnel Center

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

Air Reserve Personnel Center

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

Department of Defense

<http://www.defense.gov>

Department of Defense News

<http://www.defenselink.mil>

TRICARE

<http://www.tricare.mil>

U.S. Government Web site

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

AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS

This Week in Air Force History

Jan. 22, 1966 – Operation Blue Light, the largest airlift in history into a combat zone, is completed. More than 4,600 tons of equipment and 3,000 troops were airlifted from Hickam AFB, Hawaii, to Pleiku, South Vietnam. The operation began Dec. 27, 1965.

Jan. 24, 1946 – Gen. Carl Spaatz is named the first chief of staff of the Army Air Forces.

Jan. 27, 1967 – Three of America's Apollo astronauts, U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonels Virgil Grissom and Edward H. White and U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Robert B. Chaffee, are trapped and killed in a capsule by a flash fire while conducting a preflight rehearsal.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit the Air Force Link heritage section at

<http://www.af.mil/information/heritage>.

The Defense Media Activity-San Antonio produces Commander's Call Topics weekly. For questions or comments about this or any other DMA-SA product, send e-mail to afproducts@dma.mil. To subscribe to Air Force news and information products online, go to www.af.mil/information/subscribe.