

Commander's Call Topics



Feb. 5, 2010

[Air Force fiscal 2011 budget balances for today's fight, postures for future challenges](#)

The [Air Force FY 2011 budget](#) request supports a balanced approach in today's operations while ensuring new capabilities, force structure, skills and technologies to meet tomorrow's challenges.

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[Air Force secretary: Importance of joint mission can't be stressed enough](#)

"The importance of the joint mission cannot be stressed enough if we hope to achieve the overall success of our mission in Afghanistan," said Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley during a visit to Bagram Airfield. He also said Air Force capabilities are a part of that *"with the success of our MC-12 intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft, along with our airlift capabilities and close-air support."*

[Secretary Donley announces location of newest Fisher House](#)

The next Fisher House will provide lodging for families coming to witness dignified transfers at the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations Center at Dover Air Force Base, Del. It will open in the fall 2010.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Gates appoints panel for potential end of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'](#)

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates established a Defense Department panel to prepare the military for the potential elimination of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that bans openly gay people from serving in the armed forces. The working group is tasked to assess the relevant issues within a year.

[Air Force Global Strike Command officials assume mission](#)

Air Force Global Strike Command officials at Barksdale AFB, La., assumed responsibility for the Air Force's nuclear-capable bomber force Feb. 1. This action completes the step-by-step transfer of all Air Force long-range, nuclear-capable assets to the Air Force's newest major command.

[Joint strike fighter program shakeup](#)

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates announced a restructuring in the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter office to provide increased oversight. Performance fees will be withheld from the lead contractor, Lockheed-Martin, and there will be a change in leadership at the Joint Strike Fighter Program Office.

[Missile Defense Review links strategy to threats](#)

The latest Ballistic Missile Defense Review aligns U.S. missile defense posture with near-term regional missile threats, and sustains the ability to defend the homeland against limited long-range missile attack.

[Review upgrades personnel status; budget confirms it](#)

For the first time, the Quadrennial Defense Review, a congressionally mandated look at the strategic situation facing the Defense Department, treated personnel as a strategic asset. The 2011 budget request calls for a 1.4 percent raise and commensurate raises in basic allowances for housing and subsistence; an increase in funding for family support programs; and health care is to be fully funded.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

['30 days through Afghanistan' project, Web site announced](#)

Two Air Force journalists will spend 30 days traveling throughout Afghanistan, starting Feb. 8, and document their daily travels through blogs and video blogs to showcase the troops in an interactive manner. For more information, visit the Web site at <http://30days.isaf.nato.int>.

[Nominations open for 2011 National Public Service Award](#)

The National Public Service Award recognizes individuals with agency-wide responsibility who exhibit the highest standards of excellence, dedication, and accomplishment, and who are creative and highly skilled career managers at all levels of public service. This award is open to both military and federal employees. For more information about the National Public Service Award, visit AFPC's ["Ask" Web site](#) or call the 24-hour Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

['Year in Photos' capture 2009 events](#)

During 2009, military photographers have taken thousands of photographs that document the service of the nation's Airmen. The annual "Year in Photos" captures the spirit and essence of the men and women serving in the United States Air Force.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Military families get free access to caregiver network](#)

Military families now have free access to an online network of caregivers who can assist with everything from babysitting to dog walking; activate membership by going to <http://www.sittercity.com/dod>.

[Air Force officials launch FitFamily](#)

FitFamily is an Air Force program that encourages families to "get up, get out and get fit together." It encourages an active lifestyle for kids and adults, and serves as an outlet to promote health and wellness in Air Force families. To enroll in the program, log on to <http://www.USAFFitFamily.com>.

[Tricare official explains plans for future](#)

To balance increasingly complex responsibilities at home and overseas, Military Health System officials have adopted the Quadruple Aim model of care: readiness, population health, a positive patient experience and responsible management of health care costs.

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

Feb. 6, 1991 – Reserve Capt. Robert R. Swain of the 706th Tactical Fighter Squadron scored the first A-10 Thunderbolt II air-to-air kill by shooting down an Iraqi helicopter.

Feb. 10, 1908 - Capt. Charles S. Wallace signed the first Army airplane contract with the Wright Brothers for the Signal Corp. Augustus M. Herring and James F. Schott also received contracts, but both failed to produce planes.

Feb. 10, 1952 – Leading a flight of three F-86 Sabres on a combat air patrol mission near the Manchurian border, Maj. George A. Davis Jr. engaged 12 enemy MiG-15 jet fighters in aerial combat. Major Davis was the first Airman to become an ace in two wars.

Feb. 10, 1958 – Airman 1st Class Donald G. Farrell spent a week in a space-cabin simulator for a "trip to the moon" at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

Feb. 10, 1969 – Sgt. Nacey Kent received the Air Force Cross for his heroic actions in Vietnam when his C-47 Skytrain was shot down May 5, 1968, while defending an air base mortar attack. Despite his own serious injuries, he evacuated his crew to safety away from the burning aircraft and returned to extinguish the fire.

Feb. 10, 1994 – Lt. Jeannie Flynn, the first woman selected for U.S. Air Force combat pilot training, completed training in an F-15E Strike Eagle.

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

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

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