

Commander's Call Topics



Feb. 12, 2010

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[SecAF discusses way ahead in Iraq, Afghanistan](#)

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley recently discussed the importance of Ali Base, Iraq, and the missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"You are a microcosm of what's happening during these exciting, challenging time," he told Airmen while describing the drawdown of forces in Iraq. *"Here you have Army, Navy and Air Force working together and focused on the successful completion of our mission."*

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Gates: 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' repeal demands study](#)

The Defense Department's review of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law, which bans gays from serving openly in the military, will help to ensure readiness and unit cohesion remain intact if Congress repeals it, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Air Force officials extend financial management program deadline](#)

Air Force Personnel Center officials extended the deadline for Air Force line officers to apply for the Financial Management Leadership Program to March 15. Assignment officials hope to find approximately 10 line officers outside the 65F financial management career specialty interested in the four-year program. The program is open to majors and major-selects in the year groups 1997 through 2000 who possess an undergraduate or graduate degree in business, accounting, economics or financial management.

[Nominations open for 2010 Sijan award](#)

The Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award recognizes the accomplishments of officers and enlisted members who have demonstrated the highest quality of leadership in the performance of their duties and their personal lives. Nominees will be rated on their scope of responsibility, professional leadership, leadership image and community involvement from July 1, 2009, to June 30. The four award categories are senior officer, junior officer, senior enlisted and junior enlisted. For more information, visit AFPC's ["Ask" Web site](#) or call the 24-hour Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

'30 days through Afghanistan'

Two Air Force journalists are spending 30 days traveling throughout Afghanistan. Starting Feb. 8, they began documenting 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>.

CIVILIAN

[Online library invaluable in civilian hiring process](#)

An Air Force hiring surge in the coming year, combined with the termination of the National Security Personnel System, make it even more critical for supervisors to know where to go for guidance in the hiring process. The Air Force Standard Core Personnel Document Library provides hiring managers standardized classification documents. The classification library can be found by typing in 'SCPD library' into the search function on the Air Force Portal.

[Nominations open for civilian humanitarian award](#)

Air Force Personnel Center are seeking nominations for the 2010 Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Distinguished Civilian Humanitarian Award. This award is presented to an individual or organization who has demonstrated exceptional patriotism, generosity, and selfless dedication to the members of the United States armed forces and their families through an outstanding humanitarian act or service. Nominations are due by April 16. For criteria and procedures, visit AFPC's ["Ask" Web site](#) or call the 24-hour Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Thousands of families sign up for FitFamily](#)

Within the first week of the launch of FitFamily, more than 2,000 families have signed up for the program at <http://www.usafitfamily.com>. FitFamily empowers families to take charge of their lifestyles and make healthier choices. The program offers innovative ideas, resources and activities for Air Force families to improve their family's healthy and fitness habits.

FINANCES AND EDUCATION

[Military OneSource offers free tax filing](#)

Defense Department officials encourage military families to take advantage of the free electronic tax filing services offered through Military OneSource. People can access the H&R Block at Home program at <http://www.militaryonesource.com/> and clicking on "Tax Filing Services." For tax assistance, filers can call a Military OneSource tax consultant from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. EST, seven-days-a-week, at 800-730-3802.

[New concept for annual AF Assistance Fund campaign announced](#)

For this year's Air Force Assistance Fund "Commitment to Caring" campaign there will be a competition between installations within a group with similar past performances in the AFAF campaign. Bases will compete for the top spot within each group based on point values in several categories: percent over goal; donation amount equal to or greater than the previous year's amount; and active-duty participation rate.

Air Force Aid Society officials will award a \$2,500 cash prize to the winning installation in each group to be used for programs supporting the base community. For more information, visit www.afassistancefund.org.

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

Feb. 15 – Washington's Birthday is celebrated the third Monday of February. It is also known as Presidents' Day, in honor of both Presidents Washington and Lincoln, whose birthdays are Feb. 22 and Feb. 12, respectively.

This Week in Air Force History

Feb. 12, 1959 – Strategic Air Command retired its last B-36 Peacemaker to become an all-jet bomber force.

Feb. 12, 1973 – Military Airlift Command pilots initiated Operation Homecoming, flying the first of 590 released prisoners of war from Hanoi, North Vietnam, to Clark Air Base, Philippines. The Mackay Trophy was awarded to the aircrews.

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.