

Commander's Call Topics



Feb. 26, 2010

"From an Air Force perspective, space and cyber power enable our ability to provide global mobility, global strike, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, communications, and many other critical capabilities on which the joint team relies on us for operational effectiveness."

– Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz in a [speech](#) to the Air Force Association Air Warfare Symposium and Technology Exposition on the value of space and the emerging medium of cyberspace

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[Air Force leaders seek to balance current, future needs](#)

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz recently told Congress the Air Force's budget request for fiscal 2011 provides the right balance between supporting the war efforts and other current-day commitments while posturing for future challenges.

[Secretary Donley addresses steps to strengthen Air Force](#)

The Air Force secretary discussed the outlook for the Air Force's future during the Air Force Association's Air Warfare Symposium and Technology Exposition. He stated Air Force officials are focused on winning today's fights in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Horn of Africa.

[CSAF stresses value of diversity at engineering awards conference](#)

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz recently spoke at the annual Black Engineer of the Year Awards conference, calling attention to the varied backgrounds of Airmen and sister service members and how diversity makes the military a stronger force as a whole.

[Chief master sergeant of the Air Force shares vision for enlisted Airmen](#)

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy spoke at the Air Force Association's Air Warfare Symposium and Technology Exposition about preserving and enhancing the all-volunteer force; managing the operational tempo; resetting equipment; and supporting Airmen and families while supporting overseas contingency operations.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Chief of staff's testimony addresses 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' repeal initiative](#)

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz expressed support for the approach of Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who has called for a year-long study to review issues associated with properly implementing a repeal of the current law. Secretary Gates appointed a working group to lead the effort, and indicated that the RAND Corporation will update their 1993 evaluation on the impact of allowing homosexuals to serve openly in the military.

[Tanker solicitation seeks fair competition, best value](#)

The final request for proposals to solicit bids for a new aerial tanker was designed to promote fair, open competition that provides the best warfighting capability for the best value. The process will serve as a model for the Defense Department's acquisition reform effort.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[My Development Plan gives Airmen access to career information, mentorship](#)

Airmen soon will have a new, Web-based tool to track their career and work with a mentor from throughout the Air Force. *My Development Plan*, which is made up of *My Civilian Development Plan*, *My Enlisted Development Plan*, and *My Officer Development Plan*, is a Web-based resource for total force Airmen to access information on their career field, education and training from one site. Airmen can begin accessing these resources March 1 from the Air Force Portal.

[Air Force officials approve incentive pay for officer, enlisted RPA aircrews](#)

Incentive pay has been approved for officer and enlisted Airmen who commit themselves to flying or operating sensors on remotely piloted aircraft. The incentive pay is equivalent to the current aviation incentive pay programs and is available to Airmen in the officer 18X RPA pilot or the new enlisted 1UOX1 RPA sensor operator career fields. The incentives scale with an Airman's time within the career fields.

[Logistics officials explain excess baggage policy](#)

Airmen are not subject to any out-of-pocket expense for additional baggage. Airmen should hand carry their military identification or common access card and orders in the event airline officials request them to verify they are on official travel. Should an airline charge an Airman for excess accompanied baggage, there are provisions for reimbursement. If orders don't state excess accompanied baggage is authorized, Airmen should request an amendment to the orders.

[Culture, Language Center staff launches culture-general training](#)

In an effort to expand cultural training and education, the Air Force Culture and Language Center staff developed an online, culture-general course through Advanced Distributed Learning System. Per Air Education and Training Command's four-tiered expeditionary skills training system, the Tier 2A Culture-General Course is required for Airmen in the air and space expeditionary force vulnerability period and also serves the total force. For more information, visit the AFCLC Web site at <http://www.culture.af.edu>. Find culture-general and culture-specific training through ADLS on the Air Force Portal (www.my.af.mil) under Education/Training.

[Air Force Uniform Office staff wants your opinions](#)

The Air Force Uniform Office staff conducted field solicitations at Hill AFB, Utah, and Maxwell AFB, Ala., for Airmen suggestions and concerns about Air Force uniforms to incorporate into a uniform strategic plan for future developments. Several other bases will be considered for future visits in order to get a decent sample from Airmen in different climate zones. Once the AFUO staff selects the installation for this forum, announcements are made in advance at that location and Airmen from all career fields are welcome to sign up.

GUARD AND RESERVE

[Generals discuss Guard, Reserve, on call Air Force](#)

Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, the director of the Air National Guard, and Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., chief of the Air Force Reserve Command, explained the importance of the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard to the on-call Air Force during the Air Force Association's Air Warfare Symposium and Technology Exposition.

CIVILIAN

[Spring to mark start of personnel system transition](#)

Defense Department officials are on track to transition the majority of its more than 220,000 civilian employees out of the National Security Personnel System by Sept. 30, more than a year ahead of deadline. The NSPS Web site, <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/>, now includes transition updates and a training module called "GS 101" for those who have never been in the General Schedule system.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Defense Department pauses spouse employment program](#)

The My Spouse Career Advancement Account program has been temporarily halted by Defense Department officials while it conducts a "top-to-bottom" review of its services. MyCAA offers military spouses opportunities to pursue portable careers in high-demand, high-growth occupations such as education and health care. Military spouses who already have been approved for financial assistance won't be affected, and spouses who have an account can continue to use the Web site for career counseling and planning. However, during this review time, spouses won't be able to create a new account and new applications won't be accepted.

[Video competition at MyAirForceLife.com](#)

Now through April 4, Air Force Services Agency officials will accept video competition entries on <http://www.myairforcelife.com> as part of the Year of the Air Force Family. Eligible participants have a chance at winning a digital video equipment package valued at \$2,000 for receiving the most online votes. To find details on the contest and to enter, log on to <http://www.myairforcelife.com>.

[Air Force officials remain vigilant in PTSD treatment](#)

Air Force officials said they will maintain a focus on the prevention, mitigation and treatment of deployment-related post-traumatic stress disorder. A three-pronged approach is used to promote psychological health and resiliency in Airmen, including psychological training, screening and intervention. For more information and stories of servicemembers who sought help for psychological health concerns, visit www.realwarriors.net.

['inTransition' now available for servicemembers receiving mental health treatment](#)

'inTransition' is a new program designed to offer servicemembers currently receiving mental health treatment a bridge of support between health care providers when they transfer to a new location or separate from active service. For more information, please visit the [inTransition Web site](#).

FINANCES AND EDUCATION

[VA officials create ad campaign to highlight educational benefits](#)

The GI Bill advertising campaign is designed to assist student veterans and servicemembers applying for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. It includes half-page ads in top college publications, online and social media, print, radio and outdoor advertising such as posters and flyers. Public service announcements are being delivered to areas where there is a high density of students, as well as military installations. Information about educational benefit programs is available at the VA's Web site, www.gibill.va.gov, or by calling 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551).

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

March is Women's History Month, celebrating women's contributions to culture, history and society.

This Week in Air Force History

Feb. 28, 1991 – The Gulf War ends at 8 a.m. with a coalition-declared cease-fire. During the war, F-117A Nighthawks flew only 2 percent of the combat sorties but attacked 40 percent of Iraqi strategic targets.

March 1, 1951 – The U.S. Air Force established its northernmost operational base, Thule Air Base, Greenland, 690 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

March 2, 1949 – Lucky Lady II landed at Carswell AFB, Texas. The B-50 Superfortress completed the first nonstop, around-the-world flight in history, covering 23,452 miles in 94 hours and one minute.

March 4, 1954 – The Lockheed XF-104 Starfighter first flew at Edwards AFB, Calif.

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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