

Commander's Call Topics



March 5, 2010

"While the challenges are many, our strong wingman culture provides a leadership foundation and continues to be the framework around our Air Force family." – Gen. C. Robert Kehler, Commander of Air Force Space Command, while discussing the command's [2009 Year in Review](#)

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[Top enlisted Airman visits Maxwell-Gunter members](#)

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy talked about his vision for the Air Force enlisted corps during a visit to Gunter Annex-Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. Chief Roy's overall message to members of the enlisted corps is to be the best Airman a person can be regardless of the position or AFSC.

► CURRENT ISSUES

['Don't Ask, Don't Tell' review seeks broadest input](#)

The Defense Department's review on the potential impact of repealing the ban on gays serving openly in the military will solicit input from servicemembers of every rank -- as well as their families -- through surveys, focus groups and social media tools.

[New policy authorizes social media access, with caveats](#)

A new Defense Department policy ([DTM-09-026](#)) authorizes DOD members to access social networking Web sites and other Web 2.0 platforms from nonclassified government computers, as long as it doesn't compromise operational security or involve prohibited activities or Web sites. While authorizing access to these tools, the new policy also recognizes the importance of protecting military networks and operations.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Application deadline set for officer development opportunities](#)

Officers in space and missiles operations, intelligence, weather, logistics, program management, developmental engineering, communications and information, public affairs, personnel and other force support career fields may be able to apply for one or more developmental programs. Additionally, officers may apply for instructor pipeline programs with the Air Force Academy and Air Force Institute of Technology. Apply by April 30. Visit the [AFPC Web site](#) for details.

[Thumb drives/flash media still prohibited on Air Force network](#)

The ban on flash media use in the Air Force is still in place, although U.S. Strategic Command officials at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., issued an order allowing limited use of removable flash media devices under very specific circumstances. Consistent with this order, Air Force officials here decided to continue its servicewide ban on flash media devices until Air Force specific guidelines and procedures are determined.

[Additional Airmen needed for Tops In Blue](#)

Air Force Services Agency officials are looking for Airmen to join the 2010 Tops In Blue team. Air Force active-duty, Guard, and Reserve members are eligible to apply. For more information or to apply, contact Air Force Entertainment at 210-652-6566 or visit <http://www.topsinblue.com>.

[Airman 'The Book' 2010 available online](#)

The 2010 almanac version of **Airman** magazine is now available online. Traditionally called "The Book," the issue focuses on important facts and provides insight into today's Air Force.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Approved spouses unaffected by career program pause](#)

Participants with approved financial assistance in the Defense Department's Military Spouse Career Advancement Account are unaffected by the temporary halt in the program while it is under review. While no new financial assistance applications are being accepted, counseling support will remain available at local installations.

[Air Force youth shoot for the stars](#)

Air Force Services Agency officials are sponsoring the Air Force Space Camp at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala., Jul. 25 - 30, for eligible 12 - 18 years old. Scholarships are available for 48 youth to participate in the camp. This program is open to family members of active duty, activated Air National Guard or Reserve, retirees, and Air Force civilian employees. Interested youth with a minimum grade point average of 2.8 can complete a nomination form at <http://www.afyouthprograms.com/spacecamp.htm> and submit it to their installation's youth programs.

[DOD board to reassess service disability ratings](#)

The Department of Defense Physical Disability Board of Review came about to standardize the Disability Evaluation System among the services. This review considers servicemembers separated from the Armed Forces between Sept. 11, 2001 and Dec. 31, 2009. It is open to eligible veterans of the DOD, Guard and Reserve and Coast Guard. The request for review may come from the veteran, surviving spouse, next of kin or legal guardian. Request a PDBR by submitting a [Department of Defense Form 294](#), Application for Review of Physical Disability Separation from the Armed Forces of the United States.

[Brain Injury Awareness Month highlights facts about head trauma](#)

Traumatic brain injury, or TBI, has been labeled a "signature injury" of the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. It also occurs in non-combat settings in association with motor vehicle accidents, sports injuries, assaults and falls. March is Brain Injury Awareness Month and representatives at Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center locations will be hosting various activities promoting the Brain Injury Association of America's current campaign, "A concussion is a brain injury. Get the facts." Additional information about traumatic brain injury and Brain Injury Awareness Month can be found at www.DVBIC.org or www.biausa.org.

[National Resource Directory offers single Web site for wounded warriors](#)

The [National Resource Directory](#) is a comprehensive, free, online tool for wounded, ill and injured service members, veterans and their families. The site has an extensive range of information about veterans' benefits, including disability and pension benefits, VA health care and educational opportunities. The site also provides information for those who care for veterans, such as access to emotional, financial and community assistance.

[Tricare news available at Media Center](#)

Visit the new media center at www.tricare.mil/mediacenter for the hottest links to Tricare's social media and updates to what's happening with Tricare.

[Officials offer tips to help children develop healthy habits](#)

March is National Nutrition Month and with that comes an increased focus on healthy eating. Healthy eating habits can be instilled in a child at any age.

FINANCES AND EDUCATION

Air Force Association scholarship and grant opportunities

AFA 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>.

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

March 6, 1990 – Lt. Col. Ed Yeilding, pilot, and Lt. Col. J.T. Vida, range safety officer, set four speed records when they flew the SR-71A "Blackbird" into retirement at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. They flew a 2,404-mile course from Oxnard, Calif., to Dulles International Airport, Va., in one hour, eight minutes and 17 seconds at 2,112.52 mph for one record.

March 7, 1942 – The first class of 93 enlisted pilots, who were known as "flying sergeants," graduated in Class 42-C from Kelly Field and Ellington Field in Texas. In June 1941 Congress passed Public Law 99, which authorized an enlisted pilot training program. The training was short-lived, however, ending in late 1942 because qualifications for the enlisted pilot and aviation cadet programs were made equal.

March 7, 1942 – The first class of Tuskegee Airmen graduate from Tuskegee Army Air Field, Ala.

March 10, 1966 – Maj. Bernard F. Fisher, an A-1E pilot, landed on the A Shau airstrip after it was overrun by North Vietnamese regulars to rescue downed A-1E pilot Maj. Dafford W. Myers. He is later awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic act and was the first Airman to be so honored in the Vietnam War.

March 10, 1967 – F-105s and F-4Cs bombed the Thai Nguyen steel plant in North Vietnam for the first time. During this attack, Capt. Merlyn Hans Dethlefsen was awarded the Medal of Honor while silencing enemy defenses with his severely damaged F-105.

March 10, 1977 – The first women navigator candidates reported to Mather AFB, Calif., to begin undergraduate navigator training.

March 11, 1912 – Lt. Frank P. Lahm opened an Army Air School at Fort William McKinley, Philippines, with two volunteer students, Lt. Moss L. Love and Cpl. Vernon L. Burge, who later became the first enlisted pilot.

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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