

# Commander's Call Topics



March 12, 2010

*"It has taken over six decades for our nation to recognize the unique service and valor of the WASP with the [Congressional Gold Medal](#). But your true legacy is much more vital, enduring and transformational than that honored piece of gold. It is in the young women and men, from your peers and your own children to today's youngest generation that you have inspired with your patriotism."*

– Retired Coast Guard Vice Adm. Vivien Crea in her keynote address in a [memorial service and wreath-laying ceremony](#) to honor Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II

## FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

### [Air Force leaders outline plans before Senate committee](#)

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz recently testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee to outline specifics about the \$119.6 billion budget proposal for fiscal 2011.

### [Single Airman Working Group opens support structure discussion](#)

The Single Airman Working Group was established to evaluate and develop morale and support programs for its members as part of the Year of the Air Force Family. Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy said the forum's objective was to create an enduring roadmap that addresses the single Airmen support structure.

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### [Defense secretary comments on tanker competition, other issues](#)

The recently released request for proposals for the Air Force's next-generation tanker aircraft was fair, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said during a visit to Southwest Asia. He expressed disappointment that Northrop-Grumman had withdrawn from the competition for the \$35 billion contract. Secretary Gates also talked about military retention and the proper mix of military members, career civil servants and contractors.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [DOD officials identify more phases for Iraq medal](#)

Department of Defense officials announced that additional campaign stars are authorized for wear on the [Iraq Campaign Medal](#). Campaign stars recognize a servicemember's participation in DOD-designated campaigns.

### [Air Force officials set developmental education deadline](#)

Air Force officers and civilians considering intermediate or senior developmental education in 2010 have until April 5 to submit their applications for consideration. For more information on officer IDE and SDE programs, visit the [AFPC Ask Web site](#).

## CIVILIAN

### [Select bases begin using new civilian application procedure](#)

Air Force civilians applying for jobs at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas; Osan Air Base, South Korea; or any of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe bases will apply for vacancies through USAJOBS instead of the Air Force Civilian Employment Self-Nomination Application found on the Air Force Personnel Center's secure Web site. Current Air Force employees may call the 24-hour Air Force Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102 for more information.

## **FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **[Policy to mandate head injury evaluations](#)**

Defense Department officials are expected to launch a new policy in the coming months that will make head-injury evaluations mandatory for all servicemembers who may have concussions. The current guidelines for treating servicemembers with such injuries allows for them to come forward on their own. Under the new policy, every servicemember exposed to such an incident will be required to seek attention.

### **[New Military Health System site makes information accessible](#)**

The site, [Health.mil](#), is part of the Defense Department's continued commitment to make health information available and easy to find. Content is categorized by topic or audience, including servicemembers, retirees and families; health care providers; educators and researchers; Defense Department leaders; and the media.

### **[Regular colorectal cancer screening saves lives](#)**

For Tricare Prime and Standard beneficiaries, there are no cost shares or co-pays for many preventive care services, including colorectal cancer screenings. For Medicare-eligible beneficiaries covered by Tricare for Life, Medicare covers colorectal cancer screening tests and Tricare generally pays the remainder of any costs not paid under Medicare. Learn more about colorectal cancer screening at the CDC's Screen for Life campaign at [www.cdc.gov/screenforlife](#). For more information about Tricare's preventive services, go to [www.tricare.mil](#).

### **[Everyone saves with generic drugs](#)**

Because of the safety, efficacy and cost-savings provided by generic drugs, it is Department of Defense policy that all Tricare beneficiary prescriptions are filled using generic-equivalent medication when available. Learn more about generic drugs from the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research at [www.fda.gov/drugs](#). For more information about the Tricare pharmacy program, go to [www.tricare.mil/pharmacy](#).

## **FINANCES AND EDUCATION**

### **[Career program to resume for enrolled spouses](#)**

The Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts program, commonly known as MyCAA, will resume March 13 for the more than 136,000 spouses who already have established an account. While the program will resume for enrolled spouses, new MyCAA accounts or financial assistance applications will not be accepted yet as the comprehensive review of the program still is under way. Along with MyCAA counselors, spouses also can request free career counseling through Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647 or at [http://militaryonesource.com](#).

## **RESOURCES**

### ***AF.mil***

<http://www.af.mil>

### ***Airman magazine***

<http://www.airmanonline.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](http://www.MyAirForceLife.com)

**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 12, 1998** – A C-141 from the 445th Airlift Wing, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, landed at Randolph AFB, Texas, with more than 50 former U.S. prisoners of war for Operation Homecoming's silver anniversary. On Feb. 12, 1973, the same C-141 airlifted Americans from Gia Lam Airport, Hanoi, North Vietnam on the first mission to repatriate American servicemen from Southeast Asia. The Starlifter took the men to Randolph AFB, for the 25th annual "Freedom Flyers" reunion.

**March 17, 1971** – Jane Leslie Holley became the first woman commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program. She graduated from Auburn University in Alabama.

**March 17, 1981** – Douglas Aircraft Co. delivered the first KC-10A Extender tanker/cargo aircraft to Strategic Air Command.

**March 17, 1997** – Air Force Special Operations Command provided a joint task force with MC-130 aircraft and MH-53 helicopters to evacuate U.S. citizens and other foreigners from Zaire due to an outbreak of civil unrest. By late March, the special operation effort had moved 532 passengers in 57 missions. To assist, Air Mobility Command dispatched C-5s, C-17s, C-141s and KC-135s. By April 17, AMC had flown 115 missions, carrying 1,200 passengers and 2,400 short tons of cargo.

**March 18, 1971** – Capt. Marcelite C. Jordon became the first woman aircraft maintenance officer after completing the Aircraft Maintenance Officer School.

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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