

Commander's Call Topics



March 19, 2010

"Together, we are an unrivaled, global team operating an integrated, networked end-to-end defense distribution system, providing logistics superiority when and where needed."

– Gen. Duncan J. McNabb, commander of U.S. Transportation Command, speaking to the House Armed Services Committee on [TRANSCOM giving U.S. key advantage](#)

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[Air Force's new undersecretary sworn in](#)

"I am extremely honored and humbled by this opportunity to serve with the tremendous men and women of the Air Force. And I take it as my charge to be the type of leader they demand and deserve, a leader who reflects the core values of this great institution."

– Erin Conaton, speaking at her swearing-in ceremony March 15

► CURRENT ISSUES

[U.S. Cyber Command preparations under way](#)

The formal launch of the new U.S. Cyber Command is awaiting congressional approval of its commander, Army Lt. Gen. Keith B. Alexander. In June 2009, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates approved the establishment of the command to assume responsibility for operating and defending the Defense Department's information networks as a unified sub-division of Strategic Command.

[Joint fighter faces critical period](#)

Contracting for the F-35 Lightning II joint strike fighter, touted as the future backbone of U.S. air superiority, must be brought in line with budget realities to make the aircraft affordable again. [Plans to curb fighter program's cost](#) include requiring a shift to a fixed-price contract for the initial production phase of the aircraft. Department officials also will conduct an internal analysis of what the full production cost should be to better negotiate.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Officials implement second DOS rollback](#)

Air Force officials announced the need for a second enlisted date of separation rollback with a mandatory DOS of June 30, 2010. This program is part of an overall effort to maintain a quality enlisted force and meet the congressionally mandated end strength. For more information visit the [Air Force Personnel Center personnel services](#) Web site or call the Total Force Service Center at 210-525-0102 or DSN 665-5000.

[New process available for selecting retirement option](#)

Officers and enlisted Airmen reaching 15 years of active-duty service will have new procedures in place beginning April 1 to accept enrollment in the Redux retirement plan. Airmen will receive an electronic notification of their eligibility for the High-3 Choice retirement plan that allows members to choose a \$30,000 career status bonus in exchange for lower retirement pay under Redux. For information about CSB visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

[Air Force officials to implement hand-held device changes](#)

Air Force officials will be implementing changes in March to services available for use on all Air Force-issued BlackBerry hand-held devices to bolster the security of the devices. These Department of Defense-directed changes will be overseen by security specialists in 24th Air Force.

[Air Force Uniform Office planning for the future](#)

Officials in the Air Force Uniform Office are developing a seven-year strategic plan. Priorities for the AFUB include, but are not limited to, the airman battle uniform, dress uniform, physical training uniform and specialty uniforms, to include fire-resistant flight suits and extreme cold-weather gear. To submit suggestions for consideration by the AFUB, use the AF IDEA Program Web page on the AF Portal.

CIVILIAN

[NSPS Web site adds features to track transition](#)

New features on the redesigned [NSPS Web site](#) give employees the opportunity to follow the progress as Air Force officials prepare to transition more than 44,000 current Air Force National Security Personnel System employees into non-NSPS personnel systems.

[De-mystifying "Who May Apply" for Air Force civilian jobs](#)

Applicants and hiring officials need to understand the most frequently used hiring terms as officials continue to bring federal employment opportunities to thousands of U.S. citizens in the upcoming years. Go to the story link for detailed information.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Care plan to encompass more military families](#)

The Defense department's expanded family care policy will require military parents with custody of children from a previous relationship to file a family care plan. The requirement already is in place for dual military couples and single parents with custody. Legal assistance offices are a valuable resource for help with a plan, as well as Military OneSource at <http://www.militaryonesource.com> or Military Homefront at <http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil>.

['Home of the Blue' campaign showcases privatized housing](#)

Officials at the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment are launching the 'Home of the Blue' information campaign to showcase how privatized housing is creating thriving Air Force communities. With an average of more than 500 new or renovated homes entering the privatized housing inventory each month, the Air Force goal of creating quality homes for Airmen and their families is well under way.

[New protocol to provide early brain injury detection](#)

Defense Department officials are rolling out a new set of guidelines for the treatment of mild traumatic brain injury among servicemembers in combat areas. The new protocol will go into effect soon and will make head injury evaluations mandatory for servicemembers who have been involved in incidents such as being close to explosions or blasts.

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

Air Force Personnel Center

<http://gum.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 19, 1910 – Orville Wright opened the first Wright Flying School at Montgomery, Ala. This site became Maxwell AFB, Ala.

March 21, 1962 – A black bear became the first living creature ejected from a supersonic aircraft when the U.S. Air Force tested the B-58's escape capsule. Ejecting at 35,000 feet and flying 870 mph, the bear landed unharmed 7 minutes and 49 seconds later.

March 23, 1978 – Capt. Sandra M. Scott, a KC-135 Stratotanker pilot, became the first woman tanker commander to perform alert duty for Strategic Air Command.

March 24, 1992 – The last U.S. Air Force fighter aircraft to be stationed in Spain departed, ending a 26-year span of service in that country.

March 25, 1956 – The last XB-51 crashed in El Paso, Texas, going to Eglin AFB, Fla. for use in the movie "Toward the Unknown."

March 25, 1975 – The U.S. Air Force organized an airlift to evacuate 10,000 people a day from Da Nang, South Vietnam. Communist forces had surrounded and cutoff the city.

March 25, 1986 – For the first time, an all-woman crew, assigned to the 351st Strategic Missile Wing, Whiteman AFB, Mo., stands Minuteman missile alert under the gender-specific crew policy.

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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