

Commander's Call Topics



March 26, 2010

"It's not the hardware or platforms making the mission happen -- it's the young men and women who serve our Air Force and nation that make us great. We want to build resilient Airmen, and it is important to maintain balance between physical, mental, spiritual and social fitness."

– Gen. William M. Fraser III, commander of Air Combat Command, during a recent [visit to Nellis AFB, Nev.](#)

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[Air Force leaders issue 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' message](#)

Air Force Secretary Michael Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy issued a letter to Airmen explaining how Air Force people will support the Department of Defense working group evaluating "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" legislation.

"We are confident that Airmen will respond to this review professionally and dispassionately, in a manner that is responsive to the direction of the secretary of Defense. Be assured, no matter what the results, Air Force standards of conduct will continue to be applied consistently across the force."

[CSAF: Global Strike Command mission requires constant vigilance](#)

Gen. Norton Schwartz told attendees at the first Air Force Global Strike Command commander's conference that Air Force senior leaders' commitment to the nuclear deterrence and global strike missions is "not a flash in the pan" and will endure.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Pentagon officials change 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' enforcement](#)

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced changes to the Pentagon's regulation on homosexuals serving in the military that he said make the Defense Department's enforcement of the so-called "Don't ask, don't tell" law "fairer and more appropriate."

[Navy admiral recommended to head F-35 program](#)

Navy Vice Adm. David J. Venlet, commander of Naval Air Systems Command, has been recommended by Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates to oversee restructuring of the F-35 Lightning II joint strike fighter program.

[Additional bidder could enter tanker competition](#)

Defense Department officials are considering a tanker bid extension request from European Aeronautic Defense and Space Co., a company that had been partnering with Northrop Grumman before it withdrew from the KC-X tanker competition.

[Bases get new names in realignment](#)

Some military installations are consolidating and getting new names as joint basing becomes a reality. The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission directed 26 stateside military installations to be consolidated into 12 joint bases.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Air Force leaders expand force management options](#)

Both officer and enlisted accessions will be reduced to meet mission requirements. Voluntary and involuntary initiatives also will be implemented as appropriate. Eligibility for these programs will vary by Air Force Specialty Code and years of service to ensure the Air Force has the right balance of skills needed to meet current and future mission requirements.

[DOD officials authorize nonchargeable rest, recuperation for Iraq and Afghanistan deployments](#)

Iraq and Afghanistan have been designated by the Department of Defense as nonchargeable rest and recuperation locations, authorizing servicemembers deployed there, for 270 days or more, 15 days of administrative absence to be used in conjunction with benefits provided under the R&R leave program.

[Military gears up for 2010 Census](#)

All servicemembers who receive a census form are required to fill it out and mail it back to the Census Bureau. The data of military members stationed overseas -- who will not receive any forms -- will be processed administratively. Servicemembers who live in group quarters will be required to fill out a "military census report" that will be distributed and collected by their installation's service representative and submitted on their behalf to the bureau.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

Tricare University

If you are new to Tricare and want to learn about health care benefits or someone who just wants to know the latest changes, Tricare University is the place to go. At [Tricare University](#), you can register for certified classroom and online training or just browse basic Tricare information.

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

Sexual Assault Awareness Month occurs in April and commits to raising awareness and promoting the prevention of sexual violence through use of special events and public education. Visit the [Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office](#) Web site for information on the 2010 campaign, "Hurts one. Affects all...Preventing sexual assault is everyone's duty."

This Week in Air Force History

April 1, 1954 – President Eisenhower signed into law a bill creating the Air Force Academy.

April 1, 1972 – Air Training Command activated the Community College of the Air Force at Randolph AFB, Texas.

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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