

Commander's Call Topics



April 9, 2010

"Secretary Donley and I are proud of the tremendous contributions Airmen make every day to secure our nation. We recognize and appreciate the sacrifices that are asked of you and your family. Our commitment – and the commitment of leadership at all levels – is that we will do everything possible to assist those transitioning to the next phase of their careers." – Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Vice chairman expresses comfort with nuke production freeze](#)

Marine Corps Gen. James E. Cartwright, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the nation's second-ranking military officer, said he's comfortable with a new U.S. policy that halts future production of nuclear weapons. The freeze on developing new nuclear platforms, save for extraordinary cases requiring presidential approval, is an element of the Nuclear Posture Review, the first overarching look at U.S. nuclear strategy since the end of the Cold War.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

FY 10/FY 11 Force Management programs

The FY10/11 Force Management programs include both voluntary and involuntary initiatives with the goal of sizing and shaping the force consistent with authorized end strength. Force Management programs are not a quick fix, but a tailored, multi-year effort, comprised of many programs aimed at managing the force along a continuum of service. Visit the [AFPC Web site](#) for a program overview, answers to frequently asked questions, and detailed information on all Force Management programs.

[Leave en route policy change benefits Airmen](#)

Some Airmen will now have the opportunity to take leave en route within the continental United States when they return home, or redeploy, from the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. This change can save Airmen significant time and travel-associated costs, as well as provide them an opportunity to reconnect with family and friends.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

Honoring Children in April

April is the Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month. The latest edition of [Military OneSource Connection](#) reminds parents of the free resources available for servicemembers and their families through [Military OneSource](#).

[Original song competition at MyAirForceLife.com](#)

Now through May 23, Airmen and eligible patrons of Air Force MWR programs can compete in an original song competition as part of the Year of the Air Force Family. The adult winner will receive a live, one-hour professional coaching and mentoring Skype session with an award-winning Nashville songwriter. The adult and youth winners will each receive a \$2,000 gift certificate to Musician's Friend, an online music store. Contestants can upload a three- to four-minute original composition. Visit http://www.MyAirForceLife.com/contests/song_rules.html.

Airman-to-Airman program

Last September, the Air Force Safety Center began its newest safety initiative, the Airman-to-Airman, or A2A, program. The goal of the program is to use Airmen in the 18-26 year age group who have experienced safety mishaps first-hand to help reach the younger generation. For more information and videos discussing mishap experiences, visit the [Air Force Safety Center Portal Web site](#), or read the Spring 2010 edition of [Wingman](#).

FINANCES AND EDUCATION

[Officials remind Airmen to file taxes by April 15](#)

Servicemembers have two options for filing: they either can seek advice from a legal assistance office on their base, where Internal Revenue Service-trained specialists can help them complete their forms, or they can do it online. For deployed servicemembers, let the IRS know. E-mails to the IRS from deployed troops should be addressed to Combatzone@irs.gov.

New virtual Finance page now available on Portal

"[Money - Welcome to virtual Finance!](#)" is a Portal resource that increases online capabilities for financial services customers by bringing together information resources as well as links to systems where customers can initiate and complete many transactions online. Virtual Finance also introduces customers to a variety of financial tools, including calculators that can be used to estimate various entitlements.

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

April 10, 1959 – The Northrop T-38 Talon flew for the first time.

April 11, 1966 – Airman 1st Class William H. Pitsenbarger loses his life while saving the lives of nine U.S. Army Soldiers in Cam My, South Vietnam. He received the Air Force Cross posthumously; later in 2000, his Air Force Cross was upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

April 12, 1945 – Staff Sgt. Henry Erwin saves a B-29 and its crew from a malfunctioned phosphorus bomb. These actions resulted in earning a Medal of Honor.

April 12, 1951 – Sgt. Billie Beach shot down two MIGs during an assault on Yalu River bridges in Korea.

April 12, 1966 – Strategic Air Command B-52 bombers struck targets in North Vietnam for the first time. They hit a supply route in the Mu Gia Pass about 85 miles north of the border.

April 14, 1986 – U.S. forces launched Operation Eldorado Canyon, a retaliatory bombing raid in response to terrorist activities supported by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

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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