

Commander's Call Topics



April 16, 2010

“Space gives the Defense Department four critical advantages: to strike precisely, to navigate with accuracy, to communicate with certainty, and to see the battlefield with clarity. These advantages make U.S. forces more accurate and agile than ever before. They extend the range of American military power. They have changed the nature of warfare.”

– Deputy Defense Secretary William J. Lynn III speaking at the [2010 National Space Symposium](#)

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Gates expresses confidence in continued Manas access](#)

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates recently expressed confidence that political upheaval in Kyrgyzstan won't cause the United States to lose use of an air base that's critical to supplying operations in Afghanistan.

[Summit draws attention to nuclear security](#)

A two-day Nuclear Security Summit convened leaders of more than 40 countries and came on the heels of the unveiling of the Nuclear Posture Review. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said the summit was an opportunity to draw greater attention to the issues of nuclear nonproliferation and the control of nuclear material.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Air Force officials launch language program for Airmen](#)

The Language Enabled Airmen Program is the first career-long program designed to offer language-sustainment training for Airmen in diverse career fields. The idea behind LEAP is to find Airmen who speak a foreign language and ensure they maintain their abilities through individual customized sustainment plans. To find out more about LEAP or to download an application, visit the [AFCLC Web site](#).

GUARD AND RESERVE

[Palace Chase obligation reduced](#)

Air Force officials temporarily reduced the Reserve commitment for officers and enlisted members participating in Palace Chase as part of Air Force management measures to balance the force while meeting a congressionally mandated end strength. The three-to-one officer and two-for-one enlisted Reserve obligation for each remaining year of active-duty service commitment have been reduced to a one-for-one commitment. To learn more about eligibility criteria for Palace Chase and any possible restrictions under force management, visit the AFPC personnel services [Web site](#) or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Air Force Services officials launch Month of the Military Child programs](#)

In recognition of military children and their families, [Air Force Services](#) officials are highlighting a variety of programs in partnership with base agencies for Month of Military Child and Year of the Air Force Family.

[VA official emphasizes addressing mental health issues early](#)

Close collaboration between Defense and Veterans Affairs department officials, plus proactive military screening policies, are helping to identify and treat mental-health issues in returning combat veterans before they escalate into more serious, long-term problems.

FINANCES AND EDUCATION

[Education activity launches interactive resource](#)

Officials with the Department of Defense Education Activity's educational partnership have launched an interactive educational resource for military families, military leaders and school leaders. The resource, "[Students at the Center](#)," provides information on important policies, procedures and best practices that are critical to supporting the needs of military families' education.

[Automation to improve Post-9/11 GI Bill processing](#)

Automation tools should arrive this month to improve processing procedures. Even more capabilities will follow in July, November and December. By the year's end the system will be fully automated.

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 18, 1942 – Lt. Col. James Doolittle led 16 B-25 Mitchell bombers on a Tokyo bombing raid.

April 18, 1975 – The Strategic Air Command began transferring air refueling wings to the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. AFRES and ANG tanker units will support SAC alert operations.

April 19, 1967 – Maj. Leo K. Thorsness was awarded the Medal of Honor for protecting the rescue of downed airmen in North Vietnam. Flying an F-105 Thunderchief critically low on fuel, Major Thorsness shoots down one MiG-17, damages another, and drives off three more.

April 19, 1995 – A bomb exploded at a federal building in Oklahoma City, killing 169 people and injuring more than 400 others. The Air Force provided airlift of firefighters, search and rescue teams, investigators and medical personnel.

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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