

# Commander's Call Topics



April 23, 2010

*"As the Year of the Air Force Family draws to a conclusion this summer, we must ensure that the vision that led to its genesis outlasts the official designation and that our hard-earned progress continues. No passé banner or expired label will ever permit us to abdicate our responsibility to care for our people."*

– Gen. Norton Schwartz, Air Force chief of staff, speaking at the [Caring for People Forum](#)

## FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

### [The Challenges of Space Management and Organization](#)

*"Space is a core function for our Air Force; and the missions performed in this domain are indeed critical to our operational effectiveness, to joint warfighting success, and to our broader national security. This is vitally important work to which we are deeply committed."*

– Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley from his remarks at the National Space Symposium

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### [Action today for a greener tomorrow](#)

*"The Air Force has taken aggressive strides in conserving energy and reducing waste to preserve our national security and protect Airmen and their families. As a Green Power Partner, the Air Force leads the way in finding alternative and renewable energy sources such as wind, biomass, and solar energy. Through energy conservation and energy efficiency initiatives, we continue to work towards reducing usage and cost,"* said Terry A. Yonkers, assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and logistics.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [Uniform policy changes](#)

Air Force officials announced policy modifications resulting from recent Air Force Uniform Board decisions. These include: tucking of trousers into boots on utility uniforms will remain optional; the green fleece watch cap is approved for wear with some items; and the women's the side-slit mess dress skirt can continue to be worn as an optional item. For more information on uniform policy changes, contact your chain of command or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

### [Air Force officials cancel officer training boards](#)

Air Force Recruiting Service officials cancelled upcoming summer Officer Training School board and possibly other boards until further notice. This is in response to the Air Force's overall Force Management program to reduce authorized end-strength. The OTS board cancellation is not permanent and selection boards will be held sometime in the future. Candidates are encouraged to keep in touch with their recruiter. To read more about the Air Force's Force Management Program, go to [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil).

### [New AF dining program opens doors for retirees, base employees](#)

Air Force Services Agency officials are implementing a new Food Transformation Initiative, enabling base employees and retirees living near six bases to use military food service establishments previously reserved for active-duty Airmen. The six Air Force bases are Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Patrick AFB, Fla.; MacDill AFB, Fla.; Fairchild AFB, Wash.; Little Rock AFB, Ark.; and Travis AFB, Calif. With the transition to a smaller, expeditionary force, Air Force leaders are looking to make dining programs more flexible, available and efficient.

## **CIVILIAN**

### **[Additional resources online to support NSPS conversion](#)**

Online training courses are now available on the [NSPS Web site](#) to help smooth the upcoming transition of more than 40,000 current Air Force National Security Personnel System employees into non-NSPS personnel systems.

## **FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **Young Children on the Homefront**

In this free DVD, military families share their unique deployment experiences and challenges, and they offer tips and strategies that parents will find useful in supporting their young child before, during, and after deployment. Visit [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) to order.

### **[Air Force Suicide Prevention Program](#)**

The Department of Veterans Affairs' [Veterans Health Administration](#) has founded a national suicide prevention hotline to ensure veterans in emotional crisis have free, 24/7 access to trained counselors. Veterans can call the Lifeline number, 1-800-273-TALK (8255), and press "1" to be routed to the Veterans Suicide Prevention Hotline.

## **FINANCES AND EDUCATION**

### **[Air Force Aid Society](#)**

The Air Force Aid Society supports the Air Force mission by providing worldwide emergency assistance, sponsoring education assistance programs and offering an array of base community enhancement programs that improve quality of life for Airmen and their families.

## **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 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 26, 1928** – Master Sgt. Harry A. Chapman becomes the first recipient of the Cheney Award for his bravery in attempting to save his shipmates from an airship engulfed in flames.

**April 26, 1948** – The U.S. Air Force became the first service to plan for racial integration, anticipating President Truman's executive order to be issued in July 1948.

**April 29, 1914** – Sgt. William Ocker receives his pilot license as the third enlisted pilot. He is the first pilot to take aloft an airborne radio. He later accepted a commission in the officer corps, and Col. Ocker became known as the father of instrument flight due to his efforts to promote instrument flying.

**April 29, 1918** – Lt. Edward V. Rickenbacker downed his first enemy aircraft.

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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