

# Commander's Call Topics



**April 30, 2010**

*"When people ask me about betting on our military for the future, I'm betting on you."* – Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaking to Airmen [during a visit to the Colorado Air National Guard's 140th Wing](#) at Buckley Air Force Base, Colo.

## **FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS**

### **Caring for People Forum wraps up**

Proposed initiatives from the second annual Caring for People forum focused on educational support for school-age family members, and Reserve and Guard members; funding base support agencies; outreach through social media; preventative health care; post-deployment reintegration; housing; spouse communication; single Airmen issues, and Airmen and their families in the exceptional family member program.

## **► CURRENT ISSUES**

### **Social media access begins Air-force wide**

Air Force officials have opened access to Internet-based social media sites via the Air Force Network for official use and limited personal use. All Airmen must use due diligence when posting information online and must always follow Joint Ethics regulations, operations security and published rules of engagement.

### **Candidate basing locations announced**

[C-17 Globemaster III aircraft](#): Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport in Martinsburg, W.Va.; Memphis International Airport, Tenn.; and Stewart International Airport, N.Y.

[MC-12W aircraft](#): Altus Air Force Base, Okla.; Beale AFB, Calif.; Key Field Air Guard Station, Miss.; Langley AFB, Va.; Robins AFB, Ga.; Whiteman AFB, Mo.

[MQ-1 Predator and MQ-9 Reaper ground control stations](#): Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.; Langley AFB, Va.; Mountain Home AFB, Idaho; and Whiteman AFB, Mo.

## **► PERSONNEL ISSUES**

### **Air Force officials launch Combat Airman initiative**

The Combat Airman initiative is an Air Force-wide program that centralizes clothing and equipment. The initiative improves the capabilities provided to Airmen, improves Airman protection and safety, and enables a more efficient and effective response to Airmen's requirements. The program is scheduled to be operational June 2011.

### **Improved system for personal property moves**

Transportation officials have launched an improved system to better compensate servicemembers who personally move their household goods on military orders. The Personally Procured Move, or PPM, replaces Do it Yourself, or DITY, moves. The new system calculates for reimbursement using a "best value" method. Some moves will not qualify for the new system. Rules for moves can be found at [www.move.mil](http://www.move.mil), along with additional service-specific guidance.

### **New Air Force cyberspace badge guidelines released**

The new cyberspace badge symbolizes the Air Force's commitment to operationalize the cyberspace domain. Guidelines and standard eligibility requirements have been released for officers; eligibility criteria for enlisted personnel will be released later. The new badge is authorized in three levels: basic, senior and master.

### **[Registration open for 2010 Air Force Energy Forum III](#)**

Air Force Energy Forum III is scheduled for May 27 through 28 in Washington, D.C. Highlighting the event's theme, "A New Culture: Energy as an Operations Enabler," Air Force, government and industry energy representatives will discuss the service's energy strategies; identify opportunities and challenges, and share best practices. For more information, visit the [Air Force Energy Web site](#).

## **GUARD AND RESERVE**

### **[Guard kids are different, but programs still available to them](#)**

Compared to children in an active-duty family, Guard children don't always have the access to support programs and to peers who understand what they are going through when a parent has deployed. Several military services and the office of the secretary of defense offer a variety programs and activities for Guard children.

## **FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **[Tricare overseas beneficiaries reminded to update DEERS](#)**

Critical information about how the new Tricare Overseas Program contract affects beneficiaries will be mailed soon, so beneficiaries living abroad need to update their Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System records, especially their mailing address, as soon as possible. For more information about DEERS, go to [www.tricare.mil/DEERS](http://www.tricare.mil/DEERS). To learn more about the Tricare Overseas Program, go to [www.tricare.mil/TOPcontract](http://www.tricare.mil/TOPcontract).

### **[VA officials strive to prevent veteran suicides](#)**

With more than 6,000 veterans committing suicide every year, and 98 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan taking their own lives during fiscal 2009 alone, Department of Veterans Affairs officials are redoubling their outreach to veterans and promoting the [toll-free suicide-prevention hotline](#).

## **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**

### **National Military Appreciation Month**

The Senate first passed a resolution in 1999 designating May as National Military Appreciation Month. That declaration summoned U.S. citizens to observe the month "in a symbol of unity, to honor the current and former members of the armed forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom and peace."

### **Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month**

In 1992, the official designation of May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month was signed into law, a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

### **This Week in Air Force History**

**May 1, 1960** – The Soviet Union shot down a U-2 surveillance plane piloted by Capt. Francis Gary Powers. Captain Powers was tried and convicted as a U.S. spy and sentenced to 60 years in prison. Two years later he was exchanged for a Soviet spy.

**May 1, 1965** – The YF-12A interceptor, an early version of the SR-71, set world records at 2,070.101 mph at 80,257.65 feet.

**May 1, 1968** – Air National Guard tactical refueling units completed one year of overseas duty on a continuous basis without mobilization. This is the first operation of its type in history of the Guard or Reserve.

**May 2, 1977** – First Lt. Christine E. Schott became the first woman undergraduate pilot training student to solo in the T-38 talon.

**May 3, 1952** – A C-47 made the first successful landing at the North Pole.

**May 3, 1968** – The first Air National Guard unit called to active duty in the Vietnam conflict, the 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron, arrived in South Vietnam and began flying combat missions two days later.

**May 5, 1970** – Air Force ROTC expanded to include women after test programs at Ohio State, Drake, East Carolina and Auburn Universities proved successful.

**May 6, 1994** – First Lt. Leslie DeAnn Crosby graduated from the Air National Guard's F-16 Fighting Falcon training course in Tucson, Ariz., and became the first U.S. Air Force Reserve woman fighter pilot.

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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