

Commander's Call Topics



May 7, 2010

"Today, more than ever, tactical effects can have strategic consequences. In many instances, mission success hinges on Airmen outside the wire, making split-second decisions in a highly dynamic environment in which black and white choices are rare, and the many shades of gray can challenge even the most brilliant and competent among us.

We must be creative in our approach, utilizing a variety of ways and means to deliver the appropriate technical, cultural, or corporate information in a timely and effective manner. That means that we must innovate, even when it makes us uncomfortable."

– Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz speaking at the [2010 Senior Enlisted Leader Summit](#)

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[Wingman Stand Down 2010 in May focuses on Airmen safety, well-being](#)

For a half day in May, Airmen will learn strategies to prevent suicides and private motor vehicle accidents as part of Wingman Stand Down 2010. The exact date for the stand down will be left to individual units to determine.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy noted the reasons for the stand down.

"Sadly, 18 Airmen, eight guardsmen and reservists, and three civilians, of all ranks and specialties, have taken their own lives so far this year. Additionally, approximately 50 Air Force members annually are killed in motor vehicle accidents. The stand down will include three topics: suicide prevention, motor vehicle safety and improving wingman skills by knowing your people."

► CURRENT ISSUES

['Don't Ask, Don't Tell' online inbox goes live](#)

The [inbox](#) will enable servicemembers and families to offer their thoughts about how a repeal of the law that prohibits gays and lesbians from openly serving in the military might affect military readiness, military effectiveness and unit cohesion, recruiting and retention, and family readiness. Respondents must possess an official Common Access Card to provide input.

[Social media sites add dimension to sharing information](#)

For a list of official Air Force social media sites and to read "Social Media and the Air Force," a guide for using social media, visit www.af.mil/socialmedia.asp.

[General sees opportunity, innovation at F-35 training wing](#)

General Stephen R. Lorenz, commander of Air Education and Training Command, visited the 33rd Fighter Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. He observed how the wing staff is taking "the opportunity to shape the future," by training pilots and maintainers on the F-35 Lightning II.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Air Force officials clarify officer stratification](#)

Air Force officials are providing additional guidance to help clarify the use of stratification for officers. The guidance includes better descriptions of stratification based on peer comparisons, rater's authority, senior leader quotes, deployed letters of evaluation, promotion recommendation forms and within decoration citations. For details, visit the [AFPC personnel services Web site](#).

Personal deployment readiness tool

All uniformed Air Force members can review their personal deployment readiness status using AEF Online's Personal Deployment Preparedness Tool. The PDPT consolidates MilPDS and Medical Readiness data in a personalized dashboard format. Airmen can access the tool by creating an account on [AEF online](#) and accessing PDPT under "Other AEF Applications."

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

Chaplains discuss suicide prevention

In 2008 and 2009, there were 12.4 and 12.5 suicides, respectively, per 100,000 Airmen. This equates to more than 40 Airmen taking their lives each year. In 2010, 18 active-duty members have taken their lives. Additionally, suicide rates in some career fields are more than double the Air Force rate. An important factor in prevention is creating community, and making each person feel important to the unit and integral to the mission.

Fry Scholarship established for children of fallen servicemembers

Children of military personnel who died in the line of duty since Sept. 11, 2001, can apply for an educational scholarship similar to the new Post-9/11 GI Bill. Benefits are retroactive to Aug. 1, 2009. The scholarship, which is administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, is named for Marine Gunnery Sgt. John David Fry, 28, a Texas native who died in Iraq in 2006 while disarming an explosive. For more information or assistance applying, call toll-free at 1-888-442-4551, or visit the [VA GI Bill Web site](#).

FINANCES AND EDUCATION

VA officials cutting insurance premiums for families

Military personnel insuring their families under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program will have reduced out-of-pocket expenses beginning July 1. Family SGLI monthly premium rates will be reduced for all age groups by an average of 8 percent.

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

May 7- 8, 1992 – The Command Band of the Air Force Reserve marched in a parade in Moscow, becoming the first U.S. military band to visit the Russian capital.

May 9, 1932 – First blind solo flight was made relying solely on instruments.

May 10, 1972 – Operation Linebacker began during the Vietnam War.

May 12, 1968 – Lt. Col. Joe M. Jackson landed his C-123 Provider on a special forces airstrip that was being overrun by hostile forces. Despite intense enemy fire, Colonel Jackson rescued a three-man combat control team, earning the Medal of Honor.

May 12, 1980 – The KC-10 Extender made its first flight.

May 13, 1911 – Lieutenants H.H. Arnold and T.D. Milling became the first Wright School Army pilots.

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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