

Commander's Call Topics



May 28, 2010

"As we approach the summer months, it is important to reiterate the importance of safety and risk management as we increase participation in outdoor sports and recreation, whether at home or deployed. Every year, we lose Airmen in summer-related mishaps, many of which are preventable. This summer, our goal is ZERO preventable mishaps. Help us accomplish this objective by exercising good personal judgment and by being a good Wingman, both on and off-duty." – [Letter to Airmen](#) on the 2010 Critical Days of Summer

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[Top enlisted Airman addresses quality-of-life issues](#)

In a recent interview for a Pentagon Channel series examining servicemembers' quality of life, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy stressed the importance of helping troops and their families meet the challenges they face so suicide doesn't enter the picture. Other top concerns are providing additional support to special-needs families, recruiting and adequate on-base housing.

[Air Force Energy Forum](#)

Undersecretary of the Air Force Erin Conaton, the Air Force's senior energy official, and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz attended the Air Force Energy Forum. Air Force, government and industry energy leaders discussed the service's energy strategies, identified opportunities and shared best practices.

"Executing the Air Force Energy Plan will help us reduce fuel demand and encourage new sources of supply, while maintaining mission effectiveness through increased operational efficiencies," Ms. Conaton said. *"Changing our culture so that every member of the Air Force considers energy efficiency in all they do is critical to success in this area."*

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Gates can accept 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' amendment](#)

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates can accept a proposed congressional amendment overturning the ban on gay men and lesbians serving openly in the military, but would prefer that lawmakers wait until a Defense Department review to assess its full impact is completed.

[U.S. Cyber Command established, first commander named](#)

Army Gen. Keith B. Alexander's has been appointed as the first commander of U.S. Cyber Command, officially establishing the initial operating capability for the new command.

[X-51 Waverider makes historic hypersonic flight](#)

An X-51A Waverider flight-test vehicle successfully made the longest supersonic combustion ramjet-powered hypersonic flight to date and accelerated to Mach 5.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Air University education database down](#)

A computer system managing various aspects of Air Force member's education experienced a serious technical malfunction, impacting Air University distance learning, related education records and test control facilities Air Force-wide. A team of technicians is working to restore the system. Airmen with questions about the status of their personnel records can contact the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

CIVILIAN

[Air Force transitions from NSPS to GS](#)

Most Air Force civilians under the National Security Personnel System will convert to the General Schedule by the end of this fiscal year. To assist civilian employees in understanding the GS personnel and position classification system, training modules are available at <https://www.my.af.mil/afknprod/nsps-gs-trng>. The DOD NSPS Transition Office website also contains helpful information regarding the transition from NSPS to GS at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/transition>.

[Hiring surge to employ thousands](#)

With contractor-to-civilian conversions, new organizations standing up and overall increases in civilian positions, the Air Force civil service continues to grow as officials look to employ thousands of U.S. citizens. [USAJOBS](#) is an online repository used by multiple federal agencies to announce job vacancies around the world.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Museums offer free admission to military families](#)

Active-duty servicemembers and their families will gain free access to hundreds of museums throughout the nation this summer through Operation Appreciation: Blue Star Museums. More than 600 museums in 50 states and the District of Columbia have signed up so far to participate. Visit <http://www.arts.gov/national/bluestarmuseums/index.php> for a complete list of participating museums.

[Panel discusses post-traumatic stress](#)

As the frequency and length of military deployments increase, servicemembers and their families are faced with challenges associated with deployment and combat. Building resilience, facilitating recovery and supporting reintegration of returning servicemembers and veterans are important steps in helping to prevent and treat combat stress reactions such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

[AF safety officials launch Critical Days of Summer campaign](#)

The [Critical Days of Summer safety campaign](#) will begin May 28 and run through Sept. 7.

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

Memorial Day – Formerly known as Decoration Day, this federal holiday is observed the last Monday in May to commemorate the men and women who died while in the military service.

This Week in Air Force History

May 28, 1959 – Monkeys Able and Baker are recovered alive from the Atlantic Ocean near Antigua Island after a flight to an altitude of 300 miles in the nose cone of a Jupiter missile launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

June 1, 1960 – Grace A. Peterson became the first female chief master sergeant.

June 1, 1967 – U.S. Air Force crews flew two HH-3E helicopters nonstop from New York to Paris in 30 hours, 46 minutes and 10 seconds with nine air refuelings.

June 1, 1992 – Military Airlift Command, Tactical Air Command and Strategic Air Command stood down and Air Combat Command and Air Mobility Command stood up.

June 2, 1949 – Gen. Henry H. Arnold was given the permanent rank of General of the Air Force.

June 2, 1991 – Mount Pinatubo erupted on the island of Luzon, the Philippines, covering Clark Air Base and two other U.S. military bases with two feet of volcanic ash.

June 3, 1959 – The U.S. Air Force Academy graduated the first class of 207 graduates. Two hundred and five receive commissions as regular officers in U.S. Air Force.

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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