

Commander's Call Topics



June 18, 2010

"Airmen have been providing strategic deterrent for more than 50 years. They have shown that perfection is not only achievable, it's the standard. This precision requires nuclear Airmen to follow checklists and technical orders to document deficiencies in day-to-day activities or through the inspection process. Precision must be the standard because these are the most powerful weapons in our nation's arsenal." – Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy from his [Enlisted Perspective](#) on strengthening the nuclear enterprise

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Gates: Budget request reflects Pentagon's reform agenda](#)

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates said the department must maintain budget growth during the next few years as the nation fights two wars. He also added that he understands this is a fiscally constrained environment, and wants the department to trim overhead costs and rethink acquisition.

[Afghanistan timeline not a withdrawal date](#)

President Barack Obama's directive calling for the start of a conditions-based drawdown of U.S. troops from Afghanistan in July 2011 shouldn't be considered as an exit date, but rather the beginning of the transfer of security responsibilities to the Afghans.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Air Force officials ban use and possession of spice, mood-altering substances](#)

A guidance memorandum has been published revising Air Force Instruction 44-121, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program. The revised language makes punitive the prohibition regarding the ingestion of any substance, other than alcohol or tobacco, for the purpose of altering mood or function. The guidance cites the designer drug "spice," salvia divinorum, inhalants, household chemicals, solvents and prescription drug abuse.

[Officials extend voluntary separation pay, reduce separation pay](#)

Air Force officials are extending the application period for eligible officers to apply for voluntary separation pay through July 31, but are lowering the multiplier to 1.5 times the authorized separation pay effective July 1. For more information on VSP eligibility and application procedures, visit the [AFPC personnel services Web site](#) or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

[Air Force officials announce AFROTC detachment commander vacancies](#)

Opportunities are available for officers to fill Air Force ROTC detachment commander positions throughout the nation. A complete list of projected summer vacancies and application instructions are available on the [AFPC personnel services Web site](#). Statements of intent must be submitted by July 9.

[New systems make military moves more efficient](#)

Personally Procured Move, or PPM, is a new system to better compensate servicemembers who personally move their household goods on military orders. PPM replaced the old "Do-It-Yourself," or DITY, move system.

[Air University educational computer system partially restored](#)

Most functions are restored to the Air University computer system responsible for the majority of Air Force distance education. Distance learning course enrollments, progressions and completions, to include e-testing updates from test control facilities, are operational. The functions responsible for the automated processing of WAPS and DL course material for delivery are also operational.

Officials seek Flemming award nominations

The award honors outstanding federal employees who have made significant and extraordinary contributions to the federal government. The Air Force may nominate six federal civilian employees or servicemembers, two in each of the following three categories: managerial or legal achievement; basic science; and applied science, engineering and mathematics. Guidance and nomination forms are available at <http://www.gwu.edu/~flemming/>.

CIVILIAN

NSPS transition well under way

By late September, 75 percent of the workforce is expected to be transferred into the General Schedule classification and pay system from the National Security Personnel System.

Applying for Air Force NAF jobs goes virtual

A new centralized online tool, www.nafjobs.org, is making it easier for job seekers to find and apply for federal careers in various nonappropriated fund activities. These include Air Force clubs, golf courses, child development centers, youth centers, bowling centers and outdoor recreation centers.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

Libraries inspire military children to read

Defense Department library officials have embarked on their first department-wide summer reading program. "Voyage to Book Island." This program asks children to complete four to six books over the course of the summer to keep their reading skills sharp. For installations without a library, parents can check with their local child and youth program or local summer camp to see if they're participating in the program.

USAFE officials invest \$240 million in housing

The continuing investment in military family housing and dormitories is keeping U.S. Air Forces Europe in line with the Year of the Air Force Family theme of building a great place to live, work and play. USAFE officials completed the construction or renovation of numerous family housing units and dormitories to improve the quality of life for servicemembers and their families living on base.

Family members can help keep each other safe this summer

Making lessons count and applying sound risk management decisions is everyone's responsibility. That's why the Air Force is celebrating National Safety Month this month by combining it with Year of the Air Force Family and including family members in the effort to prevent accidents during summertime, when mishaps tend to spike.

FINANCES AND EDUCATION

Savings bonds deductions move to direct deposit Sept. 30

Effective Sept. 30, instead of payroll deductions, savings bonds will be available through a direct-deposit deduction by setting up a Treasury Direct account. Airmen and DOD civilians interested in learning more can visit http://www.savingsbonds.gov/indiv/products/prod_paperpayrollsavings.htm.

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

June 18, 1965 – Strategic Air Command B–52s used for the first time in Vietnam when 28 aircraft flying from Guam strike Vietcong targets near Saigon.

June 20, 1941 – The Air Corps and General Headquarters Air Force are combined to form the Army Air Forces.

June 24, 1954 – Secretary of the Air Force Harold E. Talbott announced the permanent location of the U.S. Air Force Academy as a 15,000-acre tract of land six miles north of Colorado Springs, Colo.

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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