

# Commander's Call Topics



July 2, 2010

*"Defining events across the globe continue to shape our service in very consequential ways. Rising regional tensions, the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, and worldwide economic challenges are just a few of the multi-dimensional challenges impacting global security and stability. Today's military thinker must appreciate the many dimensions -- political, environmental, economic, informational and others -- that comprise international security."*

– Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz discussing the importance of the [CSAF reading list](#).

## FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

### [CSAF stresses importance of Airmen and mission](#)

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz recently visited Sather Air Base, Baghdad, where he discussed the integral role that every active-duty, guard, Reserve, and civilian Airman has in accomplishing the mission. He also highlighted the need for discipline and compliance with Air Force standards; force-shaping measures; and suicide prevention.

### **CMSAF visits bases in the U.S. Central Command AOR**

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy recently visited [Bagram Airfield](#), Afghanistan, touring the base and engaging with Airmen. *"Our Airmen are doing things today we never expected them to be doing and they are doing a tremendous job."*

He also met with Airmen at the [380th Air Expeditionary Wing](#), Southwest Asia, where he was impressed with wing's teamwork. *"Our mission partners enjoy working with our Airmen here, and the Airmen at the 380th (AEW) are absolutely in the fight."*

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [Air Force officials implement government travel card controlled spend accounts](#)

In an effort to curtail government travel card abuse and delinquency, Air Force officials are piloting an unprecedented controlled spend account concept through Sept. 3 with an expected service-wide rollout of fall 2010. The most significant CSA concept bases spending limits on approved travel authorizations and provides just enough funds to perform the mission. For more information about controlled spend account cards, e-mail [afgtc.iba@pentagon.af.mil](mailto:afgtc.iba@pentagon.af.mil).

### [ROTC instructor vacancies available](#)

Opportunities are available for qualified officers to fill nearly 100 projected Air Force ROTC detachment instructor vacancies throughout the nation next summer. A complete list of projected vacancies, eligibility requirements and application instructions are available on the special duty assignments (81T) Web page on the [AFPC personnel services website](#).

### [Air Force cell phone plan changes to save \\$2 million per year](#)

Beginning in August, changes through the Cellular Airtime Optimization Plan will be made to about 10,000 cell phone plans for Air Force employees which will better reflect their actual usage starting in fiscal 2011 (October 2010). To help determine the best plan, a rate plan calculator can be accessed from the [Air Force Cellular Services and Devices website](#).

## GUARD AND RESERVE

### [Reserve program to grow by 400 by September](#)

With 400 new funded billets and recent attrition rates in fiscal 2010, Air Force Reserve [Individual Mobilization Augmentee Program](#) officials are expecting to hire 1,600 people by September. Reservists who recruit people into the Air Force Reserve can win prizes including MP3 players and flat-panel TV through a rewards program called ["Get 1 Now."](#)

## FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

### [Online program helps military families vote absentee](#)

Defense Department officials launched an Internet-based program to help servicemembers and other Americans living overseas vote more easily in November's elections. The new [online voting assistant](#) will make the registration and absentee ballot application process quick, easy, seamless and intuitive.

### [Tricare makes traveling within the U.S. carefree](#)

To reduce the chance of health care problems while traveling, beneficiaries should complete routine care before leaving town. Tricare beneficiaries should also make sure their [Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System](#) information is accurate. Beneficiaries should save all medical receipts and review their [Tricare](#) plan for the required follow-up.

### [Tricare officials implement new formulary search tool](#)

The new [formulary search tool](#) allows beneficiaries to easily find which medicines are in the uniform formulary. These are available at all full-service military treatment facilities and covered by Tricare.

## 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

### Independence Day

Commonly known as the Fourth of July, this federal holiday commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

### This Week in Air Force History

**July 2, 1926** – Air Corps Act is signed; sets five-year expansion plan in motion and changes name of Air Service to Air Corps.

**July 4, 1942** – Douglas A-20 Havoc bombers made the first U.S. bombing raid on Europe during World War II.

**July 6, 1953** – U. S. Air Forces in Europe began an airlift of children from Berlin to West Germany for a summer vacation in German and American homes

**July 7, 1955** – First test mission of Project Whoosh, which evaluated escape from high-speed aircraft at approximately Mach 2

**July 8, 1948** – Women of the Air Corps Staff Sgt. Esther Blake became the first female in the new Air Force. She enlisted in the first minute of the first hour of the first day regular Air Force duty was authorized for women.

**July 8, 1960** – The Congo's independence from Belgium led to civil war. To help the Africans, the U.N. started airlift operations. Through January 1964, Military Air Transport Service flew 2,128 missions to move 63,798 people and 18,593 tons to cargo. On July 15, U.S. Air Forces in Europe also began helping with the airlift operations

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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