

Commander's Call Topics



July 16, 2010

"Whether our contribution is in irregular warfare, humanitarian relief operations, engaging other air forces, aerial combat, strategic deterrence--or just getting the job done--we stand firm as a vital component of U.S. military power. America's Air Force entered the 21st century as the world's best air, space and cyber institution, and together we must expand on that legacy." – Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz from his [Vector – The Way Ahead](#), which provides direction for Air Force future generations

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[CMSAF visits Iraq, reflects on first year](#)

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy recently visited Sather Air Base, Iraq, where he discussed his priorities and the changing role Airmen have in the Iraqi mission. The visit marked his one-year anniversary as the top enlisted Air Force leader. *"I couldn't be prouder to represent our Airmen and their families."*

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Survey will permit informed decisions](#)

Survey responses on the possible repeal of the law that bans gays and lesbians from serving openly in the military will allow leaders to make informed decisions. The [survey](#) gauges the attitudes of members of the force if Congress repeals the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law.

[No more C-17s, DOD officials tell Congress](#)

The military has more than enough large transport planes, and the appropriation of any more in the next budget year will force some into premature retirement, Defense Department officials told a congressional panel. A departmental study concluded the military's current fleet of 223 C-17s and 111 C-5s is more than enough airlift capability for years to come.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Officials announce NCO retraining program dates](#)

More than 4,000 Airmen now have the opportunity to retrain as part of the fiscal 2011 NCO Retraining Program. The NCORP is a two-phase program designed to sustain the enlisted force by moving second-term and career Airmen from overage Air Force specialty codes to shortage AFSCs. Phase I began July 15 and ends Sept. 16. Phase II starts immediately following Phase I. For more information about the fiscal 2011 NCORP, visit the [AFPC personnel services website](#).

[Air Force officials launch new uniform website](#)

The [Air Force Dress and Appearance public website](#) was recently launched to help educate and inform Airmen about the service's dress and appearance standards and policies. It features interactive slideshows, uniform regulations, detailed photos and uniform policy updates from the Air Force Uniform Board. While the new site will be a valuable resource, Airmen should continue to work through their chain of command for clarification and guidance on Air Force dress and appearance standards and policies.

[Air Force's new 'virtual Finance' takes customers out of waiting line](#)

Replacing the "Money - Finance Central" page on the [Air Force Portal](#), the virtual finance page was developed to bring Air Force finance customers some of online capabilities provided by commercial financial institutions. Customers can get help with everything from travel pay and moving allowances, to in-processing, retirement and separation. Tools such as deployment entitlement and permanent change of station entitlement calculators are also available.

[Information assurance scholarship available to officers, civilians](#)

Officers and civilians have until Jan. 31 to apply for the [Information Assurance Scholarship Program](#), a special developmental education program available for the 2011 academic year. The program pays the full cost of tuition, select fees and required books for graduate degrees in subjects such as information assurance, cyber operations, computer science and software engineering.

CIVILIAN

[Upgrade allows civilians to update awards online](#)

Civilian employees can now update their non-monetary awards through the self-service module in the Defense Civilian Personnel Data System using the "Awards and Bonuses" tab in "[My Biz](#)."

[NSPS positions assigned GS pay grades](#)

With only weeks remaining to classify Air Force civilian jobs into the General Schedule personnel system, Air Force classifiers are ensuring [National Security Personnel System](#) positions have a current GS title, series and grade before the NSPS conversion out date. An employee who feels the classification does not accurately reflect their position's assigned duties and responsibilities may appeal the decision to the Department of Defense or OPM.

[President Obama announces return of the SAVE award](#)

President Barack Obama wants federal employees to submit their ideas for eliminating government waste and saving American taxpayers' money as part of the [2010 SAVE](#), or securing Americans' value and efficiency, award program. The deadline for submissions is July 22, with the winners being announced in September.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Outreach 'essential' to suicide prevention](#)

Preventing suicide among servicemembers and veterans calls for comprehensive education and communication. Many resources and tools have been developed for servicemembers, veterans and families. Utilization of these resources is dependent upon prevention education and communication about their existence. [Veterans Affairs](#) has suicide prevention coordinators at each VA medical center, and there has been significant expansion of services and work to alleviate the stigma of seeking help.

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

July 16, 1945 – The first atomic bomb explosion took place at Trinity Site, Alamogordo, N.M.

July 17, 1962 – Maj. Robert White piloted the first space flight of a manned aircraft in the X-15 at Edwards AFB, Calif.

July 18, 1914 – Statutory recognition of Army aviation began when the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps was created. Also created were the grades of junior military aviator and aviation mechanic, which provided flying pay and restricted aviation students to unmarried lieutenants less than 30 years of age.

July 20, 1969 –Neil A. Armstrong was the first man on the moon and Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. was the second.

July 20, 1974 – The Thunderbirds gave their first show using T-38 Talon aircraft, which replaced the F-4E Phantom II aircraft used for the previous five years.

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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