

# Commander's Call Topics



Aug. 6, 2010

*"Military readiness is directly tied to family readiness. This is our ninth year at war. We continue at a level that has generated extraordinary results from the best military that I have ever been associated with in some 40-plus years."* – Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at the [2010 National Guard Family Program Volunteer Workshop](#)

## FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

### [CSAF: Legacy of Tuskegee Airmen lives on in today's Airmen](#)

*"The red jackets of the Tuskegee Airmen remain as distinctive today as the red tail markings on the aircraft they flew during World War II. And their legacy -- the influence they've had on Air Force operations, past and present -- leaves an even more indelible mark,"* said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz at the 39th annual Tuskegee Airmen Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

### [Acquisition Improvement Plan recaptures excellence](#)

When Air Force Secretary Michael Donley and Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz signed the Acquisition Improvement Plan in May 2009, they launched a significant effort to help the service recapture acquisition excellence. In the past year, Air Force officials progressed towards their goal of a revitalized acquisition workforce, adding almost 2,000 positions at the various product centers, filling acquisition positions across the Air Force, and increasing training opportunities for acquisition personnel.

### [Undersecretary talks about Air Force's energy plan at White House forum](#)

Undersecretary of the Air Force Erin Conaton described the service's work on energy reduction and the search for renewable sources of energy during a White House forum. She also discussed the strategic, operational and financial impact fuel has on the Air Force and the Department of Defense.

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### [Air Force officials release preferred aircraft basing alternatives](#)

Preferred alternative locations for F-35 operations are Hill AFB, Utah, and Burlington Air Guard Station, Vt.; and for training, Luke AFB, Ariz. Also, Holloman AFB, N.M., will transition to the F-16 Fighting Falcon training mission. The preferred alternative basing option for the MC-12 is Beale AFB, Calif. Training candidates for the C-27J Spartan are Key Field Air Guard Station, Miss., and Mansfield Lahm Regional Airport, Ohio. Candidates for C-27J operations are Boise Air Terminal AGS, Idaho, and Great Falls International Airport, Mont.

### [Defense panel calls for more force structure changes](#)

Defense Department officials need to maintain recent additions to the ground forces for the foreseeable future and boost long-range strike, maritime and cyber capability to confront global trends and threats. According to the Quadrennial Defense Review Independent Panel, the Air Force has about the right force structure but needs to augment its long-range strike capability.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [Defense Department officials launch 'Lessons Learned' blog](#)

A new Defense Department blog that launches seeks to bring lessons learned to an accessible online platform. Titled "[In Their Own Words: Lessons Learned in Today's Military](#)," the blog aims to provide a platform for servicemembers, veterans and families to share their thoughts and experiences on a variety of topics. Each month, the blog will feature a different topic ranging from multiple deployments to the military family.

## GUARD AND RESERVE

### [Joint: The new 'buzz word' in family support](#)

National Guard officials are willing to help family members around the country, no matter which branch or component their servicemember belongs to. A family's location, financial constraints, limited local information and a need for face-to-face interaction demands that all the services make their support programs accessible to all. The Guard has made progress in communicating its family and servicemembers support programs through the [Joint Services Support Portal](#).

## CIVILIAN

### [Nonappropriated fund human resources issues addressed during conference](#)

Air Force NAF employees are paid with money generated by NAF activities, such as Air Force clubs, bowling centers, child and youth programs, outdoor recreation and golf courses. The conference addressed NAF employee recruiting, labor relations, retention methods and new technology. For more information about NAF careers, visit [www.NAFjobs.org](http://www.NAFjobs.org).

## FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

### [DOD officials announce school year 2010/2011 child care fee policy](#)

The policy will adjust fee ranges in child care programs across the services and will be implemented no later than Sept. 30. Changes will impact families who have children enrolled in DOD child development centers and school age care programs. The DOD broadened child care fee ranges from six to nine categories, raised the income cap on each fee range, and established the top earning range at \$125,000 per year and above for a more equitable policy.

### [Suicide solution involves leadership](#)

Defense Department officials still are in the early stages of understanding war's impacts, such as post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury. The focus must be on how to get ready for that deployment and how to be preventive in building resilience on the front end that will carry through the deployment cycle.

## 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/>

### ***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**

**Aug. 6, 1945** – The atomic bomb was dropped from "Enola Gay" on Hiroshima, Japan, in World War II. This was the first use of the atomic bomb in war.

**Aug. 7, 1782** – The creation of the Badge of Military Merit, now called the Purple Heart, was ordered by Gen. George Washington. The badge design had a purple cloth heart with a silver braided edge. Only three were known to have been awarded during the Revolutionary War. The award was reinstated on Feb. 22, 1932, to recognize those wounded in action.

**Aug. 7, 1945** – U.S. Air Forces in Europe was established.

**Aug. 7, 1959** – The first intercontinental voice message in history relayed via Earth satellite. The voice of Maj. Robert C. Mathis who retired as vice chief of staff, transmitted from Trinidad, British West Indies, to Rome, N.Y.

**Aug. 7, 1965** – The first Minuteman II missile was placed in its silo at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.

**Aug. 9, 1945** – The atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, from "Bocks Car." It was the second atomic bomb dropped in World War II.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit the Air Force Link heritage section at <http://www.af.mil/information/heritage>.

*The Defense Media Activity-San Antonio produces Commander's Call Topics weekly. For questions or comments about this or any other DMA-SA product, send e-mail to [afproducts@dma.mil](mailto:afproducts@dma.mil). To subscribe to Air Force news and information products online, go to [www.af.mil/information/subscribe](http://www.af.mil/information/subscribe).*