

Commander's Call Topics



Aug. 13, 2010

"Air Force personnel should not access the WikiLeaks website to view or download the publicized classified information. Doing so would introduce potentially classified information on unclassified networks."

– [Air Force WikiLeaks Website Guidance](#)

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[Air Force primed to adopt official motto](#)

Seeking an enduring and distinctive way to reflect the Air Force's cultural identity and adapt to changing missions, senior leaders have solicited feedback from Airmen to help develop potential mottos. *"The intent is to create a phrase that captures the spirit of the Air Force, is inspirational, and serves as an enduring rallying cry for Airmen, from Airmen,"* said Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Carrol H. "Howie" Chandler.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Gates strives to change Pentagon's culture](#)

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced efforts that will freeze civilian hires, cut contract payments, reduce the number of general officers, flag officers and senior civilians, and eliminate two Defense Department offices and U.S. Joint Forces Command. The initiative to reduce Defense Department overhead and to eliminate duplicative capabilities is part of a larger thrust to change the culture of the Pentagon.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Air Force officials to release staff sergeant promotion list](#)

Air Force officials selected 13,518 of 28,510 eligible senior airmen for promotion to staff sergeant for a selection rate of 47.41 percent. The staff sergeant promotion list will be released publicly Aug. 19 at 8 a.m. CDT on the [Air Force Personnel Center's public website](#). Airmen also can access their score notices at the same time on the [Virtual Military Personnel Flight](#) and [Air Force Portal](#).

[Cyberspace education](#)

Officials from the Air Force's new [Cyber Professional Continuing Education Program](#) at the Air Force Institute of Technology have officially started their efforts to produce skilled and knowledgeable cyber leaders to support joint warfighting efforts.

RESERVE AND GUARD

[Air Force Reserve officials streamline call-up process](#)

Air Force Reserve Command officials are proposing comprehensive changes to how reservists are managed and called to active duty. Collectively called "AFR 2012," this series of projects establishes a single organization to access Air Force Reserve capability, streamlines the numbered air force management structure, and strengthens Headquarters AFRC expertise in a wide range of new and emerging Air Force missions.

[McKinley tells Guard enlisted force to prepare for prolonged overseas role](#)

Gen. Craig McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, said The National Guard likely will continue to play a significant role in overseas contingency operations for the foreseeable future. *"The things that we bring from our civilian occupations will mean that the National Guard will be in huge demand for years to come,"* General McKinley said.

CIVILIAN

[New employees to be automatically enrolled in TSP](#)

New legislation that called for automatic enrollment of newly hired and eligible civilian federal employees, as well as certain rehires, into the [Thrift Savings Plan](#) began Aug. 1. Affected civilian federal employees will have three percent of their base pay automatically deposited into their TSP account.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[A year later, H1N1 flu and your summer travel plans](#)

World Health Organization officials report H1N1 is still a global problem. Tricare beneficiaries, especially those traveling internationally or going on cruises, should think about how the seasonal and H1N1 flu may affect vacation and travel plans. For more information, visit the [Tricare Flu Resources webpage](#), or the [Tricare Novel Influenza A \(H1N1\) webpage](#).

FINANCES AND EDUCATION

[More than 1,100 schools partner with VA on GI Bill](#)

Paving the way for recipients of the post-9/11 [GI Bill](#) to attend higher-cost schools, Department of Veterans Affairs officials have entered into more than 3,200 agreements with over 1,100 schools for the upcoming academic year under the "[Yellow Ribbon](#)" program.

TECHNOLOGY

2010 Air & Space Conference and Technology Expo

The Air Force Association will hold its annual Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition Sept 13-15 in Maryland. The conference is composed of forums, speeches, seminars and workshops focused on national defense issues and the latest developments in air and space power. There will also be major addresses by senior Air Force and aerospace industry leaders. The exposition features over one hundred exhibits and displays relating to aerospace technology. All attendees must register, even for the free admission to the Technology Exposition. The conference schedule and the registration site can be found on the [AFA website](#).

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. 13, 1961 – The Berlin Wall was built. The government of East Germany closed the border between the east and west sectors of Berlin with a barbed wire fence, built to discourage people moving to the west. A week later a concrete wall was built.

Aug. 14, 1945 – V-J Day -- the surrender of Japan to the Allies.

Aug. 15, 1977 – The 354th Tactical Fighter Wing at Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, S.C., became the first operationally ready A-10 Thunderbolt wing in the Air Force.

Aug. 17, 1946 – Master Sgt. Lawrence Lambert was the first human to test an ejection seat. He punches out of a P-61 traveling at 302 mph more than 7,800 feet above Ohio. For this feat, he receives the Cheney Award.

Aug. 17, 1978 – The U.S. Air Force accepted the first production F-16 Fighting Falcon.

Aug. 18, 1945 – Enlisted gunners aboard a B-32 shoot down the last Japanese Zero.

Aug. 18, 1978 – Airman 1st Class Tina M. Ponzer became the first female enlisted person to perform Titan II alert.

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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