

Commander's Call Topics



Aug. 20, 2010

"We cannot know what the future holds, so in order to realize my vision of a consistently powerful, capable Air Force, we will almost certainly need to pursue initiatives not yet fully imagined. I know Airmen will respond."

– 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

[Building a stronger Air Force community](#)

"Enhancing our service to families and fostering a greater sense of community increases our mission effectiveness--both at home and while deployed. Our missions are demanding, and our Airmen perform to their highest potential if they are unencumbered by worries about their families and personal affairs," said Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley in a speech to the Air Force Sergeants Association.

[CMSAF shares perspective about readiness, development, resiliency](#)

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy spoke at the Air Force Sergeants Association Professional Airmen's Conference, citing readiness, deliberate development, and resiliency among Airmen and their families as his main focuses. *"Apart from your own preparation and readiness, you also need to ensure your wingman is prepared. We have thousands of Airmen that are forward deployed working with other services outside the wire, and doing that type of business every day."*

[Year of the Air Force Family wraps up](#)

During the "Year of the Air Force Family," senior leaders examined existing support services and sought out ways to evolve and expand them to meet the changing needs and expectations of Airmen, their families and the larger Air Force family as well. As the Year of the Air Force Family initiative closed, many programs developed and improved this year will carry on and continue to benefit Airmen and their families. Follow the story link for a video in which Air Force leaders' spouses highlight the changes made during this year-long initiative.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[General calls for network utility, security balance](#)

Gen. William T. Lord, the Air Force's chief information officer, says it's critical to find the right balance between the security and utility of an information technology network. The key is to build a network that is flexible and resilient enough to handle whatever it's being used for. It's also important to protect not only the network, but also the work being done on the Internet, calling for efforts to broaden security concepts.

[Realignment, closure plan continues on track](#)

The Base Realignment and Closure Commission plan, which took effect in November 2005, affects more than 800 military installations. It involves closing some, consolidating or realigning others and ultimately relocating some 123,000 military members and civilian employees. By law, all these actions must be completed by Sept. 15, 2011; 28 BRAC recommendations already have been implemented, and all others are on track for completion by the statutory deadline.

[Air Force officials reviewing command, control training infrastructure](#)

Officials at the U.S. Air Force Warfare Center at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., have been directed to formerly conduct a study addressing training gaps and standardization for air, space and cyberspace C2 warfighters and standup of a C2 campus. The integrated campus will consolidate formal training for component-numbered Air Forces, air and space operations centers and Air Force forces staffs.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

CIVILIAN

[Civilians given 60-day access to records after separating](#)

This new capability allows employees to log into the AFPC Secure website from a personal computer using a user ID and password and download a copy of their final separation Standard Form 50, Notification of Personnel Action, or any other eOPF document. The user ID and password must be created prior to the employee's separation date. For more information visit the [AFPC personnel services website](#).

[8,800 Air Force employees transition out of NSPS](#)

The first two waves of Air Force employees have successfully converted out of the [National Security Personnel System](#), leaving less than 30,000 to make the transition. Approximately 8,800 employees were converted out of NSPS during phases I and II in July. Phases III and IV are scheduled for completion Sept. 12.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

Electronic cigarette use

The Air Force Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. Charles Green, has released a [memo](#) to alert all Airmen about the safety concerns regarding electronic cigarettes. "E-cigs" are battery-operated devices that look like conventional cigarettes and deliver nicotine as a vapor. Advertisements claim these are a healthier way to smoke, but no studies have been done and they are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

FINANCES AND EDUCATION

Virtual Finance

The new "[virtual Finance](#)" tab on the Air Force Portal replaced the "Money – Finance Central" page; the majority of financial services used by Airmen and civilian employees are now available in one resource. The site can now be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week wherever there is access to the Air Force Portal.

[AAFES officials working double time to correct inadvertent charges](#)

A processing error resulted in duplicate charges on credit and debit card transactions for some customers at Army Air Force Exchange Service stores on purchases made between Aug. 7 and Aug. 9. Customers should review their statements. If a problem is found, no customer action is required as AAFES is working to correct it. Depending on the type of card used, corrective action should show on statements anywhere from 24 hours to a couple of weeks.

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. 20, 1953 – Seventeen Air Force F-84G Thunderjets flew non-stop 4,485 miles from Albany, Ga., to Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England. It was the longest mass movement of fighter aircraft in history and the greatest distance ever flown non-stop by single-engine jet fighters.

Aug. 24, 1929 – Lt. James H. Doolittle made the first blind, all-instrument flight.

Aug. 25, 1953 – Air Force officials announced it had transferred its B-36 bomber into a "flying aircraft carrier" capable of launching and recovering jet fighters in flight.

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. To subscribe to Air Force news and information products online, go to www.af.mil/information/subscribe.