

Commander's Call Topics



Aug. 27, 2010

"Simply put, this is an expeditionary Air Force, and deployments are part of our culture. This year, you'll see a tremendous transition from operations in Iraq to surge operations in Afghanistan. We must continue to refine our efforts and recognize that an Airman's deployment is really a family's deployment."

– Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley from [remarks](#) to the Air Force Sergeants Association Professional Airmen's Conference and International Convention

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[CSAF's Vector: The Way Ahead](#)

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz shares his vision for the way ahead in his latest Vector, in which he discusses five priorities: continuing the Air Force nuclear enterprise; partnering with the joint and coalition team to win today's fight; developing and caring for Airmen and their families; modernizing air and space inventories, organization and training; and recapturing acquisition excellence.

[Air Force officials discuss training, energy compatibility at Nevada Forum](#)

Undersecretary of the Air Force Erin C. Conaton, the service's senior energy official, attended the Nevada Forum in Las Vegas along with representatives from government, industry and the Department of Defense. The forum's main purpose was to facilitate an open dialog between stakeholders on how to achieve safe, compatible, renewable energy development while ensuring military operations and training are not impeded.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[2011 retraining program in full swing](#)

Airmen still have time to voluntarily retrain in Phase I of the 2011 NCO Retraining Program before the program's involuntary Phase II begins Sept. 20. For more information about the fiscal 2011 NCORP, visit the [AFPC personnel services website](#).

[Air Force Statement regarding Operation Enduring Freedom Camouflage pattern](#)

"We are committed to equipping Airmen with the most advanced capabilities available at the earliest time possible. Based on feedback from Airmen, we believe the Operation Enduring Freedom Camouflage Pattern provides advanced protection to servicemembers while operating outside the wire in Afghanistan. Army (officials), while beginning an aggressive fielding schedule, (are) working with Air Force (officials) to support developing a long-term joint fielding strategy later this year."

[Language program application deadline nears](#)

Air Force officials are accepting application packages through Sept. 13 for officers interested in participating in the Language Enabled Airman Program, which offers an opportunity to develop a foreign language skill throughout an Airman's career. For more information on language qualifications and application procedures, visit [www.culture.af.edu](#).

[Air Force encourages employees to cash in on ideas](#)

A multi-service focused contest, called the Innovation for New Value, Efficiency & Savings Tomorrow Awards, runs Aug. 9 through Sept. 24. The Department of Defense-led program is designed to produce money-saving ideas that improve the way the DOD operates. Civilian and military employees are encouraged to share their ideas online at [www.defense.gov/invest](#).

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Direct communication between Airmen key to suicide prevention](#)

The [Air Force Suicide Prevention Program](#) has implemented 11 initiatives that address suicide prevention from the individual level up to the command level.

[Commissary eggs unaffected by recall](#)

Defense Commissary Agency food safety officials reported military commissaries are not affected by the massive Wright County Egg voluntary recall. Although the commissaries may carry some of the brands mentioned in the recall action, the eggs sold in military stores are not part of those linked to salmonella contamination. Commissary customers can check the status of their eggs at home by looking for the Julian date and plant code stamped on the end of each egg carton. See story for recall details.

FINANCES AND EDUCATION

[VA's home loan program continues to stay strong](#)

Mortgage loans guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs continue to have the lowest rate for serious delinquency and foreclosures in the industry. For more information, visit the [VA Home Loan Guaranty Program website](#), or call the VA at 877-827-3702.

[AFI 36-2301 outlines new developmental education guidance](#)

Substantial revision has been made to [Air Force Instruction 36-2301](#), establishing policy and responsibility for developmental education.

RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Airman magazine

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>

Air Force Community

<http://www.afcommunity.af.mil/>

Air Force Outreach

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/>

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

Renovated heritage museum reopens

Air Force officials reopened the newly-named and renovated USAF Airman Heritage Museum at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

This Week in Air Force History

Aug. 28, 1972 – Capt. Steve Ritchie became the first Air Force ace of the Vietnam War by downing a MiG-21 west of Hanoi, North Vietnam.

Aug. 29, 1938 – Brig. Gen. H.H. "Hap" Arnold was named chief of the Army Air Corps, succeeding Maj. Gen. Oscar Westover, who was killed in a plane crash Sept. 21.

Aug. 31, 1956 – The maiden flight of the Boeing KC-135 Stratotanker, first all-jet tanker-transport.

Sept. 1, 1953 – The first jet-to-jet air refueling took place between a Boeing KB-47 and a "standard" B-47.

Sept. 1, 1966 – U.S. Air Force Tactical Fighter Weapons Center was activated at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Sept. 1, 1968 – U.S. Air Forces in Europe assumed control of Zweibruecken Air Base, Germany, from the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Sept. 1, 1971 – An SR-71 from Beale AFB, Calif., set a new world speed record for aircraft by flying between New York and London in one hour, 54 minutes, 56 seconds at an average speed of 1,806.96 mph.

Sept. 1, 1982 – Air Force Space Command was established to further consolidate Air Force operational space activities. As a major command it supports Air Force space operations, including satellite control and Department of Defense space shuttle flight planning, readiness, and command and control.

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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