

Commander's Call Topics



Sept. 10, 2010

"Loving your Airmen is not a catch phrase, nor does it mean passively asking someone how their day is going. Rather, it is an active process, an investment on the part of leaders and fellow Airmen. You never know when you are going to make a difference, so never pass up an opportunity to reach out to those around you and invest in their lives. Trust me, it is an investment that will pay dividends for the rest of your life." – Gen. Stephen R. Lorenz, Air Education and Training Command commander, from his commentary, [Love your people](#)

► CURRENT ISSUES

[AF transfers northern airspace to Iraq](#)

The Air Force handed over the Kirkuk sector of airspace, 15,000 feet and above, to the Iraq Civil Aviation Authority. The Kirkuk sector of airspace consists of the northern 1/3 portion of Iraq, which previously had been controlled by the Air Force out of Kirkuk Air Base.

[Cyber Task Force passes mission to Cyber Command](#)

Joint Task Force Global Network Operations was deactivated in a ceremony Sept. 7. The task force's people and operations and personnel now fall under U.S. Cyber Command at Fort George G. Meade, Md.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Fitness testing begins for deployed Airmen](#)

Airmen deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility will include physical fitness testing into their wartime responsibilities starting Oct. 1. The new USAFCENT fitness policy will be available soon on [AEF Online](#).

[NCOs still needed to retrain](#)

Airmen have until Sept. 17 to voluntarily retrain as part of the 2011 NCO Retraining Program before the program's involuntary Phase II begins. Air Force officials identified 1,061 opportunities for Airmen to retrain out of their current career field under NCORP. Applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. However, those selected under Phase II will be placed into AFSCs based on the needs of the Air Force. For more information about the fiscal 2011 NCORP, visit the [AFPC personnel services website](#).

[2010 holiday greetings teams ready to travel](#)

Three broadcast teams from the Joint Hometown News Service will soon begin taping video holiday greetings of servicemembers and their families stationed overseas during the holiday season. Servicemembers and civilian employees from all branches of service, their family members, and DOD civilians are eligible to participate. Visit <http://jhns.dma.mil> for a listing of where and when a team will visit.

GUARD AND RESERVE

[Army, Air Guard officials prepare for flu season](#)

Air National Guard units are scheduled to receive their doses of the flu vaccine within the next month. The biggest change to this year's vaccine is that it combines three influenza vaccines into one, protecting against H1N1, H3N2 and an influenza B virus. For more information on the listed influenza viruses and the vaccines being used by the Department of Defense, go to www.flu.gov.

CIVILIAN

[Officials seek Service to America Medals nominees](#)

The Partnership for Public Service is soliciting nominations for the 2011 [Service to America Medals](#). Nomination eligibility extends to career civilian federal employees. The nominee must have shown a commitment to public service and demonstrated a significant accomplishment within his or her particular government field that was innovative, high impact and met a critical need for the nation.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Tricare officials encourage military kids to "move" on childhood obesity](#)

By observing [Childhood Obesity Awareness Month](#), Tricare representatives are active participants in the [Let's Move!](#) program for military kids. The national Let's Move! program works to combat childhood obesity through engaging every sector impacting a child's health. It provides schools, families and communities simple tools to help kids be more active, eat better and get healthy.

TECHNOLOGY

[Department joins in call for innovative solutions](#)

Defense Department officials are putting some of their most vexing challenges on the Internet for the public to help solve as part of a new initiative to invite creative solutions to government problems, offering millions of dollars in prizes to those who find solutions to challenges that span all areas of government. Pentagon officials submitted four challenges to the [Challenge.gov](#) 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 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

Patriot Day – September 11: On this day, the President directs that the American flag be flown at half-staff and displayed from individual American homes, at the White House, and on all U.S. government buildings and

establishments, home and abroad. The President also asks Americans to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 A.M. (Eastern Daylight Time), the time of the first plane crash on Sept. 11, 2001.

Hispanic Heritage Month – September 15 to October 15: The nation observes Hispanic Heritage Month in honor of the many contributions made by the Hispanic community to the United States. It originally began as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Johnson, and was later expanded to a full month by President Reagan with respect to the anniversary of the independence of five Latin American countries Sept. 15: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Along with those countries, Mexico declared its independence on Sept. 16, and Chile on Sept. 18.

This Week in Air Force History

Sept. 10, 2005 – First all-female C-130 crew flies a combat mission. The crew, from the 43rd Airlift Wing at Pope AFB, N.C., was deployed to the 737th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron flying cargo and troops in and out of Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa.

Sept. 11, 1953 – The AIM-9 Sidewinder air-to-air missile made its first successful interception, sending an F-6F drone down in flames.

Sept. 12, 1957 – The North American Air Defense Command became functional. It was the first two-nation, all-service military organization to function on this continent.

Sept. 15, 1948 – Maj. Richard L. Johnson, flying an F-86 Sabre, recaptured the world speed record for the United States, streaking over a three-kilometer course at Muroc AFB, Calif., at 670.981 mph.

Sept. 15, 1956 – The Matador missile squadrons at Hahn, Bitburg and Sembach air bases in West Germany were collectively reassigned to the newly activated 701st Tactical Missile Wing, the first missile wing in the Air Force.

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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