

# Commander's Call Topics



Sept. 17, 2010

*"Our underlying strength is in the integrity, excellence, and selfless service that our Airmen bring to the fight daily. It's our Airmen who will translate their organizations, doctrine, training and equipment into combat power--in the air, in space, and in the cyber domain."*

– Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley in his keynote speech, [State of the Air Force - 2010](#), during the Air Force Association's Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition

## FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

### [Chief of staff highlights contributions of Airmen to national security](#)

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz spoke on the state of the Air Force during the Air Force Association Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition. His [comments](#) highlighted the contributions of Airmen to national security in the strategic environment of the 21st century.

### [Air Force undersecretary reinforces value of acquisition estimate tool](#)

The Air Force relies on numerous vendors for critical supplies and everyday items, and the Long-Range Acquisition Estimate helps ensure that the Air Force gets the highest-quality products and services at the lowest prices. Undersecretary of the Air Force Erin C. Conaton recently signed a memorandum supporting the LRAE.

### [Chief Roy shares what's in store for enlisted force](#)

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy shared his perspective of where the enlisted force is heading during a presentation at the AFA Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition. Some of the key points he emphasized were Airmen's participation in the joint and coalition fight, deliberately developing Airmen and building resiliency among Airmen and their families.

### [AETC commander addresses innovation through training](#)

The commander of the Air Education and Training Command, Gen. Stephen R. Lorenz, spoke during the AFA Air and Space Conference on innovative recruiting, training and educational goals used to develop Airmen to meet the Air Force and warfighter mission. His comments highlighted AETC's role in developing innovative educational and training programs to develop future leaders.

### [AFGSC meets challenges](#)

Speaking at the AFA Air and Space Conference, Gen. Frank Klotz, commander of Air Force Global Strike Command, discussed the challenges and accomplishments of the first completely new command to stand up in 27 years. AFGSC is responsible for the nation's ICBMs and long-range capable bombers as well as the 23,000 Total Force Airmen and civilians who operate, maintain, secure and support them.

### [AFSPC commander focuses on leverage in space community](#)

Gen. C. Robert Kehler, commander of Air Force Space Command, detailed challenges of the space community during the AFA Air and Space Conference. He outlined how leverage, integration and innovative thinking can all bring the space community into the future with existing assets.

### [AMC commander relates importance of global reach](#)

The commander of Air Mobility Command, Gen. Raymond E. Johns Jr., emphasized the national, joint and coalition importance of the support AMC provides to combat and humanitarian operations during the AFA Air and Space Conference.

### [USAFE commander assesses future strategy](#)

Gen. Roger Brady, U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander, presented a briefing at the AFA Air and Space Conference. He discussed present issues confronting the command and addressed the strategic need for the U.S. to continue its strong alliance with European allies and current geopolitical trends overseas.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [Air Force officials increase deployment times](#)

The air and space expeditionary force rotational baseline will be changed from 120 to 179 days for most active component Airmen. Expeditionary combat support Airmen will begin their transition to the new baseline in December 2010 with full implementation expected by October 2012.

### [Political dos and don'ts during campaign season](#)

While exercising a right to vote is the duty of all Americans, military and civilian federal employees should understand the laws and regulations that outline what constitutes appropriate participation in the political process.

### [Officials seek Spirit of Hope Award nominees](#)

The award recognizes a military member, civilian or an organization that epitomizes the values of Bob Hope: duty, honor, courage, loyalty, commitment, integrity and selfless dedication. Nomination packages must be sent to the Air Force Personnel Center by March 15, 2011. Visit the [AFPC personnel services website](#).

## GUARD AND RESERVE

### [Air Guard a more cost-effective, operational force](#)

While speaking at the 2010 AFA Air and Space Conference, Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt, director of the Air Guard, told attendees that the Air National Guard should be fielded concurrently with the same equipment as its active-duty counterparts in order to continue as an operational force.

### [Reserve chief proposes closer look at active and reserve force mix](#)

Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., commander of the Air Force Reserve Command and chief of the Air Force Reserve, spoke about having to readjust, reapply and rebalance current manpower at the AFA Air and Space Conference. He added that proven reserve capability and cost effectiveness should drive discussions on rebalancing the mix of active and reserve forces.

## FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

### [Officials extend spouse career program deadline](#)

Spouses currently enrolled in the Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts program, commonly known as MyCAA, will be able to request financial assistance for classes with a start date that is on or before Jan. 31. Previously, the start-date cutoff was Jan. 15. However, spouses still must submit their financial assistance request by Oct. 21. Visit the [Military OneSource website](#) for more information.

### [Read the lease before signing](#)

Before signing a lease and moving in, read every paragraph on the agreement carefully. Be sure to understand it; talk with the landlord to clarify any questionable language. Request a written inspection of the premises prior to moving in and document discrepancies. Remember, every state has its own landlord and tenant laws, so what was experienced at a previous duty location may not be the same in a new location.

### [Pentagon urges employees to 'leap' into fitness](#)

Uniformed and civilian Air Force members are encouraged to represent the Defense Department in the presidential fitness challenge "Leap Into Fall," which will run through Oct. 31. The campaign goal is for DOD members to record 1.5 million hours of physical activity during the challenge. Participants should log onto the [DOD wellness website](#), and follow the quick links to build a profile and to log their physical activity.

## 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**

**POW/MIA Recognition Day – September 17:** POW/MIA Recognition Day honors the commitments and the sacrifices made by our nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. By custom, it is on the third Friday in September. National POW/MIA Recognition Day is one of the six days specified by law on which the black POW/MIA flag is flown over federal facilities and cemeteries, post offices and military installations.

### **This Week in Air Force History**

**Sept. 17, 1908** – Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge became the first military aviation fatality in the world. He was a passenger-observer in a biplane piloted by Orville Wright. The plane crashed, killing Lieutenant Selfridge and seriously wounding Mr. Wright.

**Sept. 17, 1959** – An X-15 rocket plane was launched from a B-52 Stratofortress bomber.

**Sept. 18, 1947** – The U.S. Air Force became a separate military service. **Happy 63nd Birthday, Air Force.**

**Sept. 20, 1965** – Airman 1st Class William A. Robinson and Airman 3rd Class Arthur Black are captured on a rescue mission in Vietnam and later became the first enlisted Air Force Cross recipients.

**Sept. 22, 1950** – Col. David Schilling made the first non-stop transatlantic flight in a jet aircraft, flying an F-84E Thunderjet from Manston, England, to Limestone (later Loring) AFB, Maine, in 10 hours, one minute. The trip required three in-flight refuelings.

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).*