

Commander's Call Topics



Sept. 24, 2010

[Chief Master Sgt. Richard Etchberger posthumously awarded Medal of Honor](#)

"...he exemplified the deepest meaning of our Air Force Core Values: Integrity First, Service before Self, and Excellence in All We Do. And, we know that he typified the grit, determination, and commitment that reside in all our Airmen today. Some are Airmen who perform more traditional roles in providing air, space, and cyber capabilities. Others are battlefield Airmen who are regularly involved in "outside-the-wire" missions, and yet others are in non-traditional roles. Whether clearing improvised explosive devices from roads, driving and securing supply convoys through the countryside, or leading teams that help to reconstruct shattered societies, our Airmen are on point each and every day." – Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz from his [remarks](#) at the induction of Chief Master Sgt. Richard Etchberger into the Hall of Heroes

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[Gallantry and Intrepidity Above and Beyond the Call of Duty](#)

"Already part of our Air Force family, already a part of our Air Force history, Dick Etchberger's name is now enshrined in our Hall of Heroes, creating a deep and unbreakable bond not just with our history, but with our heritage," said Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley in his remarks at the induction of Chief Master Sgt. Richard Etchberger into the Hall of Heroes.

[Chief Etchberger: First E-9 awarded the Medal of Honor](#)

Speaking at the Hall of Heroes induction ceremony for Chief Master Sgt. Richard Etchberger, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy said, *"Our Airmen are proud of this brave senior NCO. As the chief master sergeant of the Air Force, I am determined that all Airmen of today will remember, respect, and rise to the standard set by the actions of Chief Master Sergeant Etchberger. I salute him."*

[Leaders say happy birthday, Air Force](#)

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy issued a message to the total force to celebrate the Air Force's 63rd birthday and to remind them to remember the commitment and sacrifice of all the Airmen deployed around the globe.

[Air Force leaders discuss challenges, achievements](#)

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz hosted a multi-command panel of generals to address issues from the audience at the Air Force Association's Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition. Despite the demanding operations tempo, General Schwartz said the entire Air Force team will continue its important mission defending the U.S. and assisting its partners.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Combat Air Force leaders sign new strategic plan](#)

The [2010 Combat Air Force Strategic Plan](#) articulates how the [CAF](#) will focus its efforts on winning today's fight while keeping a steady, unwavering commitment to defending the homeland, strengthening nuclear deterrence and meeting tomorrow's challenges.

[Net-centricity transcends the network](#)

The powers and perils of operating in a net-centric environment were discussed at this year's Net-Centric Operations Conference. The conference brought government and industry members together to examine the net-centric landscape and help chart the way forward.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Airmen urged to complete all PCS requirements](#)

Airmen who recently completed a permanent change of station move should complete the personal property Customer Satisfaction Survey. This 12-question survey ensures leaders are aware of how the move went. The surveys are e-mailed between seven and 21 days following the delivery of household property. Airmen who didn't receive an e-mail are requested to either select the Personal Property/POV link at www.SDDC.army.mil to access the survey or contact their local Personal Property Office for assistance.

[Stop loss special pay deadline nears](#)

Time is running out for current and former Airmen previously affected by Stop Loss to apply for retroactive special pay as the Oct. 21 deadline approaches. To file a claim, members or legally designated beneficiaries may download a stop loss claim application at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/stoploss. Applicants who were serving in the Reserve or guard at the time of Stop Loss may apply by visiting the [Air Reserve Personnel Center website](#).

[Commanders play key role in accounting for members](#)

One of the key challenges for Air Force leaders after a disaster is accounting for all personnel. The Air Force relies on the Air Force Personnel Accountability and Assessment System to account for the total force, including active-duty Airmen, reservists, guard members, civilians, overseas contractors and family members. All total force members can log into [AFPAAS](#) occasionally to make sure their information is accurate, or call 800-435-9941.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Human trafficking equals modern-day slavery](#)

Human trafficking is the use of another human being for illegal purposes. It is vital that Department of Defense members, military and civilians, are aware of the warning signs before hiring individuals for work or before visiting high-risk businesses. Reports of human trafficking are monitored by security forces, inspector general offices and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. To report a possible case of human trafficking, contact any of these organizations. To report anonymously, contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 888-373-7888.

[AAFES changes name of exchanges](#)

The name change to "Exchange" is happening everywhere, including shoppers' mailboxes and computers as the website changes to www.shopmyexchange.com and advertisements, tabloids and catalogs display a brand new 'X' logo. The endeavor will end post exchange and base exchange confusion.

FINANCES AND EDUCATION

[Officials urge protection against identity theft](#)

Defense Department officials are urging servicemembers to be aware of identity theft and are providing ways for them to protect themselves. Identity theft can cause financial stress, and servicemembers dealing with financial issues are less likely to be ready to fully perform their missions.

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

This Week in Air Force History

Sept. 24, 1929 – 1st Lt. James H. Doolittle proved the possibility of instrument flying when he became the first pilot to take off and land entirely on instruments.

Sept. 24, 1987 – The Air Force Thunderbirds performed for a crowd of 5,000 in Beijing. It had been nearly 40 years since a U.S. combat aircraft flew over and landed on Chinese soil.

Sept. 26, 1947 – Gen. Carl Spaatz became the first chief of staff of the Air Force.

Sept. 28, 1945 – Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe officially opened at U.S. Army Air Station 197 in Wiesbaden, Germany.

Sept. 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.

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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