

# Commander's Call Topics



Oct. 8, 2010

## ***Aim High ... Fly-Fight-Win***

*"Airmen recognize a motto should represent something enduring. It must be bigger than any single person, something that gives voice to the pride of service of all who've worn this nation's Air Force uniform -- past, present and future."* – Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz announcing the [service's motto](#)

## **FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS**

### **Under secretary launches energy awareness month**

Air Force Under Secretary Erin Conaton met with the U.S. Air Force Academy's Falcon Green energy triad during the launch of energy awareness month. *"Seeing what you all have been able to accomplish on this scale inspires the actions we can take as an Air Force to reduce energy demand, increase supply and change our culture."*

### **Armament Symposium brings DOD, industry together**

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz spoke at the annual Air Armament Symposium Oct. 5. The Air Armament Center partnered with the National Defense Industrial Association to host its 36th symposium. *"Scarce funds will not allow us to indiscriminately acquire new technology or material solutions. Instead we must carefully anticipate future requirements and implement a selective and incremental approach to modernizing legacy capabilities, acquiring limited-capability systems as a stopgap where necessary and procuring next-generation technologies where fiscally responsible."*

### **Top chief discusses training**

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy visited the Air Force Academy enlisted cadre and spoke about Airmen today and the challenges they face in the joint fight. *"Our nation is at war. We need to understand that. Anything and everything we do, we do as a joint and integrated team."*

## **► CURRENT ISSUES**

### **Service demographics offer snapshot of force**

Air Force Personnel Center officials published a demographics report offering a snapshot of the service's active-duty and civilian force. This data is current as of Sept. 30 and can also be found on the Air Force personnel statistics [web page](#).

## **► PERSONNEL ISSUES**

### **Website is one-stop shop for deployment issues**

Airmen can access information about their upcoming deployment at the Air and Space Expeditionary Force Online website. The AEF Online website, located at <https://aef.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>, provides a single access point for all AEF-related issues to include reporting instructions, tempo banding, training requirements, functional area posturing and sequencing guidance.

### **Officials announce initial enlistment bonuses**

Pentagon officials recently released the fiscal 2011 initial enlistment bonus program list. Three Air Force specialty codes had bonuses decrease, but only for those enlisting for six years. Those AFSCs seeing decreases were airborne linguist, crypto linguist and tactical air control party. No AFSCs were added or increased for the new fiscal year.

## **GUARD AND RESERVE**

### **National Guard launches mobile education lab**

As part of the president's "Educate to Innovate" initiative, National Guard officials debuted The Energy Lab -- a mobile classroom featuring interactive learning tools focusing on the science and technology behind alternative energy sources. The mobile lab will also provide a unique exposure to science and math for a number of schools and communities that may have limited access to educational resources.

## **FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **Using 'Spice' is dangerous**

While they may be legal in some states, "designer drugs," often marketed as herbal remedies, are banned under military law and policies by the Defense Department. Military officials are getting the word out that besides leading to a court-martial and a less-than-honorable discharge, such practices also can be dangerous.

## **CIVILIAN**

### **[Strategic leadership courses available for senior civilians](#)**

Civilian leadership development officials at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, are seeking nominations for an out-of-cycle selection board to identify senior-level civilians for strategic leadership development opportunities in the 2011 academic year. Air Force civil service employees in the permanent grades of GS-14 and 15 are eligible to apply. Visit the [AFPC personnel services](#) web site for more information.

## **FINANCES AND EDUCATION**

### **[President extends deadline for stop loss benefit](#)**

Eligible Airmen, veterans and their beneficiaries now have until Dec. 3 to apply for retroactive stop loss special pay following an extension in the continuing resolution signed by the president Sept. 30. The new Dec. 3 deadline extends the original Oct. 21 cutoff for applications and allows eligible recipients more time to apply for the benefit.

### **[Amendment provision could put more money in spouse's paycheck](#)**

A November 2009 amendment to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act included a provision that exempts military spouses who are living with their active-duty sponsor, under official military orders, from paying state income taxes on wages earned in that state, as long as that state is not the spouse's legal residence. Spouses are encouraged to contact the nearest military legal office for more details.

### **[Registration now open for 2011 AETC Symposium](#)**

Registration is open for the 2011 Air Education and Training Command Symposium, scheduled for Jan. 20 and 21 in San Antonio. The two-day symposium will feature more than 90 seminars on a variety of education, training and innovation topics by experts from across the Air Force. Participants can decide which seminars and discussions they want to attend, tailoring their interests. To register for the 2011 AETC Symposium visit <http://www.aetcsymposium.com>

## **TECHNOLOGY**

### **[Exchange ID check goes hi-tech](#)**

Implementation of an updated point-of-sale system that uses the technological advances available through "smart" Common Access Cards is streamlining the identification process for age-restricted items at Army and Air Force Exchanges.

## **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/>

**Employment Opportunities**

[www.usajobs.com](http://www.usajobs.com)

[www.nafjobs.org](http://www.nafjobs.org)

**AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS**

**October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month:** The National Domestic Violence Hotline provides a free and confidential resource to those who are abused or to friends and family who are concerned that a loved one is being abused: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233), or visit [www.ndvh.org](http://www.ndvh.org).

**October is Energy Awareness Month:** The Air Force theme is "A New Culture: Energy as an Operations Enabler"

**Hispanic Heritage Month continues through October 15:** The nation observes Hispanic Heritage Month in honor of the many contributions made by the Hispanic community to the United States.

**This Week in Air Force History**

**Oct. 14, 1947** – The first faster-than-sound flight is made by Capt. Charles E. Yeager at Muroc Air Base, Calif., in a rocket-powered research plane, Bell XS-1 rocket ship.

**Oct. 14, 1962** – A U.S. Air Force reconnaissance flight proved the existence of Russian missile sites in Cuba.

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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