

# Commander's Call Topics



Oct. 29, 2010

*"We've had a drastic increase this year in the number of suicides among our total force Airmen. Last year we lost 84 Airmen by suicides; this year, we've nearly reached that number, and it is only October. Even one suicide is too many!"* – Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy from his [Enlisted Perspective](#)

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### [Air Force poised for Expeditionary Combat Support System](#)

Touted as the largest change in Air Force logistics history, the Expeditionary Combat Support System will establish the service's first capability to globally view, standardize and manage logistics resources. ECSS will provide integrated software, standardized business processes, and transformed personnel roles.

### [Space Fence design moves into next phase](#)

Electronic Systems Center officials released a request for proposal announcement for the next phase of a program that will revamp the way space objects and debris are identified and tracked. The Space Fence program, with a total anticipated value of more than \$3.5 billion, will deliver a system of geographically dispersed ground-based sensors to provide timely assessment of space events

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [New voting options available to servicemembers](#)

For voters in many states, absentee ballots can be obtained electronically for printing and mailing. Additionally, voters from all 55 states and territories can use the [Federal Voting Assistance Program](#) online Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot automated assistant to vote for at least all federal candidates. For specific information on which options are available in your state or territory, see the [Electronic Voting Systems Fact Sheet](#).

### [Tops In Blue to conduct talent search](#)

The Air Force's entertainment group, Tops In Blue, is seeking new performers for their 2011 team. Total force Airmen who think they have the skills to sing, dance, act or play musical instruments are encouraged to apply for the Worldwide Talent Search at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Dec. 6 to 13. Interested applicants may apply online at [www.topsinblue.com](http://www.topsinblue.com) or mail an application and video to the Air Force Entertainment office by Nov. 5.

## GUARD AND RESERVE

### [Program Fills Gap for Returning Guard, Reserve](#)

The [Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program](#) can ease the post-deployment process for thousands of Guard and Reserve members and their families. The program helps to ensure that geographical separation from the military doesn't equate to emotional or social isolation.

## CIVILIAN

### **Single Staffing Tool rollout**

The Air Force Personnel Center announced the AF-wide rollout of the Single Staffing Tool beginning Nov. 15, 2010. The SST deployment will include all AFPC, Air Force District of Washington, and Air Force Reserve Command serviced positions. The vacancy announcements for all AFPC, AFDW, and AFRC serviced positions will be posted at <http://www.usajobs.gov/>. For more information, call 800-525-0102.

## FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

### [Flu shot options are many for TRICARE For Life beneficiaries](#)

Influenza vaccines are covered by Medicare at no cost to TFL beneficiaries as long as they are administered by a Medicare provider who agrees to accept the Medicare-approved amount as full payment. Flu shots also are covered by TRICARE if obtained at participating TRICARE network pharmacies in the U.S. For more information about overseas options, seasonal vaccines and TRICARE, visit the flu page at [www.tricare.mil/flu](http://www.tricare.mil/flu).

### **[VA officials taking life-saving campaign to streets](#)**

Nearly 1,200 life-saving advertisements are going up on city buses, bus shelters, rail and subway stations across the nation displaying a message of hope for those who have served their country and may be facing an emotional crisis. VA's suicide prevention hotline is 800-273-TALK (8255); and an anonymous online chat feature is available at [www.suicidepreventionhotline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionhotline.org). Advertisements and PSAs are available for download via You Tube and at [www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide\\_prevention](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention).

## **FINANCES AND EDUCATION**

### **[Scammers prey on servicemembers](#)**

Scams can include any trick used to gain information, money or resources. Victims should notify banks and credit card companies immediately. It is also important to account for what is missing and file a police report. Prevention includes safeguarding personal information to prevent others from gaining access to accounts.

## **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

**National American Indian Heritage Month** – In November, the nation observes National American Indian Heritage Month to celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of the peoples who were the original inhabitants, explorers and settlers of the United States.

### This Week in Air Force History

**Oct. 31, 1959** – A Series D Atlas ICBM went on alert at Vandenberg AFB, Calif. This was the first American ICBM equipped with a nuclear warhead to be placed on alert status.

**Nov. 2, 1971** – Titan IIIC rockets launched the first two Defense Satellite Communications System Phase II satellites into synchronous orbits.

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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