

Commander's Call Topics



Nov. 5, 2010

"The Air Force is the largest consumer of energy in the Department of Defense, which itself is the largest consumer in the federal government. During a time when budgets are tight, we want to decrease the amount of money we're spending on fuel and increase the amount we're spending on Airmen, their families and our readiness." – Under Secretary of the Air Force Erin C. Conaton from her [remarks](#) on energy initiatives during Air Force Week Cocoa Beach 2010

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[CSAF honors hometown heroes at Air Force Week](#)

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz helped honor some of central Florida's hometown heroes during Air Force Week Cocoa Beach 2010. *"Air Force Week gives Airmen the opportunity to tell their stories so that members of the community can have a better sense of the role, the mission and the value of our Air Force. At the same time, it allows us to say 'thank you' to the communities that support our Airmen and our families."*

[CMSAF visits Andrews, discusses Air Force issues](#)

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy spoke to Airmen about joint readiness, deliberate development and building resiliency at Joint Base Andrews, Md. Chief Roy stressed the importance of Airmen being ready for the joint and coalition fight.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Air Force officials announce enlisted supplemental promotions](#)

More than 500 Airmen have been selected for promotion to the next higher rank as part of the November enlisted supplemental promotion process. The promotion list can be found on the Air Force Personnel Center's [public website](#). Airmen can access their score notices on the [Virtual Military Personnel Flight](#) and [Air Force Portal](#).

[Officials stand up enlisted cyberspace defense operations career field](#)

Air Force officials added a new enlisted career field for cyberspace defense operators. The new specialty code, 1B4X1, is a retrain-in only specialty focused on computer network operations. The initial 1B4X1 cadre will comprise Airmen who are retraining from intelligence and cyberspace support specialties.

[Air Force school focuses on cybersecurity](#)

The Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, has added graduate-level cybersecurity education and research to its academic offerings. For more information, visit the AFIT [Center for Cyberpace Research website](#).

['Stop Loss' special pay application deadline approaches](#)

Veterans and current servicemembers who were involuntarily retained in the military under the "Stop Loss" program can still apply for special pay before the Dec. 3 deadline. Servicemembers whose service was involuntarily extended or whose retirement was suspended between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009, are entitled to a retroactive payment of \$500 for each month of extension.

[Online tool tracks Airman deployment readiness](#)

The Personal Deployment Processing Tool, found on the Air and Space Expeditionary Force Online website, allows Airmen to review and track their readiness status for medical and personnel requirements. To use PDPT, Airmen must first create an [AEF Online](#) account.

[Nominations open for 2011 First Sergeant of the Year award](#)

The award recognizes the important contributions and leadership qualities exhibited by Air Force members in the first sergeant special duty career field. Nominations must include examples of leadership and job performance in the nominee's primary duty, significant self-improvement, and base or community involvement from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2010. For more information, visit the [AFPC personnel services website](#) at or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

CIVILIAN

[Open season set for civilian benefit programs](#)

Open season for three civilian benefit programs begins Nov. 8 and lasts through Dec. 13. The three programs are the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program, and the Federal Flexible Spending Account.

[Affordable Care Act impacts federal benefits](#)

Several provisions of the Affordable Care Act will be implemented Jan. 1 affecting eligibility and benefits for appropriated civilian employees under the Federal Employees Health Benefits and Federal Flexible Spending Account programs.

[Nominations open for William A. Jump Award](#)

The Jump Award annually recognizes a federal employee for his or her outstanding service in administration and notable contributions to the efficiency and quality of public service. Nominees must have demonstrated outstanding competence and interest in any area of public administration for at least five years. For more information, visit the [AFPC personnel services website](#) or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Are you ready for winter?](#)

If living in or traveling to a region that experiences snow and freezing temperatures, now is the time to make winter preparations. Prepare a household winter storm plan and make sure vehicles have a cold weather safety kit in case of emergency. Inspect fireplaces and take precautions with wood stoves and space heaters. Finally, inspect vehicles and allow extra time when traveling on icy or snow covered roads.

FINANCES AND EDUCATION

[VA backs 19 million home loans](#)

With mortgage rates at historic lows, veterans and military members continue to use the Department of Veterans Affairs [home loan program](#) in record numbers to purchase a home or refinance their existing loans. Most veterans, servicemembers, Reservists and National Guard members, as well as some surviving spouses, are eligible for the program. The program provides an opportunity for borrowers to qualify for no-down payment home loans as well as regular and interest-rate-reduction refinance home loans.

TECHNOLOGY

[Air Force officials initiate service-wide upgrade to Windows 7](#)

The Air Force-wide implementation to Windows 7 started Oct. 29 and will continue, with the goal of completing the upgrade across the service by December 2011. For those average users currently using Vista, which is a majority of the Air Force population, the upgrade will be nearly transparent. The biggest changes will be seen by those changing from Windows XP.

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

President proclaims November as Military Family Month

President Barack Obama signed a proclamation designating November as Military Family Month. *"During Military Family Month, we celebrate the exceptional contributions of our military families, and we reaffirm our commitments to these selfless individuals who exemplify the highest principles of our nation."*

November 11 – Veterans Day: Veterans Day originated as "Armistice Day" on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and Nov. 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans--living or dead--but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

This Week in Air Force History

Nov. 8, 1950 – First all-jet plane aerial combat in history took place over Korea. A U.S. Air Force F-80 Shooting Star, piloted by Lt. Russell J. Brown, downed a North Korean MiG-15.

Nov. 9, 1967 – Enemy gunners shot down a helicopter piloted by Capt. Gerald O. Young during efforts to rescue an Army reconnaissance team near Khe Sanh, South Vietnam. Captain Young's bravery earned the Medal of Honor.

Nov. 9, 1967 – January 1968 – Capt. Lance P. Sijan ejected from his F-4C Phantom over North Vietnam and successfully evaded capture for more than six weeks. The enemy eventually captured him, but he managed to escape. He was recaptured, and died as a result of his injuries as a prisoner of war. Captain Sijan received the Medal of Honor posthumously.

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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