

Commander's Call Topics



Nov. 19, 2010

(Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no CCT for Nov. 26, 2010)

"For every act of valor from our brave service men and women; for every singular achievement that assures security for our Nation; and, for every ultimate sacrifice or missing-in-action that imposes a profound burden on loved ones, it is our families who provide love and support, giving deeply personal meaning and distinct purpose to the professional efforts of all who serve. They strengthen us, often sacrificing their own desires, without pomp or pageantry—and often times, without sufficient recognition that is due to them."

– Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz from remarks at the [Fisher House for Families of the Fallen dedication ceremony](#)

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[Secretary Donley lauds Air Guard's capability, reach](#)

Speaking at the Air National Guard's 2010 Senior Leadership Conference, Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley said the Air National Guard leads the way in providing *"maximum combat power when and where the nation needs it, with the absolute best value for each and every taxpayer dollar. Our nation's global reach, as it exists today, would be impossible without the contributions of the Guard."*

[CSAF becomes honorary Tuskegee Airman](#)

Gen. Norton Schwartz joins Gen. Merrill McPeak and Gen. Ronald Fogleman as the only Air Force chiefs of staff to be recognized with the honorary membership.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Cyber attacks present 'huge' threat, Gates says](#)

According to Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, leaders are taking steps to bring defense industrial and domestic partners under an umbrella of protection from cyber attacks.

[Air Force officials select preferred alternative base for C-17](#)

The preferred base is Stewart Air National Guard Base, N.Y. Along with the C-17 basing action, 12 C-5 Galaxies assigned to Stewart ANGB will be retired. Once the environmental impact analysis process is complete, a final decision will be made.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[More Airmen needed to provide feedback through AF climate survey](#)

The climate survey assesses the opinions and perceptions of active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian members on several key factors including satisfaction, resources and unit performance. More Airmen are needed to participate before the survey closes Nov. 28. For more information about the Air Force climate survey, visit the Air Force Survey Office website on the [Air Force Portal](#).

['Real Warriors' campaign works to save lives](#)

Centers of Excellence officials launched the [Real Warriors](#) campaign to promote building resilience, facilitating recovery and supporting reintegration of returning servicemembers, veterans and their families. The program also works to combat the stigma associated with seeking psychological health care and treatment.

[Air Force officials seek Warrior Games participants](#)

Air Force officials are seeking 25 warriors to compete in the 2011 Warrior Games, an Olympic-style competition open to wounded, ill and injured military members and veterans. People interested in applying should do so immediately by calling the Air Force Wounded Warrior office at 800-581-9437 or sending an e-mail to afwounded.warrior@randolph.af.mil for application information. The application deadline is Dec. 16, 2010.

[Program easing medical separation rolls out forcewide](#)

A pilot program that eases medical separation and speeds benefit payments for servicemembers too wounded, sick or injured to stay in the military will soon roll out to the entire force. The Integrated Disability Evaluation System is a joint effort between the Defense and Veterans Affairs departments.

GUARD AND RESERVE

[Review aims to streamline ART hiring process](#)

Air Force Reserve Command and the Air Force Personnel Center leaders met with civilian force integration officials to identify present challenges, assess performance gaps and set goals for reducing the hiring process by 50 percent. Their efforts also are intended to tackle a 15-percent ART vacancy rate. To learn more about Reserve technician positions, visit the AFRC website at www.afrc.af.mil.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Deployed servicemembers can read their children a bedtime story](#)

The [United Through Reading Military Program](#) helps ease the stress of separation for military families by having deployed parents read children's books aloud via DVD for their child to watch at home. Deployed servicemembers can go to more than 60 USO locations or 200 other DOD sites, to make the recording.

[Flu shot is essential preventive step to avoid illness](#)

For active-duty members, the flu shot is a mandatory vaccine which should be accomplished before Dec. 1, 2010. Dependents can get their flu shots through military hospitals and clinics, or visit a [TRICARE](#) approved pharmacy.

[TRICARE provides answers to behavioral health questions](#)

TRICARE coverage includes help with anxiety, depression, traumatic stress, and other behavioral health problems servicemembers and their families may be facing. To learn more about the behavioral health care options available through the Department of Defense and TRICARE, visit www.tricare.mil/mentalhealth.

[VA officials launching new personalized Veterans Health Benefits Handbook](#)

Department of Veterans Affairs officials are testing a new, personalized Veterans Health Benefits Handbooks. The handbooks are tailored to provide enrolled veterans with the most relevant health benefits information based on their own specific eligibility. For additional information, go to www.va.gov/healtheligibility or call VA's toll-free number at 877-222-VETS (8387).

Holiday Safety Campaign

This year, the time period of Nov. 19, 2010, through Jan. 4, 2011, has been designated by the Air Force Safety Center as the [Holiday Safety Campaign](#). The center's vision this year is to ensure all of our Airmen: have an injury free holiday season; minimize traffic mishaps; travel safely and experience zero fatalities.

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; www.nafjobs.org

AIR FORCE HERITAGE

World's largest military aviation museum launches virtual tour

Air Force history buffs now can walk by JFK's Air Force One or the Presidential Gallery at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force from their living rooms. Museum officials recently launched the first phase of an interactive, [360-degree virtual tour](#) available on the museum's website. Users now can navigate a virtual map of a little less than half of the museum and view its exhibits through high-definition, panoramic photos.

This Week in Air Force History

Nov. 22, 1952 – While leading a flight of four F-80 Shooting Star fighters dive-bombing enemy gun positions, Maj. Charles J. Loring deliberately crashed his damaged aircraft into enemy emplacements. Major Loring received the Medal of Honor for his sacrifice.

Nov. 25, 1956 – Tech. Sgt. R.J. Patton made the first successful polar parachute jump.

Nov. 26, 1968 – Piloting a UH-1F helicopter, 1st Lt. James P. Fleming exposed his aircraft to intense hostile fire while rescuing a special forces reconnaissance patrol, eventually receiving the Medal of Honor for his heroism.

Nov. 29, 1951 – Air Force announced development of the XB-52, its first all-jet heavy bomber.

Nov. 29, 1975 – The first Red Flag exercise began at Nellis AFB, Nev., ushering in a new era of highly realistic air combat training for USAF pilots.

Dec. 1, 1959 – The first Airmen assumed the top enlisted rank, chief master sergeant.

Dec. 1, 1984 – The C-5A Galaxy entered service with the U.S. Air Force Reserve at Kelly AFB, Texas.

Dec. 2, 1993 – Col. Richard O. Covey, pilot and mission commander, piloted the fifth flight of the shuttle Endeavor, which set a record for the greatest number of spacewalks -- five. On the same flight Lt. Col. Tom Akers became the U.S. record holder for spacewalks with 29 hours and 40 minutes.

For more information on Air Force history, go to <http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil/>

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