

# Commander's Call Topics



Dec. 17, 2010

(Due to the holidays, the next CCT will be published on Jan. 7, 2011)

*"During this holiday season, we extend our sincere appreciation for your tireless efforts in defense of our nation's freedom and for your family's many sacrifices in support of your service. Whether you are deployed, stationed overseas or living in the United States, we encourage you to celebrate with care."* – 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 from their following [holiday safety message](#)

## FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

### Air Force leaders issue holiday message

*"Those of us with the good fortune to be able to celebrate the holidays at home amongst family and friends remember our deployed Airmen and their family members who miss them. We ask that you reach out to these families as well as our single Airmen, and in the spirit of giving and support that makes our Air Force so special, we ask that you welcome them into your holiday celebrations."* – 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 from their [holiday message](#)

### General Schwartz recognizes Civil Air Patrol

*"We all know that our liberty is among what we cherish most as a nation, and that its absence would greatly diminish the otherwise abundant blessings of freedom and opportunity that we enjoy as a nation. That is why we are also very thankful for organizations like the Civil Air Patrol, which, since 1943, has served our nation faithfully as an Air Force partner in providing airpower for civil support."* – Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz in a [speech](#) thanking Civil Air Patrol members during the Wreaths Across America event at Arlington National Cemetery.

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### [Officials select potential base for Royal Saudi Air Force F-15 training unit](#)

Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, has been selected as the preferred alternative to potentially host a Royal Saudi Air Force F-15SA maintenance and flying training unit in the U.S. An initial site survey will be conducted in December and an environmental impact analysis process initiated in early 2011.

### [Air Force, industry leaders brainstorm at Renewable Energy Industry Day](#)

Air Force senior leaders joined more than 250 industry professionals to exchange ideas about partnering to increase renewable energy supplies and achieve energy goals. Terry Yonkers, the assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment, and logistics, urged a dialogue about the service's and industry's respective goals and capabilities.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [Spice illegal for Airmen, produces dangerous side effects](#)

Spice, considered by some to be a marijuana alternative because it has the same effects, is a mixture of potentially dangerous herbs coated with chemicals and is often smoked like a cigarette. It is banned from use by Airmen and scheduled to soon become illegal for all U.S. citizens. If an Airman uses spice, disciplinary or adverse administrative actions will be pursued under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

### [Most housing rates dip for 2011 as pay, subsistence increase](#)

Most military housing allowance rates will decrease slightly for 2011, but servicemembers will receive, on average, as much or slightly more money than they did this year. A provision ensuring against rate decreases for servicemembers already stationed at a location means there is an average 1.1 percent increase. The 2011 Basic Allowance for Housing rates take effect Jan. 1.

### **Officials seek enlisted for AFIT degree program**

The [Air Force Institute of Technology](#) is offering six NCOs the opportunity to pursue an advanced science, engineering or management degree at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. The NCOs will be selected in February to attend the Enlisted-to-AFIT program. Nominations are due to the Air Force Personnel Center by Feb. 4 and can be sent to [afpc.dpafe.orgbox@randolph.af.mil](mailto:afpc.dpafe.orgbox@randolph.af.mil).

### **Nurse commissioning program officials seek enlisted applicants**

The 2011 Nurse Enlisted Commissioning Program offers enlisted members an opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in a high-need academic major. Interested Airmen must notify [Air Force Personnel Center](#) officials of intent to apply no later than Feb. 28. Transcripts for an academic evaluation should be sent no later than March 28, with a final application submitted by April 25. For more details on application procedures, visit a local base education office.

### **Caring for People Survey still open**

The [survey](#), open until Dec. 31, allows total-force Airmen, civilians, retirees and spouses an opportunity to tell Air Force leaders how they can better address services within health and wellness, Airmen and family support, education and development, and housing and communities.

### **Application deadline approaching for Warrior Games**

The [application](#) deadline for the 2011 Warrior Games is Jan. 11. Warrior Games is an Olympic-style competition open to wounded, ill and injured military members and veterans.

### **Deadline for aerospace awards draws near**

The deadline for submitting nominations for the 2011 Air Force Association aerospace awards to the [Air Force Personnel Center](#) is Feb. 1. The aerospace awards recognize individuals for their outstanding contributions to national defense in a variety of fields.

## **FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **TRICARE assistance program is here for beneficiaries during the holidays**

In a four-minute video at [www.tricare.mil/mentalhealth](http://www.tricare.mil/mentalhealth), Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, encourages servicemembers and family members to reach out for help if they are struggling with feelings of stress, anxiety or depression. To access information on TRIAP, go to [www.tricare.mil/triap](http://www.tricare.mil/triap) or go to your regional health care contractor's website.

### **TRICARE beneficiaries have many options to prepare for flu season**

TRICARE officials urge their 9.6 million beneficiaries to take preventive steps to stop the spread of the flu. The 2010 through 2011 flu vaccine will protect against three different flu viruses. Beneficiaries can get the flu vaccine at no cost to the member from military treatment facilities, TRICARE-authorized providers and participating network pharmacies. Visit [www.tricare.mil/flu](http://www.tricare.mil/flu) for more information.

## **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**

### **'Portraits in Courage' Vol. V highlights Air Force heroes**

The latest "[Portraits in Courage](#)" highlights 18 Airmen who demonstrated bravery and heroism in the crucible of war as they repelled air and ground enemy fire, led convoys through perilous terrain and assisted injured comrades. The stories describe ordinary Americans who accomplished extraordinary deeds despite harrowing challenges.

### **This Week in Air Force History**

**Dec. 17, 1903** – Orville and Wilbur Wright made the first sustained, controlled and powered airplane flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C.

**Dec. 17, 1963** – The new C-141A Starlifter transport flew for the first time at Dobbins AFB, Ga. Capable of crossing any ocean nonstop at more than 500 mph, the Starlifter can transport 154 people.

**Dec. 17, 1969** – The U.S. Air Force concluded the UFO reporting and investigating project designated "Blue Book."

**Dec. 17, 1993** – The first B-2 Spirit bomber arrived at Whiteman AFB, Mo.

**Dec. 18, 1972** – President Nixon directed the resumption of full-scale bombing and mining in North Vietnam, in an operation known as Linebacker II.

**Dec. 18, 1972** – Staff Sgt. Samuel Turner scores the first of only two aerial kills ever from a B-52 during Operation Linebacker II in Vietnam, and he becomes first enlisted MIG killer in Southeast Asia.

**Dec. 20, 1943** – Tech. Sgt. Forrest Vosler suffering from numerous wounds defends his B-17 Flying Fortress from Nazi fighters and assists wounded crew members after ditching. Sergeant Vosler was presented the Medal of Honor on Aug. 30, 1944, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

**Dec. 20, 1989** – As a result of increasing hostile actions directed at American civilians and military personnel, President George H. W. Bush ordered the beginning of Operation Just Cause. Two F-117 Stealth fighters released 2,000-pound laser-guided bombs in the aircraft's first combat missions. An AC-130H aircrew accurately attacked the Panamanian Defense Forces headquarters compound, the most heavily defended target of operation. Military Airlift Command units transported 9,500 airborne troops from Pope AFB, N.C., to Panama in less than 36 hours, making it the largest night-combat airdrop since the Normandy invasion of 1944.

**Dec. 22, 1964** – The SR-71 long-range, reconnaissance aircraft made its first flight.

**Dec. 24, 1972** – Airman 1st Class Albert Moore scores the second and last confirmed kill by a B-52 tail gunner during Operation Linebacker II in Vietnam.

**Dec. 30, 1972** – President Nixon ordered a halt to the bombing of North Vietnam north of the 20th parallel and announces that peace talks will resume in Paris on Jan. 8, 1973.

**Jan. 1, 1957** – Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, became the single site for Air Force basic training.

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

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