

# Commander's Call Topics



**Nov. 15, 2012**

*"All Airmen, uniformed and civilian, have a responsibility to ensure a safe holiday for themselves, their fellow Airmen, their wingmen, and their families by being alert to safety risks on and off duty."* – From a [holiday safety](#) message from Air Force senior leaders.

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### [Cody named next Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force](#)

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III has named Chief Master Sgt. James A. Cody to serve as the 17th chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

### [AF leaders brief BMT sexual misconduct investigation findings](#)

Air Force leaders announced Nov. 14 to members of the press here the results of the commander-directed investigation regarding the occurrences of sexual misconduct within basic military training between October 2010 and June 2011.

### [Original member of the Tuskegee Airmen dies](#)

Retired Lt. Col. Herbert Carter, 93, one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, died Nov. 8 at East Alabama Medical Center in Opelika, Ala., according to Tuskegee Mayor Johnny Ford.

### [Heavy Airlift Wing fully operational](#)

Col. Keith P. Boone, Strategic Airlift Capability Heavy Airlift Wing commander, declared the multinational wing has achieved a full operational capability status.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [New process helps prevent adverse civilian pay, records impact](#)

Civilian employees' supervisors will now get automatic email reminders 45 and 20 days before personnel actions are due to help prevent adverse impact on civilian pay and records, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

### [Military leave carryover extension expires Oct. 1](#)

Unless approved for special leave accrual, active-duty and Active Guard Reserve members who have more than 60 days of leave must use it or lose it by Oct. 1, 2013, when the temporary leave carryover extension provision expires, Air Force Personnel Center officials said today.

## ► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

### [Valley resident earns wings as 'Airman for a Day'](#)

A nine-year-old Spokane Valley, Wash., boy, who has been fighting Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and has undergone almost two years of chemo therapy, had the opportunity to visit Fairchild Air Force Base Nov. 2, thanks to a program started by base's company grade officers council.

## ► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

### [New LED fixtures light the way](#)

For close to two years, almost half of the street lights and parking lot lights on Peterson AFB have been disabled in an effort to cut energy costs. This past summer, the lights started coming back on in anticipation of new light-emitting diode fixtures being purchased.

## ► RESOURCES

### **AF.mil**

<http://www.af.mil>

### **Airman magazine**

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>

### **Air Force Outreach**

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/>

### **Military OneSource**

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

### **Military HOMEFRONT**

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.>

### **Air Force Personnel Center**

<https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

### **Air Reserve Personnel Center**

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/>

### **Department of Defense News**

<http://www.defense.gov>

### **Department of Veterans Affairs**

<http://www.va.gov>

### **TRICARE**

<http://www.tricare.mil>

### **U.S. Government Website**

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

### **Employment Opportunities**

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

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

### **Air Force Association Scholarships**

<http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/scholars.asp>

## **Through Airmen's Eyes: Chief discusses how family, pet help PTSD issues**

Coming back from deployment, Airmen face the home-station work environment, reintegrating with family and settling back into day-to-day life.

What happens when an Airman is diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and mild Traumatic Brain Injury upon return?

For one Airman, his path to recovery has been slow, but he's overcome the challenges he's faced.

"I gave myself permission to let my traumatic brain injury and PTSD be there," said Chief Master Sgt. Richard Simonsen, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling senior enlisted leader. "Then, I gave myself permission to reset everything and not be embarrassed by it."

Simonsen's last deployment was as a Public Affairs officer with a provincial reconstructive team in both Nuristan and Kandahar Provinces in Afghanistan. He completed 66 outside-the-wire missions with five attacks on their team. Due to the attacks, he was hospitalized for back and hip injuries and again for head injuries.

Upon return, he said he felt depressed and anxious, and he had difficulty being in crowds.

"The toughest thing is feeling you cannot be as productive as you used to be," Simonsen said. "Concentration was more difficult; writing e-mails was more difficult; composing my thoughts and expressing myself was more difficult."

A big piece of the recovery process for Simonsen has been his service dog.

"Yoko is a wonderful addition to my life," said the wounded warrior. "I say she's a resiliency tool of the first order. My recovery was really, really slow - it still is. Physically, I'm broken. And, the emotional, mental part was recovering slowly as well."

While at the TBI clinic one day, he interacted so positively with the facility dog that it was suggested he look into getting a service dog for himself.

*Read the rest of the story [here](#).*

## ► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

### November is Military Family Appreciation month

“In our military families, we see the best our country has to offer. They demonstrate the virtues that have made America great for more than two centuries and the values that will preserve our greatness for centuries to come.” These words are from the Presidential Proclamation designating November 2012 as Military Family Appreciation month.

It matters little whether one takes the grand view of Tolstoy that “All happy families are the same...,” or ascribe to the philosophy of the title of the children’s book that “All Families Are Different,” it’s easy to see that military families face unique obstacles and impacts by the very fact of their service. For example, in his dissertation by then-Air Force Capt. Richard T. Cooney, Jr., for his PhD at the University of Maryland, attention centered on the difficulties of what’s known as “tied migration,” the cultural impact of moving an entire family, on average every three years to follow the requirements of military reassignment.

According to “The Demography of Military Families,” a presentation by sociologist Dr. David R. Segal of the Center for Research on Military Organization, frequent relocation presents special challenges to civilian spouses seeking employment in terms of higher unemployment rates and statistically lower wages. Add to that chronic underemployment—the mismatch between employment and education—and it becomes a double-whammy when the financial impact is realized.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is a newly formed government entity, a product of recent financial reform that has as its mission to make markets for consumer financial products and services work for Americans. Their most recent [programs](#) were unveiled this month as part of Military Family Appreciation Month. They address the special financial challenges of service members, veterans and their families and to mitigate the unique risks faced by deployments, change of duty stations, and financial fraud aimed specifically at the military.

One CFPB program in particular, [Dollars for Degrees](#) explains opportunities available to service members (and in some instances, family members as well) to mitigate the cost of an education. Links to additional resources and ways to maximize the educational benefits are also included. Another part of the website specifically for service members, their families and veterans features [savings programs](#) in an effort to cushion the blow of the inevitable financial setbacks of everyday living. To assist families and individual service members to save, specific programs such as a guaranteed rate of return on savings while deployed, the Thrift Savings Program (TSP), and the Personal Financial Management Programs (PFMP) are also explained on the site. Other resources, such as mortgage help and protections against credit discrimination, are also available.

Military Family Appreciation is for each and every member of the military family and their families that serve, as well—the parents, the siblings, the spouses and the children who also serve on the homefront through private actions and public service that honor the service member.

*Martha Lockwood  
Chief, Information Products, Defense Media Activity*

**Nov. 15, 1942** – The first women entered U.S. Army Air Force flight training. The Army designated the Women’s Flying Training Detachment at the Houston Municipal Airport as the 319<sup>th</sup> Army Air Force Flying Training Detachment.

**Nov. 16, 2006** - The Air Force Special Operations Command received its first CV-22 Osprey at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

**Nov. 17, 1952** – During the Korean War, Col. Royal N. Baker, commander of the 4th Fighter-Interceptor Group, flying in MiG Alley with the 335<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, scored his fifth MiG kill to become an ace.

**Nov. 18, 1915** - The 1<sup>st</sup> Aero Squadron started the first squadron cross-country flight for the Army Air Service by flying 6 Curtiss JN-3s 439 miles from Fort Sill, Okla., to Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

**Nov. 19, 1980** – U.S. Air Forces Europe completed the conversion of its tactical fighter squadrons to F-15C/D models.

**Nov. 20, 1963** - The Air Force accepted the first two F-4C fighters. They went to 4453rd Combat Crew Training Wing at MacDill AFB, Fla.

**Nov. 21, 1957** - The DoD announced that the first ICBM base would be built at Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyo.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit <http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>.

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