Commander's Call Topics

"Sexual assault is more than just a crime against individuals…when a…service member leaves the military because they were sexually assaulted, that is a loss for our entire Nation."

The White House Proclamation
proclaiming April 2014
National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

April is
Sexual Assault Prevention and Response month.
Find out more about the
Air Force's SAPR Program.

Cyber Security Is a Shared Responsibility

What was once thought of as a rude, intrusive question—pointedly asking another's age, race or religion, for example—is so commonplace when required to re-set a password, that it hardly gives us pause when someone asks for our date of birth, where we were born, or our religious background. Yet, it should.

PII, or Personally Identifiable Information, identifies or describes an individual by using a social security number, age, rank, marital status, race, office and personal phone numbers, or other demographic such as biometric, personnel, medical and financial information. Cybersleuths combine two or more pieces of PII, and bingo! they have access to a person's bank accounts, credit cards and reputation. This also threatens the operational integrity of government networks through phishing schemes and malware.

PII needs to be properly protected and shared only when necessary. The release of PII to unauthorized individuals places the total force at risk for identity theft and cyber crimes.

"Safeguarding PII is everyone's responsibility," said Undersecretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning in a recent memo. "We must have zero tolerance for failing to adhere to Air Force policies and guidance."

Email and bogus websites are the easiest way a PII breach occurs, and all emails containing PII or other sensitive information must be encrypted. Without encryption, hackers and identity thieves can easily compromise the information.

Incoming telephone calls are the next weak link in the chain of security, with the tax filing deadline approaching. In this scam, a self-appointed "IRS agent" phones a taxpayer and requests the taxpayer's social security number "for identification purposes. " The taxpayer is informed that they have unpaid back taxes that will threaten the validity of this year's tax payment. However, they can "clear this up" for pennies on the dollar immediately by doing a "check over the phone" transaction that the IRS will accept as payment in full for the outstanding taxes. Of course, now that the "agent" has both the taxpayer's social security number and checking account information, the compromised taxpayer has opened himself or herself up to monetary theft, identity theft, and if the taxpayer has his paycheck directly deposited, there is a possibility that the crime will reach into the employer's PII, too. Remember: The IRS does not initiate contact by phone. Every taxpayer owes it to himself or herself to ask for an explanation in writing.

Questions? Need to report suspected loss, theft or compromise of PII, immediately contact your unit privacy act monitor and wing privacy act manager. Protecting each other's information is a shared responsibility.

►TRENDING…

"At that moment I was released from the burden of trauma…. I am empowered because I am no longer silent. I am no longer a victim," said Skytina Felder-Jones in her first-person commentary on sexual assault.

►THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

April 3, 1939 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Public Law 18, or the National Defense Act of 1940. In that act, Congress authorized the Air Corps to expand to 48,000 personnel and 6,000 airplanes with a $300 million budget. It also authorized the training of black pilots.

April 4, 1944 - Fifteenth Air Force conducted the first American bombing raid on Bucharest, Romania.

April 5, 1958 - An Atlas ICBM flew from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla., to an impact area some 600 miles away.

April 6, 1980 - The first air refueled C- 141B mission flew from Beale AFB, Calif., to RAF Mildenhall, England. An aircrew assigned to the 443rd MAW made the flight in 11 hours 12 minutes with one refueling.

April 7, 1999 - The Air Force and DARPA selected Boeing to build two unmanned combat air vehicles for testing at the Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards AFB.

April 8, 1918 - The 1st Aero Squadron, I Corps, was the first American squadron assigned to the front in World War I.

April 9, 1997 - Lockheed-Martin and Boeing rolled out the F-22 at its Marietta plant.

►CURRENT ISSUES

CSAF reading list titles available through online Air Force library

The 2014 list contains 12 books, seven films seven TED talks, web-based resources, artwork and photography selection to develop a common frame of reference among Air Force members and to help them become more effective advocates of air and space power.

►FAMILY HEALTH AND SAFETY

Clinic helps players connect with lifetime sport

USAF Service has developed a five-part series of hands-on classes at 66 installations throughout the world introducing the fundamentals of golf to help people develop an interest in the game.

►PERSONNEL ISSUES

Knowledge Operations Management career field to change April 10

Aligning training and practical knowledge directly with the needs of the position will eliminate confusion in the new Knowledge Management career field.

►ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

Historical milestone reached for Air Force cyberspace

The Air Force's progression to the Department of Defense's Joint Information Environments, a network that will eventually unite the entire military around a single set of shared infrastructure and technology services, marked a major cyber milestone when Air Force Network Integration Center members completed the migration of all user accounts on the Air Force Network.