

Commander's Call Topics



September 4, 2014

"Our top focus—protecting our Nation—must go beyond homeland preparedness; America will only be secure if we deal with threats before they happen, not just after they happen."

*Bill Frist
(b. 1962)*

American physician, businessman and politician

SUICIDE PREVENTION
is more than a month-long campaign.
It is a 24/7/365 call to action.
It's a call to eliminate the stigma and
[start the conversation.](#)

Be Ready for Anything with Ready.gov

In post-Hurricane Sandy 2012, the American Red Cross ran a three-minute public service announcement with the theme, "If you're ready for the Zombie Apocalypse, you're prepared for any emergency." It was an instant hit, and the American Red Cross — an ever-ready organization of the first order — was unprepared for the onslaught of viewers who crashed their website three times during the first 24 hours.

Since then, the [Zombie Apocalypse Preparedness Video](#) has become a classic.

September is Readiness Preparedness month, and [Ready.gov](#) is the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) website that encourages us to "Be informed. Make a plan. Build a kit. Get involved."

And it's not just about the Zombie Apocalypse. Preparedness 2014 comprehensively covers technological and accidental hazards, natural disasters, terrorist hazards and recovering from disasters.

Urging people to be informed, FEMA advises citizens to learn what protective measures to take before, during and after an emergency, emphasizing that it isn't just weather-related instances that cause the greatest calamities. However, there are basic protective measures that are universal, no matter what the disaster is, and it is the wise person who readies himself or herself and their family before an emergency strikes.

Military Family Preparedness is a special section on the "Make a Plan" page. More specifically, there is a special section called "Considerations for All Military Personnel & Families," followed by a distinct piece for those stationed abroad. Drilling down, there are specific reporting procedures for Airmen and their families. Accountability is key, since a variety of disasters could strike, and each type of catastrophe affects personnel in different ways. There are also instructions about what to do if a command or alternate command cannot be reached. Once a disaster has been declared, determining the need for assistance is the next priority in managing the recovery process. A step-by-step assessment assures that proper recovery assistance from the Air Force is on its way.

Building a basic supplies kit prior to the event is paramount to surviving it. A list of recommended supplies is posted, as well as advice on how to maintain and store the kit so that it remains viable. Food, water and car safety are also topics of importance that are clearly covered in the "Build a Kit" segment of the ready.gov website.

Getting the family involved in readiness preparedness makes sense, and it can also be taught to an early age group. The Ready.gov website offers a section just for kids — fun and games for kids and educational tools for teachers and parents — so readiness preparedness is a family effort.

Knowing who to call, where to meet and what to pack round out the list of basic preparedness ideas. Ready.gov is way more than basic, and the sense of well-being that comes from being ready for anything goes well beyond rudimentary.

Bring on the Zombie Apocalypse! Be more than just ready. Be [Ready.gov](#).

TRENDING

"Preventing military suicide is one of DoD's highest priorities, and something I'm personally committed to as secretary of defense. As we observe Suicide Prevention Month, we must rededicate ourselves to actively working not only every month, but every day to fulfill our collective responsibility to watch out for each other and take care of each other."

—Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel

► RESOURCES

Website access to the following resources can be gained by clicking on the name.

[AF.mil](#)

[Airman Magazine](#)

[Military OneSource/HomeFront](#)

[Air Force Personnel Center](#)

[Air Reserve Personnel Center](#)

[Department of Defense News](#)

[Department of Veteran Affairs](#)

[TRICARE](#)

[U.S. Government Website](#)

[Air Force Association Scholarships](#)

[Air Force Safety Center](#)

[Civil Service Employment Opportunities](#)

[NAF Employment Opportunities](#)

[Air Force Bands/Outreach](#)

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Call for nominations: Portraits in Courage, Vol. IX](#)

Stories of courage, valor and heroism are being sought by Oct. 13 for this year's edition.

[Former CMSAF discuss hot topics of today](#)

During a panel discussion at the 2014 Air Force Sergeants Association Professional Airmen's conference, eight former chief master sergeants of the Air Force answered questions facing Airmen today.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Know your POV shipping entitlements](#)

Reasonable customer expectations and on-time delivery are just two of the qualities anyone is entitled to when shipping a personal vehicle when moving overseas or returning stateside, and there's a system of recourse when disappointments and inconvenience occur.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Office of Personnel Management announces eOPF upgrades](#)

Personnel actions and benefit election documentation, together with improved site navigation, are just a few of the upgrades to the OPM electronic personnel filing system (eOPF) for civilian employees.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[Air Force uses lasers to preserve space history](#)

Laser scanners survey, map and create virtual-model videos to promote education and outreach that is both cost-effective and timely.

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

Sept. 4, 1952 - The U.S. Air Force awarded the production contract for Lockheed's 383 Transport, better known as the C-130 Hercules.

Sept. 5, 1951 - The U.S. Air Force awarded a contract to Consolidated Vultee for the world's first atomic-powered plane. General Electric built the engine.

Sept. 6, 2002 - During Operation Noble Eagle, fighters resumed 24-hour combat air patrols temporarily over Washington, D.C. and New York City as the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks approached.

Sept. 7, 1956 - At Edwards AFB, Calif., Capt Iven C. Kincheloe set an altitude record for manned flight by flying the Bell-X-2 rocket-powered aircraft to 126,000 feet. He later received the Mackay Trophy for this flight.

Sept. 8, 2004 - Air Force Flight Training Center retired its NKC-135E refueling tanker after 49 years of U.S Air Force service. Originally, the unusual aircraft had most of its windows on one side to monitor nuclear testing activities. It was then remodified for the FISTA program before resuming its career as a tanker.

Sept. 9, 1967 - Airman 1st Class Duane D. Hackney, Air Rescue and Recovery Service, became the first living enlisted man to receive an Air Force Cross for his heroic efforts to rescue a pilot downed in North Vietnam's jungles.

Sept. 10, 1956 - First flight of the F-107.

Recent promotion? Change of command? Increased number of flight hours? There are lots of reasons to update a biography! Keep your leadership current by ensuring their AF.mil biography is up to date. Send us updates in real-time using the link below:
dma.meade.prod.mbx.air-force-production-air-force-biographies@mail.mil

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

The Defense Media Activity produces **Commander's Call Topics** weekly. For questions or comments about this, or any other DMA product, send an e-mail to afproducts@dma.mil.

Subscribe to AF news and information products online, go to <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDODAF/subscriber/new>