

# Commander's Call Topics



July 10, 2014

"Remember this—that there is a proper dignity and proportion to be observed in the performance of every act of life."

Marcus Aurelius  
Roman Emperor (121-180AD)

Need help understanding your pay, benefits and entitlements?

There's a [Fact Sheet](#) for that, and it's the best place to start.

## Military Consumer Protection Day gives Airmen important 'life' tools

Military families have enough stress in their lives. Deployments, permanent change of station every three or four years, and long periods of separation are no strangers to service members and their families. Add the stress of modern-day life with Internet and telemarketing scams, consumer rip-offs and unscrupulous lenders and mortgage fly-by-night companies and life can be overwhelming.

But service members and their families have an army of advisors, advocates and legal resources at their disposal with a network of consumer protection information, sponsored by the Department of Defense, the Federal Trade Commission, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's office of service member affairs, and Military Saves, in consort with more than 30 federal, state, non-profit and commercial agencies.

July 16 is marked as Military Consumer Protection Day, the second year for the event. The site, <http://www.military.ncpw.gov/blog/military-consumers-salutes-you> is a treasure trove of information to help military families circumvent the many traps and pitfalls that await military consumers.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's office of service member's affairs gives military consumers a voice at the bureau by monitoring complaints and their resolution, and working with federal, state and local partners to give service members and their families the tools they need to make informed financial decisions.

The site contains a collection of blog articles focusing on a wide variety of military consumer topics. A section on scam alerts gives advice on everything from IRS email scams to hotel, cell phone, pyramid schemes and phishing emails.

An area covering managing credit and debt provides tips on building and maintaining good credit, while a section on autos gives good advice on new versus used car purchasing. There are important tips on protecting against identity theft and red flags to look for when saving and investing money.

Blogs on spending money cover everything from education loans to health claims, while the area of technology focuses on the single ring cell phone scam and malware designed to steal banking and credit card information.

Military Consumer Protection Day is much more than a day. It's a year-round opportunity for Airmen and their families to find consumer tips, get counseling on debt reduction, improved savings and loan pitfalls, and create a game plan that can create a healthy financial environment that can last a lifetime.



### ► TRENDING ...

"Long story short, this is a performance-based organization," said Air Combat Command's [Gen. Mike Hostage](#). "We're trying to drive ourselves back to looking at performance as a measure of merit—not square-filling, not points, but merit." Gen. Hostage was [talking about changes in the Air Force promotion process](#) during an All Call at Tinker AFB, Okla.

## ► 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](#)

## ► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

**July 10, 2002-** A C-5 from the 436 AW left Dover AFB for Kabul, Afghanistan, with 13,115 pounds of school supplies collected by children from 58 American schools.

**July 11, 1979:** Skylab, after 38,981 orbits, reentered the atmosphere.

**July 12, 1942:** The Curtiss-Wright Corporation delivered the first C-46 Commando to the Army Air Forces.

**July 13, 1921:** Brig Gen William "Billy" Mitchell's Martin MB-2 and Handley Page bombers sank several ships off the Virginia Capes. The tests studied the use of bombs on ships to suggest how ship design could counter an air attack.

**July 14, 2005:** An FA/22 *Raptor* flown by an AFFTC pilot dropped its first 1,000-pound GBU-32 JDAM at supersonic speed. The test significantly increased the Raptor's operational capabilities.

**July 15, 1973:** All US bombing in Cambodia ended after eight years of conventional operations in SEA. An A-7D from 354 TFW flew the last combat mission in SEA.

**July 16, 1969: APOLLO XI.** From Kennedy Space Center, the Apollo XI manned lunar landing mission began for Astronauts Michael Collins, Neil A. Armstrong, and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr. Four days later, Armstrong would take that all-important "one small step."

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

[SecAF visits missile wings, highlights progress](#)

The importance of the nuclear mission was reiterated by [Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James](#) when she visited Air Force Global Strike Command's three missile wings June 30-July 1.

[AF to every Airman: Tell us your story](#)

The right combination of personal story and selfie could win the [2014 American Airman Video Contest](#).

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[July 7 – Pulse on AF force management](#)

Civilian force management program expansions, ongoing officer early retirement and enlisted retention boards are featured in this update.

[Majors non-selected twice for promotion may be eligible for TERA](#)

Details of the program, including application deadlines and authorizations, are outlined specifically for majors not selected twice during the current year.

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

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