Commander's Call Topics

October 16, 2014

"At the end of the day, the goals are simple: safety and security."

The Honorable Jodi Rell
(b. 1946)
Former Governor of Connecticut (2004-2011)

October is
[Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#)
There's a wealth of help for victims, advocates, family and friends at
[Military OneSource.](#)

When It Comes to Cybersecurity
Cookies and Cache Aren't About Food and Money

Time was when maintaining cyber security meant changing your password regularly and immediately deleting emails from people who appeared to be from a country outside the United States, asking for a few hundred dollars to reunite you with a sizable.

As technology has become more sophisticated, so have the warnings and scams that come our way.

But how many of us think to secure our web browser? It's not important which of the available web browsers we use, the following best practices are two ways to add an important layer of security to our daily internet experiences and to speed up our browsers as well.

Remove Cookies: Cookies are files that websites place on your computer hard drive, and are used for a variety of reasons. Cookies can keep track of how often you visit a page, keep tabs on what you have put in an online shopping cart, store website preferences, and more. Many legitimate websites use cookies. However, some sites use cookies for nefarious purposes, and too many cookies can slow down browsing.

Each browser clears cookies in a different way, and it's best to consult your IT department on the specific browsers you use. To get an idea of what's entailed, there is a [website](#) that explains 11 different ways to clear cookies based on the browser in use.

Clear Browser History: Your web browser also keeps track of where you have been online. This is beneficial because it caches (stores) pages, and when you revisit them they load up much faster. However, your web browser history is easily accessible and could reveal confidential or potentially embarrassing information about you. Extremely large web browser histories could slow down your browser, and it's recommended that you routinely delete your history.

As with browser cookies, each browser cache is cleared in a different way. Before you try to clear your browser's history, talk to the people in the IT Department. To get an idea of what's involved, there is a [website](#) that explains 14 different ways to clear your browser's cache. Mostly, the best method depends on the browser, and the IT people can walk you through it.

Neither of these safe cyber practices requires much time. It's up to each of us to make sure that online activities are safe and provide the optimum experience.

Online security isn't up to the Air Force. It's up to the Airman.

►TRENDING QUOTE

"This is huge," [Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody](#) said during his Oct. 10 [visit to Seymour Johnson AFB.](#) "This is the biggest change in the enlisted evaluation system since its inception. Everything is changing. The most important thing that has happened for each and every one of you is the Airman Comprehensive Assessment. I know you're very interested and excited about the new EPR and how that affects WAPS. You're excited about it because you know it impacts your career."

►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

Oct. 16, 2001 - An AFFTC pilot guided two Global Hawk aircraft concurrently for the accelerated Replace-On-Station program at Edwards AFB. The test showed that one pilot could control two UAVs with a little additional effort.

Oct. 17, 1967 - Air Force engineers accomplished the final balloon launch in a series to test the feasibility of using parachutes with the Voyager capsule for a soft landing on Mars.

Oct. 18, 1918 - Maj. Charles Biddle, the 13th Pursuit Squadron's Commander, downed his eighth German fighter in a fierce dogfight over Verdun, France.

Oct 19, 1950 - During the Korean war, 5th Air Force fighters provided crucial air support to U.S. 1st Cavalry Division troops for the Battle of Hukkyori, some 10 miles south of Pyongyang. Afterwards, UN forces entered the North Korean capital.

Oct. 20, 1960 - The Jupiter IRBM made its first test launch from a tactical-type launcher. It flew 962 miles from Cape Canaveral, Florida, down the Atlantic Missile Range to the target area. This launch ended Army responsibilities for the program.

Oct. 21, 1950 – In the first use of a helicopter in support of an airborne operation, the 3rd Air Rescue Squadron sent H-5s to evacuate some 35 paratroopers and rescue 7 American POWs from the Sukchon and Sunchon area.

Oct. 22, 1985 - Airmen with Tactical Air Command launched their first missile from Vandenberg AFB, California. The Tomahawk ground-launched cruise missile was also the first of its kind flown from this base.

Recent promotion? Change of command? Increased number of flight hours?
There are many reasons to update a biography!
Keep your leadership current by ensuring that their AF.mil biography is up to date.
Send us updates in real-time using the **NEW** link below:
afbiographies.dma@mail.mil

►CURRENT ISSUES

Cyber expansions create security considerations
National Cyber Security Awareness Month calls attention to steps Airmen and their families can take to assure that they are not victims of cybercrimes and unwanted access into their personal and professional information.

►PERSONNEL ISSUES

2015 Cooke award nominations sought
Created to promote, perpetuate and recognize a public official promoting a cooperative spirit among leaders and improving operations, the 11th Annual Defense Department David O. Cooke Excellence in Public Administration award is open for nominations.

2015 Vanguard award nominations due Jan. 28
Recognizing an act of heroism that resulted in saving someone's life or preventing serious injury, the 2015 NCO Association Vanguard award distinguishes one enlisted member from each of the uniformed services.