

# Commander's Call Topics



March 20, 2014

"Our lives are not determined by what happens to us  
but how we react to what happens,  
not by what life brings us but by the attitude we bring to life."

Wade Boggs (b. 1958)  
Third Baseman (ret.)

March is Brain Injury  
Awareness Month.  
[There's help](#) for service  
members' unique needs.

## CSAF to Airmen: Sequestration creates tough choices

The Air Force's highest ranking uniformed Airman released another edition of '[Airman to Airman](#)'—a video series designed to highlight important topics to the force.

In his latest message, [Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III](#) discusses the impact sequestration has on the Air Force and why certain choices are being made to achieve the required savings.

Sequestration requires the Air Force to cut approximately \$12.5 billion dollars each year by law, creating a bill the Air Force must pay by reducing planned spending to achieve the savings. The problem is that the services are limited in where they can find the savings from, Welsh says.

"Out of the Air Force budget, 55 percent of it includes money that goes to pay people ... 5 percent of that 55 percent is installations and facilities. The rest of our Air Force budget ... is all readiness, force structure and modernization," he says.

"Right now, we have not been able to get at that first 55 percent at all to pay any of the sequestration bill. It takes the approval of the White House, and of Congress and of others here in the department."

So the entire bill will be paid out of force structure, readiness and modernization.

"As I visit you, I get lots of suggestions on other ways we can pay this sequestration bill," Welsh says. "That's going to get us at millions of dollars a year, not billions a year of savings. That's why you see all the examples that we're talking about now for fleet divestitures and cutting people and force management actions, all those things, that's the reason."

Welsh provided an example of the enormity of what \$12 billion means to the budget.

"If we stop flying for the next two years ... completely, no flying hours at all in our AF for two years, we can pay one year of the sequestration bill," he says. "It's a big problem gang, we're working hard to fix it, but there's going to be tough choices that have to be made."

For more videos in the series, visit the CSAF's [web page](#).



### ► TRENDING...

"To me, taking care of people means we need to continue to recruit the right people. We need to retain the right people, and shape the force by having the right people in the right ranks and specialties," said [Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James](#), speaking with U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa Airmen [as she toured Ramstein Air Base, Germany](#). "We also need to be able to grow and train leaders while encouraging diversity of thought."

## ► 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

### March 20, 2003 – OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM:

Conventional U.S. and coalition ground forces invaded Iraq.

**March 21, 1962** - A black bear named "Yogi" became the first living creature ejected from a supersonic aircraft when the Air Force tested the B-58's escape capsule. Ejected at 35,000 feet from a B-58 flying at 870 mph, Yogi landed unharmed 7 minutes 49 seconds later.

**March 22, 1976** - Davis-Monthan AFB received the first A-10 for operational testing and evaluation.

**March 23, 1951** - In the Korean War's second airborne operation, and the largest to date in one day, 120 Air Force transports dropped more than 3,400 troops and 220 tons of materiel behind enemy lines at Munsan-ni, Korea.

**March 24, 1992** – The last U.S. Air Force fighter aircraft to be stationed in Spain left the country. They had served in Spain for 26 years.

**March 25, 1986** - The first all-female Minuteman crew stood alert at the 351 SMW, Whiteman AFB. This was the first time an all-female crew accomplished Minuteman combat crew duty under the gender-specific crew policy.

**March 26, 1996** - The F-4 Phantom line retired from active service.

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

[Social Security launches expedited veteran disability process](#)

Emphasizing that a Veterans Affairs Department disability compensation rating only expedites claims processing and does not guarantee approval, the Social Security Administration announced a new policy that will treat veterans' applications as high priority.

[Changes coming to deployed Airman pay](#)

Significant changes in deployed Airman pay will take effect June 1, 2014. The IDP will be discontinued in 16 land, air space and/or water spaces. Hazardous Duty Location Pay will offset some of the reductions in some of the areas. There are 34 locations where there will be no changes.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Medical teams convene to consider applicants for command](#)

Lieutenant colonels eligible for squadron command candidacy will be selected by medical corps development teams when they convene in May and June. Assignments are for projected calendar year 2015 vacancies. More details, [here](#). [Successful PCS secrets](#)

About a third of all Airmen are anticipating a permanent change of station, and the best place to start is the [Defense Personal Property Program](#) website. Quick links, FAQs, What's New and Useful Tools are but a few of the site's pages that have updated policies and will help make any move go more smoothly.

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

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