

# Commander's Call Topics



July 24, 2014

"If I didn't have air supremacy,  
I wouldn't be here."

*Dwight D. Eisenhower*  
34<sup>th</sup> President of the U.S.  
(1890-1969)

U.S. air superiority was the deciding factor  
in the Korean War.

Visit the National Museum of the USAF's  
[Korean War Gallery](#)  
and learn all about it.

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## AF Satellites to Contribute to Space Neighborhood Watch

The Air Force plans to launch two operational satellites and one experimental satellite into near-geosynchronous Earth orbit July 23.

According to [Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James](#), "These operational and experimental systems will enhance the nation's ability to monitor and assess events regarding our military and commercial systems. In essence, they will create a space neighborhood watch capability."

The two operational satellites are part of the Air Force's Geosynchronous Space Situational Awareness Program, or GSSAP. The GSSAP satellites will provide U.S. Strategic Command with space situational awareness data, allowing for more accurate tracking and characterization of man-made orbiting objects. The satellites will drift a safe distance away from the GEO belt while surveilling the area to further enable spaceflight safety.

As space becomes increasingly congested, contested and competitive, it is imperative to protect the systems in space on which the world depends. [Gen. William Shelton](#), the commander of Air Force Space Command, said, "We support the peaceful use of space for all countries, but we believe it is necessary to increase our ability to detect and attribute any threatening or disruptive actions."

The experimental satellite program, known as Automated Navigation and Guidance Experiment for Local Space, or ANGELS, is led by the Air Force Research Laboratory's Space Vehicles Directorate headquartered at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico.

This science and technology satellite will conduct safe research activities around the upper stage of its DELTA IV launch vehicle. ANGELS will test new space situational awareness techniques and technologies while performing safe, automated spacecraft operations to support and enhance future U.S. missions.

AFRL commander [Maj. Gen. Thomas Masiello](#) said, "These experiments will enable future satellite systems to achieve a more rapid and improved space situational awareness capability with fewer operators while maintaining safety as the top priority."

Although the two GSSAP spacecraft and the AFRL ANGELS experimental spacecraft will launch on the same United Launch Alliance DELTA IV booster out of Cape Canaveral, Florida, the missions and objectives are distinctly different and are not associated with one another.

However, each of these satellite programs contributes to the Air Force's space mission in different ways, and is a part of the broader Air Force plan to improve space situational awareness. As the Air Force continues to develop cutting-edge and essential space programs, James said "this launch is a remarkable accomplishment in the Air Force development of technologies to ensure the safe and responsible use of space."

### ► TRENDING...

"No matter what level of supervision we have, no matter what level of leader we are, it's incumbent on all of us to provide a climate where everybody is respected," said [Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James](#) during her visit to RAF Mildenhall, which was part of an overall trip to U.S. Air Forces in Europe-United Kingdom.

## ► RESOURCES

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

[AF.mil](#)

[Airman magazine](#)

[MilitaryOneSource/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 24, 1917** – An appropriation of \$640,000,000 enabled the Aviation Section to expand to 9,989 officers and 87,083 enlisted men.

**July 25, 2000** – A pilot flying the F-22 Raptor No. 02 successfully launched an AIM-9 missile at the China Lake test range to confirm its ability to launch an air-to-air missile from an internal weapons bay.

**July 26, 1915** – Through July 29, Capt. Benjamin D. Foulois and his 1st Aero Squadron, with 8 JN-2 airplanes, traveled from San Diego by train to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. There, they participated in observation and fire control experiments with the Field Artillery School.

**July 27, 1953** – Capt. Ralph S. Parr Jr. shot down an Il-12 for the last aerial victory of the Korean War.

**July 28, 1943** – [Second Lt. John C. Morgan](#) was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during a bombing mission over Europe.

**July 29 1995** – The 11<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Squadron activated at Nellis AFB to operate the remotely piloted aircraft, the Predator. It was the first such unit in the Air Force.

**July 30, 1948** – North American Aviation delivered the first operational jet bomber, the B-45A Tornado, to the Air Force.

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

[Air Force focuses fourth round of VERA/VSIP on headquarters reductions](#)

The July 14<sup>th</sup> [announcement on headquarters organization and staffing reductions](#) is another step in the Air Force's effort to lead its force management actions with voluntary programs.

[Social media requires care, caution with political material](#)

When is an Airman not an Airman? Never! While on active duty—and even for reservists who may be perceived as active military representatives—the social media rule for participating in political discussions is the same as the in-person rule for participation: strictly prohibited.

[First aviation mechanic display added to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force](#)

Charles E. Taylor, the first aviation mechanic and who is credited with designing and building the engine that made the Wright brothers' pioneering power flights possible, was honored with a bronze bust of his likeness placed on permanent display at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

## ► FAMILY HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Acting VA secretary outlines problems, actions taken](#)

Testifying before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs July 15, Acting Veterans Administration Secretary Sloan D. Gibson discussed six priorities to begin restoring trust across the VA health care system.

## ► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[Wanted: Airmen selfie videos](#)

What got you this far? Technology and creativity can combine in a selfie that's as unique as the individual Airmen telling the story. The opportunities to capitalize on all that star power can be found in the [details and contest rules posted online](#).

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

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