

Commander's Call Topics



October 1, 2015

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn."

*--Benjamin Franklin
American Politician
and discoverer of electricity
(1706-1790)*

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The Food and Drug
Administration helps to find a
[nearby mammography facility](#).

Expeditionary Readiness Program

Pre-deployment training made easier

- The rollout of the Expeditionary Readiness Program (ERP) begins Oct. 1, 2015, which will assist in making pre-deployment training easier.
- Pre-deployment training will be accomplished in 36-month cycles, aligned with member AEF battle rhythms (or deployment windows).
- Under the ERP construct, the tiered training approach transitions to a more efficient Expeditionary Readiness Training (ERT) concept, which aligns training cycles with the current AEF Next construct, moving some training to "just-in-time" to support deployments, and eliminating most training currently provided in other venues.
- Additionally, AETC is working with functional managers to redesign courses to include adding pre-tests, where possible. Once these changes are fully implemented, ERT will reduce an Airman's homestation pre-deployment training time by more than 50 percent.
- The ERP encompasses all non-AFSC related training required of a deployment ready Airman not routinely acquired during initial, occupational or other ancillary training.
- The ERP is designed to ensure ERT is relevant, timely, synchronized, standardized and integrated to ensure combatant commands are provided a standard presentation of forces to support specified mission requirements, while maximizing efficiency.
- Changes to *expeditionary, functional, ancillary, and additional duty* training include: reviewed, reduced, and eliminated training where possible; added pre-tests to CBTs for expedited completion; added Headquarters Air Force "gatekeepers" for program review; and select credit for "like" training accomplished in other venues.

Air Force leadership recognizes the importance of making sure our Airmen's time is used as efficiently as possible. Personal and professional time invested in readiness should purposefully improve an Airman's capability to perform his or her duty, both at home and when deployed.

Lessons learned in previous deployment cycles and Airman feedback have provided the Air Force with the data necessary to better streamline pre-deployment training.

We ask a lot of all Airmen, both personally and professionally, and we're all acutely aware of their sacrifices.

*View the entire article on af.mil [here](#).

"We've heard, listened and responded to Airmen's frustrations with pre-deployment training. It is my duty and highest priority to make sure our Airmen get the right training they need, at the right time, without redundancy." – [Air Force Chief of Staff General Mark A. Welsh III](#)

► 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. 1, 1969 - The C-5A Galaxy, world's then-largest aircraft, took off from Edwards AFB, California, with a 410,000-lb. payload, the heaviest ever carried by any aircraft. This load was also 21,000 pounds heavier than the C-5As designed lift capability and 28,100 pounds heavier than the record it set on June 15.

Oct. 2, 2007 - At Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, Air Force Reserve officials activated the first F-22 Raptor unit, the 477th Fighter Group. The day also honored the 477th Fighter Group's and the 302nd Fighter Squadron's fabled heritage and their connection to the Tuskegee Airmen.

Oct. 3, 1993 – Through Oct. 4, pararescueman TSgt Timothy A. Wilkinson ran through enemy fire repeatedly, despite his own injuries, to save five wounded Army Rangers after enemy forces shot down their MH-60 Black Hawk helicopter at Mogadishu, Somalia. For that heroism, Wilkerson received the Air Force Cross.

Oct. 4, 1949 – C-82s dropped an entire field artillery battery by parachute at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Oct. 5, 1905 – At Dayton, Ohio, Orville Wright flew the Wright III, the first practical airplane, to a world distance and duration record of 24.2 miles in 38 minutes, three seconds.

Oct. 6, 1975 – During Project Coin, C-130s delivered 7,597 tons of critical supplies and over two million gallons of petroleum products to Alaska at Point Barrow, Lonely, Okiktok and Barter Island lasting through Dec. 2. Contract aircraft flew another 453.8 tons of oversize steel pipe from Elmendorf AFB to Lonely and 2,981.5 tons of supplies from Lonely to Point Barrow.

Oct. 7, 1996 – At Whitman AFB, Missouri, two 509th Bomb Wing pilots, Capt. Tony Moretti and Maj. Chris Inman flew a 34-hour-long endurance flight in the B-2 Spirit simulator.



The OPM data breach, massive in its identity theft implications, gives rise to other crimes, and often one crime can result in two more. For example, phishing scams can morph into credit card fraud and social security abuse. Learn how to protect yourself [here](#). To learn more about the Office of Personnel Management data breach, legitimate assistance being provided to impacted individuals, and to understand cybersecurity as it is grounded in the Air Force tradition, please go to the specially created [Air Force Cybersecurity](#) web page.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[AF senior leaders host suicide prevention summit](#)

"Everyone matters – everyone counts" was the overarching theme expressed by subject matter experts of mental and behavioral health, community support and Airmen across ranks and career fields gathered to develop actionable recommendations to improve the current suicide prevention program.

► FAMILY HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Changes coming to TRICARE pharmacy benefit](#)

TRICARE beneficiaries taking maintenance drugs (except those on active duty, living overseas or with another other prescription drug coverage) will be required to obtain select brand name drugs through either TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery or from a military pharmacy starting Oct. 1st.

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

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