

Commander's Call Topics



April 2, 2015

"To succeed, you need to find something to hold on to, something to motivate you, something to inspire you."

Tony Dorsett
American Athlete
(b. 1954)

April is National
[Donate Life Month](#).
At this moment
123,000 Americans are
in need of an organ transplant.

Air Force stands up Task Force Cyber Secure

[Chief of Staff of the Air Force General Mark A. Welsh III](#) signed a memorandum on March 20, establishing Task Force Cyber Secure, to address challenges of the cyberspace domain in synchronization, operations and governance within the Air Force and with those organizations it supports.

"This task force is fundamental to understanding the inherent risks within the cyberspace domain and instituting a culture change, in which our Airmen realize the impact cybersecurity has on all the Air Force core missions," Welsh said.

[Lt. Gen. Bill Bender](#), the Secretary of the Air Force chief of information dominance and chief information officer, outlined three main focus areas the task force will be responsible for.

"The task force will diagnose the extent of the cyber threat and the vulnerabilities that currently impact our core missions and will plan to develop a risk management plan that will allow the Air Force to fly, fight and win in a cyber-contested environment," Bender said. "Finally, the task force will recommend investment priorities to the SECAF and CSAF for how best to address the cybersecurity challenges.

"The Air Force focuses the majority of the cybersecurity effort on protecting the information technology we've always protected the last 20 years, but that's only 20 percent of the problem," Bender continued. He envisions a "comprehensive, enterprise-level look at the cyber threat as it relates to everything outside of that 20 percent."

The concepts of mission assurance and cybersecurity were addressed and studied across the Department of Defense and the Air Force across multiple functional lines and major commands. A top priority of Task Force Cyber Secure is to be inclusive of all stakeholders who are working this cyber challenge already and to begin synchronizing and coordinating efforts for securing and mitigating operational risk to the most critical nodes and "centers of gravity."

Pete Kim, the Cyberspace Operations and Warfighting Integration acting director, will lead the daily task force operations and direct an organization that will include cyberspace stakeholders throughout the Air Force.

"Many efforts for securing the core missions in cyberspace are currently distributed across multiple organizations and commands throughout the Air Force," Kim said. "We have great leaders moving out on fixing 'the problem' within their functional areas, but the time is right to look into opportunities to synchronize and maximize resources at the corporate level in order to establish a foundational, consistent enterprise-wide approach in the future."

The task force efforts will inform Air Force strategic planning and programming for fiscal year 2017 and beyond. It will provide a governance plan for Air Force corporate board management and synchronization of cybersecurity investments of the future in the planning, programming, budgeting and execution (PPBE) process. The task force will also integrate multiple efforts and studies, attempting to address cybersecurity across the Air Force, focusing on Air Force core missions and provide a prioritized cybersecurity investment strategy for SECAF and CSAF.

"We're already seeing benefits of a focused task force standing up to address the cybersecurity challenge," Bender said. "At a practical level, sharing information across the Air Force, education on the seriousness of the threat and the vulnerabilities, and connecting the dots are the benefits I'm beginning to see. We are also connecting with academia and commercial industry because we recognize their contributions as significant force multipliers in this domain."

By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

► 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](#)

► CURRENT ISSUES

[AF Nuclear Weapons Center reorganizes](#)

The AF Nuclear Weapons Center has reorganized its structure to realign responsibilities, authorities and accountabilities, to better serve the nuclear enterprise and streamline the processes, to improve how the mission is accomplished, to strengthen the enterprise, and to better take care of the people who serve.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[\\$25,000 up for grabs in Air Force Club Scholarship Program](#)

This year, 40 scholarships totaling \$25,000 will be awarded to club members who apply by midnight CDT May 1, complete the online entry form, and answer this year's essay question about access to digital information systems.

[Eligible Airmen may choose retirement plan at 14 ½-year mark](#)

An automatic notification process that sends a message to active-duty Air Force and headquarters Active Guard Reserve members when they reach 14 ½ years of active service has been developed so that eligible members will have ample time to make an educated decision.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[DARPA uses open systems to boost airpower](#)

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is inaugurating a new program to develop and demonstrate concepts for flying combinations of aircraft, weapons, sensors and mission systems that distribute air-warfare capabilities across interoperable manned and unmanned platforms.

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

April 2, 1959 - NASA selected Air Force Capt. L. Gordon Cooper Jr., Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, and Donald K. "Deke" Slayton; Navy Lt. Cmdrs. Walter M. Shirra Jr., and Alan B. Shepard Jr., and Lt. M. Scott Carpenter; and Marine Lt. Col. John H. Glenn Jr., as the Project Mercury astronauts.

April 3, 1939 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Public Law 18, or the National Defense Act of 1940. In that act, Congress authorized the Air Corps to expand to 48,000 personnel and 6,000 airplanes with a \$300 million budget. It also authorized the training of black pilots.

April 4, 1944 - Fifteenth Air Force conducted the first American bombing raid on Bucharest, Romania.

April 5, 1958 - An Atlas ICBM flew from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida, to an impact area some 600 miles away.

April 6, 1980 - The first air refueled C-141B mission flew from Beale AFB, California, to RAF Mildenhall, England. An aircrew assigned to the 443rd Military Airlift Wing (MAW) made the flight in 11 hours 12 minutes with one refueling.

April 7, 1999 - The Air Force and the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA) selected Boeing to build two unmanned combat air vehicles for testing at the Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards AFB, California.

April 8, 1918 - The 1st Aero Squadron, I Corps, was the first American squadron assigned to the front in World War I.

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

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