

Commander's Call Topics



October 8, 2015

"Today's scientists have substituted mathematics for experiments, and they wander off through equation after equation, and eventually build a structure which has no relation to reality."

*Nikola Tesla (1856-1943)
Inventor*

Although Columbus Day is the second Monday in October, it was originally fixed on October 12th, and it was not officially a federal holiday until 1937

It's Energy Action Month

Mission Assurance through Energy Assurance

Every aspect of the Air Force mission depends on a reliable supply of energy, and the smart use of energy means flying our aircraft farther, transporting more cargo and accomplishing our mission in a more efficient and effective way. Each October, the federal government observes Energy Action Month to highlight the impact energy has on security, economy, and lives.

Loading cargo, flying sorties, conducting humanitarian aid missions ... they all require energy, whether it's fuel for the aircraft or electricity for the bases that support them. As a result, the Air Force is the largest consumer of energy in the federal government, and almost \$9 billion went to purchase the energy it needed to operate last year. This is money that can't be used to increase readiness, modernize aircraft, and improve the lives Airmen.

The Air Force's Energy Action Month theme, Mission Assurance through Energy Assurance, underscores the importance energy plays in accomplishing the mission. To continue reducing risk to the mission, the Air Force is working to *Improve Resiliency, Reduce Demand, and Assure Supply*. While advancing technology helps to provide the tools to solve many energy challenges, it is innovative Airmen leveraging those tools and their knowledge of their piece of the mission that improves the way the Air Force uses energy.

The challenge is to continue to identify ways to improve energy productivity. We must all look at what we do on a daily basis and see if we can find innovative ways to do it better. A great example of this is the 97th Air Mobility Wing at Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, which is saving energy and money simply by redesigning air refueling tracks and optimizing the use of air space. Combined with three other initiatives, they are saving roughly \$64 million per year.

This year, the Air Force received 10 federal energy management awards from the Department of Energy for the outstanding work we did to improve our energy efficiency and increase our energy security.

The first priority has, is, and always will be mission success, and this includes ensuring we have energy when and where we need it to achieve the Air Force mission. By focusing on innovative and agile solutions and understanding how energy enables what we do, we can balance today's readiness with tomorrow's modernization.

For more information about Energy Action Month, please visit <http://www.safie.hq.af.mil/energy/index.asp>, or log on to Facebook at www.facebook.com/AirForceEnergy to share your ideas.

► TRENDING QUOTE

"Every job that I had that was my assigned job when I was in service, I was the first woman to do that job," said retired [Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma Vaught](#), addressing the first all-female honor flight September 22. "This put pressure on me to be sure that I did it in such a way that another woman would have an opportunity to fill that job. To a degree, that situation in many instances still exists today," she added.

► 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. 8, 1993 - Operation Provide Promise, the airlift of humanitarian relief supplies to Bosnia, surpassed in duration (but not in tonnage or missions) the Berlin Airlift, becoming the longest sustained relief operation in U.S. Air Force history.

Oct. 9, 1999 - The final SR-71 Blackbird flight occurred during the Edwards Air Force Base, California, Open House and Air Show. NASA Dryden Flight Research Center pilot Rogers Smith and flight engineer Marta Bohn-Meyer flew the aircraft to Mach 3.21 at 80,100 feet.

Oct. 10, 1950 - The Air Force activated the first Air National Guard units to support the Korean War. Over time, the United States mobilized 66 flying units and 45,000 guardsmen into federal service.

Oct. 11, 1968 - Apollo VII, the first manned mission in the lunar landing program, was launched from Kennedy Space Center Complex 34 on a Saturn IV booster.

Oct. 12, 1977 - The Air Force's first class of five women navigators graduated. Three were assigned to MAC aircrews.

Oct. 13, 1952 - SAC submitted a requirement for an air-launched decoy missile to defeat an enemy's radar defenses. This action led to the development of the GAM-72A Quail missile.

Oct. 14, 1940 - Maj. Reuben Moffat, the 33rd Pursuit Group Commander, became the first Army Air Corps pilot to fly an aircraft off a carrier. He flew his Curtiss P-40 off the USS Wasp.



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

[Remotely piloted aircraft training expands at Holloman](#)

Remotely piloted aircraft are in increased demand throughout the Air Force, and Holloman AFB is increasing the number of pilots and sensor operators by over 35 percent -- from 603 in FY15 to 818 in FY16.

[New name for AF Ground Safety](#)

A 72-year-old term originally coined to focus attention on preventing jeep accidents, "ground safety," has been more appropriately rebranded as Occupational Safety reflecting the broader requirements of the Air Force's safety programs.

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

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