

Commander's Call Topics



May 28, 2015

"It usually takes me two or three days to prepare an impromptu speech."

*Mark Twain
Author, humorist*

PCS season is coming, and it doesn't have to be a [Perfectly Calamitous Situation](#).

When it comes to hurricanes and zombies, it pays to be a Boy Scout

Hurricane season starts June 1, which means disaster preparation teams at Patrick and Keesler Air Force bases are gearing up to hunker down. This doesn't mean, however, that Airmen and their families at Peterson and Hill AFB are in the clear. Disaster can strike anywhere and at any time.

Defense officials released the [Climate Change Adaptation Roadmap](#) in 2014, declaring climate change a threat to national security with "rising global temperatures, changing precipitation patterns" and "increasing frequency or intensity of extreme weather events" increasingly affecting people across the globe.

This week, Joint bases San Antonio-Lackland and Randolph in Texas narrowly missed calamitous flooding and tornados that killed several people and left hundreds wounded, stranded and homeless. More than 1,300 in India have perished recently due to a relentless heat wave with temperatures consistently reaching above 115 degrees Fahrenheit.

In 2015, every state in the U.S., except for Wyoming, has had more than 10 major disaster declarations, according to [FEMA](#). Wyoming has had nine.

Preparedness experts with the Air Force Civil Engineer Center at Tyndall AFB, Florida, are urging members of the total-force continuum to be prepared for disasters ranging from tornadoes, tsunamis and volcano eruptions to extreme heat.

Engineers there express three main points when preparing for any disaster:

- Assembling a kit with first aid, water, food, medicine and important papers
- Making a plan for your family in the event a disaster strikes while members are apart
- Assessing what disasters are most likely to occur in your location. Those at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, will not likely have to face extreme heat, while those at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, shouldn't spend much time planning an evacuation route to escape a volcanic eruption.

More information on specific disasters can be found on the Air Force Be Ready [website](#), including information on man-made incidents and technological disasters, such as an incident with a [nuclear power plant](#).

The website, [www.ready.gov](#) has information regarding [space weather](#).

Of course, for the inevitable [zombie apocalypse](#), the CDC has you covered.

► TRENDING

"If we can't afford it, it doesn't go in the plan," said Chief of Staff of the Air Force [General Mark A. Welsh III](#) speaking about the [Air Force's Strategic Master Plan](#). The plan, launched May 21, is the latest in a series of strategic documents designed to guide the organizing, training and equipping of the force over the coming decades.

► RESOURCES

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

[AF.mil](http://www.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

[CSAF pays tribute during National Memorial Day Parade](#)

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III represented the Air Force during the 10th annual National Memorial Day Parade in downtown Washington, D.C., May 25.

[CMSAF Cody honors fallen at Memorial Day wreath laying](#)

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, James A. Cody, gave the keynote speech during a Memorial Day wreath-laying ceremony at the Air Force Memorial May 25.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[TAPS families honored at Pentagon event](#)

Defense Secretary Ash Carter hosted a family night for Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors families at the Pentagon May 22, as part of the Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp for Young Survivors.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[AF assigns new chief scientist](#)

The Air Force announced the service's new chief scientist to serve as a science and technology adviser to the secretary of the Air Force and the chief of staff of the Air Force May 21.

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

May 28, 1995 - To commemorate the World War II Hump Airlift, pilots flew a C-17 Globemaster III and KC-10 Extender over the Himalayan Mountains from Calcutta, India, to Kunming, China.

May 29, 1910 - Glenn H. Curtiss flew a record 142.5 miles from Albany to New York in 2 hours 50 minutes to win his third Scientific American Trophy. This flight gave him permanent possession of the trophy as well as the \$10,000 prize from *New York World*.

May 30, 1958 - The Air Force disclosed the development of the GAR-9, the first air-to-air atomic missile.

May 31, 1967 - The Air Force completed its phaseout of Atlas E, Atlas F, and Titan I missiles.

June 1, 1990 - Strategic Air Command turned over the first FB-111s to Tactical Air Command. After modifications, the Air Force redesignated the jets as F-111Gs.

June 2, 1944 - The first shuttle-bombing mission using Soviet bases to attack Eastern European targets occurred. During Operation Frantic, the bombers took off from Italy and landed at Poltava, Soviet Union, after bombing Debrecen, Hungary. Lt. Gen. [Ira C. Eaker](#), head of the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces, flew in a B-17.

June 3, 1984 - Tactical Air Command deployed the first maritime radar-equipped E-3 Sentry to the Persian Gulf area.

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

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