

# Commander's Call Topics



March 10, 2016

## SecAF, CSAF provide Air Force update

*Air Force senior leaders spoke to the press in the Department of Defense media room, at the Pentagon, March 8. Topics ranged from the ever-aging fleet and the need for modernization, additional information on the B-21, long range strike bomber, program and the important role Airmen have as the forces greatest asset.*



### • SecAF/CSAF State of the

#### Air Force Highlights:

- In the past year, coalition forces upped the ante against the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL), flying more than 55,000 sorties in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.
- Air Force's persistent efforts take a toll on aircraft, readiness and Airmen.
- We need to support all Airmen, but especially the Airmen who are in high demand, low density career fields.
- The Air Force has six fleets of airplanes now more than 50 years old, as well as 21-plus fleets more than 25 years old.
- Air Force will train about 334 remotely piloted aircraft pilots in fiscal year 2016, up from about 180 in past years.
- The Air Force is increasing its manning after 20 years of downsizing.
- Modernization is the key to the force of the future and part of that is the Air Force's 21st century B-21 bomber.
- Click [here](#) to watch the video.

### Air Force asks Airmen to name the B-21

The 21st century is bringing a new global dynamic. Major powers are closing in on the technology gap the United States has had for more than 70 years, creating a new spectrum of challenges for American Airmen to overcome. A bomber for the 21st century, the B-21 will help secure the nation's future the moment it becomes a reality, and will work in tandem with pre-existing technologies to provide deterrence and assurance for a new era. It's important to allow Airmen the opportunity to contribute to the identity of the B-21. For full submission rules, click [here](#).



## ► 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 Veterans Affairs](#)

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[Air Force Association](#)

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[Civil Service Employment Opportunities](#)

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[Air Force Bands/Outreach](#)

## ► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

**March 10, 1967** - F-105 Thunderchiefs and F-4C Phantoms bombed the Thai Nguyen steel plant in North Vietnam for the first time. At the time, Thai Nguyen was the only plant in Southeast Asia making bridge sections, barges, and drums for fuels and lubricants. While attacking the steel plant, Capt. Merlyn Hans Dethlefsen used his severely damaged F-105 to silence enemy defenses, despite intense enemy ground fire and fighter attacks, to earn the Medal of Honor.

**March 11, 1974** - The YF-16 attained Mach 2 for the first time in test flights at Edwards Air Force Base, California.

**March 12-14, 1980** - Two 410 BMW B-52Hs from K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base, Michigan, flew 19,353 nautical miles around the world in 42 hours, 30 minutes, averaging 488 mph. Majors William H. Thurston and John M. Durham commanded the flight from Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, across Canada, the North Atlantic, Europe, the Mediterranean Sea, the Indian Ocean, the Strait of Malacca, the South China Sea, and back to Offutt AFB. They earned the Mackay Trophy for the flight.

**March 13, 2007** - The first MQ-9 Reaper, a newer, larger and stronger version of the MQ-1 Predator remotely piloted aircraft, arrived at Creech Air Force Base, Nevada. The 42nd Attack Squadron commander, Lt. Col. Jon Greene, flew the MQ-9 more than 250 miles in two hours to land there.

**March 14, 2001** - An Army CH-47 Chinook successfully released the X-40A at 15,000 feet for its first free flight and autonomous landing at Edwards Air Force Base, California.

**March 15, 1956** - The Air Force issued a requirement for an air-to-surface missile for the B-52 Stratofortress. This missile became the Hound Dog.

**March 16, 1926** - Dr. Robert H. Goddard test flew the world's first liquid-fueled rocket at Auburn, Massachusetts. It flew 184 feet in 2.5 seconds at about 70 mph.



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.



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

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