

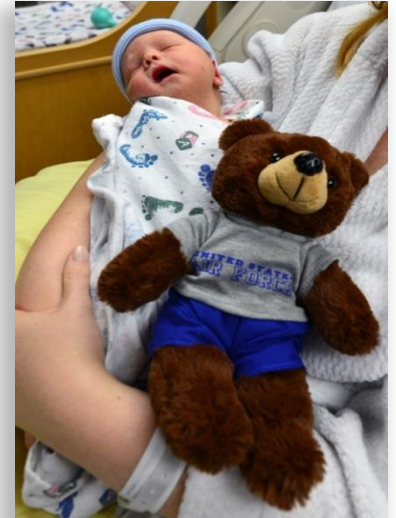
Commander's Call Topics

February 11, 2016

AF implements maternity leave changes

Beginning Feb. 5, active-duty female Airmen will receive up to 12 continuous, non-transferable weeks of fully paid maternity leave in accordance with Defense Department-wide policy changes. Below is an outline of the new policy. For the full maternity leave article, click [here](#).

- Commanders may not disapprove maternity leave. Additionally, this policy in no way restricts unit commanders or medical professionals from granting convalescent leave in excess of 12 weeks if a medical authority deems that leave is warranted.
- Eligible Airmen will be entitled to up to 12 continuous, non-transferable weeks of fully paid maternity leave.
- Continuous maternity leave means all 12-weeks must be used back-to-back. If all 12-weeks are not used continuously, the remainder of the maternity leave is forfeited.
- Eligible Airmen include the active duty component and Reserve Component Airman serving on call or ordered to active service for a continuous period of at least 12 months.
- The 12-week period of maternity leave will start immediately following a birth event or release from hospitalization following a birth event whichever is later. A birth event refers to any birth of a child or children to a female service member wherein the child or children are retained by the mother.
- Airmen who are currently on maternity leave will be immediately granted a 42-day extension.
- Airmen currently using approved ordinary (chargeable) leave in conjunction with their maternity leave are authorized to convert their regular leave to non-chargeable maternity leave and to extend their maternity leave, not exceeding a total of 84 days.
- In addition, DOD is requesting legislative changes to paternity leave.



What you need to know about the FY17 Budget Plan:

The Air Force requested a top-line budget of \$120.4 billion in Air Force-controlled funding that will continue to take care of people, strike the right balance between readiness and modernization, and make every dollar count. The budget supports a Total Force end strength of 492,000 personnel and ensures that the service can continue to assess capability gaps and grow end-strength to meet demands where they exist. Click [here](#) to learn more about the FY17 Budget Plan.



► 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](#)

[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

Feb. 11, 1944 - Eighth Air Force conducted a radar bombing attack on important German chemical plants.

Feb. 12, 1958 - The Department of Defense transferred the Jupiter Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile program from the Army to the Air Force.

Feb. 13, 2007 – Nearly 150 Airmen participated in Exercise Falcon Condor 07, a joint military exercise with the Peruvian air force. The exercise allowed the U.S. military to build relationships with Peru's military and civilian leaders. It involved the C-130 Hercules, E-3A Sentry, F-16 Fighting Falcon, and the B-1 Lancer. Afterwards, the aircraft remained in Peru for two more days to perform in the Falcon Condor air show.

Feb. 14, 1989 - In its first launch, the McDonnell-Douglas Delta II space booster lifted the first operational NAVSTAR GPS satellite into orbit.

Feb. 15, 1948 - The XF-87 Blackhawk made its first flight at Edwards Air Force Base, California.

Feb. 16, 1966 - Gen. John P. McConnell, the chief of staff of the Air Force, presented astronaut wings to Col. L. Gordon Cooper, Col. Frank Borman, and Lt. Col. Thomas P. Stafford.

Feb. 17, 2007 - The 45th Space Wing supported the launch of a Delta II booster from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida, carrying five NASA THEMIS probes to study auroral substorms, an avalanche of solar wind powered magnetic energy that intensifies the northern and southern lights.



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

[SecAF, CSAF testify on FY 2017 AF posture](#)

"...fully engaged, in every region of the world, in every mission area, across the full spectrum of military operations," is how [Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James](#) related the [Air Force Posture Statement](#) when she and [Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III](#) testified before the Senate Appropriations committee on Feb. 10.

[F-35 program moving forward, addressing challenges](#)

The F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter Program, despite deficiencies, is on schedule to complete the development program in the fall of 2017.

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

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