



March 24, 2016

Modernizing the Air Force

For more than 25 years, the United States has maintained the world's most powerful Air Force. As highly capable threats emerge, the Air Force requires continued investments in key modernization to sustain its advantage for the next 25 years and beyond. Below are recent comments from key leaders discussing the service's modernization efforts:



Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James

- "We've got to be forward thinking enough to balance winning today's fight while preparing for tomorrow's. Though the horizon may seem distant, it's actually just around the corner." Click [here](#) for full story.
- "Our military's technological superiority is being challenged in ways that we've never experienced before, and we can't take these developments for granted. Because if we do, that could put American lives at risk in the not-too-distant future." Click [here](#) for full transcript (Air Warfare Symposium Keynote Feb. 2016).

Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh, III

- "The platforms and systems that made us great over the last 50 years will not make us great over the next 50." Click [here](#) for full story.
- "We've got to modernize our Air Force. There's no ands, ifs, or buts about this. We cannot be ready, capable, and modern today and not ready, capable, and modern 15 years from now. That is not a choice for a military force unless you want to lose." Click [here](#) for full transcript (AFA Air Warfare Symposium).

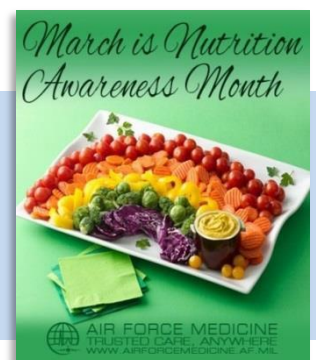
Vice Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein

- "We've made difficult trades between readiness today and the critical investment required to modernize for the future against potential adversaries who continue to close the technological gap." Click [here](#) for full story.
- "When we are asked, 'what is the state of your readiness?' It's actually a complex answer because we really need to answer the question with a question, 'ready for what?'" Click [here](#) for full story.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody

- "I always love how (Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III) always says, 'Without airpower, you lose,' and I always like to finish that ... 'and without Airmen, there is no airpower. It's really important to remember that. We can have all this stuff, but without our Airmen, it doesn't happen.'" Click [here](#) for full story.

March is #Nutrition Awareness Month! Healthy eating coupled with active living is the foundation for healthy living, which is critical to maintaining a ready and deployable force. Did you know health eating is one of the most powerful tools we have to reduce the onset of disease? Learn about the Top 10 Things You Need to Know about the 2015-1010 Dietary Guidelines for American by clicking [here](#).



► RESOURCES

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

[AF.mil](#)

[Airman magazine](#)

[MilitaryOneSource/HomeFront](#)

[Air Force Personnel Center](#)

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[Air Force Bands/Outreach](#)

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

March 24, 1992 – The last U.S. Air Force fighter aircraft to be stationed in Spain left the country after serving in there for 26 years.

March 25, 1986 – The first all-female Minuteman crew stood alert at the 351st Strategic Missile Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. This was the first time an all-female crew accomplished Minuteman combat crew duty under the gender-specific crew policy.

March 26, 1996 – The F-4 Phantom line retired from active service.

March 27, 1916 – Pilots with the 1st Aero Squadron aircraft started carrying mail and dispatches for the Mexican Punitive Expedition.

March 28, 1935 – Dr. Robert Goddard launched the first rocket with gyroscopic controls to a height of 4,800 feet and a distance of 13,000 feet. It reached a speed of 550 mph.

March 29, 1923 – At Dayton, Ohio, three Fédération Aéronautique Internationale records were established in a single day. First, Lt. A. Pearson flew a Verville Sperry R-3 at 167.77 mph a distance of more than 500 kilometers. Next, Lt. Harold R. Harris and Ralph Lockwood flew a DH-4L with a Liberty 400-horsepower engine at 127.42 mph for the 1,000-kilometer record. Third, Lt. Russell L. Maughan flew a Curtiss R-6 at 236.587 mph for a record over a straightaway course.

March 30, 1963 – Strategic Air Command accepted its first Titan II launch facility, which was at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona.



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

[90 female missileers, B-52 aircrews make history](#)

It's Women's History Month, a good time to be the first all-female missile alert crews to serve on alert at three intercontinental ballistic missile wings simultaneously.

[Airman, family injured in Brussels bombings](#)

A U.S. Airman from Joint Force Command Brunssum in the Netherlands and members of the Airman's family were injured in an attack at the Brussels airport March 22.

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

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