

Commander's Call Topics



April 8, 2011

**THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF
CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC**

Friday, April 08, 2011

Potential Government Shutdown

To the Men and Women of the United States Air Force:

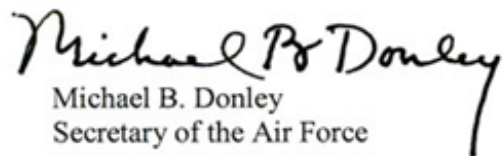
We remain hopeful that a government shutdown will be averted. However, prudent management requires that the Department of Defense plans for an orderly shutdown should Congress be unable to pass a funding bill before our current funding expires on April 8. We fully understand that a shutdown is extremely disruptive to our mission, to you, and to your families. Therefore, the Air Force will continue to conduct activities in support of our National security-particularly, urgent operational requirements in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Japan, and other immediate military needs.


In a government shutdown, active duty military members will continue to report for duty, although they will experience disruptions in their pay. Civilians who are employed to accomplish functions that are considered necessary to national security, safety of human life, and protection of property will be "excepted" from furlough if their function cannot be accomplished by a military member. Those military members and "excepted" civilian employees will continue to report to work. Civilian employees who are employed for other, non-excepted functions will be furloughed until an appropriations bill or continuing resolution is enacted. Unique rules apply to the Guard and Reserve, and more information will follow from DoD.


An employee's designation as "non-excepted" says nothing about the quality of their work or the value of their service. These designations reflect a careful interpretation of the activities allowable under the law without an appropriations bill.

For more information, please see the official Air Force website (<http://www.af.mil/>) and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management website (<http://www.opm.gov/furlough2011>). Additional information also will be provided to commanders and public affairs offices at all levels.

You are all valued members of our Air Force team. Thank you for your continued commitment and service to ensure our Nation's security in these uncertain and challenging times.


Michael B. Donley
Secretary of the Air Force


Norton A. Schwartz
General, USAF
Chief of Staff


James A. Roy
Chief Master Sergeant
of the Air Force

Deputy Secretary of Defense William J. Lynn III Message to DOD Workforce on Potential Government Shutdown

"The department remains hopeful that a government shutdown will be averted. The President has made it clear that he does not want a government shutdown, and the administration is working to find a solution with which all sides can agree. However, prudent management requires that we plan for an orderly shutdown should Congress be unable to pass a funding bill before our current funding expires on April 8.

"The President and the secretary know that the uncertainty of the current situation puts federal employees in a difficult position, and are very much aware that a shutdown would impose hardships on our military and civilian personnel as well as our military families. As we approach the expiration of the current continuing resolution, we will provide you with updated information as soon as it becomes available."

Read the full message at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123250577>.

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[CSAF discusses 'Don't Ask-Don't Tell' repeal, budget with Congress](#)

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz spoke to members of the House of Representatives on the training Airmen will receive in preparation for allowing openly gay and lesbian members to serve. *"The standards of conduct that we expect of all Airmen -- entitling every Airman to dignity, respect and equal opportunity -- will not change."* In a separate hearing, General Schwartz also discussed the Air Force's portion of the President's budget request for fiscal 2012.

[CMSAF highlights Airman resiliency during hearing](#)

"Resilient Airmen are better equipped to withstand, recover and/or grow in the face of stressors and changing demands, and continuously get the job done," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy during testimony before the House Subcommittee for Military Construction.

CURRENT ISSUES

[Air Force leaders discuss future of Airmen in joint operations across Iraq](#)

Leaders reviewed the future manpower support of U.S. forces by joint expeditionary tasking and individual augmentee Airmen as Operation New Dawn enters its final months. According to a security agreement between the U.S. and Iraq, USF-I must return all bases to the government of Iraq by Dec. 31. As Army units reposition, Air Force leaders want to make sure the movement of Airmen is synchronized to those plans.

[Air Force chief information officer discusses way ahead for cyberoperations](#)

The Air Force chief information officer, Lt. Gen. William T. Lord, emphasized that despite recent budgetary constraints, the Air Force needs to remain vigilant in cybersecurity, applications management and compatibility to new devices in order to ensure military networks are available in the fight for U.S. and coalition partners.

PERSONNEL ISSUES

[DOD to drop Social Security numbers from ID cards](#)

Beginning in June, when current cards expire, they will be replaced with new cards having a DOD identification number replacing the SSN. The DOD identification number is a unique 10-digit number that is assigned to every person with a direct relationship with the department. An 11-digit DOD benefits number also will appear on the cards of those people eligible for DOD benefits. The first nine digits are common to a sponsor, and the last two digits will identify a specific person within the sponsor's family.

[Sexual Assault Awareness Month encourages bystander intervention](#)

The Air Force began observing Sexual Assault Awareness Month starting April 1. The Defense Department theme for the month is "Hurts one. Affects all," which is designed to point out how sexual assault affects not only the victim, but the department as well. The Air Force's slogan supporting the DOD theme is "Real Wingmen Act!" emphasizing the duty of all Airmen to intervene whenever they see questionable behavior.

[Air Force officials issue guidelines for green fleece](#)

The sage-green fleece jacket, commonly known as Generation III or Gen III, was the original version authorized for wear. Due to limited availability at AAFES Military Clothing Stores and through the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, some units purchased and issued other versions. These other versions may be worn as long as they meet certain requirements. View the full story for details, or call AFPC at 800-525-0102.

GUARD AND RESERVE

[General discusses Reserve efficiencies, budget on Capitol Hill](#)

Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., the chief of Air Force Reserve at the Pentagon and commander of Air Force Reserve Command at Robins AFB, Ga., discussed equipment and budget needs with the congressional Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces. *"Not only does our (fiscal 2012) budget request ensure Air Force reservists are trained and prepared to support Air Force and combatant command requirements, but it also demonstrates our commitment to the DOD's focus on efficiencies."*

CIVILIAN

[Air Force summer job opportunities now available](#)

Temporary summer employment positions are available, including office automation and computer clerk, laborer, lifeguard, recreation aide, and food service worker. To be considered for a summer position, an individual must be eligible for the Student Temporary Employment Program, have Veteran Recruitment Appointment eligibility, be a documented 30 percent disabled veteran, or have reinstatement status. For more information about summer jobs and other civilian employment opportunities, visit www.afciviliancareers.com.

[EBIS launches online retirement tool](#)

Employee Benefits Information System launched a web tool that will allow Air Force appropriated fund civilian employees to accomplish additional benefits-related actions online, such retirement planning. Employees will be able to access the eRetirement module in EBIS through the Air Force Portal or the Air Force personnel services website. For more information, call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

[Program develops senior civilian leaders](#)

The Civilian Strategic Leader Program director assignment offers a structured strategic path for developing future Air Force senior civilian leaders at the GS-14 and 15 or equivalent levels. The program provides a systematic, merit-based process for filling command-equivalent positions. Civilians are encouraged to apply through their local leadership by May 1.

[Deadline approaching for William A. Jump Award](#)

The deadline for submitting nominations for the 62nd Annual William A. Jump Memorial Award to the Air Force Personnel Center is June 1. The Jump Award annually recognizes a federal employee for outstanding service in administration and notable contributions to the efficiency and quality of public service.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Webinar set for new TRICARE Young Adult program](#)

TRICARE and Military OneSource officials have teamed up to host an interactive webinar Monday, April 11, about the new TRICARE Young Adult program. Although the webinar is full, a recording of the event will be made available on the [TRICARE website](#) and will include information on who qualifies for TYA, when and where to enroll and what type of coverage to expect.

[DOD celebrates Month of the Military Child](#)

Children of U.S. service members around the world will be honored throughout the month of April for their contributions to their families' well-being and sacrifices. Throughout the month, military installations worldwide will host programs and activities for military children, including fairs, picnics, carnivals and parades.

RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Airman magazine

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>

Air Force Community

<http://www.afcommunity.af.mil/>

Air Force Outreach

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/>

Military OneSource

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

Military HOMEFRONT

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

Air Force Personnel Center

<https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil/app/home>; <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

Air Reserve Personnel Center

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/>

Department of Defense

<http://www.defense.gov>

Department of Defense News

<http://www.defenselink.mil>

TRICARE

<http://www.tricare.mil>

U.S. Government Web site

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

Employment Opportunities

www.usajobs.com; www.nafjobs.org

AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS

This Week in Air Force History

April 10, 1959 – The Northrop T-38 Talon flew for the first time.

April 11, 1966 – Airman 1st Class William H. Pitsenbarger loses his life while saving the lives of nine U.S. Army Soldiers in Cam My, South Vietnam. He received the Air Force Cross posthumously; later in 2000, his Air Force Cross was upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

April 12, 1945 – Staff Sgt. Henry Erwin saves a B-29 and its crew from a malfunctioned phosphorus bomb. These actions resulted in earning a Medal of Honor.

April 12, 1951 – Sgt. Billie Beach shot down two MIGs during an assault on Yalu River bridges in Korea.

April 12, 1966 – Strategic Air Command B-52 bombers struck targets in North Vietnam for the first time. They hit a supply route in the Mu Gia Pass about 85 miles north of the border.

April 14, 1986 – U.S. forces launched Operation Eldorado Canyon, a retaliatory bombing raid in response to terrorist activities supported by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

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

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