

Commander's Call Topics



Aug. 5, 2011

"... to look into their eyes is to really look into the heart and soul of America. They're putting their lives on the line; many of you always put your lives on the line. And for all of that, I just want to express the thanks of the country, my personal thanks that you are doing a job that is essential to protecting our freedom," Defense Secretary Leon Panetta [said to Airmen at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.](#), about his recent visit to Southwest Asia.

"Through the course of two wars, we have built an incredibly joint force in ways that many of us could not have imagined. I love each service to death -- the ethos and culture that each service has. It's a critical part of who we are as a military," Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in Iraq during a question and answer session on [the lessons of working as a joint force.](#)

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[Air Force leaders laud AFSA, Airmen at gala](#)

"Our NCO corps is the envy of the world, and for that I owe many of you here tonight a debt of gratitude for the high standards and professionalism you have built to this point and will pass on to the next generation of enlisted leaders," Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley said during the 2011 Air Force Sergeants Association Professional Airmen's Conference July 27, 2011, in San Antonio.

[Secretary of the Air Force talks with Airmen while visiting Vance AFB](#)

"We're committed to ensuring that the United States continues to have the world's finest Air Force for generations to come," said Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley during his stop at Vance Air Force Base, Okla., July 27, 2011.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[History, achievements of Tuskegee Airmen celebrated](#)

"Seventy years is but a moment. Yet in that moment, a group of determined individuals boldly charted a course that would forever change our nation and our Air Force. ... We look with pride to the extraordinary impact you have made on our nation; your legendary skills in combat; your strength of character in the face of bias and ignorance; and your remarkable contribution to the integration of the armed services," Maj. Gen. Darren McDew, the Air Force District of Washington commander, said at the Tuskegee Airmen wreath laying ceremony July 31, 2011, at the Air Force Memorial in Washington, D.C. The ceremony commemorated the history and service of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II combat operations.

[First Air Force F-35 pilot part of aviation history](#)

The first F-35 Lightning II joint strike fighter arrived at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., July 14, 2011.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Air Force officials release E-5 promotion list](#)

Air Force officials selected 11,337 of 26,549 eligible senior airmen for promotion to staff sergeant for a selection rate of 42.70 percent.

[AF Academy instructor positions available](#)

Interested officers must apply by Sept. 15 for USAFA dean of faculty, preparatory school and athletic department positions. Limited positions are also available at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.; the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md.; and the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, Long Island, N.Y. Eligible applicants include first lieutenants through lieutenant colonels who will have a minimum of four years time on station between June 1 and Dec. 1, 2012.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[TRICARE survivor benefits continue upon death of sponsor](#)

TRICARE will continue to provide coverage for family members if a sponsor dies. Options and costs will vary based on the sponsor's military status when he or she dies and if the surviving beneficiary is a spouse or child. For more detailed information of TRICARE Survivor Benefits and other TRICARE programs, beneficiaries can go to [TRICARE's website](#) or talk with their regional health care manager.

[New office aims to strengthen families financially](#)

A government office dedicated to protecting service members and their families from financial predators and pitfalls officially opened for business. As the military arm of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Office of Servicemember Affairs is intended to strengthen military families financially and to serve as an advocate on their behalf.

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.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

<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 Website

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

Employment Opportunities

www.usajobs.com

www.nafjobs.org

AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS

This Week in Air Force History

August 4, 1964 - First U.S. air strikes against North Vietnam.

August 6, 1945 - Major Richard I. Bong, America's "Ace of Aces" in World War II, dies in an aircraft crash on a routine acceptance flight for the P-80 Shooting Star.

August 6, 1945 - B-29 "Enola Gay" dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan.

August 6, 1953 - During Operation Big Switch, the U.S. Air Force used C-124, C-54, C-46 and C-47 transports to airlift more than 800 former prisoners of war from Korea to the U.S. The operation lasted through October.

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

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