

Commander's Call Topics



March 2, 2012

"Darin was a great American, but more importantly he was a devoted father to our two daughters, a loving husband and caring son." -- Holly B. Loftis, speaking of her late husband, [Lt. Col. John Darin Loftis](#), who died Feb. 3 as a result of gun shout wounds suffered in Kabul, Afghanistan.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[CSAF highlights fiscal 2013 military construction efforts](#)

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz discussed military construction projects contained in the service's fiscal 2013 budget request during a congressional hearing March 1.

[Air Force issues flight release for Eglin AFB F-35A](#)

Officials at the Aeronautical Systems Center here issued a Military Flight Release that will allow the F-35A Lightning II fighter to begin initial operations at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[AFPC webcasts address civilian developmental education](#)

Air Force civilians interested in developmental education programs can sit in on a March webcast tailored to their grade and the opportunities available, Air Force Personnel Center officials announced. Webcasts will be conducted at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Central Standard Time on March 8 for GS-12 and GS-13 employees as well as March 15, 21 and 29 for GS-7 through GS-11 employees.

[AFPC automates civilian education application submission process](#)

Civilians who apply for developmental education programs will do so through the Air Force Personnel Services website this year, rather than via email or fax, Air Force Personnel Center officials announced.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Services officials announce teen summer camps](#)

Air Force Services Agency officials recently announced the call for three Air Force teen summer camps for 2012.

[Pet travel policy unchanged for Patriot Express, other carriers revise policy](#)

Military members on permanent change of station orders from overseas locations don't need to worry about recent news reports that fees to transport their pets are being increased to costly levels.

► TECHNOLOGY

[Ohio Airmen help F-16 go 'green'](#)

In a joint effort by Airmen from the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and Airmen from the Ohio Air National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing, the F-16 Fight Falcon is currently undergoing a field service evaluation of biofuel.

► 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>

<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>

Department of Veterans Affairs

<http://www.va.gov>

TRICARE

<http://www.tricare.mil>

U.S. Government Website

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

Employment Opportunities

www.usajobs.com

www.nafjobs.org

Air Force Association Scholarships

<http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/scholars.asp>

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

March 2, 1910 – Lt. Benjamin D. Foulois began solo flying at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Lt. Foulois was the only pilot assigned to the Signal Corps at that time.

March 3, 1959 – Airman at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla., launched the Pioneer IV space probe to within 38,000 miles of the moon. It eventually went into a solar orbit. Radio contact with Pioneer IV continued to a record distance of 406,620 miles from Earth.

March 4, 1992 - Two B-52 Stratofortresses landed in Russia on a friendship mission to demonstrate the end of the Cold War.

March 5, 1957 - The Air Force issued initial operational capability directives to place 40 Atlas and 40 Titan-I ICBMs on alert between March 1959 and March 1961, and 60 IRBMs on alert between July 1959 and July 1960.

March 6, 1942 - The US Army Air School at Tuskegee, Ala., for black aviators graduated its first class. The five black military pilots included Capt. Benjamin O. Davis.

March 7, 1986 - An F-16 conducted a successful separation control test of the Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile.

March 8, 2007 - The Air Force marked its 50th consecutive successful launch with an Atlas V, loaded with six experimental satellites. The Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles AFB, Calif., successfully launched the rocket from Cape Canaveral AFS, Fla., using the 45th Space Wing spacelift team.

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

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