

Commander's Call Topics



March 22, 2012

"After a careful look at the [joint strike fighter](#) program, the department determined that we do need the JSF, that we need all three variants of the fighter, and that we need the planned inventory of 2,443 jets." -- Frank Kendall, the acting undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, told the House Armed Services Committee that the fighter aircraft is essential to the Defense Department and that it made "strong progress" in 2011.

► CURRENT ISSUES

The most nimble of the older jet fighters, the F16 has evolved into an all-weather, multirole aircraft that has been procured to serve in the air forces of 25 other nations.

[Pilot safe in Kunsan AB F-16 crash](#)

An Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon crashed near Kunsan Air Base, South Korea, during a routine training mission at approximately March 21.

What's in a name? A lot of historical significance and a legacy of special operations force aircraft. The MC130J is being renamed the Commando II to honor its predecessor that dates to the special forces of the Vietnam War era.

[Air Force changes name of MC-130J](#)

Officials announced a popular name change for the MC130J March 9 that honors the Air Commando legacy and capitalizes on the versatility of the aircraft.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

March is Women's History Month, and according to the Department of Defense and echoed by the Bureau of the Census, there are 205,500 active duty women in the military, of whom 38,700—or nearly 19 percent—are officers.

[Women's roles evolved from 'Lucy' to 'Murphy Brown' after World War II](#)

Within the time span it took for women in television to transform from the female stereotypes portrayed on "I Love Lucy" to the more modern, late-century version found on "Murphy Brown," women in the U.S. Air Force were making strides that far outpaced their Hollywood counterparts.

Stop Loss can mean many things; a 2008 movie starring Kiefer Sutherland; an investment order to limit one's losses; the involuntary extension of a service member's active duty service. It also refers to an application process that has re-opened allowing Airmen to submit a claim for compensation through October 21.

[AF extends retroactive stop loss application window](#)

Airmen eligible for the Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay Program who did not apply before the fall deadline will have another opportunity to do so, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

National Public Service is a calling unto itself, worthy of reward and recognition. Sociologists agree that is recognition by one's peers—not imitation—that is the highest form of praise.

[National Public Service Award nominees sought](#)

The Air Force is seeking nominations for the 2013 National Public Service Award, Air Force Personnel Center officials announced.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

Learning by doing makes valuable lessons more memorable.

[Exchange program enriches safety of aviation community](#)

Two international officers assigned to the Air Force Safety Center's Aviation Safety Division have bolstered their countries' aviation safety program by working side-by-side with their U.S. Air Force partners.

The cost of clean-up has been estimated by some experts at 15 – to 30-times more costly than prevention.

[Air Force launches tool kit aimed at pollution prevention](#)

The Air Force launched a new tool kit March 21 to promote pollution prevention across the service.

► 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 22, 1976 - Davis-Monthan AFB received the first A-10 for operational testing and evaluation.

March 23, 1978 – Capt. Sandra M. Scott, a KC-135 pilot with the 904 AREFS at Mather AFB, Calif., was the first female pilot to perform SAC alert duty.

March 24, 1992 – the last U.S. Air Force fighter aircraft to be stationed in Spain left the country. They had served in Spain for 26 years.

March 25, 1975 - The Air Force organized an airlift to evacuate 10,000 people a day from Da Nang, South Vietnam. Communist forces had surrounded and completely cut off this provincial city.

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

March 27, 1945 - Gen Carl Spaatz sent Eighth Air Force against Berlin to destroy the Luftwaffe. Spaatz realized the enemy would defend Berlin, so he sent bombers over the city with P-51 Mustang escorts. General Galland of the Luftwaffe later said, "Whenever our fighters appeared, the Americans hurled themselves at them. Nowhere were we safe from them."

March 28, 1941 - The Army asked for black volunteers to man a pursuit squadron. The 99th Pursuit Squadron, the first black fighter unit, activated earlier on March 22 at Tuskegee, Ala.

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

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