

Commander's Call Topics



Feb. 24, 2012

"You see [space](#) highlighted in a variety of parts of the (DOD) strategy as critical to the full variety of missions that we take on, from the counterterrorism fight on the low end to the anti-access, area-denial challenge on the high end." -- Undersecretary of the Air Force Erin Conaton on placing high priority on space programs with the fiscal [2013 Air Force budget](#).

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Four Hurlburt Field Airmen die in U-28A crash in Djibouti](#)

Capt Ryan P. Hall from the 319th Special Operations Squadron, Capt. Nicholas S. Whitlock and 1st Lt. Justin J. Wilkens, from the 34th Special Operations Squadron, and Senior Airman Julian S. Scholten from the 25th Intelligence Squadron, died Feb. 18 when their U-28A was involved in an accident near Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, located in the Horn of Africa. No other personnel were on board the aircraft.

[Defense Health Board receives Port Mortuary review findings](#)

The Defense Health Board has received findings and recommendations from an independent review of practices at the Dover Port Mortuary in Delaware.

[Pentagon: No enemy involvement in U-28 crash in Djibouti](#)

Four Air Force special operators were killed Feb. 18 when their single-engine U-28 aircraft crashed in Djibouti on the Horn of Africa, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said Feb. 21.

[CSAF stresses importance of ready future force](#)

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz emphasized the service's need for a strong total force ready for the future during remarks to Airmen and defense industry officials here Feb. 23.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[DOD seeks leadership program candidates](#)

Department of Defense officials are seeking active duty Air Force majors and major-selects to apply for the academic year 2012-2013 Executive Leadership Development Program, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

[Air Force works to update disability hiring records](#)

Disability hiring initiatives are ongoing as federal agencies work to meet the president's challenge to hire 100,000 people with disabilities over the next five years.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Texas ANG unit recognized for top family readiness program](#)

Texas and Wisconsin National Guard units were among several from the reserve components recognized Friday at the 2012 Department of Defense Reserve Family Readiness Awards ceremony here at the Pentagon.

► TECHNOLOGY

[Industry leaders briefed on ISR future](#)

Lt. Gen. Larry James, Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, briefed industry leaders about the service's ISR future during the Aviation Week Defense Technology, Affordability and Requirement Conference here, Feb. 15.

► 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

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

Feb. 24, 1969 - While dropping flares near Saigon, A1C John L. Levitow, a load master, saved the lives of eight crewmembers and their AC-47 aircraft when it sustained a hit from an 82-mm mortar shell. Bleeding from over 40 shrapnel wounds, Levitow dragged another crewmember away from the open cargo door and, without regard for his life, threw himself on a live flare, dragged it to the cargo door, and pushed it out just as it ignited. Levitow then lapsed into unconsciousness. He was the first Air Force enlisted man to receive the Medal of Honor since World War II.

Feb. 25, 1944 - Eighth and Fifteenth Air Forces bombed German aircraft factories in southern Germany. The Fifteenth launched 400 bombers, including 176 to Regensburg, to end "Big Week."

Feb. 26, 1918 - The 2nd Balloon Company, U.S. Army Signal Corps, became the first U.S. Air Service unit to serve with American forces at the front during WWI. It arrived in the Toul Sector for assignment with I Corps and began operations March 5.

Feb. 27, 1911 - On the Mexican border near Fort McIntosh at Laredo, Texas, Lt Benjamin D. Foulois and Phillip O. Parmalee, a Wright instructor pilot, demonstrated the use of an airplane in coordination with ground maneuvers for the first time. They used a Wright B.

Feb. 28, 1994 - Two F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 86th Wing at Ramstein AFB, Germany, shot down four Serbian Jastreb-Galeb attack aircraft over Bosnia as a part of Operation Deny Flight. This action was the first aerial combat in NATO history.

Feb. 29, 1960 – Airmen with Strategic Air Command at Eglin AFB, Fla., launched the first Hound Dog missile.

March 1, 2005 - At Langley AFB, Va., Lt Gen William Fraser III, the Air Combat Command vice commander, declared an initial operating capability for the MQ-1 Predator, even though it had already seen extensive operational service in Afghanistan and Iraq. The MQ-1 version had advanced sensors and carried AGM-114 Hellfire missiles.

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

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