

# Commander's Call Topics



**April 5, 2012**

"Although the Air Force is downsizing, we must still provide the force structure and capability and be prepared to respond to a dynamic environment." -- [Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley](#) March 30 in a keynote address to attendees of the 39th Tinker and Community Dining Out at the Tinker Club.

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### [C-27 program cut explained, budget aligned with strategy](#)

The Air Force deputy chief of staff for strategic plans and programs discussed the reasoning behind the C-27J Spartan program cut from the fiscal 2013 budget request during the Air Force Association's monthly breakfast seminar March 27.

### [Officials reaffirm Pentagon's commitment to F-35](#)

The Defense Department is working to contain cost growth and remains committed to the fifth-generation fighter, defense officials said March 29.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [AF officials release captain promotion list](#)

More than a hundred first lieutenants were selected for promotion to captain during the 2011E Chaplains, Line of the Air Force Judge Advocate General Corps, Nurse Corps, Medical Service Corps and Biomedical Sciences Corps Quarterly Captain Selection Process, Air Force Personnel Center officials announced.

### [New tool helps process new civilian employees](#)

Air Force civilian hires will soon have access to a new virtual tool that provides more efficient and timely processing for job placement.

### [Wounded warriors continue service through employment program](#)

Wounded warriors may explore new opportunities to serve through the Air Force Wounded Warrior Civil Service Employment Program.

### [Officials complete new tuition assistance policy memo](#)

When a new policy takes effect, probably this summer, schools will need to have a signed memorandum of understanding to participate in the Defense Department's Tuition Assistance Program, Pentagon officials said.

## ► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

### [First lady unveils new military spouse hiring effort](#)

First lady Michelle Obama today announced a new hiring effort intended to deliver thousands of portable, flexible job opportunities to military spouses and veterans in the coming years.

### [DOD implements new changes to sexual assault response](#)

The Defense Department has refined new methods to aid sexual assault victims whether reporting a crime or seeking assistance.

## ► TECHNOLOGY

### [Virtual wingman makes smart choices easy](#)

Air Education and Training Command unveiled a new mobile phone application that is designed to provide resiliency and safety information to Airmen.

## ► 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](http://www.usajobs.com)

[www.nafjobs.org](http://www.nafjobs.org)

### **Air Force Association Scholarships**

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

## ► **Tax Day USA, April 17th**

In 1955, Congress set April 15<sup>th</sup> as the annual date federal income taxes are due unless it falls on a Sunday or a holiday. Since April 15<sup>th</sup> is a Sunday, and Washington, D.C. (the municipality) will be celebrating Emancipation Day, Tax Day is Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

The first laws governing the taxation of personal income were passed by Congress during the Lincoln Administration, specifically to help pay for the Civil War in 1861. They were repealed a year later. It's not likely that current income tax laws will be repealed any time soon, so if you still need help with your taxes, go to [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil) and find out about free filing and tax programs tailored to the specific situations and needs of military personnel and their families. Most important, for those deployed and living abroad, you can find out how to file for an extension of time to complete your tax return.

Military OneSource offers free tax-related phone consultations seven days-a-week, from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., at 1-800-730-3802.

Additional tax information can be found or linked to through a Defense.gov article here:

<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=67053>.

## ► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

**April 5, 1991** – To July 15, Military Airlift Command units flew more than 7,000 tons of supplies to Northern Iraq, Southeastern Turkey, and Western Iran as part of Operation Provide Comfort to help more than 1 million Kurdish rebels, who fled from Iraq after being defeated by Iraqi forces.

**April 6, 1966** – The U.S. Air Force and Army signed an agreement on aircraft use. The Army relinquished intratheater, fixed-wing airlift operations and gave the Air Force all CV-2 Caribous and CV-7 Buffalos. They were designated the C-7A Caribou and C-8A Buffalo, respectively. In return, the Air Force agreed to not use rotary-wing aircraft for intratheater movements, fire support, or supply of Army forces.

**April 7, 1945** – The 20th Air Force made the first fighter-escorted B-29 mission against Japan. The taking of Iwo Jima, within fighter range of Japan, made this raid possible.

**April 8, 1970** - The U.S. Air Force launched two Vela nuclear-detection satellites from the Eastern Test Range on a Titan III-C booster. Each 700-pound satellite carried optical sensors to detect electromagnetic impulses, or brief radio signals generated by atomic explosions anywhere in the atmosphere. Sensors could also detect atomic weapons tests up to 100 million miles in space and distinguish between weapons tests and exploding stars.

**April 9, 1967** - Through April 14, the 315th Air Division began the largest tactical unit move in the Vietnam War. In 351 sorties, C-130s airlifted the entire 196th Light Infantry Brigade, with 3,500 people and 4,000 tons of equipment, 375 miles from Tay Ninh to Chu Lai.

**April 10, 1974** - U.S. Air Force in Europe C-130 Hercules aircraft, crews, and communicators supported operation Nimbus Star, to sweep the Suez Canal free of mines and other obstacles to navigation.

**April 11, 1966** - Near Cam My, South Vietnam, Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class William H. Pitsenbarger, a pararescueman, hoisted nine soldiers to safety aboard a HH-43 Huskie and then remained behind to treat the wounded amid heavy mortar and sniper fire. In the ensuing battle, he was mortally wounded. He became the first airman to receive the Air Force Cross posthumously. The Air Force later upgraded his award to the Medal of Honor.

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

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