

# Commander's Call Topics



April 29, 2011

*"Not long ago when we spoke of the cyberspace domain, the focus was on the terrestrial networks and the backbone hardware. We talked about servers, routers, cable, fiber; things we can see and touch. But today the backbone has increasingly expanded ... and cyberspace has expanded with it."*

– Lt. Gen. Michael Basla, vice commander of Air Force Space Command, [discussing](#) the need for a cultural change on how the Air Force develops its cyber force

## FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

### [Air force leaders from Africa, U.S. meet in Ethiopia](#)

Air force leaders from more than 20 nations across Africa joined with U.S. Air Force leaders for the 2011 African Air Chiefs Conference, discussing aviation issues and developing partnerships across the continent. *"This conference brings together a community of airmen who are connected by an appreciation of what airpower can do to present additional strategic and operational options for our national and coalition leaders, and who are bound by a shared desire for stability, security, political viability and opportunity for economic development in Africa,"* said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz.

## CURRENT ISSUES

### [Continuing to strengthen nuclear operations: Munitions squadrons to realign](#)

Air Force officials announced plans to transfer munitions squadrons responsible for nuclear mission support from Air Force Materiel Command to Air Force Global Strike Command in the next 12 months. This is another step in continuing to strengthen the nuclear enterprise; under a previous move, these munitions squadrons were consolidated under AFMC's Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center.

### [Air Force officials announce helicopter acquisition strategy](#)

The Air Force secretary and chief of staff have directed that the service proceed with full and open competition for both the Common Vertical Lift Support Platform program and the HH-60 recapitalization program. These two programs will hold separate competitions using their respective capability development documents approved by the joint requirements oversight council to meet the warfighter requirements.

### [Air Force on track with KC-46A program](#)

Force and Boeing Company officials met for the KC-46A program post-award conference recently to discuss program specifics, including a technical overview of the program. The KC-46A is intended to replace the Air Force's aging fleet of KC-135 Stratotankers, which has been the primary refueling aircraft for more than 50 years.

## PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [AETC officials announce new professional development guide](#)

Beginning May 2 the new Professional Development Guide (AFPAM36-2241) will be available at [www.e-publishing.af.mil](http://www.e-publishing.af.mil). The effective date of the new PDG is Oct. 1. To supplement the PDG and assist Airmen to study for promotion testing, Mp3 audio files and interactive exercises will be available at [www.pdg.af.edu](http://www.pdg.af.edu).

### [Officials eliminate exception to short-tour credit](#)

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz approved rescinding a temporary policy established in 2003 that allowed Airmen to receive short-tour credit for overseas TDYs of at least 181 consecutive days. The effective date of the new policy will be announced at a later date. Although the policy change primarily affects Airmen who deploy to a hostile fire or imminent danger pay area, it also affects a small number of Airmen serving TDY in certain remote areas. For more information, go to the [Air Force personnel services](#) website.

### [Air Force Marathon seeks 2,000 volunteers](#)

More than 2,000 volunteers are needed to help host the 15th annual Air Force Marathon Sept. 17 in Dayton, Ohio. Volunteer [registration](#) opens May 1.

## **CIVILIAN**

### **[Civilian career tips are focus of upcoming webcasts](#)**

Civilian Airmen will learn how to plan for their next job, how education affects their careers and more during webcasts in May and June tailored for specific grade-groups. May 12 webcasts will be tailored to GS-14 and GS-15 employees. May 26 information will be for GS-12 and GS-13 employees, and June 21 webcasts will be for GS-7 through GS-11 Airmen. To join the webcast, go to <https://connect.dco.dod.mil/dpi>.

## **FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **[Being proactive helps children prepare for deployments](#)**

For service members and their families, preparing for an upcoming deployment is another of the many challenges unique to military life. Letting children know that they can talk about their fears and worries when preparing for a deployment helps them prepare for stressful situations in the future. For information on helping children deal with deployments, contact the base Airmen and Family Readiness Center or go to Military OneSource at [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com).

## **FINANCE**

### **[Defense Finance and Accounting Service revamps website](#)**

The [redesigned site](#) has a clean, streamlined look with an improved, more intuitive navigation system. The new site features links across the top for each category of people DFAS serves. A "how to" section composed of links down the left side of the page provides easy access for customers to find travel pay information, pay tables, information on correcting military records and other services. For the first few weeks, the site will include a link to an instructional video that explains changes to the site's navigation.

## **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/app/home>

<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 Web site**

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

## **Employment Opportunities**

[www.usajobs.com](http://www.usajobs.com)

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

## **AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS**

### **National Military Appreciation Month**

The Senate first passed a resolution in 1999 designating May as National Military Appreciation Month. That declaration summoned U.S. citizens to observe the month "in a symbol of unity, to honor the current and former members of the armed forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom and peace."

### **Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month**

In 1992, the official designation of May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month was signed into law, a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

### **This Week in Air Force History**

**April 29, 1914** – Sgt. William Ocker receives his pilot license as the third enlisted pilot. He is the first pilot to take aloft an airborne radio. He later accepted a commission in the officer corps, and Col. Ocker became known as the father of instrument flight due to his efforts to promote instrument flying.

**April 29, 1918** – Lt. Edward V. Rickenbacker downed his first enemy aircraft.

**May 1, 1960** – The Soviet Union shot down a U-2 surveillance plane piloted by Capt. Francis Gary Powers. Captain Powers was tried and convicted as a U.S. spy and sentenced to 60 years in prison. Two years later he was exchanged for a Soviet spy.

**May 1, 1965** – The YF-12A interceptor, an early version of the SR-71, set world records at 2,070.101 mph at 80,257.65 feet.

**May 1, 1968** – Air National Guard tactical refueling units completed one year of overseas duty on a continuous basis without mobilization. This is the first operation of its type in history of the Guard or Reserve.

**May 2, 1977** – First Lt. Christine E. Schott became the first woman undergraduate pilot training student to solo in the T-38 talon.

**May 3, 1952** – A C-47 made the first successful landing at the North Pole.

**May 3, 1968** – The first Air National Guard unit called to active duty in the Vietnam conflict, the 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron, arrived in South Vietnam and began flying combat missions two days later.

**May 5, 1970** – Air Force ROTC expanded to include women after test programs at Ohio State, Drake, East Carolina and Auburn Universities proved successful.

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

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