

Commander's Call Topics



July 29, 2011

"We want this entire country to recognize and honor and support our military members and their families. We want you to know that this country has your back." First Lady Michelle Obama said while promoting the [Joining Forces Community Challenge](#) in New Hampshire, July 24, 2011.

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[Caring for People Forum addresses issues facing Airmen, families](#)

More than 250 attendees from various base-level organizations met at the 2011 Caring for People Forum to recommend special focus areas to the Air Force Community Action Information Board and the Integrated Delivery System for evaluation and improvement. The three-day conference focused on a range of issues affecting Airmen and their families, and worked to close the gap between needs and solutions in some of the Air Force's personnel programs.

[Chief Roy: Air Force past, present, way ahead](#)

"Our joint and coalition forces rely on us because we are a reliable partner and we operate safely. They get to know that, and they continue to come back to us," Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy said as he communicated his vision of the Air Force's past, present and future to more than 600 attendees at a forum during the Air Force Sergeants Association's 50th Anniversary Professional Airmen's Conference event July 25.

[Air Force vice chief testifies on force readiness](#)

"Our enduring commitment to readiness in the joint fight is evidenced by the 40,000 American Airmen deployed to 285 locations around the globe. Of this group, nearly 28,000 are on a continually rotating basis to directly contribute to operations in U.S. Central Command, including 10,000 airmen in Afghanistan," Gen. Philip Breedlove, Air Force vice chief of staff, said during a total force readiness update to the House Armed Services Committee's Subcommittee on Readiness July 26.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Enduring cultural change underpins Global Strike Command mission](#)

Lt. Gen. Jim Kowalski, the Air Force Global Strike Command commander, discussed the central role of cultural development and change associated with maintaining and operating the world's most powerful

weapons in today's global environment to at the Air Force First Sergeants Association Annual Professional Airmen's Conference.

[Columbus defenders bring 9/11 march across Mississippi River](#)

Airmen from the 14th Security Forces Squadron take the Ruck March to Remember across the Mississippi River July 26 during their portion of the 2,181-mile trek.

[Air Mobility Rodeo 2011 kicks off](#)

Airmen from around the world, including seven international teams, are participating in the biennial competition that focuses on mission readiness, featuring airdrops, aerial refueling and other events that showcase the skills of mobility crews.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Deadline approaching for Sijan award](#)

Air Force officials would like to remind Airmen that the deadline for submitting nominations for the 2011 Lance P. Sijan United States Air Force Leadership Award to the Air Force Personnel Center is Sept. 1.

GUARD AND RESERVE

[Touch down ends Reserve rescue role in shuttle program](#)

The final landing of the Space Shuttle Atlantis was the final time Air Force reservists will perform their duties as guardians of the astronauts. As a network of rescue responders, reservists from the 920th Rescue Wing from Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., have been the insurance policy ready to perform the world's largest search and rescue mission if called upon during the astronauts' daring entries and exits into space.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Command streamlines moves during busy season](#)

Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command officials are working hard to continually improve processes for military families moving to new duty stations during an exceptionally busy summer. Major points of emphasis for the peak moving season are the newly designed Defense Personal Property System and new rules to accompany it.

[Consultant program supports troops, families](#)

With portable, flexible care, the Defense Department's Military Family Life Consultant program has become a critical component in service member and family support. Through the program, behavioral health specialists deploy around the world to offer short-term, nonmedical counseling and life coaching to military families dealing with everything from deployment and reintegration issues to natural and man-made disasters.

TECHNOLOGY

[Defense Department officials launch cyber strategy website](#)

The new website, online at <http://www.defense.gov/cyber>, is a tool that will help to explain and consolidate the Pentagon's cybersecurity accomplishments and the new way forward for military, intelligence and business operations in cyberspace, officials said.

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.afpc.randolph.af.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>

TRICARE

<http://www.tricare.mil>

U.S. Government Web site

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

Employment Opportunities

www.usajobs.com

www.nafjobs.org

AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS

This Week in Air Force History

July 26, 1937 - Jacqueline Cochran, flying a Beechcraft, set the women's U.S. record of 203.895 mph for 1,000 kilometers.

July 28, 1943 - During a bombing mission in Europe, numerous enemy fighters attacked and severely damaged Flight Officer John C. Morgan's B-17. A cannon shell totally shattered the windscreen and split the pilot's skull open, leaving him in a crazed condition. Flight Officer Morgan, as copilot, tried to fly the plane, while struggling with the pilot to keep him from flying the bomber. He continued the flight and for two hours flew in formation with one hand at the controls and the other holding off the pilot until the navigator came in to provide relief. For completing the bombing mission and safely returning to England, Flight Officer Morgan received the Medal of Honor. (Morgan's feat formed the basis of the movie "Twelve O'Clock High")

July 29, 1970 - Col. Vere Short, a C-141 pilot, attained 25,000 accident-free flying hours, the most military flying time by anyone on active duty.

July 29, 1995 - The 11th Reconnaissance Squadron activated at Nellis AFB, Nev., to operate the Predator, an unmanned aircraft. It was the first such unit in the Air Force.

July 30, 1997 - Capt. Dewey Gay flew an F-16C Fighting Falcon from the 62nd Fighter Squadron at Luke AFB, Ariz., to history when he touched down after a 1.3 hour sortie that pushed the F-16 over 4,000 hour mark. It was the first C-model to reach the 4,000 hour mark. The feat took 14 years.

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

The Defense Media Activity produces Commander's Call Topics weekly. For questions or comments about this or any other DMA product, send e-mail to afproducts@dma.mil. To subscribe to Air Force news and information products online, go to www.af.mil/information/subscribe.