

Commander's Call Topics



April 12, 2012

"As we continue to size and shape our force, we must have the right balance of skills to meet Air Force missions," -- Maj. Gen. Sharon Dunbar, the director of Force Management Policy, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services, speaking about [early retirement offered to select enlisted Airmen](#).

▶ CURRENT ISSUES

[CSAF: Total force integration key to increased effectiveness](#)

"Total Force Integration allows us to leverage Air Reserve Component experience, improve access to aircraft, encourage retention, and increase total force effectiveness," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz during opening remarks at the 18th Air Force TFI Summit here April 3-4.

▶ PERSONNEL ISSUES

[FLETA grants accreditation to AF security forces officer, enlisted courses](#)

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Accreditation Board granted initial program accreditation status to the 343rd Training Squadron's Security Forces Basic Officer and Apprentice Courses at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland recently.

[AF accepting test pilot school applications](#)

Eligible pilots, combat systems officers and engineers have an opportunity to join the ranks of airpower pioneers like Jimmy Doolittle and Chuck Yeager, but they have to apply for U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School to do so.

▶ FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[CMSAF discusses resiliency to civic leaders](#)

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy addressed a crowd of civic leaders and Department of Defense personnel on the necessity of promoting a total force culture of resiliency on Capitol Hill April 5.

▶ TECHNOLOGY

[Air Force staff sergeant creates tracking program](#)

There's a new computer-based program designed to track the training status for pilots. It's called "iFly," invented by Air Force Staff Sgt. Jose Castillo, 3rd Wing aviation resource management. It may become the new standard for the Pacific Air Forces.

► 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>

► **Tax Day USA, April 17th**

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

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 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 12, 1966 - Strategic Air Command B-52s hit targets in North Vietnam for the first time, when they attacked a supply route in the Mu Gia Pass, 85 miles north of the border.

April 13, 1973 - USAFE accepted the responsibility to man and train the Iranian Air Force in F-4 Phantom operations.

April 14, 1918 - Lts Douglas Campbell and Alan F. Winslow, flying Nieuport 28s of the 94th Pursuit Squadron, shot down the first two enemy aircraft in a 10-minute battle over Toul Airdrome on the first day of U.S combat operations in World War I.

April 15, 1945 - The XP-82 Twin Mustang first flew.

April 16, 1980 - The Douglas Aircraft Company revealed the KC-10 Advanced Tanker/Cargo aircraft for the first time at its Long Beach facility.

April 17, 1967 - The Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird set a record for the longest mach-3 flight in history.

April 18, 1942 - From the carrier USS Hornet, located 668 miles off Tokyo, Lt Col James H. Doolittle led 16 B-25s in the first raid on Japan. The range of the mission caused the raiders to crash land in China. The attack caused little damage; however, the mission raised U.S. morale and reversed a trend of Japanese victories. Doolittle later received the Medal of Honor for leading the mission.

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

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