

Commander's Call Topics



June 14, 2012

"Through careful, joint-sanctioned modeling, we determined that we could not sustain further active component cuts without jeopardizing the [collective ability of the total force](#) to support our nation's strategic interests." -- Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz speaking about the importance of avoiding a "hollow force" to a group of civic and industry leaders attending the Air Force Association's monthly breakfast June 11.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Osprey crash leaves five injured](#)

Five crew members aboard an Air Force CV-22 Osprey that crashed last evening on the Eglin Range, north of Navarre, Fla., were taken to local area hospitals.

[Air Force launches first special tactics wing](#)

U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command stood up the 24th Special Operations Wing in a ceremony at Hurlburt Field, Fla., June 12 to meet the growing demand for the unique capabilities special tactics Air Commandos provide.

[National Guard troops battle Western wildfires](#)

Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen from five states are working alongside civilian first responders as they continue to battle wildfires in Colorado and New Mexico.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[AF officials launch online civilian retirement tool](#)

Air Force human resources officials added a new feature in May to the Employee Benefits Information System Web application that allows Air Force appropriated fund civilians to request benefits-related actions online.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Laughlin AFB civilian dies in motorcycle accident](#)

A civilian employee with the 47th Maintenance Directorate here was killed in a motorcycle accident in Del Rio, Texas, June 11 at about 6:45 a.m.

[FOB Shank C-17 Accident Investigation Board complete](#)

Air Mobility Command released the results of its investigation into the Jan. 23, 2012, mishap involving a C-17A Globemaster III that landed at Forward Operating Base Shank, Afghanistan.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE, TECHNOLOGY

[Luke AFB reduces energy, earns money](#)

The 56th Civil Engineer Squadron here will receive approximately \$54,500 from an energy program by reducing the amount of electricity Luke Air Force Base uses from June 1 to September 30.

[Solar energy upgrade boosts efficiency](#)

The 99th Air Base Wing headquarters building here is adding solar panels in an effort to make the building more energy efficient.

► 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>

► CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER

Food seems to taste so much better when eaten outside. Whether it's sandwiches on the playground with the children or a full-blown potluck cookout, the reminder to keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold just doesn't seem to go far enough to ensure that food is safe enough to eat. These seven food safety tips for summer will help you make sure of that.

A cooler is essential. Start with a layer of ice or icepacks two to three inches deep, and layer food and ice all the way to the top, ending with a layer of ice.

Two coolers are better than one. Use one for drinks; the other for food. That way the cooler containing the food stays shut until it's time to prepare the food, and the beverage cooler is opened and closed frequently.

When you get to your destination — the park, the beach, the campsite — find a shady spot for the cooler, and cover it with a light-colored tarp or blanket to reflect sunlight.

If you're boating, don't let food sit out more than two hours, and if it's a hot day — 90 degrees or above — the limit drops to one hour. Take a second cooler and plenty of ice to store the day's catch so raw fish — gutted and cleaned within an hour of catching — doesn't share space with prepared food.

RV-ing provides an additional challenge: Canned goods left over the winter may have frozen, so it's best not to rely on the date on the side of the can. Frozen food expands, and may have caused a microscopic tear along the seam or seal, making it a benevolent host for salmonella and other infection-causing microbes.

Do not use fly spray or "No-Pest" chemical strips. They can contaminate the food.

And above all, keep it clean. Pack plenty of paper towels and sanitizers for cleaning hands and surfaces at your picnic. Pack plenty of extra paper plates and napkins, too, so that clean up is fast, complete and efficient.

And don't forget the bottle opener.

*--Martha Lockwood
Chief, Information Products
Air Force Production*

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

June 14, 1912 – Cpl. Vernon L. Burge became the Army's first enlisted pilot after training in the Army's Air School, Philippines.

June 15, 2007 - The last operational F-16A Fighting Falcon (Tail No. 82-993) flew its final mission over Arizona, taking off from the Tucson Air National Guard base for indefinite storage at the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group yard at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

June 16, 1966 - In the first Titan III-C launch from the Eastern Test Range, the Air Force placed seven Defense Communications Satellite Program repeaters and one gravity-gradient satellite into a random, near synchronous, equatorial orbit. This formed the nucleus of a world-wide military communications system that would have 15 other satellites.

June 17, 2003 - The Air Force awarded 34 aircrew members from Charleston AFB, S.C., the Distinguished Flying Cross for actions in Operation Enduring Freedom. Eight recipients earned the DFC during the first night of humanitarian relief operations in Afghanistan Oct. 7, 2001 while the others received the DFC for inserting Marine forces at the Rhino Landing Zone near Kandahar on 28-30 November 2001. The crews flying to the landing zone performed the deepest insertion of Marines into hostile territory in Marine Corps history. They also accomplished three C-17 operational milestones: (1) the first C-17 combat landings on an unimproved dirt strip; (2) the first missions by C-17 special operations low-level aircrews in hostile conditions; and (3) the first use of night vision goggles by C-17 aircrews to make blacked-out approaches and landings in hostile territory.

June 18, 1957 – Strategic Air Command placed the KC-135 Stratotanker into service.

June 19, 1999 - Two 159th Fighter Wing F-15As deployed to Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland, for a NATO exercise intercepted Russian TU-95 Bear bombers in the Icelandic Military Air Defense Identification Zone in a long range probe not seen since the Cold War's end. Two more 159th Eagles, launched from Keflavick, escorted the bombers out of the area.

June 20, 1974 - The DoD announced that the A-10 won a comparative fly-off with the A-7.

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

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► FATHER'S DAY

The history of Father's Day is a story of false starts, waning enthusiasm, bad timing and would-be presidential attempts to elevate it to "holiday" status.

Like the subplot of a bad sit-com, Father's Day, never quite garnered the enthusiasm that Mother's Day did. Twice—in 1908 in West Virginia and again in 1910 in Washington state—a day honoring fathers was observed, but it didn't achieve national status.

Then, in 1916, President Wilson, took a rather clever approach to the holiday. The president used telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane, Wash. when he pressed a button in Washington, D.C.

Eight years later (1924) President Coolidge urged state governments throughout the country to observe Father's Day. The recognition was met with some disdain about its sentimentality and "attempts to domesticate manliness."

The first presidential proclamation honoring fathers was issued in 1966 by President Lyndon Johnson, designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. In 1972, President Nixon signed the public law that made it permanent.

Today, it is estimated that nearly a billion dollars is spent annually for gifts for the 70.1 million fathers across the nation. According to 2009 U. S. Census numbers, that money is being spent primarily in the 7,708 men's clothing stores, 15,734 hardware stores and 21,628 sporting goods stores.

Father's Day may have gotten off to a rocky start, but there is one area in which it excels: According to History.com, while Mother's Day holds the record for most phone calls in a single day, Father's Day record is for the most collect phone calls in a day.

--Martha Lockwood