

Commander's Call Topics



July 19, 2012

"We are a total force, and we are deeply, irrevocably and successfully integrated. We are committed to staying that way. We are also committed to [building an Air Force that continues to reflect air, space and cyber capabilities that fundamentally depend on the effective employment of appropriately organized, trained and equipped active, Guard and Reserve Airmen.](#)" -- Lt. Gen. Christopher Miller, the deputy chief of staff for Strategic Plans and Programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[CSAF's 'fini flight' a ride of remembrance](#)

Gen. Norton Schwartz climbed aboard the MC-130E Combat Talon I at Hurlburt Field, Fla., July 12, for his last flight as an active-duty officer

[Overseas extension incentives changes ahead](#)

Airmen stationed at overseas long-tour locations who extend their tour Aug. 1 or later may be eligible for incentives

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Manpower, services agencies consolidate with personnel](#)

Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services Lt. Gen. Darrell D. Jones inactivated the Air Force Manpower and Air Force Services agencies, designating them as directorates of the Air Force Personnel Center

[AETC Trains America's International Partners](#)

AETC personnel is training the air forces of America's international partners, helping create a large-scale network of air force superiority and international security

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[AFSEC clarifies use of electronic devices for pedestrians on roadways](#)

The Air Force Safety Center released a letter of interpretation this year prohibiting the use of listening and entertainment devices, including single ear pieces and external speakers, when on a roadway.

[What's your story?](#)

Twenty-five years from now, when you're talking to your kids and grandkids about your Air Force life, what will you tell them? Everyone has a story to tell.

['Always our protector': Working out memories of a fallen Airman](#)

Second Lt. Noel Carroll visits a memorial for her brother, who was killed in action after an improvised explosive device struck his convoy in 2009.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE, TECHNOLOGY

[Little Rock gets electronic flight bags, saves paper, money](#)

Airmen at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., received 721 iPads to be used as electronic flight bags for C-130 Hercules aircrews

[Air Force safety also applies to space](#)

The Air Force Safety Center stood up the Space Safety Division in 2004 to protect Air Force satellites

► 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>

► CMSAF's take on face-to-face communication

(A recent New York Times article that quoted three subject matter experts, a noted educator, business leader and psychologist drew a somewhat scientific, or at least a professional conclusion that our ability to be connected 24/7 via smartphones, e-mail, and the Internet is actually causing harm to our productivity, even possibly to our overall well-being. Studies show that, while it can be hard to unplug from being connected at all hours, day or night, even disconnecting from technology one night a week can produce dividends.

Recently, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy penned a commentary that warned Air Force leaders about relying too much on technology as our main communication tool, suggesting that there are occasions where old fashioned, unplugged face-to-face conversation can go far to getting us back to the foundation of growing meaningful relationships. Below is Roy's take on our overuse of technology and how it can sometimes get in the way of effectively reaching our Airmen.

Chief's Perspective: Analog leadership in digital times

By Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy

The United States Air Force is the world's most advanced air, space and cyberspace force. Most of that can be attributed to you -- our outstanding Airmen -- but technology also plays a huge role. Advanced tools help us maintain an advantage over our adversaries. Technology has enabled our continuing success.

However, technology also threatens to cripple us.

As electronic communication becomes more widely used, our face-to-face interaction skills are beginning to suffer. We know how to text, Skype, and FaceTime, but some of us seem reluctant to engage in a meaningful face-to-face conversation.

We value technology because it saves us time, provides conveniences and helps us to be more efficient. But we must also recognize its potential to strip us of critical human connection skills.

This high-tech challenge has a low-tech solution. We need to strike a balance; we must continue to emphasize the importance of technology - a resource we cannot and will not stop exploiting - and at the same time emphasize the importance and value of analog leadership.

Analog leadership means temporarily putting down the iPads and Android tablets, logging out of Facebook and Twitter, and switching phones to airplane mode to stop the stream of texts coming in and out. It means shutting off the technology and talking to each other.

Face-to-face. One-on-one.

Real human interaction - yes, for some of us it may be awkward at first, but getting to know each other better is an investment that will yield incalculable returns. Stronger connections will create a foundation on which we can grow more meaningful relationships.

And then we can turn the devices back on and use them for their intended purpose: to augment and add value to our real-life relationships.

As Airmen, we have to understand how to use technology, because without it we are not as well-equipped to do our jobs. However, as human beings, we also have to understand how and when not to use technology, because when distracted by it we are not as well-equipped to relate to others.

Thank you for your service and your continued dedication to duty. I look forward to seeing you face-to-face as I travel around our great Air Force.

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

July 19, 1952 – Air Force officials announced the first successful flying of balloons at controlled constant altitudes in the stratosphere for periods of more than 3 days.

July 20, 1969– Astronauts Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin, Jr., flew the lunar module Eagle to the Sea of Tranquility, where Armstrong took the first step on the moon.

July 21, 1972 - The Pacific Air Forces airlifted more than 2,000 tons of food, medical supplies, and other relief supplies to Luzon, Philippines, to support flood victims. C-130 Hercules, and H-3 Sea Kings and H-43 Huskies airlifted more than 1,500 passengers, disaster relief teams, and medical evacuees.

July 22, 1991 – A 445th Military Airlift Wing C-141 Starlifter delivered nearly 20 tons of medical supplies to Ulan Bator, Mongolia to overcome a critical shortage. This mission was the first Air Force flight to Mongolia.

July 23, 1995 – To ease economic suffering in Belarus, a 433rd Airlift Wing C-5 Galaxy airlifted in 28 pallets of medical supplies, blankets, clothes, furniture, and a military ambulance.

July 24, 1994 – Air Force airlift aircraft started flying relief supplies to Rwandan refugees in Zaire after President Bill Clinton directed “an immediate and massive increase” in U.S. relief efforts to assist Rwandan refugees.

July 25, 1946 - Task Group 1.5, a 2,200-man U.S. Army Air Forces element, conducted the second phase of this test to burst an Atomic-bomb underwater off Bikini Island. This group provided aircraft and personnel to photograph and collect data on the explosion.

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

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► Traveling safely with children

(Editor's Note: As part of the Air Force's campaign for safety, especially in the summer, Commander's Call Topics is presenting safety tips each week throughout the Summer. This week's topic is safe swimming.)

Planes, trains and automobiles. Traveling with children can actually be fun for the whole family, if a few safety tips are heeded. Following are seven ways to make sure that you and your child stay safe while traveling and enjoy the journey:

- 1. Before you go, discuss travel rules and emergency contact information with older children, as well as any "If I get lost" procedures for your child to follow. Bring each child's health history, identification information and a recent photograph.*
- 2. In airplanes, make sure that the seat that your child occupies is right for his or her age and size. A child who rides in a car seat in an automobile, should ride in that seat on the plane. Make sure that the car seat is tagged "certified for use in motor vehicles and aircraft."*
- 3. Pack enough diapers, food, toys, medication and other essentials in your carry-on to get you through flight delays and lost luggage. Don't forget the extra pacifier, water or ear filters to help your child cope with (or avoid altogether) the ear discomfort that goes along with rapid changes in cabin pressure.*
- 4. If you are traveling in an airplane with baby on your lap, consider a flight vest for securing your child to your lap belt.*
- 5. Once at your destination, child-proof the area. This includes covering electrical outlets, shortening cords (pipe cleaners are great for this) on window blinds, and inspecting for hazards such as pest poisons and peeling paint.*
- 6. In most cases, the sun in your vacation locale will be different, and your child will be exposed to it for longer periods than at home. Pack child-friendly sunscreen and other sun protection—sunhats, UV-blocking sunglasses and sun-screening apparel. Child-friendly bug-repellent is less harsh than the grown-up version, and a first-aid kit that contains children's aspirin and other kid-friendly items is a must.*
- 7. Drive defensively. With more people out on the road, chances for being in an accident increase. Arrive home safely so that you can enjoy your vacation memories.*

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