

Commander's Call Topics



August 16, 2012

"When I became a squadron commander, I felt excited. When I became a wing commander, I felt proud. When I became a major command commander, I felt privileged and a little bit old. Today when I was sworn in as chief of staff of the Air Force, [I felt humbled to be given the honor of leading its incredible Airmen.](#)" – Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, during his chief of staff appointment ceremony at Joint Base Andrews, Md.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Top enlisted Airman issues challenge](#)

The Air Force's highest ranking enlisted leader has issued a challenge for all Airmen to confront difficult issues.

[New instruction puts spotlight on standards, culture](#)

When referencing fundamental standards, Airmen now have a single source: Air Force Instruction 1-1, Air Force Standards.

[Combat training supports 21st century strategy](#)

As the nation winds down from a decade of combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Department of Defense is shifting its focus to the future

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Air Force looks to put wings on enlisted retrainees](#)

Officials are looking for retrainees to become career enlisted aviators as flight engineers, aircraft loadmasters, flight attendants, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operators.

[Food service teams heat up the dining experience](#)

Air Force dining facility customer feedback indicated dissatisfaction with old, over used menu options

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Enlisted village cares for AF widows, families](#)

The ninth chief master sergeant of the Air Force, James Binnicker, spoke about the Air Force Enlisted Village during the 2012 Air Force Sergeants Association Convention.

[EOD tech school puts 'battlefield' into PT](#)

The 366th Training Squadron Field Training Detachment 3 has revamped their fitness program to turn Airmen into "tactical" athletes.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE, TECHNOLOGY

[SecAF shares AF, DoD energy goals at summit](#)

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley presented a keynote address on the Department of Defense's energy initiatives at the 2012 National Clean Energy Summit.

[Program to improve IT core services achieves key milestone](#)

An Air Force program that will save money, save energy and improve core information technology services, such as email, has recently met a significant milestone.

[Tinker's Green Infrastructure Plan harvesting big returns](#)

At Tinker Air Force Base, baling hay is yielding a harvest designed to "green" the base while cutting grounds-maintenance costs

► 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>

► "Win the fight"

On Aug. 10, Gen. Mark A. Welsh III became the Air Force's twentieth chief of staff, charged with leading its 690,000, active, Guard, Reserve and civilian Airmen.

During the ceremony at Joint Base Andrews, Md., Welsh addressed the audience, focusing on the importance of force integration and resiliency. He told Airmen there must be a focus on three key areas: winning the fight, strengthening the team, and shaping the future:

"I believe that joint operations are the only way we will succeed on the battlefield. If you plan to criticize one of our sister services, don't let me hear you. I believe that coalition operations are the only way we can be successful on the planet. We need to be great at both. I believe our Air Force is an absolutely essential contributor to the joint team, just like each of our sister services are. No one else can bring what we bring to the fight and every real warfighter knows that. Don't ever doubt yourself or this service.

"I do not believe any one service is more important than another, but I'm now the air chief so I'll tell you honestly that I believe the future of the United States of America is in large part an air, space and cyber future, and without a well-trained, well-equipped, capable and credible Air Force our nation will simply not be able to project or protect its power and interests in the future. Our job is to make sure we can.

"I believe the Air Force remains the model of total force integration. In battlespaces all over the world active duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen today operate seamlessly to get the job done and they expect us to do the same back here, and I commit myself to doing exactly that.

"I believe every member of our Air Force family is critically important to our success and each of them deserves to be treated that way.

"When it comes to Airmen resiliency, to suicide prevention, to sexual assault prevention and response, I believe you're either part of the solution or you're part of the problem. There is no middle ground.

"I believe we need to stay consistently focused in three areas. Number one, win the fight. Today's fight, the one that starts next week, the one that starts next month, or the one that starts next year. Readiness and training are not optional.

"Number two, we have to strengthen the team. That's the Air Force team, the Airman family team, the joint team, the coalition team, the interagency team. Collectively our mission statement is to fight and win the nation's wars and if that's your job, your team will never be strong enough.

"Finally, we have to shape the future and that will require innovative thinking and different approaches to problems and it will require modernization.

"I believe success is all about people and pride and performance, and I will insist we walk the talk when it comes to taking care of the people we're privileged to lead. But we can never afford to forget that the only bottom line in this business is performance. No one will care how well we treated our people if we lose the next war.

"Finally, you need to know I trust you. I know how talented you are. I know how well you serve our nation and how proud you are of what you do and who and what you represent. And you need to know that no one, no one ever has been prouder to serve as your chief of staff."

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

Aug. 16, 1950 – Ninety-eight B-29s dropped more than 800 tons of bombs on a 27-square mile area of suspected enemy troop concentrations near Waegwan, South Korea. This attack was the largest employment of airpower against ground forces since World War II's Normandy invasion.

Aug. 17, 1946 - Sgt. Lawrence Lambert became the first person in the U.S. to be ejected from an aircraft by ejection seat. He ejected from a P-61 flying at 302 mph at 7,800 feet in altitude.

Aug. 18, 1910 - Cpl. Glen Madole and Oliver G. Simmons, the Army's first civilian aircraft mechanic, added wheels to Signal Corps Airplane No. 1 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. This effort produced a tricycle landing gear that eliminated the need for launching rails and catapults.

Aug. 20, 1990 - More than 15,300 reservists, roughly 22 percent of the Reserve force, volunteered to serve in Operation Desert Shield.

Aug. 21, 1990 - In the first two weeks of Operation Desert Shield, the Air Force deployed six fighter wings to the area, while Strategic Air Command increased refueling and reconnaissance flights over the region.

Aug. 22, 1990 - President George W. Bush called-up 200,000 Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve personnel for operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Aug. 22, 1923 - The [Barling Bomber](#) made its initial flight.

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

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► Back-to-school safety

According to the U. S. Census, there are 79 million students, pre-K through college, enrolled in schools throughout the country. As these millions of students head back to school over the next few weeks, it's imperative for all who use the roads—drivers, cyclists and pedestrians—to review safety information and abide by its common-sense approach.

1. The law is the same in each of the 50 states: It's illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload passengers. Yellow flashing lights on the bus are used to alert motorists that the bus is preparing to stop. Red flashing lights and an extended stop sign arm is used to signal that the bus is stopped, and passengers are embarking or disembarking.

2. According to the National Safety Council (NSC), the area 10 feet around the bus is where children are most vulnerable to being struck by another vehicle. Because children are most comfortable in their own surroundings, walking to and from the bus in their own neighborhoods adds to that vulnerability. Include a child who is late and running for the bus in that scenario, and it's a set-up for disaster.

3. Pedestrian safety is paramount, whether walking to and from school, to the neighborhood bus stop, or off to meet friends after school. If you are walking your student to school, it's a good time to practice safe walking—cross only at crosswalks, observe traffic signals, and start with the destination in mind and plenty of time to get there. If your student is "too old" to have a parent walk them to school, walk the route with them days ahead of time and point out safe places to cross streets, traffic signals—especially any new ones that were installed since the last school year—and any changes in traffic patterns.

4. Increases in the availability of bike trails and designated bike lanes, and the ease of access to bike share programs, are two major factors in increasing urban bike use for school commuting, so the need for a correctly fitting helmet and bright clothing becomes even more apparent. Reflectors, lights and reflective clothing are a must when commuting to before- or after-school activities before dawn and after dusk.

5. Know the route. A practice run before the first day of school, at about the same time of day as the real commute, helps cyclists familiarize themselves with the road, conditions, traffic and laws.

6. Ride right. Bicyclists and drivers alike in the U.S. ride on the right side of the roadway, whether there is a bike lane, or not. Learn the designated direction in your part of the world, and make sure that your student cyclist knows the applicable rules of the road.

7. Don't walk, drive or cycle distracted. That portable media player or the latest in telephone technology will not enhance your back-to-school commute, and it may be the cause of you or an innocent victim not arriving at all.