

# Commander's Call Topics



**March 8, 2012**

*"Working with our Guard and Reserve leaders, we used a balanced approach to adjust our Total Force end strength while maintaining the ability to execute strategic guidance,"* Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz speaking about [manpower force-structure changes](#).

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

The Air Force's announced fiscal restraints are aimed at retaining its supreme capabilities and troop morale, while ensuring that the Air Force is not "hollowed out."

[VCSAF discusses benefits, uniforms, F-35](#)

The Air Force's vice chief of staff addressed a packed house during an Airmen's Call.

A systematic retiring of over 200 aircraft in fiscal 2013 will achieve savings to apply to the Air Force's modernization strategy, according to testimony before the powerful House Committee that holds the nation's purse strings.

[Air Force leaders discuss modernization in budget hearing](#)

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz outlined the service's modernization efforts during testimony to the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Defense here March 6.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

A mid-March target date has been set for the completion of all reassignments resulting from the Air Force's return to a system that combines tenure and rank to apportion overseas and continental U.S. assignments.

[High year of tenure change continues to affect assignments](#)

The January return to pre-2003 enlisted high year of tenure rates continues to impact assignments, Air Force Personnel Center officials announced today.

Asking the well-informed question is the first step in getting the right answer. To that end, a five-minute video has been produced to assist civilian employees in understanding the resources available to them so that well-informed question has a better chance of being asked the first time.

[AF officials release video tutorial to educate civilians about AFPERS](#)

Air Force officials have created a video tutorial, or vodcast, to educate civil service employees, supervisors and human resources specialists about the information and resources available to civilians on the Air Force Personnel Services, or AFPERS, website.

Of the 12,351 Airmen eligible for promotion, 13.78 percent were selected to be senior master sergeants, based on a variety of factors.

[AF selects 1,700 for senior master sergeant](#)

More than 1,700 master sergeants were selected for promotion to senior master sergeant, Air Force Personnel Center officials said today.

## ► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

Service Before Self is the overarching theme in an original song that is an inspiring tribute to drawn from the Special Tactics motto.

[AF rock band's new video focuses on special tactics Airmen](#)

Max Impact, the premier rock band of the United States Air Force, is thrilled to release a new video featuring their original song "Send Me." Produced with the assistance from Air Force Television, the video integrates footage of the amazing Airmen from Air Force Special Operations Command.

Supporting service members facing personal challenges, from moving to health and education issues, focuses on communication.

[Panel aims to boost support to special-needs families](#)

Military families with special-needs members would benefit from better communication and education, members of an exceptional family member panel concluded yesterday.

#### ► TECHNOLOGY

Precise and reliable global vigilance, reach and power result from a technology program that produces the highest capabilities in in air, space and cyberspace programs.

[Service science chiefs discuss technology, budget gaps](#)

In talks yesterday with science chiefs from the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps, House Armed Services Committee members targeted technology advances, cyber security and gaps left by mandated cuts in the 2013 defense budget.

## ► 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](http://www.usajobs.com)

[www.nafjobs.org](http://www.nafjobs.org)

### **Air Force Association Scholarships**

<http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/scholars.asp>

## ► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

**March 8, 1965** - Major Dan D. Fulgham of Edwards AFB took part in the Gemini personnel recovery system tests by jumping from 15,000 and 23,000 feet in the Gemini suit and egress equipment.

**March 9, 1993** - A Lockheed SR-71A Blackbird came out of retirement to fly a scientific flight for NASA at the Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards AFB. The aircraft, outfitted with an ultraviolet video camera, flew to nearly 83,000 feet to collect 140,000 images of stars and comets.

**March 10, 1977** - The first female navigator candidates reported to Mather AFB for undergraduate navigator training.

**March 11, 1912** – Lt. Frank P. Lahm opened an Army Air School at Fort William McKinley, Philippines, with two volunteer students, Lt. Moss L. Love and Cpl. Vernon L. Burge, who later became the first enlisted pilot.

**March 12, 1965** - The last test Atlas D launched from Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

**March 13, 1993** – Using helicopters, Airmen with the 301st Rescue Squadron saved 93 people, during a two-day operation, after a major blizzard swept over a third of the U.S., from the Gulf of Mexico to New England.

**March 14, 1988** - The new MC-130H Combat Talon II, a special-operations airlifter, was unveiled. The Air Force planned to use aircraft for special-operations units to infiltrate/exfiltrate troops and resupply behind enemy lines at night or in poor weather.

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

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