

Commander's Call Topics



May 10, 2012

"This is not the first period of austerity that we have experienced. The reality is, [we will handle this](#), and we will remain the world's premier, and most feared, Air Force." -- Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz during his keynote address at the National Security Forum May 7, speaking about the current economic landscape, reflected in the new Defense Strategic Guidance, released Jan. 5.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Medical official explains F-22 pilot-protection efforts](#)

Air Force officials have instituted measures designed to protect its pilots, ensure mission completion and assess the possible physiological effects of flying the F-22 Raptor.

[Air Force captures 18 medals at Warrior Games](#)

The Air Force brought home a team-record 18 medals April 30 through May 5 during the 2012 Warrior Games.

[Air Force refocuses pollution, waste efforts](#)

Air Force leaders recently refocused their pollution prevention and waste elimination efforts with a new policy aimed at gaining efficiencies.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

['Care Beyond Duty' - The Air Force Wounded Warrior Program](#)

Since Oct. 1, Air Force Wounded Warrior Program nonmedical care managers have assisted Airmen with garnering more than \$700,000 worth of benefits and entitlements.

[Families list retirement, pay as top issues](#)

Military families regard the possible change of military retirement benefits as their top concern, according to the results of a major survey.

[ANG member receives Silver Star for actions in Afghanistan](#)

An NCO with the Washington Air National Guard was awarded the Silver Star medal in a ceremony May 6 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Chiefs issue strategic direction to combat sexual assault](#)

The Joint Chiefs of Staff and the commandant of the Coast Guard are dissatisfied with progress made in reducing sexual assault in the military, and have released strategic direction to increase the emphasis on combatting the crime.

[Military wives eligible for vocational scholarships](#)

Operation Homefront and the Women's Self Worth Foundation will offer the Saban Military Wife Educational Scholarship to wives of uniformed service members who attend certain vocational training programs in the medical field and meet eligibility requirements.

► TECHNOLOGY

[Air Force launches 2nd advanced satellite](#)

The 45th Space Wing successfully launched the second Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF) satellite onboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V vehicle.

► 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>

► Mother's Day, At Least in the U.S., Has Become Big Business

By Martha J. Lockwood,
Chief, Air Force Information Products

According to the Census Bureau (www.census.gov), in 2009, the most recent year for which numbers are available, there are 85.4 million mothers in the United States.

By that same study, if we were to define Mother's Day in terms of commercial numbers, this is what mothers would be doing to aid the economy:

- The 75,855 employees in floral shops will be preparing, selling and delivering floral arrangements from the 17, 124 florists in the country.
- There are 99 greeting card publishers who supply this third-largest card-sending occasion—right behind the December holidays and Valentine's Day, according to the Greeting Card Association.
- Perfume is a popular gift on Mother's Day, and there are numerous places to buy it—in any of the 14,279 cosmetics, beauty supply and perfume stores nationwide. And if the budget allows, there are 24,973 jewelry stores in the United States.

While many decry the commercialization of the day honoring the hand that rocks the cradle, few know how it began. Historically speaking, Mother's Day was first established by Anna Jarvis, who organized observances in Grafton, W. Va., and Philadelphia on May 10, 1908. The annual tribute to motherhood quickly became popular around the country, and by 1914, Congress fulfilled her request and designated the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. Anna Jarvis probably never anticipated such a swift and permanent response.

Something else that Ms. Jarvis probably never anticipated were the number of mothers who are also in the military, and the impact such a professional choice has on everyone, not just the mother and the children. One woman who made the decision to serve her country and raise her family is SSgt. Shaunlee Hostutler, a broadcaster with the Defense Media Activity.

In her words, choosing to be a mother in the profession of arms has been the toughest mission she's ever taken on.

"It's not the easiest job. You definitely feel a bit of pressure from both ends of the table. There's a sense of duty and loyalty to each. On one side you have your family; on the other you have the commitment you've made to serve your country. At times these two aspects of life can be at odds," she explained.

"But it's the times when the two ends meet that make it all worth it. I'm a better Airman because I'm a mom. It's taught me patience, understanding, and compassion in a profession that deals so heavily in war and other matters in life that aren't always the most glorious or easiest to deal with.

"I'm a better mother because I'm an Airman. My service has taught me the qualities I need to raise my boys—how to help them to become men of discipline and character, traits they'll need to grow to be successful men who can make a difference in the world. Both have taught me to dream big. Like mom always said, 'Anything is possible.'

"You do what you have to do because you're a mom, because you're an Airman. I've been very lucky to be blessed with an amazing husband—who, despite his service commitment, makes every effort to take care of his wife and children.

"And when he can't be there, the network of support I have at work and on the home front are incredible. When I've needed the help, there was always someone to lend a hand. And what I have consistently seen and experienced in my own life is that military moms and families across the world realize that building a network of support becomes increasingly more important when you play both roles.

"Whether it's your next door neighbor, a group of spouses, colleagues or your immediate family, we all know the old saying: It takes a village. And it really does. I know this mom would have a tough time lacing up her combat boots to execute missions for the Department of Defense and do battle with the piles of laundry waiting at home if I didn't have the support of the people who've stood behind and beside me, and those who have shown the way."
(SSgt. Shaunlee Hostutler contributed greatly to this article.)

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

May 10, 1953 – Flying through intense flak fire, Col. Victor E. Warford, the 58th Fighter-Bomber Wing commander, led 8 F-84 ThunderJets to attack the hydroelectric generating facilities at Sui-ho near the Yalu River, during the Korean War. Through May 11, 39 B-29 Superfortresses raided the 375-acre Yangsi troop concentration area twelve miles southeast of Sinuiju City, achieving 63 percent destruction of one of the last large lucrative targets remaining in N. Korea.

May 11, 1972 – A C-5A Galaxy set a nonstop distance record from Kadena Air Base, Japan, to Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. The 8,019-mile flight lasted 16 hours 5 minutes.

May 12, 1968 – Under extremely hostile conditions, C-130 Hercules assisted in the evacuation of Kham Duc, a training site and special operations base for Allied reconnaissance teams near Laos. Air Force transports carried over 500 of the 1,800 military and civilians from Kham Duc before it fell into enemy hands. The enemy killed 259 people and destroyed several aircraft.

May 13, 1957 – Three U.S. Air Force F-100C Super Sabres set a distance record for single-engine jet aircraft by flying 6,710 miles from London to Los Angeles in 14 hours 5 minutes.

May 14, 1969 – U.S. Air Force Southern Command personnel began a massive campaign to combat an encephalitis epidemic in Ecuador. Two C-141 Starlifters flew 50 tons of pesticide there, where two UC-123 Providers then sprayed the country's coastal marshes. The operation, involving the Air Force, State Department, and public health officials, successfully eradicated 95 percent of the area's mosquitoes.

May 15, 1952 - Fifth Air Force fighter-bombers flew 265 sorties against a vehicle repair factory at Tang-dong, North Korea, destroying at least 39 buildings and a power plant. First Lt. James H. Kasler, of the 335th Fighter Inspector Squadron, destroyed two MiGs to become an ace during the Korean War.

May 16, 2001 - Through May 24, in Operation Focus Relief II, five C-5 Galaxy missions airlifted 201 U.S. troops and 217 short tons of cargo from Fort Bragg, N.C., and Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to Ghana and Senegal, where they trained indigenous military personnel to support UN peacekeeping efforts in Sierra Leone. From August to October 2000, in Focus Relief I, Air Mobility Command flew American forces and equipment to Nigeria to help train Nigerian forces for a peacekeeping role in Sierra Leone. By late 2001, AMC flew another four C-5, four C-17 Globemaster III, and two C-141 Starlifter missions for peacekeeper training in Ghana, Senegal, and Nigeria. Seven airlift sorties from Sept. 11 through Oct. 2, 2001, were flown as Focus Relief III missions.

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

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