

Commander's Call Topics



June 21, 2012

"Whether it's a spouse and children or a mom, dad, or just a friend -- whoever you're close to, whoever you call family -- tell them that you were thanked today and then turn around and thank them, because they support you, and it's their support that makes it possible for you to [support this great country](#)." -- Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter speaking to Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen at Joint Base Charleston, S.C.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[AF selects 8,515 for promotion to technical sergeant](#)

Air Force officials released the technical sergeant promotion list June 21.

[Air Force space vehicle comes in for a landing](#)

The Air Force's unmanned, reusable space plane landed in the early morning of June 16 at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Cold War U-2 pilot gets posthumous Silver Star](#)

More than 50 years after his U-2 aircraft was shot down over the former Soviet Union, Capt. Francis Gary Powers posthumously received one of the military's highest decorations.

[Two Airmen missing from Vietnam War identified](#)

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced today that the remains of two servicemen, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and are being returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

[AF releases colonel, lieutenant colonel promotion list](#)

Fourteen lieutenant colonels and 1,269 majors were selected for promotion to colonel and lieutenant colonel.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Heroes emerge in crash](#)

A Misawa Air Base bus was hit from behind by a Japanese national south of Sendai when returning from Tokyo, June 7.

[Airmen save drowning man](#)

Three 4th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Airmen from Seymour Air Force Base, N.C., found themselves in this situation while spending the day at Atlantic Beach, N.C., and saved the life of a 49-year-old man June 2.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE, TECHNOLOGY

[Air Force officials announce milestone Atlas V launch](#)

An Atlas V rocket successfully lifted off from Space Launch Complex-41 at Florida's Cape Canaveral on June 20.

[Weapons school integrates cyber warfare](#)

Eight Air Force weapons officers completed the first cyber weapons instructor course at the U.S. Air Force Weapons School, 328th Weapons Squadron, June 16.

► 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/scholarships.asp>

Air Force Week: “Honoring Hometown Heroes”

Using all the glitz and glamour of “the city that never sleeps” as a backdrop, the Air Force will show and tell the American public the accomplishments, performance and sacrifice of U. S. Airmen around the world. It’s Air Force Week, August 19-21 in New York City.

“Honoring Hometown Heroes” is the theme of Air Force Week, which offers days jam-packed with concerts, sporting events, patriotic displays and support from the Air Force Thunderbirds. It all starts with a pre-opening day Air Force event during the Yankees vs. Red Sox game at Yankee Stadium on Saturday, August 18.

On Sunday the 19th, opening day events take place mostly in midtown Manhattan and the Upper West Side, although Staten Island and New Jersey are adding to the festivities, as well. Starting at 2 p.m., the official Opening Ceremony is at Pier 86 at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum. In the evening, at Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, 7:30 – 9:30p.m., there will be a concert featuring an 18-piece jazz band and headlining Grammy-winning trumpeter Doc Severinsen. If you prefer the beach, Staten Island welcomes the Air Force with “Back to the Beach” events and a concert along their South Beach Boardwalk from noon to 8 p.m. And if soccer is your sport of choice, the New Jersey Red Bulls are playing the Portland (Ore.) Timbers at 7 p.m. in Harrison, N.J.

Monday, the 20th, is full of fun and music and baseball. In the evening, at 7 p.m., the Mets honor the Air Force and play the Colorado Rockies in the first of a four-game series at Citi Field.

Tuesday sees the Air Force on the morning shows, at the South Street Seaport Museum in the afternoon, and enjoying the tradition of Brooklyn and baseball at the Cyclones game at MCU Park in Coney Island. More minor league ball can be experienced on Staten Island when the Staten Island Yankees host the Tri-City Valleycats of Troy, N.Y., also at 7 p.m.

Air Force Week has much to offer and more information will be posted in future Commander’s Call Topics as it becomes available.

--Martha Lockwood
Chief, Information Products Air Force Production

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

June 21, 1944 - Nearly 1,000 bombers with over 900 fighter escorts attacked targets in the Berlin area as part of Operation Frantic. Of those, 144 heavy bombers and 51 P-51 Mustangs continued on in shuttle-raid fashion to land at Poltava, Mirgorod, and Piryatin in Russia to reload and restrike targets in Germany on their return to England.

June 22, 1994 – Air Mobility Command dispatched two C-5 Galaxies and two C-141 Starlifters to move 50 armored vehicles from Rhein-Main Air Base to Entebbe Airport in Kampala, Uganda for UN forces deploying to Rwanda. Another three C-141s airlifted equipment, and cargo for the operation through June 30.

June 23, 1950 - A C-54 Skymaster, grounded for a damaged wing at Kimpo Airfield, near Seoul, South Korea, became the first aircraft lost in the Korean War.

June 24, 1997 - EF-111A Ravens from the 429th Electronic Combat Squadron at Cannon Air Force Base left Turkey for home after nearly 2,100 days of deployment to support the operations Provide Comfort and Northern Watch.

June 25, 1996 – Terrorists bombed Khobar Towers near King Abdul-Aziz Air Base, Saudi Arabia, killing 19 Air Force personnel and injuring 300 others. It was the worst terrorist attack against American military personnel since the 1983 bombing of a U.S. Marine barracks in Lebanon. U.S. Airmen in Saudi Arabia were supporting Operation Southern Watch.

June 26, 1950 – The 68th Fighter All-Weather Squadron flew F-82 Twin Mustangs to provide cover for a Norwegian ship evacuating U.S. citizens from Seoul, South Korea by sea. SB-17 Flying Fortresses then covered the ship's movement from Inchon to Japan. In continued preparation for air evacuation of U.S. citizens from Korea, Far East Air Forces traded C-54 Skymasters for C-47 Skytrains from all over the Far East to permit operations on smaller airfields.

June 27, 1963 - Maj. Robert A. Rushworth flew the X-15 rocket plane No. 3 to 54.15 miles (285,000 feet) and became the second military pilot to receive astronaut's wings for space flight in a winged aircraft.

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

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► Boating Safety

Watersports are synonymous with summer fun, and staying safe ensures that the memories of your time on and around the water will be the best.

- 1. Whether in a boat or other personal watercraft (PWC), wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket. Survival rates increase by 90 percent when those involved in a boating accident are wearing life vests.*
- 2. Alcohol and boating don't mix. According to the American Red Cross, over half of all drownings result from boating incidents involving alcohol.*
- 3. Anytime you go out in a boat, tell a responsible person where you are going and how long you expect to be gone. If you are delayed or lost, it is more likely that help will be able to get to you.*
- 4. Watch the weather. Don't head out if a storm is predicted; head back as soon as a storm appears.*
- 5. Take a boating course from a qualified instructor to learn navigation, safety and emergency procedures.*
- 6. Know the laws and regulations in your area governing the use of personal PWC.*
- 7. Learn to swim, and don't swim alone. The best thing anyone can do to stay safe in and around the water is to know how to swim.*

--Martha Lockwood