

# Commander's Call Topics



June 3, 2011

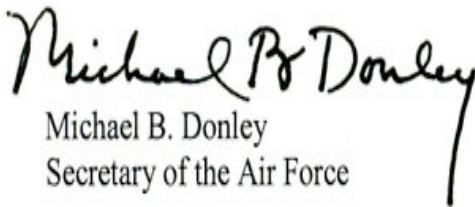
## Critical Days of Summer Safety Campaign for 2011

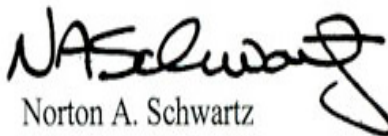
Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day marks the season of greatest risks for our Air Force team. To counter those risks, we will kick off the Critical Days of Summer safety campaign for 2011 on May 28th.

Unfortunately, last summer we lost 16 Airmen. While this was an improvement over the 21 lost the previous year, we must strive to do better. The 2011 Air Force goal is zero preventable mishaps and fatalities. The leading causes of preventable fatalities during the Critical Days of Summer are off-duty private motor vehicle mishaps and drowning. We therefore emphasize the importance of fastening seatbelts, driving at reasonable speeds, and avoiding situations of driving while distracted, under the influence, fatigued, or otherwise impaired. While participating in aquatic activities, we also strongly urge the use of proper equipment such as personal flotation devices, and avoiding hazardous areas and dangerous water conditions.

We challenge all Airmen to make this year safer than last. Be each other's wingman--use risk management principles, both on and off duty, and exercise sound judgment. We encourage each of you to invest a high level of commitment in taking care of one another. Our most important objective for this summer's campaign is protecting military and civilian personnel and their families.

Enjoy the summer months ahead, be a good wingman and be safe. Thank you for your service, and all that you do for our Air Force and our Nation.

  
Michael B. Donley  
Secretary of the Air Force

  
Norton A. Schwartz  
General, USAF  
Chief of Staff

  
James A. Roy  
Chief Master Sergeant  
of the Air Force

## FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

### [Airpower Contributions to Balancing Effectiveness with Efficiency](#)

*"These are times when our ability as Airmen to translate airpower's unique characteristics of speed, range, versatility, and responsiveness into timely, tailored, and precise effects can make the difference between mission success and significant disappointment or failure. As globalization continues to give rise to more numerous and shared interests around the world—and as technology further enables ever-more-rapid rates of change—only airpower's ability to traverse vast distances with unmatched speed and unparalleled versatility can provide truly timely and high-confidence national responses,"* said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz at the Global Air Chief's Conference.

### [Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force visits Team Sheppard](#)

*"It is important to train the way we fight, and you are an example of that training,"* Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy told Airmen at Sheppard AFB, Texas. Chief Roy said the future success of the Air Force lies in great measure with the young NCOs who train Airmen.

## PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [Air Force officials to hold selective early retirement boards](#)

Air Force officials are preparing for the selective early retirement boards for lieutenant colonels and colonels. The lieutenant colonel SERB is scheduled to convene Oct. 24, 2011, and affects active-duty lieutenant colonels in the line of the Air Force, chaplain corps and medical service corps competitive categories who have been at least twice deferred to colonel as of Oct. 23, 2011. A colonel SERB is scheduled to convene Jan. 9, 2012, with additional details released in the next few months. Visit the [Air Force personnel services](#) website for more information.

## FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

### [PLAYpass offers fun for deployed single Airmen, families](#)

Single Airmen returning from deployment and families of deployed members can receive special discounts at select Force Support Squadron activities to help Airmen and their families ease the pressures and stress associated with deployments. Air Force Services Agency officials will offer PLAYpass cards from now through 31 Dec. The cards, valued at more than \$500, feature discounts on a variety of activities.

### [Summer edition of Military Community and Family Policy eMagazine is available](#)

Read about tips and resources for planning family summer activities. From summer camps for military youth to vacationing on a budget, the magazine highlights some of the benefits to having a military ID card.

### [TRICARE ECHO helps families with special needs](#)

For beneficiaries with specific mental or physical disabilities, TRICARE's [Extended Care Health Option](#) provides benefits, including financial assistance that is not available through the basic TRICARE program. ECHO offers supplemental benefits, such as possible coverage for assistive services, durable equipment, transportation, special education, in-home medical services and in-home respite care services.

## FINANCE AND EDUCATION

### [Air Force clubs offer Airmen road to education](#)

The 2011 Club Membership Scholarship program awards twenty-five \$1,000 scholarships to club members or their families attending or accepted to attend a college or university for the fall 2011 term, including both part time and full time students. Application forms are available at [www.afclubs.net](http://www.afclubs.net), and application packages need to be turned in by July 1.

## 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/app/home>; <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>

**TRICARE**

<http://www.tricare.mil>

**U.S. Government Web site**

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

**Employment Opportunities**

[www.usajobs.com](http://www.usajobs.com); [www.nafjobs.org](http://www.nafjobs.org)

## **AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS**

### **This Week in Air Force History**

**June 3, 1959** – The U.S. Air Force Academy graduated the first class of 207 graduates. Two hundred and five receive commissions as regular officers in U.S. Air Force.

**June 6, 1944** – Army Air Forces and Allied aircraft flew approximately 15,000 sorties in support of the D-Day invasion.

**June 6, 1961** – Sgt. James Howell performed the first live supersonic seat ejection.

**June 8, 1953** – At Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, officially designated the 3600th Air Demonstration Flight, perform for the first time.

**June 9, 1961**– Delivery of the first C-135 Stratolifter jet cargo aircraft marked the beginning of modernization of Military Air Transport Service's former all propeller-driven fleet.

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

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