

Commander's Call Topics



July 15, 2011

"Those who say that we can't cut the military at all haven't spent a lot of time looking at military budgets ... We can't simply lop off 25 percent off the defense budget overnight. We have to think about all the obligations we have to our troops who are in the field, making sure they're properly equipped and safe," said President Barack Obama during his first Twitter town hall meeting, July 6, 2011.

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

Chief of staff and spouse visit Aviano Air Base

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and his wife Suzie visited the 31st Fighter Wing here July 10 to 12, meeting with Airmen and their families while touring the installation and its facilities. Schwartz used the forum to address important issues facing the Air Force, including budget constraints, the repeal of the law commonly known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and Airmen resiliency.

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force visits new AFOSI headquarters

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James A. Roy visited the new Air Force Office of Special Investigations headquarters here July 7 for the first time. Chief Roy spoke to military members and civilians about issues including current fiscal challenges in the Air Force, future plans for military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and upholding fitness standards.

► CURRENT ISSUES

Services deliver 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' repeal input

Officials from all of the services and combatant commands have provided their input to the Defense Department in advance of the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law that bans gays from serving openly in the military, a Pentagon spokesman said here July 13. The input includes progress on training of the force, the regulatory aspects of the change in the law and other aspects, Marine Col. Dave Lapan said.

Panetta vows to protect U.S. troops

The U.S. military will do what it needs to do to protect service members from weapons Iran is providing to Iraqi extremists, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta said July 11. Fifteen Americans died in Iraq in June, most killed by Iraqi extremists who received weapons and training from Iran, the secretary said.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

Officials announce NCO retraining program dates

Approximately 900 Airmen will have the opportunity to retrain beginning July 13 as part of the fiscal-2012 NCO Retraining Program. The NCORP program consists of two phases designed to sustain the enlisted force by moving second-term and career Airmen from overage Air Force Specialty Codes to shortage AFSCs.

Ease transition during PCS season

During this year's peak moving season, members of the Personal Property Processing Office will coordinate nearly 50,000 personal property moves. Service members can ease the movement of their

household goods to their new duty location by keeping in mind a few guidelines provided by PPPO officials.

GUARD AND RESERVE

[Balancing Reserve force discussed at Commander and Spouse Forum](#)

Air Force Reserve wing commanders and their spouses attended the annual Air Force Reserve Commander and Spouse forum here July 6 to 8 to gain increased awareness of the needs of Citizen Airmen and their families. Attendees engaged with Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., the chief of Air Force Reserve and the commander of the Air Force Reserve Command, and took part in discussions on topics including military benefits, military community and family policy.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[TRICARE expectant, new parents survey validates review program](#)

Unlike with TRICARE Extra and Prime, health plan options in which beneficiaries must select providers from within the TRICARE network and end up paying cheaper out-of-pocket costs, beneficiaries who use TRICARE Standard have the freedom to choose any TRICARE-authorized provider, including those outside of the network. It is an ideal plan for families who are already receiving care from a non-network provider and do not want to change providers.

[Motorcycle safety: Airman speaks from experience](#)

Maj. Richard Apple was involved in a motorcycle accident in August 2010 on Highway 101 in California. Apple attributes his survival of the accident to the use of proper personal protective equipment. **[VIDEO: Motorcycle Safety](#)**

TECHNOLOGY

[Electronic Systems Center working on new weather situational awareness capability](#)

Members from the Electronic Systems Center's Aerospace Management Systems Division Weather Programs Branch here are working to implement a new capability intended to improve weather situational awareness for warfighters. FalconView Weather is a net-centric, lightweight, easy-to-use capability that displays current and forecasted weather conditions for military use.

[C-130 heats up for new decon test, evaluation at Little Rock](#)

A retired, ground-instructional C-130 Hercules is undergoing tests to determine how heat and humidity affect the decontamination process for an aircraft. The tests, which run through August, use bacillus thuringiensis, a commercially-available organic insecticide, to simulate a biological agent.

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

<http://gum.afpc.randolph.af.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>

TRICARE

<http://www.tricare.mil>

U.S. Government Web site

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

Employment Opportunities

www.usajobs.com

www.nafjobs.org

AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS

This Week in Air Force History

July 15, 1973 - During the last Vietnam combat mission, the U.S. Air Force lost 2,251 planes--1,737 to hostile action and 514 for operational reasons--at a cost of \$3,129,948,000

July 15, 1954 - The first jet-powered transport built in the U.S., the Boeing 707, the prototype for the KC-135 Stratotanker and the commercial Stratoliner, underwent flight testing near Seattle.

July 16, 1945 - First atomic bomb, called the "Gadget," exploded at the Trinity Site near Alamogordo, N.M. This bomb had a yield of 19 kilotons. It was the prototype for the "Fat Man" bomb used against Japan.

July 16, 1971 - Jeanne M. Holm, director of Women in the Air Force, became the first woman promoted to brigadier general

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

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