

Commander's Call Topics



Sept. 9, 2011

"We are proud of the international efforts that have led to the capture or killing of many of the terrorist leaders, but our success has not come without significant cost." – From a [letter to Airmen](#) from Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy concerning the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[SECAF pays visit to Airmen, coalition partners in Afghanistan](#)

During his visit Sept. 4, Donley addressed questions about retirement benefits, current manning levels and counterinsurgency operations.

[Airmen reopen base to support Iraq transition](#)

With U.S. service members and multiple flying squadrons expected to pull fully out of Iraq by late December, the U.S. Air Force has created a home for some of these units.

[Pentagon raises force protection level for U.S. bases](#)

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta has authorized raising the force protection level for military installations mainly in the United States, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said Sept. 7.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Nominations open for public administration award](#)

Air Force officials are accepting nominations for the 8th Annual Department of Defense David O. Cooke Excellence in Public Administration Award. Completed nomination packages must be sent to the Air Force Personnel Center by Feb. 23, 2012.

[Air Force pilot missing from Vietnam War identified](#)

Maj. Thomas E. Reitmann, of Red Wing, Minn., was buried Sept. 8 in Arlington National Cemetery, Va.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[TRICARE portability reduces moving stress](#)

With a single phone call, TRICARE's "Moving Made Easy" option will take some of the stress out of moving, a top TRICARE official said Aug. 26.

[DTC provides comfort, eases transition for US service members](#)

The Ramstein Deployment Transition Center here recently opened its doors to service members from other branches of the U.S. military.

► TECHNOLOGY

[Los Angeles AFB to go electric](#)

Air Force officials unveiled a plan to establish Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif., as the first federal facility to replace 100 percent of its general purpose fleet with plug-in electric vehicles.

[Department officials seek balanced 'cloud' computing solution](#)

Defense Department officials are looking to balance efficiency, effectiveness and security while moving away from the department's decentralized network of computer servers and data centers and into "cloud" computing.

► 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.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>

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

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

September 4, 1952 - The U.S. Air Force awarded the production contract for Lockheed's 383 Transport, better known as the C-130 Hercules.

September 5, 1951 - The U.S. Air Force awarded a contract to Consolidated Vultee for the world's first atomic-powered plane. General Electric built the engine.

September 6, 2002 - During Operation Noble Eagle, fighters resumed 24-hour combat air patrols temporarily over Washington, D.C. and New York City as the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks approached.

September 7, 1956 - At Edwards AFB, Calif., Capt Iven C. Kincheloe set an altitude record for manned flight by flying the Bell-X-2 rocket-powered aircraft to 126,000 feet. He later received the Mackay Trophy for this flight.

September 8, 2004 - Air Force Flight Training Center retired its NKC-135E refueling tanker after 49 years of U.S. Air Force service. Originally, the unusual aircraft had most of its windows on one side to monitor nuclear testing activities. It was then remodified for the FISTA program before resuming its career as a tanker. It was the second oldest operational plane in the U.S. Air Force, with the Dryden Flight Research Center's B-52 52-0008 being the oldest.

September 9, 1967 - Airman 1st Class Duane D. Hackney, Air Rescue and Recovery Service, became the first living enlisted man to receive an Air Force Cross for his heroic efforts to rescue a pilot downed in North Vietnam's jungles.

September 10, 1956 - First flight of the F-107.

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

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