

# Commander's Call Topics



April 19, 2012

"We owe our Airmen a safe environment where they may continue to focus on defeating our nation's enemies." -- Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Phil Breedlove during the 2012 [Sexual Assault Prevention](#) and Response Leader Summit.

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### [Earth Day calls for broader focus at all levels](#)

Each year when Earth Day rolls around, I make a commitment to pay greater attention to our natural environment, to shift focus from seemingly inconsequential daily activities to the greater task of preserving and improving our natural environment. But this way of thinking misses the mark.

### [F-35 training center begins formal training](#)

While celebrating each F-35 Lightning II arrival, the integrated joint strike fighter training team also recently opened the doors for the first Air Force certification courses on the logistical support behind the nation's newest weapons platform.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [Self-service requests available for civilians online](#)

Air Force civilians are now able to request updates to their personnel records through an online self-service initiative.

### [Career opportunities available for those up to the challenge](#)

Career opportunities exist for enlisted Airmen who are ready for new challenges and have a desire to take their careers in a whole new direction.

### [Air Force accepting nominations for chief of staff award](#)

Each year the Air Force chief of staff presents the Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award to teams that use a systematic approach to enhance mission capability, improve operational performance and create sustained results.

## ► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

### [New housing website prepares Airmen for moving](#)

With the summer moving season just around the corner thousands of Airmen and their families can now use a new housing website to help prepare for their move.

## ► TECHNOLOGY

### [New SIPRNet smart card protects secure networks](#)

Barksdale Air Force Base is evaluating a new smart card, known as a hardware token, on the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network, or SIPRNet.

### [Barksdale Airmen test alternative jet fuel](#)

Airmen here assisted the Air Force's Alternative Fuels Certification Program staff in evaluating a new jet fuel blend known as alcohol-to-jet, March 26-30, 2012 here.

## ► 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](http://www.usajobs.com)

[www.nafjobs.org](http://www.nafjobs.org)

### **Air Force Association Scholarships**

<http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/scholars.asp>

## ► Sexual Assault Awareness Month

As part of the DoD's month-long campaign to heighten awareness of sexual assault and response, last week Secretary of Defense Panetta released the fiscal 2011 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military, citing that reports of sexual assault are up 1 percent over 2010.

The Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2011 required the DoD to submit to the Committees on Armed Services an annual report on sexual assaults involving members of the armed forces.

Of the 1,518 cases identified by the report, commanders had sufficient evidence to take disciplinary action against just over 65 percent, or 989 of those cases.

Sexual assault is predatory and demeaning, and senior leaders agree that it attacks the morale of the unit. When it goes unreported, the victim has been further manipulated and becomes an accomplice in his or her own assault and enables the predator to continue to intimidate through assault.

Stopping this downward spiral begins with educating Airmen about their rights as victims and acting on that knowledge.

First, there is a place where victims can get live help 24/7. It's called the DoD Safe Helpline and can be accessed via the web (<https://www.safehelpline.org/>) or a toll-free number: 1-877-995-5247.

Second, the department has established the Sexual Assault and Response Office (<http://www.sapr.mil/>), headed by Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog. SAPRO is the DoD's single point of accountability for all sexual assault policy matters and reports to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

Third, the DoD has issued Directive 6495.1 to implement DoD policy and assign responsibilities for the SAPR Program on prevention, response, and oversight to sexual assault. It is available here: <http://www.sapr.mil/index.php/law-and-dod-policies/directives-and-instructions>.

"Hurts One. Affects All." It's not just a slogan for April 2012. It emphasizes the point that when one is a victim of sexual assault, all are victims. But by taking action through any (or all!) of the safe environments mentioned above, no one has to endure it alone.

## ► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

**April 18, 1942** – Lt. Col. James Doolittle led 16 B-25 Mitchell bombers on a Tokyo bombing raid.

**April 18, 1975** – The Strategic Air Command began transferring air refueling wings to the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. AFRES and ANG tanker units will support SAC alert operations.

**April 19, 1967** – Maj. Leo K. Thorsness was awarded the Medal of Honor for protecting the rescue of downed airmen in North Vietnam. Flying an F-105 Thunderchief critically low on fuel, Major Thorsness shoots down one MiG-17, damages another, and drives off three more.

**April 19, 1995** – A bomb exploded at a federal building in Oklahoma City, killing 169 people and injuring more than 400 others. The Air Force provided airlift of firefighters, search and rescue teams, investigators and medical personnel.

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

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