

Commander's Call Topics



May 31, 2012

"Our Reserve is [losing trained personnel and taking on new missions.](#)" -- Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., Air Force Reserve chief speaking about budget issues during a Senate Appropriations Committee's defense subcommittee in Washington.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Navy, Air Force develop engine modification that may save billions](#)

The Navy and Air Force stand to save more than \$2 billion after jointly developing an engine modification that will keep critically important aircraft flying for years.

[DoD leaders target audit readiness at Town Hall](#)

In the Defense Department's congressionally mandated effort to become audit ready, DOD leaders told senior government executives the Pentagon must manage its books as tightly as it manages operational missions.

[Misawa Airman found dead](#)

An active-duty Airman stationed here was found dead in his off-base residence May 28.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Air Force announces OTS selection boards results](#)

A total of 283 men and women from across America have earned an opportunity to become Air Force leaders following their selection for an officer's commission, officials here announced May 29.

[USO Service Member of the Year nominees sought](#)

The Air Force is accepting nominations for the 2012 USO Service Member of the Year Award, Air Force Personnel Center officials announced today.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Air Force safety officials launch Critical Days of Summer website](#)

To enhance awareness of risk management decision-making and offset the chance of mishaps, the Air Force Safety Center announces the Critical Days of Summer public webpage to help everyone enjoy a mishap-free summer.

[Warrior Wellness equine assistance important part of healing process](#)

As part of the Warrior Wellness Program, service members can participate in the program as a way to cope with their mental and physical injuries, especially those that are combat related.

► SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[California BRAC bases now part of recycling revolution](#)

In Sacramento, a former Mather Air Force Base storage building now houses mountains of unwanted electronics, all waiting to be recycled by an electronic asset recovery company.

► 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/scholars.asp>

► CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER

The 101 Critical Days of summer are upon us. To promote a culture of safety every day, Commanders Call Topics is publishing safety tips throughout the summer—one for each of the 101 days between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Since Hurricane Season begins officially on June 1, this week we offer these tips on hurricane safety.

1. Preparedness. If you're enduring the hurricane in-place, have enough water, food, viable flashlights, and a battery-operated or crank-handle radio.
2. Stay inside, away from windows and doors, during the storm. There may be lightning with the high-velocity winds.
3. Make sure the family has a defined meeting place outside of the home in case of evacuation, and a single contact outside of the storm area who everyone can call in case of separation or other emergency.
4. Keep your cellphone charged.
5. Think it's over? If you venture out, wear a bike helmet or other head protection to mitigate injury from falling tree limbs and other debris.
6. Stay clear of downed wires.
7. Obey authority—whether the local police, the National Guard or the Red Cross. They're there for your well-being.

► D-Day

Whether you remember the movie "Saving Private Ryan (1998)," or "The Longest Day (1962)," you remember D-Day. In fact, there was another movie "D-Day, the 6th of June (1956)," that called out exactly the date of the most famous day in World War II, if not any war.

The National D-Day Memorial is located in Bedford, Va., the town suffering the highest per capita losses of any community in the United States. The memorial honors the Allied forces that participated in the invasion of Normandy, June 6, 1944. Information on their website, and others, reveals these facts about D-Day:

- Why is it called "D-Day?" The short answer is that no one really knows. Some say that it stood for "Decision Day," while others say that it was for "Disembarkation Day." Most likely, though, it comes from the Army's use of the term to mean an undefined day, the first day of an operation. Operation Overlord was the name of the overall operation, and the landing on Normandy Beach was called Operation Neptune.
- Originally, D-Day was scheduled for June 5th, but the weather would not support such an operation, and it was pushed back to the 6th.
- More than 100,000 Allied troops made it to shore that day. The invasion involved 5,000 ships carrying men and vehicles across the English Channel, as well as 800 planes deploying 13,000 paratroopers. Another 300 planes dropped bombs on German troops defending the beaches.
- The success of D-Day was the beginning of the end for Hitler and the German forces. Hitler was forced to fight a two-front war against the Americans, British, Canadians and the French on the West and the Russians on the East. In less than a year, in April 1945, Hitler committed suicide, and the war was over.

Few wars have produced such a defined turning point. Few wars have had so many people so determined at one place on a single day—D-Day.

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

May 31, 1945 - The last of 18,188 B-24 Liberators and Liberator variants was delivered to the U.S. Army Air Force. This "workhorse" was produced in larger numbers than any other American aircraft and employed on more operational fronts than any other Allied or enemy bomber in World War II.

June 1, 2005 - A C-17 aircrew flew the first Iraqi Freedom support mission from the new "hub and spoke" location at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. Under the hub-and-spoke concept, contract commercial aircraft and Air Mobility Command airlifters carried cargo to Incirlik AB from Charleston AFB, after which C-17s airlifted the cargo to Iraqi locations. This new system made it possible for AMC to deliver more cargo to U.S. forces in Iraq with fewer aircraft.

June 2, 1917 - In World War I, the first group of aviation specialists (93 skilled civilian mechanics) to go overseas sailed for England to study British and French airplanes and manufacturing methods.

June 3, 1961 – Air Force engineers test-fired the most powerful solid-fuel rocket engine known to Western scientists. In the test at Sacramento, Calif., some 94,000 pounds of propellant produced in excess of 500,000 pounds of thrust.

June 4, 1991 – Col. Clarence "Dick" Anderegg and his backseater, Maj. Hugh Riley, flew Pacific Air Force's last F-4 mission. They flew from Clark AB, Philippines, to Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., where the Phantom would be mothballed. The flight ended over a quarter of century of service for the F-4 with PACAF.

June 5, 1944 - While leading a B-24 group against enemy coastal positions close to Wimereaux, France, Lt. Col. Leon R. Vance's bomber sustained repeated hits from antiaircraft fire. These hits perilously crippled the bomber, killed the pilot, and wounded other crewmen, including Vance. Despite an injury and three lost engines, Vance still led the formation over the target and bombed it successfully. Returning to England, he gradually lost altitude. As Vance neared the English Coast, he ordered the crew to bail out. One man, however, was badly injured; so Vance ditched his B-24 in the channel. After landing on water, the plane started to sink with Vance pinned inside. An explosion occurred and threw Vance clear of the wreckage. After resting, he started to search for the other crewman. A search and rescue craft found Vance 50 minutes later. Sadly, while still recuperating from his wounds, Vance boarded a C-54 returning to the states. His aircraft went down somewhere in the North Atlantic with all souls on board lost. For his heroism in the B-24, Vance received the Medal of Honor.

June 6, 2000 – A B-1B from Edwards AFB, Calif., dropped three different Wind Corrected Munitions Dispensers on a single bombing pass. The WCMD was a 1,000-pound inertially guided cluster munition.

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

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