

# Commander's Call Topics



August 30, 2012

"Our Airmen do fantastic work around the world and this is a way to [let the American people know](#) what their military does for them. They get to know them personally, get to know them by their first name and get to know what they do each and every day. It [gives the community a chance to come together](#) and learn a little more about their United States Air Force." -- Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy in New York City, Aug. 21, 2012

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### [Through Airmen's Eyes: Captain makes mark in Afghan culture](#)

With his rugged beard and long hair, Air Force Capt. Nick Plante is not your typical service member serving overseas in Afghanistan

### [New BTO to help Airmen make USAFE processes more efficient, effective](#)

USAFE recently stood up a Business Transformation Office at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

### [Air Force's newest air advisor publication leverages 'best practices'](#)

The Air Force's newest tactics, techniques and procedures publication, AFTTP 3-4.5 Air Advising, became an official document after being signed by Maj. Gen. Brett Williams

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [Redesigned program eases Airmen's transition to civilian life](#)

The program is the first major overhaul of the transition assistance program for military members in nearly 20 years.

### [Connecting America, Ghana through music](#)

The U.S. Air Force Band featured guest conductors at performances, enhancing international partnerships.

### [Academy holds panel honoring women's suffrage](#)

The panel members spoke about the power of women's votes, how to sort through biased sources of information and how to embrace political discussions without drifting into partisan political territory.

## ► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

### [AF senior leaders stress safety over Labor Day weekend](#)

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy issued this year's message to all Air Force personnel.

### [Air Force restores moves to Keesler AFB](#)

Permanent change of station and temporary duty reporting has been restored for Airmen and civilians traveling to Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

### [AF trauma chief cites sweeping changes in critical care](#)

From battlefield innovations to revamped health care systems, the military has radically transformed its trauma care over the past decade.

### [Afghanistan Health Reconstruction Course introduced into PRT training](#)

Sustainability and self-sufficiency is the goal for the new Afghanistan Health Sector Reconstruction Course being introduced into all provincial reconstruction team training

## ► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE, TECHNOLOGY

### [Hurricane Hunters provide critical data during major storms](#)

The "Hurricane Hunters," wrap up their mission flying through Hurricane Isaac

## ► 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/scholarships.asp>

## ► Labor Day

*As we head into Labor Day weekend, it's important to take a minute to honor and reflect on the most important segment of our society – the men and women who make up our national workforce.*

*Labor Day actually began 130 years ago, on Sept. 5, 1882, in New York City. A parade of 10,000 workers representing a carpenters' union kicked off the first celebration. Twelve years later, President Grover Cleveland signed the bill making the first Monday in September a federal holiday.*

*According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are more than 155 million people, 16 and older, in our workforce today. There's a common belief that our military is a microcosm of our society, so it's interesting to take a look at how we match up against the rest of the country in workforce statistics.*

*The Air Force Personnel Center put our workforce numbers at a total of 329,293 active duty Airman. The breakdown includes 64,959 officers and 264,334 enlisted. Here's how we compare:*

- *The most recent census tells us that 85 percent of the U.S. workforce has health insurance. By comparison, 100 percent of our Airmen have similar coverage.*
- *In the area of education, 91.4 percent of the U.S. workforce has at least a high school degree. In the Air Force, the number of Airmen with a diploma is more than 99 percent.*
- *In the area of higher education, 36.4 percent of Americans have an associate degree or higher with 30.4 percent of Americans attaining a bachelor's degree. In the Air Force, 36 percent of enlisted Airmen have an associate degree, 6.5 percent have bachelor's degrees, while on the officer side, 47 percent have advanced degrees above the bachelor's degree level.*
- *When it comes to marital status, 48.8 percent of Americans are married, versus 59 percent of our Airmen.*
- *The ethnic background between the U.S. workforce and the Air Force is somewhat similar, with 81 percent of the U.S. considered White, versus 73 percent of our Air Force. Those considered African-American represent 11.5 percent within the U.S. and 14 percent in the Air Force. Close to 21 percent of Americans label themselves as Hispanic, versus 11 percent in the Air Force, although statistically, Hispanic is not considered an ethnic category.*
- *The biggest gap between the U.S. as a whole and the Air Force was in the gender category. In the U.S. workforce, 54.5 percent are men and 45.5 percent are women. Within the Air Force, 81 percent are men and only 19 percent are women.*

*Labor Day, regardless of our backgrounds, gender, ethnicity or education, is a time to reflect on those qualities, hard work and sacrifices that make us the best Air Force in the most productive nation on Earth.*

## ► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

**August 30, 1945** -- Special Mission 75 ferried 39,928 occupation troops and 8,202 tons of supplies from a staging area in Okinawa to Japan. The mission used 259 C-54s and 360 B-24 bombers as cargo planes and associated aircraft.

**August 31, 1932** -- Air Corps pilots flew five miles above the earth's surface to photograph an eclipse of the sun.

**September 1, 1995** -- The SR-71 Blackbird, fastest aircraft in the world, returns to active service. It was removed from the U.S. Air Force inventory in 1990 when planners assumed that satellites could perform the strategic reconnaissance mission.

**September 2, 1982** -- After an 11.4-hour nonstop flight from Edwards AFB, Calif., a B-1B prototype landed at Farnborough, England, for static display. This was the aircraft's first landing at a site other than Edwards AFB, Calif.

**September 3, 1971** -- President Richard M. Nixon dedicates the new Air Force Museum.

**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.

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

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## ► Labor Day safety

*Labor Day Weekend. We celebrate the American working person with a three-day weekend that feels almost like a new year's celebration. It's the end of summer, and the beginning of school. It's the last blast of a summer past, and the party atmosphere tends to get the better of us.*

*Over the summer, Commander's Call Topics has presented a variety of safety tips, emphasizing a specific topic each week—from food safety to motorcycle safety to safety tips on traveling with children. By far, the most dangerous situation usually involves a vehicle and preventable behavior—speed, recklessness, misuse of alcohol, and failure to observe the rules of the road. In [a recent message to all Airmen](#), Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy urged all to act responsibly this weekend as we pay tribute to all hard-working Americans.*

*In support of that message, and as the summer winds down and our spirits ramp up this weekend, we present a countdown of the Summer's Top 10 Safety Tips that appeared in Commander's Call Topics since Memorial Day.*

- 10. Picnicking? Make sure that hot foods stay hot and cold foods stay cold to avoid food borne illnesses.*
- 9. If you're working outdoors, keep an eye on the weather. Go inside at the first rumble of thunder.*
- 8. Working or playing, don't get overheated or under-hydrated.*
- 7. We're only halfway through hurricane season. Now is a good time to refresh the food and water stockpiles, ensure that the generator works and hurricane precautions are in place.*
- 6. Wear your life jacket while boating, fishing, water skiing or sailing.*
- 5. Never swim alone.*
- 4. Drive defensively*
- 3. Look left, right, left before crossing the street.*
- 2. Test your motorcycle skills on the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's interactive skills test web site (<http://www.msf-usa.org/riderperception/>). It's not as easy as you think.*

*And the Number One Safety Tip:*

- 1. Don't drink and drive.*