

Commander's Call Topics



Sept. 27, 2012

"We want to know how we can push the envelope to [make what's going on in the Air Force right.](#)" -- Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III as he opened the 2012 Caring for People Forum at Joint Base Andrews, Sept. 26.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Airmen certified for F-35 engine runs](#)

Last week, the first few maintenance personnel in the joint strike fighter program were certified on procedures for F-35A engine runs -- two Air Force crew chiefs and two civilians from Air Force Engineer Technical Services.

[Retired, separated wounded warriors can still pursue CCAF degrees](#)

Air Force combat-related wounded warriors wishing to continue their Community College of the Air Force education can now do so after separating or retiring thanks to provisions in the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Officials set to migrate civilian personnel records to OPM](#)

Officials at the Air Force Personnel Center project the migration of the Air Force version of each employee's electronic Official Personnel Folder to the Office of Personnel Management's government-wide eOPF version will take place in November.

[AF officials encourage Airmen to submit retraining packages before MilPDS upgrade](#)

Air Force officials are encouraging Regular Air Force Airmen who are eligible to retrain in December to submit their completed retraining packages through the myPers website by Nov. 15 to avoid processing delays.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[More than 900 rally to support wingman's cause](#)

Kadena Air Base Airmen registered more than 900 potential bone marrow donors in a bid to try to save one of their own.

[Deployment brings family together 22 years later](#)

Before Senior Airman Joyce Tucker arrived at the 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron to start her six-month deployment, she had another mission in mind.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE, TECHNOLOGY

[Air Force's top scientist unveils Cyber Vision 2025](#)

The Air Force's top scientist presented the service's science, technology, engineering and mathematics developments here Sept. 18 at the Air Force Association's 2012 Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition.

[Air Force taking 'multidimensional' approach to energy initiative](#)

A panel of energy experts met at the Air Force Association's Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition Sept. 17 to discuss the service's progress in meeting the Defense Department's energy goals.

► 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.>

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>

Hispanic Heritage is a Tradition of Excellence

The scope and sweep of The Great Society to eliminate poverty and set a social agenda of equality and opportunity was the impetus for celebrating this country's Hispanic heritage. Plagued by the vagaries of the Vietnam era, President Johnson opted to celebrate the diversity of American culture while spotlighting a variety of its unique segments with special days and weeks.

The first celebration of Hispanic heritage (1968) was observed in the week surrounding September 15th, the anniversary of the independence of five Latin America countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Additionally, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence on September 16 and 18, respectively. Twenty years later, Congress expanded the tribute to a month, September 15 through October 15.

People of Hispanic descent have excelled in science (1968 Nobel Laureate Luis W. Alvarez), space exploration (Discovery crew member Ellen Lauri Ochoa), the arts (Metropolitan Opera star Lucrezia Bori and silent film star Ramon Novarro), sports (Major League Baseball's Esteban Bellan), politics (California's only Hispanic governor Jose Antonio Romualdo Pacheco and U.S. Treasurer Romana Acosta Banuelos), and civil rights (labor leader Cesar Chavez).

And that heritage of excellence continues in the Air Force, as well, gaining notoriety as fighter pilots and bombardiers ("Ace in a Day" Lt. Oscar F. Perdomo, known as the "last Ace of World War II"), Korean War heroes (Capt. Manuel J. "Pete" Fernandez, the third-leading American ace with 14.5 kills during his nine months in Korea), pioneering pilots ([Maj. Gen. Salvador E. Felices](#), who participated in the first round-the-world nonstop flight by a jet, and then-Lt. Olga E. Custodio, the first Latina military pilot and the first Latina commercial airline captain), and combat action heroes (Chief Master Sgt. Ramon Colon Lopez, a pararescueman who is the first Hispanic, among the first six Airmen, to be awarded the Air Force Combat Action Medal, recognizing airmen engaged in air or ground combat "outside the wire" in combat zones).

Of all the many heroes and heroines of Hispanic descent who are "just doing their job" for the Air Force and the U.S, the person who stands out as having participated in just about every level of the Air Force and as a pilot in the Air Force's predecessor organization, the U.S. Army Air Force, is [Lt. Gen. Elwood R. "Pete" Quesada](#), who rose through the ranks from USAAF pilot to commanding general of the 9th Fighter Command establishing advanced headquarters on the Normandy beachhead on D-Day plus one, and highly-decorated leader having earned among other distinctions, the Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Purple Heart and an Air Medal with two silver star devices.

Gen. Quesada's life in retirement was as interesting and patriotic as his life in the military. He was an executive for Lockheed Aircraft Corporation and then Special Advisor for Aviation to President Eisenhower, leading to his appointment as the first administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration. A Washingtonian at heart, Gen. Quesada became owner of the Washington Senators in 1961, although he would sell his stake only two years later. He then went on to lend his leadership to the revitalization of the capital city through service to the L'Enfant Plaza Corporation and the Pennsylvania Avenue Redevelopment Corporation.

Because of those earlier trailblazers and heroes like Pete Quesada, Oscar Perdomo, Ramon Lopez and Pete Fernandez, today there are more than 1.2 million Hispanics who are serving, or have served, in our military. While proud of their heritage and backgrounds, Hispanic Airmen have proven that they are much more: They are truly Americans.

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

Sept. 27, 1993 - Gen. James H. Doolittle, who led the first air raid on Tokyo and commanded the Eighth Air Force during World War II, dies at the age of 96.

Sept. 28, 1912 - Cpl. Frank S. Scott became the first enlisted fatality in Signal Corps Aviation.

Sept. 29, 1964 - The first of 36 Minuteman II launches occurred at Cape Kennedy, Fla. In this flight, the missile successfully delivered its payload nearly 5,000 miles downrange on target.

Sept. 30, 1949 - The Berlin airlift, gradually reduced since May 12, officially ended. Allied aircraft carried 2,343,301.5 tons of supplies on 277,264 flights. U.S. planes carried 1,783,826 tons.

Oct. 1, 1969 - The C-5A Galaxy, world's largest aircraft at the time, took off from Edwards AFB, Calif., with a 410,000-payload, the heaviest ever carried by any aircraft. This load was also 21,000 pounds heavier than the C-5A's designed lift capability and 28,100 pounds heavier than the record it set on June 15.

Oct. 2, 2007 - At Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, Air Force Reserve officials activated the first F-22 Raptor unit, the 477th Fighter Group. The day also honored the 477th Fighter Group's and the 302nd Fighter Squadron's fabled heritage and their connection to the Tuskegee Airmen.

Oct 3, 1993 – Through Oct. 4, pararescueman TSgt. Timothy A. Wilkinson ran through enemy fire repeatedly, despite his own injuries, to save five wounded Army Rangers after enemy forces shot down their MH-60 Black Hawk helicopter at Mogadishu, Somalia. For that heroism, Wilkinson received the Air Force Cross.

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

The Defense Media Activity produces Commander's Call Topics weekly. For questions or comments about this, or any other DMA product, send e-mail to afproducts@dma.mil. To subscribe to Air Force news and information products online, go to www.af.mil/information/subscribe.

There's No Good Reason Not to Vote

Who's counting? In 40 days it will be Election Day, November 6, 2012, and while the ads continue and the campaigning becomes more intense, it is increasingly more difficult to focus on the issues. It doesn't matter if you're leaning toward the Democratic ticket, the Republican candidates or the Independent issues, with little more than a month to go, there is one issue that every party agrees on: This year each vote will count more than ever. Following are the top ten reasons that people give for not voting:

Percentage	Reason
17.5	Too busy; conflicting schedule
14.9	Illness or disability
13.4	Not interested
12.9	Did not like candidates or campaign issues
11.3	Other
8.8	Out of town
7	Don't know
6	Registration problems
2.7	Inconvenient polling places
2.6	Transportation problems
2.6	Forgot
0.2	Weather

*Source: Statistic Brain
(www.statisticbrain.com)*

When it comes to voting, there really is no excuse, especially when it's so easy to file for absentee ballot.

This is the third, and last, of our series on absentee voting, and on the following page the deadlines for filing for an absentee ballot are shown for states and territories alphabetically, Ohio through Wyoming.

See you at the polls!

*--Martha Lockwood
Chief, Information Products*

2012 Presidential Election Absentee Ballot Deadlines by State and Territory

Part III

Ohio through Wyoming

Jurisdiction	Deadlines			Election Website
	Registration	Absentee Ballot Request	Ballot Return	
Ohio	9-Oct	3-Nov	16-Nov ^{1, 2}	http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/overseas.aspx
Oklahoma	Not required	31-Oct	6-Nov	http://www.ok.gov/elections/
Oregon	17-Oct	N/A	6-Nov	http://oregonvotes.org/
Pennsylvania	9-Oct	6-Nov	13-Nov ³	http://www.votespa.com/portal/server.pt/community/home/13514
Puerto Rico	17-Sept	7-Sept	6-Nov	http://www.ceepur.org/es-pr/Paginas/default.aspx
Rhode Island	Not required	16-Oct	2100 hrs. 6-Nov	http://www.sos.ri.gov/
South Carolina	6-Oct	5-Nov	6-Nov	http://www.scvotes.org/
South Dakota	22-Oct	6-Nov	6-Nov	http://sdsos.gov/default.aspx
Tennessee	30-Oct	30-Oct	6-Nov	http://state.tn.us/sos/election/index.htm
Texas	9-Oct	30-Oct	1900 hrs. 6-Nov ⁴	http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/index.shtml
Utah	2-Nov	2-Nov	19-Nov ³	http://elections.utah.gov/
Vermont	31-Oct	5-Nov	6-Nov	http://vermont-elections.org/soshome.htm
Virgin Islands	3-Oct	19-Oct	16-Nov ⁵	http://www.vivote.gov/
Virginia	30-Oct	30-Oct	6-Nov	http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/
Washington	6-Nov	6-Nov	26-Nov	http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/
West Virginia	16-Oct	31-Oct	13-Nov	http://www.sos.wv.gov/elections/Pages/default.aspx
Wisconsin	Not required	2-Nov	16-Nov ⁵	http://gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/voters/military-overseas
Wyoming	23-Nov	5-Nov	6-Nov	http://soswy.state.wy.us/default.aspx

¹ From within the U.S., ballot must be postmarked by 5 November 2012

² From outside the U.S., ballot must be postmarked by 6 November 2012

³ Ballot must be postmarked by 5 November 2012

⁴ Ballot returned from outside the U.S. is due no later than 12 November 2012, and postmarked by 6-November.

⁵ Ballot must be postmarked by 6 November 2012