

Commander's Call Topics



Aug. 19, 2011

"We recognize that we're in a resource limitation here, and that we got to deal we've those challenges. But I don't think you have to choose between our national security and fiscal responsibility. And I want the country to know that we can get this done, but we have to do it in a way that protects our national defense and protects our national security," Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta said about budget concerns during a discussion Aug. 16, at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C.

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[Panetta: Congress must look at whole federal budget for cuts](#)

Budget concerns and the need for the Defense Department to work with the State Department dominated a discussion at the National Defense University here today with the Cabinet members who lead those departments. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta talked with students at the National War College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort McNair. Frank Sesno, a former CNN correspondent who now works at the George Washington University, moderated the discussion.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[U.S. Air Forces Central Command Band goes viral](#)

Fans uploaded a video of vocalist Staff Sgt. Angie Johnson belting out a cover of Adele's "Rolling in the Deep" to YouTube where it garnered attention from celebrities Carson Daly and Ryan Seacrest, as well as members of the Good Morning America staff. The video of the U.S. Air Forces Central Command band "Sidewinder" has been seen more than 400,000 times and is now hosted on popular sharing sites such as Reddit and Break.com.

[Officials conduct study of aircraft oxygen generation systems](#)

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley directed the quick look study in the wake of recent F-22 Raptor incidents. In a July 13 memorandum to the secretary of defense, Secretary Donley noted that pilots flying the F-22 have reported in-flight, physiological events at a rate three times higher than crews from other similar aircraft. The symptoms are similar to those resulting from an inadequate oxygen supply which affected the performance of the pilots experiencing them in varied ways. Officials seek to identify a common thread among the incidents and will report their findings to senior Air Force leaders to help prevent such incidents from occurring in the future.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[No changes to military retirement any time soon, officials say](#)

The military retirement system isn't going to change any time soon, a Defense Department official said recently. Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said any changes to military retirement should be studied carefully and should be "grandfathered" so the military doesn't break faith with those in the service.

[Officials announce civilian workforce hiring freeze](#)

Air Force officials announced the implementation of a 90-day hiring freeze effective immediately. In addition to a hiring freeze, officials plan to reduce temporary and term employees and will implement both the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program and Voluntary Early Retirement Authority program. For additional information on civilian workforce reduction measures, personnel should contact their local civilian personnel office, or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Program supports military families with special needs](#)

Ensuring military families with special medical and educational needs receive the best care and support possible is the goal of the Exceptional Family Member Program. The program assists these families with everything from assignments to referrals for military and community resources with a focus on three key areas: identification and enrollment, assignment coordination and family support.

[Resilience study can help DOD officials strengthen programs](#)

The military has a plethora of programs aimed at building resilience in service members and their families, but needs a better system in place to measure their success, a study has revealed. Commissioned by officials from the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, the Rand Corp. study examined 23 military and civilian programs that address psychological resilience and offered recommendations on how the military can improve their quality and effectiveness.

TECHNOLOGY

[Communications upgrades keep warfighters connected](#)

After successful completion of a Production Readiness Review, the Theater Deployable Communications Team program management office at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., recently gave approval to contractor Northrop Grumman Corp. to begin producing a Wireless Distribution Module. WDM extends deployed communications and information to remote users over greater distances, with more bandwidth, while reducing the airlift and operational footprint.

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

AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS

This Week in Air Force History

Aug. 15, 1944 - In the greatest one-day effort in the Mediterranean to date, Allied Air Forces flew 4,249 sorties and landed 9,000 airborne troops in Southern France.

Aug. 16, 1950 – Ninety-eight B-29s dropped more than 800 tons of bombs on a 27-square mile area of suspected enemy troop concentrations near Waegwan, South Korea. This attack was the largest employment of airpower against ground forces since World War II's Normandy invasion.

Aug. 17, 1946 - Sgt. Lawrence Lambert became the first person in the U.S. to be ejected from an aircraft by ejection seat. He ejected from a P-61 flying at 302 mph at 7,800 feet in altitude.

Aug. 18, 1910 - Cpl. Glen Madole and Oliver G. Simmons, the Army's first civilian aircraft mechanic, added wheels to Signal Corps Airplane No. 1 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. This effort produced a tricycle landing gear that eliminated the need for launching rails and catapults.

Aug. 20, 1990 - More than 15,300 reservists, roughly 22 percent of the Reserve force, volunteered to serve in Operation Desert Shield.

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

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