

Commander's Call Topics



Aug. 26, 2011

"As I stand here at this airport, I am proud ... that our military was given the privilege of being able to join your forces, and within a week of the earthquake, able to re-open the runway that enabled the arrival of hundreds of relief workers and more than 2 million tons of humanitarian supplies," said Vice President Joe Biden as he [visited Sendai Airport in Japan](#), which was re-opened by U.S forces in the days and weeks following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[National Guard ready for Hurricane Irene](#)

National Guard adjutants general along the East and Gulf Coasts are currently awaiting the potential landfall of Hurricane Irene, but are prepared to act if called upon by their governors, Guard officials said Aug. 23.

[Seymour Johnson defenders begin 9/11 Ruck March to Remember](#)

Eight months ago, the 4th Security Forces Squadron commander and his training NCO sat down and mapped out an idea to organize a ruck march from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, to Ground Zero in New York in remembrance of defenders who were killed or injured in the 10 years since the terrorist attacks Sept. 11, 2001.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Panetta: Any retirement changes won't affect serving military](#)

In his clearest statement on the subject to date, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta said Aug. 19, that if the military retirement system changes, it will not affect serving service members.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[TRICARE officials expand retail pharmacy vaccine program](#)

TRICARE officials are expanding the number of preventive vaccines covered at retail network pharmacies. Until now, the majority of vaccines were only covered when obtained through a physician's office.

► TECHNOLOGY

[16th SPCS breaks ground for new global capability](#)

In a combined effort, the 16th Space Control Squadron and its Reserve associate unit, the 380th Space Control Squadron, broke ground for a Rapid Attack, Identification, Detection and Reporting System site in Hawaii.

► 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

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

Aug. 21, 1990 - In the first two weeks of Operation Desert Shield, the Air Force deployed six fighter wings to the area, while Strategic Air Command increased refueling and reconnaissance flights over the region.

Aug. 22, 1990 - President George W. Bush called-up 200,000 Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve personnel for operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Aug. 22, 1923 - The Barling Bomber made its initial flight.

Aug. 23, 1954 - The YC-130 Hercules made its maiden flight from Lockheed Air Terminal, Burbank, Calif.

Aug. 23, 2004 - The 43rd Airlift Wing at Pope AFB, N.C., and other military organizations with C-130s flew special sorties to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first C-130 Hercules flight.

Aug. 24, 1994 - As Hurricane John approached, Air Mobility Command aircraft evacuated 1,107 military and civilian personnel from Johnston Island, located 740 miles southwest of Honolulu. Six C-141s, two DC-8 charters, and one C-130 brought everyone to Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

Aug. 24, 1951 - Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, chief of staff for the Air Force, disclosed the development of atomic tactical weapons for use against armies in the field.

Aug. 25, 1992 - Hurricane Andrew smashed Florida with sustained 140-mph winds. Airmen conducted 724 airlift missions to move 13,500 relief workers and 21,000 tons of supplies to the area. The hurricane destroyed Homestead AFB, Fla., forcing its temporary closure. The 482nd Fighter Wing returned from its post-Andrew exile to MacDill AFB, Fla. on March 5, 1994 to its new role as the predominant unit at the "new" Homestead ARB, Fla. while the former active-duty 31st Tactical Fighter Wing moved to Aviano Air Base, Italy.

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

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