

Commander's Call Topics



May 17, 2012

"Next year, we will be the smallest we have been since the inception of the U.S. Air Force in 1947. Our force capacity of the future may not support this high level of sustained simultaneous operations."—Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Phil Breedlove during testimony May 10 before members of the Senate Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[VCSAF: Balanced force structure imperative to Air Force readiness](#)

Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Phil Breedlove and his counterparts from the Army, Navy and Marine Corps testified May 10 before members of the Senate Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support about U.S. military readiness in light of recent budget cuts.

[Air Force announces criteria for basing KC-46A](#)

After extensive internal review, the Air Force released today its basing criteria that will be used to select candidate bases for the KC-46A formal training unit and first two main operating bases.

[Global Strike Command leader previews B-52 upgrades](#)

During a recent visit to Edwards Air force base, Calif., the commander of Air Force Global Strike Command spent time with B-52 Stratofortress combined test force officials to preview the combat capability enhancements made to the B-52H.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Prior enlisted retirement restriction waiver requests due by June 1](#)

Prior enlisted officers with 8 years of active duty commissioned time may be able to retire through the Air Force 10-8 Commission Waiver Program, which was originally announced last December, Air Force Personnel Center officials reminded Airmen today.

[ADSC waiver request window closing soon](#)

Active duty Airmen who would like to retire or separate but have an active duty service commitment that prevents them from doing so may be eligible for a waiver, said Lt. Col. Tara White, Air Force Personnel Center retirements and separations chief.

[Expanded Palace Chase applications due June 1](#)

Some active duty officers who are unable to separate because of an active duty service commitment may still be able to take advantage of the Expanded Palace Chase program, said Lt. Col. Tara White, Air Force Personnel Center retirements and separations chief.

[Single staffing tool goes Air Force wide](#)

Beginning this summer, all Air Force civil service employees will have transitioned to a resume based system when seeking new positions for Air Force civilian vacancies worldwide.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

['Watchful warriors' can help prevent suicides](#)

As humans, life has many challenges and rewards. Too often the rewards seem few and the hardships plenty. For the military Airmen, those hardships are defined by personal issues and stressors from obligations to duty and country.

► TECHNOLOGY

[New guide helps Airmen, families navigate social media](#)

Airmen and families have a new resource at their fingertips. The revised social media guide highlights topics including using social media effectively, security awareness, social media platforms, public affairs programs and social media policy among others.

► 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>

► Armed Forces Day Celebrates Unifying All Services

By Martha J. Lockwood
Chief, Air Force Information Products

The first Armed Forces Day—May 20, 1950—a single-day celebration during Armed Forces Week, exemplified the unification of all the Armed Forces within the newest cabinet-level department, the Department of Defense. Prior to that date, each branch of the service had a specific-day celebration.

Air Force Day was established on August 1, 1947, by President Truman "in recognition of the personnel of the victorious Army Air Forces and all those who have developed and maintained our nation's air strength."

Immediately following the signing of the National Security Act of 1947 (which called for the creation of the Department of Defense), Air Force Day came into being and was celebrated by the Army Air Forces on August 1, paying homage to the day 40 years earlier when the Aeronautical Division in the Office of the Chief Signal Officer of the Army was established.

Underlying the Air Force Day celebration was a need to increase "both official and public awareness of the priority and importance of air forces in any system of national security," according to President Truman. "The great strategic fact of our generation is that the United States now possesses live frontiers—the frontiers of the air—and that the oceans are no longer sure ramparts against attack."

In his message to the nation on the first Air Force Day, Mr. Truman said, "I remind all of our citizens that the air power of the nation is essential to the preservation of our liberty, and that the continued development of the science of air transportation is vital to the trade and commerce of a peaceful world."

Air Force Day was last observed on August 1, 1949, and it was replaced the following year, by Presidential Proclamation, with the celebration of all the armed forces on May 20.

In a speech announcing the formation of the day, President Truman "praised the work of the military services at home and across the seas," and said "It is vital to the security of the nation and to the establishment of a desirable peace." In an excerpt from the Presidential Proclamation of February 27, 1950, Mr. Truman stated:

Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 20, 1950, marks the first combined demonstration by America's defense team of its progress, under the National Security Act, towards the goal of readiness for any eventuality. It is the first parade of preparedness by the unified forces of our land, sea, and air defense.

The theme of the first Armed Forces Day was "Teamed for Defense," expressing the unification of all the military forces under a single department of the government. That day, and every Armed Forces Day since, it has also been a day to educate the American public. The day was designed to expand public understanding of the role of the military in civilian life. It was a day for the military to show "state-of-the-art" equipment to the civilian population they were protecting. And it was a day to honor and acknowledge the people of the Armed Forces of the United States with parades, open houses, receptions, and air shows.

This year's theme is "Keeping America Strong and Secure: United in Purpose—Steadfast in Service," and the city of Bremerton, Wash. will host its annual Armed Forces Day parade just as it has for the last 63 years—the longest-running, city-sponsored parade in the country.

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

May 17, 1993—Nine C-9 Galaxies and 15 C-141 Starlifter missions moved 254 U.N. troops and 326 tons of equipment to Cambodia through May 29, to supervise that country's first free elections in 40 years. Three tankers from Pacific Air Forces provided refueling to the C-5s flying from Nambia to Cambodia.

May 18, 1953—Jacqueline Cochran, flying a Canadian-built F-86 Sabre at Edwards AFB, Calif., became the first woman to fly faster than sound. She averaged 652,337 mph on a 100-kilometer closed-course to earn the women's jet speed record.

May 19, 1965—The U.S. Air Force used a single Thor-Agena rocket to launch simultaneously eight separate satellite vehicles from Vandenberg AFB, Calif. This was the greatest number of satellites the U.S. had ever launched on a single vehicle.

May 20, 1970—An FB-111 launched a short-range attack missile successfully for the first time at the White Sands Missile Range.

May 21, 1927—Charles A. Lindbergh, a captain in the Missouri National Guard's 110th Observation Squadron, landed his Ryan Monoplane, the "Spirit of St. Louis," in Paris after the first nonstop solo flight across the Atlantic. He set a 3,609-mile FAI record for straight-line distance in his 33-hour, 39-minute flight. For this feat, President Calvin Coolidge presented Capt. Lindbergh with a Medal of Honor.

May 22, 1941—The Curtiss Hawk 87A Warhawk first flew.

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

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