

Commander's Call Topics



August 3, 2012

"I believe George Washington explained it well as he spoke of his Continental soldiers in the war of independence," Jackson said. "His soldiers were farmers, clerks, lawyers, shopkeepers and factory workers. He (Washington) said, 'When we assumed the soldier, we did not lay aside the citizen.' Indeed, in today's Air Force Reserve, the Airman is the citizen and the citizen is the Airman." [Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson](#) on assuming command of the Air Force Reserve.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Air Force assures F-22 readiness following extensive testing](#)

Following months of life support systems components testing in the F-22 Raptor, officials have "determined with confidence" the source of previously unexplained physiological incidents, the director of operations for the Air Force's Air Combat Command said July 31 at a Pentagon news conference.

[Former MTI Smith found guilty](#)

Tech. Sgt. Smith was found guilty of two specifications of unprofessional relationships with two basic trainees, specifically seeking to develop and conduct personal and intimate relationships with one trainee and carrying on a personal social relationship with another trainee. He was found not guilty of an additional specification of unprofessional relationship and of obstruction of justice.

[Luke AFB selected for F-35 pilot training](#)

Air Force Secretary Michael Donley announced today that Luke AFB has been chosen as the location of the Air Force's F-35A Lightning II pilot training center. The base will receive 72 aircraft for a total of three fighter squadrons.

[US, Poland develop partnership through Screaming Eagle](#)

"Poland is one of our strongest and closest allies in the world and is a leader in Europe," said President Barack Obama. "What we want to do is to create an environment in this region in which peace and security are a given. That's not just good for this region. It is good for the United States of America."

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Wing commander, spouse leadership award nominations due Dec. 3](#)

Named in honor of the late General Jerome F. O'Malley, the award recognizes the wing commander and spouse team whose contributions to the nation, the Air Force, and the local community best exemplify the highest ideas and positive leadership of a military couple in a key Air Force position.

[AF medical team integral part of mass casualty exercise](#)

The Joint Base Andrews unit is part of the nearly 9,000 service members and Department of Defense civilians taking part in Vibrant Response 13, which is designed to test the ability of the DoD to respond to a nuclear disaster on U.S. soil.

► PERSONEL ISSUES

[AF leaders accepting visionary leadership award nominations](#)

Named in honor of Brig. Gen. Wilma Vaught, the award recognizes service members and civilians who have exhibited innovation, commitment and a selfless spirit of service to others while inspiring others and significantly improving the integration of and opportunities for women in the Air Force.

[NCO retraining program application window opens](#)

More than 1,300 noncommissioned officers may apply for retraining under the fiscal 2013 NCO Retraining Program, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

[AF officials seek 2013 Verne Orr award nominees](#)

The Verne Orr Award recognizes an Air Force unit's effective use of human resources. The award is open to all Air Force units and organizations regardless of size.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE, TECHNOLOGY

[Air Force awards massive energy-saving project at Tinker](#)

The project is a joint effort between Tinker AFB, Honeywell, the Department of Energy, Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command and the Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency. The ESPC will improve energy efficiencies for 70 buildings, some dating to the 1940s, and save enough energy to power 12,424 average homes a year.

► 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>

Air Force Chief of Staff Reflect on Lengthy Career

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz met with media July 24 in the Pentagon to share his thoughts about his nearly 40 years of military service in the Air Force and four years as the Air Force's senior uniformed leader.

"When former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates spoke at my Chief of Staff welcoming ceremony in August of 2008, he quipped that he and I had something in common, that both of us were planning to retire," Schwartz said. "Indeed when he asked me to continue to serve, those earlier retirement plans were put on hold. Today, however, I do plan to retire and am preparing to hang up my blue uniform for the final time."

As the Air Force Chief of Staff, Schwartz has led approximately 680,000 active-duty, National Guard, Reserve and civilian forces serving in the United States and around the world. As a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he functions as a military advisor to the Secretary of Defense, National Security Council and the President.

Schwartz rose through the ranks as a special operations pilot who also succeeded in staff and joint assignments.

He took the job as chief "at a particularly turbulent time in our Air Force," said Brig. Gen. Les A. Kodlick in his introduction of Schwartz to the media. However, Schwartz, together with Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, has had "a profound impact on the Air Force.

"Quite frankly they have made the Air Force a better service and fighting force," Kodlick said.

During his tenure, Schwartz introduced the phrase "All In" when he spoke to Airmen around the world about how the Air Force is a crucial part of the joint service team committed to winning today's fight. In addition, he implemented a series of programs designed to improve the quality of life, care and services for Airmen and their families.

Despite the strides since 2008, Schwartz said he is leaving the position during another challenging period as the Air Force contends with fewer available resources, and an increasingly complex geopolitical and security environment.

Nonetheless, Schwartz said he remains confident the Air Force will continue to thrive because of America's Airmen.

"(Airmen) are talented," he said. "They are dedicated and they will handle today's challenges and tomorrow's contingencies in the manner that has earned America's and the Joint team's trust over the years.

"Our Airmen have reinvigorated the nuclear enterprise, institutionalized remotely piloted aircraft capabilities into our service, strengthened our support and our care for one another and for our families, clearly demonstrated our committed to the joint fight and established a program of record for the long-range strike family of systems."

A retirement ceremony for the general will be held August 10 at Joint Base Andrews.

He concluded comments about his 40-year career of service saying, "As Suzie and I now prepare to enjoy life after this career of service, we feel truly privileged to have found a home in the United States Air Force, the greatest Air Force in the world. I will always be proud -- always be proud to consider myself an American Airman."

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

August 6, 1945 - Major Richard I. Bong, America's "Ace of Aces" in World War II, dies in an aircraft crash on a routine acceptance flight for the P-80 Shooting Star.

August 6, 1945 - B-29 "Enola Gay" dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan.

August 6, 1953 - During Operation Big Switch, the U.S. Air Force used C-124, C-54, C-46 and C-47 transports to airlift more than 800 former prisoners of war from Korea to the U.S. The operation lasted through October.

Aug. 7, 1990 - Operation Desert Shield begins in response to Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. The operation's immediate objective is to protect Saudi Arabia from Iraqi aggression and build up allied military strength.

Aug. 9, 1944 – While leading 33 B-26 Marauders from the 394th Bomb Group against a railroad bridge on the Seine River in France, Capt. Darrell R. Lindsey's right engine received a direct hit and caught on fire. Even though his fuel tanks could explode at any moment, Captain Lindsey decided to lead the bomb run to excellent results. After delivering the bombs, he ordered the crew to bail out. Before he jumped, the bombardier offered to lower the aircraft's wheels so the pilot could escape, but he refused. The fuel tanks exploded before Captain Lindsey could leave the controls and the plane plummeted to the ground. For his courage he was given the Medal of Honor posthumously.

Aug. 9, 1945 – The second atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan by B-29 "Bockscar."

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

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► BICYCLE SAFETY

Editor's Note: During the Dangerous Days of Summer, Commander's Call Topics is focusing on one area of interest each week and offering specific safety tips for that activity. This week, CCT offers seven tips for bicycle safety.

As gas prices start an upward climb again, more and more people are taking to the roads on two wheels. Bikeshare programs in New York, Washington, Montreal, London, Boston and Minneapolis are showing rapid growth. Retail sales of bicycles have remained stable at around the \$6 billion mark since 2003. Since it's rare for a person to purchase a new bike every year, these numbers indicate a growth in ridership.

Share-the-road programs abound in every major urban area, and although automobile drivers and bikers each say that it is the other who is not doing their fair share, the point remains: A car is bigger than a bike, so it is the wise bike rider who bikes defensively.

In addition to the obvious "wear a properly fitting helmet" and "obey the law" admonitions, the following tips could make your ride more enjoyable. They may even save your life.

1. Get a light. A headlight on your bike and one for your helmet make sense. The former helps other drivers see you, and the latter helps you see what's in your path. And while you're adding illumination, don't forget the red blinkies for the back of the bike. They're about \$15 a pair, and with LED technology they will outlast regular battery-operated lights by a factor of 10.

2. Avoid the Door Prize, and other obstacles. Be aware what's going on around you and where you're riding. If you're riding close to the lane of parked cars, chances are that someone is going to open a car door into your path, so be prepared to stop or, better, ride far enough away from the parked lane that doors swinging open will miss you entirely.

3. Check your equipment regularly. Brakes and tire inflation have a way of varying from their optimal setting, so they should be checked regularly. Quick-release wheels, an effective anti-theft device, need to be checked prior to each trip, especially if the bike has been idle for many days or weeks.

4. Reflective clothing—not just white or bright or neon-colored—is a must. Wearing clothing with large reflective patches or outlines defines you and your space day and night. And hearing you is as important as seeing you, so use a bell or a horn to warn drivers of your presence.

5. Ride as if you are invisible. That is, ride defensively, as if drivers can't see you. But *don't be* invisible. Know when you're in a driver's blind spot or in an area where a driver might not expect to see a bike and rider.

6. Choose your route wisely. Congested routes, especially at rush hour, pose special hazards of turning cars and automobile drivers running the light. A less-congested route parallel to the main roads offers an easier and safer ride.

7. Earbuds, headphones, cell phones and other distracting devices could be deadly. Just as they have no place behind the wheel, they have no place behind the handlebars. Safe bike riding requires full attention.

Bonus tip: Check your auto or motorcycle insurance policy. The uninsured motorist clause may provide coverage if you're the victim of a hit-and-run while cycling. Or consider getting cyclists' insurance as an addendum to your auto, homeowner, or motorcycle insurance. It is often less expensive than a separate policy and offers similar coverage.