

Commander's Call Topics



September 6, 2012

"ISR is more than just an aircraft, more than just sensors; it takes a considerable amount of manpower to put it together and placed in the right hands in a timely manner. It's important for us to draw together these [air chiefs from throughout Africa](#) and help guide them into coming up with those solutions to many of the unique challenges that they face." -- Col. Gordon Hendrickson, the U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Force Africa director of intelligence, at the Regional Air Chief Conference in Dakar Senegal, Aug. 29-30, 2012.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[New DOD policy for TDY and PCS cancellation](#)

Beginning October 1, 2012, any travel authorization that includes air travel must be approved and ticketed at least 72 hours in advance of the scheduled flight departure

[AF releases September supplemental promotion list](#)

Air Force officials notified hundreds of Airmen today that they have been selected for promotion as part of the September enlisted supplemental promotion process

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Let myPers help you manage your civilian career](#)

The myPers website has information to help you find opportunities and manage your career

[Intelligence developmental team to convene](#)

Intelligence officers interested in leadership, command and developmental opportunities have until the second week of October to prepare an application and statement of intent

[One month remains for NCOs to volunteer for retraining](#)

NCOs in unrestricted career fields affected by the fiscal year 2013 NCO Retraining Program have a month to volunteer for retraining, Air Force Personnel Center officials said Aug. 30.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

['Be Ready' during National Preparedness Month, year round](#)

September is designated as National Preparedness Month, and tools are available to help Airmen and their families "Be Ready"

[DOD launches tomodachi registry website](#)

The website provides location-based radiation dose estimate reports for the DOD-affiliated population on or near mainland Japan following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of March 11, 2011

[Mentorship program offers support to recovering Airmen](#)

The Recovering Airmen Mentorship Program connects wounded, injured or ill Airmen who are well along in their recovery with those who are just beginning the journey

[First Family Readiness Center opens doors in AOR](#)

The 379th Air Expeditionary Wing is now home to the first Airman and Family Readiness Center in the Southwest Asia area of responsibility

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE, TECHNOLOGY

[JBER turns landfill gas into energy](#)

Currently, the Anchorage Municipal Solid Waste Landfill, adjacent to JB Elmendorf-Richardson, collects and burns landfill gas to comply with EPA regulations

► 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>

► **Democracy's top document turns 225**

About five years ago, ABC News conducted an Independence Day poll among a sampling of teenagers. Among the erroneous notions that the survey reported held by U. S. teens, nine percent thought that U. S. Constitution was ratified on July 4, 1776.

In fact, it would be another 11 years—1787—before the U. S. Constitution would make an appearance. Although it was the result of brilliant minds, clearly it was not conceived at the speed of light.

September 2012 celebrates the 225th anniversary of the U. S. Constitution, the blueprint and framework of the world's longest-enduring democracy. This history-making form of government is, simply, a unified government based on divided and apportioned power—seemingly a contradiction of terms. Power is divided among the executive, legislative and judicial branches in a system of checks and balances, and power is apportioned to the states in a bicameral legislative branch.

However, the Constitution would not have come into being without The Declaration of Independence, a largely Jefferson-authored document which was ratified by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. It was meant to justify the 13 states' (or colonies') independence from England "... in the course of human events." In other words, it was time for the states to be free of the tyranny of King George.

Almost immediately, the second Continental Congress began work on the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union, an agreement among the 13 founding states, establishing the United States of America as a confederation of sovereign states. The Articles, fully ratified in 1781, provided both domestic and international legitimacy for the Continental Congress to direct war, conduct diplomacy with Europe, and deal with territorial issues and Indian relations. For all its sweeping powers of war and diplomacy, the new government was weak. Further, it had no power to regulate commerce or to set and collect taxes. It was dependent on less-than-adequate voluntary state requisitions that the states regularly failed to pay.

This so-called system of government was so dysfunctional that in September of 1786, the Annapolis Convention was called to look into improving the Articles of Confederation. Subsequently, the Continental Congress identified so many problems that they called for a convention in 1787 in Philadelphia to recommend changes. Instead, the Philadelphia Convention — historically known as the Constitutional Convention — issued a Constitution to replace the Articles.

The Congress submitted the Constitution to the states, and the Constitution was ratified by enough states to become operative in September 1788, and a much stronger nation emerged. Replacing the Articles with the U. S. Constitution provided for a national government with a chief executive (the president), courts, and taxing powers.

Freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, the right to a fair and speedy trial—some of our most treasured freedoms—were not part of the U. S. Constitution originally. At the Constitutional Convention, the proposal to include a bill of rights was considered and defeated. The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution as the first ten amendments on December 15, 1791.

The Constitution has been amended seventeen additional times, for a total of 27 amendments, and its principles are applied in courts of law by judicial review.

It is the oldest written constitution in continuous use, and over the last 225 years, its system of unified government with divided power has influenced more than 100 constitutions throughout the world. Now that's something to celebrate!

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

September 6, 2002 - During Operation Noble Eagle, fighters resumed 24-hour combat air patrols temporarily over Washington, D.C. and New York City as the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks approached.

September 7, 1956 - At Edwards AFB, Calif., Capt. Iven C. Kincheloe set an altitude record for manned flight by flying the Bell-X-2 rocket-powered aircraft to 126,000 feet. He later received the Mackay Trophy for this flight.

September 8, 2004 - Air Force Flight Training Center retired its NKC-135E refueling tanker after 49 years of U.S. Air Force service. Originally, the unusual aircraft had most of its windows on one side to monitor nuclear testing activities. It was then modified for the FISTA program before resuming its career as a tanker. It was the second oldest operational plane in the U.S. Air Force, with the Dryden Flight Research Center's B-52 52-0008 being the oldest.

September 9, 1967 - Airman 1st Class Duane D. Hackney, Air Rescue and Recovery Service, became the first living enlisted man to receive an Air Force Cross for his heroic efforts to rescue a pilot downed in North Vietnam's jungles.

September 10, 1956 - First flight of the F-107.

September 11, 1953 - A Sidewinder N-7 (AIM-9) air-to-air missile made its first successful interception, sending a Grumman F6F-5K Hellcat drone down in flames at China Lake, Calif.

September 12, 1918 - Brig. Gen. William "Billy" Mitchell led 1,481 planes in the St. Mihiel offensive lasting through Sep. 15. This was the biggest air armada to date.

September 13, 1951 - The U.S. Air Force established its first pilotless bomber squadron at the Missile Test Center, Cocoa, Fla.

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

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► Donor donation gives others second chance

Autumn and its cool, invigorating air, along with the new school year, signal a sort of second beginning. It's a second chance to accomplish some goals and prepare for the new year.

But there are people who won't get that second chance. According to the Mayo Clinic, thousands never get the call saying that a suitable donor organ — and a second chance at life — has been found.

Many people just don't get around to signing up to be an organ donor because of some common myths, five of which are listed below, with the facts that explain their fallacies.

(More facts about organ transplantation can be found at [the Mayo Clinic site](#).)

Myth: *If I agree to donate my organs, the hospital won't work as hard to save my life.*

Fact: *When you go to the hospital for treatment, doctors focus on saving your life. The doctor in charge of your care has nothing to do with transplantation.*

Myth: *Organ donation is against my religion.*

Fact: *Organ donation is consistent with the beliefs of most religions. This includes Catholicism, Protestantism, Islam and most branches of Judaism. If you're unsure, ask a member of your clergy.*

Myth: *I'm under age 18. I'm too young to make this decision.*

Fact: *That's true, in a legal sense. But your parents can authorize this decision. You can express to your parents your wish to donate, and your parents can give their consent knowing that it's what you wanted.*

Myth: *I'm too old. Nobody will want my organs.*

Fact: *There's no defined cutoff age for donating organs. The decision to use your organs is based on strict medical criteria, not age.*

Myth: *Rich and famous people go to the top of the list when they need an organ.*

Fact: *The rich and famous aren't given priority when it comes to allocating organs. It may seem that way because of the amount of publicity generated when celebrities receive a transplant. Priority is based on need and medical determinants.*

Why donate? *In addition to the facts above, it's especially important to consider becoming an organ donor if you belong to an ethnic minority. Minorities including African-Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, and Hispanics are more likely than whites to have certain chronic conditions that affect the kidney, heart, lung, pancreas and liver. Certain blood types are more prevalent in ethnic minority populations. Because matching blood type is necessary for transplants, the need for minority donor organs is especially high.*