

Commander's Call Topics



August 23, 2012

"Modernization is the most significant concern moving forward. We're shaping the Air Force today to ensure its strength for tomorrow. Modernization is the principal challenge as we look forward." – Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley talking about [the important role the Air Force plays in support of the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa mission](#), during his visit to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, on Aug. 22, 2012.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[CMSAF Roy helps wrap up successful Air Force Week in New York](#)

Roy stressed the importance of Air Force Week as a way to showcase our Airmen and the equipment that makes them the best at what they do.

[CJCS Army Gen. Dempsey: Political activity erodes public trust in military](#)

During a discussion with reporters aboard a C-17 returning from Afghanistan and Iraq, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff addressed a question about a group of Navy SEALs who have put together a political action committee.

['Joining Forces' initiative exceeds hiring goals for vets, spouses](#)

The White House initiative to hire veterans and military spouses has surpassed its goals, having led to the hiring or training of more than 125,000 veterans and spouses in the past year.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Hotel tax exemptions could help AF save millions of dollars](#)

During a time of increasing budget constraints, Air Force officials look for innovative solutions that save money and positively impacts the mission.

[Knowing where to request records saves time, money](#)

In an effort to save time and money, the master personnel records branch staff at the Air Force Personnel Center wants retirees and former Airmen to know the correct procedures for requesting medical and personnel record information.

[AFPC officials streamline PCS orders process](#)

Air Force Personnel Center officials have centralized how Permanent Change of Station orders are processed, validated and authenticated.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Air Force Spice testing lab goes full throttle](#)

The new lab establishes a robust urinalysis testing program as part of the Air Force's ongoing efforts to deter use of "spice," the common name for synthetic cannabinoids.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE, TECHNOLOGY

[Through Airmen's Eyes: Maxwell officer builds historical database](#)

What started as a solution to an information collection problem six years ago has grown into a substantial database that documents air power through almost 100 years of conflicts.

[Nuclear enterprise experts train and attend symposium](#)

Approximately 16 general and flag officers, led by the commander of U.S. Strategic Command, took part in an airborne emergency action officers exercise and Strategic Deterrence Conference at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., Aug. 6-9.

► 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>

► **A Legacy of Courage**

It's hard to believe that only 92 years separate the likes of Staff Sgt. Vanessa Bibb, Senior Airman Veronica Cox, Capt. Jennifer Curtis and Tech. Sgt. Angela Blue, with the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, and vindication for the founding mothers of the women's rights movement, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott and Lucy Stone.

On August 26, we celebrate Women's Suffrage Day, and the women who achieved equality for all in education, religion, law, property, franchisement and child custody.

These four women, who fought so valiantly for women's rights, would not live to see their efforts realized as Constitutional amendment. But if they could imagine how far their fight would take women of future generations, the actions, responsibilities and accomplishments of the four women portrayed in this year's "Portraits in Courage" would exceed their wildest dreams.

The four women leaders named in this year's Air Force Portraits in Courage have built upon the suffragettes' legacy of valor by meeting the needs of their 21st century circumstances. Their stories are more fully related on the [Portraits in Courage website](#).

Staff Sgt. Vanessa Salzi Bibb, 59th Medical Wing, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas.

While she was serving on a provincial reconstruction team that was attacked in Afghanistan, the aeromedical technician facilitated the successful treatment of 14 critically-wounded personnel. She later helped evacuate coalition casualties from a burning building and helped fight the fire.

Senior Airman Veronica Cox, 33rd Rescue Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan. *After a massive earthquake rocked northeastern Japan, Cox, an intelligence analyst fluent in Japanese, volunteered to help. While serving with an air crew on a search and rescue mission, Cox spotted an emergency message crafted out of rocks on the roof of a building in an isolated town. Further investigation by her team led to the rescue of 200 Japanese civilians. As the only Japanese speaking member of the crew, she relayed precise medical and survival requirements to Japanese disaster response teams.*

Capt. Jennifer Curtis, 75th Medical Operations Squadron, Hill AFB, Utah. *As her camp in Afghanistan was attacked, Curtis, a family nurse practitioner, identified six injured service members, dragged them into the medical facility and provided treatment until medics arrived. Later during her deployment, she successfully treated a local woman who was having a heart attack in the midst of being attacked by rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire.*

Master Sgt. Angela Blue, 355th Medical Operations Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. *While deployed to Afghanistan, Blue's base came under attack. She triaged the wounded, directed medical care and arranged for medical evacuation while still under attack. While traveling in a resupply mission later in her deployment, she provided immediate medical care that saved the lives of four Afghan soldiers who were injured by a roadside bomb. Just hours later, Blue sustained combat-related injuries and required medical evacuation after her vehicle was struck by another roadside bomb.*

Those of us who have grown up in America since the 19th Amendment was ratified take our rights for granted: We vote, attend college, own property, join the military, and get equal pay for equal service. The actions of these spirited and gutsy Air Force women paint a modern-day portrait of valor that mirrors the original suffragette's legacy of selflessness and courage.

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

August 23, 1990 - The 89th Military Airlift Wing receives the first of two Boeing VC-25A presidential transport aircraft at Andrews AFB, Md. The VC-25A is a modified 747-200B commercial transport that replaces the VC-137.

August 24, 2001 - An EC-18B Advanced Range Instrumentation Aircraft made its final Air Force Flight Test Center flight, ending that mission at Edwards AFB, Calif. For 30 years, the aircraft recorded and relayed telemetry information from intercontinental ballistic missiles and manned spacecraft, both U.S. and foreign. The U.S. Air Force intended to use the two EC-18Bs in the JSTARS program.

August 25, 1932 - Flying from Los Angeles to Newark, N.J., Amelia Earhart became the first woman to complete a nonstop transcontinental flight.

August 25, 1966 - The first class of German air force student pilots enters training at Sheppard AFB, Texas. The school will provide 212 pilots per year with training similar to that received by U.S. Air Force pilots.

August 26, 1943 - The U.S. Army Air Forces used a new type of perspective maps with targets drawn as seen from the air to improve high altitude precision bombing abilities.

August 27, 1950 - Two F-51 Mustang pilots accidentally strayed into China and strafed an airstrip near Antung, mistaking it for a North Korean airstrip at Sinuiju on the border with China. The Chinese used the incident for propaganda and diplomatic purposes. The 92nd Bomb Group sent 24 B-29s to Kyomipo to bomb the largest iron and steel plant in Korea. Far East Air Force experimented with delayed action bombs to discourage enemy repairs on bridges.

August 28, 1942 - The War Department directed Air Training Command to provide aircraft and equipment to evacuate sick and wounded American servicemen and women throughout the world.

August 29, 1970 - The Army's Safeguard anti-ballistic missile system completed its first full-scale test, when a Spartan area defense interceptor missile launched from Kwajalein Atoll intercepted a Minute I reentry vehicle launched from Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

August 30, 1982 - The F-5G (later renamed the F-20) Tigershark makes its first flight at Edwards AFB, Calif

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

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► Automobile safety

Whether your idea of automobile travel is that the journey is part of the fun, or merely something to be endured at both ends of a holiday, or something in between those extremes, one thing is certain of each and every car trip: Safe driving is a necessity in reaching your destination.

Here are seven tips that can possibly save your life, whether you're driving down the street or across the country:

- 1. Before you head out, check the condition of tires, hoses and connectors, lights, wiper blades, fluid levels and cooling systems for both the car and the passengers.*
- 2. Keep children safe by using the right car seat. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov), vehicle crashes remain the Number One killer of children ages four to 13. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (www.nhtsa.gov) has a downloadable pdf illustrating the safest seats for children based on age and size. Before you start any road trip—whether to the local library or on a cross-country odyssey or somewhere in-between—walk 360 degrees around your car. Outside of the vehicle is just as dangerous for kids, but in a different way. In one NHTSA safety video, 62 children fit into one car's blind spot.*
- 3. Slowed reflexes, whether by drugs or alcohol or by health-compromised reaction time, is driving impaired, and it's illegal. Chances are the police will see you before you see them, so why take the chance at all.*
- 4. "Click it or ticket" is mandatory in all 50 states. Wearing a seat belt isn't a choice. It's the law*
- 5. Distracted drivers aren't drivers. They're merely aiming tons of steel down the road at an unsafe speed. Sooner or later, they'll hit someone or something instead of getting to their destination.*
- 6. Emergencies happen. If you get a flat tire, hit an animal, run out of gas, or experience a trip-stopping event, pull off the road and call for help. It's safer than trying to repair things on your own.*
- 7. Know your limits, not just the speed limit. Stop when feeling fatigued. Better to arrive late than not at all.*