Commander's Call Topics

Sept. 20, 2012

"It's time for an [honest look in the mirror](). Who are we going to be when we grow up? It's time to think seriously about that." Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III during the Air Force Association Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition in Washington, D.C.

►CURRENT ISSUES

[Air Force recognizes 2012 Outstanding Airmen of the Year]()
The 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year attended a recognition reception and dinner hosted by the 2012 Air Force Association's Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition

[Leaders wish the Air Force a happy birthday]()
Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy issued a message to the Airmen of the United States Air Force

[SecAF highlights 'state of force' at AFA conference]()
In his keynote address at the 2012 Air Force Association's Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition Sept. 17, Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley discussed major service accomplishments over the last 12 months and the Air Force's strategic way ahead.

[AFLINK mobile app keeps people connected to everything Air Force]()
Staying connected and keeping up with the latest news and information has never been easier for America's Airmen.

[Air Command and Staff College launches new DL program]()
The Air Command and Staff College is launching a new version of the non-master's "correspondence" program during the last week of September.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[AF Reserve commander praises total force]()
The Air Force Reserve Command's highest ranking officer discussed the virtues of total force integration in remarks at the 2012 Air Force Association Air and Space Conference and Technology Expositio.

►FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[New DOD Safe Helpline Mobile App now available]()
The Department of Defense announced its new DOD Safe Helpline Mobile Application. With this new app, service members transitioning to civilian life will have access to critical resources that assist in managing the short- and long-term effects of sexual assault.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE, TECHNOLOGY

[Annual space, missile pioneers inducted]()
In celebration of the Air Force Space Command's 30th anniversary, Gen. William L. Shelton, the AFSC commander, inducted the command's 2012 Air Force Space and Missile Pioneers in an award ceremony and hall of fame induction.

[ISR chief stresses importance of turning data into information]()
How would you handle 1.8 petabytes of information?

► *Every Airman has a story*

"Every Airman has a story." That was the theme of Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James A. Roy's address during the Air Force Association and Technology Exposition on Thursday, September 19, 2012. Over and over he proved his point by telling of Airmen—both modern-day and from days (and wars) gone by—and their compelling stories. Chief Roy showed slides and old pictures as he related some of their stories of bravery and compassion. In other instances, he recognized Airmen in the audience for their courage and service.

Then, the man who represents the highest enlisted level of leadership, urged each Airman to "tell your story," emphasizing that each story is unique and each story has meaning. Each story connects all those who hear it, and all those who have lived it.

The next slide in his presentation showed how all airmen can stay better connected to each other and the world around them. It was a slide showing AFLINK, the mobile app for phones and tablet computers. Never before has it been so easy for Airmen, families, retirees, recruits and the public so well-connected and well-informed about the latest happenings around the Air Force.

AFLINK is free and available now for download. It is presented in several languages, on the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store for Android. And it is accessible here, too.

AFLINK aggregates up-to-the-minute content including headlines from the official Air Force website, Airman Magazine, Air Force Blue Tube, the AF Week in photos, Air Force Inventory, ceremonial music from the Air Force Band, and it allows sharing through Facebook, Twitter and more.

"Tell your story," Chief Roy urges, and now there's an app for that.

-- Martha Lockwood,
Chief, Information Products Division

Sept. 20, 1950 - The Air Force announced that planes would be tested by remote control, with pilots viewing instrument panels from the ground by television.

Sept. 21, 1952 - During the Korean War**,** F-86 Sabre pilot, Capt. Robinson Risner destroyed two MiG-15s to become an ace when the enemy responded to an attack on the Pukchong munitions plant by 41 F-84s.

Sept. 22, 2005 - From Vandenberg AFB, a Minotaur rocket carried a 920-pound DARPA military research satellite into a yearlong orbit to gather information about the Earth's environment in low orbit.
The Minotaur rocket was made from decommissioned first and second stages of a Minuteman II missile.

Sept. 23, 1959 - The DoD reorganized its space and missile programs to give the Air Force responsibility over space transportation and ultimately all space booster rockets.

Sept. 24, 1929 – Lt. James H. Doolittle made the first all-blind flight at Mitchel Field. Although a check pilot accompanied him, Doolittle took off in a Consolidated NY-2 airplane with a completely covered cockpit, flew a short distance, and landed.

Sept. 25, 1918 - While on a voluntary patrol, Lt. Edward V. Rickenbacker attacked seven German aircraft near Billy, France. Despite the odds, he dived on them and shot one of the Fokkers out of control and then attacked one of the Halberstadts and also shot it down. For this action, he later received the Medal of Honor

Sept. 26, 1994 - A B-52 Stratofortress, B-1 Lancer, and a KC-10 Extender landed at Poltava AB in the Ukraine. It was the first time that American bombers had landed there since World II. In World War II, Eighth Air Force B-17s used Poltava for shuttle bombing missions against Nazi targets in Germany and Eastern Europe.

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

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► *Know your election numbers*

There are 47 days until Election Day 2012—November 6, and this is the second of a three-part series spelling out the criteria source and the deadlines for each state. This week, 19 states (alphabetically listed Kansas through North Dakota) are featured.

Throughout news this week, stories featuring percentages grabbed the headlines. Not to be left behind by this trending topic, we present some voter percentages.

Of the number of Americans eligible to vote (206,072,000), 71 percent (146,311,000) are registered. According to the Bureau of the Census, 131,144,000 voted in the 2008 Presidential election.
Of the men who are eligible, 69.1 percent are registered to vote. Of the women who are eligible, 72.8 percent are registered.

The state with the highest voter turnout in the 2008 election was Minnesota, with 75 percent of the eligible and registered population voting. Utah has the lowest voter turnout rate: 53.1 percent.
The 65-to-74-year-old age group had the highest percentage of voters, 78.1, while those in the 18-to-24-year-old age range had only a 58.5 percent voter turnout, the lowest percentage.

The better educated a person is, the more likely he or she is to be a registered voter. The demographic with the lowest percentage of registered voters also has the least amount of education. Just over half (50.5 percent) of the population with less than a high school education who are eligible to vote are registered, while 85.8 of those with an advanced degree who are eligible to vote are registered.

On the following page, the second of three charts showing the deadlines and contact information for absentee voting by state and territory (alphabetically) provides information for Kansas through North Dakota.

Statistics and ratios are important in any election. This year, more than ever, the one-person-one-vote carries even greater weight: pundits are predicting a very close election.

2012 Presidential Election Absentee Ballot Deadlines by State and Territory
Part II
Ohio through North Dakota

	Deadlines			Election Website
	Registration	Absentee Ballot Request	Ballot Return	
Kansas	Not required	6-Nov	6-Nov	http://www.kssos.org/elections/elections.html
Kentucky	9-Oct	6-Nov	6-Nov	http://elect.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx
Louisiana	9-Oct	5-Nov	6-Nov	http://www.sos.la.gov/tabid/68/Default.aspx
Maine	No deadline	No deadline	6-Nov	http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter_info/uocava
Maryland	16-Oct	30-Oct	16-Nov[1]	http://www.elections.state.md.us/
Massachusetts	Not required	5-Nov	6-Nov	http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/
Michigan	6-Nov	3-Nov	6-Nov	http://michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1633-238835--,00.html
Minnesota	Open	Open	6-Nov	https://minnesota.overseasvotefoundation.org/vote/home.htm
Mississippi	7-Oct	TBD[2]	6-Nov	http://www.sos.ms.gov/elections.aspx
Missouri	10-Oct	31-Oct	6-Nov	http://www.sos.mo.gov/
Montana	6-Nov	6-Nov	6-Nov	http://sos.mt.gov/Elections/Military_Overseas/index.asp
Nebraska	19-Oct	31-Oct	6-Nov	http://www.sos.ne.gov/dyindex.html#boxingName
Nevada	6-Oct	30-Oct	6-Nov	http://nvsos.gov/index.aspx?page=3
New Hampshire	6-Nov	5-Nov	6-Nov	http://sos.nh.gov/VoteNH.aspx
New Jersey	2-Oct	30-Oct	6-Nov	http://www.njelections.org/
New Mexico	Not Required	2-Nov	6-Nov	http://www.sos.state.nm.us/
New York	12-Oct	26-Oct[3]	19-Nov[4]	http://www.elections.ny.gov/
North Carolina	5-Oct	5-Nov	6-Nov	http://www.ncsbe.gov/
North Dakota	Not applicable	22-Sept	9 or 12-Nov	http://www.nd.gov/sos/electvote/voting/index.html

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[1] Postmarked by Election Day (6 November)

[2] At the time that this table was published, Mississippi's Absentee Ballot Request deadline had not been determined. Check the state elections website, or call the Mississippi Elections Hotline, 1-800-829-6786.

[3] Military voters may request a ballot in-person up to the day before the election (5 November).

[4] Postmarked by 5 November