

Commander's Call Topics



January 31, 2013

"One who fears failure limits his activities. Failure is only the opportunity more intelligently to begin again." -- Henry Ford

*Also in this issue...
special feature on "The
Game of the Century."
Please see page 2.*

Inspiration + Self-Reliance = Unstoppable

It's difficult to know when or how inspiration will strike, or who provides the personification that in our mind's eye, we become. For some, it is a favorite teacher or an historical figure. For others, it is a parent. And for others, it may be a fictional character that helps us see how things might be. There is one constant in each example, however: education. Nobody achieves through dumb luck but through education and application.

Della Rainey, probably didn't realize that she was embarking on a career as a role model when she set out to attend the school of nursing at Lincoln Hospital in Durham, N.C. Endowed by the Duke family and accredited by the American Medical Association, Lincoln Hospital was one of the first African American teaching hospitals. Della Rainey, who graduated in the 1930s, was the first African-American nurse to enter the Army Nurse Corps at Fort Bragg, N.C., getting promoted to chief nurse in 1942, and serving at Tuskegee Army Airfield as a lieutenant. Rainey would ultimately be promoted to major, retiring in 1978. Her legacy of learning lives in in the Della H. Rainey Nursing Scholarship, established by the Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation and the National Black Nurses Association.

Thomas N. Barnes is the first and only African-American to serve in the highest enlisted position within the U.S. Air Force. Chief Barnes entered the Air Force in 1949, as a high school graduate. Throughout his 28-year career, Chief Barnes made the most of every educational opportunity while serving his country in the continental United States, Hawaii, Japan and Southeast Asia. He is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Senior NCO Academy pilot class in 1973. He served as CMSAF for an unprecedented four years, working for equal opportunities for minorities, including blacks and women, and also worked to strengthen the enlisted professional military education system. He once said that he wanted to be remembered "as a role model for people who believe that he can't get there."

For a select few, Air Force and education are synonymous. **Maj. Gen. Alfred K. Flowers**, the longest serving Air-

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OF NOTE...

"Women have shown great courage and sacrifice on and off the battlefield, contributed in unprecedented ways to the military's mission and proven their ability to serve in an expanding number of roles." – Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta speaking about the [DOD decision to open combat roles to women](#).

► CURRENT ISSUES

[CMSAF transition: Airmen say goodbye to Roy, welcome Cody](#)

The Air Force appointed its 17th chief master sergeant of the Air Force during a transition and retirement ceremony here Jan. 24.

[Aviano pilot's body recovered](#)

This statement is released on behalf of the family and with their permission.

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► RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Airman magazine

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil>

Air Force Outreach

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil>

Military OneSource

<http://militaryonesource.af.mil>

Military HOMEFRONT

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod>

Air Force Personnel Center

<https://mypers.af.mil>

<http://www.afpc.af.mil>

Air Reserve Personnel Center

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil>

Department of Defense News

<http://www.defense.gov>

Department of Veteran 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 Safety Center

www.afsec.af.mil

“Supergame’s” Legacy is Both Wide and Deep

If anybody at Super Bowl I had given it much thought, they probably could not have predicted that there would be a Super Bowl XLVII. In fact, the winner-take-all-bragging-rights “AFL-NFL World Championship of Professional Football” was promoted as a “once-in-a-lifetime championship event.” It was not conceived with the idea of their ever being a re-match or of it becoming an annual event. In fact, this post-season “afterthought,” as it was termed by some sports writers, was not considered to be much a success.

Originally, the “Supergame” was part of the 1966 merger talks between the National Football League (NFL) and the American Football League (AFL) that would, by 1970, result in a single football league, the National Football League, with 28 teams split between two conferences. The January 1967 game, which was the only post-season game of the 1966 season, pitted the NFL Champion Green Bay Packers against the AFL champions Kansas City Chiefs. The Green Bay Packers were favored by 14; the final score was Green Bay 35 and Kansas City 10 and many predicted that this was the “Game of the Ages” and that there would never be another such championship game. And there almost wasn’t, but not because it was such a decisive rout.

The inter-league rivalry was fierce, and because NBC held the rights to nationally televise AFL games and CBS had the rights to broadcast NFL games, the game was simulcast on both networks. There was a TV blackout in the Los Angeles area because at the time, NFL games were required to be blacked out in the market of origin, even if it was a neutral-site game, and even if it was a sell-out—which the first Super Bowl wasn’t. In fact, it is the only Super Bowl that wasn’t a sell-out. The LA Coliseum had a capacity of 94,000 seats and more than a third—33,000—went unsold. Perhaps it was the price: it was what newspapers editorialized as being an “exorbitant” \$12. A 30-second commercial was \$42,000 on both CBS and NBC.

This year’s Super Bowl prices have increased by a factor of approximately 100 over the original. The least expensive seats are \$1,280, and air time for a 30-second commercial costs \$4 million.

In the 46 years between the AFL-NFL World Championship Game and Super Bowl XLVII, superstitions and sports lore have added some luster, if not real value.

- The Super Bowl trophy, the “Lombardi Trophy,” is handcrafted by Tiffany & Company, and at every Super Bowl there are two trophies present in case one gets destroyed in celebration. Each trophy takes about four months and 72 man-hours to create.
- Joe Montana is the only player to have won the MVP award three times (1982, 1985 and 1990), and Randy White and Harvey Martin are the only two players to have shared that honor (1978).
- What’s in a name? When they were the Cleveland Browns, they never made it to the Super Bowl although they went to three AFC Championships in 1986, 1987 and 1989. Then they became the Baltimore Ravens in 2000 and won Super Bowl XXXV that year. It is only an unsubstantiated rumor that Art Modell, owner of the Browns-turned-Ravens, was heard to say “Nevermore!” on his way out of Cleveland.

OF NOTE (Continued from Page 1)

[Air Force continues support to France in Mali](#)

The U.S. Air Force continues to back French air operations in Mali through refueling efforts, logistical movements, troop transport and information sharing, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said Jan. 29.

► **PERSONNEL ISSUES**

[Airmen should review personnel records, accomplish transactions before MilPDS upgrade](#)

Department of Defense and Air Force officials are encouraging Airmen to review their personal data in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and accomplish personnel transactions before the service upgrades the Military Personnel Data System in March.

[Air Force to launch new standards program](#)

Air Force bases and customer-service oriented services will now be held to a uniform set of standards, thanks to the recently launched Air Force Common Output Level Standards program.

[Reserve announces revised force structure actions](#)

Air Force Reserve Command officials are moving forward with force structure changes authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2013.

► **FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY**

[DOD to begin review of family, military community programs](#)

A new task force will start work next month on a 120-day review of all family and military community programs across the Defense Department to determine their effectiveness and identify gaps and potential efficiencies, a senior defense official said.

► **ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY**

[New runway rubber removal system debuts in Southwest Asia](#)

The Air Force Civil Engineer Center in conjunction with the Air Force Research Laboratory recently introduced a first-of-its-kind runway rubber removal system for use at remote airfields.

Inspiration, Continued from page 1

man at nearly 47 years, entered the Air Force right after high school in 1965. Over the course of the next ten years he would serve his country in North Dakota, Vietnam, the Philippines, Texas, South Carolina and Greece while earning a bachelor's degree. A year later, 1976, he had earned a master's degree. He was promoted to master sergeant and was approved to attend officer training school. In 1978 he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the financial management career field. More education and promotions followed as Flowers served at the Pentagon three times, with intermittent stints at the Air Combat Command in Langley, Va., and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort McNair. When he retired his "blue-print for success" was heralded as "a strong work ethic coupled with an earnest desire for self-improvement and a genuine concern for others while maintaining a positive attitude...."

[Maj. Gen Marcelite Harris](#), first African-American female general would break gender and racial barriers throughout her career as she excelled in her educational pursuits. Commissioned as a second lieutenant after attending Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Harris' early assignments were as an administrative officer. She transitioned into the maintenance field by attending the aircraft maintenance officer's course at Chanute Air Force Base, Ill. Her first assignment, at Korat Royal Thai air base in support of the Vietnam War, was just a prelude to her future accomplishments. She was one of the first women to be an air officer commanding at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, and in 1991 she became the first female African-American general. Even in retirement, Harris continues to serve and to learn as a member of the Board of Visitors of the United States Air Force Academy.

As we begin African-American History Month, the heroes among us, past and present, take shape through the real-world application of their never-ending educations. Each in his or her way exhibits a love of learning that is exceeded only by their dedication to duty.