

# Commander's Call Topics



July 8, 2011

*"All this could only happen because of our founders' central faith that, through democracy and individual rights, ordinary people have it within their means to forge a nation that's more just and more equal and more free. Every service member is heir to that legacy,"* said President Barack Obama during an [Independence Day event](#) at the White House, July 4, 2011.

## FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

### [Air Force chief of staff announces 2011 'Vector'](#)

*"A year ago I presented a vision for our Air Force. That same vision remains: I see our Air Force rising, strong and capable -- an Air Force consistently and reliably delivering Global Vigilance, Reach and Power for America -- in what is likely to be a very challenging future,"* said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz.

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### [Airmen filling certain billets first to receive OCP uniform for everyday wear](#)

More than 180 joint expeditionary tasking Airmen assigned to provincial reconstruction teams are wearing the OEF Camouflage Pattern or "multi-cams," as their everyday uniform during their nearly year-long deployment to Afghanistan this summer. The Airmen in PRTs are the first Air Force personnel to don the OCPs. The uniform gives Airmen unique benefits and features that the Airman Battle System-Ground and Airman Battle Uniform cannot deliver. These features are important to PRT JET Airmen due to the high number of "outside the wire" tasks they perform to support the International Security Assistance Force mission to bring security, governance, agricultural support, reconstruction and development to Afghanistan and its people.

### [Court orders halt to 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' enforcement](#)

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has ordered the government to stop enforcing the terms of the law that prevents openly gay service members from being in the military.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [Air Force officials boost personnel support to warfighter](#)

The Air Force Personnel Center is partnering with Headquarters, Air Force Manpower, Personnel and Services and U.S. Air Forces Central to provide additional personnel support capabilities for deployed Airmen in AFCENT's area of responsibility. After an initial site visit downrange, AFPC officials recommended creating a Total Force Center Service Center cell dedicated to providing expedited personnel support to deployers, adding self-service kiosks at Air Forces Central installations and sending a team to further assess deployer needs and recommend personal policy and process changes. Recently, four self-service kiosks were installed at key locations in Southwest Asia.

## **GUARD AND RESERVE**

### **[Guard members have one-stop information shop](#)**

Officials with the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs have created a one-stop website for Guard members to access and administer their service benefits-related information in a secure manner. A new VA eBenefits web portal had been created as a solution for benefit-related information availability to current and former service members, to include all Guard members.

## **FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **[TRICARE expectant, new parents survey validates review program](#)**

TRICARE's Parent Review Program offers weekly, customized emails to new and expectant parents who receive care at select military treatment facilities and civilian practices. Beginning in the seventh week of pregnancy, through birth and up to the child's third birthday, messages are sent directly to the mother's personal email. Included are tips, questions and answers, information on their baby's current stage of development, parenting news and recent research. Emails may also include customized information from the MTF where they receive obstetric or pediatric care.

### **[Air Force Marathon opens new transfer program](#)**

For a limited time, any Air Force Marathon, Half Marathon or 10K registered runner who is not able to participate in the Sept. 17 event can transfer his or her entry to a non-registered runner through the marathon's new Transfer Program. The online transfer form is available at [www.usafmarathon.com](http://www.usafmarathon.com). All registered runners have until July 24 to transfer their marathon, half marathon or 10K entries to an unregistered runner. The transfer form must include the runner's confirmation number received upon registration.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

### **[45th Space Wing supports successful final shuttle launch](#)**

Members of the 45th Space Wing provided Eastern Range support for NASA's successful launch of the final flight of Space Shuttle Atlantis July 8 and the final space shuttle flight in history. The shuttle launched at 11:29 p.m. (EDT) from Space Launch Complex 39A at Kennedy Space Center.

## **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**

<http://gum.afpc.randolph.af.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>

**TRICARE**

<http://www.tricare.mil>

**U.S. Government Web site**

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

**Employment Opportunities**

[www.usajobs.com](http://www.usajobs.com)

[www.nafjobs.org](http://www.nafjobs.org)

## **AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS**

### **This Week in Air Force History**

July 8, 1962 -- From Johnston Island, a Thor intermediate range ballistic missile carried a megaton-plus hydrogen bomb above 200 miles in altitude. The detonation marked the highest thermonuclear blast by a U.S. bomb, and perhaps, the highest of any nations.

July 8, 2001 -- Boeing's X-32 Joint Strike Fighter successfully completed its flight-test program with a series of short takeoffs at NAS Patuxent River, Md.

July 9, 1966 -- The F-111 Aardvark variable-sweep-wing fighter-bomber flies for the first time at Mach 2.5-about 1,800 mph. Officials call the performance the highlight in the F-111 flight-test development program.

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

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