

Commander's Call Topics



June 7, 2012

"It's a safety-of-flight issue. Secretary Panetta understands that, and he's not taking any options off the table with respect to the future of the aircraft." -- Pentagon spokesman Navy Capt. John Kirby speaking about Safety measures put in place in May on F-22 Raptor flights.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Wolfenbarger receives fourth star, assumes leadership of AFMC](#)

Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger became the first female four-star general in the Air Force and assumed the top position of Air Force Materiel Command during ceremonies here June 5, 2012.

[Suspect shot following vehicle chase at Offutt AFB](#)

An individual was shot by a 55th Security Forces Squadron member at the Kenney Gate June 4.

[New upgrades revitalize B-1B Lancers](#)

B-1B Lancers are currently undergoing the most advanced hardware and software upgrades to date as part of the Sustainment-Block 16 program.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Medical 'C-code' not a deployment disqualifier](#)

Contrary to common belief, a medical assignment limitation code, commonly known as the "C-code," does not disqualify an Airman from deployment, and it does not identify an Airman for medical discharge.

[AF consolidates three field operating agencies](#)

Three San Antonio-based field operating agencies officially consolidated with the June 1 initial operational capability announcement, Air Force officials said June 4.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[AFA announces Air Force spouse of the year](#)

By reaching out to others and volunteering countless hours in support of many 22nd Air Refueling Wing and community organizations, one McConnell Air Force Base spouse has earned Air Force-wide recognition.

► SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[Space realities require new way of thinking, official says](#)

The U.S. has fine-tuned its methods to promote responsible use of space and strengthen international partnerships, Ambassador Gregory L. Schulte, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for space policy, said during the 2012 Women in Aerospace Conference here June 1.

[Initiative could help improve ISR operators' processes](#)

The Electronic Systems Center Command and Control Constellation program recently held an operational demonstration in here to evaluate a new prototype capability to improve command and control of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance data.

► 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>

► CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER

According to the National Safety Council Injury Facts 2010, the most-recent year of publication, the mileage death rate for motorcyclists is 37 times greater than for passenger car occupants. In an effort to decrease these numbers, the NSC has launched a campaign to help motorcyclists understand that their susceptibility to accidents can be greatly decreased by following these three safety tips in their program that tells riders: "Don't just glance, *look* for all types of vehicles."

- Understand the vulnerability of a motorcyclist. The most common cause of motorcyclist deaths is drivers not seeing them.
- Be extra cautious in intersections. A vehicle turning left in front of a motorcycle is a dangerous situation.
- Encourage motorcycling friends and family to practice safety in wearing bright colors and helmets.

To these three, we add these commonsense reminders:

- Keep your motorcycle in top running condition—and that includes tires, too.
- Know your motorcycle's limits for safety, speed, range, and reliability. If you or the bike isn't equipped for night riding, don't go!
- Your brain is only as safe as the helmet you're wearing. It's more cost-effective to stay safe than it is to regenerate your brain.
- Need it be said: Don't drink and drive.

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

June 7, 1966 - Ryan's XV-8A "Fleep" arrived at Edwards AFB for testing of its suitability as a flying jeep.

June 8, 1971 - An Air Force Thor space booster, with a Burner II upper stage, placed two instruments into a circular 300-nautical-mile polar orbit. This launch was part of the DoD's Space Experiments Support Program (SESP) to test a celestial mapping service.

June 9, 1916 - Lt. Richard C. Saufley died in a crash near Pensacola after being in the air 8 hours 51 minutes on an endurance flight. He set an American altitude record earlier on 2 April 1916.

June 10, 1967 - The Air Force completed a \$52 million airbase at Tuy Hoa, Vietnam, in one year. It was the first base to be designed and built completely under Air Force supervision.

June 11, 1993 - AC-130 Spectre gunships joined a UN raid on Somali warlord forces to retaliate for a June 5 attack on UN forces in Mogadishu.

June 12, 1918 - The 96th Aero Squadron carried out the first American daylight-bombing mission in World War I from Amanty Airdrome against the occupied Dommary-Baroncourt rail yards in France.

June 13, 1925 - In a sham air battle staged 4,000 feet over Times Square, four National Guard aircraft defeated an attack on New York City by four Army planes and then chased them back over Long Island. An estimated 6,000 people watched the clash, and radio station WOR in Newark, New Jersey, broadcast the event live.

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

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► JUNE 14, FLAG DAY

"Resolved that the flag of the thirteen United States be Thirteen stripes alternate red and white: that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

This entry into the journal of the Continental Congress 1774-1789, Vol. VIII, 1777, authorizes the "Stars and Stripes," as the official national symbol of the United States of America. This action took place on June 14, 1777, and it wasn't until over a century later—June 14, 1885 that Bernard J. Cigrand, a teacher at a one-room schoolhouse in Wisconsin, placed a 10-inch, 38-star flag on his desk and assigned essays on the flag and its significance. This first-ever Flag Day observance was the beginning of Cigrand's devoted efforts to inspire a national Flag Day. By 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation for the national observance of that day on the following June 14th, and in 1949, President Harry Truman signed legislation calling for June 14th to be Flag Day throughout the country.

The laws relating to the flag of the United States of America are found in detail in the United States Code. Title 4, Chapter 1 pertains to the flag; Title 18, Chapter 33, Section 700 regards criminal penalties for flag desecration; and Title 36, Chapter 3 pertains to patriotic customs and observances. These laws are supplemented by Executive Orders and Presidential Proclamations. Among the patriotic customs for displaying the flag noted in Title 36 are the following:

- To display the flag only from sunrise to sunset, unless properly illuminated;
- Hoist briskly; lower ceremoniously;
- Only all-weather flags may be displayed in inclement weather;
- The flag should be properly displayed on all days, and especially on holidays, election day, the anniversary of that particular state's admission into the Union, state holidays, near the main administration building of every public institution, and during school days in or near every school.

Although the U.S. flag is usually displayed from sunrise to sunset, through law or presidential proclamation it is flown both day and night only at the following four patriotic sites: Fort McHenry National Monument and Historical Shrine, Md.; Flag House Square, Baltimore, Md.; United States Marine Corps (Iwo Jima) Memorial, Va.; and Battle Green, Lexington, Mass.