

# Commander's Call Topics



June 13, 2013

*"Every opportunity counts. When your people come to you for leadership, they're giving you another chance—to help them grow into leaders themselves."*

Eric Allenbaugh, Ph.D.  
Organizational development coach and author

The Dangerous Days of Summer are upon us. Take this [quiz on Motorcycle Safety](#) and test your skills online before you get on the bike.

## Celebrate Old Glory on June 14

Francis Scott Key's image of the flag still waving over Fort McHenry after a night of bombardment during the War of 1812 and the world-renowned photo of the flag being planted at the summit of Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima, are two iconic examples of the American flag inspiring a nation.

On June 14, the American flag gets its due as we celebrate Flag Day, tracing its roots to June 14, 1777, when the Continental Congress replaced the symbol of the Grand Union flag with the stars and stripes. The new flag featured 13 white stars in a circle on a blue background with 13 red and white stripes.

The seed for a day set aside to honor our flag is believed to have been sown in 1885, when BJ Cigrand, a Wisconsin school teacher, arranged for his students to celebrate June 14 as the flag birthday. Cigrand followed his class's observance with numerous newspaper interviews and public addresses over the years, and was joined on the Flag Day bandwagon in 1889 when George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned ceremonies at his school. The Betsy Ross House held its first Flag Day celebration in 1891, and the following year, the New York society of the "Sons of the Revolution" held a June 14 celebration. The states of Pennsylvania, New York and Illinois would make proclamations over the years for the recognition of the flag, until finally President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the "anniversary

of the Flag Resolution of 1777" be recognized. It would be another 33 years, when President Harry Truman signed an act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day, that the day would be official.

The oldest continuing Flag Day celebration is thought to be held in Fairfield, Wash., where the community held its centennial celebration in 2010. Quincy, Mass., and Appleton, Wis., are both celebrating their 62nd Flag Day parades this year, and the largest Flag Day parade is held in Troy, N.Y., with more than 50,000 spectators each year.

Flag Day celebrations in communities across the country are commonplace today, with parades and festivities a part of Americana. While flying the American flag is a national right and can be displayed any time, there are a few tips and etiquette that will make the experience a positive one.

### Flag etiquette

1. Display your flag from sunrise to sunset. You can also fly it at night if you illuminate it.
2. There are dozens of flag days, but as a citizen, you may display your flag any day you wish.
3. Hoist your flag briskly and lower it ceremoniously.
4. Put it to the right or above other flags on display.
5. Don't let it touch the ground.

### ► TRENDING ...

"We need to [understand the root issues that are exacerbating it](#), and connect with people inside and outside the Air Force that have creative ideas to fix the problem." – Maj. Gen. Margaret Woodward, the director of the Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, upon her appointment, June 6, 2013.

## ► 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](http://www.usajobs.com) [www.nafjobs.org](http://www.nafjobs.org)

### **Air Force Association Scholarships**

<http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/scholars.asp>

### **Air Force Safety Center**

[www.afsec.af.mil](http://www.afsec.af.mil)

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### [Former safety chief heads sexual assault prevention efforts](#)

Senior officials announced June 6 that they have appointed a two-star general to lead the Air Force's effort to reduce sexual assault within the ranks, and provide victims the support they need.

### [Women's leadership discussion: 'Why are women leaving the Air Force'](#)

Deployments, starting a family, bad mentorship and losing passion for the job are just a few reasons mentioned by uniformed and prior-service women during a panel discussion about why women are leaving the Air Force, at the Joint Women's Leadership Symposium here June 7.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [2014 ROTC instructor opportunities open](#)

Eligible lieutenants, captains and majors interested in Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor opportunities must submit their statement of intent, via the Airman Development Plan, to the Air Force Personnel Center by July 3, AFPC officials said today.

## ► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

### [F-35A completes first in-flight missile launch](#)

An F-35A conventional takeoff and landing aircraft completed the first in-flight missile launch of an AIM-120 over the Point Mugu Sea Test Range, June 5.

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

The Defense Media Activity produces Commander's Call Topics weekly. For questions or comments about this, or any other DMA product, send e-mail to [afproducts@dma.mil](mailto:afproducts@dma.mil).

To subscribe to Air Force news and information products online, go to [www.af.mil/information/subscribe](http://www.af.mil/information/subscribe).

## ► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

**June 13, 1983** - Pioneer 10 became the first spacecraft to leave the solar system.

**June 14, 1957** - In flying an Aero Commander 680 to 30,300 feet at Tulsa, aviatrix Jerrie Cobb set a world altitude record for light two-engine planes.

**June 15, 1944** - Brig Gen LaVerne G. Saunders, XX Bomber Command, led the first B-29 strike against Japan. In

that raid, 47 B-29s flew from bases in Chengtu, China, to attack steel mills at Yawata on Kyushu.

**June 16, 1959** - The first F-105s arrived at Seymour Johnson AFB.

**June 17, 1997** - A C-5A Galaxy from the 436 AW at Dover AFB flew from Andrews AFB to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on the 500th humanitarian airlift mission supporting Operation Provide Hope.

**June 18, 1968** - In three years of Vietnam operations, SAC's B-52 accomplished more than 25,000 sorties to deliver more than 630,000 tons of conventional bombs.

**June 19, 1962** - A superpressure balloon launched at Kindley AFB, Bermuda, on 31 May 1962, landed near Iwo Jima after 19-days at a constant altitude of 68,000 feet.