

# Commander's Call Topics



June 19, 2014

*"Summertime,  
And the livin' is easy..."*

DuBose Heyward (1885-1940)  
American author

The Critical Days of Summer  
are upon us.  
Find out more about  
[The Summer Solstice](#)  
from the National Weather Service

## ***Motorcycle Riding Can Be Fun, Cool and Safe***

Summer. Blue skies, warm temperatures, the open road. Perfect for a motorcycle ride in the country. The concept sounds like fun and it's definitely enticing. But there's work in making sure motorcycling is safe, as well as fun.

**Motorcycle safety course:** Department of Defense regulations require riders to complete a motorcycle safety course before registering or driving a motorcycle on a DOD installation. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation offers a basic safety course that will meet this requirement, and can actually help save on insurance.

**Protective Gear:** Traumatic brain injury can be prevented by the simple use of a helmet, according to safety officials. Make sure the helmet is approved by the Department of Transportation, DOT, and make sure the helmet fits and the chin strap fits tightly. If the helmet doesn't have a face shield, wear a pair of shatter-proof, scratch-free goggles.

As tempting as it is, try to avoid the typical summer dress when riding. A Hawaiian shirt, shorts and flip flops may look and be cool, but they do nothing for protection on a motorcycle. Wear long sleeves and long pants and a thick jacket, preferably leather. It will help protect the skin against road abrasions in a crash. Also, wear gloves to protect from flying debris, as well as wind, sun, and rain. Also, wear leather shoes or boots that cover your ankles, and use oil-resistant soles to avoid slipping. And, wear a brightly colored upper garment, along with reflective clothing at night, to be easily seen in the dark.

**Stay alert:** In nearly two-thirds of all motorcycle accidents involving another vehicle, the other driver is at fault. Make sure you look around and don't focus on one object for more than two seconds. Look at the road ahead, to the sides and in your rear view mirror and be ready to react. Expect things to happen and you won't be caught off guard.

Keep your lights on both day and night while driving, and make yourself stand out. Flash your brake lights when slowing to a stop and keep a safe distance. When driving more than 40 miles per hour, keep a two-second lag between you and the vehicle in front. At higher speeds, make that three to four seconds. And, make sure to position yourself where motorists can see you in their rear-view mirror.

By following a few safety rules and guidelines, motorcycle riding during the summer months can look easy and fun, while being safe as well.



### ► TRENDING ...

*"I do think we need some holistic fixes for the nuclear force. This is not something that happened in the last year or two, or even 10. It's probably been happening gradually over the last 25 years." [Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James](#) in remarks at a [Defense Writers Group breakfast](#) where she outlined new incentives and [measures](#) designed to change the culture of the service's nuclear force.*

## ► RESOURCES

Website access to the following resources can be gained by clicking on the name.

[AF.mil](#)

[Airman magazine](#)

[Military OneSource/HomeFront](#)

[Air Force Personnel Center](#)

[Air Reserve Personnel Center](#)

[Department of Defense News](#)

[Department of Veteran Affairs](#)

[TRICARE](#)

[U.S. Government Website](#)

[Air Force Association](#)

[Scholarships](#)

[Air Force Safety Center](#)

[Civil Service Employment Opportunities](#)

[NAF Employment Opportunities](#)

[Air Force Bands/Outreach](#)

## ► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

**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.

**June 20, 1930** - The Army Air Corps dedicated Randolph Field in San Antonio as its West Point of the Air for primary and basic pilot training.

**June 21, 1972** - The McDonnell Douglas DC10-30 first flew.

**June 22, 1943** - Eighth Air Force bombed Germany's Ruhr industrial area for the first time, hitting the chemical works and synthetic rubber at Huls so severely that it could not resume full production for six months.

**June 23, 1952** – (through June 24) combined air attacks by the Air Force, Navy, and Marines nearly destroyed the electric power potential of North Korea.

**June 24, 1963** - SAC accepted the first flight of 10 Minuteman I (Model B) missiles at Ellsworth AFB with the 66 SMS.

**June 25, 1996** - Terrorists bombed Khobar Towers near King Abdul-Aziz AB, Saudi Arabia, killing 19 Air Force personnel and injuring 300 others. It was the worst terrorist attack against American military personnel since the 1983 bombing of a US Marine barracks in Lebanon. USAF personnel were in Saudi Arabia to support Operation Southern Watch.

**June 26, 1948 – KEY EVENT—OPERATION VITLES.** An airlift began with C-47s in response to the blockade of Berlin. At Furstenfeldbruck, Germany, SAC had a 30I BG squadron with B-29s in place for training. SAC also ordered two other 30Ist squadrons to Furstenfeldbruck along with the 28 BG from Rapid City AFB and 307 BG from MacDill AFB to England for alert duty.

## ► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Fitness program to test Airmen physically, mentally](#)

A physical fitness pilot program at 18 installations is designed to teach leadership, promote unit cohesion and inspire top team performance.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Air Force Retiree Council convenes to discuss issues](#)

For the first time since 2012, the Council met to discuss issues important to the 695,000 retirees, spouses and surviving spouses.

[Some AFSCs removed from eligibility for retention boards](#)

The need to bolster manning for nuclear-related air force specialty codes and budgetary uncertainties were two of the reasons cited for eliminating approximately 4,000 Airmen from eligibility for upcoming involuntary retention boards.

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

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