

# Commander's Call Topics



**July 1, 2015**

"Posterity! You can never know how much it cost  
the present generation to preserve your freedom!  
I hope you will make good use of it."

*John Adams (1735-1826)  
Second President of the United States*

Fireworks and the  
Fourth of July ...  
Find out what's legal  
[in your state.](#)

## Pomp, Patriotism and Pyrotechnics

On July 3, 1776, John Adams wrote to his wife, Abigail, of his excitement for the upcoming celebration of our nation's independence and the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. In his letter he said: "I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival . . . it ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade . . . bonfires and illuminations [fireworks] from one end of this continent to the other, from this day forward forevermore."

With sales of fireworks expected to top \$725 million this year, according to an industry news source, this year's sales will surpass all other years. The liberalization of local and state fireworks laws — you can check your state's laws with the link in the box above — has led to the promotion of backyard fireworks, and the demand has surged in the 47 states and the District of Columbia where consumer fireworks are allowed in some form.

July 4<sup>th</sup> can be the centerpiece of summer, and the Air Force's campaign to mitigate the dangers of the [Critical Days of Summer](#) is never more important than on this weekend of family, fun and fireworks. [The U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission](#) reminds us that hands and fingers are the most injured body parts, and CPSC offers these tips to get maximum enjoyment and minimum pain from our backyard displays:

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers.
- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Parents don't realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding it to prevent a trash fire.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.

From small town parades to monumental pyrotechnic displays, the Fourth of July is more than a day to recognize our inalienable rights, now 239 years strong. It's a great day to celebrate them safely whatever we choose to do.



## ►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

**July 1, 1966** – Secretary of the Air Force Harold Brown presented the Gen. Thomas D. White Space Trophy to Lt. Col. Edward H. White II, the first astronaut to walk in space. The trophy is awarded annually to the individual or unit for outstanding contribution to the American aerospace program.

**July 2, 1943** – Lt. Charles Hall, 99th Fighter Squadron, became the first American black pilot to shoot down an Axis plane, a German Focke-Wulf 190, over Sicily.

**July 3, 1949** - The Air Force gave the B-29 Enola Gay, the plane that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, to the Smithsonian Institute.

**July 4, 1908** - Scientific American offered the first American air trophy for the first flight of one kilometer. Glenn H. Curtiss won this award at Hammondsport, New York, in the June Bug with a one-minute, 42.5-second flight at 39 MPH. A representative of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale timed and measured the event. It was the first official test of an airplane made in America.

**July 5, 1974** - The 555th Tactical Fighter Squadron moved without personnel or equipment from Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base to Luke Air Force Base to become the first F-15 Eagle squadron in the Air Force.

**July 6, 1924** – Maj. Henry H. ("Hap") Arnold set a new speed record by flying 500 miles between Rockwell Field, California, and San Francisco in four hours, 25 minutes.

**July 7, 1914** - Dr. Robert H. Goddard, "The Father of American Rocketry," received a U. S. patent for a two-stage solid-fuel rocket. It was the first of 69 patents he received for inventions.

**July 8, 1944** – Lt. Col. Clifford Heflin flew his C-47 on the first mission into France to rescue Airmen who had parachuted behind enemy lines.

## TRENDING....

Updating the DOD workforce regarding the U.S. Office of Personnel Management cybersecurity incident, OPM reiterated that affected personnel are automatically enrolled in identity theft insurance through CSID. Full details are available on the [OPM website](#). CSID, on behalf of OPM, continued email notifications to DOD employees through June 22, 2015. Employees should check their inboxes and spam filters for an official email notification which comes from [opmcio@csid.com](mailto:opmcio@csid.com) and will contain information about the incident, the protection being provided and instructions for registering for credit monitoring.

## ►CURRENT ISSUES

[OPM computer attack highlights bigger issue](#)

"What we do in the meantime is pay more attention to defense," National Intelligence Director James R. Clapper said, addressing the attack on the Office of Personnel Management's computer system.

## ►PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Personnel teams conducting enlisted evaluations, promotions town hall briefings at bases AF-wide](#)

With a goal of promoting a better understanding of the enlisted evaluation and promotion system changes, Air Force bases worldwide will host town hall briefings and question-and-answer sessions between now and the end of July.

## ►ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[Enhanced e-learning for cyber Airmen](#)

Using specific modules, chapters and videos available in the Air Force e-learning programs, goal-specific education programs can be tailored for Airmen in a way that works best for their learning style.

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

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