



July 1, 2014

*"In the truest sense, freedom cannot be bestowed;
it must be achieved."*

Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945)
American statesman and 32nd President of the United States

Commanders Call Topics publishes early this week. Get the most out of the July Fourth Holiday. Check out [the Wingman Toolkit](#).

Think safety when bringing out the fireworks 'arsenal'

As we honor our nation's birthday July 4, it has become an American tradition to celebrate with fireworks displays. Most communities cap off their fourth of July activities with huge commercial pyrotechnic shows, but many Airmen tend to add their own personal arsenal of sparklers, firecrackers and bottle-generated "rockets" to the mix.

If you are taking the party above and beyond the local community display, it's important to follow a few basic safety rules. According to the National Safety Council, in 2010 more than 15,000 fires were started by fireworks. These fires resulted in more than 8,000 firework-related injuries. At times, it seems like the holiday itself brings out the daredevil in many of us.

During one fourth of July, an Airman decided to create a fireworks display for family and friends. He set a rocket in the corner of his yard and stepped back to view his creation. Instead of firing into the air, the rocket sped toward the Airman, hitting him in the eye. After two days in the hospital, surgical repair for a lacerated right retina and ruptured globe, 90 stitches and 30 days of convalescent leave later, the Airman returned to work.

This 4th of July, follow a few easy rules and make your fireworks experience a safe one:

Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.

Avoid buying fireworks packaged in brown paper. 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.

If the community fireworks display simply doesn't satisfy your appetite for pyrotechnics, following the guidelines above will at least go a long way in getting you back to your unit in one piece.

► TRENDING ...

"When you are undermanned that means existing people have to work harder. We have directed 1,100 additional people to be inserted into the nuclear force that the Air Force is going to 100 percent manning in the eight critical nuclear specialties."—[Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James](#) on the [Force Improvement Program designed to bolster the nuclear program](#).

► 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](#)

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Libraries launch "Paws to Read" summer reading program](#)

More than a reading list, the [DOD Summer Reading Program](#) website has links and other information and activities that are geared to a variety of age groups.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[CMSAF stresses total-force unity](#)

Meeting with more than 2,000 Reserve, Guard and active-duty Airmen at Robins AFB over a two-day visit, [Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody](#) stressed the importance of unified components and the challenges facing today's Air Force.

[AF to every Airman: Tell us your story](#)

"Every Airman has a story," is the inspiration for the [2014 American Airman Video Contest](#). The contest, open as of July 1, will showcase the winner at the September Air Force Association conference in Washington, D.C.

[Pulse on AF force management](#)

A regularly updated pulse management webpage bring the latest in force management to the computer screen.

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

July 1, 1996 - An Air Force crew flew an EA-6B Prowler off the deck of the USS Constellation for the first time.

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

July 3, 1949 - The USAF 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 in the June Bug with a 1-minute, 42.5-second flight at 39 MPH. An FAI representative timed and measured the event, and it was the first official test of an airplane made in America.

July 5, 1974 - The 555 TFS moved without personnel or equipment from Udorn RTAFB to Luke AFB to become the first F-15 Eagle Squadron in the USAF.

July 6, 1951 - KOREAN WAR. A 43 AREFS aircrew flew a KB-29M in the first combat air refueling operation. It refueled four RF-80s flying reconnaissance missions over North Korea.

July 7, 1914 - Dr. Robert H. Goddard, the "father" of American rocketry, received a US 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.

July 9, 1959: The last C-45 aircraft were phased out of TAC.

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

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