

Commander's Call Topics



June 11, 2015

*"Then, in that hour of deliverance, my heart spoke.
Does not such a country and such defenders of their country,
deserve a song?"*

Francis Scott Key (1779-1843)
American lawyer, author and amateur poet
Author of "The Star Spangled Banner"

[The History of Flag Day](#)
explains
why June 14th
is called
"the birthday of Old Glory"

Flag-folding Procedure is Uniquely American and Uncommonly Symbolic

Ask anyone: When was the first time you saw a traditional flag-folding? Almost everyone can recall the ceremony when they first saw the traditional lengthwise-to-triangle ritual. Some have participated — as a scout, a member of the military, or as part of an honor guard – in folding the flag, first lengthwise (so that the union of stars in the blue field remains outward and in full view) and then corner-to-edge, starting at the striped corner to form a triangle, continuing over and over until only the blue field is showing. Others have only observed the ceremony. All remember the solemnity.

The United States is the only country that folds their flag in this manner, and the source and symbolism of the flag-folding procedure is largely unknown. However, according to the [American Legion](#), some attribute it to an Air Force chaplain stationed at the United States Air Force Academy who is said to have written of the symbolism attached to each fold:

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second symbolizes our belief in eternal life.

The third is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks.

The fourth represents our weaker nature; as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace, as well as in times of war.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country. In the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our armed forces.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor our mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood, for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the characters of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to fathers who have given their sons and daughters for the defense of our country.

The 11th fold, in the eyes of Hebrew citizens, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The 12th fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."

Whether this is fact or merely urban legend is unimportant. What is true is that the United States flag stands for who we, as Americans, are. It represents our unique democracy and the values we hold dear. Long may it wave.

► TRENDING ...

"The Air Force Medical Service provides trusted care, anywhere," said [Lt. Gen. \(Dr.\) Mark A. Ediger](#) who was [promoted to Air Force Surgeon General](#). "Trust can't be assumed; it is earned every day. I am privileged and honored to serve and I pledge my continued commitment to the health and resilience of our Airmen and their families."

► 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 Veterans 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 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, 1973 - Early Warning Space Satellites joined the aerospace surveillance system. Fourteenth Air Force operated the satellite system that augmented the ground-based, missile-launch detection sensors.

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, Oklahoma, 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 436th AW at Dover AFB flew from Andrews AFB to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on the 500th humanitarian airlift mission supporting Operation Provide Hope.

Chances are, if you're one of the 104,000-plus civilians who work for the Air Force, your personnel data was compromised in the **cybersecurity incident** at the Office of Personnel Management earlier this month. You can find the next steps [here](#).

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Leaders from 11 nations meet to discuss Arctic security](#)

The Icelandic Coast Guard hosted military leaders from across Europe and North America during the annual Arctic Security Forces Roundtable to discuss security issues within the Arctic Circle.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[Gaming research laboratory debuts new website](#)

Air Force STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) educational outreach through gaming is an investment in the future workforce and introduces young people to the Air Force, creating a pipeline for recruitment of potential scientists and engineers.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Chief EPRs to be accomplished on new Form 912](#)

A separate evaluation form for chief master sergeants in the Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard is now part of the ongoing Air Force Enlisted Evaluation System and promotion process changes.

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

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