



Stevens Creek Post 642 The Ranger Way
September 2023 Newsletter
Mailing Address: PO Box 302,
Cupertino, CA 95015



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Cupertino, CA 95015

Zoom Meeting Info for September 2023 Meeting:
Arturo Thiele-Sardina is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: American Legion Post 642 March Meeting
Time: September 11, 2023 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6756452940?pwd=SXR0eFlZYTVuVWJUK0RmNnBQS05RZz09>

Meeting ID: 675 645 2940

Passcode: 1151

Dial by your location

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 675 645 2940

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kHGiETSdb>



Source: <https://images.app.goo.gl/t54bPZ7B2fTUxaLx8>



Source: Army Ranger Full Color Embroidered Tab – Vanguard Industries (vanguardmil.com)

Commander's Corner

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

All are invited to our Post meeting which is on September 11th of this month.

Remember that we generally meet on the first Monday of the Month at 1800 for socializing and a light meal and refreshments then check out the meeting at 1900. Do give us a heads up, so that we can requisition extra rations versus our regular contingent. COME ON DOWN!

In September, we officially welcome Fall with the Autumnal Equinox which is on the 23rd. We also celebrate the youngest military service's, the US Air Force, birthday on the 18th.

On September 2nd, National V-J Day (Victory over Japan Day) recognizes Allied Forces' victory over Japan during World War II. Officials announced the surrender of Japan to the Allies on August 15, 1945. The official signing of surrender took place on September 2, 1945 aboard the USS Missouri, officially ending World War II.

In that vein, we also remember the largest attack on the US Homeland since Pearl Harbor on 911.

There are other notable dates like Gold Star Mothers' and Families Day and also POW/MIA Day.

Remember our third and final VA BBQ on September 9th. Please check with Mike O'Meara to volunteer. The 1st Vice section has the details.

I want to reiterate my suggestion for one of our Post Themes, and along with the 1st Vice on Membership Drive, I would like to divvy up the member list to the various officers as a Buddy call-up to check up on them, but also to let them know about things that we are doing and invite them to come and socialize at our monthly meetings. This also goes along with National Suicide Prevention Week and Month theme.

The Post Historian, Dennis Whitaker is hard at work on the Wreaths Across America which campaign will be starting up very soon.

I did order the Post 642 Challenge Coins with about a 4-6 week lead time along with some other membership supplies for the 1st Vice.

Please remember that if you have Post or Veterans event that you would like on the calendar to get them to Arturo or the District. Please include pertinent information like event information, contacts, address, where to meet, etc.

<https://www.americanlegionpost642.com/site/eventscalendar.php?y=2023&m=3>

If you know of deceased members during the past few months either bring their name and share with our District Chaplain, Jere Bernardoni, or send to him at Jerep.bernardoni@gmail.com.

Please enjoy the National Day and Month links and Military History below.

To Comradeship!

Vincent Guinnane, MSME, P.E.

CW4, 881A1, USAR (Retired)

vguinnane@comcast.net

Cell: +1 (408) 219-0191

Major Jock Sinclair in "Tunes of Glory":

"Whisky for the gentlemen that like it. And for the gentlemen that don't like it - Whisky."

First Vice Commander Notes

Greetings fellow Legionnaires,

We have started our new Legion year with a bang when it comes to membership renewals. As of today 27 August, our Post has 39 members who have renewed their membership for the upcoming year. This is an increase of 13 members from the previous month! We recently received our new membership goal from the Department for the year and it is 68 members. So, at this time we are sitting at 57% renewed. More importantly ten members have renewed online, which has been explained is an easy and convenient way to renew your membership. I would like to thank all of you who have renewed your membership this year! For those of you who tend to procrastinate on renewals, please try to renew your membership as soon as possible. This will enable the membership team to focus on working with other veterans to join the American Legion and with Post 1000 Legion members to join our Post in the upcoming months.

I would also like to remind our members that once again this year Post 642 will be sponsoring/hosting the Wreaths Across America Event at Gate of Heaven Cemetery on Saturday 16 December at 1000 hrs. Dennis Whittaker is our Post Chairperson for this event and you will soon be hearing from him and our Post Website will have the latest information available for members to share with their friends and family and support this effort. This year, like many things, costs for the wreaths have gone up and they now cost \$17 per wreath.

As always if you have any questions or concerns regarding membership, please contact me either by phone 408-838-0375 or by email at arturo@cadiz.com

“Duty First”

Arturo

2024 Membership Report (27 August 2023)

2024 Membership Goal: 68

Total Members: 39/57.3%

Paid Up for Life (PUFL): 16

New Members: 0

Online Renewals: 10

Renewals Pending Submittal: 0

Mail Renewals: 13

Members not yet renewed: 29

Post 1000 Transfers: 0

District Rank: XX/XX

Newly renewed Members: Richard Bessel 3 Yrs., Richard C. Smith 14 Yrs., Robert Devlin 14 Yrs., Jim Barnhart 3 Yrs., Bill Reichard 6 Yrs., Randy Jones 29 Yrs., George Dill 22 Yrs., Jerry Freitas 20 Yrs., Richard Lee 27 Yrs., Adrian Weigart 11 Yrs., Thomas Cribbs 29 Yrs., Dennis Whittaker 16 Yrs., Timothy O'Meara 10 Yrs., Fenton Hill 4 Yrs., William Tillinghast 6 Yrs.,

Upcoming events for September 2023-November 2023

- | | |
|--|--|
| 9 Sep 1000 hrs. | VA BBQ at the Palo Alto VA, 3801 Miranda Ave., Palo Alto |
| 11 Sep 1900 hrs. | Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) |
| 26 Sep 1800 hrs. | District 13 Meeting at Post 809, 1825 Mt. Pleasant Rd., San Jose |
| 2 Oct 1900 hrs. | Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) |
| 2 Nov 1900 hrs. | District 13 Meeting Post 217 74 West 6th St Gilroy, CA |
| 6 Nov 1900 hrs. | Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) |
| 11 Nov Various Times
County | Veterans Day Ceremonies at various locations in Santa Clara County |

Membership Contact Updates

With the new Legion year already upon us, now is the time to make sure that your contact information is correct so that you receive your magazine, newsletter and other important information pertaining to the American Legion. We are continually moving towards email as the main communication platform for the Post. You can find your contact information at mylegion.org If you have already registered you just need to log in, if not you can register and then log in. Changes and updates can be easily made by the individual member. If your name appears below that means we do not have a valid email address for you: You can either shoot me an email so I can update your info with your email address or give me a call at 408-838-0375 and provide me with the email address or let me know that you do not have an email address.

- Gary Burton
- Thomas Cribbs
- Herbert Duvernay
- Fenton Hill
- Richard Lee
- Patrick Montijo
- Timothy O'Meara
- MaryAnn Salvatierra
- Chris Snell
- William Tillinghast

Military Jokes

PLENTY OF TIME IN THE ARMY

During World War II, my father often found himself stuck with KP duty. One day, convinced he could improve things, he told the head cook, "If you give me a paring knife, I could peel these potatoes faster." The cook turned slowly to my father and said, "Son, you're in the Army. You have plenty of time."

WEAK STOMACH

Aboard a troop carrier crossing the Atlantic, I noticed a seasick pal of mine losing it over the railing alongside several other soldiers. "I never knew you had such a weak stomach," I said. "It's not weak," he replied. "I'm throwing up just as far as the rest of these guys."

NO INITIALS

Soon after arriving at basic training, we were marched to the base barbershop, where we were told we'd find a clipboard with our names on it. "Next to your name," the sergeant said, "initial it." Everyone seemed OK with this order except for one confused recruit. "Sergeant," he said, "what if we don't have any initials?"

MILITARY OUTFIT

As the general inspected our troops, he asked some of the Marines which outfit they were serving with. Ramrod straight, each would respond, "Marine Air Group 36, sir" or "Second Marine Division, General." Then there was one young private. When the general asked, "Which outfit are you in?" the Marine replied, "Dress blues, sir, with medals!"

ZERO SMARTS THIRTY

While in Kuwait, shortly before we deployed to Iraq, a major general told our meeting that we should expect to cross "into Iraq in less than 24 hours." He then opened the floor to questions. A lieutenant stood up and asked, "Is that 24 hours our time or 24 hours their time?"

AIR FORCE TRUISMS

"Never fly in the same cockpit with someone braver than you." "The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire." "Weather forecasts are horoscopes with numbers." "Airspeed, altitude, and brains: Two are always needed to successfully complete the flight."

HUNGOVER AT SEA

It was sheer brilliance. The ship's operations officer entered the messdeck, his eyes bleary and at half-mast. He grabbed a bagel and took a seat. Unfortunately, the sun was shining through a porthole right onto his face. Rather than move, he called the bridge: "Hey," he said, "can you shift the ship 15 degrees? Thanks."

Need A Ride?

Are you member who hasn't had a chance to attend one of our meetings or activities because you have difficulties driving at night, or no longer are able to drive? If so please feel free to contact the 1st Vice Commander (arturo@cadiz.com) or at 408-838-0375 and let him know. We will arrange to have someone pick you up and drop you off at home. We currently have several members who use this service and will be more than happy to assist others in being able to attend our meetings and activities. It's a great opportunity to get out of the house especially if you are not able to on your own, and meet fellow Legion members and attend our meeting.

Post 642 Monthly Meeting Schedule for 2023-24 Year

Here are the meeting dates for the current American Legion Year, please update your calendars. You can also find these dates on the [Post Website Calendar](#)

10 July 2023

7 August 2023

11 September 2023

2 October 2023

6 November 2023

4 December 2023

8 January 2024

5 February 2024

4 March 2024

1 April 2024

6 May 2024

3 June 2024

COME JOIN US FOR OUR CHRISTMAS DINNER

The 202 Post 642 Holiday dinner is scheduled for Thursday, December 7th at the Blue Pheasant in Cupertino. No Host bar/fellowship at 6.15 pm. Dinner served at 7:00. See the flyer in this newsletter for the menu choices and reservation information. Last day to register is Friday, November 27th.

COME JOIN US for OUR CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sign up for our annual Holiday dinner on;
Thursday, December 7, 2023
at the Blue Pheasant. 22100 Stevens Creek Blvd. in Cupertino.

No Host Bar/Fellowship 6:15 to 7:00, Dinner served at 7:00 All dinners include mixed green, garden fresh salad, potato or rice (depending on the menu item), fresh vegetables, French bread, coffee, tea and house made desert.

Menu items are:

- Pasta Primavera (for vegetarians) _____
- Broiled Salmon _____
- Breast of Chicken Jerusalem _____
- Prime Rib of Beef _____

For reservations, call Mike O'Meara at (408) 691-8277 or send your request to Mike at 10171 Lockwood Dr.

Cupertino CA 95014 or email @momeara47@yahoo.com and tell him how many and what menu choice.

The cost this year will remain \$20 per person.

The Deadline to sign up is November 27, 2023

Please PRINT

Name: _____
Menu Choices _____
Number of Guest _____

Service Officer Cathy Schiavone

VA/DoD Health Affairs

VA & TRICARE Information

TRICARE is the Department of Defense (DoD) health care program for uniformed service members, retirees & their families.

<https://tricare.mil/>

Does VA participate in the TRICARE Network?

- Yes, since 1995, all VA health care facilities have participated as TRICARE Network Providers.
- VA can provide care for Active-Duty Service Members, military retirees, & family members under their TRICARE benefit - on a space available basis.
- Each VA health care facility can serve as primary care manager for TRICARE beneficiaries, but more often TRICARE referrals are used for specialty care.

What VA requirements are there to be TRICARE Providers?

- Care can only be made available to TRICARE beneficiaries on a space available basis.
- No service provided under the agreement will adversely affect the range of services, quality of care, or the established priorities for care provided to the primary/core (Veteran) beneficiaries of VHA.
- VHA USH has certified to VA Sec that caring for TRICARE beneficiaries will not result in denial/delay in providing access to care for any Veteran at that facility.

For TRICARE Information and Assistance

TRICARE eligibility is determined by the military services.

If eligibility questions arise or more information is needed regarding TRICARE eligibility, contact:

- Defense Manpower Data Center:
<https://dwp.dmdc.osd.mil/dwp/app/main>
- Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS): 1-800-538-9552
- TRICARE East Region: Humana Military 1-800-444-5445
<https://www.humanamilitary.com>
- TRICARE West Region: Health Net Federal Services 1-844-866-9378
<https://tricare-west.com>

Meals Roster 2023

September 11th: George Midwin (availability?)

October 2nd, Gordon Hall

November 6th: David Han

December 4th: Dan Weishaar (availability?)

January 8th: Mike O'Meara

February 5th: Bill Reichard

March 4th: Bob Devlin

April 1st: Kenneth Klinkowski

May 6th: Jim Barnhart

June 3rd: Vince Guinnane

Adjutant's Advice

Below is a request for veterans to tell their stories to be recorded for future generations. Please participate if you are able.

Hello,

I am following up on behalf of my colleague Lizzie McCarthy, who spoke to you last week regarding the Veterans History Project we are working on. As Lizzie may have mentioned, we would love to do a brief interview with service members so that we can learn from their lived experiences. Please share the invitation below and help us get the word out.

Our target is to interview two hundred Veterans by this summer. We have completed twenty incredible interviews so far and would love your support in helping to get the word out so we can reach our target. Please forward this email to the service members.

Some Details:

- Interview duration: 30-45 min
- Interview can be remote or in person.
- In appreciation of the time, we will provide an amazon gift card.

To set up a time for the interview, please send an email to team@spikeview.com or call/text 510-209-7615.

Please include:

- Date/Time you are available for the interview.
- Email/Phone number where we can contact you.

With much gratitude,
Spikeview Team

Inviting all Veterans!



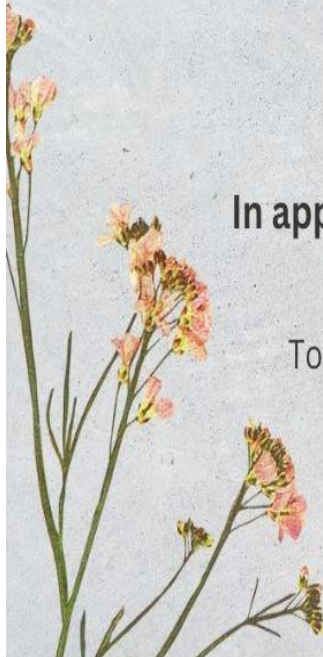
Do you want to help immortalize history and tell your story?

We would love to do a brief interview with you to catalog your lived experiences and submit them to the library of congress for future generations to view and learn from, leverage your collective stories to spark policy discussion, and explore how to get you connected to helpful resources.



In appreciation of your support, we would love to gift you an amazon gift card

To interview with us, please send an email to team@spikeview.com



American Legion Post 642 August 7, 2023 meeting minutes

Attendance:

Gordon Hall, Vince Guinnane, Bill Reichard, Arturo, Wally, Manny, Michael O'Meara, Jim Barnhart, Wally????

Opening the meeting: Vince, Commander

Prayer by Bill

Pledge of Allegiance

POW empty Chair Ceremony

Preamble to the Legion Constitution

Adjutant Roll Call:

Commander- Vince, 1st Vice- Arturo, 2nd Vice-Gordon, 3rd Vice-, Finance-Mike, Chaplain-Bill, Service Officer- Cathy, Judge Advocate- Bob, Adjutant- Absent, Sergeant at Arms- Bill Reichard, Historian-Absent.

Guests:

None.

Induction of Officers:

By Wally

Reading of the Minutes:

Motion: Accepting minutes as written.

Moved: Mike Seconded: Arturo

Discussion: None

Approval: Unanimous

Officer Reports Updates:

Finance Officer's Report: Mike

Summary: None.

Motion: To approve the finance report subject to audit.

Moved: ????, Seconded: Gordon

Discussion: None

Unanimous Approval

First Vice Commander: Arturo

Summary: 3rd best out of District. Area 2 is last place. Did better on renewals this year.

Currently at 26 members. Already over 50%. Recommend renewing online. Mailing will go out soon to members to spread the word on joining the Legion.

Discussion: None.

Second Vice Commander's Report: Gordon

Summary: Delegates will attend our dinner. He is willing to continue his role with leading the Boys State. Not necessarily as the Second Vice. Recruiting starts around December.

Discussion: None.

Adjutant's Report: Absent

Summary: None.

Chaplain Report: Bill

Summary: Arden was a PUFL.

Post Service Officer: Cathy

Summary: Congress has passed the PACT Act to help servicemembers deal with their trauma from Agent Orange, radiation, burn pits, toxic chemicals, etc. There is a deadline of 8/9/2023 for immediate payments. But there can still be help if we try at the VSO. Don't give up. More claims are being processed more easily now.

Commander: Vince

Summary: Shared letter from Fisher House thanking us for our donation.

Committee Reports:

Wreaths Across America: Arturo

Summary: Getting ready to get some flyers and news for 2023 this year.

Discussion: NA

VA BBQ: Mike

Summary: September 9 is the next two BBQ?

Sick Call Relief: Dennis and Penny are dealing with some health issues.

Unfinished business: Commander will place an order for challenge coins soon. Patches may also be ordered.

Initiation of new members: None.

New Business: Two BBQs, District Meeting is coming up, District Installation is coming up.

District Meeting Updates: None.

Memorial to Departed Post member: Arden Stenstrom

Good of the legion:

Raffle- Winner was Jim.

Chaplain: Bill

POW/MIA chair ceremony

Benediction and Closing

National Days and Months:

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH – September

Save A Veteran's Life with VA S.A.V.E Training

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mg58hLXacUY&pp=ygUVdmEgc3VpY2lkZSBwcmV2ZW50aW9u>

National Preparedness Month National Preparedness Month **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q61C_yo0Vs&pp=ygUfdmEgbmF0aW9uYWwgcHJlcGFyZWRIbmVzcyBtb250aA%3D%3D**

PROSTATE HEALTH MONTH – September

<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/ss20170530-prostate-cancer-screening-diagnosis-treatment-options>

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK – Week of September 10

Veteran Suicide Prevention for Community Providers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QGe9C3DjnQ&pp=ygUVdmEgc3VpY2lkZSBwcmV2ZW50aW9u>

Dial 988 then Press 1, chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text 838255.

National V-j Day September 02

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-v-j-day/>

Patriot Day And National Day Of Service And Remembrance September 11

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/patriot-day-and-national-day-of-service-and-remembrance-september-11/>

Uncle Sam Day September 13

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/uncle-sam-day-september-13/>

National Pow/mia Recognition Day September 15
<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-powmia-recognition-day-third-friday-in-september/>
Constitution Day And Citizenship Day September 17
<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/constitution-day-and-citizenship-day-september-17/>

Air Force Birthday September 18
<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/air-force-birthday-september-18/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elH0_rwlDA8&pp=ygUXYWlyIGZvcmlIDc1dGggYmlydGhkYXk%3D

National Voter Registration Day September 19
<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-voter-registration-day-changes-annually/>
Autumnal Equinox September 23
<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/autumnal-equinox-changes-annually/>

Gold Star Mother's And Family Day September 24
<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/gold-star-mothers-day-last-sunday-in-september/>

National Vfw Day September 29
<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/vfw-day-september-29/>

Military History Notes:

Sep. 1

1942: 357 men and five officers of the 6th Naval Construction Battalion arrive in Guadalcanal - the first combat deployment of the legendary "Seabees."

1952: While airmen enjoyed the Labor Day holiday, a tornado hits Carswell Air Force Base, destroying two-thirds of the Air Force's B-36 bomber fleet.

1974: A SR-71 "Blackbird" flown by Air Force Maj. James V. Sullivan streaks from New York to London in 1 hour and 55 minutes, setting a record that still stands today. Despite having to slow down to take on fuel from a specially modified KC-135 tanker, the reconnaissance plane still averages a blistering Mach 2.27.

Sep. 2

1944: An Avenger torpedo bomber - flown Lt. (junior grade) George H.W. Bush - is shot down by intense anti-aircraft fire after the planes attack Japanese positions on the island of Chichijima. The future president is the only crewmember of his stricken plane to survive, and is picked up by the submarine US S *Finback* after spending four hours floating in a liferaft.

1945: Japan surrenders to the United States on the deck of the battleship USS *Missouri*, anchored in Tokyo Bay.

1958: An Air Force C-130 takes off from Incirlik Air Base in Turkey for a signals intelligence-gathering mission along the border with Soviet Armenia. The crew inadvertently stray off course and are intercepted by four MiG-17 fighters, which take turns shooting the unarmed reconnaissance plane. The C-130 crashes, killing all 17 aboard. When confronted, the Soviet Union says they found a wrecked plane and repatriates the remains of the plane's six crewmembers, but says

nothing of the 11 Security Service airmen that were also aboard.

Sep. 4

1967: When two companies of Marines are ambushed in the Que Son Valley south of the de-militarized zone, the 1st Marine Division sweeps in to clear the area of hostiles. During the battle, Navy chaplain Lt. Vincent R. Capodanno leaves the command post to administer last rites to dying Marines and to aid the corpsmen. Although wounded himself, he refuses treatment and returns to his work. Capodanno is killed by machinegun fire as soon as he finishes dragging a wounded comrade to safety. Meanwhile, Sgt. Lawrence D. Peters ignores hostile fire raining down on his exposed position to pinpoint enemy locations and lead his Marines during the fierce battle. Both Capodanno and Peters are posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Sep. 5

1944: While escorting a bombing mission to Stuttgart, Lt. William H. Lewis shoots down five Heinkel He-111 bombers taking off from Goppingen, Germany, becoming an ace in one mission. His flight of P-51 Mustangs would shoot down 16 bombers during the attack.

Sep. 7

1997: Lockheed Martin's F-22 Raptor, a fifth-generation stealth fighter billed as unmatched by "any known or projected fighter aircraft," makes its first flight. Only 187 of the \$150 million Raptors are built before production ends.

2001: Four days before the 9/11 attacks, the State Department issues a warning to U.S. citizens worldwide of a possible "terrorist threat" from "extremist groups with links to Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda organization."

Sep. 9

1972: DeBellevue becomes an ace by shooting down two enemy fighters near Hanoi.

Sep. 10

1951: A 3rd Air Rescue Squadron H-5 helicopter picks up Capt. Ward M. Millar, an F-80 pilot that had been shot down and held as a prisoner of war. Millar escaped after spending two months in captivity, and managed to evade his captors for three weeks, despite having broken both of his ankles when ejecting from his jet.

Sep. 11

2001: As air controllers learn that several planes appear to have been hijacked, fighter jets are scrambled but do not arrive in time to disrupt a complex terrorist attack that kills 2,997 Americans and injures some 6,000. At 9:37a.m., a Boeing 757 flown by Al Qaeda terrorists slams into the Pentagon, killing 55 military personnel and 70 civilian employees. The area hit by the plane was undergoing renovations at the time of the attack, which meant only a few hundred of what would normally be around 5,000 occupants were endangered. Structural reinforcements and a sprinkler system had recently been added - in response to the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing – which increased survivability. Although it is too late for the Pentagon, all U.S. military facilities worldwide are ordered to enter Force Protection Condition "Delta" - the highest level of readiness for a possible terrorist attack. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld increases the military alert level from DEFCON 5 (the lowest state of military preparedness) to DEFCON 3. Although the Russians would typically match the increase, President Vladimir Putin notifies George W. Bush that he would order his forces to stand down and denounces the terrorist attack. A report of a possible truck bomb attack targeting the North American Aerospace – Command (NORAD) headquarters in the Cheyenne Mountain Complex leads

to the first time the facility closes its massive blast doors, which are designed to withstand a nuclear attack. NORAD now controls of all American air space as combat air patrols guarded the skies and enforced a nationwide no-fly-zone.

Sep. 17

1908: 2,500 people gather at Fort Myer, Va. to watch Orville Wright demonstrate his Wright Flyer to the Army Signal Corps. One of the propellers breaks during the flight, sending the aircraft nose-first into the ground, severely wounding Wright and killing his passenger, Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge. Although Wright survived the first-ever fatal aircraft incident, he would spend the next seven weeks recovering in an Army hospital

1947: The National Security Act of 1947 enacts sweeping reorganization of the Armed Forces and intelligence service structure. After 40 years of service as a component of the Army, the newly formed Air Force stands up as an independent branch of the military. The act creates a National Military Establishment - renamed the Department of Defense in 1949 - with the Army, Navy, and Air Force now under a unified command. Also established is the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which provides military advice to the president and the new Cabinet position of Secretary of Defense. The act also establishes the Central Intelligence Agency - America's first peacetime intelligence service - and the National Security Council, which advises the president on matters of national security and foreign policy.

1948: The first delta-winged aircraft prototype - Convair's XF-92 – conducts its maiden flight. The cutting-edge design will pave the way for forthcoming platforms such as the F-102 Delta Dagger, F-106 Delta Dart, and the B-58 Hustler.