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Director

Protocol & International Affairs Division
Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)

22nd Annual International Protocol Education Forum

The 22nd Annual International Protocol Education Forum was held in Washington D.C. from July 24 – 27, 2023. The Forum was organized by Protocol & Diplomacy International – Protocol Officers Association (PDI-POA). The educational forum was attended by 184 participants representing 16 countries.

The Annual Education Forum is an investment in the professional development of protocol officers and their future in the world of protocol diplomacy. The procession or parade of nations on the opening day were exciting as members carried their full national flags to the stage, followed by the welcome remarks from PDI-POA President, Catherine Wilson.

The next day featured the plenary session entitled - *Chiefs of Protocol Fireside Chat*, with remarks from Ambassador Rufus Gifford, Chief of Protocol of the United States and Steward Wheeler, Chief of Protocol of Canada. Participants also observed a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Arlington National Cemetery to learn first-hand how Wreath Laying is woven into diplomatic visits. The tour of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Network Lunch at Blair House provided an appreciation and deep understanding of the performing arts and global diplomacy.

Below were some of the high level Educational Masterclasses offered during the Forum:

- * Forms of Address: Addressing 'Honorable' Officials Around the World - Mr. Robert Hickey
- * Royal State Banquets - Mr. Bengt-Arne Hulleman.
- * Precedence & Seating in the International Arena - Ms. Maryse Mele.
- * The Advance Team: How to Brief a Principal - Mr. David Solomon.
- * Hosting Heads of State in California's Silicon Valley - Ms. Lanie Denslow, Ms. Brenda Tierney, Ms. Deanna Tryon.
- * A Case-Study of a National Hybrid Event with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy Live-Streamed from the War Zone in Ukraine - Ms. Sherine Daryanani & Ms. Bryn MacPherson
- * Protocol Gifting: a Master Class - Mr. Keith Lipert & Ms. Pamela Eyring.
- * Security at Major Events - Representative from U.S. Secret Service.

The mission of PDI-POA is to provide the highest level of collective expertise and training, information, and advice regarding international and national accepted rules of protocol. The organization is committed to facilitating communication, understanding, and cooperation between individuals, governments, and cultures.



L-R: U. Desmond Alufohai; Kim M. Starfield, Senior Protocol Officer, Office of the Chief of Protocol, U.S. Department of State; Catherine Wilson, President of PDI-POA; and Ambassador Rufus Gifford, Chief of Protocol of the United States.

The Month of July is the beginning of the second half of the year. The Month of August, named after the Roman Emperor Augustus, marks the end of Summer in the Northern Hemisphere. It also marks the beginning of Winter in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Protocol Division hosted its Annual Consular Corps of Miami Airport Operations Seminar on July 13, 2023. The luncheon event was sponsored by Baptist Health South Florida.

I joined my Protocol cohorts in Washington D.C. to participate in the 22nd Annual International Protocol Education Forum in organized by PDI-POA from July 24 - 27, 2023.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome to our community, Ms. Maria Josefa Coronel I, Ecuador's new Consul General in Miami, Mr. Christofer Burger, Germany's new Consul General in Miami, Mr. Ahmad Shanizam Ab Ghani, Director & Trade Commissioner for Malaysia Trade (MATRADE) Office in Miami and Mr. Philippe Furstenberg, Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the Diplomatic Security Service's Miami Field Office region.

Please stay hydrated and cool as we continue to witness unprecedented, life-threatening, catastrophic, and excessive heat conditions all over the U.S.,

As always, please be safe!

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CONSULAR CORPS OF MIAMI AIRPORT SEMINAR

2023 Annual Consular Corps of Miami - Airport Operations Seminar

The Annual Consular Corps of Miami - Airport Operations Seminar, organized by the Protocol and International Affairs Division, Miami-Dade Aviation Department was held on July 13, 2023 at Miami International Airport (MIA) Auditorium, Concourse D. The purpose of the seminar was to familiarize members of the international diplomatic community in South Florida with operations at MIA. The event also provided networking opportunities with local, state, federal agencies at the MIA.



Keynote Speakers: Ralph Cutié, Director & CEO, Miami-Dade Aviation Department; Francesca de Quesada Covey, Chief, Innovation and Economic Development Officer, Office of Miami-Dade County Mayor; Nabil J. Achkar, Secretary, Consular Corps of Miami, Florida, and Joseph T. McGinn, Jr., MD., Thoracic Surgeon and the Chief of Cardiac Surgery at Baptist Health Miami Cardiac & Vascular Institute.



Panel #1: Overview of Miami-Dade Aviation Department's Operations at MIA & Local Partners:

Speakers (L-R): Mark O. Hatfield, Assistant Aviation Director, Public Safety & Security, MDAD; Emir Pineda, Director, Marketing & Air Service Development, Marketing Division, MDAD; Casandra Jones, Deputy Director, Miami-Dade Corrections & Rehabilitation Department; and David Whitaker, President & CEO, Greater Miami Convention & Visitor's Bureau.



Panel #2: State, Federal Agencies, Partners & Stakeholders

(L-R): Moderator - Shannon H. Eisenhut, Regional Director, Office of Foreign Missions, U.S. Department of State; Panelists - Sara Dunlap, Assistant Port Director, Passenger, U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP), MIA Field Office; Tim Lewis, Deputy Federal Security Director, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Miami International Airport; Zoe Zelaya, Quarantine Public Health Officer, Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), Miami Quarantine Station; and Sandy Shaughnessy, Director, Florida Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture.

CONSULAR CORPS OF MIAMI AIRPORT SEMINAR

2023 Annual Consular Corps of Miami - Airport Operations Seminar, contd.



Above: Seminar attendees.

Below: Members of the Consular Corps of Miami participating in the tour of the Federal Inspection Services (FIS) Facility, organized by the CBP.



DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS

Meet the New Consul General of Ecuador in Miami



Ms. María Josefa Coronel I is the new Consul General of Ecuador in Miami, Florida. Consul General Coronel has an impressive professional career and experience listed below.

- ◆ Legal Assistant under the leadership of Dr. Jacinto Loaiza Mateus and Alfonso Trujillo Bustamante, former Superintendent of Banks, Guayaquil, Liquidation Discount Bank.
- ◆ Legal Adviser to the Board of Directors, Guayaquil, Aztra, Azucarera Tropical Americana, S. A.
- ◆ Head of the Legal Department, Guayaquil, Comoditi Corp. Financiera S.A. – Cofiec S.A. -
- ◆ Property Registry of Guayaquil Legal Advisor and Alternate Registrar, Guayaquil
- ◆ Regional Director in Guayaquil and Director of the CLD Mediation Center, Latin American Corporation for Development (CLD).

Consul General Coronel served at the National Program to Support the Reform of the Justice Administration of Ecuador, Projusticia Coordination Unit. She was also a World Bank consultant for the application of alternative methods of conflict resolution in judicial proceedings in Projusticia, Quito, Ecuador.

She was the Founder and Director of the Mediation Center Attached to the Judicial function in Guayaquil. She served as technical adviser on Judicial Reform of the Presidency of the Supreme Court of Ecuador and the National Support Program for the Reform of the Administration of Justice of Ecuador, Projusticia, Guayaquil.

Corporación Proderechos Ciudadanos (Citizen Rights Corporation)

Legal advisor on litigation in actual or potential conflicts against the State and its institutions, and that effectively or potentially affect their constitutional and/or legal rights, as well as those arising from International Treaties or Agreements. Her star case is the one known as Victora Salcedo and Juan Pablo Andrade, Guayaquil.

Consulting, advising and professional sponsorship to private companies and persons in contractual matters, criminal proceedings, and constitutional actions in the free exercise of the profession during the last twenty-five years, Guayaquil.

Tele Amazonas

News presenter, debate programs on current issues on the “linea de Fuego” program.

Content Director and political interviewer on “Los Desayunos de 24 Horas” program, Guayaquil.

Executive Director of the Guayaquil Civil Registry Corporation (April 2006 to September 2007).

Regional Manager of Teleamazonas Guayaquil S.A. (October 2007 to June 2017).

Director of the Judicial Council of Guayas, (September 2021 to January 2023).

Consul General Coronel obtained her bachelor’s degree in Social & Political Sciences from Santiago de Guayaquil Catholic University (1986).

Human Rights Specialist awarded by the University of Guayaquil.

Higher and International Diploma in Economic Development and Conflict Management from the Universidad Santa, Maria Campus, Guayaquil, and a Master’s in administrative law, Catholic University of Santiago de Guayaquil.

Technical Certifications and Continuing Education:

Higher Diploma in European Studies and European Union/Latin America and Caribbean Relations, Miguel de Cervantes. University and Latin American Institute of International Studies, Santiago de Chile. (2004).

Training in Arbitration, Mediation, and Trainer - Alternative Conflict Resolution (1999).

Basic Courses of Mediation and Negotiation at the Latin American Corporation for Development (CLD), in the City of Guayaquil.

She is married to Gino Marchelle Guim, and they have two children.

DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS

Meet the New Consul General of Federal Republic of Germany in Miami



Christofer Burger is the new Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami. Below are his credentials:

Education - M. A. in Islamic Studies and Economics, Freie University of Berlin (2004).

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic.

2004 Joined the Federal Foreign Office.

2004 - 2007 Desk Officer for Iraq, Political Department, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin.

2007 - 2008 Diplomatic Academy, Berlin.

2008 - 2011 Deputy Head of Mission, German Embassy Managua, Nicaragua.

2011 - 2013 Desk Officer, Protocol Department, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin.

2013 - 2014 Desk Officer for Lebanon and Syria, Political Department, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin.

2014 - 2016 Desk Officer for the Middle East, Press Department, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin.

2016 - 2017 Deputy Consul General, German Consulate General Erbil, Iraq.

2017 - 2018 Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC.

2018 -2021 Deputy Spokesperson of the Federal Foreign Office.

2021 – 2023 Spokesperson of the Federal Foreign Office since August 2023 Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Meet the New Director & Trade Commissioner for Malaysia Trade Office in Miami



Mr. Ahmad Shanizam Ab Ghani assumed the post of the Director & Trade Commissioner for Malaysia Trade (MATRADE) Office in Miami, Florida on July 3, 2023. Director Ab Ghani has more than 20 years of experience of assisting companies in expanding their operations and successfully venturing into international markets. Prior to his current role as a trade commissioner, he served in key positions in Vietnam and Canada. As a trade commissioner in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, he worked closely with local businesses and foreign investors, promoting economic cooperation, and providing valuable guidance on export strategies. During his tenure, he facilitated numerous successful business partnerships and helped Malaysian companies expand their reach into Vietnam, Cambodia, and Lao PDR market.

Following his stint in Vietnam, he was assigned to Toronto, Canada, where he continued to excel as a trade commissioner. His understanding of the Canadian market and ability to bridge cultural gaps proved invaluable in helping Malaysian companies tap into Canadian market. As a trade commissioner/director in Miami, USA, he will continue to leverage his expertise to foster international trade relationships. His role involves providing comprehensive support to local, Caribbean and LATAM companies seeking to import products and services from Malaysia. He will also assist businesses in navigating complex regulatory frameworks, understanding market dynamics, and connecting with potential Malaysian exporters.

Mr. Ab Ghani obtained a bachelor's degree in business administration. His passion for promoting global trade and supporting companies in their export endeavors has been the driving force behind his career as a trade commissioner. With his extensive experience and deep knowledge of international markets, he is committed to fostering economic growth and facilitating mutually beneficial trade relationships.

ABOUT MATRADE MIAMI: MATRADE Miami or Malaysia Trade Center Miami is a Malaysia government agency under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Malaysia. Established in 2006, the trade office is responsible for promoting Malaysia's exports of products and services in Florida, Georgia, Colombia, Venezuela, and the Caribbean countries. MATRADE offices abroad have key roles and responsibilities in promoting Malaysia's exports and supporting Malaysian companies in expanding internationally. They conduct market research, provide market intelligence, and analyze trends to assist Malaysian businesses in understanding international markets. They organize trade promotions, exhibitions, and business matching events to showcase Malaysian products, facilitate networking, and connect companies with potential partners.

MATRADE offices also facilitate trade and investment missions, offering guidance and support for companies exploring new markets. They provide trade facilitation services, assist with regulatory compliance, and offer post-export support. Additionally, they engage in advocacy efforts, working with local authorities and industry associations to address trade barriers and improve the business environment. Overall, MATRADE offices play a vital role in promoting Malaysian exports, facilitating trade relationships, and supporting the growth of Malaysian businesses in international markets.

More information: www.matrade.gov.my / <https://www.matrade.gov.my/en/component/mymaplocations/miami>

DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS

Meet the New Special Agent in Charge of Diplomatic Security Service, Miami Field Office Region



Philippe Furstenberg currently serves as the Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the Diplomatic Security Service's Miami Field Office region, which includes offices in Miami, Orlando, San Juan, Atlanta, New Orleans, and Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Prior to arriving as SAC, Philippe served as the DSS Deputy Assistant Director in charge of Intelligence and Threat Analysis. Philippe joined the State Department's Diplomatic Security Service in 1999 and over the course of his 24 years, has served overseas as a Regional Security Officer in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Asuncion, Paraguay, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Mexico City, and as the Director of the International Law Enforcement Academy in San Salvador, El Salvador. Domestically, Philippe has served in the Boston Field Office, DS' Criminal Fraud investigations Branch, on the FBI's Joint

Terrorism Task Force in Minneapolis, as Chief of Overseas Criminal Investigations (ARSO-I program), and with DS' International Programs and Training Directorates.

Over the course of his career with the Department, Philippe has been awarded four Superior Honor awards, three Meritorious Honor awards and three Meritorious Step Increases; he served as a State Department Powell Fellow and on the DS Assistant Secretary's Advisory Council.

Mr. Furstenberg graduated Magna Cum Laude from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. He also received a JD from Georgetown University Law Center and is an active member of the District of Columbia bar.

UNITAR's 60th Anniversary



[The United Nations Institute for Training and Research](#) (UNITAR) was established in 1963 to train and equip young diplomats from newly independent UN Member States with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate through the diplomatic environment. UNITAR provides innovative learning solutions to individuals, organizations, and institutions to enhance global decision-making and support country-level action for shaping a better future.

Over the years, UNITAR has acquired unique expertise and experience in designing and delivering a variety of training activities. We have become a leading institute in the provision

of customized and creative learning solutions to institutions and individuals from both public and private sectors. With a strategy fully focused on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UNITAR supports Governments to implement the 2030 Agenda.

It launched a new four-year strategic framework, covering 2018-2021, which is aligned with the 2030 Agenda and uses the Sustainable Development Goals as the guiding principle for our work with the strategic objectives organized around four out of five thematic pillars of the 2030 Agenda (Peace, People, Planet and Prosperity). In addition to the four thematic pillars, the cross-cutting nature of our work on strengthening multilateral diplomacy, promoting the 2030 Agenda, and delivering applied research solutions through technology and data (UNOSAT) contributes to delivering our products and services in all pillars.

UNITAR provides training and capacity development activities to assist mainly developing countries with special attention to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and other groups and communities who are most vulnerable, including those in conflict situations.

In 2020, UNITAR delivered close to 900 learning and related activities, including training, learning and knowledge sharing events, benefiting more than 300,000 participants – about 79% of whom were from developing countries including Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Fifty-nine per cent of the Institute's activities are delivered face-to-face, whilst thirty-eight per cent are delivered via UNITAR's e-Learning platform. Seventy-eight per cent of UNITAR's face-to-face activities take place at the country level, whilst some are conducted from UNITAR's Headquarters in Geneva, as well as through its Offices in New York and Hiroshima.

UNITAR is governed by a Board of Trustees and is headed by an Executive Director. [Click here to learn more about UNITAR's Cord Diplomatic Training, courses, and events.](#)

NATIONAL AVIATION DAY



Saturday, August 19th was the commemoration of National Aviation Day, and the first day of the National Aviation Week – August 19-25, 2023, in the United States. [The National Aviation Day](#) is a United States national observation that celebrates the development of aviation.

The holiday was established in 1939 by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who issued a presidential proclamation which designated the anniversary of Orville Wright's birthday to be National Aviation Day (Mr. Wright, born in 1871, was still alive when the proclamation was first issued, and would live another nine years). The proclamation was codified (USC 36:I:A:1:118), and it allows the sitting US President to proclaim August 19 as National Aviation Day each year, if desired. Their proclamation may direct all federal buildings and installations to fly the US Flag that day and may encourage citizens to observe the day with activities that promote interest in aviation.

This day was created on the anniversary of Orville Wright's birthday because of his significant contributions to aviation. Orville and Wilbur Wright made the first controlled airplane flight which lasted 12 seconds and went about 120 feet on December 17, 1903. They are credited with being the first to have a fixed winged controlled flight that eventually paved the way for the aviation industry to make huge advancements in flight.

The creation of aviation has led to globalization and has given us the ability to travel across the world! An interesting way to celebrate National Aviation Week is to visit an aviation museum to view some unique models of airplanes and aviation devices.

[The 5 top aviation museums in the United States](#) are ranked as following:

The closest to us here in Florida is **Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex**. You'll be able to learn about space exploration, experience a shuttle launch simulator, and visit the US Astronaut Hall of Fame.

Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in our nation's capital. While there you can learn about the history of both aviation and spaceflight. The Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, although located in Virginia, is a part of the National Air and Space Museum. Because the museum in Washington DC was packed to the brim, additional air and spacecraft can be seen there, including the space shuttle Discovery.

Pima Air and Space Museum. Located in Tucson, Arizona, the Pima Air and Space Museum sits on 80 acres of desert land. Although there are six hangars full of an incredible collection of airplanes, Pima's big claim to fame is the "aircraft boneyard." The dry desert air helps to preserve the thousands of aircraft that are housed there.

National Museum of the United States Air Force. Housed on the present-day Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, the National Museum of the United States Air Force is the largest museum of the USAF. There are over 360 aircraft exhibits chronicling the history of the third largest military branch.

USS Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum. This historic aircraft carrier is moored in the heart of Manhattan. Although it was decommissioned in 1974, the USS Intrepid still carries aircraft- and even spacecraft. Both the deck and interior of the aircraft carrier house a myriad of exhibits- including interactive displays.

Aviation Stats: By the Numbers

- * According to the [United States Bureau of Statistics](#), U.S. Airlines carried 853 million passengers in 2022, 8 percent down from the all-time annual high of 928 million in 2019. Domestic enplanements were 751 million and international enplanements were 102 million.
- * There are [5211 public airports and 14,850 private airports](#) in the U.S.
- * [Top 5 states with the most Airports in the U.S.:](#) Texas (1494), Alaska (573), Florida (489), California (485), and Illinois (431).
- * [Airlines for America](#) (A4A) reported in its annual 2023 "Air Travelers in America" survey that in 2022, 44 percent of Americans flew commercially, and almost 90 percent had taken a commercial flight. Comparatively, in 1977, just 25 percent of Americans had taken a flight that year and only 63 percent had flown in their lifetime.
- * [The Federal Aviation Administration \(FAA\) Air Traffic Organization \(ATO\)](#) provides service to more than 2.9 million airline passengers across more than 29 million square miles of air space. The FAA handles more than 16 million flights annually, with 520 airport traffic control towers, 45,000 average daily flights, 10 million-plus scheduled passenger flights, and 5400 aircrafts in the sky at peak operational times.

BRIEFS & NOTES

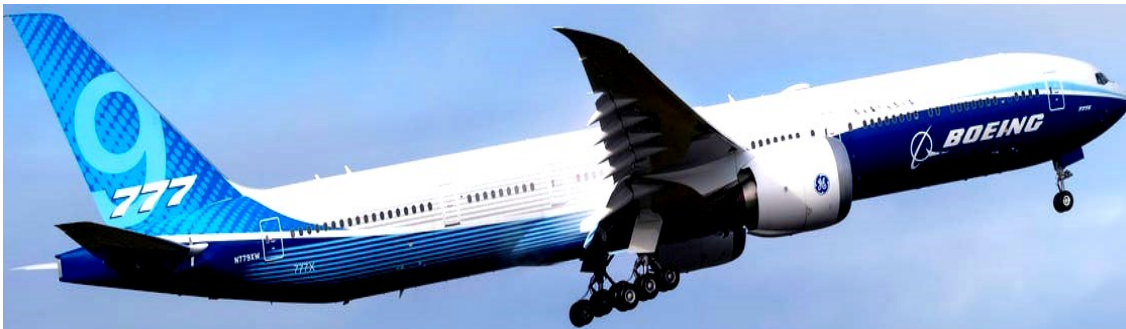
Interesting Facts about Airplanes and Airlines

Next-Generation Aircrafts (NGA) are incorporating new technologies and systems required to transform commercial air travel and transport as part of a broader transformation of the National Airspace System (NAS). Airlines and aircraft manufacturers are coming up with new models, plus new features on existing ones that might make fliers feel good, and excited about boarding a plane. NGA's such as Boeing 777X, AirBus A321XLR would have a slew of passenger-pleasing features, among them, a wider cabin, dimmable windows, and [super-sized overhead bins](#), which will all be welcome, as the plane can fly with a full payload farther than their earlier versions such as the 747 and A380.

Interesting Facts about Airplanes and Airlines

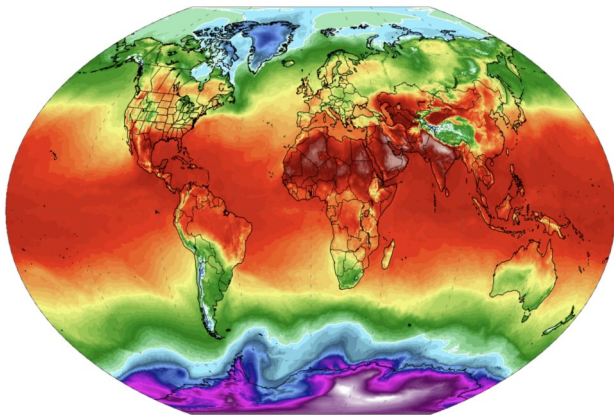
Did you know that between 33% and 40% of all people experience some form of anxiety when it comes to flying?

- ◆ Astonishingly, due to fatigue and improper rest, between 43% and 54% of pilots surveyed in Sweden, [Norway](#) and the U.K. admitted having fallen asleep while flying a passenger jet. And furthermore, you may be amazed to know that one-third of these pilots found their co-pilots also sleeping when they woke up. This fact signifies the importance of rest, as well as good physical and mental health for the aviation crew.
- ◆ All international airline pilots speak English, which is a prerequisite.
- ◆ Most commercial pilots are paid for the number of hours they fly and not monthly.
- ◆ The place near the tail of an airplane is the safest to be in the event of a crash.
- ◆ Do not be surprised to learn that mercury can tear apart aluminum at the point of its contact with metal. This is why it is not a good thing to bring mercury aboard an airplane. Even if you try, you will not be allowed to do so.
- ◆ Although autopilot can be used during takeoffs and landings, it is not generally used. It takes control of the airplane most of the time except in cases of turbulence, take-offs, and landings. The autopilot function helps achieve the best fuel efficiency.
- ◆ The world's largest runway is in China at the 'Qamba Bamba' Airport. It is 5.5. Kilometers (3.4 miles) in length.
- ◆ Your chances of survival are rare in the event the plane catches fire as you have roughly 90 seconds to exit the airline before it bursts into a ball of flame... an impossible task if you are sitting more than five rows away from the emergency exit.
- ◆ Cutting costs by skimping on fuel means a lighter plane and as a result better gas mileage. This saves money for the airliner. This could result in a major safety risk as it forces pilots to take off with less than the recommended amount of fuel. The fuel consumption of an airline is the most during the take-off and climbing process.
- ◆ Pilots and co-pilots often sleep during a long-haul flight, depending on the autopilot system to manage the flight. Based on a study commissioned by the Federal Aviation Administration, the biggest threat to flight safety is the tendency of pilots to depend more and more on automated flight control systems.
- ◆ Airliners provide pilots with specially prepared meals to ensure that they do not get sick.
- ◆ Some airlines mandate that the pilot and co-pilot eat different meals so as to avert the chances of simultaneous food poisoning to both these individuals who are in command of the aircraft.
- ◆ One-third of your taste buds become numb while you are flying? That is why food tastes different while you are in-flight..
- ◆ Military airplanes can be longer than the height of five-story buildings.
- ◆ The Concorde, which was the world's fastest airliner, was built by British and French engineers. It was the most successful commercial supersonic airplane.
- ◆ The first Concorde ever built took its initial test flight on March 2nd, 1969. Concorde operated from 1976 until 2003. The plane could fly at a maximum speed which is twice the speed of sound (2,180 km/hr at cruise altitude).
- ◆ The Concorde flew faster at 50,000 to 55,000 feet. At this height, air turbulence was less of a problem, and the travelers could see the curvature of the Earth from the plane.
- ◆ The Concorde took 2 hours and 56 minutes to fly from New York to London on January 1st, 1983. Today, to cover the same distance, it takes at least 5 hours and 16 minutes if you were flying with the fastest of the modern airliners.
- ◆ A total of 20 Concorde were built. 14 of these flew commercially both for British Airways and Air France. Costs of operation and ownership were the main concern for other airlines, which never operated Concorde for these reasons.



Boeing's 777X, World's Largest Twin-Engine Jet

GLOBAL HEAT WAVE



In 2021, Miami-Dade County received a challenge grant offer from the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center to fast start an extreme heat initiative under the Resilient305 program. This grant led to the creation of the world's first Chief Heat Officer (CHO) position.

[Ms. Jane Gilbert, Miami-Dade County's Chief Heat Officer](#) (CHO) is responsible for improving coordination and accelerating existing heat protection efforts and initiating new work that reduces the risks and impacts of heat stress and extreme heat for vulnerable communities in Miami-Dade County.

Global temperatures are likely to surge to record levels in the next five years, fueled by heat-trapping greenhouse gases and a naturally occurring El Niño event, according to a [new update issued by the World Meteorological Organization](#) (WMO).

Federal statistics over a 30-year period show extreme heat is the leading cause of weather-related deaths in the United States. Extreme heat exacerbated by urban heat islands can lead to increased respiratory difficulties, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. These heat impacts significantly affect the most vulnerable children, the elderly, and those with preexisting conditions.

A heat wave or extreme heat is an extended period of unusually high temperatures and often high humidity that causes temporary modifications in lifestyle and may have adverse health effects on the affected population. The [World Meteorological Organization](#) (WMO) defines a heat wave as a period during which the daily maximum temperature exceeds for more than five consecutive days the maximum normal temperature by 9 degrees Fahrenheit (5 degrees Celsius), the normal period being defined as 1961–1990.

Feeling the Heat: What Is The Hottest Place in the United States?

Death Valley, California, recorded a temperature of [134 degrees Fahrenheit](#) on July 10, 1913. More than a century later, that temperature remains the highest ever recorded in the United States. Since 1913, Death Valley has come close to breaking its own record, hitting 130 degrees twice in the past century (in 2020 and 2021).

During extremely hot and humid weather, your body's ability to cool itself is challenged. When the body heats too rapidly to cool itself properly, or when too much fluid or salt is lost through dehydration or sweating, body temperature rises and you or someone you care about may experience a heat-related illness. It is important to know the symptoms of excessive heat exposure and the appropriate responses. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides a list of warning signs and symptoms of heat illness and recommended first aid steps.

Some of these symptoms and steps are listed below.

Heat Cramps - May be the first sign of heat-related illness and may lead to heat exhaustion or stroke.

Symptoms: Painful muscle cramps and spasms usually in legs and abdomen and Heavy sweating. First Aid: Apply firm pressure on cramping muscles or gently massage to relieve spasm. Give sips of water unless the person complains of nausea, then stop giving water.

Heat Exhaustion - Symptoms: Heavy sweating, weakness or tiredness, cool, pale, clammy skin; fast, weak pulse, muscle cramps, dizziness, nausea or vomiting, headache, and fainting. First Aid: Move person to a cooler environment, preferably a well air-conditioned room. Loosen clothing. Apply cool, wet clothes or have person sit in a cool bath. Offer sips of water if person vomits more than once.

Heat Stroke - Symptoms: Throbbing headache, confusion, nausea, dizziness, body temperature above 103°F, hot, red, dry, or damp skin, rapid and strong pulse, fainting, loss of consciousness. First Aid: Call 911 or get the victim to a hospital immediately. Heat stroke is a severe medical emergency. Delay can be fatal. Move the victim to a cooler, preferably air-conditioned, environment. Reduce body temperature with cool cloths or bath. Use fan if heat index temperatures are below the high 90s. A fan can make you hotter at higher temperatures. Do NOT give fluids.

Using a fan to blow air in someone's direction may make them hotter if heat index temperatures are above the 90s. For more information on all these heat related illnesses, see the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) site. [Click here to access Miami-Dade County Extreme Heat Toolkit.](#)

Sources:

[National Weather Service](#); [Miami-Dade County Heat Advisory](#); [HEAT.gov](#) – National Integrated Heat Health Information System

INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (JULY)

July 1, 1867 – Canada: With the passage of the British North America Act, the four separate colonies of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Upper Canada, and Lower Canada were united into the Dominion of Canada. Initially, the day was known as Dominion Day, but on October 27, 1982, it was officially changed to Canada Day.

July 1, 1960 – Somalia: On June 26, 1960, British Somaliland gained its independence from the United Kingdom, and on July 1, 1960, Italian Somaliland became independent from the Italian-administered UN trusteeship. Simultaneously to gaining independence, Italian Somaliland merged with British Somaliland to form the Somali Republic on July 1, 1960.

July 1, 1962 – Burundi: Gained independence from the Belgium-administered the United Nations Trusteeship.

July 1, 1962 – Rwanda: Just like its southern neighbor Burundi, Rwanda gained independence from the Belgium-administered United Nations trusteeship on July 1, 1962.

July 3, 1944 – Belarus: After a public referendum in 1996, Belarus's Independence Day was moved to July 3 to commemorate the day in 1944 that Minsk was liberated from German occupation.

July 4, 1776 – United States: The United States declared independence from Great Britain on July 4, 1776.

July 5, 1811 – Venezuela: On this day, Venezuela gained independence from Spain.

July 5, 1962 – Algeria: Algeria gained independence from France on July 5, 1962.

July 5, 1975 – Cabo Verde (Cape Verde): In December 1974, an agreement was signed between Portugal and the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde that established a transitional government in Cabo Verde. On July 5, 1975, the newly elected National Popular Assembly declared Cabo Verde's independence from Portugal.

July 6, 1964 – Malawi: Gained independence from the UK. Since 1966, Independence Day is also known as Republic Day.

July 6, 1975 – Comoros: On July 6, 1975, the Union of the Comoros gained independence from France.

July 7, 1978 – Solomon Islands: This day marks the day the Solomon Islands gained their independence from the United Kingdom.

July 9, 1816 – Argentina: On Revolution Day, May 25, 1810, the Primera Junta, Argentina's first independent government was formed, and on July 9, 1816, the Congress of Tucumán formally declared independence from Spain.

July 9, 2011 – South Sudan: The world's newest country, South Sudan, gained its independence from Sudan on July 9, 2011.

July 10, 1973 – The Bahamas: After 325 years of British rule, The Bahamas became a free and sovereign nation. In 2023, the people of The Bahamas are celebrating 50 years of Independence.

July 12, 1975 – Sao Tome and Principe: Marks the day Sao Tome and Principe gained independence from Portugal.

July 12, 1979 – Kiribati: Gained its independence from the United Kingdom.

July 14, 1789 – France: France's National Day, la Fête Nationale or le Quatorze Juillet, is celebrated annually on July 14 and commemorates the storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789.

July 19, 1949 – Laos: The Franco-Lao General Convention granted Laos limited self-government and independence within the French Union. The Franco-Lao Treaty signed on October 22, 1953, recognized Laos's full independence.

July 20, 1810 – Colombia: Colombian Independence is celebrated annually on July 20. On this day in 1810, a group of patriots asked Spanish merchant Joaquín González Lorente for a flower vase. His refusal was enough to ignite simmering passions and stir the residents of Bogotá into protesting Spanish rule. This forced the Viceroy to decree limited independence. Once independence became permanent, Colombia gained its freedom from Spain.

July 21, 1831 – Belgium: Belgian Independence Day is celebrated annually on July 21. On this day in 1831, Leopold of Saxe-Cobourg swore allegiance to the new Belgian constitution and became Leopold I, first King of the Belgians. His vow marked the beginning of an independent Belgium under a constitutional monarchy and parliament.

July 23, 1952 – Egypt: Revolution Day, Egypt's National Day, commemorates the military-led revolution that began on July 23, 1952, and led to the proclamation of the Egyptian Republic on June 18, 1953.

July 26, 1847 – Liberia: Unlike other African countries, Liberia did not fall under European colonial rule. In the early 19th century, the United States began sending freed slaves and other people of color to Liberia to establish settlements. On July 26, 1847, the settlers declared independence from the United States and established Africa's first republic.

July 26, 1965 – The Maldives: The Maldives gained their independence from the United Kingdom.

July 28, 1821 – Peru: Peru's Independence Day, also known as Fiestas Patrias, is celebrated annually on July 28th. It commemorates the liberation of Peru from Spain by José de San Martín. On July 29th, the establishment of the Republic of Peru is celebrated.

July 30, 1980 – Vanuatu: The island nation achieved its independence from France and the United Kingdom on July 30, 1980.

INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (AUGUST)

August 1, 1291 – Switzerland: The Swiss Confederation was founded on August 1, 1291. Since 1891, August 1 is celebrated as Swiss National Day.

August 1, 1960 – Benin: On this day in 1960, the Republic of Benin achieved independence from France.

August 3, 1960 – Niger: The Republic of Niger was founded on December 18, 1958. It gained independence from France on August 3, 1960.

August 5, 1960 – Burkina Faso: Upper Volta achieved independence from France. On August 4, 1984, the country was renamed Burkina Faso.

August 6, 1825 – Bolivia: Gained its independence from Spain on August 6, 1825.

August 6, 1962 – Jamaica: Became an Independent Nation and a member of the British Commonwealth on August 6, 1962.

August 7, 1960 – Côte d'Ivoire: On August 7, 1960, Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), achieved full independence from France.

August 8, 1949 – Bhutan: Although Bhutan had been a unified kingdom since 1907, the Treaty of Friendship with India, signed on August 8, 1949, maintained Bhutanese independence.

August 9, 1965 – Singapore: On September 16, 1963, Singapore merged with Malaya, Sabah, and Sarawak to become part of Malaysia, ending 144 years of British rule. Since this union was fraught with internal friction, Singapore separated from Malaysia as an independent, sovereign nation on August 9, 1965.

August 11, 1960 – Chad: Chad became an autonomous republic within the French Community in November 1958. After further restructuring, complete independence was attained on August 11, 1960.

August 13, 1960 – Central African Republic: The French colony Ubangi-Shari, renamed the Central African Republic, was granted independence on August 13, 1960.

August 14, 1947 – Pakistan: In 1947, after the Indian Independence Act was passed by the British Parliament, British India was partitioned into two new independent dominions: India and Pakistan. Pakistan was the first of the two to gain independence on August 14, 1947.

August 15, 1947 – India: After the British Parliament had passed the Indian Independence Act, and Pakistan had gained independence on August 14, India became an independent, democratic nation at 12:02 AM on August 15, 1947.

August 15, 1945 – North Korea: On this day, North Korea gained independence from Japan.

August 15, 1945 – South Korea: National Liberation Day is celebrated annually and commemorates the day 35 years of Japanese occupation and colonial rule ended on the Korean Peninsula.

August 15, 1960 – Republic of the Congo: In 1960, the former French region of Middle Congo achieved independence.

August 15, 1971 – Bahrain: Bahrain gained independence from the United Kingdom on August 15, 1971.

August 16, 1960 – Cyprus: On this day, Cyprus gained independence from the United Kingdom. Independence Day celebrations were moved to October 1, to avoid the summer heat and the tourist season.

August 17, 1945 – Indonesia: On August 17, 1945, Indonesia declared independence from the Netherlands. After an armed struggle against Dutch forces, the United States of Indonesia achieved formal independence on December 27, 1949.

August 17, 1960 – Gabon: On August 17, 1960, it achieved independence from France.

August 19, 1919 – Afghanistan: After the Third Anglo-Afghan War, Afghanistan and Britain signed the Treaty of Rawalpindi on August 8, 1919. As a result, the British relinquished control over Afghan foreign affairs and recognized Afghanistan's independence. On August 19, 1919, Emir A. Khan declared "independence" from British influence.

August 25, 1825 – Uruguay: After Uruguay gained independence from Spain in 1811, it was annexed by Brazil. On August 25, 1825, it regained its independence from Brazil.

August 27, 1991 – Moldova: Moldova declared its independence from the Soviet Union. It was formally recognized on March 2, 1992, when it gained membership in the UN.

August 30, 1991 – Azerbaijan: Azerbaijan declared independence from the Soviet Union on this day in 1991.

August 31, 1957 – Malaysia: Chief Minister of Malaya, Tunku Abdul Rahman read the Declaration of Independence of Malaysia from British imperial rule.

August 31, 1962 – Trinidad and Tobago: At midnight on August 30, 1962, the Union Jack was lowered, and the Trinidad and Tobago flag was raised for the first time, signaling independence from Great Britain.

August 31, 1991 – Kyrgyzstan: The Kyrgyz Republic declared independence from the Soviet Union on this day in 1991.

ABOUT US

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