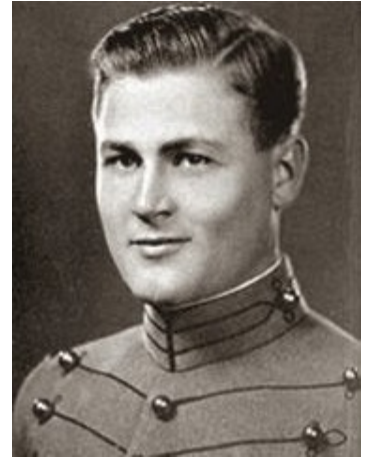


Murphy's Law – *Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong!*

The above phrase is based on the premise that all humans make mistakes, so the “human factor” cannot be ignored when planning and building a machine or device.

Murphy's Law was created at Edwards Air Force Base, California, in 1949. It was named after Captain Edward Murphy (1918-1990), an engineer working on Air Force Project MX981, a project to study how much sudden deceleration a person can stand in a crash. One day, after finding that a transducer was connected wrongly, he cursed the technician responsible and said "If there is a way to do it wrong, he'll find it."



The project manager kept a list of such "laws" and added this one, which he called ***Murphy's Law***.

Actually, what he did was take an old saying that had been around for years in another form and simply gave it a name.

A little later, the Air Force doctor, Dr. John Paul Stapp, gave a press conference. He said that their good safety record on the project was due to a firm belief in “Murphy's Law”. Aerospace manufacturers adopted the name, and used it in their advertisements during the next few months, and soon it was being cited in many news and magazine articles. “**Murphy's Law**” was born.

The Northrop project manager, George E. Nichols, also made some “laws”. One of them says "***Avoid any action which has an unacceptable outcome.***"

Dr. John Paul Stapp also defined a paradox. Stapp's “Ironical Paradox” says "***The universal aptitude for ineptitude makes any human accomplishment an incredible miracle.***"