

Commander's Call Topics



December 10, 2015

Women in Service Review: All Air Force occupations opened to women

On Dec. 3, 2015, Department of Defense Secretary Ashton Carter announced after a thorough review of the findings from the last three years, and the subsequent recommendation of Service Secretaries and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that all positions in the U.S. military will be open to men and women alike.



The six Air Force career fields (about 4,100 positions) now opened to women are: combat rescue officers, special tactics officers, pararescue, combat control, tactical air control party, and special operations weather. In addition, positions serving with Army units have also been opened in the following occupations: jump qualified weather officer, air liaison officer and rated air liaison officer.

The decision to open all career fields to women is, by itself, not sufficient for full integration. This decision is the continuation of a deliberate, methodical, evidenced-based and iterative process that ensures combat effectiveness and protects the welfare of the force.

Senior Leader Messages:

"This decision means that we will be able to maximize our military effectiveness because we'll be able to draw from a larger pool of skilled and qualified individuals. The bottom line is to ensure the force's future success based on validated, gender neutral standards." -- Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James

"Our Air Force is more effective when success is based on ability, qualifications, and mission performance. While not everyone aspires to be a Battlefield Airman, those who have the desire and are qualified will be afforded an opportunity to serve in those specialties in our Air Force. As with any new policy, implementation will take time and will be done in a deliberate and responsible manner." -- Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III

Key points:

- America's all-volunteer force of the future requires that the U.S. military have access to every talented American who can add strength to the force. To be effective in our mission against today's and tomorrow's threats, we have to be postured to benefit from the best people our nation has to offer.
- Equal opportunity may not always equate to equal participation by men and women. However, all Airmen, regardless of gender, who have the desire and are qualified, are now able to serve in those specialties.
- The standards are linked to operational success. If an individual meets mission standards and wants to be a battlefield Airman, he or she will have the opportunity based on skill and ability, not gender.
- Occupational standards are tied directly to tasks on the battlefield as measured, observed and described in the study. These standards do not change unless battlefield requirements change.

► 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](#)

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

Dec. 10, 1965 – Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara announced the development of the FB-111, a strategic and tactical F-111 bomber to replace the retiring B-58s and B-52s.

Dec. 11, 1986 – The F-15E dual-role fighter made its first flight at St. Louis.

Dec. 12, 1944 – Maj. Richard I. Bong, 49th Fighter Group, 9th Fighter Squadron, with 38 aerial victories, received the Medal of Honor from Gen. MacArthur in ceremonies at Tacloban in the Philippines.

Dec. 13, 1958 – Gordo, a 1-pound squirrel monkey, survived a flight to a height of 300 miles in a Jupiter missile nose cone. The nose cone returned and landed in the Atlantic Ocean some 1,700 miles southeast of the Cape Canaveral launching site; however, Gordo died before the nose cone could be recovered.

Dec. 13, 1941 – In an executive order, President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized the secretary of war to take control of any civilian airline needed for the war effort. Contracts with the airlines permitted the purchase of aircraft and airline services.

Dec. 14, 1903 – Wilbur Wright made a first powered airplane flight at Kill Devil Hills, Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Although he flew 105 feet in 3.5 seconds, the plane crashed, and this effort was not recognized as the first sustained or controlled flight.

Dec. 15, 2006 – An F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter took off for its first flight as part of system development testing in Fort Worth, Texas.

Dec. 16, 1958 – Launching operations began down the Pacific Missile Range with a successful Thor missile launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. This was the first ballistic missile flight over the Pacific Ocean.



The OPM data breach, massive in its identity theft implications, gives rise to other crimes, and often one crime can result in two more. For example, phishing scams can morph into credit card fraud and social security abuse. Learn how to protect yourself [here](#).

To learn more about the Office of Personnel Management data breach, legitimate assistance being provided to impacted individuals, and to understand cybersecurity as it is grounded in the Air Force tradition, please go to the specially created [Air Force Cybersecurity](#) web page.



► CURRENT ISSUES

[Senior leaders stress safety this holiday season](#)

[Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James, Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Mark A. Welsh III and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody](#) recently issued [a tri-signature letter to all Airmen](#), asking them to stay safe during the holidays and offering specific ways to do so.

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

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