

Commander's Call Topics



January 28, 2016

African American History Month

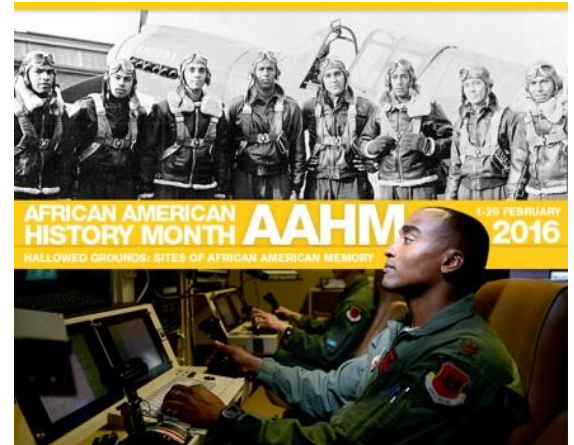
We look to the past to learn from the challenges we faced and the ways in which we overcame. We are a service grounded in innovation and we go over, not through obstacles to move forward and shape the future.

We are wingmen, leaders and warriors with heritages and skills as diverse as our nation. The contributions and heroism of American Airmen of the past laid the framework for today's Air Force, just as contributions of today's American Airmen build the future of our service for years to come.

Our Air Force is filled with a history of innovative Airmen who challenged the status quo and dared to serve; to fly, fight and win. That diversity of thought, enabled by an organization of innovative Airmen who represent and are valued for their backgrounds, cultures, experiences and competencies contributes to the greater agility we seek.

A Few Notable Firsts:

- Eugene Jacques Bullard, the first African American military pilot.
- Chief Master Sgt. Thomas N. Barnes, the first African American chief master sergeant of the Air Force.
- Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., a Tuskegee Airman, the first African American USAF general officer.
- Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James, the first African American Air Force 4-star general.
- Lt. Col. Shawna Rochelle Kimbrell, the first female African American fighter pilot.



75th Anniversary of the Tuskegee Airmen

2016 marks the 75th anniversary of the most famous African-American unit of World War II; the 332nd Fighter Group manned by the Tuskegee Airmen. The 99th Fighter Squadron, formed on March 22, 1941, entered combat in North Africa and by May 1945 the 332nd Fighter Group, consisting of the 99th, 100th, 301st and the 302nd Fighter Squadrons, had established an outstanding combat record. The Tuskegee Airmen flew more than 1,200 missions for the 99th, 100th, 301st, and 302nd Fighter Squadrons under the 12th Air Force. "Tuskegee Airmen" refers to the men and women, African Americans and Caucasians who were involved in the so-called "Tuskegee Experience," the Army Air Corps program to train

African Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft.

► 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

Jan. 28, 2003 – The Air Staff waived the U.S. Air Force General Flight Rules to allow Air Combat Command to deploy the RQ-4A Global Hawk. At the time, the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base, California, was the home of the Global Hawk in developmental testing.

Jan. 29, 1915 – The first 20 aviation mechanics received their designations after passing exams.

Jan. 30, 1951 – During the Korean War, the 61st Troop Carrier Group's C-54 Skymasters were the first USAF aircraft to land at the recaptured Suwon Airfield, Republic of Korea. They delivered 270 tons of supplies for the advancing United Nations forces.

Jan. 31, 1997 – An Air Force Flight Test Center crew from Edwards Air Force Base, California, conducted the first live launch of an AGM-142 Raptor missile from a B-52 Stratofortress at the White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.

Feb. 1, 1950 – Continental Air Command was directed to set up a civil air raid warning system.

Feb. 2, 1983 – F-16 pilot training began at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona.

Feb. 3, 2007 – The F-22 Raptor flew in its first Red Flag exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.



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

[James applauds DOD Force of the Future initiatives](#)

[Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James](#) applauded Department of Defense department-wide family-centric reforms and the [Force of the Future initiatives](#).

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