

Commander's Call Topics

May 12, 2016

Asian-American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Generations of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders helped build and defend this country and make America what it is today. The Asian-American and Pacific Islander community is uniquely diverse with multiple cultures, traditions and histories...



- Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders currently make up 4.1% of the Total Force—active Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve.
- Colonel Ellison Onizuka was an Air Force aerospace engineer and America's first Asian-American in space when he flew as a mission specialist on the Discovery. Onizuka died when the orbiter Challenger exploded one minute and 13 seconds after launch on Jan. 28, 1986.
- The highest ranking female Asian-American is Air Force Major General (retired) Sharon K. G. Dunbar.
- Generation after generation, Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders have forged a proud legacy that reflects the spirit of our Nation.
- Maggie Gee and Hazel Ying Lee were one of the first two Chinese Americans in the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP).
- Within the Department of Defense a total of 33 Asian-American and Pacific Islanders have received the Medal of Honor for their actions during war and in peacetime.

Diversity and inclusion are critical force multipliers and national security imperatives. Air Force decision-making and operational capabilities are enhanced by diversity and inclusion in our force, making us more agile, innovative and effective.

[Virtual Force Development Center](#)

The Civilian Development Resource Center has been redesigned and expanded for the Total Force! The new site is now called the virtual Force Development Center and contains links to developmental resources for civilian employees, officers, and enlisted Airmen. Access to NO-COST resources such as:

Learning Programs
Courses
Books
Simulations
Job-Aids
Skillbriefs
Executive Summaries
Case Studies and more!



► 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

May 12, 1950 - Capt. Chuck Yeager flew the number one Bell X-1 research aircraft, nicknamed "Glamorous Glennis," on its last flight above Edwards Air Force Base, California.

May 13, 1942 - The first U.S. bombardment squadron, the 15th, was sent to England without aircraft. It flew the first Army Air Force operations over Western Europe on July 4 against enemy airfields in the Netherlands.

May 14, 1923 - The Army accepted the first PW-8 (Curtiss Model 33) prototype. It evolved into the Curtiss Hawk series of biplane pursuit aircraft. The "W" designates that it had a water-cooled engine.

May 15-16, 1951 - Communist forces launched the second phase of their spring offensive against Republic of Korea Corps in the east in a last attempt to drive U.N. forces from the Korean peninsula. The U.S. Far East Air Force daytime aerial attacks limited the enemy's tactical assaults to night.

May 16, 1940 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked for the production of 50,000 planes a year.

May 17, 1998 - An Air Force Flight Test Center pilot, Lt. Col. Steven M. Rainey, became the first Air Force pilot to fly the F-22 Raptor.

May 18, 1953 - Jacqueline Cochran, flying a Canadian-built F-86 Sabre at Edwards Air Force Base, California, became the first woman to fly faster than sound. She averaged 652.337 mph on a 100-kilometer closed-course to earn the women's jet speed record.

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.



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

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