

Commander's Call Topics



February 25, 2016

Air Force celebrates Women's History Month

Innovative Airmen power our Air Force. We are all wingmen, leaders and warriors with heritages and skills as diverse as our nation.

Our Air Force history is filled with bold Airmen who challenged the status quo and dared to fly, fight and win. This month we celebrate the contributions and heroism of past American Airmen. They laid the framework for today's Air Force, just as the contributions of today's American Airmen build our future.



- **WASPs of World War II**

- WASPs, the first women to fly American military aircraft, forever changed the role of women in aviation.
- Though 25,000 women applied to the WASP pilot training program, only 1,830 were accepted. The 1,074 graduates flew 60 million miles during World War II.
- WASPs flew from 126 bases across the U.S. They also towed targets for gunnery training and served as instrument instructors for the Easter Flying Training Command.
- A total of 38 women died in service, 11 in training and 27 during missions.

- **America's Airmen: A Tradition of Service**

- The contributions and heroism of past American Airmen laid the framework for today's Air Force, just as contributions of today's American Airmen build the nation's future.
- Courage is not gender or job specific. Courage is about having the ability to face fear, danger and adversity. All Airmen have these characteristics.
- Women have been and are in the fight. Women served as security forces, drivers and gunners during convoy missions, medics on foot patrols and as members of cultural support and female engagement teams.
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, women make up 50.8% of the nation's population. Currently women make up 19% of the Air Force, the highest of any service.
- On Jan. 4, 2016, the Air Force began recruiting women into previously closed career fields and positions.

Air Warfare Symposium is going on Now!

Air Force senior leaders will be speaking at the Air Force Association's Air Warfare Symposium Feb. 25-26 in Orland, Florida. To check out the full schedule of events or to read previous speeches, [click here](#).



► 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

Feb. 25, 1975 – Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager, the first pilot to exceed the speed of sound, flew his last Air Force sortie in an F-4 Phantom II at Edwards Air Force Base, California.

Feb. 26, 1960 - A TM-61C Matador tactical missile launched from Pad 1 at Osan Air Base, South Korea, failed to destruct on command. An F-100D chase plane fired a Sidewinder missile to shoot it down.

Feb. 27, 1971 - The Air Force launched Operation Haylift in response to blizzards in Kansas. Aircrews dropped 35,000 bales of hay for 275,000 cattle stranded in deep snow. The American Humane Society provided the hay.

Feb. 28, 1946 – The XP-84 Thunderjet first flew at Edwards Air Force Base, California. This was the last subsonic, straight wing fighter-bomber to see operational service.

Feb. 29, 1992 – Air Force airlift assets moved food and medical supplies to former Soviet republics.

March 1, 1963 - The Air Force achieved its first Advanced Ballistic Missile Reentry System launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida.

March 2, 1910 – Lt. Benjamin D. Foulois began solo flying at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Foulois was the only pilot and only one with flying duty assigned to the Signal Corps at that time.



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

[AF Selective Re-enlistment Bonus program list triples](#)

Growing to meet the mission in the areas of nuclear, maintenance, cyber, intelligence, remotely piloted aircraft and support career fields through fiscal 2017 are among the 117 Air Force specialties eligible to receive bonuses through the 2016 Selective Re-enlistment Bonus program.

► MILESTONE

[Dudette passes 1,000 combat flight hours](#)

Maj. Jennifer, a member of the historic Dudette 07 mission, the first F-15E Air Force combat mission comprised entirely of female aircrew members, surpassed 1,000 combat hours in the F-15E Strike Eagle in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. (*Ed. Note: Last name is not included due to security and safety reasons.*)

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

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