

# **CHRONOLOGY**

## **AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS**

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## EVOLUTION OF A CHRONOLOGY

In 1981, as an Air Force enlisted historian, I worked for the Research Division of the Air Force Historical Research Agency (then Albert F. Simpson Historical Center) at Maxwell AFB, Al. For the next two years, I answered inquiries and conducted the Historian's Development Course. While there I discovered a real "nugget," *A Chronology of American Aerospace Events from 1903-1974*, gathering dust on an obscure shelf. I knew the draft document would be a handy reference for all enlisted field historians.

In 1983, I took a copy of this chronology with me on my next assignment with the 39<sup>th</sup> Tactical Group in Turkey. The chronology proved to be an invaluable source in promoting Air Force history. It allowed me to prepare "Today in Aerospace History" slides for weekly staff meetings and write a weekly "Aerospace Highlights" column for the base newspaper. But at that time, the chronology was arranged by year and date, and it took considerable time to find events by specific dates.

In 1985, I moved to the Ballistic Missile Office at Norton AFB, California, to write about the Peacekeeper and Small ICBM programs. The introduction of computers allowed me to convert the original chronology into a "By Date" product. I knew that the chronology was not an all inclusive listing, so I began to integrate events from other works—like the *Development of Strategic Air Command, 1946-1986*, *The SAC Missile Chronology*, and *The Military Airlift Command Historical Handbook, 1941-1986*—into an electronic product. This incorporation process has grown to include 32 different chronologies. I

also began indexing all entries and began to add events selectively in categories of firsts, lasts, and other significant accomplishments.

I kept adding to my aerospace chronology over the years. During my first civilian assignment as the historian for Eighth Air Force at Barksdale AFB, I started a third section for organizational and personnel events. E-mail allowed me to send daily history notes, which brought further attention to the chronology and Air Force History Program. This e-mail endeavor then led commanders to request daily highlights for their speeches and special presentations. Since my assignment to the Office of History in 2004, I have loaded my chronology on the Air Force History Office portal page to make it accessible to Air Force Historians and Air Force personnel in general. My chronology is now being used by the National Museum of the Air Force to present Today in Air and Space History to its many visitors and by several Air Force schools and ROTC programs to make their students aware of Air Force history.

My chronology will remain a work in progress, as I continue to provide corrections and incorporate new events.

Thank you,

Phil Myers

# AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS

## FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 1 January

- 1914: Tony Jannus, flying a Benoist Flying Boat, started America's first regularly scheduled airline service with a flight between Tampa and St. Petersburg, Fla. This service lasted three months with two round trips a day. (5) (21)
- 1929: **KEY EVENT--THE QUESTION MARK.** Through 7 January, to test inflight refueling and crew and aircraft endurance, Maj Carl A. Spaatz flew the *Question Mark*, a modified Fokker C2-3 with a Wright 220 HP engine, to a world duration record of 150 hours and 40 minutes. The *Question Mark*--named for its unknown capacity to remain airborne--was an US Army Air Corps high-wing, trimotor monoplane with a large capacity fuel tank in the cabin, a large hopper in the cabin for receiving fuel, and lines and hand-operated pumps to transfer fuel to the wing tanks. The two modified Douglas C1 biplane tankers each had two 150-gallon cabin tanks and a 40-foot fueling hose. Flying between Santa Monica and San Diego in California, the tankers refueled the *Question Mark* 43 times, which allowed it to remain aloft until engine problems forced a landing. During the refueling, the tankers also passed 5,700 gallons of fuel plus oil, food, water, and other items (roughly 40 tons) to the *Question Mark*. All officers on the mission--Carl Spaatz, Ira Eaker, Harry Halverson, and Pete Quesada--became generals, as did two officers on the refueling aircraft: Ross G. Hoyt and Joseph G. Hopkins. MSgt Roy Hooe, the fifth crewman on the *Question Mark*, earned a reputation as the best crew chief in the Air Corps. The crewmembers of the *Question Mark* were each awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for the mission, while the refuelers received letters of commendation. (18)
- 1943: Ground Controlled Approach (GCA) equipment used in an emergency for the first time, when a snowstorm closed down Naval Air Station (NAS) Quonset Point Airfield, R. I., 30 minutes before a flight of PBV's were to arrive. The GCA crew used search radar and the control tower as a relay to talk one PBV into position for a contact landing. Nine days earlier, the GCA had completed its first experimental demonstration. (5)
- 1944: **Project ORDCIT.** Cal Tech's Guggenheim Aeronautical Laboratory began work on long-range missiles. This project later produced the Army's Private A and Corporal missiles. (6)
- 1945: **Operation HERMANN.** 700-800 German fighters surprised Ninth Air Force and 2d Tactical Air Force (RAF) airfields in Belgium and northern France. They destroyed 30 American and 120 RAF planes, but lost 200 planes in the attack. (4)
- BOMBING IWO JIMA.** Through 19 February, Seventh Air Force bombers continued its attacks on Iwo Jima in preparation for amphibious landings. The aircraft destroyed buildings and planes and blasted holes in the runways of the island's airfields, but did not affect the 22,000 deeply entrenched troops of Maj Gen Tadamichi Kuribayashi. (17)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** When nearly 500,000 Chinese Communist and N. Korean troops launched a new ground offensive, Fifth Air Force responded with an air raid on enemy columns. (28)
- 1954: At Jacksonville, Fla., the U. S. Navy set up the Air Weapon Systems School. (24)
- 1958: The USAF moved the 1st Missile Division and the 704th Strategic Missile Wing to Cooke AFB (Vandenberg), Calif. The 704th was the Strategic Air Command's first ballistic missile wing. The 672d Strategic Missile Squadron also activated there with Thor intermediate range ballistic missiles. (6)
- 1962: First Titan II units, the 390<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Wing and 570<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron, were activated at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. (6) (12)

The Strategic Air Command activated the first model "B" Minuteman I wing, the 44<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Wing, at Ellsworth AFB, S. Dak. (6)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1965: Operation of Synchronus Communications Satellite (SYNCOM) II and SYNCOM III transferred from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to the Department of Defense. The Department of Defense furnished the communications ground stations used to relay transmissions via the two SYNCOMS for the past two years. SYNCOM III later proved useful in providing communications for Vietnam. (5)
- The USAF activated the 4200<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing at Beale AFB, Calif., to fly the SR-71. (16) (26)
- 1966: Air National Guard airlift units started flying about 75 cargo flights a month to Southeast Asia. Additionally, the guard flew about 100-plus flights a month to augment the Military Airlift Command's global airlift mission. (16) (26)
- At Tullahoma, Tenn., the Arnold Engineering Development Center established a large rocket facility to operate high-altitude test cells. (16) (26)
- 1967: The USAF received 140 CV-2 Caribou aircraft from the US Army. This event marked the first time that an entire inventory of an aircraft transferred from one service to another. The aircraft went to Seventh Air Force, which gave the NAF operational control over all fixed wing cargo aircraft in Vietnam. (5) (16) (17)
- 1969: The 71<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Squadron, Air Force Reserves, flew the first AC-119 gunship combat mission in Vietnam. (16)
- 1973: At Pease AFB, N. H., the 509th Bombardment Wing became the first FB-111 unit to use operational Short-Range Attack Missiles. (6)
- 1983: The US Mission Control Center, International Search and Rescue Satellite System, collocated with the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Scott AFB, Ill., began 24-hour test operations. Thereafter, mission control recorded worldwide satellite data from emergency electronic transmissions. (2)
- 1984: The Military Airlift Command assigned its 375th Aeromedical Airlift Wing to the Twenty-Third Air Force along with the aeromedical evacuation mission, C-9 aircraft, and the operation of Scott AFB, Ill. (2)
- Space Command assumed resource management responsibilities for the Global Positioning System. (26)
- 1988: The Strategic Air Command its crew assignment policy to permit mixed male/female crews in Minuteman and Peacekeeper launch facilities. The male and females were segregated before. (16) (26)
- 1995: The Air Force Reserve activated its first KC-135 Stratotanker unit, the 931st Air Refueling Group. (16)
- 1997: After a seven-year retirement from active service, the SR-71 *Blackbird* returned to mission ready status. The aircraft and its personnel operated from Edwards AFB, Calif., as a detachment of the 9<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Wing from Beale AFB. (3)

### 2 January

- 1933: Orville Wright received the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences' first honorary fellowship. (24)
- 1942: Gen Henry H. Arnold established a new Air Force, which later became Eighth Air Force. (4)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1948: In Japan, two USAF P-80 Shooting Stars attained 778 miles per hour with aid of tail winds. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** A C-47 dropped flares for the first time to illuminate B-26 and F-82 night attacks on enemy forces and deter enemy night attacks on U.S. troops. Fifth Air Force withdrew the 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor Wing and its F-86s from Kimpo Airfield near Seoul, S. Korea, to Johnson AB, Japan. (28)
- 1952: A Sikorsky H-19 helicopter flew 1,800 miles from Great Falls, Mont., to Ladd AFB, Alaska, in five days. This was probably the longest flight made by a rotary wing aircraft to date. (5)
- 1953: Cessna Aircraft's T-37 design won the competition for the Air Force's primary jet trainer over 14 other entries. (5)
- 1954: Colonel Willard W. Millikan, Air National Guard, set a Federation Aeronautique Internationale record for a cross-country flight in an F-86F Sabre jet. He averaged 612 miles per hour, while flying from Los Angeles, Calif., to New York, N.Y., in 4 hours 8 minutes. (9) (24)
- 1957: Cessna's model 310 won the competition to provide a light, twin-engine administrative liaison and cargo plane to the Air Force. (5)
- 1962: **PROJECT MULE TRAIN.** The first 4 of 16 C-123 assault transports of the 346th Troop Carrier Squadron arrived at Tan Son Nhut AB, S. Vietnam. (17)
- 1967: **OPERATION BOLO.** F-4 Phantom pilots from the 8<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing shot down seven North Vietnamese MiG-21s in a sweep mission over the Red River valley to set a one-day aerial victory record. This MiG suppression operation, dubbed the largest air battle of the war, and the most dramatic use of tactical deception, resulted in the downing of the MiGs. In the successful ruse, F-4C pilots simulated Rolling Thunder F-105 strike aircraft to draw the MiGs out. Colonel Robin Olds, the 8<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing Commander, shot down a MiG and became the only USAF ace with aerial victories in World War II and the Vietnam War. (16) (17) (21)
- 1968: Col Henry Brown and Lt Col Joe B. Jordan became the first USAF pilots to use an F-111A's emergency escape module when their plane crashed near Edwards AFB, Calif. (3)
- 1980: Through 4 January, two C-141s from the 437<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Wing at Charleston AFB, S.C., delivered 700 tents and 1,000 blankets to the homeless on Terceira Island in the Azores following an earthquake. (16)
- 1994: The F-4G Wild Weasel flew its last combat mission over Southern Iraq.

### 3 January

- 1933: General Douglas MacArthur ordered the Air Corps "to conduct the land-based air operations in defense of the US and its overseas possessions." (5)
- 1935: Lincoln Ellsworth and Herbert Hollick-Kenyon completed an Antarctic flight. (24)
- 1945: **BATTLE OF THE BULGE:** American and British forces counterattacked the Germans under the protection of American airpower. (4)
- TEST FIRE-BOMB RAID.** In a test-bombing mission to determine the efficacy of fire bombing over conventional high-explosive bombing, 57 of 97 B-29s bombed Nagoya, Japan,. The results gave the Japanese the mistaken impression that their fire-prevention system was adequate. (17)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1949: Representative Carl Vinson of Georgia introduced a bill to speed guided missile research and to create a 70-group Air Force. (24)
- 1950: Jacqueline Cochran set new Federation Aeronautique Internationale 500-kilometer closed-course speed record of 444 miles per hour. (5)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** In one of the largest Far East Air Forces Bomber Command air raids, more than 60 B-29s dropped 650 tons of incendiary bombs on Pyongyang, N. Korea. UN forces burned nearly 500,000 gallons of fuel and 23,000 gallons of napalm at Kimpo before abandoning the base. Altogether, Far East Air Forces flew 958 combat sorties, a one-day record. (28)
- 1960: American Airline Boeing 707s set records of 3 hours 39 minutes from Los Angeles, Calif., to Baltimore, Md., and 4 hours 24 minutes from Los Angeles to Boston, Mass. A Transworld Airlines 707 flew from Los Angeles to New York in 3 hours 57 minutes, while Eastern Airlines DC-8 completed a flight Long Beach, Calif., to Miami, Fla., in 3 hours 58 minutes (5)
- 1963: At Eglin AFB, Fla., a Boeing BOMARC-B missile successfully intercepted its first low-altitude aircraft. (5)
- PROJECT FARM GATE.** The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) augmented the Farm Gate detachment in Vietnam with an additional 10 B-26s, 5 T-28s, and 2 C-47s. (17)
- 1966: The No. 2 XB-70 flew for 3 minutes at 70,000 feet over Edwards AFB, Calif., for the first time. (16)
- 1978: Lockheed Missiles and Space Company received \$34 million to build a spacecraft for the Satellite Infrared Experiment (SIRE) to measure long wave infrared signatures of objects against the stellar background. This craft also carried two secondary payloads, a space sextant and a sensor to measure the isotopic composition of solar flares. (5)
- 1993: President George Bush and Soviet President Boris Yeltsin signed the second Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) to reduce nuclear bombers, missiles, bombs, and warheads. (16) (26)
- 2007: Through 4 January, a Wyoming Air National Guard C-130 *Hercules* and 10 airmen assisted the Colorado National Guard with a cattle feeding operation near Lamar in southeast Colorado after huge snowstorm blanketed the area. Colorado National Guard helicopters and the C-130 dropped hay to cattle. (AFNEWS, "Air National Guard Dropping Hay for Colorado Cattle," 4 Jan 2007.) (32)

### 4 January

- 1936: The Vought SB2U Vindicator first flew. (5)
- 1937: Frank Sinclair flew a Seversky Airplane 240 miles per hour from New York to New Orleans, La., in a record of 5 hours. (24)
- 1944: **Operation CARPETBAGGER.** American and Royal Air Force planes dropped arms and supplies to French, Belgian, and Italian partisans for the first time. (4)
- 1945: Republic received a contract to build 100 production P-84 Thunderjets. (12)
- 1948: The University of California completed a pilot model for the world's first low-pressure supersonic wind tunnel. (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** As Communist Chinese forces occupied Seoul, the last USAF aircraft left Kimpo Airfield. (28)
- Miss Caro Bayley flew a Piper Super Cub 30,203 feet over Miami to set a Federation Aeronautique Internationale altitude record for light planes. (24)
- 1955: Aerojet General began a research and development effort on rocket engines and associated ground equipment for the Titan Intercontinental Ballistic Missile. (6)
- 1957: **Exercise JUMP LIGHT/Project ROTAD.** Through 28 January, a joint Army-Tactical Air Command airlift effort supported this exercise and Project ROTAD (Reorganization and Testing of Airborne Division) near Fort Bragg, N. C. (11)
- 1958: The Army awarded Chrysler Corporation a \$51.8 million contract to build the Jupiter Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile. (6)
- 1965: The Strategic Air Command's first Atlas-E missiles came off alert in the 548<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron at Forbes AFB, Kans., and the 566<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron at Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyo. Moreover, the first Titan II came off alert in the 568<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron at Larson AFB, Wash., the 850<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron at Ellsworth AFB, N. Dak., and the 851<sup>st</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron at Beale AFB, Calif. (6)
- 1968: A 6511th Test Group (Parachute) C-130 claimed an unofficial single-delivery record by dropping a 50,160-pound pallet from 1,200 feet at El Centro, Calif. (3)
- 1985: Major Patricia M. Young became the first female commander of an Air Force Space Command unit, Detachment 1, 20<sup>th</sup> Missile Warning Squadron. (16) (26)
- 1989: Two Navy F-14 Tomcats, operating from the USS John F. Kennedy, shot down two Libyan MiG-23 Floggers that were displaying hostile intentions over international waters. (20)
- 1994: **Operation PROVIDE PROMISE.** The USAF formed a C-130 "Delta Squadron" under the 435<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany, with Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard assets. The squadron joined the effort to deliver relief supplies to Bosnia. (16)
- 2000: **Joint Task Force FUNDAMENTAL RESPONSE.** Final tallies of the flood devastation near Caracas, Venezuela revealed 30,000 people dead and another 400,000 left homeless. Through 10 March, 11 C-17 missions and 5 C-5 missions airlifted 189 passengers and 527 short tons of cargo to Simon Bolivar International Airport near Caracas to support Task Force relief efforts. (See 20 December 1999) (22)
- 2001: A C-17 Globemaster III from the 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Charleston AFB, S. C., flew the 2001 Mars Odyssey spacecraft from Buckley AFB, Colo., to Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Fla. (22)

### 5 January

- 1914: Marine pilots and enlisted mechanics were sent from Annapolis, Md., to the Philadelphia Navy Yard, Pa., where they left on the Navy transport, the USS Hancock, for Puerto Rico to join the Advance Base Brigade in Atlantic Fleet maneuvers. This was the first time an all-Marine aviation force acted with Marine ground forces. During the next three weeks, Lts Bernard L. Smith and William M. McIlvain flew a Curtiss C-3 (an F-model Flying Boat) on scouting and reconnaissance missions. (10)



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1915: Lt Joseph E. Carberry, Signal Corps, and Lt Arthur R. Christie set a 2-man American altitude record of 11,690 feet at San Diego. The pilots made the 1-hour, 13-minute flight in a Curtiss Tractor (OXX Curtiss 100). (24)
- 1916: The 1st Company, 2d Aero Squadron, sailed from San Francisco, Calif., for the Philippines. It was the first air unit to serve outside the US. (24)
- 1935: The de Havilland Queen Bee first flew. (5)
- 1949: Capt Charles E. Yeager flew the Bell X-1 to 23,000 feet at a record ascent of 13,000 feet per minute. (9) (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** At Pyongyang, 59 B-29s dropped 672 tons of incendiary bombs. Additionally, the 18<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber Group staged its final missions from Suwon Air Base. U.S. ground troops burned the buildings at Suwon's airfield before withdrawing. (28)
- 1954: Col Willard W. Millikan (Air National Guard) set a speed record, when he flew an F-86F Sabre between New York and Washington DC in 24 minutes. (24)
- 1961: **PROJECT NARROW GAUGE:** Tactical Air Command B-57s participated in a test of the runway lighting system at Dow AFB, Me. (11)
- 1968: The Air Force Academy implemented the T-41 Mescalero Light Plane flight program. (16) (26)
- 1970: With the acceptance of the 80th Air Defense Group facility at Fortuna Air Force Station, N. Dak., the Aerospace Defense Command's Backup Intercept Control (BUIC) III radar system became fully operational. (26)
- 1972: President Richard M. Nixon announced his decision to develop a Space Shuttle system. (5)
- 1985: A C-141 carried a Sikorsky S-70 helicopter to La Paz, Bolivia, to assist in the search for an Eastern Airlines Boeing 727 that had crashed high in the Andes Mountains. (16) (26)
- 2001: An F-22 *Raptor*, equipped with combat-capable avionics, flew for the first time at Lockheed-Martin's facility in Marietta, Ga. (AFNEWS Article 0018, 6 Jan 01)
- 2002: **Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.** A 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing C-17 from Charleston AFB, S. C., arrived at Naval Air Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, with the first materials for U. S. Navy Seabee project to build a prison for 2,000 Taliban and Al Qaeda detainees from Afghanistan. In the early weeks of 2002, 21 C-17 missions from Charleston moved 1.2 short tons of equipment and supplies to Guantanamo. (22)

### 6 January

- 1945: Taking off from Chengtu, China, 45 B-29s bombed the Omura aircraft plant, enemy installations, and targets of opportunity in occupied China. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** As the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division defended the U. N. line across S. Korea, Far East Air Forces Combat Cargo Command dispatched C-47s from the 21<sup>st</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron with 115 tons of cargo to Wonju, and C-119s from the 314<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group to drop 460 tons of supplies to the division. (28)
- 1964: The Supersonic Transport (SST) Evaluation Group, under the Federal Aviation Authority, convened in Washington DC to evaluate airframe and engine design proposals for the SST. (5)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1965: The General Dynamics F-111A demonstrated the ability to fly with its wings swept back in its first flight. (5)
- 1977: The Department of Defense placed the Air Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM) program into full-scale development and set up a joint cruise missile project office. (12)
- 1978: Vandenberg AFB, Calif., launched a Minuteman III, carrying three Mark 12A reentry vehicles, to study an experimental nose tip and heat shield materials. (5)
- 1979: The 388<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing at Hill AFB, Utah, accepted the Tactical Air Command's first F-16. (12)

### 7 January

- 1945: Far East Air Forces joined the 3d Fleet in air attacks on enemy airfields in northern Luzon, Philippines. This attack was the largest coordinated mission of light and medium bombers (132) to date in the Southwest Pacific. (24)
- 1960: An American Airlines Electra flew 540 miles per hour to set a record of 1 hour 11 minutes 30 seconds from Chicago, Ill., to Washington DC. (5)
- 1963: Bell Telephone Laboratory scientists repaired Telstar I in flight in an unprecedented ground operation. (5)
- 1966: The 4200<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing at Beale AFB, Calif., received the first operational SR-71 (Tail No. 61-7957). (1)
- The US Junior Chamber of Commerce named Lt Col Edward H. White, a Gemini IV Astronaut, one of the 10 outstanding young men of 1965. (16)
- 1968: The National Air and Space Administration's Surveyor VII, the last spacecraft in the program to analyze the lunar surface, launched from the Eastern Test Range, Fla., on an Atlas-Centaur rocket (AC-15) on a 67-hour lunar intercept trajectory. It touched down on 9 January in Tycho crater after a 66-hour 35-minute flight and began sending the first of 21,274 detailed pictures back to earth. (5)
- 1989: **Operation MEDFLY 89.** Through 20 January, the 167th Tactical Airlift Group flew medical personnel and supplies aboard two C-130 Hercules to Liberia to support Medfly 89. This joint service humanitarian effort trained medical personnel in inoculating people against diseases and treating ailments. (16)
- 1995: **Operation UNISOM II.** Through 24 March, Air Mobility Command supported the withdrawal of United Nations forces from Somalia by deploying some U. S. forces to Kenya to cover the withdrawal and then returning the forces to the U. S. The returning flights stopped at Moron AB, Spain, which served as a stage base and refueling site for the operation. Besides Moron, Air Mobility Command units deployed to Mombasa and Nairobi, Kenya. The KC-135s at Nairobi refueled AC-130 gunships. Altogether, Air Mobility Command's airlifters and contracted commercial flights flew 59 missions to carry over 1,400 passengers and over 1,400 short tons of cargo. (18)
- 2005: Colonel Joseph Lanni, the 412th Test Wing Commander at Edwards AFB, Calif., delivered an F/A-22 *Raptor* to Langley AFB, Va. That *Raptor*, the fifth built, formed the nucleus of the first operational F-22 squadron. (3)

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### 8 January

- 1944: Milo Burcham flew the Bell/Lockheed XP-80 Shooting Star, named the "Lulu Belle," for the first time at Muroc Field, Calif. This field became Edwards AFB on 5 December 1949. (12)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force flew more missions when blizzards forced U. S. Navy Task Force 77 carriers to stop close air support missions for X Corps. B-29 Superfortresses cratered Kimpo Airfield to prevent its use by enemy aircraft. (28)
- 1952: **EXERCISE SNOWFALL:** Through 13 January, the 516th Troop Carrier Wing used nearly 100 planes to move 8,623 11th Airborne Division troops from Fort Campbell, Ky., to Wheeler-Sack Army Air Field, N.Y. This exercise tested military capabilities using winter tactics, techniques, and doctrines. Some 10,000 Army personnel were airlifted and 6,400 paratroops were dropped. The exercise saw the first use of Sikorsky H-19 helicopter in tactical air maneuvers. (11) (24)
- 1959: Through 16 January, two ski-equipped C-130s from the Tactical Air Command recovered equipment and people from Ice Island Charlie, after it began to break up 450 miles northwest of Point Barrow, Alaska. (11)
- The National Air and Space Administration asked the Army for eight Redstone-type launch vehicles for the Project Mercury development flights. (20)
- 1964: The USAF received its last F-105D aircraft. (5)
- 1965: The Strategic Air Command's last test Atlas F launched from Vandenberg AFB, Calif. (6)
- 1970: Col Douglas H. Frost set flight endurance record for A-7D Corsair IIs. He made a 10-hour flight from Edwards AFB, Calif., with two round trips to New Mexico and covered 5,000 miles with one air refueling. (5)
- A Space and Missile Systems Organization crew from Air Force Systems Command launched and inserted the Skynet communications satellite into orbit. (26)
- 1971: The Strategic Air Command completed the first Minuteman III squadron at Minot AFB, N. Dak. (12)
- 1973: The Tactical Air Command flew its first Weapon System Evaluation Program mission under the program name Combat Echo. (Msg, ACC/DO to AWFC/CC, R081245Z JAN 98)
- LAST AERIAL VICTORY.** In their F-4D Phantom, Capt Paul D. Howman and 1Lt Lawrence W. Kullman shot down a MiG southwest of Hanoi with a radar-guided AIM-7 missile. This shootdown was the last aerial victory before the North Vietnamese signed the ceasefire agreement, which went into effect on 29 January. (16) (21)
- 1977: First YC-141B, a C-141A *Starlifter* stretched 23.3 feet and equipped for inflight refueling, rolled out at Lockheed's plant in Marietta, Ga. (2)
- 1986: The Military Airlift Command accepted its first C-5B *Galaxy* for the 443<sup>rd</sup> Military Airlift Wing at Altus AFB, Okla. (16) (18)
- 1988: The USAF let a \$4.9 million contract to develop a new close air support and interdiction plane to replace the A-10. (5)
- 1998: After originating Combat Echo in 1973, the Tactical Air Command combined this program in July 1984 with the Air Defense Command's Combat Pike to form the Combat Archer Weapon

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System Evaluation Program. This program reached its 25th anniversary in a continuing effort to develop and validate USAF weapons systems. (Msg, ACC/DO to AWFC/CC, R081245Z JAN 98)

- 2001: At Plant 42 in Palmdale, Calif., Boeing's X-32B Joint Strike Fighter concept demonstrator completed its initial low- and medium-speed taxi tests at 30 and 60 knots, respectively, to verify function and integration of crucial aircraft systems. It was the short-takeoff and vertical-landing (STOVL) version of the Joint Strike Fighter. (3)
- 2007: Air Force AC-130 gunships attacked a terror training base in a heavily forested area called Ras Kamboni in Somalia near the Kenyan border. The gunships targeted al Qaeda terrorists who planned the 1998 attacks against the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. (AFNEWS, "Air-craft Attack Al Queda Haven in Somalia," 9 Jan 2007.)

### **9 January**

- 1793: Jean Pierre Blanchard made the first manned balloon flight in America with a 46-minute trip between the Wall Street Prison in Philadelphia, Pa., to Debtford Township, N.J. He carried landing clearance orders signed by President George Washington and a small black dog as a passenger. (7)
- 1917: The Army ordered Capt Henry H. Arnold from Aviation School duty at San Diego, Calif., to Panama to organize and command the 7th Aero Squadron and ordered Capt John F. Curry to Fort Kamehameha, Hawaii, to command the 6th Aero Squadron. (24)
- 1918: The 1st Marine Aviation Company, under Capt Francis T. Evans, left the Philadelphia Navy Yard for the Azores. There, the Marine pilots used Curtiss R-6 airplanes to conduct anti-submarine patrols against Germany. (10)
- 1929: Through the 16th, Maj Paul Bock flew a C-2 Army transport 3,130 miles from Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, to France Field, Panama. This was the first airplane to be ferried by the Army Air Corps to a foreign station. (24)
- 1943: Lockheed's C-69 transport, a military version of the Model 49 Constellation, flew its first flight at Burbank, Calif. (5)
- The Lockheed C-121 Super Constellation first flew. (5)
- 1945: U. S. Army Air Forces participated in the opening of Luzon, Philippine Campaign. (24)
- 1946: Northrop Aircraft Incorporated submitted a proposal to the US Army Air Forces (U. S. Army Air Forces) to study a subsonic surface-to-surface air-breathing missile with six turbojet engines and a range of 3,000 miles. (6)
- 1956: 1Lt E. A. Schmid, 63<sup>rd</sup> Troop Carrier Wing, became the first airman in the USAF to fly over the South Pole and first member to fly over the North and South poles. (11)
- 1962: A B-52G crew from the 4126<sup>th</sup> Strategic Wing at Beale AFB, Calif., launched a Hound Dog missile on its first combat evaluation launch. The missile flew 607 nautical miles down Atlantic Missile Range and hit the target area. (6)
- 1967: The Tactical Air Command initiated Combat Lady, a test of classified weapons, at Eglin AFB, Fla. (11)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1973: Secretary of the Air Force Robert C. Seamans, Jr., picked Fairchild's A-10 and General Electric's TF-34 engine as the winners of the A-X competition. (3)
- At Holloman AFB, N. Mex., B-52s began operational testing on the Short Range Attack Missile. (6)
- 1976: The first operational Hybrid Explicit flight test occurred with the launch of production verification missile (PVM-12) from Vandenberg AFB, Calif. (5)
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing at Langley AFB, Va., received the first operational F-15A *Eagle* (Tail No. 74-0083). The base received a two-seat training model earlier on 18 December 1975. (19)
- 1990: Through 20 January, in mission STS-32 the Space Shuttle Columbia lifted off from the Kennedy Space Center to deliver a Navy Synchronous Communications System Ultra High Frequency (UHF) satellite into orbit. Additionally, two mission specialists, Dr. Bonnie Dunbar and Marsha Ivins, retrieved the Long Duration Exposure Facility from its deteriorating orbit. The shuttle landed at night at Edwards AFB, Calif., after being delayed a day by high winds, on the base's concrete runway rather than Rogers Dry Lake. It also landed with a weight of 115 tons, nearly 5 tons more than the previous record set in 1983 in the STS-9 mission. [8: Mar 90]
- 1996: **Operation PROVIDE PROMISE.** This operation officially ended (See 3 July 1992). It was the longest air supply effort in history to date. C-130s, C-141s, and C-17s from Air Mobility Command and C-130s from United States Air Forces in Europe flew more than 4,500 sorties to deliver 62,802 metric tons of cargo. Altogether, aircraft from 21 nations participating in the United Nations humanitarian airlift flew nearly 13,000 sorties to deliver some 160,000 metric tons of supplies to Sarajevo. (18) (21)
- 1999: The Miniature Air-Launched Decoy made its first successful flight above Edwards AFB, Calif. The tiny vehicle separated cleanly from an F-16 at 460 knots and flew autonomously at Mach 0.75 at 20,000 feet before it suffered an engine shutdown. It was recovered safely. (3)

### 10 January

- 1910: **LOS ANGELES FLYING MEET.** The Aero Club of California hosted the first American flying meet at Los Angeles, Calif. (24)
- 1934: Through 11 January, Lt Cmdr K. McGinnis (U. S. Navy) led six Consolidated P2Y-1s on a non-stop flight from San Francisco, Calif., to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in 24 hours 35 minutes. They beat earlier records for crossing time and distance for mass flights, and set a Federation Aeronautique Internationale record for straight-line distance of 2,399 miles for Class C seaplanes. (24)
- 1942: The Army Air Forces Materiel Center started investigating ways to use aerial refueling in the war against Japan. Planners wanted to launch B-17 bombers from Midway Island to attack Tokyo, refueling them with modified B-24 bombers. They also considered using B-24s launched from Hawaii, with refueling by US Navy seaplanes. A third option involved fuel-filled gliders, towed by B-17s, which would serve as tankers for the bombers. No proposals were implemented. (18)
- 1946: C. A. Moeller and D. D. Viner used an Army R-5 Helicopter to set an unofficial record in a climb to 21,000 feet at Stratford, Conn. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Continued severe winter weather forced Fifth Air Force to cancel close air support missions. FEAF flew the lowest daily total of sorties since July 1950. (28)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1956: The first US-built complete liquid-rocket engine with more than 400,000 pounds thrust fired for the first time at Santa Susana, Calif. (16) (24)
- 1957: The DoD assigned the highest national priority to intercontinental ballistic missile and intermediate-range ballistic missile projects. (6)
- 1958: The Tactical Air Command delivered its last F-84F Thunderstreak to the Mobile Air Material Area. (11)
- 1975: First E-3A Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft rolled out. (12)
- 1977: The USAF budgeted \$245 million for the M-X missile's full-scale engineering development. (6)
- 1980: **CYCLONE CLAUDETTE.** Just before New Year's Day, the cyclone hit Mauritius Island in the Indian Ocean. For two days, the 80<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Squadron delivered 17 tons of emergency supplies by C-141 to help thousands of homeless and destitute people. (16) (26)
- 1988: A ski-equipped LC-130 took off from an isolated Antarctic site after being buried under snow since 1971. A Navy/Lockheed team found the structurally sound aircraft, with air in the tires and usable hydraulic fluid in the lines after 16 years. The team removed the four engines and sent them away for an overhaul. The National Science Foundation spent \$9.5 million to recover the plane. (8)
- 1994: **MACKAY TROPHY.** An HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter from the 56<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron at Keflavik, Iceland, rescued six sailors from a damaged tugboat off the Icelandic coast. For this effort, the crew earned the 1994 trophy. (16) (26)
- 1998: **Operation RECUPERATION.** Through 14 January, C-17 aircrews from the 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Charleston AFB flew four missions to deliver snow relief supplies to eastern Canada. In four missions, the Globemaster IIIs transported emergency workers and 181 tons of cargo (vehicles, generators, water purification equipment, field kitchens, and other supplies) from Edmonton, Alberta, to Montreal, Quebec. (22)
- 2002: **Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.** A C-17 departed Kandahar Airport, Afghanistan, with 20 Taliban and Al Qaeda prisoners on a trip to the detention facility at the U. S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay. The C-17 stopped briefly at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, where the prisoners were transferred to a 445<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing (AF Reserve Command) C-141 from Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, for the nonstop, air refueled flight to Guantanamo. The C-141 arrived in Cuba on 11 January. (22)
- 2007: The first of eight C-21 executive transports arrived at Hector Airport, N. Dak, to serve as a bridge mission for the North Dakota Air National Guard's 119<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing. Under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure plan, the wing lost its F-16s and would transition to the proposed new Joint Cargo Aircraft and Predator unmanned aerial vehicle by 2010. (AFNEWS, "First C-21 Arrives in North Dakota," 11 Jan 2007, (32)

### 11 January

- 1932: Regular air cargo transport service began for the Army Air Corps with assignment of cargo planes to geographical air depots at Sacramento, Calif., San Antonio, Tex., Fairfield, Ohio, and Middletown, Pa. The squadrons flew Bellanca Y1C-14s along with other aircraft. Major Hugh J. Knerr, Chief of the Materiel Division's Field Service Section proposed this basic transport system. Previously, Martin bombers, De Havilland DH-4s, and other aircraft moved equipment and passengers on an "as needed" basis. (18)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1935: In a Lockheed Vega, with a Pratt & Whitney Wasp engine, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo from Honolulu to Oakland, Calif. Her 18-hour, 16-minute trip established a Federation Aeronautique Internationale record. (9) (24)
- 1937: First experimental YB-17 Flying Fortress delivered to the Army Air Corps. (12)
- 1941: The Army Air Corps tested radio-controlled robot planes from the ground and from another plane. (24)
- 1944: **MEDAL OF HONOR.** In a bombing mission to Oschersleben, Germany, Lt Col James H. Howard was leading a P-51 fighter escort group, when numerous German fighters attacked. Not waiting for his group to reassemble, Howard attacked 30 enemy planes, destroying three and damaging several others. Even when three guns stopped working and his fuel tanks neared empty, Howard continued to protect the bombers. (4)
- A Navy TBF-1C Avenger used forward-firing rockets for the first time against a German submarine. (20)
- 1950: Lockheed delivered the first two-seat F-94A *Starfire* all-weather jet fighter to the USAF. (5)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Improved weather allowed Fifth Air Force and Far East Air Forces Bomber Command to again fly close air support missions for X Corps in north central South Korea. (28)
- 1954: The USAF approved the building of five Texas towers for the nation's air defense system. (24)
- 1961: Pacific Air Forces provided a camera-equipped SC-47 and crew to the Attache's office in Vientiane, Laos. The crew flew 38 reconnaissance missions over Laos until the aircraft was shot down over the Plain of Jars on 24 March. (17)
- 1962: Maj Clyde P. Evely flew a B-52H from Okinawa, Japan, to Madrid, Spain, and set 12 Federation Aeronautique Internationale flight records, including a nonstop, nonrefueled flight of 12,532 miles in 21 hours 52 minutes. His speed records included: Tokyo, Japan, to Madrid, Spain, at 328.78 miles per hour; Seattle, Wash., to Madrid at 456.97 miles per hour; and Fort Worth, Tex., to Washington DC at 604.44 miles per hour. (1) (9)
- 1967: **SCRAMJET.** A supersonic combustion ramjet made a first, partly successful flight, when it separated from a Scout booster, but failed to perform some secondary missions. (5)
- 1975: After communist forces besieged Phnom Penh, Cambodia, USAF planes began airlifting military equipment and supplies to the city. (16) (26)
- 1981: Boeing Company delivered the first two Air Launched Cruis Missiles to the 416<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing at Griffiss AFB, N.Y., for initial use in environmental testing and maintenance training. (1) (6) (16)
- 2002: The United States Transportation Command, the Air Mobility Command, and its Air Reserve Component began an 11-day exercise to test a commercial jet transport in the military aeromedical evacuation mission. A US Airways Boeing 767 with seats and other internal fixtures removed was converted into a flying ambulance fitted with oxygen tanks, an independent electrical supply, and 87 litters. The aeromedical crew practiced scenarios involving aircraft depressurization, ditching in water, and caring for a various simulated injuries. Leaving Scott AFB, Ill., the converted 767 stopped at McChord AFB, Wash., Charleston AFB, S. C., Travis AFB, Calif., Andrews AFB, Md., and Kelly AFB, Tex. The flying time between the five bases was long enough to simulate missions from overseas to the continental US. (22)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2007: The RC-135 Rivet Joint claimed a record after being continuously deployed for 6,000 days. Airmen in the 763rd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron, the 55th Operations Group, and the 55th Aircraft Maintenance Unit from Offutt AFB, Neb., maintained the RC-135 in South-west Asia since 9 August 1990. (AFNEWS, "Reconnaissance Aircraft, Team reach Milestone," 11 Jan 2007.)

### 12 January

- 1909: The Wright Brothers sold their patent rights to the General Aerial Navigation Company of France, represented by Lazare Weiller, for \$100,000 and an interest in the company. (24)
- 1910: Using a Henri Farman airplane, Louis Paulhan set a Federation Aeronautique Internationale world solo altitude record of 4,165 feet at the Los Angeles Flying Meet. (See 10 January) (9) (24)
- 1939: President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to expand the Army Air Corps to a force of 5,500 planes, 3,203 officers, and 45,000 men in response to world political conditions. (4)
- 1948: Northrop Aircraft Company announced that rocket-powered test aircraft had attained 1,019 miles per hour at Muroc AFB, Calif. (16) (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** After Chinese Communist forces took Wonju, the 98<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group sent 10 B-29s to attack the occupied city. For the first time, the bombers dropped 500-pound general purpose bombs fused for an air burst over the enemy troops below. The innovation slowed the enemy advance. To improve bombing precision, Far East Air Forces installed a short-range navigation system (SHORAN) on a B-26 for the first time. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** F-84s caught three supply trains at Sunchon as they raced for the shelter of a tunnel. They blasted the tunnel mouth shut, trapping the trains in the open and then destroyed the boxcars and at least two locomotives. Additionally, through 13 January 10 B-29s based in Okinawa dropped 396 500-pound bombs on the railroad bridge east of Sinanju across the Chongchong River, rendering the bridge unserviceable. (28)
- 1953: The Navy began test operations on its first angled deck carrier, the USS Antietam. (24)
- 1961: Major Henry J. Deutschendorf, Jr., flew a 43<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Wing B-58 Hustler from Carswell AFB, Tex., to six international speed and payload records in a single flight. Between Edwards AFB, Calif., and Yuma, Ariz., the B-58 achieved 1,200.194 miles per hour for 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) with no payload, with a 2,000-kilogram payload, and with a 4,000-kilogram payload. Over 2,000-kilometers (1,242 miles), with the same payloads, a second bomber averaged 1,061.808 miles per hour. [Note: Major Deutschendorf was singer John Denver's father] (1)
- 1965: At Plattsburg AFB, N.Y., the 380<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron received the Strategic Air Command's last KC-135 (Tail No. 64-14840). (1)
- 1969: **Exercise REFORGER/CRESTED CAP.** The event started as USAFE dual-based F-4Ds and Military Airlift Command transports moved troops to European bases to support a combined USAF and Army operation for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. (16)
- 1971: The USAF contracted the Boeing Company to produce the Short-Range Attack Missile for the FB-111, B-52, and proposed B-1. (6) (12)
- 1979: Defense Satellite Communication System (DSCS) II satellites 9441 and 9442 completed testing and were turned over to the Defense Communications Agency. This brought the DSCS II system up to its full strength of four operational satellites for the first time. (5)



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1981: Terrorists destroyed 9 A-7D Corsairs belonging to the Air National Guard's 156<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Group at Muniz Air National Guard Base in Puerto Rico. (26)
- 1990: The Military Airlift Command announced that it would allow female aircrew members to participate in C-130 and C-141 airdrop missions. [8: Mar 90]
- 1999: The last three of ten C-27 Spartans flew from the 310th Airlift Squadron at Howard AFB in Panama to Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., for retirement. In Panama, the C-27s flew humanitarian assistance, peacekeeping, and counterdrug missions. The Spartan was a smaller, twin-engine version of the C-130. It gave the USAF a unique, short-take-off-and-landing capability at normally inaccessible airstrips. (22)

### 13 January

- 1906: The Aero Club of America opened its first exhibition in New York in connection with an automobile show. (5) (24)
- 1913: Harry M. Jones flew a Wright B airplane to demonstrate the beginning of air parcel post. He flew a route from Boston, Mass., to New York, N.Y., with a cargo of baked beans. (24)
- 1942: American and British chiefs of staff adopted an agreement to move American air units to the United Kingdom as soon as possible. (4)
- 1949: William P. Odom flew a Beechcraft Bonanza to a Federation Aeronautique Internationale distance record for light planes: 2,400 miles from Honolulu, Hawaii, to Oakland, Calif. (9)
- 1950: The Navy's Lark, a guided surface-to-air missile, made its first automatic homing flight. (5)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Far East Air Forces flew the first effective Tarzon mission against a bridge at Kanggye, Korea. The six-ton radio-guided bomb destroyed 58 feet of the enemy-held structure. (21)
- 1962: **PROJECT RANCH HAND.** The Ranch Hand test project began to determine if aircraft could destroy jungle foliage by spraying chemicals. On 5 December 1961, the Tactical Air Command deployed six C-123s, modified with chemical tanks and spray bars, to Clark Air Base, Philippines. The aircraft began operations in Vietnam on 13 January. (17)
- 1965: The USAF's XC-142A Vertical/Short Takeoff and Landing transport aircraft made a perfect first transition flight, taking off like a helicopter, adjusting its wings for conventional flight, and making a vertical landing. (5)
- 1969: The National Air and Space Administration announced an end to its joint research program with the Department of Defense on the XB-70. (3)
- 1970: A Pan American Airline Boeing 747, the world's largest passenger plane at the time, flew 361 people on its first transatlantic trip from John F. Kennedy International Airport, N.Y., to London Airport in England in 6 hours 30 minutes. (5)
- 1975: Dr. John L. McLucas, Secretary of the Air Force, selected the General Dynamics' YF-16 *Fighting Falcon* over Northrop's YF-17 as the USAF's lightweight air combat fighter. The U. S. Navy later developed the YF-17 into F/A-18 *Hornet*. (3) (12)
- 1993: **Operation SOUTHERN WATCH II.** To support this operation, the Air Mobility Command airlifted forces to southwest Asia, where they enforced a no-fly zone in southern Iraq near the borders of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. (16) (26)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

President George H. W. Bush ordered air strikes on 32 missile sites and air defense command centers in Iraq after Iraqi troops crossed the border with Kuwait. The strikes also targeted surface-to-air missile sites south of the 32d parallel in Iraq. (16) (21)

**FIRST US MILITARY WOMAN IN SPACE.** Maj Susan Helms became the first US military woman in space during a flight of the Space Shuttle Endeavour. (16) (26)

1994: The last F-15 *Eagles* from the 32d Fighter Group left Soesterberg Air Base, Netherlands, ending a 40-year USAF presence there. (16) (26)

Two HH-60G *Pave Hawk* helicopters from the 56<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron at Keflavik rescued six stranded seamen near Iceland.

2000: **Operation NORTHERN WATCH.** The 169<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, South Carolina Air National Guard, deployed elements from McEntire Air National Guard Base, S. C., to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. It was the first guard unit to deploy operationally in the Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses (SEAD) role, the first guard unit to employ the High Speed-Anti Radiation Missile (HARM) in a SEAD mission, and the first to deploy a female guard F-16 pilot on an operational combat mission. (32)

2006: The Air Force Flight Test Center's special C-135C *Speckled Trout* (Tail No. 61-2669) made its final flight and was retired from the USAF inventory for display in the Test Center's museum at Edwards AFB, Calif. (3)

### 14 January

1943: The Casablanca Conference opened, where plans for a combined bomber offensive against Germany were established. Lt Gen Ira C. Eaker promoted a daylight-bombing offensive for U. S. forces. (5) (21)

1945: B-29s based in China bombed an enemy airfield on Formosa, while 54 Superfortresses hit the important airfield at Kagi. (24)

1957: The USAF signed a \$74 million contract on the F-102A *Delta Dagger* supersonic all-weather jet. (4)

1960: In Florida, Eglin AFB conducted the first test launch of a rocket-borne transmitter. (6)

1961: Maj William R. Payne flew a 43<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Wing B-58 Hustler from Carswell AFB, Tex., in a flight that broke three records. Over a 1,000-kilometer course without a payload and with payloads of 1,000 and 2,000 kilograms, the B-58 averaged 1,284.73 miles per hour. Major Payne later won the Thompson Trophy, an annual award for supremacy in closed circuit flying. (1)

1977: The Department of Defense directed the Air Force to begin full-scale production of the Air Launched Cruise Missile. (6)

1999: The National Air and Space Administration delayed the first X-33 flight for 18 months, following the failure of its liquid hydrogen tank. This action basically ended the development of the single-stage-to-orbit X-33 project at Edwards AFB, Calif., as a Space Shuttle replacement. (3)

### 15 January

1911: **SAN FRANCISCO AIR MEET.** At Tanforan Race Track Lt Myron S. Crissy (Coast Artillery Corps), flying with Lt Phillip O. Parmalee, dropped America's first live bomb over the side of a

## **AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Wright airplane on a target 1,500 feet below. Crissy and Lt Paul W. Beck designed the bomb. (13) (24)
- 1914: The Signal Corps Aviation School issued the first Army aviation safety regulation. It required pilots to wear helmets and leather coats for overland flights, and unsinkable coats for overwater flights. (5) (21)
- 1915: Lt Byron Q. Jones set a one-man duration record of 8 hours 53 minutes in a Martin T tractor biplane at San Diego, Calif. (24)
- 1923: The Air Service directed all pilots and passengers in Army aircraft to wear parachutes. (5)
- 1935: Maj James H. Doolittle flew two passengers on an American Airlines plane nonstop from Los Angeles to New York in 11 hours 59 minutes to set a Federation Aeronautique Internationale record for passenger airplanes and the nonstop west-east transcontinental record. (9) (24)
- 1948: Gen Hoyt S. Vandenberg, Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force, approved the development of satellite components and satellites. (16) (24)
- 1950: General of the Air Force Henry H. Arnold died of a heart ailment at Sonoma, Calif. (21)
- 1958: The USAF activated the 4751st Air Defense Missile Wing and assigned it the mission of developing and conducting training for BOMARC missile units. (21)
- The Strategic Air Command activated the 864<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron (IRBM-Jupiter) at Huntsville, Ala., under the 1st Missile Division. It was the first of three such squadrons in the command activated at the Redstone Arsenal, Al., during 1958. (6)
- 1959: The Strategic Air Command first integrated intercontinental ballistic missile and bomber forces by moving the 703<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Missile Wing (Titan) and 706<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Wing (Atlas) from the 1st Missile Division to Fifteenth Air Force. (16) (24)
- 1969: The first improved Backup Intercept Control III radar system began operating at Fort Fisher Air Force Station, N.C. (5)
- The Strategic Air Command took its last Minuteman I (model "A") missiles off alert at Malmstrom AFB, Mont. (6)
- 1976: A Titan IIIIE launched a West German Helios payload from the Eastern Test Range. (5)
- 1977: First Laser Maverick missile with the Block 1 seeker launched successfully. (12)
- 1979: Two Air Rescue and Recovery Service WC-135s from Ascension Island, along with four Military Airlift Command C-141s from Hickam AFB, Hawaii, and Howard AFB, Panama, conducted 113 missions to drop 1,945 dropwindsondes from 30,000 to 37,000 feet to support a World Meteorological Organization effort to get atmospheric and oceanic data. In phase II on 10 May, 6 C-141s operating from Hickam, Ascensions Island, and Acapulco, Mexico, dropped 2,078 dropwindsondes in 110 missions. (2)
- The E-3A Sentry made its first marijuana capture after the Customs Service spotted and tracked an aircraft that subsequently crashed in Florida. (16)
- 1991: Air Force Systems Command turned over Vandenberg AFB, Calif., and its launch facilities to Air Force Space Command (AFSPACE). (21)
- 1994: Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria gave F-16 Fighting Falcons overflight rights for their deploy-

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ment from Germany to Turkey. That permission marked the first time the USAF had flown an operational mission over those countries since World War II. (21)

- 1998: Through 18 January, 5 C-17s and 13 C-5s deployed civilian utility workers, trucks, chain saws, and other gear to the northeastern US after a devastating ice storm brought down power lines and trees to leave some 500,000 households without electricity. The aircraft picked up most of their passengers and cargo at Pope AFB, N. C., for distribution to Naval Air Station Brunswick and Bangor International Airport, Maine, and Stewart International Airport, N. Y. (22)

### 16 January

- 1911: **EARLY PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE.** Walter Brookins flew a Wright plane at 2,000 feet through the San Bruno Hills, Calif., with Lt George E. M. Kelly (Infantry) as his passenger, in the first attempt to locate troops with photo reconnaissance. They were not successful because the troops hid in small groups in a wooded area. (24)
- 1913: Dr. Thaddeus S. C. Lowe, the Civil War balloonist, died at Pasadena, Calif. (24)
- 1929: The Navy established a requirement for all heavier-than-air naval aviators and Navy and Marine Corps aviation pilots to receive training in night flying. (24)
- 1951: Six Convair B-36s from the 7<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing at Carswell AFB, Tex., made their first appearance in Europe at Lakenheath, England, after a 7,000-mile flight. (1)
- The USAF directed the Air Materiel Command to set up a study with Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation (Convair) for an intercontinental rocket with a minimum range of 5,500 miles, minimum speed of Mach 6 over target, a circular error probable of 1,500 feet, and a nuclear warhead. This study led to the Atlas project (see 23 January 1951). (6)
- 1960: The National Air and Space Administration launched a 100-foot diameter balloon that inflated 250 miles above Wallops Island, Va. (24)
- 1965: Capt Joe H. Engle honored by the US Junior Chamber of Commerce as one of America's Top Ten Young Men of 1964 for his X-15 flights. (3)
- 1968: Crews from United States Air Forces in Europe and the Military Airlift Command delivered food and equipment to Sicilian earthquake victims over a six-day period. (16) (26)
- 1970: **LAST B-58 HUSTLERS.** The Strategic Air Command retired its last B-58 *Hustlers*. Two bombers from the 43<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Wing at Little Rock AFB, Ark., and two from the 305<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing at Grissom AFB, Ind., flew to the aircraft storage facility at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. (1)
- 1971: Pacific Air Forces terminated all fixed-wing herbicide operations in Southeast Asia. (17)
- 1974: Through 19 January, the 48<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron evacuated 93 people from flooded areas near Pinehurst, Idaho. (16) (26)
- 1975: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Through 1 February, Majors Roger J. Smith, David W. Peterson, and William R. MacFarlane flew the F-15A Streak Eagle set eight time-to-climb records at Grand Forks AFB, N. Dak. On 1 February, Major Smith set a world record for time-to-climb by reaching 98,425 feet in 3 minutes 27.8 seconds. For these flights, the men earned the trophy. (21)
- 1981: From Corpus Christi, Tex., and Little Rock AFB, Ark., Military Airlift Command C-130s moved 500 tons of arms, ammunition, helicopters, and other material to San Salvador to support

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

the Salvadoran government in its struggle against leftist guerrillas. This operation lasted through June. (2)

- 1987: A B-1B Lancer, flying with the combined test force at Edwards AFB, Calif., launched its first Short-Range Attack Missile over the Tonopah Test Range, Nev. (16) (26)
- 1991: **Operation DESERT STORM.** The 2d Bomb Wing launched B-52Gs at 0636 hours local time from Barksdale AFB, La., to the Iraqi combat zone, where they launched 35 cruise missiles on 17 January against targets in Iraq and returned to Barksdale. This flight, the longest bombing mission in history to date, started the war against Iraq. (20)
- 1997: An Air Force Reserve C-141 aircrew from the 446<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at McChord AFB, Wash., left Beijing with the remains of five Americans, who died on 13 August 1944 in a B-24J Liberator crash after bombing Japanese ships near Taiwan. Villagers searching the mountainous area for herbs discovered the crash in an extremely remote location of China's Guangxi Province. (22)
- 1998: After a devastating earthquake hit China's Northern Hebei Province, a C-17 left Kadena AB, Okinawa, for Beijing with 40 tons of relief supplies, consisting of blankets, sleeping bags, medical supplies, rations, and cold-weather clothing. (22)
- 2002: At the request of the Philippine government, the Department of Defense deployed US forces to train, advise, and assist Filipino troops in combating the indigenous Abu Sayyaf terrorist group. Through 30 September, the Air Mobility Command flew 78 missions to transport nearly 1,600 troops and more than 3,000 short tons of cargo to the Philippines. (22)
- 2003: The National Air and Space Administration launched the Space Shuttle Columbia on its multi-disciplinary microgravity and Earth science research mission, STS-107. The seven-member crew died on 1 February, when the shuttle disintegrated while re-entering the Earth's atmosphere. Investigators later determined that a piece of foam broke off in launch and damaged the orbiter's thermal protection system on its left wing. The damage led to an extensive heat build-up and the shuttle's disintegration. The shuttle crew members were: Col Rick D. Husband, Commander; Lt Commander William C. McCool, Pilot; Capt David M. Brown (U. S. Navy), Mission Specialist; Kalpana Chawla, Mission Specialist; Lt Col Michael P. Anderson, Payload Commander; Commander Laurel B. Clark (U. S. Navy), Mission Specialist; and Ilan Ramon, Payload Specialist and a Reserve colonel in the Israeli Air Force. (3)

### 17 January

- 1932: **MACKAY TROPHY.** After a severe snowstorm, 7 aircraft from the 11th Bomb Squadron flew missions for 4 days to deliver supplies to Navajo Indians near Winslow, Ariz. Lieutenant Charles H. Howard received the trophy for this effort. (5)
- 1936: Contract let to produce the B-17 bomber. (5)
- 1943: On Guadalcanal, B-17s from Henderson Field dropped water, ammunition, and rations to troops near Mount Austen. (24)
- 1945: Ninety-one B-29s flew the last Superfortress mission from Chengtu, China, against the enemy airfield at Shinchiku, Formosa. (24)
- 1951: Convair's RB-36D reconnaissance plane made a 51-hour, 20-minute trip without refueling. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** A 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Interceptor Group detachment began operating from Taegu Air Base, S. Korea, to restore F-86 operations in Korea. The Sabre Jets flew in their air-to-ground role as fighter-bombers, conducting armed reconnaissance and close air support missions. Far

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East Air Forces temporarily suspended Tarzon bombing missions because of a shortage of the radio-guided bombs. (21) (28)

Through 18 January, Far East Air Forces Combat Cargo Command flew 109 C-119 sorties to drop more than 550 tons of supplies to front-line troops in Korea. (28)

1956: The Department of Defense disclosed the Semi-automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) air defense system to the public. (24)

1962: When Commander George Tolley (U.S. Navy) landed an F8U *Crusader* on the USS Enterprise, he made the first aircraft landing on a nuclear-powered carrier. (24)

B-52Gs from the 4038<sup>th</sup> Strategic Wing at Dow AFB, Maine, carried *Hound Dog* missiles on their first airborne alert. (6)

1963: National Air and Space Administration test pilot Joseph Walker earned astronaut status by flying the X-15 to 271,000 feet, which made him the eleventh man to pass 50 miles in altitude. At the time, astronaut wings were only available to military pilots. The organization subsequently awarded civilian astronaut wings on 23 August 2005 to William H. Dana, and family members of deceased pilots Joe Walker and Jack McKay. ([http://www.nasa.gov/missions/research/X-15\\_wings.html](http://www.nasa.gov/missions/research/X-15_wings.html))

The US decided to withdraw the Jupiter units from Italy. (6)

1967: A C-141 from the 44<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Squadron at Travis AFB, Calif., claimed a trans-Pacific speed record from Japan to the U. S. on a run of 8 hours and 17 minutes, covering a total of 5,400 miles, with speeds averaging 630 miles per hour. (18)

1970: **HURRICANE CAMILLE:** Air Force Reserve aircrews airlifted carpenters and painters to New Orleans to repair damage from the storm. (16) (26)

**NIGERIAN CIVIL WAR.** Through 10 February, C-141s flew 21 missions from Charleston AFB, S. C., to Lagos, Nigeria. They carried 436.5 tons of supplies, including 63 trucks, 70 generators, 10,000 blankets, and a 200-bed portable hospital for Biafran civil war refugees. (18)

1977: A Deputy Secretary of Defense approved the General Purpose Satellite Communications System Program and the Strategic Satellite System Program. (5)

1991: **Operation DESERT SHIELD/STORM.** The Gulf War began. In the first 14 hours of operations, coalition aircraft flew 1,200 combat sorties, while 106 cruise missiles hit targets in Iraq and Kuwait. F-117A Stealth Fighters attacked more than 31 percent of Iraq's strategic targets on the first night. (16) (20)

**Operation DESERT STORM:** Through 17 February 16 C-130 *Hercules* aircraft belonging to the AFRES in the 1650th Tactical Airlift Wing (Provisional) flew more than 3,200 combat sorties. The Air Force Reserve's 706<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Squadron flew its A-10 Thunderbolt IIs on more than 1,000 combat sorties against enemy targets. The Reserves had no combat losses. (16)

1992: The Air Force accepted its first production-model T-1A *Jayhawk* trainer. (16) (26)

1993: **Operation PROVIDE COMFORT.** An F-16 *Fighting Falcon* shot down an Iraqi MiG over northern Iraq. (16) (26)

1994: A major earthquake hit Los Angeles. Through 25 January, 6 C-5 *Galaxies* and C-141 *Starlifters* flew 270 disaster specialists and 340,000 pounds of cargo to Southern California. (26)

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- 1995: The first C-17 *Globemaster III* unit, the 17<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, achieved its initial operating capability at Charleston AFB, S. C., with the 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. The 317<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserves) at Charleston also began flying missions. (18)
- 2000: Successful testing on a C-5 equipped with the new Traffic and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) allowed Lockheed Martin to retrofit the remaining 126 C-5s in Air Mobility Command, Air Force Reserve Command, and the Air National Guard under an Avionics Modernization Program. The C-5 fleet would be equipped with the new upgrades by late fiscal year 2002. (22)
- 2007: **COLD WEATHER TESTING OF NEW FUEL.** A B-52 Stratofortress, powered by a mix of synthetic fuel, arrived at Minot AFB, N. Dak., for cold-weather testing, the last step in a certification process to reduce Air Force's dependence on imported fuel. The 5th Bomb Wing B-52 started its ground testing on 22 January to determine how well the synthetic fuel, made from a 50-50 blend of traditional crude oil-based fuel and a Fischer-Tropsch fuel derived from natural gas, performed in extreme weather conditions. The first B-52 flight using the Fischer-Tropsch fuel occurred 19 September 2006 at Edwards AFB, Calif. (AFNEWS, "B-52 Undergoes Synthetic Fuel Cold Weather Testing," 22 Jan 2007.)

### 18 January

- 1905: Through their congressman, the Wright Brothers opened negotiations with the US Government to build an aircraft. The government, however, refused the offer. (5) (12)
- 1911: At the San Francisco Air Meet (see 15 January), Curtiss exhibition flyer Eugene Ely landed his Curtiss III pusher on and took off from the battleship USS Pennsylvania's afterdeck, a wooden platform 119 feet long. This event made him the first pilot to land on a naval vessel. (See 14 November 1910 for his first takeoff) (21) (24)
- 1919: Maj Rudolph W. Schroeder flew his Loening monoplane, with its 300 horse power Hispano engine, to a 19,500-foot record altitude. (5)
- 1932: Capt R. C. Moffett flew his Curtiss XP-6D between Wright Field, Ohio, and Bolling Field, DC, averaging 270 miles per hour, to complete a record speed flight. (5)
- 1944: Navy PBY Catalinas, based at Port Lyautey, began barrier patrols of the Gibraltar Strait. With magnetic airborne detection gear, the planes closed the strait to enemy U-boats during daylight hours until the war ended. (24)
- 1949: A Pan American Constellation set a 10-hour, 2-minute speed record from New York, N. Y., to London, England. (24)
- 1956: The USAF issued a requirement for a short-range air-launched decoy missile that would simulate a B-52 on radar. It later became the GAM-72A Quail. (6)
- 1957: **Operation POWER FLIGHT/MACKAY TROPHY.** Maj Gen Archie J. Old, Jr., led three B-52s from the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Wing at Castle AFB, Calif., on a 24,325-mile, around-the-world nonstop flight. When the bombers reached March AFB, Calif., 45 hours 19 minutes later, they became the first jets to circle the globe nonstop. The B-52s averaged 532 MPH and relied on three KC-97 air refuelings in setting the Federation Aeronautique Internationale record. The 93d earned the trophy for this flight. (1) (9)
- 1961: **Operation CHROME DOME.** The Strategic Air Command publicly announced continuous airborne alert missions for B-52 bombers with KC-135s handling the refueling. The command first tested the airborne alert mission in 1958, and the program came to an end in 1968 after a

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second alert bomber crashed. The command cited concerns over escalating costs and the emergence of the intercontinental ballistic missile force as reasons the termination. (18)

- 1965: President Johnson announced his decision to build the Short-Range Attack Missile during his defense message to Congress. (12)
- The 4300th Support Squadron launched the Strategic Air Command's first Thor intermediate-range ballistic missile from Vandenberg AFB, Calif. (6)
- 1967: A Titan IIIC booster, launched from Cape Kennedy, Fla., placed eight military communication satellites in a near perfect circular orbit. (16) (26)
- 1979: The Department of Defense approved a validation program for the Strategic Satellite System, but Congress did not fund the project. (5)
- 1981: **IRANIAN HOSTAGE RELEASE.** Iran released 52 American hostages held in the American Embassy in Tehran after 444 days. They were flown on an Air Algeria 727 to Algeria, where two C-9As took them to Germany for medical observation. On 25 January, the "Freedom One" VC-137 returned the hostages to the US. Out of gratitude for US aid following earthquakes in October 1980, Algeria provided vital diplomatic assistance in negotiating the release. (2)
- 1985: Military Airlift Command C-141 *Starlifters* moved 62 tons of cargo to the Sudan to relieve the plight of Ethiopian refugees. (16)
- 1986: The Space Shuttle *Columbia* landed at Edwards AFB, Calif. It was the last shuttle mission before the *Challenger* accident. (5)
- 1988: The Minuteman missile program passed a major milestone with the launch of its 100th missile (See 1 February 1961 for the first launch). (5)
- 1991: **DESERT STORM.** USAF aircraft based at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, attacked targets in northern Iraq to prevent the reinforcement of enemy forces defending Kuwait. (16) (26)
- Eastern Airlines, one of the oldest commercial carriers in the US, went out of business. (20)
- 1993: **Operation PROVIDE COMFORT:** After being fired upon, F-4G Phantom IIs attacked surface-to-air missile sites in northern Iraq. F-16s also bombed an Iraqi airfield after being shot at by anti-aircraft artillery batteries. (16)

### 19 January

- 1910: **LOS ANGELES FLYING MEET.** From a Farman Biplane flown by Louis Paulhan, Lt Paul W. Beck (Signal Corps) dropped three 2-pound sandbags to hit a ground target. This made Beck the first Army officer to complete a bombing test. (24)
- 1937: In 7 hours 28 minutes 25 seconds, Howard Hughes flew his Hughes Special (HR-1 Racer) from Burbank to Newark, N. J. He averaged 332 MPH to set a Federation Aeronautique International cross-country speed record that lasted 10 years. (7) (9)
- 1946: A B-29 carried the Bell X-1 aloft for its first air-launch. (5)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Far East Air Forces launched a 13-day intensive air campaign by fighters, light bombers, and medium bombers to prevent supplies and reinforcements from reaching enemy forces in the field. (28)



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- 1962: Martin Marietta received a contract to develop and produce Titan-Gemini launch vehicles. (12)
- 1965: A modified BOMARC missile was launched as a target for Air Defense Command interceptors for the first time. (5)
- An unmanned Gemini spacecraft made a suborbital test flight from Cape Kennedy, Fla. (5)
- 1968: **DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.** Maj William J. Knight received his senior pilot astronaut wings and the cross for his 50-mile high flight in the X-15. (3)
- The Strategic Air Command asked the USAF for an improved bomber decoy. This requirement became the Subsonic Cruise Aircraft Decoy (SCAD). (6)
- 1975: The first Minuteman launch in the HAVE FLY Program occurred under the Navy's Trident Supplemental Flight Test program. (5)
- 1976: The 180th Tactical Fighter Group became the first Air National Guard unit to participate in a Red Flag exercise at Nellis AFB, Nev. (16) (26)
- 1985: **TYPHOON ERIC.** Through 21 January, two C-5 *Galaxies* and one C-141 *Starlifter* from the 75<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Squadron and 312<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Squadron moved 186 tons of relief supplies, including 2,400 tents, tarpaulins, plastic sheeting, and water trailers to Viti Levu Island to help over 3,000 homeless victims. (16) (26)
- 1995: The 374<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Yokota AB, Japan, started humanitarian C-130 airlift flights to help victims of a 17 January earthquake in southwestern Japan. (16)
- 1997: A 349<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing (Air Force Reserves) C-141 aircrew from Travis AFB, Calif., airlifted 40,000 pounds of winter clothing to Ellsworth AFB, S. Dak. From there, trucks carried the cargo to the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation at Eagle Butte, S. Dak. (22)
- 2000: The National Air and Space Administration conducted the first X-38 Crew Return Vehicle flight test with its full-scale parafoil recovery system. The craft used a 143-foot parafoil, with a 7,500-foot area, the largest parafoil ever built. The parafoil deployed in a 30 second, five-stage process after a C-130 released the X-38 over the Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz. (3)
- 2001: The Air Combat Command Commander, General John P. Jumper, announced the selection of Beale AFB, Calif., for first operational Global Hawk UAV squadron. (3)
- 2007: The 1st Fighter Wing and 94th Fighter Squadron at Langley AFB, Va., received its last F-22A *Raptor* (Tail No. 5085). That arrival gave the wing 40 F-22s to complete its fleet. Brigadier General Burton M. Field, 1st Fighter Wing Commander, flew the jet from the Lockheed Martin factory in Marietta, Ga., to Langley. (AFNEWS, "Langley Receives Last Raptor, Completes Fleet," 19 Jan 2007.)

### 20 January

- 1946: A Pan American Airways Constellation clipper set a record from New York, N. Y., to Lisbon, Spain, for commercial planes by covering the 3,425 miles in 9 hours 58 minutes. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** The first encounter between USAF F-84s and Communist Chinese MiG-15s occurred. (28)
- 1959: Richard J. Scoles flew a Douglas RB-66A *Destroyer* from Ontario International Airport, Calif.,

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to Andrews AFB, Md., in 3 hours 36 minutes for a new Federation Aeronautique Internationale cross-country record. He made a return flight in 4 hours 58 minutes two days later. (9)

- 1960: **PROJECT BIG ARM.** Early in January, the Soviet Union announced tests of more powerful rockets. Through 22 January, Pacific Air Forces employed KC-135, C-130, and RB-69 (P2V-7) aircraft to observe these tests. (17)
- 1962: A Strategic Air Command crew launched its first Titan I (a J-model) from Vandenberg AFB, Calif. (6)
- 1966: Blanche W. Noyes, a Federal Aviation Administration marking specialist and pilot, became the first American aviatrix to receive the Brazilian Medal of Merit for service to Brazilian aviation. (5)
- 1970: The Federal Aviation Administration approved the Boeing 747 Jumbo Jet for commercial service. (5)
- 1974: When test pilot Phil Oestricher took the YF-16 *Fighting Falcon* out on a high-speed taxi test at Edwards AFB, the aircraft made an unplanned and unofficial first flight. (3)
- 1975: Teams began replacing 50 Minuteman IIs in the 564<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron at Malmstrom AFB, Mont., with Minuteman IIIs. (6)
- 1982: The USAF signed its first B-1B production contract with Rockwell International. (1)
- 1988: The last of 100 B-1B bombers rolled off the assembly line at the Rockwell plant in Palmdale, Calif. (8)

The USAF awarded a \$606.6 million contract to McDonnell Douglas to build two production-model C-17s, the next generation transports. (8)

Elbert Rutan, designer of the world circling “*Voyager*,” unveiled his Advanced Technology Tactical Transport in a demonstration flight at Mojave, Calif. Rutan offered the lightweight, double-winged plane to the Air Force for consideration as a long-distance military transport. He produced the aircraft, with Beech Aircraft Corp., under a \$2.5 million contract from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. (8)

- 1992: Through 25 January, a 60<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Wing C-5 airlifted 56 tons of supplies from Japan to Mongolia, which suffered from shortages of health care resources. (16)
- 2001: Texas Governor and former Texas Air National Guardsman George W. Bush inaugurated as President of the US. He was the first former Air Guardsman to become President. (32)

### 21 January

- 1911: Lt Paul W. Beck sent the first radio message from a plane to ground station at Selfridge Field, Mich., 1.5 miles away. He designed a transmitter to send telegraph signals and used Phillip O. Parmalee’s Wright plane flying at 100 feet for this demonstration. (5) (21)
- The Curtiss North Island School and Experimental Station opened in San Diego, Calif. This school later became the Signal Corps Aviation School. (24)
- 1918: The 1st Marine Aviation Company reached Ponta Delgado, Azores, to fly anti-sub patrols (See 9 January). (24)

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- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Large numbers of MiG-15s attacked USAF jets, shooting down one F-80 and one F-84. In one engagement, Lt Col William E. Bertram from the 27<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Escort Group became the first F-84 Thunderjet pilot to shoot down a MiG-15. (21) (28)
- 1955: The Flying Platform, a one-man helicopter, first flew at the Hiller plant in Palo Alto, Calif. (24)
- 1957: The USAF received its first five Cessna T-37 trainers. (5)
- 1958: The USAF first used Cessna T-37s in student pilot training with Class 59-D at Bainbridge Air Base, Ga. (5)
- 1959: The Army launched its first operationally configured Jupiter missile from Cape Canaveral, Fla. It struck the target area after a 1,700-mile flight. (6)
- 1960: From Wallops Island, a Mercury capsule carried "Miss Sam," a monkey, nine miles up to test an emergency escape system. (24)
- 1961: **HAWAII ANG CONVERSION COMPLETED.** The 199th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron's first TF-102A Delta Dagger flight for the Hawaii Air National Guard occurred. These aircraft replaced the old F-86 Sabres on alert status in May.
- 1965: Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories at Hanscom AFB, Mass., completed a scientific first by bouncing and photographing a laser beam off Explorer XXII, Ionospheric Beacon Satellite. This allowed scientists to determine exact distance between two or more points on earth. (26)
- The USAF launched an Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile from Vandenberg AFB, Calif., with a piggyback satellite to sample radiation and micrometeors. It was the satellite first orbited westward around the earth. (5)
- 1968: **SIEGE OF KHE SANH.** Communist forces began an extended siege of two Marine infantry battalions and an artillery battalion at Khe Sanh, Vietnam. In early January 1968, some 15,000 Communist troops had cut off all ground supply to the base. On 16 January, C-130s airlifted another Marine infantry battalion to Khe Sanh to give the base 6,000 defenders. The siege prompted an extensive airlift. Through April, under very hostile conditions, a C-123 and C-130 airlift gave the Khe Sanh defenders a 30-day supply of food, fuel, and ammunition by delivering 12,430 tons of cargo in 1,128 sorties. Enemy fire destroyed 3 C-123s and damaged at least 18 C-130s and 8 C-123s. The Marines later abandoned Khe Sanh on 23 June. (16) (17) (18)
- 1970: A Boeing 747 made its first scheduled flight in a 7-hour, 8-minute trip from New York, N. Y., to London, England, with 196 passengers and 18 crewmen. (5)
- 1972: The Lockheed S-3A Viking first flew. (5)
- 1984: From an F-15 Eagle carrier, the anti-satellite missile completed its first free flight test. The missile deployed a dummy miniature vehicle emulator. (16)
- 1985: From an F-15, Maj Ralph B. Filburn launched the first anti-satellite (ASAT) missile to a point-in-space. (3)
- MACKAY TROPHY.** In a training flight Lt Col David E. Faught, a 97<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing evaluator pilot at Blytheville AFB, Ark., saved a KC-135 and eight crewmen, when the tanker could not extend its nose gear to land. With bad weather approaching and their fuel growing low, the crew tried to lower the nose gear. After 13 hours in the air, Faught made a nose up landing at the base. For this act, Faught received the trophy. (1)

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- 1987: Gen John T. Chain, the Strategic Air Command Commander, flew the first B-1B, named the "Wings of Freedom," to Ellsworth AFB, S. Dak., for service with the 28<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing. (AFNEWS, "20 Years of Lethality, Ellsworth Celebrates B-1's History," <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123038283>, 24 Jan 2007)
- 1991: **Operation DESERT STORM/AIR FORCE CROSS.** Capt Paul T. Johnson in his A-10 Thunderbolt II found a downed Navy fighter pilot, who had ejected in Iraqi territory. Johnson destroyed a threatening Iraqi truck, which allowed an Air Force MH-53J Pave Low helicopter to rescue the pilot. For his efforts, Johnson received an Air Force Cross. (16) (26)
- 2004: An Air Force Flight Test Center F-117 *Nighthawk* released two types of Joint Direct Attack Munitions, a GBU-31 (v) 1/B [blast effect] and GBU-31 (v) 3/B [deep penetrator], for the first time at the Precision Impact Range Area on Edwards AFB, Calif. (3)
- 2005: The Air Force Research Laboratory at Edwards AFB, Calif., fired Lockheed-Martin's hybrid rocket motor, using a solid rubberized propellant and liquid oxygen as the oxidizer. The test supported a joint Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and USAF "Falcon" program to develop an affordable Small Launch Vehicle satellite booster. (3)
- An Air Force Flight Test Center test team increased command and control capabilities of the Joint Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle by transferring the line-of-sight control of two X-45A vehicles at the same time. This test showed a primary pilot's ability to send two unmanned aerial vehicles to a threat area and hand over their control to a theater pilot. (3)

### 22 January

- 1909: The Aeronautical Society of New York gave a \$5,000 contract to Glenn Curtiss. His airplane, the Gold Bug, was the first one built for sale by Curtiss. (24)
- 1925: The first squadron trained to operate from a carrier, VF Squadron 2, began practice landings on the USS Langley off San Diego, Calif. (24)
- 1944: **Operation SHINGLE.** To support the amphibious landings at Anzio, the Mediterranean Allied Air Force flew 1,200 sorties. (24)
- 1945: Navy task forces completed three weeks of action against Luzon, Formosa, the Ryukyus, Pescadores, Okinawa, and Hong Kong. They destroyed over 600 enemy aircraft and 325,000 tons of enemy shipping. (24)
- 1948: The Navy announced that it could launch V-2s from its carriers. (24)
- 1950: Paul Mantz set a new Federation Aeronautique Internationale record for a single-engine transcontinental flight. In 4 hours 52 minutes 58 seconds, he flew a P-51 Mustang from Burbank, Calif., to La Guardia, N.Y. (9)
- 1953: **EXERCISE SKY TRY.** Through 20 February, the Strategic Air Command extensively tested the combat capabilities of its first B-47 unit, the 306<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing at MacDill AFB, Fla. This exercise led to a 90-day rotational mission to England later in June. (1)
- 1959: Capt William B. White flew an F-105 *Thunderchief* from Eielson AFB, Alaska, to Eglin AFB, Fla. He flew 3,850 miles in 5 hours 27 minutes on the longest nonstop flight between points in the U. S. (24)

The USAF issued a requirement for an air-to-surface strategic ballistic missile for the B-52. It

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became the Skybolt. (6)

1962: **EXERCISE LONG THRUST II.** A 7-day transatlantic airlift maneuver from the U. S. concluded when the last of 5,273 soldiers landed in Germany. (24)

1963: Italian crews launched the last of six Jupiter intermediate-range ballistic missiles successfully from Cape Canaveral, Fla. (6)

1964: The Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird first flew. (5)

1968: **OPERATION NIAGARA.** Through 31 March, USAF, U. S. Navy, and U. S. Marine Corps aircraft flew 24,016 sorties (21,449 tactical and 2,567 strategic) to support of Khe Sanh outpost. As mentioned in the Siege of Khe Sanh entry (21 January 1968), USAF tactical transports made 447 landings and 576 airdrops, delivering 12,430 tons of supplies. To this date, only the Berlin Airlift surpassed the airlift effort to Khe Sanh. (17)

Apollo V, an unmanned earth orbital mission, launched from Kennedy Space Center in the fourth Saturn IB flight. This mission also included the first flight of the 31,700-pound lunar module (LM-1). (5)

1971: Cmdr Donald H. Lilienthal set a world distance record for heavy-weight turboprops in a P-3C Orion antisubmarine aircraft. He flew 11,036.47 kilometers (7,010 miles) in nonstop flight from Atsugi NAS, Japan, to Patuxent Naval Air Station, Md., in 15 hours 21 minutes. (5)

1980: Under the Integrated Improvement Program, teams upgraded the 351<sup>st</sup> Strategic Missile Wing's Minuteman silos and installed the Command Data Buffer System at Whiteman AFB, Mo. (6)

1981: Aeronautical Systems Division requested a proposal for initial full-scale engineering development of a long-range combat aircraft. (12)

1991: **DESERT STORM:** F-111F Aardvarks initiated "smart bomb" attacks against hardened aircraft shelters at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. The attacks were so successful, Iraqi fighters started flying to Iran to escape destruction. (16) (21)

1997: An improved F-117A Nighthawk stealth fighter touched down at Holloman AFB, N. Mex., as Lockheed Martin delivered the first "RNIP-Plus" aircraft to the 49<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing. The F-117's new Ring Laser Gyro/GPS Navigation Improvement Program reduced navigational drift during flight. Plans called for the entire F-117 fleet to be modified by October 1999. (AFNEWS Article 970158, 12 Feb 97)

1999: Lockheed Martin received a \$450 million contract to install advanced flight control systems, improved communications, and navigation gear aboard the USAF's C-5s under an Avionics Modernization Program. (22)

For the first time, the *Global Hawk* relayed information from its radar and sensors to the ground by using a commercial Ku-band satellite during its tenth test flight at Edwards AFB, Calif. (3)

2000: The Air Mobility Command performed its first regularly scheduled C-130 aeromedical evacuation mission. The 911<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing from Pittsburgh International Airport/Air Reserve Station, Pa., began flying a weekly mission to the Caribbean to support U. S. Southern Command. Normally, the Air Mobility Command used C-9s and C-141 for its peacetime aeromedical mission, but the phased C-141 retirement created the C-130 requirement. Two Air Mobility Command-gained C-130 units volunteered to fly regular aeromedical missions, the 911<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing and the Air National Guard's 187<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing from Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyo., to Peterson AFB, Col., on 1 February 2000. (22)

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The Boeing Aircraft Company took a new 747-400F freighter from its production line and sent it to its Wichita, Kans., facility for modification into a YAL-1 Airborne Laser test bed aircraft. (3)

### 23 January

- 1918: The first American military balloon ascension in the American Expeditionary Force took place at the American Balloon School, Cuperly, Marne, France. (24)
- 1929: Through 27 January, the aircraft carriers USS Lexington and USS Saratoga participated in fleet exercises for the first time. (20)
- 1940: In the first American test to see if a complete unit could be moved by air, the 7th Bombardment Group from Hamilton Field, Calif., used 38 bombers to transport a battalion of 65th Coast Artillery troops 500 miles. (24)
- 1949: **Operation SNOWBOUND (also HAYLIFT).** The USAF aided snowbound western ranchers by dropping 25,000 pounds of feed to sheep and cattle. Over the next four weeks, Military Air Transport Service C-82s and Air Rescue Service SC-47s also dropped 525 cases of “C” rations, 20,000 pounds of food, and 10,000 pounds of coal to area residents. (2) (24)
- 1951: The USAF activated Project MX-1593, successor to MX-774 for the Atlas prototype, in a contract with Convair. Since 1947, when the Air Force cancelled the Atlas to pursue Snark and Navaho missiles, Convair had financed its own limited research on ballistic missiles. (24)
- KOREAN WAR.** Far East Air Forces tasked 33 F-84s from Taegu to attack Sinuiju, which provoked a furious 30-minute air battle with MiG-15s from across the Yalu. The F-84s shot down three MiGs, the highest daily USAF aerial victory total in the month. While 46 F-80s suppressed anti-aircraft artillery around Pyongyang, 21 B-29s bombed enemy airfields there. (28)
- 1961: The last Atlas-D launch from Cape Canaveral, Fla., was a success. Altogether, there were 35 completely successful launches, eight partial successes, and six failures in the program. (6)
- 1963: Turkey announced plans to phase out one squadron of Jupiter missiles. (6)
- 1964: The USAF launched a Titan II intercontinental ballistic missile from an underground silo at Vandenberg AFB, Calif., on a 5,000-mile flight down the Pacific Missile Range. (5)
- 1975: An Air Force directive specified that early DoD space shuttle missions would be planned and controlled by a National Air and Space Administration team in NASA facilities. (5)
- 1981: Two 6594<sup>th</sup> Test Group helicopters performed a pararescue-assisted hoist pickup of an injured seaman from a merchant vessel 240 nautical miles west of Honolulu. (26)
- 2002: A 305<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing KC-10 from McGuire AFB, N. J., arrived at Dulles International Airport, DC, with John Walker Lindh, a 20-year-old American accused of joining Al Qaeda and fighting in Afghanistan against US forces. A US Park Police helicopter took Lindh from the KC-10 flight to a detention facility in northern Virginia. On 24 January in Alexandria, Va., he was charged with conspiring to kill Americans. A C-17 flew Lindh from Kandahar to Incirlik AB for transfer to the KC-10. (22)

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### 24 January

- 1913: The Burgess and Curtiss Company delivered the first Curtiss tractor airplane (Signal Corps No. 21) to the Signal Corps Aviation School at San Diego, Calif. It was accepted on 20 June. (24)
- 1919: 1Lt Temple M. Joyce, Army Air Service pilot, made 300 consecutive loops in a Morane fighter over Issoudun, France. (20)
- 1925: Using the Navy airship USS Los Angeles (ZR-3), 25 scientists and astronomers chased a solar eclipse across the U. S. (8: Jan 90)
- 1944: Twelfth Air Force provided air cover for Allied units landing on Anzio beach in Italy. US control of the air played a major role in defending the beachhead. (5)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR/OPERATION THUNDERBOLT.** Close air support for United Nations ground troops remained a priority mission for Far East Air Forces in the Korean conflict. In the operation, a late January Eighth Army campaign designed to reach the Han River, T-6 Mosquito controllers patrolled ahead of friendly ground forces, notified ground forces of enemy strong spots, and called in air strikes by US fighter-bombers. Generals Matthew B. Ridgway and Earl E. Partridge reconnoitered the front lines in a T-6 prior to their 25 January dawn attack on Red Chinese forces. To sustain this offensive, in five days 68 C-119s dropped 1,162 tons of supplies, including fuel, oil, sleeping bags, C-rations, and signal wire, at Chunju. (17) (28)
- 1962: Two Navy F4H Phantoms, designated F-110A by the USAF, arrived at Langley AFB, Va., on a 120-day loan for orientation and evaluation. (24)
- 1965: The bulkiest object ever delivered by helicopter, the 2.5-ton 30-foot-tall Apollo spacecraft mockup, flew 1,000 miles from North American Aviation at Tulsa, Okla., to Cape Kennedy, Fla. (5)
- 1972: A remotely piloted vehicle flew for 21 hours continuously in a test at Edwards AFB, Calif. (3)
- 1973: The Spirit of '76, the VC-137 in which Lyndon B. Johnson became President in 1963, flew his body from Texas to Washington DC in a final tribute. (2) (26)
- 1978: The Tactical Air Command deployed eight F-15 *Eagles* from Langley AFB, Va., to Osan AB, Republic of Korea. This event gave the F-15 its first operational training deployment to the western Pacific. (16) (26)
- 1983: **AHUAS TARA I.** For this US-Honduran exercise, the Military Airlift Command moved 3,815 passengers and 2,528 tons of cargo on 65 C-141s, 156 C-130s, and 5 C-5s through 11 February. The exercise featured the airdrop of 516 Honduran paratroopers from nine C-130s. (2)
- 1985: **FIRST ALL MILITARY SPACE SHUTTLE MISSION.** Through 27 January, the Discovery flew the fifteenth Space Shuttle mission. Colonel Loren J. Shriver led a four-man crew on the Department of Defense's first dedicated mission to deliver an intelligence satellite. (8: Jan 90) (21)
- 1999: A Navy F-18 fired an AGM-154A Joint Standoff Weapon, built by Raytheon, for the first time in combat. The F-18 attacked an Iraqi air defense site. (21)
- 2002: An F-22 pilot from the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB, Calif., fired an Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile and destroyed a target drone over the Point Mugu Test Range. The challenging shot was a look-down tail chase with the Navy target drone pulling ahead of the aircraft. (3)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2003: Due to the impending Iraq war, the Global Hawk Systems Program Office at Edwards AFB, Calif., accelerated the “Reachback” capability testing. That reachback capability involved a Mission Control Element in a remote location operating a unmanned aerial vehicle in a theater of war through a tactical field terminal. (3)
- 2005: Through 4 February, about 620 American servicemembers participated in Thailand’s Exercise Cope Tiger. F-15s from the Hawaii Air National Guard’s 154<sup>th</sup> Wing and 18th Wing at Kadena AB, Japan, traveled to Korat AB, Thailand, to join F/A-18s from the USS Abraham Lincoln for the exercise. It featured one-on-one aerial combat and large coordinated air strikes. (32)
- 2006: **Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.** The Air National Guard deployed over 400 members of Indiana’s 122<sup>d</sup> Fighter Wing, including 12 F-16s and some 35 pilots, to Ballad AB, Iraq. (32)

### 25 January

- 1912: Lt Henry H. Arnold flew a Wright plane to an altitude record of 4,764 feet in a 59-minute flight over the Army Aviation School at Augusta, Ga. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Far East Air Forces replaced its Combat Cargo Command with the 315th Air Division (AD) (Combat Cargo). The division received its administrative and logistical support directly from Far East Air Forces. By this date, Combat Cargo had flown 32,362 sorties to deliver 130,170 tons of supplies, deliver 155,294 passengers, and evacuate 72,960 casualties. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** A helicopter rescued a downed airman, near the coastline of the Yellow Sea, while F-84s strafed enemy troops in the area. Escorting F-86s destroyed three MiG-15s during the pick-up. In other air-to-air combat, UN jets destroyed six and damaged four communist aircraft. (28)
- 1957: A B-47 set an unofficial cross-country speed record, flying 2,700 miles from Riverside, Calif., to Boston, Mass., in 3 hours 47 minutes. (24)
- The Douglas Aircraft Company successfully launched its Thor Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile for the first time. (12)
- The Lockheed YC121F, a special Superconstellation, set a transcontinental speed record for propeller-driven aircraft by flying from Long Beach, Calif., to Andrews AFB, Md., in 4 hours 43 minutes. (24)
- 1959: American Airlines used Boeing 707s to inaugurate a regular jet passenger service across the U. S. The 4-hour, 3-minute flight from Los Angeles, Calif., to New York, N. Y. also represented a record time for passenger service. (5)
- 1960: An Army MIM-23 *Hawk* missile shot down a MGR-1 *Honest John* surface-to-surface missile in the first known kill of a ballistic missile by an anti-aircraft missile. (16) (24)
- 1964: Echo II, a balloon-type passive communications satellite, launched as the first cooperative space experiment between the U. S. and the Soviet Union. (5)
- 1988: Through 28 January, two C-5 *Galaxies* flew 102 tons of medical supplies from a private donor to Manila in response to a request from the Philippine government. (16)
- 1990: In a ceremony at Beale AFB, Calif., the Strategic Air Command retired Lockheed’s SR-71 *Blackbird* from active service. The SR-71 aircrews flew more than 65 million miles at speeds above Mach 2 (more than half above Mach 3) on high altitude reconnaissance missions. (16)



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1994: A Titan II booster launched Clementine I, a space probe, to the moon. This mission was the first American lunar effort since Apollo 17 in 1972. (16) (26)
- 2000: The Air Combat Command Commander, Gen Ralph E. Eberhart, dedicated the first Block D upgraded B-1s at Dyess AFB, Tex. (AFNEWS Article 000140, 2 Feb 00)
- 2002: After cancelling the X-33 orbital launcher program, the National Air and Space Administration ferried the unfinished X-33 vehicle from Plant 42 in Palmdale, Calif., to the X-33 launch facility near Haystack Butte at Edwards AFB, Calif., for indefinite storage. (3)

### 26 January

- 1911: Glenn H. Curtiss flew a seaplane from the water at San Diego, Calif. This event was a first in the U. S. (24)
- 1942: The first US troops arrived in North Ireland to help establish the “air bridge” between the U. S. and the United Kingdom. (5)
- 1946: Colonel William H. Councill flew a Lockheed P-80 Shooting Star nonstop across the US to make the first transcontinental jet flight. He completed the 2,457 miles between Los Angeles and New York in 4 hours 13 minutes 26 seconds at an average speed of 584 MPH to set a FAI record. (24)
- The US AAF created the First Experimental Guided Missile Group to make and test missiles. On 6 February, the group activated at Eglin Field. (6) (12)
- 1949: The USS Norton Sound, the first guided missile experimental test ship, launched its first missile, the Loon. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** FEAF flew its first C-47 “control aircraft,” loaded with enough communications equipment to connect all T-6 Mosquitoes, tactical air control parties, and the Tactical Air Control Center by radio. This was the harbinger of today’s warning and control aircraft.
- 1953: Chance Vought Aircraft finished the last F4U Corsair. Almost 12,700 Corsairs in different variations were produced. (5)
- 1958: The ADC’s 83d Fighter Interceptor Squadron (FIS) at Hamilton AFB, Calif., accepted the first F-104A Starfighter. (12)
- 1968: The US called ANG and AFRES units to active duty based on the Pueblo Incident and increased enemy activity in Vietnam. (16) (26)
- 1975: SAC completed its Force Modernization Program by installing the last flight of Minuteman IIIs in 90 SMW at Francis E. Warren AFB. The nine-year program replaced all Minuteman I missiles with either Minuteman IIs or IIIs. (1) (6)
- 1977: Aerojet Solid Propulsion Company successfully test-fired its M-X upper stage motor at the Air Force Rocket Propulsion Laboratory. (5)
- 1979: First European-built F-16 delivered in ceremonies at the SABCA plant at Charleroi-Gosselies Airport, Belgium. (12)
- 1982: The Ballistic Missile Office demonstrated M-X cold launch system at the Nevada Test Site. In the test, the system ejected a weight-simulated M-X shell more than 300 feet into the air. (6)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Maj Gen Michael Collins (USAF Reserve), a crewmember on the Apollo XI mission to the moon, flew his last mission as a reserve officer in a F-16 at Edwards AFB. (26)

- 1988: At Renton, Wash., Boeing rolled out two new aircraft, the 737-400 and 747-400.
- 1989: At Cape Canaveral, the Navy launched its 19th and last Trident II (D-5) missile. This launch ended a series of land-launched tests that began on 15 January 1987. (8)
- 2004: The AFFTC at Edwards AFB carried out the first mission its new KC-135 “rain and ice” tanker. The unique USAF aircraft could replicate rain, snow or icing conditions through a four-foot shower head, with 100 air and water nozzles, mounted at the end of its refueling boom. In the mission, the tanker produced a saturated cloud for an F-22 *Raptor* performance test. (3)

### 27 January

- 1911: At an Aero Club show in San Diego, Calif., Lt Theodore G. “Spuds” Ellyson (U. S. Navy), a student at the nearby Curtiss School, took off in a Curtiss “grass cutter” plane to become the first Naval aviator. With a blocked throttle, this ground plane was not supposed to fly, and Ellyson was not proficient enough to fly. He slewed off left, cracking up the plane somewhat by making a wing-first landing. Ellyson wasn’t injured, but from then on he was considered to have made his first flight. (21) (24)
- 1912: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Clarence H. Mackay established the Mackay Trophy. Aviators could compete for the trophy annually under rules made each year, or the War Department could award the trophy for the most meritorious flight of the year. (24)
- 1928: The Navy airship Los Angeles (ZR-3) landed on the carrier USS Saratoga at sea near Newport, R.I., to transfer passengers and take on fuel and supplies. (24)
- 1943: Eighth Air Force’s 1<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Wing and 2<sup>nd</sup> Bombardment Wing conducted the first American bombing mission against Germany. In this mission, 53 B-17s and B-24s hit the naval base, the U-boat construction works, power plant, and docks at Wilhelmshaven. Two other bombers hit the submarine base at Emden. Afterwards, the bomber returned to the United Kingdom with the loss of three aircraft. (21) (24)
- 1954: Dr. Wernher von Braun and his team launched Redstone missile No. 2 from Cape Canaveral, Fla. (24)
- 1955: **TRAINING IN FORMOSA.** During the latter part of November 1954, the Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Command invited Far East Air Forces to rotate fighter squadrons to bases on Formosa on a training and familiarization basis. The 18th Fighter-Bomber Wing completed its move to the island today. (17)
- 1967: **APOLLO FIRE.** USAF Lt Cols Virgil I. “Gus” Grissom and Edward White, and Navy Lt Cmdr Roger B. Chaffee died when their Apollo spacecraft caught fire at Cape Kennedy, Fla. They were rehearsing for a 21 February flight. (9)
- 1968: **Operation COMBAT FOX:** After North Korea seized the S. S. Pueblo on 23 January, the Military Airlift Command supported USAF and Army deployments from the U.S., Pacific, and Southeast Asia to South Korea and Japan. During the next three weeks, the Military Airlift Command moved 7,996 passengers and nearly 13,700 tons of cargo in over 800 missions to the region. (2) (17) (18)
- 1971: Cmdr Donald H. Lilienthal (USN) flew a P-3C Orion to a world speed record for heavyweight turboprops. Over 15-25 kilometers, he reached 501 miles per hour to break the Soviet Il-18's

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

May 1968 record of 452 miles per hour. (5)

- 1973: **VIETNAM PEACE ACCORDS.** After the 11-day B-52 bombing campaign against Hanoi and Haiphong, North Vietnam signed a peace accord. (1) (2)
- 1977: A Delta booster launched the NATO III-B satellite into orbit from Cape Canaveral, Fla. (5)
- 1982: At the Utah Test and Training Range, an Air Launched Cruise Missile coated with 3/4-inches of ice, showed its all-climate capabilities after its launch by a B-52G. (6)
- 1991: **Operation DESERT STORM.** After 10 days of aerial combat, US-backed coalition air forces attained air supremacy over the Iraqis. F-111 Aardvarks delivered guided bombs on the Al Ahmadi oil refinery to close oil manifolds opened by the Iraqis. This attack stopped the flow of crude oil, the biggest deliberate oil spill in history, into the Persian Gulf. (16) (21) (26)

### 28 January

- 1908: Lts Frank P. Lahm, Henry W. Alden, and J. G. Obermeier made a 2-hour, 20-minute balloon trip in the Ohio from Canton, Ohio, to Oil City, Pa., covering about 100 miles. (24)
- 1917: At San Diego, Calif., for the first time in the US a pilot transmitted his voice by radiotelephone from a plane to the ground. (5)
- 1938: Through 29 January, Capt Robert O. D. Sullivan flew from New York, N. Y., to Marseilles, France, to make his first flight across the Atlantic. On 28 December 1942, he made his 100<sup>th</sup> flight across the Atlantic. (24)
- 1945: Eighth Air Force celebrated its third birthday with a 1,000-plane raid on Germany. By this time, the Eighth had flown more than 250,000 bomber and 210,000 fighter sorties to deliver 518,000 tons of bombs and destroy 13,000 enemy planes. (24)
- 1949: A service test model of the C-97A flew for the first time. (18)
- 1964: Maj Robert A. Rushworth flew the 100th X-15 flight near Edwards AFB, Calif. He hit 3,682 MPH (mach 5.4) and 107,000 feet in altitude in this mission. (5)
- 1968: **Operation PLOWSHARE/Project CABRIOLET.** The Atomic Energy Commission conducted this project at the Nevada Test Site to study peaceful uses of atomic energy. (5)
- Air Force reservists set a record by airlifting more than 447 tons of domestic cargo during 22-28 January, in addition to the cargo carried to Southeast Asia and Europe. (16)
- 1970: The 6511th Test Group (Parachute) set a new record for a single pallet drop, when a C-130E dropped a pallet weighing 50,540 pounds from 2,500 feet. (3)
- In the first MiG encounter since the bombing halt in November 1968, a MiG-21 shot down an HH-53 helicopter with air-to-air missiles. The HH-53 was orbiting in Laos while waiting for clearance to enter North Vietnam to pick up a downed F-105 crew. (17)
- 1973: **LAST B-52 COMBAT SORTIE IN SEA.** The last B-52 sortie for Operation ARC LIGHT struck targets in South Vietnam. This operation began in 1965. (16) (17)
- 1982: The first of 76 C-5 Galaxy aircraft to receive new wings arrived at the Lockheed-Georgia plant in Marietta, Ga., for modification. (16) (26)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Air Force Systems Command directed its Aeronautical Systems Division to set up a derivative fighter organization to compare the F-15E and F-16E as dual role fighters with air-to-air and air-to-ground capabilities. (30)

- 1984: The Air Force Reserves accepted its first F-16 Fighting Falcon at Hill AFB, Utah. (16) (26)
- 1985: Two H-3 Jolly Green Giant helicopters rescued 10 shipwrecked Korean fishermen. The helicopter took the survivors to Kunsan AB, South Korea, for medical treatment. (16) (26)
- 1986: **CHALLENGER DISASTER.** The Space Shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after launch, killing Astronauts Francis R. Scobee, Navy Cmdr Michael J. Smith, Dr. Judith Resnik, Dr. Ronald E. McNair, Air Force Lt Col Ellison S. Onizuka, Gregory Jarvis of Hughes Aircraft Corp., and schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe. This tragedy delayed America's manned space program for more than two years. (21)
- 1998: **Exercise PURPLE DRAGON/Operation BIG DROP.** Through 29 January, Air Mobility Command took part in this Joint Task Force exercise by supporting the BIG DROP airborne and air assault operation at Fort Bragg, N. C. More than 60 C-17s, C-130s, and C-141s flew troops and heavy equipment to the Fort Bragg drop zones. More than 30,000 service members from the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard participated. (22)
- 1999: The DoD cancelled the Lockheed Martin DarkStar unmanned aerial vehicle program. It was designed by and built at Lockheed's Skunk Works facility at Air Force Plant 42 near Palmdale, Calif. (3)
- 2002: The Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General John P. Jumper, tasked the Test Pilot School at Edwards AFB, Calif., to test and evaluate the T-3A Firefly's suitability for some useful role within the Air Force. The USAF reconditioned the T-3As for the test. (3)
- 2003: **Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.** The Air Staff waived the USAF General Flight Rules to allow Air Combat Command to deploy the RQ-4A *Global Hawk* for this operation. At the time, the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB, Calif., still had the *Global Hawk* in developmental testing. (3)
- 2005: The Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB, Calif., completed a series of C-130J air drop tests with a Container Delivery System that allowed it to carry up to 40,000 pounds of cargo packed in bundles on wooden pallets. (3)
- 2006: The Air Force Research Laboratory's Propulsion Directorate conducted the third and final test of an upgraded Atlas V solid propellant rocket booster motor at Edwards AFB, Calif. It fired for nearly 90 seconds and yielded more than 250,000 pounds of thrust. (3)

### 29 January

- 1915: First 20 aviation mechanics were designated after passing specified exams. (5)
- 1926: Lt John A. Macready set a US altitude record of 38,704 feet in an XC05A with Liberty 400 HP engines at Dayton, Ohio. (24)
- 1935: At Miami, Fla., Harry Richman flew a Sikorsky S-39 to an 18,641.676-foot world altitude record of for amphibians. (24)
- 1944: **WORLD WAR II.** During the largest US air operation to date, Eighth Air Force dispatched 809 heavy bombers to drop 1,886 tons of bombs on Frankfurt and Ludwigshaven, Germany. (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1947: **Operation HIGHJUMP.** From 660 miles off Antarctica, the USS Philippine Sea launched six R4D transport planes to Little America in Antarctica. (24)
- 1958: The Department of Defense established the National Pacific Missile Range for guided and inter-continental ballistic missile testing at the Naval Air Missile Test Center, Point Mugu, Calif. (6)
- 1959: The Tactical Air Command received the first ski-modified C-130A. (5)
- 1962: The USAF launched the 47th and last Titan I from Cape Canaveral, Fla., on a 5,000-mile flight. Of the 47 shots, there were 34 successful, 9 partially successful, and 4 failed launches. (6) (26)
- 1964: First successful launch of a fully fueled, two-stage Saturn from Cape Canaveral, Fla., put a record 10 tons in orbit. (5)
- 1965: The C-141A's certification ended an unusual program in which industry, the Federal Aviation Administration, and USAF jointly developed, produced, and tested the aircraft. (5)
- 1973: **Operation COUNTDOWN:** Through 29 March, following the signing of the Vietnam peace pacts, Air Force and commercial aircraft airlifted 21,000 American and allied forces and 7,000 tons of equipment from South Vietnam. (16) (18)
- 1978: **Operation SNOW BLOW I.** Through 31 January, 27 C-141 and 12 C-130 sorties airlifted 500 personnel and 542 tons of equipment from Pope AFB, N. C., and Fort Campbell, Ky., to snowbound Toledo, Ohio. (18)
- 1979: The E-3A Sentry aircraft assumed a continental air defense mission. (16) (26)
- 1991: **BATTLE OF KHAFJI.** Iraqi forces crossed the Kuwaiti border into Saudi Arabia. The USAF suffered its greatest loss of the war, when the Iraqis shot down an AC-130H Spectre gunship, killing all 14 crewmembers on board. Tactical air strikes by coalition air forces, however, routed the invaders in three days. (21)

### 30 January

- 1911: **LONGEST OVERWATER FLIGHT TO DATE:** John A. "Douglas" McCurdy flew a Curtiss hydroairplane (or seaplane) from Key West, Fla., to a naval torpedo boat located 10 miles from Havana, Cuba. (24)
- 1946: Major General Curtis E. LeMay announced the opening of an advanced aeronautical engineering school at Wright Field, Ohio. He asked for \$300,000 to build a wind tunnel for supersonic aircraft too. (24)
- 1948: Orville Wright died in Dayton, Ohio. He was 76. (16)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** The 61<sup>st</sup> Troop Carrier Group's C-54s 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. (28)
- The Navy confirmed the first flight test of XF4D-1 *Skyray*. (5)
- 1964: From Cape Canaveral, Fla., Ranger IV launched on a flight to take photos of the moon. The vehicle hit the moon on 2 February, where its cameras failed. (5)
- 1970: Air Force System Command's Space and Missile Systems Organization turned operational control of the first Skynet communications satellite to the United Kingdom. (16)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1979: Flight P78-2 launched for the Space Test Program. The joint NASA and Air Force mission, designated SCATHA (Spacecraft Charging at High Altitudes), gathered data on the build-up of electrical charges on satellites operating at geosynchronous altitude. (5)
- 1985: The last E-4A modified into an E-4B returned to Offutt AFB, Nebr. The E-4B received nuclear effects shields, an advanced command and control system, a 1200-KVA generator (largest generator ever flown), and 13 external communications systems. (1)
- 1992: Air Force Space Command assumed control over Department of Defense satellites and the operation and management of Air Force Satellite Network Control. (26)
- 2001: F-22 *Raptor* (Tail No. 004) arrived at the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB, Calif., for testing. It was the first F-22 to have a full avionics suite and stealth capabilities, while the first three F-22s were developed to test the jet's flight envelope. (3)
- 2003: The Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB, Calif., began ground testing for the Global Hawk "Reachback" Demonstration. (See 24 January 2003) (3)
- 2007: A B-52 *Stratofortress* at Minot AFB, N. Dak., fired up its engines before daybreak for a test to measure the difference between JP-8 fuel and a new synthetic fuel. The testing certified the synthetic fuel in cold weather as a means to reduce the Air Force's dependence on imported fuel. With the wind chill factor, Minot experienced temperatures of minus 25 degrees during the test. (AFNEWS, "B-52 Tests Synthetic Fuel During Cold Weather," 30 Jan 2007.)

The USAF released a request for proposal for a replacement tanker aircraft. That proposal for the KC-X replacement tanker became the USAF's number 1 acquisition priority. (Air Mobility Command Historical Highlights, 2007)

### 31 January

- 1909: The New York World announced a \$10,000 prize for a flight from Greater New York City to within 10 miles of Albany, the capital, during the Hudson-Fulton celebration in the fall. Glenn Curtiss won the prize in May 1910. (24)
- 1949: A Martin AM-1 Mauler, a carrier attack bomber, took off with a 9,000-pound payload and gross weight of more than 25,000 pounds. This was perhaps the heaviest load flown by a single-engine plane to date. (5)
- 1951: Charles F. Blair, Jr. flew a "civilianized" P-51 from New York, N. Y., to London, England, in 7 hours 48 minutes to set a Federation Aeronautique Internationale record for that route. (9) (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Far East Air Forces flew several cargo, search and rescue, reconnaissance, and leaflet operations. The 315th Air Division airlifted 84,234 troops, 6,805 tons of cargo, and 2,041 medical evacuees, while search and rescue units flew 516 sorties. Helicopters evacuated 293 patients from forward areas and rescued one pilot from behind enemy lines. C-47 and B-29 aircraft dropped psychological warfare leaflets in enemy territory. (28)
- 1956: The 363d Tactical Reconnaissance Group at Shaw AFB, S.C., received the Tactical Air Command's first RB-66C aircraft. (5)
- 1958: **KEY EVENT--FIRST US SATELLITE.** The Army launched Explorer I, the first US satellite in orbit, on a Jupiter-C from Cape Canaveral, Fla., into an orbit that circled the globe every 103.9 minutes. It discovered the Van Allen radiation belt. The satellite reentered the atmosphere over the South Pacific on 31 March 1970 after more than 58,000 revolutions of earth. (6) (12)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1961: A Redstone launched a Mercury capsule with Ham, a chimpanzee, from Cape Canaveral, Fla., on an 18-minute, 155-mile high, 420-mile suborbital flight. Ham returned to earth and suffered no ill effects from flight stresses. (24)
- 1968: **LUNAR ORBITER PROGRAM ENDS.** Lunar Orbiter V, launched on 1 August 1967, crashed on lunar surface near the western limb of the equator after 1,200 orbits. Lunar Orbiters I, II, and III crashed on 29 October 1966, 11 October 1967, and 9 October 1967, respectively. Communications were lost with Orbiter IV because it apparently crashed too. The first Orbiter launch occurred on 10 August 1966. (5)
- 1972: Air Training Command accepted its last T-38 Talon (Tail No. 70-1956) at Palmdale, Calif. (16) (26)
- 1975: The Space and Missile Systems Organization awarded \$4.5 million contract to Fairchild Space and Electronics Company to develop the upper stage of the NAVSTAR Global Positioning System. (5)
- 1977: **Operation SNO GO.** Through 12 February, after heavy snow crippled Buffalo, N.Y., the Military Airlift Command dispatched 9 C-5s, 11 C-141s, and 28 C-130s to move 995 tons of snow equipment and 495 people from Colorado, Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina, and New York into Niagara Falls, N.Y., for the cleanup. The Military Airlift Command then returned 752 tons of cargo and 383 passengers to Pope AFB, N. C., in 40 missions. (2) (18) (21)
- 1979: Air Training Command accepted responsibility for the rotary wing qualification course at Fort Rucker, Ala. (16)
- 1983: Secretary of the Air Force Verne Orr announced that Dyess AFB, Tex., would receive the B-1B squadron and the combat crew training school. (1)
- 1984: The AGM-81A *Firebolt* set world speed and altitude records on its seventh developmental test flight by reaching Mach 4.1 at 103,000 feet. (16) (26)
- 1990: **Operation CORONET COVE.** The Air National Guard's deployments to the Panama Canal ended after more than 11 years of duty defending the canal. The Guard flew more than 13,000 sorties and nearly 17,000 flying hours supporting the operation since early 1979. (16)
- 1992: The USAF cancelled the *Midgetman* Small Intercontinental Ballistic Missile program. (16)
- The Navy received its last Grumman A-6 *Intruder* attack aircraft, which ended 31-year history of production. (20)
- 1996: The Air Mobility Command completed a year of coordinating 161 airlift missions for nearly 27,000 Cuban migrants from Guantanamo Bay to Homestead AFB, Fla., where the Immigration and Naturalization Service processed their legal entry into the U. S. (18)
- 1997: An Air Force Flight Test Center crew from Edwards AFB, Calif., conducted the first live launch of an AGM-142 *Raptor* missile from a B-52 at the White Sands Missile Range, N. Mex. (3)
- 2001: Lockheed Martin's X-35C Joint Strike Fighter concept demonstrator completed flight testing at Edwards AFB, Calif. The 20 sorties at Edwards tested carrier landings, expanded the flight envelope, and provided an initial tanker-qualification. (AFNEWS Article 0128, 31 Jan 2001)
- At Edwards AFB, Calif., Lockheed Martin's X-35C Joint Strike Fighter concept demonstrator broke the sound barrier, reaching Mach 1.05, and completed tanker tests with air-to-air refuelings from a KC-10A Extender using naval probe-and-drogue refueling techniques. (3)

## **AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Through 3 February, two C-5s and four C-17s flew 115 short tons of humanitarian cargo to Ahmedabad, India, after a 7.7 earthquake devastated western India on 26 January. Each C-5 Galaxy flew nonstop from Travis AFB, Calif., to Andersen AFB, Guam. Hawaii Air National Guard KC-135s refueled each C-5 en route to Guam. At Andersen, workers transferred the C-5 cargo onto four 62<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Wing C-17s from McChord AFB, Wash., because Ahmedabad's airfield was too small for the C-5s. KC-135Rs from the 18th Wing at Kadena AB, Japan, refueled the C-17s on their 13-hour flight between Guam and India. (22)

### **1 February**

- 1911: The Wright Company certified Burgess and Curtiss in Marblehead, Mass., as the first licensed aircraft manufacturers in the US. (12) (24)
- 1928: A joint Army-Navy nomenclature for aircraft engines became effective. In this system, engines received standard type names based on cubic inches of piston displacement. For example, a V-type Curtiss D-12 engine became the Curtiss V-1150 and the air-cooled radial J-5 Whirlwind became the Wright R-790. (5)
- 1942: Task Force 8 and 17 with the USS Enterprise and Yorktown began the first carrier offensive on enemy bases in the Marshall and Gilbert Islands. (24)
- 1943: Navy PBY's rescued Brig Gen Nathan F. Twining, the Thirteenth Air Force Commander, and 14 others near New Hebrides Islands. They ditched their plane on the way from Guadalcanal to Espiritu Santo and spent six days in life rafts. (24)
- 1945: Boeing received a contract for a straight wing XB-47; it was changed later in September to a swept wing design. (12)
- 1950: Continental Air Command (CONAC) directed to set up a civil air raid warning system. (24)
- 1956: McDonnell Douglas selected as the prime contractor for the GAM-72A Quail missile. (6)
- 1957: The Boeing Airplane Company announced the delivery of the world's first jet tanker, the KC-135, to the USAF. (See 28 June 1957) (24)
- 1958: SAC activated the 4320 SMW (later the 706 SMW), its first Atlas wing, at Francis E. Warren AFB. (6)
- The US and UK agreed to deploy four squadrons of Thor missiles in Great Britain, with operational capability to be achieved by December 1958. (6)
- 1959: The USAF transferred the operational control of the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line to the Royal Canadian Air Force. (16) (24)
- 1960: SAC activated its first Titan I squadron, the 848 SMS, at Lowry AFB, Colo. (6) (12)
- 1961: The Ballistic Missile Early Warning System site at Thule, Greenland, became operational. (1)
- From Cape Canaveral, the USAF's first launch of a solid-propellant Minuteman I was a success. The missile, under full guidance, flew 4,600 miles to the target area. (6) (12)
- A 4135 SW squadron at Eglin AFB became SAC's first B-52 unit to be declared operationally ready with GAM-72A Quail missiles. (6)
- 1964: The acquisition phase of the Atlas program ended. (5)



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1965: The USAF assumed responsibility for ICBM and space vehicle support functions on the Pacific Missile Range Test from the USN. It assigned this responsibility to the Air Force Western Test Range, National Range Division, AFSC. (5)
- First Minuteman II squadron, the 447 SMS, activated at Grand Forks AFB. (6) (12)
- Travis AFB received the first C-141 modified for Minuteman missile airlift. These C-141s recycled missiles between SAC depots and missile bases. (18)
- 1966: The Aerospace Research Pilot School at Edwards AFB began training six USAF and two Navy pilots for the Manned Orbital Laboratory (MOL) program. (3)
- 1969: AFRES tactical airlift units paraded a record of 6,182 troops during training operations at Fort Benning, Ga. (16)
- 1972: The Boeing Company facility in Renton rolled out the first avionics testbed aircraft for the Air Force AWACS. A 30-foot rotodome topped the modified Boeing 707-320. (5)
- At St. Paul, Minn., Matt A. Wiederkehr used a Raven S50A hot air balloon to set an 8-hour, 48-minute FAI record for duration in subclass AX-6 (1,200 to 1,600 cubic meters capacity) balloons. (9)
- 1983: The 868<sup>th</sup> Tactical Missile Training Squadron started training specialists at Davis-Monthan AFB to operate the Ground Launched Cruise Missiles (GLCM) to be deployed in Europe. (26)
- 1995: **Operation SAFE PASSAGE.** Through 20 February, after Cuban refugees rioted, C-5s, C-141s, and C-130s airlifted some 7,300 Cuban from their camps in Panama to Guantanamo Bay NAS, Cuba, in this operation. (16)
- 1997: Two 509 BW B-2 pilots emerged from perhaps the longest simulator flight in Air Force history at Whiteman AFB. The 44.4-hour simulator flight, called Vigilant Spirit II, ended on 1 February for Maj Steve Moulton and Capt Jeff Long. The test tried to determine how fatigue impacted pilot abilities to perform a long mission safely. It used sleep, dietary strategies and seat exercises to reduce fatigue. (AFNEWS Article 970175, 18 Feb 97)
- Teledyne Ryan Aeronautical's BQM-145A *Peregrine*, a composite Medium Range Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (MR UAV), made its first flight from Mojave Airport, Calif., on a programmed flight path toward the Precision Impact Range Area at Edwards. An unplanned engine shutdown caused it to make an early soft landing via its parachute recovery system. (3)
- 2001: **Operation JOINT FORGE.** Lt Col Mark Stephens, the 179<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing's Vice Commander (Ohio ANG), became the first Air Guardsman to assume command of both active duty and ANG forces in this operation to resupply multinational peacekeepers in Bosnia. He was based at Ramstein AB, Germany. He served as the Director of Operations until 5 March 2001, when the 179<sup>th</sup> returned to Ohio.

### 2 February

- 1911: The Moisant International Aviators, a company formed to give aerial demonstrations, opened an exhibition at San Antonio, Tex. Flying Bleriot airplanes, they cooperated with Brig Gen Ralph W. Hoyt, the Fort Sam Houston commander in Texas, and Lt Benjamin D. Foulois on problems of reconnaissance, anti-aircraft fire, and bombardment. (24)
- 1925: President Calvin Coolidge signed the Kelly Act to authorize contracts to move mail by air. It represented the first legislative action to create an US airline industry. (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1944: **Operation FRANTIC.** Stalin approved US use of Soviet bases for “shuttle raids” against Germany. The operation allowed bombers based in the west to attack German targets beyond the point of safe return and then recover in the Soviet Union. To support those operations, ATC aircraft flew round-trip missions between Tehran, Iran, to bases near Kiev, Ukraine. (4)
- 1960: In a 2,000-mile flight test, a Titan I’s second stage successfully separated and ignited. (24)
- 1962: **FIRST USAF LOSS IN VIETNAM/Operation RANCH HAND.** The first USAF aircraft loss in South Vietnam occurred when a C-123 crashed while spraying defoliant on a Viet Cong ambush site. The crew of three died. (17)
- 1965: The USAF announced that Minuteman IIs could be launched by radio signal from an airborne command post. (8: Feb 90)
- 1966: Nick Piantanida set an unofficial manned balloon altitude record of 123,000 feet at Sioux Falls, S. Dak. (5)
- 1968: TAC received its first O-2A for training. (16)
- 1971: The USAF launched NATO’s second communications satellite, NATO-B. A Thor-Delta booster carried it into a 22,000-mile-high synchronous orbit over the Atlantic Ocean. (16)
- 1974: The General Dynamics YF-16 fighter prototype made its first official full-scale flight at Edwards AFB; it attained 400 MPH and 30,000 feet in altitude. (3) (12)
- 1976: The USAF awarded contract to General Electric and Hughes Aircraft for DSCS III R&D. (12)
- Grumman Aerospace Company received a \$6.88 million contract to develop an operational Satellite Attack Warning System. (12)
- 1977: General Electric received a contract to build and test a qualification model satellite and two flight model satellites for the DSCS III program. (12)
- 1983: F-16 pilot training began at Luke AFB. (16) (26)
- 1993: USAF aircraft began aeromedical evacuation flights to move noncombatant victims of the Bosnian war to the US for reconstructive surgery. (16) (26)
- 1996: With KC-10 and KC-135 refueling support, a C-17 left Travis AFB on a nonstop 14.5-hour flight to Tuzla AB, Bosnia, to deliver 40 tons of fence posts to mark mine fields in the Balkans. The KC-10 support came from the 305 AMW at McGuire AFB, N. J., while the 100th Air Refueling Wing (AREFW) Tanker Task Force at RAF Mildenhall, UK, and the 101 AREFW at Bangor ANGB, Maine, provided the KC-135 support. (18)

### 3 February

- 1928: Lt L. A. Sutton began a series of tests at Wright Field to study aircraft spinning characteristics. For his work, he received the Mackay Trophy. (24)
- 1943: The North American P-51A Mustang first flew. (5)
- 1944: Eighth Air Force sent 1,200 B-17s, B-24s, and escort fighters to raid Emden and Wilhelmshaven, Germany. (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Col Philip Cochran led five P-51s on the first air commando attack on Japanese forces in the Chinese-Burma-India theater. (21)

- 1945: Over 1,200 American bombers and 900 fighters conducted the most concentrated raid on Berlin to date, dropping 2,266 tons of bombs. (4) (24)
  - 1946: At Columbus, Ohio, the US AAF disclosed the development of a plane with automatic devices for takeoff, flight, and landing. The pilot only had to monitor the equipment. (24)
  - 1953: Through 17 February, Air Rescue Service aircrews flew 198 sorties in SA-16s, H-19s, C-47s, and C-82s to evacuate 161 persons and deliver 32,900 pounds of relief supplies during floods in the Netherlands. (2)
  - 1961: **PROJECT LOOKING GLASS.** After six months of tests, SAC initiated continuous airborne command post operations. The EC-135 Airborne Command Post planes and their equipment gave SAC an ability to launch manned bombers and ICBMs in the event of a nuclear attack. (1)
  - 1964: Maj Gen T. C. Bedwell, Jr., Commander of Aerospace Division at Brooks AFB, Tex., reported that four airmen spent 30 days in pure oxygen with no apparent ill effects. (8: Feb 90)
  - 1965: NASA launched OSO-11 (Orbiting Solar Observatory) to study the sun's corona and other phenomena. In late November 1965, after the vehicle had made 4,100 orbits and relayed 2,200,000 pieces of information, NASA halted the data transmission when it became impossible to control the vehicle's attitude. (5)
  - 1966: NERVA (Nuclear Engine for Rocket Vehicle Application) successfully tested for the first time by NASA and the Atomic Energy Commission at Nuclear Rocket Development Station, Jackass Flats, Nev. The test was a part of the overall Rover program to develop nuclear propulsion for space exploration. (5)
  - 1968: The Arnold Engineering Development Center used a laser beam for the first time as a light source for photographing aircraft and missile models at high velocity. (16) (26)
  - 1970: The 36 ARRS at Yokota AB rescued 44 and 59 seaman involved in two ship sinkings in the North Pacific, the Liberian freighter Antonious Demades and the Japan's freighter California Maru. (16) (26)
  - 1973: Boeing received a contract for two E-4 Advanced Airborne Command Posts, with an option for a third. (12)
  - 1983: SAC finished retrofitting 300 Minuteman III ICBMS with new reentry systems to modernize America's retaliatory capability. (26)
  - 1984: **FOURTH CHALLENGER MISSION.** Capt Bruce McCandless (USN) became the first human satellite, when he took the Manned Maneuvering Unit out into space to make the first spacewalk without a lifeline. Two communications satellites, Western Union's Westar VI and Indonesia's Palapa B2, were launched into useless orbit. The Challenger also became the first spacecraft to return to its launch site when Vance Brand and Lt Cmdr Robert Gibson landed it at Cape Kennedy on 11 February. (3) (8: Feb 90)
- SECAF Verne Orr decided to buy 120 F110 and 40 F100 engines for the Alternate Fighter Engine competition. (12)
- USAFE's first EF-111A Raven arrived at RAF Upper Heyford for the 20 TFW. (16) (26)
- 1985: MAC C-141 Starlifters moved 500 tents from Howard AFB to Central Argentina after a 26 Jan-

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

uary earthquake destroyed the homes of nearly 12,000 people. (16)

1989: The SECDEF implemented a new anti-drug mission for the armed forces, including patrols by USAF fighters and airborne early warning systems over drug corridors from South and Central America. (16)

1995: Lt Col Eileen M. Collins (USAF) became the first female Space Shuttle pilot. (16)

Eight C-141s carried 410 Nepalese troops from Katmandu to Haiti for service with the UN peacekeeping forces. (26)

2001: Boeing's X-32A flew its 66<sup>th</sup> sortie at Edwards AFB to complete the concept demonstrator flight test program. The six military and contractor test pilots flew 50 flight hours in the Joint Strike Fighter and met all test objectives. (3)

2007: The F-22 *Raptor* flew in its first Red Flag exercise at Nellis AFB, Nev. In the exercise, 94th Fighter Squadron pilots from Langley AFB, Va., flew their F-22s against Red Flag aggressors. Besides the F-22s, more than 200 aircraft participated, including the B-2 *Spirit*, F-117 *Night-hawk*, F-15 *Eagle*, F-16 *Fighting Falcon*, and the Royal Air Force's GR-4 *Tornados* and Royal Australian Air Force's F-111 *Aardvark*. (AFNEWS, "F-22 Makes Mark at Red Flag," 15 Feb 2007.)

### 4 February

1948: Otto Praeger, the founder of US airmail service, died. (24)

1949: The Civil Aeronautics Authority authorized planes to use ground-controlled approach radar as a "primary aid" for landings in bad weather. (24)

1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force modified a few B-26s to drop flares, because the flare-dropping C-47s that flew with B-26 night raiders were too slow. (28)

1958: Keel of the USS Enterprise, the first nuclear-powered carrier, laid at Newport News, Va. (16)

1960: At Cape Canaveral, Fla., the Jupiter Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile's last research and development launch was a success. (6)

1962: The Kennedy administration ordered Greek-letter names used for military satellites to keep their purpose and performance secret in reports to the United Nation. (24)

1965: In its first flight, the XC-142A Vertical and/or Short Takeoff and Landing aircraft showed its ability to move forward at 25 MPH without stalling. (5)

Air Defense Command fighter pilots intercepted a BOMARC drone target for the first time. It was flying more than 1,500 MPH at more than 50,000 feet in altitude. (16) (26)

1966: An F-111A made a high-speed, low-level test flight of 1,844 miles from Edwards AFB, Calif., to Eglin AFB, Fla. (3)

The Department of Defense and National Air and Space Administration signed an agreement to coordinate their manned space flight programs. The agreement established a joint Manned Space Flight Policy Committee to determine policy on manned space flight programs. (16)

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- 1967: The 15th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron at Kadena AB, Japan received its first two RF-4C Phantoms. This delivery marked the first overseas deployment of the RF-4C outside of Vietnam. The squadron's last RF-101C Voodoo left Okinawa in December 1966. (17)
- 1969: The XB-70 Valkyrie flew its last flight from Edwards AFB, Calif., to the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. (3) (26)
- 1970: Cessna delivered the final T-37B to Craig AFB, Ala. (5)
- 1971: A Navy P-3C Orion achieved a world's record for altitude in horizontal flight of 13,686 meters (44,900 feet). (5)
- 1974: **FLAME EXPERIMENT.** A Pedro Recruit sounding rocket, with a carbon-phenolic nosetip, made a first live flight at Wallops Island, Va., after an air launch by an F-4. The launch was conducted as part of the Fighter Launched Advanced Materials Experiment (FLAME). (5)
- 1976: **Operation EARTHQUAKE.** A 7.5 earthquake hit southern Guatemala, killing 23,000 people and leaving 1.5 million people homeless. Through 30 June, the Military Airlift Command supported earthquake relief efforts by sending two C-5, 29 C-141, and 33 C-130 missions to airlift 696 workers and 926 tons of emergency equipment and supplies to that country. (2)
- 1984: At the Sikorsky facility in West Palm Beach, Fla., the HH-60D completed its first flight. (3)
- 1985: After studying the use of women in missile crews, the Strategic Air Command decided to use gender-specific (all-female) crews in Minuteman units. The first class of six female Titan II launch control officers started Minuteman qualification training at Vandenberg AFB, Calif., in October. They were scheduled for duty with the 351<sup>st</sup> Strategic Missile Wing at Whiteman AFB, Mo., in January 1986. (1)
- 2002: **Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.** An unmanned aerial vehicle destroyed an enemy target for the first time in this operation when a MQ-1B Predator fired a Hellfire missile to kill a group of senior al Qaeda members in southeastern Afghanistan. (21)
- 2005: **Operation DEEP FREEZE.** A 452<sup>nd</sup> Air Mobility Wing C-141C (No. 66-0152) from March Air Reserve Base, Calif., flew the last scheduled C-141 Starlifter mission to McMurdo Research Station, Antarctica. That flight ended 39 years of C-141 to support to Operation DEEP FREEZE. In October 2005, support for McMurdo Research Station transferred to C-17s from McChord AFB, Wash. (22)
- Two Boeing X-45A Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles flew a simulated combat mission for their fiftieth flight at Dryden Flight Research Center on Edwards AFB, Calif. The Peacekeeper test had two X-45s fly to an exercise area, where they autonomously identified two separate pop-up threats, planned their attacks, and jointly “destroyed” them. Afterwards, they returned to Edwards and landed. (3)
- 2007: For days prior to Super Bowl 41, the 125th Fighter Wing (Florida Air National Guard) from Homestead Air Reserve Base at Jacksonville, Fla., flew F-15s on low-level patrols over local airports and the Miami Dolphin Stadium. (AFNEWS, “F-15s Kept Eyes in the Sky for Super Bowl,” 7 Feb 2007.)

### 5 February

- 1905: Thomas S. Baldwin took part in a 10-mile race between his dirigible and an automobile. The dirigible and its pilot won by three minutes. (20)

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- 1911: A Howard-Wright biplane made the first airplane flight in New Zealand. (5)
- 1914: 2Lt Joseph C. Morrow, Jr., was the 24th and last person to qualify as "Military Aviator" under the rules for this rating. He passed his test earlier on 27 December 1913. (24)
- 1918: While substituting as a gunner with a French squadron, Lt Stephen W. Thompson became the first American in the US Air Service to earn an aerial victory. He shot down a German Albatross D.III, but only received half credit, sharing the kill with the French pilot. Other Americans flying with foreign services had earned aerial victories previously. (20)
- 1945: Despite poor flying conditions, Fifteenth Air Force sent 589 heavy bombers and 225 fighter escorts over the Alps to drop 1,110 tons of bombs on Regensburg's oil storage plant. (24)
- 1949: A Lockheed Constellation set a new transcontinental record for commercial transport aircraft of 6 hours 18 minutes from Los Angeles, Calif., to La Guardia Field, N. Y. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR/Operation ROUNDUP.** To disrupt a new enemy offensive, the U. S. X Corps advanced with strong air support near Hoengsong, northeast of Wonju in central Korea. In a 67<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber Squadron F-51 Mustang, Maj Arnold Mullins shot down a YAK-9 north of Pyongyang to score the only USAF aerial victory of the month. (28)
- 1962: A US Navy HSS-2 Sea King became the first helicopter to pass 200 MPH by flying 210.65 MPH over a 19-kilometer (11.78-mile) straight-line course between Milford and New Haven, Conn. (24)
- 1971: During Apollo XIV, Astronaut Alan B. Shepard set a Federation Aeronautique Internationale duration record by staying outside the Antares lunar module for 9 hours 12 minutes. (9)
- 1974: Lt Col James G. Rider, lightweight fighter program test director, became the first USAF pilot to fly the F-16. (5)
- 1994: An all-Reserve crew flew the C-17 Globemaster III for the first time. The crew came from the 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, 317<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron. (16)
- A mortar attack on Sarajevo's central market killed 68 people and wounded 200 more. Afterwards, the USAF dispatched a medical team and four C-130 Hercules to Sarajevo to evacuate the wounded to Germany. (16)
- 2001: Lockheed-Martin reached two more milestones in the F-22 *Raptor* program when Tail No. 4006 completed its first flight and Air Force officials initiated radar cross section testing. (AFNEWS Article 0166, 6 Feb 2001)

### 6 February

- 1908: The Board of Ordnance and Fortification considered 41 bids for the Army's first airplane. It recommended accepting bids from James F. Scott of Chicago, Ill., Augustus M. Herring of Ohio, and the Wright Brothers of Ohio. (12) (24)
- 1939: **DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.** Through 14 February, Maj Caleb V. Haynes flew the XB-15 in a flight to Santiago, Chile, from Langley Field, Va., in 29 hours 53 minutes with 3,250 pounds of medical supplies for earthquake victims. (21)
- 1940: The North American AT-6 Harvard/Texan first flew. (5)
- 1948: The Army successfully used electronic guidance on a V-2 rocket for the first time in a 70-mile

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ascent at White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico. (4) (24)

- 1950: The Department of Defense announced test-firing of the Navy's "Mighty Mouse" rocket with 2.75 inch folding fins. The missile, developed by the Naval Ordnance Test Station at China Lake, Calif., was the first successful air-to-air rocket. (24)
  
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** B-26 crews first used new MPQ-2 radar equipment, which improved target definition, for increased accuracy on night bombing raids. To clear a medical patient backlog at Chungju, 315 AD C-47s airlifted 343 patients to Pusan. Eight C-54s airlifted a 40-ton, 310-foot treadway bridge in 279 pieces from Tachikawa AB, Japan, to Taegu. Six C-119s dropped 32 booby-trapped boxes, designed to blow up when opened, on an enemy troop concentration at Kwangdong-ni. The 91st Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron performed its first night photographic mission. (28)
  
- 1959: **KEY EVENT.** The USAF successfully launched its first Titan I Intercontinental Ballistic Missile from Cape Canaveral, Fla. (6)
  
- 1963: The first all-USAF crew from the 655<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Test Wing launched a Titan II missile from Cape Canaveral, Fla. The missile flew 5,871 miles down the Atlantic Missile Range. (6)
  
- 1965: Four graduate students from the University of California's Nutritional Science School completed a 60-day test of a space flight diet for the National Air and Space Administration. (5)  
  
 Lt Col Ralph I. Leslie and his crew of the Air Force Flight Test Center C-141 Joint Test Force returned to Edwards AFB, Calif., after a 5,200-mile non-stop, round-trip flight to Honolulu, Hawaii. (3)
  
- 1967: **AIR FORCE CROSS.** A2C Duane Hackney, the most decorated airman in Vietnam, received an Air Force Cross for rescuing a downed pilot near Mu Gia pass, N. Vietnam. (18)
  
- 1973: **Operation END SWEEP.** Through 27 July, the U. S. Navy conducted mine sweeping operations to clear anchorages around Haiphong Harbor, N. Vietnam. In July, 374<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing C-130s supported that U. S. Navy operation by airlifting trucks and equipment from Cubi Point, Philippines, to Cat Bi Airfield in Haiphong. (17)
  
- 1979: The Strategic Air Command accepted the Minuteman sites at Malmstrom AFB, Mont., following an integrated improvement program for the ground systems. (6)
  
- 1991: **Operation DESERT STORM.** Capt Robert Swain, 706<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Squadron, scored the first A-10 air-to-air kill by shooting down an Iraqi helicopter. (16) (26)
  
- 1992: Four C-130 Hercules transports from the 435<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing moved food and supplies from US bases in Germany to Lithuania after its centralized economy collapsed in 1991. (16)
  
- 2007: Air Force officials announced the successful launch and delivery of the second Interim Polar System. This second of three planned satellites gave the Air Force the ability to provide 24-hour Extra High Frequency communications coverage of the northern polar region to give U. S. forces there seamless communications with CONUS-based combatant commanders and separate force elements located above the Arctic Circle. (AFNEWS, "Interim Polar System Reaches Full Operational Capability," 6 Feb 2007.)

### 7 February

- 1911: Harry S. Harkness flew his Antoinette airplane from North Island near San Diego, Calif., to a camp of American troops on the US border near Tia Juana, Mexico, to deliver a message. His

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21-mile flight took 25 minutes. (24)

- 1918: The Joint Army and Navy Technical Aeronautical Board passed a resolution on instrument standardization in Army and Navy planes to include in general specifications. (24)
- 1923: **DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.** 1Lt Russell A. Meredith, 1st Pursuit Group of Selfridge Field, Mich., made a hazardous mercy flight over frozen Lake Michigan to bring a doctor to a dying man on Beaver Island. Lt Meredith later received the Distinguished Flying Cross. (24)
- 1944: By February 1944, the “Luftwaffe Stomp” had become a popular combat maneuver for US fighter pilots to evade the enemy. It involved stalling the aircraft and turning it at the same time to come out on the tail of a German fighter, and thus gain an advantage. (4)
- 1946: Republic’s XF-12 made its first flight. It was a four-engine flying photo lab, built for the Air Technical Service Command. It demonstrated the ability to fly 470 miles per hour at 45,000 feet for 4,500 miles. (5)
- 1954: The Lockheed F-104 *Starfighter*, “the missile with a man in it,” first flew. (5)
- 1959: John Cook and Robert Timm landed a single-engine Cessna-172 airplane at Las Vegas, Nev., after staying aloft for nearly 65 days. They set an endurance record for light aircraft. (24)
- 1963: A Polaris A-3 missile launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla., flew 1,600 miles over the Atlantic Missile Range. (5)
- 1975: The A-7D flew for the first time with Digitac, a digital flight control system. (3)
- 1994: A C-141 Starlifter landed in Antarctica on a natural “Blue Ice” runway to prove that wheeled aircraft could operate there during the summer. (16)
- A Titan IV launched the first Military Strategic and Tactical Relay (MILSTAR) satellite into a geostationary orbit. (16) (26)
- 1995: A B-2 bomber dropped live munitions for the first time in a night sortie over the Nevada Test Range, Nev. (16)
- 1999: From Cape Canaveral, Fla., a Delta II rocket launched Stardust, the first spacecraft designed to intercept a comet and bring samples back to earth. The National Air and Space Administration planned for the Stardust to reach the Comet Wild 2 on 2 January 2004. (21)
- 2005: The YAL-1 Airborne Laser jet completed its airworthiness testing at Edwards AFB, Calif. (3)
- 2007: Through 11 May, the F-22A *Raptor* made its first overseas operational deployment with a flight 12 F-22s from Langley AFB, Va., to Hickam AFB, Hawaii. After a delay for problems with their computer software, the F-22s landed at Kadena AB, Japan, on 18 February. The *Raptors* redeployed and arrived at Langley on 11 May. During their deployment, the F-22s flew more than 685 sorties. (AFNEWS, “F-22 Begins First Overseas Deployment,” 8 Feb 2007, and (AF-NEWS, “Raptors Arrive at Kadena,” 19 Feb 2007; and (AFNEWS, “Deployed Raptors Leave Pacific, Return to Langley,” 10 May 2007.)

**EXERCISE IRON THUNDER.** Though 12 February, more than 100 Air Force, Navy, Marine and Royal Air Force aircraft participated in this exercise throughout the Carolinas. The 77th Fighter Squadron at Shaw AFB, S. C., hosted the four-day multiservice and multinational event to prepare for future contingency operations. The participants included B-1 *Lancers* from Dyess AFB, Texas, F-15E *Strike Eagles* from Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C., E-8C *Joint STARS* from Robins AFB, Ga., F/A-18 *Hornets* from Naval Air Station Oceana, Va., and Marine Corps Air



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Station Beaufort, S.C., F-16 *Fighting Falcons* from at Shaw and the Alabama Air National Guard in Montgomery, Ala., and KC-135 *Stratotankers* from several bases. An E-3 *Sentry* Airborne Warning and Control System from Tinker AFB, Okla., and a British E-3 from RAF Waddington, England, also played in the exercise. (AFNEWS, "Iron Thunder Roars Through Shaw," 12 Feb 2007.)

### 8 February

- 1908: The Secretary of War approved bids by the Wright Brothers, Augustus M. Herring, and James F. Scott to build the first plane. (12)
- 1912: The Signal Corps issued its second set of military airplane specifications. (24)
- 1918: The Army changed its aircraft insignia from the white star to concentric circles of red and blue around white. (5)
- 1949: Boeing's XB-47 set an unofficial 3-hour, 46-minute cross country speed record by flying 2,289 miles from Moses Lake, Wash., to Andrews AFB, Md., at 607.2 miles per hour. (24)
- 1950: A Navy P2V *Neptune* set a distance record for carrier-launched planes. It flew 5,060 miles non-stop from a carrier in the Atlantic to San Francisco, Calif., in 25 hours 59 minutes. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Far East Air Forces used B-29s, B-26s, and fighters to attack rail lines in northeastern Korea between Hoeryong and Wonsan. (28)
- 1953: The American Medical Association recognized Aviation Medicine as a medical specialty, the first specialty to evolve from military practice and research. (16) (24)
- 1954: Dr. B. W. Augenstein of RAND Corporation wrote "A Revised Program for Ballistic Missiles of Intercontinental Range." He said the Atlas could become operational in the early 1960s, if the Department of Defense relaxed certain performance characteristics, increased funds, and placed a higher national priority on the program. (6)
- 1958: The USAF contracted with RCA to manage the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System [DEW Line and SAGE System together]. (5)
- 1962: The National Air and Space Administration launched the Television Infrared Observation Satellite IV (TIROS) weather satellite on a Thor-Delta booster from Cape Canaveral, Fla., to photograph the earth's cloud cover and the snow and ice distribution. (24)
- 1965: The USAF flew its first retaliatory air strike in North Vietnam. A North American F-100 Super Sabre flew cover for attacking South Vietnamese fighters and suppressed ground fire in the target area. (12) (16)
- 1967: The Strategic Air Command launched a Thor missile from Vandenberg, Calif. This was the last Thor launched until 1980. (6)
- 1971: Navy Cmdr Donald H. Lilienthal piloted a P-3C Orion to 4 time-to-climb records: brake release to 3,000 meters (9,843 feet) in 2 minutes 59 seconds; 6,000 meters (19,685 feet) in 5 minutes 48 seconds; 9,000 meters (29,528 feet) in 10 minutes 31 seconds; and 12,000 meters (39,370 feet) in 19 minutes 53 seconds. He also set a new altitude record of 14,050 meters (46,100 feet) for this aircraft class. (5)

**Operation LAM SON 719.** South Vietnamese troops from three divisions, supported by US planes and artillery, crossed the border into Laos to cut the Ho Chi Minh trail and interdict the

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flow of supplies from the north. Extensive US air support prevented the operation from turning into a disaster when South Vietnamese forces found themselves overextended and outnumbered, which forced them to conduct a fighting withdrawal from Laos. (17)

1975: During the B-1's third flight, the pilots used a new automated flight test data system for the first time. (5)

1978: **Operation SNOW BLOW II.** Through 10 February, Military Airlift Command aircraft moved 1,084 personnel and 2,339 tons of snow removal equipment in 33 C-141, 16 C-5, and 75 C-130 missions to Boston, Mass., Hartford, Conn., and Providence, R. I., to remove more than 25 inches of snow. (18)

**Exercise COMMANDO ROCK.** Through 22 February, Air Training Command deployed 250 people overseas to support the PACAF exercise. This exercise, a first in the command's 25-year history, tested the command's wartime/contingency readiness. (16)

1998: **Operation PHOENIX SCORPION II.** Through 3 March, Air Mobility Command conducted a second deployment to augment forces sent to Southwest Asia in November 1997. The command supported the westward flow of B-52s and KC-10s from the U. S. to Diego Garcia, while the airlifters and tankers moved F-16s, F-117s, and a B-1B, along with rescue and special operations assets eastward from the U. S. to the Persian Gulf area. In all, Air Mobility Command forces (Active, Reserve, and Guard) flew 296 airlift missions to carry 11,368 passengers and 11,321 short tons of cargo, while 191 air refueling missions offloaded 4.7 million pounds of fuel. (22)

2003: With Department of Defense approval the Air Mobility Command Commander, Gen John W. Handy, activated the Stage I Civil Reserve Air Fleet. Stage I affected 22 US airline companies and 78 commercial aircraft (47 passenger and 31 wide-body planes). General Handy, however, only used the 47 aircraft to deploy American troops to the Persian Gulf. The U. S. activated the Civil Reserve Air Fleet only two other times in its 52-year history, Stage I on 17 August 1990 and Stage II on 17 January 1991, both for the first Persian Gulf War. (22)

2006: The first of eight C-17s (Tail No. 05-5146) for PACAF's 15<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing arrived at Hickam AFB, Hawaii. This first C-17 *Globemaster III* to be based outside the continental US received *Spirit of Hawaii--Ke Aloha*, or "Hawaii One," as its name. (22)

### 9 February

1914: Lt Henry B. Post exceeded his previous altitude records by reaching 12,140 feet. During his descent, the aircraft sustained damage and crashed, killing Post. (5)

1916: Cpl Albert D. Smith set an 8-hour, 42-minute world seaplane duration record in a Martin S-Hall Scott 125 at San Diego, Calif. (24)

1934: President Franklin D. Roosevelt directed the Army Air Corps to provide airmail delivery service. (18)

1944: More than 250 bombers and fighters, one of the largest forces to operate from Allied bases in the Solomon Islands to date, raided Rabaul, New Britain. (24)

1945: The Yalta Conference between Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin ended. (4)

1952: **KOREAN WAR.** 10 medium bombers used radar aiming methods to drop 100 tons of 500-pound bombs, rendering the north by-pass Chongju rail bridge unserviceable. (28)

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- 1961: General Thomas D. White, CSAF, transferred all space surveillance functions from the Air Force's Air Research and Development Center to the Air Defense Command, which established the Space Detection and Tracking System (SPADATS). (24)
- 1962: A Military Air Transport Service Boeing 707 set a new record for commercial airplanes by flying from Hawaii to California in 3 hours 49 minutes with 159 passengers on board. (24)
- 1963: The Boeing 727 first flew. (5)
- 1969: The Boeing 747 "Jumbo Jet" first flew. (5)
- A Department of Defense Tactical Communications Satellite (TACSAT I) launched from the Eastern Test Range, Fla., into a synchronous equatorial orbit over the Pacific. The \$30-million, 1,600-pound cylindrical satellite, the free world's largest to date, tested the feasibility of using a satellite system to communicate over great distances with small military units, aircraft, ships, and small ground stations. (26)
- 1972: The Boeing EC-137D testbed aircraft for the USAF Airborne Warning and Control System made its first flight. (5)
- 1978: An Atlas booster, launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla., successfully carried the first Fleet Satellite Communications System (FLTSATCOM) satellite into orbit. On 4 April, it was declared operational. (5)
- 1980: The AGM-109 flew a successful last flight in the Air Launched Cruise Missile fly-off competition. (3)
- 1983: The first rewinged C-5A made its first flight from Lockheed's plant in Marietta, Ga. (5)
- 2002: At Edwards AFB, Calif., Lt Col Michael Sizoo successfully completed the first two sorties in a reconditioned T-3A *Firefly* for a test and evaluation program. (3)

### 10 February

- 1908: Capt Charles S. Wallace signed the first Army airplane contract with the Wright Brothers for the Signal Corps. Augustus M. Herring and James F. Scott also received contracts, but both failed to produce planes. (12)
- 1910: The Smithsonian Institute's Board of Regents awarded the first Langley Medal to the Wright Brothers at Washington DC "for advancing the science of aerodynamics." (24)
- 1929: Through 11 February, Evelyn Trout set a solo duration record of 17 hours 5minutes 37 seconds for women while flying a Golden Eagle monoplane. (24)
- 1933: The Army established four provisional air transport squadrons, one at each air depot, to haul equipment and materiel between airfields and the depots as well as transport troops on maneuvers. Major Hugh J. Knerr developed this concept. On 19 November 1932, General Benjamin D. Foulois, Chief of the Army Air Corps, approved this concept by authorizing the formation of a provisional transport group and four provisional squadrons. (18)
- 1939: The North American NA-40 first flew. This was the prototype for the B-25 Mitchell bomber. (5)
- 1947: Maj E. M. Cassell (U. S. Army Air Forces) set an unofficial helicopter altitude record of 19,167 feet in a Sikorsky R-5A at Dayton. (24)

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- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** UN forces captured the port of Inchon and the heavily-cratered Kimpo airfield. The field required extensive renovation before USAF aircraft could use it again. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR/MEDAL OF HONOR.** While leading a flight of 3 F-86 *Sabre* jets, Maj George A. Davis, Jr., engaged 12 enemy MiG-15s. After shooting down two enemy fighters and completely disrupting the enemy formation, a MiG-15 shot him down and killed him. For engaging superior forces and shooting down enemy aircraft, he received the Medal of Honor. Davis also became the first USAF ace in two wars, World War II and Korea. (21) (26) (28)
- 1954: Dr. John von Neumann's Strategic Missiles Evaluation Committee reported that a major technological breakthrough on nuclear warhead size could be achieved in a few years. He believed that other technological problems with intercontinental ballistic missiles could be resolved in the same period. With this, Neumann recommended the establishment of a special USAF development-management group to accelerate the intercontinental ballistic missile program. (6)
- 1958: Through 16 February, A1C Donald G. Ferrell lived in a space cabin simulator at Randolph AFB, Tex. (5)
- 1961: A Rocketdyne F-1 liquid-propellant prototype thrust chamber underwent initial testing at 1,550,000 pounds of thrust for a few seconds. (24)
- 1981: Three 57<sup>th</sup> Fighter Weapons Wing UH-1 helicopters from Indian Springs Auxiliary Field, Nev., rescued nine guests trapped by a fire from the roof of the 30-story Las Vegas Hilton. (16) (26)
- 1983: The US and Canada signed a treaty on the testing of cruise missiles in northern Canada. (5)
- 1988: General Dynamics delivered its 2,000th F-16 Fighting Falcon to the Singapore government. (16)
- 1992: **Operation PROVIDE HOPE I.** Through 26 February, the USAF dispatched 19 C-5 *Galaxies* and 46 C-141 *Starlifters* to move 2,270 tons of relief supplies to 24 cities in the Commonwealth of Independent States (former Soviet republics). (See 29 February for Phase II) (16) (18)
- 1994: Lt Jeannie Flynn completed training in an F-15 *Eagle*. She was the first woman selected for combat pilot training. (16) (26)
- 2001: The Lockheed Martin X-35C flew a precedent-setting transcontinental flight from Edwards AFB, Calif., past Lockheed's facility in Fort Worth, Tex., to Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Md., where it continued its test program. (3)
- 2003: The Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB, Calif., accelerated the developmental testing of the F-16 LITENING II Targeting Pod, condensing six weeks of activities into 3.5 days. This achievement provided an improved capability to deliver laser-guided bombs to warfighters. (3)
- 2005: General John W. Handy, Air Mobility Command commander, grounded 30 C-130Es and placed another 60 C-130Es, Hs, H1s, and HC-130P/Ns on restricted flight status after inspections of C-130 wing boxes revealed cracks greater in number and severity than expected. (22)

### 11 February

- 1913: Representative James Hay of West Virginia introduced the first bill for a separate aviation corps (H.R. 28728) in Congress, but it failed to pass. (24)
- 1936: Iona Coppedge and Josephine Garrigus flew their Aeronca monoplane at Dayton, Ohio, to a women's altitude record of 15,252 feet for multiseat planes weighing less than 617.288 pounds empty. (24)

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- 1944: Eighth Air Force conducted a radar bombing attack on important German chemical plants. (4)
  - 1945: The Consolidated Vultee XP-81 first flew. (5)
  - 1959: A weather balloon launched at the Army Signal Research and Development Laboratory, Fort Monmouth, N.J., set a world altitude record by reaching 146,000 feet. (24)
  - 1962: The 1405th Air Base Wing at Scott AFB, Ill., acquired the first T-39 (later designated the CT-39) Sabreliner for the Military Air Transport Service. (18)
  - 1964: **B-26s WITHDRAWN FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA.** After a wing failed in combat, all B-26s in South Vietnam were grounded. Then when other B-26s suffered structural wing failures the USAF withdrew the aircraft from combat. On 1 April, the last B-26 flew to Clark AB, Philippines. (17)
  - 1965: The US for the first time stopped and restarted a Titan III-A in space to place the vehicle in three different orbits. This rocket also marked the 1,000th man-made object in space recorded by the North American Aerospace Defense Command. (5)
  - 1966: **Project FAST FLY.** To complete an accelerated B-47 phaseout program, the Strategic Air Command retired its last two B-47E bombers (Tail Nos. 53-2286 and 53-6235). They were stationed at Pease AFB, N.H., and Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, respectively. (1)
  - 1974: The Titan IIIE/Centaur suffered a partial failure in its first flight test at Cape Canaveral when the Centaur engine malfunctioned. NASA still planned to use the vehicle for the Viking Mars Lander in 1975 and the US-German Helios program. (5)
  - 1975: During the B-1's third test flight at Edwards, the aircrew first used the new automated flight test data system. (3)
  - 1977: Jimmy Carter became the first President to fly in the E-4A National Emergency Airborne Command Post in a flight from Andrews AFB, Md., to Robins AFB, Ga. (1)
  - 1985: The T-46A "Next Generation Trainer" had its official rollout ceremony. (16)
  - 1998: A B-1B dropped its first Joint Direct Attack Munition, a satellite guided conventional bomb, at China Lake, Calif. (21)
- The first C-32A, a modified Boeing 757-200, flew its maiden flight from the Renton Municipal Airport in Renton, Wash. The Air Force purchased 4 C-32As to replace the 89 AW's C-137 fleet, which had flown the Vice President, cabinet members, and congressional delegations around the world since the 1950s. (22)

### 12 February

- 1912: Above New York harbor, Frank Coffyn took automatic aerial motion pictures from a seaplane. (24)
- 1921: First section of American "model" airways route from Washington DC to Dayton, Ohio, opened. (5)
- 1928: Charles (Speed) Holman set a new record of 1,093 loops at Wold-Chamberlain airport, Minneapolis, Minn. (24)

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- 1931: The Curtiss F9C Sparrowhawk first flew. (5)
- The *Detroit News* purchased a Pitcairn PC A-2. The transaction was the first sale of a commercial autogiro in the US. (24)
- 1935: The USS Macon (ZRS-5) crashed at sea off California's coast with the loss of two lives. This accident ended the Navy's rigid airship program. (21)
- 1947: The USS Cusk launched a Loon missile. It was the first guided missile fired from a sub. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Far East Air Forces cargo aircraft airdropped supplies to an X Corps airstrip at Wonju. A leaflet-dropping C-47 aircraft, hit by enemy antiaircraft fire, crashed at Suwon. As a result, FEAF decided to conduct C-47 leaflet drops at night. While B-26s attacked enemy positions at night using air-dropped flares, two enemy planes used the same flares to attack UN positions. (28)
- 1958: The Department of Defense transferred the Jupiter Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile program from the Army to the USAF. (6)
- 1959: The Strategic Air Command retired its last operational B-36 Peacemaker (Tail No. 52-2827) from the 95<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing at Biggs AFB, Tex., and placed it on permanent display at Amon Carter Field in Fort Worth. That retirement gave the command an all-jet bomber force. (1) (21)
- 1960: A Delta Air Lines Convair 880 set a record from San Diego, Calif., to Miami, Fla., in 3 hours 32 minutes. (5)
- 1965: After almost seven years, Vanguard I appeared to be silenced when radio signals became too weak. (5)
- The Navy launched the second US satellite, 1958 Beta II, for the International Geophysical Year. This 6-inch, 3.25-pound sphere circled the globe every 134 minutes. (5)
- USAF scientists at Hanscom AFB, Mass., hit Explorer XXII with a ground-based laser, photographed the spot of reflected light, and recorded it photoelectrically in relation to the surrounding stars. (5)
- Operation ARC LIGHT.** After a Presidential decision to deploy B-52s to Southeast Asia for conventional bombing missions, KC-135s arrived at Andersen AFB, Guam, to support the bombers. (18)
- 1967: The first production F-111A (No. 9) flew its first flight. (5)
- 1969: **FORCE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM:** The Strategic Air Command removed the last Minuteman Is from silos at Malmstrom AFB, Mont. Contractors then began upgrading the silos for Minuteman II missiles. (1) (6)
- 1970: The first of four C-124s arrived for duty with the 20<sup>th</sup> Operations Squadron at Clark AB, Philippines. Pacific Air Forces retained the C-124 for moving outsized equipment after the inactivation of all C-124 squadrons in the Military Airlift Command. (17)
- 1973: **Operation HOMECOMING/MACKAY TROPHY.** After N. Vietnam released its POWs, the 1st Mobile Communications Group and 1961st Communications Group at Clark AB, Philippines, provided communications to the C-141s returning the former prisoners to Clark. When the 566 POWs reached America, the 375<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Airlift Wing transferred them to various military hospitals. Altogether, the Military Airlift Command used 118 C-9A and C-141 mis-

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sions to support the operation. This event earned the Mackay Trophy. (2) (17) (18)

- 1998: **Operation DESERT THUNDER.** KC-135s from Air National Guard units in Mississippi, California, Wisconsin, Nebraska, and Alaska, along with KC-135s from two Air Force Reserve units, set up a tanker task force at Eielson AFB, Alaska, to refuel B-52s from Barksdale AFB, La., deploying to Diego Garcia. The bombers deployed to Diego Garcia as part of a threatened bombing campaign to make Iraq comply with United Nations weapons inspections. Diplomatic pressures and the threat of military force allowed the United Nations to resume its inspections for weapons of mass destruction. (32)

### 13 February

- 1913: Smithsonian Institute regents appointed an advisory committee to inaugurate the Aerodynamic Laboratory project at Langley Field, Va. (24)
- 1917: **DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.** Capt Francis T. Evans (U. S. Marine Corps) became the first pilot to successfully loop a seaplane. At 3,500 feet above Pensacola Bay, Fla., he completed the maneuver in a Curtiss N-9. Afterwards, the N-9 stalled, went into a spin, and almost crashed. He avoided certain death by developing a life saving spin-recovery technique. Evans received a Distinguished Flying Cross in 1936 for this achievement. (10) (24)
- 1921: The first link of the Model Airways System opened with a route from Dayton, Ohio, to Washington, D. C. In June 1922, the Army Air Service began scheduled passenger and cargo flights over the government-sponsored nationwide air system "for the transport of Government officials and express." Before the federal government disbanded the airways in 1926 to foster private enterprise, Model Airways routes extended from Texas to Massachusetts and made possible the transit of 1,200 passengers and 62,000 pounds of cargo. (18)
- 1942: The North American Mustang I (NA-83), built for the Royal Air Force, first flew. (5)
- 1943: The Vought F4U Corsair went into action for the first time as Marine Fighter Squadron 124 pilots escorted PB4Ys to the Bougainville area. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Through 16 February, the 315<sup>th</sup> Air Division (Combat Cargo) used 100-plus airlifters to drop 420 tons of food and ammunition around-the-clock to the 23d Regimental Combat Team and a French battalion at Chipyong-ni. H-5 helicopters delivered medical supplies to the troops and evacuated more than 40 wounded. Fifth Air Force flew close air support missions that enabled the surrounded troops to hold out until relieved by a friendly armored column. Additionally, the 315<sup>th</sup> Air Division airlifted 800-plus sick and wounded U.S. troops from forward airstrips at Wonju and other fields to Taegu and Pusan. This airlift used so many C-47s that they were not available for other airlift demands. (21) (28)
- A Pan American-Grace Airways DC-6 set a 9-hour, 53-minute record for the 2,734-mile flight from Miami to Lima, Peru. (24)
- 1954: In a P-51, Joe DeBona set a Federation Aeronautique International cross-country speed record by flying 2,467 miles from Los Angeles, Calif., to New York, N. Y., in 4 hours 24 minutes 17 seconds. (9)
- 1955: McDonnell test pilot C.V. Brown flew the F3H-1N Demon to an unofficial climb record to 10,000 feet in 71 seconds. (5)
- 1959: The 5<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing at Travis AFB, Calif., received the Strategic Air Command's first B-52G (Tail No. 57-6478), "The Spirit of Solano County." This model had more fuel tanks to increase its nonrefueled range from 6,000 to 10,000 miles. It could also carry two nuclear-

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armed Hound Dog missiles. (1)

- 1961: The USAF launched a solid-fuel air-to-surface missile, the GAM-83B Bullpup, at supersonic speed from an F-100 Super Sabre. This modified Navy Bullpup missile could carry a nuclear weapon or could be guided by the pilot of the parent aircraft to its target. (24)
- 1968: After the Commander United States Forces Vietnam asked for more troops to check the Tet Offensive, the Military Airlift Command airlifted 10,500 troops and equipment of the 82d Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N. C., and a regimental landing team of the 5th Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, Calif., to Vietnam. The airlift continued through 17 February. In the meantime, Air Force Reserve military airlift units assigned to the Continental Air Command moved channel traffic in the states to assist the Military Airlift Command. (18)
- 1974: The first HAVE MILL program launch, using an Athena-H, took place from the Wake Island Launch Complex to test a reentry vehicle in an anti-ballistic missile role. (5)
- 1981: The U. S. and United Kingdom signed an agreement for Rapier missiles. They would be used for air base air defense in the United Kingdom. (4)
- 1982: **Exercise TEAM SPIRIT 82.** Through 26 April, Pacific Air Forces conducted this exercise in Korea. It involved nearly 14,500 people, 177 combat and support aircraft, and over 7,000 sorties. (16)
- 1987: **TYPHOON UMA.** Through 15 February, two C-141 *Starlifters* and two C-130 *Hercules* aircraft flew 64 tons of tents and plastic sheeting to Vanuatu, New Hebrides following this storm. The aircraft also searched the waters around the islands for survivors of shipwrecks. (16) (26)
- 1993: **Operation PROVIDE REFUGE.** Through 9 March, the USAF sent airlift aircraft with tons of food and relief supplies from Hawaii to Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands, to help 535 Chinese refugees whose ship had broken down in mid-Pacific. (16)
- 1999: An Air Force Flight Test Center test crew successfully flew a C-130 Autonomous Landing Guidance System technology demonstration flight test. The new system allowed aircraft to land safely on a prepared runway even in zero visibility conditions. (3)
- 2007: **EXERCISE FALCON CONDOR 07.** Through 16 February, nearly 150 Airmen participated in a joint military exercise with the Peruvian Air Force. The exercise allowed the U.S. military to build relationships with Peru's military and civilian leaders. It involved the C-130 Hercules, E-3A Sentry, F-16 Fighting Falcon, and the B-1 Lancer. Afterwards, the aircraft remained in Peru for two more days to perform in the Falcon Condor air show. (AFNEWS, "Airmen Work Alongside Peruvian Military During Joint Exercise," 13 Feb 2007.)

### 14 February

- 1914: Lt Townsend F. Dodd and Sgt Herbert Marcus set an official nonstop American duration and distance record for pilot and passenger when they flew a Burgess H tractor 244.18 kilometers in 4 hours 43 minutes. (5)
- 1931: Congress created the Air Mail Flyers Medal of Honor, retroactive to 15 May 1918. (24)
- 1932: **WOMEN'S EVENT.** Using a Lockheed Vega, Ruth Nichols set a new world altitude record of 19,928 feet for diesel-powered aircraft at Floyd Bennett Field, N.Y. (24)
- 1939: In Boeing's XB-15, Major Caleb V. Haynes flew from Langley Field, Va., to Chile in 29 hours 53 minutes flying time with 3,250 pounds of medical supplies for earthquake victims. (24)



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- 1945: 450 B-17s staged a follow-up raid on Dresden, Germany. (4)
- 1951: The Republic F-84F Thunderstreak with a Wright J-65 Sapphire engine made its first flight at Edwards AFB. (5)
- 1955: The Killian Report from the Technological Capabilities Panel of the Science Advisory Committee, Office of Defense Management, recommended assigning the highest national priority to the ballistic missile program. It also urged the simultaneous development of intermediate-range ballistic missiles. (6)
- 1983: **Operation EARLY CALL.** In Egypt, the Strategic Air Command's KC-10 demonstrated its dual importance as a tanker and a cargo carrier in operational activities through 24 February,. Three 3 KC-10s at Cairo West Airport refueled the E-3A Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft that monitored Libyan air traffic and Libyan preparations for a possible attack on Sudan. In the 10-day deployment, the KC-10s flew 21 sorties to refuel American and Egyptian aircraft and transported 832 passengers and 1,340 tons of cargo. (18)
- 1989: In its first launch, the McDonnell-Douglas Delta II space booster lifted the first operational NAVSTAR Block II GPS satellite into orbit. (20)
- 1991: An unusual air-to-air victory occurred, when Capts Tim Bennett and Dan Bakke of the 4<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing from Seymour-Johnson AFB, N. C., shot down an Iraqi helicopter with a GBU-10 laser-guided bomb dropped from their F-15E. (20)
- 1996: **Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.** A Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System E-8A flew its 50<sup>th</sup> mission in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR, surpassing the E-8s record of 49 missions in Operation DESERT STORM. (26)
- 2003: Global Hawk (AV-7), a first production-representative sample, landed at the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB, Calif., after its maiden flight from Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale, Calif. It was the last advanced concept technology platform, but the first vehicle that incorporated all of the improvements made in the platform to date. (3)

### 15 February

- 1908: The US government received bids for its first airship (see 24 February 1908). (24)
- 1910: The Signal Corps relocated its flight training program from College Park, Md., to Fort Sam Houston, Tex. (21)
- 1944: Twelfth Air Force sent 254 B-17 and B-25 bombers to attack and destroy the Abbey of Monte Cassino, Italy. The US Fifth Army did not take the ruins until 18 May, which allowed the US Fifth and British Eighth Armies to advance on Rome. (21)
- 1948: The XF-87 Blackhawk made its first flight at Edwards AFB, Calif. (5)
- 1951: To 16 February, H-5 pilots of the 3d Air Rescue Squadron flew through a blinding snowstorm and 40-knot winds to deliver blood plasma and medical supplies to the US Army's 2d Division at Chipyong, Korea. They also evacuated 52 wounded men. (26)
- 1953: A Northwest Airlines Stratocruiser set a 15-hour, 10-minute record for a flight between Tokyo, Japan, and Seattle, Wash. (24)
- 1961: The Tactical Air Command received the first T-39B jet trainer at Nellis AFB, Nev.

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- 1962: In the fifth consecutive silo launching, a Minuteman I missile set a new record by flying 3,900 miles, the longest distance for the Minuteman to date. (16) (24)
- 1963: The North American YAT-28E first flew. (5)
- 1965: The first OH-13E "Bubbletop" helicopter arrived at Edwards AFB, Calif., for use in a vertical short take-off and landing test pilot training program. (3)
- 1975: The first pre-production A-10 completed its initial flight at Edwards AFB, Calif. (3)
- 1979: A Minuteman III missile launched from Vandenberg AFB, Calif., to the Kwajalein missile range, where it deployed three Mark 12A reentry vehicles. (5)

### 16 February

- 1914: Lt (Junior Grade) J. McC. Murray, Naval Aviator No. 10, flying a Burgess D-1 flying boat, crashed in the water and drowned. (24)
- Lts Joseph E. Carberry and Walter R. Taliaferro set an Army altitude record of 8,700 feet for two people in a Curtiss plane (Signal Corps No. 23) at San Diego. (24)
- The Department of Commerce classified seaplanes and flying boats as vessels. (24)
- 1918: Plant A-1 began operations to assemble American-made planes at Romorantin, France. (24)
- 1943: B-17s and B-24s attacked St. Nazaire France. Eight aircraft were lost and 30 damaged. (4)
- 1945: Through mid-March, the Navy destroyed 648 aircraft in raids on the Ryukyus, Okinawa, Iwo Jima, and Tokyo. (24)
- On the Japanese-held island of Corregidor in Manila Bay, C-47s dropped 2,065 paratroopers to support an American amphibious landing trying to capture the harbor of Manila. (21)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** The Army started using L-19 Bird Dogs for the Forward Airborne Control mission and artillery spotting along the frontlines. (21)
- 1961: The National Air and Space Administration launched its first satellite from Wallops Station, Va., when a four-stage Scout booster lifted Explorer IX into orbit. This 12-foot diameter round "polka dot" balloon was the first satellite to be launched by the US aboard a solid-fueled rocket. (24)
- 1966: General John P. McConnell, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, presented astronaut wings to Col L. Gordon Cooper, Col Frank Borman, and Lt Col Thomas P. Stafford. (16)
- 1968: Since 1964, the USAF maintained Itazuke AB, Japan, as a dispersed operating base with no active flying units. The arrival of 15<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron's RF-4Cs and 16th Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron's EB-66s from Korea as part of Combat Fox brought the base back to life. (17)
- 1975: Brig Gen Eugene D. Scott became the first navigator in USAF history to command an operational flying unit, the 47<sup>th</sup> Air Division at Fairchild AFB, Wash. (See 18 December 1974) (1) (26)
- 1989: Northrop completed the last, and 3,806th, aircraft from the F-5E Tiger II/T-38 Talon and closed the production line. (16) (20)

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- 2007: The 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing's 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron used the Joint Precision Airdrop System mission planning software for the first time over Iraq to deliver six 1,200-pound Improved Container Delivery System bundles. (AFNEWS, "First JPADS Improved System Airdrop Over Iraq a Success," 19 Feb 2007.)

### 17 February

- 1911: In a Navy first, Glenn H. Curtiss flew a Curtiss seaplane from North Island to land alongside the armored cruiser, the USS Pennsylvania (ACR-4), in the harbor at San Diego, Calif. The ship then hoisted the aircraft aboard by a launch crane. Later Curtiss took off from the water and flew back to North Island. (24)
- 1912: The Army published its first pilot physical exam requirements. (4)
- SECOND CROSS COUNTRY FLIGHT.** Robert G. Fowler flew the second cross country trip in a Wright biplane, flying 2,520 miles from Los Angeles to Pasadena, Yuma, Tucson, Douglas, El Paso, Sweetwater, Fort Worth, Houston, Orange, New Iberia, New Orleans, Biloxi, Flomston, Evergreen, Troy, Bainbridge, Quitman, and Pablo Beach. (9)
- 1913: The Army tested Lawrence Sperry's Gyrostabilizer, or automatic pilot, for the first time. (21)
- 1938: Through 27 February, Lt Col Robert D. Olds completed a round-trip goodwill flight with six B-17s between Langley Field, Va., and Buenos Aires, Argentina. The trip to Buenos Aires took 33 hours 30 minutes, while the return flight took 33 hours 35 minutes for the longest nonstop flight in Air Corps history to date. (24)
- 1944: The USS Enterprise launched 12 TBF-1Cs to attack Truk, in the first night bombing attack in carrier aviation history. (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force flew 695 sorties, cratering rail tracks in over 50 locations, damaging a train and 15 rail cars near Huichon, strafing a convoy of trucks near Sinanju, and destroying supply buildings and dumps between Kumsong and Sibyon-ni. (28)
- 1956: Lockheed's first production F-104 *Starfighter* made its first flight at Edwards AFB, Calif. (12)
- 1958: From a DB-47, a 445<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron crew from Pinecastle AFB, Fla., launched the prototype Rascal missile over the Atlantic Missile Range for the first time. (The DB-47 was a drone director.) (6)
- 1959: The US Navy launched its Vanguard II weather-reporting satellite into an earth orbit. (16)
- A one-third scale Minuteman missile fired for the first time at Edwards AFB, Calif. (3)
- 1965: The last operational KB-50 retired from the Tactical Air Command to the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB. (5)
- The largest balloon ever constructed by the Air Force, 450 feet in height, completed a 26-hour flight with a 450-pound payload of instruments to a record 142,000 feet. At that height, the balloon's dimensions were 270 feet high and 330 feet in diameter. (5)
- 1972: Air Force One, a VC-137 aircraft assigned to the 89<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Wing at Andrews AFB, Md., carried President Nixon on his historic trip to China to meet Chinese Premier Chou En-Lai. (2)
- 1978: The 64<sup>th</sup> Flying Training Wing, Reese AFB, Tex., became the first Air Training Command

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

command pilot training base with a fully operational instrument flight simulator program. That capability allowed training for both the T-37 and T-38. (16)

- 1999: Lockheed's first C-130J transport arrived at Keesler AFB, Miss., for assignment with the 403d Wing. (21)

With the expiration of US treaty rights in the Canal Zone, the Air National Guard held closing ceremonies for Operation Coronet Oak at Howard AFB, Panama. The Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve had conducted the Coronet Oak (originally Operation Volant Oak) C-130 airlift operation in Panama since October 1977. Operations transferred to Puerto Rico. (32)

Air National Guard KC-135s began air refueling support for fighter movements to Europe and air cargo missions to position people and supplies for a possible war with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia over the latter's actions in Kosovo. (32)

- 2007: The 45th Space Wing supported the launch of a Delta II booster from Cape Canaveral AFS, Fla., carrying five National Air and Space Administration "THEMIS" probes to study auroral substorms, an avalanche of solar wind powered magnetic energy that intensifies the northern and southern lights. This was the largest number of National Air and Space Administration scientific satellites launched on a single booster. THEMIS stands for Time History of Events and Macroscale Interactions in Substorms. (AFNEWS, "Air Force Supports NASA Mission to Study Auroras," 18 Feb 2007.)

### 18 February

- 1918: "Lafayette Escadrille" transferred to American forces as the 103d Pursuit Squadron and began operations on the front under tactical control of the French. The "Lafayette Escadrille" was a unit in the French military comprised of American volunteers who joined the fight before the United States entered World War I. (4) (24)

The 95th Aero Squadron, the first proper US fighter unit, arrived in France. (5)

- 1921: Airmail pilot Carroll C. Eversole made the first emergency free-type parachute escape from a plane near Minneapolis, Minn. The jump took place at 800 feet from a De Havilland DH-4, which had lost its propeller and had gone into a dive and spin. (24)
- 1930: Lt L. F. Schoenhair used a Lockheed Vega-Wasp 450 to set several world and American speed records with payload, including records of 185.49 MPH for 100 kilometers with a 500-kilo load, 176.0 MPH for 100 kilometers, and 168.27 MPH for 500 kilometers with a 100-kilo load. (5)
- 1938: **WOMEN'S EVENT.** Jacqueline Cochran received The General William Mitchell Memorial Plaque for her achievements in aeronautics, based on her speed records. (24)
- 1943: The first class of 39 flight nurses graduated from the U. S. Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuations at Bowman Field, Ky. (24)
- 1957: Through 20 February, the first national scientific symposium on problems with space travel held. (24)
- 1958: At the Arnold Research and Development Center, Tullahoma, Tenn., a wind tunnel test attained an airflow speed of 32,400 MPH for one-tenth of a second. (5)
- 1959: The 576<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron at Vandenberg AFB, Calif., received the first Atlas D missile. (6)

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- 1963: At the Atlantic Missile Range, the first dual launch of Hound Dog missiles succeeded. (6)
- 1965: USAF jets soloed for the first time without Vietnamese Air Force crewmembers in an attack against enemy targets in South Vietnam. The USAF flew Martin B-57 Canberras and North American F-100 Super Sabres against the Viet Cong near An Khe. (21)
- 1972: Pacific Air Forces assigned its first C-9A aeromedical aircraft to the 20th Operations Squadron at Clark AB, Philippines. The C-9s replaced the C-118s. (17)
- 1977: The Space Shuttle made its first captive flight atop a carrier aircraft, a modified Boeing 747. (16) (26)
- 1978: Rockwell International received an \$18.9 million contract to build a spacecraft to carry the Teal Ruby experiment. This payload included a downward-looking infrared sensor with a mosaic focal plane to measure aircraft signatures and background flux at infrared wavelengths. (5)
- 1986: Through 22 February, the 129<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group and the 41<sup>st</sup> Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron used four H-3s, two HH-53s, and three C-130s to rescue 33 flood victims in the Russian and Yuba River valleys of Northern California. The helicopters also delivered over 3,000 sandbags to Army troops responding to the disaster site. (16) (26)
- 1994: **Operation DENY FLIGHT.** The USAF deployed aircraft, five KC-135s, to France for the first time in 20 years. The tankers flew from French bases to refuel aircraft flying over Bosnia and Herzegovina for the operation. (21)
- The last F-4G Wild Weasel aircraft left USAFE. They flew from Spangdahlem AB, Germany, to Nellis AFB, Nv. (16) (26)
- 1997: **Operation ASSURED LIFT.** Through 3 March, five C-130s from the 3d Air Expeditionary Group's 37 AS airlifted 1,160 African peacekeepers and 452 tons of cargo from various African countries to Liberia to restore order after a civil war there. (21)
- 1999: **Operation DEEP FREEZE.** The last US Navy LC-130 left Antarctica to end naval support DEEP FREEZE. Operational support switched in 1998 to the New York ANG's 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. (32)

### 19 February

- 1934: Following President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 6591, Secretary of War George Dern ordered the Army Air Corps to start flying domestic airmail. (21)
- 1936: Brig Gen William "Billy" Mitchell died at Doctor's Hospital, New York City. He was buried in Milwaukee, Wis. (24)
- 1945: The Marine V Amphibious Corps landed on Iwo Jima with air and sea support. After being secured on 26 March, the island's three airfields supported B-29 emergency landings and other fighter operations. (21)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** The communists flew approximately 389 MiG-15 sorties, the largest aerial effort to date. In aerial combat, USAF pilots destroyed three enemy aircraft. (28)
- 1960: The Air Force fired the three-stage Exos composite rocket. (24)
- 1962: At Edwards AFB, Calif., Maj Walter F. Daniel flew the T-38 Talon to four time-to-climb records: 1.86 miles in 35.62 seconds; 3.72 miles in 51.429 seconds; 5.58 miles in 64.76 seconds; and 7.44 miles in 95.74 seconds. (3) (24)

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- 1965: A B-57B dropped the first bombs from a jet in Vietnam. (5)
- 1977: An assistant Secretary of Defense stopped the selection process on the Strategic Air Command's Advanced Tanker/Cargo Aircraft pending a reassessment by the Carter Administration. After consultations with the President, Secretary of Defense Harold Brown approved the acquisition of 12-20 ATCA aircraft. (1)
- 1985: A 319<sup>th</sup> Bombardment B-52 from Grand Forks AFB, N. Dak., launched the first Air Launched Cruise Missile for a flight test over the Beaufort Sea, north of Canada. The missile flew into Canada for 4 1/2-hours, from the MacKenzie River Delta to Dawson Creek, British Columbia, and east to Primrose Lake Air Weapons Range, Cold Lake, Alberta, where it made a parachute-assisted landing. (1)
- 1988: Through 22 February, C-141 Starlifters from the 60<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Wing flew 50 tons of construction materials and electrical equipment to the Marshall Islands following Typhoon Roy. (16)
- 1993: A student assigned to the 64<sup>th</sup> Fighter Training Wing flew the new T-1A Jayhawk trainer on its first schoolhouse sortie. (16) (26)

### 20 February

- 1944: **BIG WEEK.** Through 25 February, Eighth and Fifteenth Air Forces began Big Week air raids on German aircraft production to reduce the threat from the Luftwaffe. Using fighter escorts lowered the bomber losses to six percent. (4) (21)
- MEDALS OF HONOR:** On a Eighth Air Force mission to Leipzig, Germany, Sgt Archibald Mathies served as the engineer and ball turret gunner on a B-17, when enemy aircraft attacked. Although the copilot died and the pilot and radio operator were wounded, Mathies and other crewmen still managed to fly to their home base at Glatton, England. Mathies and the navigator volunteered to attempt a landing after the other crewmen jumped to safety. The commanding officer ordered them to parachute, but both men refused to desert the badly wounded pilot, who could not jump. They crashed on their third attempted landing, and all died. Besides Mathies, two other Eighth Air Force officers, 1Lt William R. Lawley and 2Lt Walter E. Truemper, received the Medal of Honor for separate actions. (4)
- 1945: Secretary of War Henry Stimson approved the establishment of a rocket proving ground at White Sands, N. Mex. (24)
- 1948: The 43d Bombardment Wing at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., received the first Boeing B-50A Superfortress (Tail No. 46-017) in the Strategic Air Command. It was an improved version of the B-29 with larger engines and a taller fin and rudder. (1) (12) (26)
- 1950: **Operation PORTREX.** The largest peacetime maneuver in US history began. It was the first exercise to employ airborne troops in an amphibious operation. (24)
- 1952: President Harry S. Truman asked Lt Gen James H. Doolittle (Retired) to lead a three-man commission to study relief of airport congestion near large cities. (24)
- 1953: Lockheed announced a new C-130 turboprop-powered transport for the Air Force.
- 1962: **FIRST ASTRONAUT TO ORBIT.** Lt Col John H. Glenn, Jr. (U. S. Marine Corps) flew three orbits around the Earth in his Friendship 7 Mercury capsule to become America's first orbital flyer. His capsule landed in the Atlantic, east of Bahamas, after a 4-hour 56-minute flight. (9)

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- 1964: The USAF awarded contracts to Douglas Aircraft Company, Martin Marietta Corporation, and General Electric Company to study orbital space stations. This study defined tests and experiments for the USAF's Manned Orbiting Laboratory project. (5)
- 1965: After its launch on 17 February, the Ranger VIII lunar photography probe struck its target on the moon. During the last 23 minutes of flight, the craft radioed about 7,000 closeup pictures of the lunar surface to earth. It hit in the Sea of Tranquility after traveling 248,766 miles. (5)
- 1972: **HARMON TROPHY/Operation LONG FLIGHT.** A 57<sup>th</sup> Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron aircrew flew an HC-130 8,732.09 miles from Chung Chuan Kang AB, Taiwan, to Scott AFB, Ill., without refueling in 21 hours 12 minutes to set a nonstop straight-line distance record for turbo-prop aircraft. The pilot, Lt Col Edgar L. Allison, Jr., later got the 1973 Harmon International Aviation Trophy for the flight. (5)
- 1978: The Ralph M. Parsons Company began work on the M-X Buried Trench Construction and Test Project in the San Cristobal Valley of the Luke Bombing and Gunnery Range in Arizona. (5)
- 1997: **WOMEN'S EVENT.** A joint vote of Vermont's House and Senate elected Lt Col Martha Rainville, Vermont ANG, to be its adjutant general on 1 March 1997. With a promotion to major general, she became the first woman in the history of the militia and National Guard to serve as an adjutant general. (32)
- 2001: Bad weather at the Kennedy Space Center, Fla., caused the Space Shuttle *Atlantis* to land on the main runway at Edwards AFB, Calif., after a successful trip to the International Space Station. In mission STS-98, the shuttle delivered the Destiny laboratory module to the orbiting station. Pilot Mark Polansky graduated from the Air Force Test Pilot School (Class 86B). (3)
- 2006: **GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.** Global Hawk No. 3 landed at Edwards AFB after a 23-hour flight from Australia. The RQ-4 returned from four years of operational duty, where it logged 4,245 combat hours supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, and Combined Task Force-Horn of Africa. This tour represented a first in history as the Global Hawk had simultaneously continued its testing while on a prolonged combat tour. (3)

### 21 February

- 1918: The Navy commissioned NAS Bolsena, the first of two US Naval air stations to be in Italy during World War I. (24)
- 1921: Lt William D. Coney, Air Service, completed a solo flight from Rockwell Field, San Diego, Calif., to Jacksonville, Fla. He covered 2,180 miles in 22 hours 27 minutes flying time. (9) (24)
- 1924: Carl B. Eielson flew the first airmail from Fairbanks to McGrath, Alaska. (24)
- 1945: P-47 Thunderbolts attacked the Berchtesgaden railway station for the first time; however, the fighters did not attack Hitler's nearby retreat. (25)
- 1961: Final training for the first Mercury flights began with the naming of Alan B. Shepard, Jr., Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, and John H. Glenn, Jr., as candidates for an early ballistic flight. (24)
- 1971: Through 25 February, 1,200 Air National Guard members assisted in disaster relief operations in six states hit by tornados, snowstorms, and earthquakes. In Oklahoma, the Air National Guard's C-124s dropped 300 tons of hay to snowbound cattle. (16) (26)
- 1973: A 30-year civil war in Laos ended and a ceasefire prevailed. The US halted air strikes. (16) (17)

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- 1991: A 438<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Wing C-141 Starlifter flew 55 tons of supplies to Freetown, Sierra Leone, to provide humanitarian assistance. (16)
- 2001: An RQ-1 Predator fired a Hellfire missile at a tank at Nellis AFB. It became the first unmanned aerial vehicle to destroy a ground target in the test. (21)

### 22 February

- 1921: Jack Knight, Ernest M. Allison, and five others flew the first transcontinental airmail flight from San Francisco, Calif., to New York, N. Y., in 33 hours 30 minutes, using US-built De Havilland DH-4s. Knight also flew at night from North Platte, Nebr., to Chicago, Ill. (9) (21)
- 1945: **Operation CLARION.** Aircraft from Eighth, Ninth, and Fifteenth Air Forces began an all-out assault on German communications and other transportation targets. (24)
- 1962: **EXERCISE BANYAN TREE.** USAF and USA elements from the Strike Command began this exercise in Panama's Rio Hato training area. (24)
- 1967: **Operation JUNCTION CITY.** 23 USAF C-130s carried 700 troops from the 173d Airborne Brigade on the first parachute personnel drop in the Vietnam War. Heavy drops of equipment and supplies followed the personnel drop. (16) (17)
- 1968: The first AC-130A gunship deployed to Southeast Asia in 1967 and returned later in December to the US for refurbishment. On 22 February 1967, the aircraft redeployed to Ubon Royal Thai AFB, Thailand, while seven more C-130s were being modified as gunships for deployment in Southeast Asia by year's end. The USAF also activated the 16<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Squadron on 30 October 1968 as a gunship unit for the AC-130As. (17)
- 1973: **CEASE FIRE IN LAOS.** After signing the cease-fire for S. Vietnam on 27 January, the U. S. redirected most of its air operations against N. Vietnamese forces in Laos. In addition to the 4,482 attack sorties flown by the Royal Lao Air Force, the USAF flew 50 B-52 Arc Light sorties and 4,000 tactical sorties in January. After the 22 February cease-fire, the Laotian government requested three B-52 strikes on 23 February to answer N. Vietnamese violations. B-52s also flew 41 more sorties on 15, 16, and 17 April. These were the final B-52 strikes against targets in Laos. (17)
- 1977: The Carter Administration ended Minuteman III production. (6)
- 1978: From Vandenberg AFB, Calif., an Atlas F booster placed the first Navigation System Timing and Ranging (NAVSTAR 1), a Global Positioning Satellite, into orbit. On 31 March, the satellite became operational. (26)
- 1998: Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen asked for a Presidential Selective Reserve Call-Up to support operations against Iraq in Southwest Asia. (32)

### 23 February

- 1909: John A. "Douglas" McCurdy made the first plane flight in Canada by flying the Aerial Experiment Association's plane, the *Silver Dart*, over Baddeck Bay, Nova Scotia. (24)
- 1911: Glenn Curtiss made his first amphibian demonstration at North Island near San Diego, Calif., by taking off and alighting on land and water. (24)
- 1912: War Department Bulletin No. 2 established a "Military Aviator" rating. (4)



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- 1914: Charles Broadwick demonstrated an automatic attached backpack-type parachute. (5)
- 1942: The Materiel Division recommended the British looped-hose refueling system for American military inflight fuel transfers. Using this method, the receiver aircraft trailed a 300-foot line, with an attached three-pronged grapple, and positioned itself near the tanker, which trailed a 100-foot weighted line. (18)
- 1952: By shooting down a MiG-15, Maj William T. Whisner, Jr., 25th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, achieved ace status. (28)
- 1955: The Army selected Bell Helicopter from 20 competing companies to build the first turbine-powered helicopter. Bell's design, the XH-40, later became the HU-1 Iroquois (later still UH-1), the famous "Huey" from Vietnam. (8: Feb 90)
- 1956: Secretary of the Air Force Donald A. Quarles sped up the Navaho missile program, using a high national priority second only to the ICBM and IRBM programs. (6)
- 1961: In an experiment at Eglin AFB, Fla., the direct measurement of atmospheric densities between the altitudes of 70 miles and 130 miles was accomplished for the first time. (24)
- 1965: **PROJECT ASSET.** The 1,175-pound reentry glider, last in a series of six, launched from Cape Kennedy, Fla., by a Thor-Delta booster into a 13,300-mile suborbital flight. This flight incorporated test materials for future lifting body reentry designs. (5)
- 1976: Through 26 February, a joint DoD/NASA team studied expendable launch vehicles during the transition to the Space Shuttle. They suggested using an Interim Upper Stage, being developed for the Space Shuttle, with the Titan III in this period. (5)
- 1984: The Tactical Air Command received its first F-15C Eagle as a replacement for the F-4 Phantom in the air superiority role. (16) (26)
- 1990: **PIONEER 11.** This vehicle became the fourth spacecraft to leave our solar system. It launched in 1973 and joined Pioneer 10, Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 in an attempt to find the heliopause, the point where solar winds are no longer effective. [8: May 90]
- Through 6 March, the 435<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing flew 11 tons of medical equipment and relief supplies to Senegal to treat diseases and provide shots against disease. (16) (26)
- 1998: Air Combat Command deployed the B-2 overseas the first time from Whiteman AFB, Mo., to Andersen AFB, Guam. (21)

### 24 February

- 1908: The US awarded its first airship contract to Capt Thomas S. Baldwin. (5)
- 1914: Due to a large number of accidents and deaths, an Army board at the Signal Corps Aviation School, San Diego, condemned all pusher airplanes. This recommendation basically condemned all Wright aircraft, all pushers. (5) (21)
- 1915: Tests on the Macy automatic pilot began at San Diego with Raymond V. Morris, a Curtiss test pilot, at the controls. (24)
- 1949: Republic unveiled its XF-91 jet rocket interceptor at its Farmingdale factory, Long Island. (24)

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A two-stage rocket, a WAC (Without Altitude Control) Corporal mounted on a V-2 first stage, attained a 250-mile altitude and 5,000 MPH at White Sands Proving Ground. (24)

- 1954: President Dwight D. Eisenhower approved a National Security Council recommendation to build the DEW Line. (20)
- 1955: Convair's R3Y-1 Tradewind flew cross-country from San Diego to Patuxent River in 6 hours, averaging 403 MPH. This feat made the 80-ton aircraft the world's fastest water-based air transport. (24)
- 1958: General Curtis E. LeMay, VCSAF, said the Air Force wanted to establish a single tanker force to support all combat operations requiring air refueling. (18)
- 1960: A Titan I, launched from Cape Canaveral, flew 5,000 miles down the Atlantic missile range on its first full-range flight test. Its reentry vehicle landed in the target area, making the event highly successful. (6) (24)
- 1961: Cape Canaveral launched the first Atlas E. It flew over 7,000 miles down the Atlantic Missile Range, using an all-inertial guidance system. (6)
- 1966: At Vandenberg AFB, two 341 SMW combat crews fired two Minuteman I (Model A) missiles simultaneously for the first time to examine multiple-firing techniques. This also marked the first salvo launch down the Western Test Range. (1) (6)
- 1967: **MEDAL OF HONOR.** In an unarmed and unarmored O-1 Bird Dog aircraft flying near Di Linh in South Vietnam, Capt Hilliard A. Wilbanks attacked a large body of Vietcong that had attacked a much smaller South Vietnamese ranger force. He used smoke rockets and rifle fire to draw enemy fire and interrupt its advance. He sacrificed his life to protect the withdrawing rangers and received a Medal of Honor for his bravery. (21)
- 1968: Lockheed rolled out the C-5A Galaxy at its plant in Marietta. (3)
- 1969: **MEDAL OF HONOR.** While dropping flares near Saigon, A1C John L. Levitow, a loadmaster, saved the lives of eight crewmembers and their AC-47 aircraft when it sustained a hit from an 82-mm mortar shell. Bleeding from over 40 shrapnel wounds, Levitow dragged another crewmember away from the open cargo door and, without regard for his life, threw himself on a live flare, dragged it to the cargo door, and pushed it out just as it ignited. Levitow then lapsed into unconsciousness. He was the first Air Force enlisted man to receive the Medal of Honor since World War II. (18)
- 1979: An Atlas booster successfully launched Space Test Program Flight P78-1 from Vandenberg AFB. As its primary payload, the spacecraft carried a gamma spectrometer sponsored by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). (5)
- 1982: NATO's new airborne early warning force at Geilenkirchen AB, Germany, received the first of 18 authorized E-3As. (4)
- The USAF selected the F-15E over the F-16E for its new dual-role fighter. The USAF planned to buy 393 aircraft with deliveries scheduled to begin in 1988. (30)
- 1984: Gen Charles A. Gabriel announced the selection of the F-15E as the next dual-role combat fighter. The USAF, however, decided to continue testing on the General Dynamics F-16XL. (3)
- MAC flew two C-141 missions from Larnaca, Cyprus, to Cherry Point, N.C., to support the withdrawal of US Marines from Lebanon. (16) (26)

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- 1991: **Operation DESERT STORM.** The ground campaign opened against Iraq. US-backed coalition air forces flew 3,000 sorties in support. Previously, C-130s airlifted Army XVIII Airborne Corps elements from eastern Saudi Arabia to Rafha on the Iraqi border. Flying 300+ sorties a day at 10-minute intervals, the C-130s delivered 13,843 troops and 9,396 tons of cargo. General Norman H. Schwarzkopf's "Hail Mary" maneuver allowed coalition forces to surround Iraq's Republican Guard. In 100 hours, continuous air attacks then allowed the coalition forces to overwhelm the Iraqi ground forces. (16) (21)
- 1998: President William J. Clinton signed an executive order to call-up of 500 Guardsmen and Reservists for up to 270 days to support military operations in Southwest Asia. (32)
- 1999: The Orbital Sciences Corporation's X-34 technology-testbed demonstrator airframe arrived at NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards AFB for vibration and flight certification tests. It was an unmanned rocket powered vehicle designed to be launched from a modified jet-liner, reach orbit, and return to a conventional runway. (3)
- 2001: Lt Col Stayce D. Harris became the first black female to command a USAF flying squadron, the 729 AS at March AFB. (21)
- 2005: The AFFTC completed software upgrade testing of the B-1B *Lancer* to integrate the GBU-38 (500 pound JDAM) munition. (3)

### 25 February

- 1914: Theodore C. Macaulay flew a Curtiss pusher with an OX engine to a new American altitude record of 12,139.8 feet at San Diego. (24)
- 1944: Eighth and Fifteenth Air Forces bombed German aircraft factories in southern Germany. The Fifteenth launched 400 bombers, including 176 to Regensburg, to end "Big Week." (4)
- 1945: 334 B-29s dropped 1,667 tons of fire bombs and destroyed 15 square miles of Tokyo to begin a campaign of night incendiary raids. (20)
- 1949: The Caroline Mars, a JRM-2 flying boat, broke the world record for passenger lift by transporting 202 men in California from Alameda to San Diego, and broke it again the same day on the return flight with a load of 218 men. These loads were in addition to a four-man crew. (5)
- 1954: Convair R3Y seaplane, America's first water-based turbo-prop transport, made its first flight at San Diego. (5)
- 1955: A SAC B-47 Stratojet flew from March AFB to Hunter AFB, Ga., in 3 hours 19 minutes 35 seconds by averaging 641 MPH. (24)
- 1959: The free world's longest test track (35,000 feet) dedicated at Holloman AFB. (5)
- The Goodyear N-4-A Mayflower blimp first flew. (5)
- 1960: The Army's first test flight of the Pershing I missile proved successful. (24)
- 1961: Paul F. Bickle, Director of NASA's Flight Research Center at Edwards AFB, flew a Schweizer 1-23-E Sailplane to a world altitude record of 46,267 feet. (24)
- 1964: The first two Minuteman I (Model B) operational test missiles were fired from Vandenberg successfully. (6)

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- 1965: The DC-9, a 90-passenger, short-haul commercial aircraft capable of landing on 98 percent of the nation's airstrips, made its maiden flight from Long Beach to Edwards AFB. (5)
- 1966: An F-111A completed a low-level flight from Edwards AFB to the General Dynamics plant in Fort Worth, Tex. It flew 1,045 nautical miles in three hours at 1,000 feet above terrain varying from 500 to 10,000 feet above sea level. This flight evaluated the aircraft's navigational equipment. (3)
- 1975: Brig Gen Chuck Yeager, the first pilot to exceed the speed of sound, flew his last Air Force sortie in an F-4 at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1978: A MAC C-141 Starlifter flew 12 burn specialists from Newark, N. J., to Waverly, Tenn., following the explosion of a railway tank car filled with propane. (26)
- 1980: Through 28 February, F-15s from Clark AB intercepted two Soviet Bear D and two Bear F bombers after they penetrated the Philippine Air Defense Interceptor Zone. (16) (26)
- 1987: Following a massive political protest in the Philippines, President Ferdinand Marcos and his entourage flew into exile. On 25 February, the 31 ARRS used five H-3 Jolly Green Giant helicopters to evacuate President Marcos and 51 other people from the Presidential Palace in Manila to Clark AB. A C-9 Nightingale then flew Marcos and his family to Guam. On 26 February, two C-141s and a C-9 carried Marcos and his entire entourage to Hickam AFB. (16) (18)
- 1991: **DESERT STORM.** After Iraqi forces surrounded an Army nine-man special forces team, F-16 Fighting Falcons attacked. Their action allowed Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to make a rescue. (16) (26)

### 26 February

- 1913: Chief Constructor of the Navy formally approved an action to provide the Navy with a wind tunnel at the Washington Navy Yard. (24)
- 1917: The Navy ordered Lt Alfred A. Cunningham to organize a Marine Aviation Company at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. The Marines had five pilots at the time. (10)
- 1918: The 2d Balloon Company, US Army Signal Corps, became the first US Air Service unit to serve with American forces at the front. It arrived in the Toul Sector for assignment with I Corps and began operations on 5 March. (4) (24)
- 1940: The War Department created the ADC to integrate defenses of the US against air attack. The command, primarily a planning agency, opened its doors at Mitchel Field, Long Island, N. Y. On 15 March, Brig Gen James E. Chaney assumed command. (24)
- 1945: Lt Gen Millard F. Harmon, the commanding general of Army Air Forces in the Pacific area, lost at sea with his Chief of Staff, Brig Gen James R. Andersen, while flying over the Pacific. The USAF renamed North Guam AFB as Andersen AFB in March 1949 in General Andersen's honor. (24)
- 1949: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Through 2 March, from Carswell AFB Capt James Gallagher flew the 43 BG's B-50 Lucky Lady II (No. 46-010), on the first nonstop around-the-world flight. He flew 23,452 miles in 94 hours 1 minute, with four KB-29 air refuelings over the Azores, Arabia, the Philippines, and Hawaii. The aircrew received several awards: the first Mackay Trophy and Air Age Trophy (later renamed the Hoyt S. Vandenberg Trophy). (1) (9) (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** 10 B-29 Superfortresses, using radar aiming methods, dropped one-hundred

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tons of bombs on the Sinhung-dong rail road bridge near Huichon in north central Korea, knocking out two spans. (28)

- 1954: The USAF awarded a contract to the Rocketdyne Division of North American Aviation to develop the MA-2 propulsion system for the Atlas. (6)
- 1955: When the controls of his F-100 Super Sabre jammed in a Mach 1.05 flight, North American test pilot George Smith ejected. He thus became the first person to survive an ejection at a supersonic speed. (21)
- 1960: A TM-61C Matador tactical missile launched from Pad 1 at Osan AB failed to destruct on command. An F-100D chase plane fired a Sidewinder missile to shoot it down. (17)
- 1966: The Apollo/Saturn AS-201 mission, the first unmanned spacecraft of the Apollo series, launched from the Eastern Test Range in a suborbital flight. It was the first launch of Saturn IB and Apollo spacecraft. (5)
- 1968: TAC's Air Force Special Air Warfare Center received the first OV-10A aircraft. (16)
- 1974: The A-10A prototype fired its GAU-8/A gun for the first time during an inflight test at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1980: **Exercise RIMPAC 80.** PACAF hosted and participated in the first multinational exercise, RIMPAC 80, in Hawaiian waters. The exercise included Japanese forces. (16) (26)
- 1990: Martin Marietta delivered 116 Low Altitude Navigation and Targeting Infrared for Night (LANTIRN) pods to the Air Force. This raised the Air Force purchase to 561 navigation pods, 441 targeting pods, and 26 sets of support equipment since the first buy in 1985. (8: May 90)
- 2007: The 932d Airlift Wing at Scott AFB, Ill., received the first of three Boeing C-40C aircraft for its mission to transport senior military and government leaders to locations within the U. S. Previously, the wing used C-9C aircraft for that mission. The C-40C, like the C-40B, was a virtual "office in the sky" for senior military and government leaders. It was the military version of the Boeing 737-700 business jet and could accommodate 42 to 111 passengers. (Air Mobility Command Historical Highlights, 2007)

### 27 February

- 1911: At North Island, Lt Theodore G. Ellyson (USN) flew with Glenn Curtiss in a Curtiss seaplane to become the first seaplane passenger. (24)
- On the Mexican border near Fort McIntosh at Laredo, Texas, Lt Benjamin D. Foulois and Philip O. Parmalee, a Wright instructor pilot, demonstrated the use of an airplane in coordination with ground maneuvers for the first time. They used a Wright B. (21)
- 1920: Maj Rudolph W. "Shorty" Schroeder used a Packard-Lepere LUSAC-11 biplane with a Liberty 400 engine at McCook Field near Dayton to set an FAI altitude record of 33,113 feet. (24)
- 1928: Cmdr Theodore G. Ellyson, the first naval aviator, and two companions crashed to their deaths in Chesapeake Bay. (24)
- 1942: Japanese airplanes sank the seaplane tender Langley, once the Navy's first aircraft carrier, near Java. (24)
- 1943: Eighth Air Force sent B-17s and B-24s to attack the harbor and naval facilities at Brest, France.

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(4)

- 1951: Boeing delivered the first C-97C to the Air Force. (5)
- 1958: Missile Director William M. Holaday approved the Minuteman project to build a 500-mile to 5,500-mile, solid-fuel ballistic missile that could be launched from underground silos. (6)
- 1960: The 4135 SW at Eglin AFB received SAC's first GAM-72A Quail missile. (1)
- 1961: Max Conrad set an FAI solo record for light planes by flying around the world in 8 days 18 hours 35 minutes 57 seconds. His flight ended on 8 March. (9) (24)
- 1970: First F-111E arrived at Edwards AFB for flight testing. (12)
- The DoD selected Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Company in West Palm Beach and East Hartford, Conn., to produce the F-100 engine for USAF's F-15 and the Navy's F-14B. (12)
- 1971: **Operation HAYLIFT.** The USAF launched this operation in response to blizzards in Kansas. Aircraft dropped 35,000 bales of hay (nearly a million pounds) for 275,000 cattle stranded in deep snow. The American Humane Society provided the Hay. (16)
- 1976: Vandenberg AFB launched the advanced nosetip test vehicle (ANT-1) to study how four objects of various materials and shapes, with fine-weave carbon- carbon nosetips, performed in high stagnation pressure and clean air. (5)
- The Minuteman integrated program at Minot AFB's Wing III completed and turned over to SAC. This program included silo modifications, dust hardening, electromagnetic pulse protection, and a conversion to the command data buffer system. (6)
- 1990 The combined Lockheed and USAF F-117A Stealth Fighter design team received the Robert J. Collier Trophy for 1989. This "most prestigious award in American aviation" recognized the team for the greatest achievement in aeronautics. (8: May 90)
- 2001: The USAF successfully launched a Titan IV-B rocket from Cape Canaveral. It carried a MILS-TAR satellite to its intended orbit 22,300 miles above the equator. (AFNEWS Article 0289, 1 Mar 2001)
- 2004: **Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.** The 107 FS, Michigan ANG, deployed 10 F-16Cs on an Air Expeditionary Force rotation to Iraq. Thus, the 107<sup>th</sup> became the first F-16 unit under the Total Air Force concept to operate from Kirkuk AB, a former Iraqi Air Force installation. The unit employed the ANG's Theater Airborne Reconnaissance System pod in actual combat conditions. (32)

### 28 February

- 1911: In California, the City of Modesto added a clause in its charter to provide for the building and maintenance of municipal airports when needed. This may have been the first such provision in any charter. (24)
- 1917: For the first time in US history, a human voice traveled by radiotelephone from an airplane to the ground. (12) (24)
- 1918: President Woodrow Wilson began airways regulations by requiring civilian pilots and plane owners to get licenses. (24)
- 1928: An order limited the application of standard type names for aircraft engines to aircooled engines

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of recent design. It abolished the type name of Curtiss V-1150 and returned the engine to its earlier D-12 designation. The Wright R-790 remained unchanged as designations like R-790-A indicated major modifications. Earlier models of this engine kept the old J-2, J-3, and J-4 designations. (5)

- 1937: Howard Hughes received the Harmon Trophy for 1936 for his contributions to aviation. (5)
- 1945: Eighth Air Force sent 1,104 bombers and 737 fighters to hit German transportation targets. (4)
- 1946: Republic's XP-84 Thunderjet first flew at Edwards AFB. This was the last subsonic, straight-wing fighter-bomber to see operational service. (12)
- 1947: Lt Col Robert E. Thacker flew a P-82 from Hickam Field, Hawaii, to La Guardia Airport to set an FAI record of 14 hours 31 minutes 50 seconds for the flight. He flew 4,968.852 miles at an average speed of 341.959 miles. (9)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** The 315th Air Division airlifted 81,555 troops, 2,068 medical evacuees, and 1,431 tons of supplies. Search and rescue aircraft flew 586 sorties, and helicopters evacuated 126 medical patients and rescued nine airmen from enemy territory. (28)
- 1954: Test pilot Tony LeVier flew the XF-104, the first 1,000+ MPH fighter, at the Lockheed facility for the first time. (3)
- 1955: A Douglas F4D-1 Skyray climbed to 10,000 feet in 56 seconds to better a 71-second record from 13 February 1955. (5)
- 1959: The USAF successfully launched the Discoverer I satellite from Vandenberg AFB into a polar orbit. (16) (24)
- 1961: At Presque Isle AFB, Maine, the 702 SMW made the Snark operational. (6)
- 1962: In the first manned test of a steel, cocoon-shaped, escape pod, Chief Warrant Officer Edward J. Murray ejected from a B-58 flying at 565 MPH at 20,000 feet over Edwards AFB. A chute opened after 26 seconds of free fall and landed him safely 8 minutes later. (3) (24)
- At Vandenberg AFB, an Atlas E made the first launch from a coffin-type launch facility. (6)
- MATADOR PHASE-OUT.** All operational commitments of TM-61 Matador units terminated and their mission was assumed by the TM-76 Mace missile units. The Matador-equipped squadrons in Korea and Taiwan were inactivated in March. (17)
- The 1501st Air Transport Wing (ATW) at Travis AFB received the first C-135B Stratolifter. It had turbofan engines that increased take-off thrust by about 25 percent. (18)
- 1963: The first Minuteman squadron, the 10 SMS, became operational at Malmstrom AFB. (1) (6)
- 1964: SAC issued a contract to build facilities for the first Minuteman II unit, the 321 SMW at Grand Forks AFB. (6)
- 1965: The first HC-130H arrived at Edwards AFB for flight testing. It was designed for rescue operations and would eventually replace all other Air Rescue Service aircraft, except the helicopters. (3)
- 1968: Tinker AFB, Okla., received the last and 284th C-141 aircraft delivered to the USAF. (12)

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Det 1, 37<sup>th</sup> Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Nakhon Panom RTAFB picked up the 1,000<sup>th</sup> downed airman to be rescued since the unit began operations in SEA. (16)

- 1970: NASA Test Pilot William A. Dana flew the HL-10 lifting body to an altitude of 88,000 feet. (3)
- 1985: The USAF completed the Multi-national Aircraft Program for 998 F-16s. (5)
- 1990: The Atlantis lifted off on the 34th space shuttle and sixth dedicated DoD mission in the program. The Atlantis probably placed a digital imaging and signals intelligence satellite in orbit (it later broke up and reentered earth's atmosphere). It also carried an "instrumented human skull" to measure how much solar radiation entered a skull in a space mission. The mission ended at Edwards AFB on 4 March. (8: May 90)

**EARLY LOOK:** Grumman's E-8A Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System (Joint STARS) deployed to Europe for the first time. At RAF Mildenhall, UK, the E-8A completed 20 hours of testing to determine its susceptibility to electro-magnetic interference. (8: May 90)

- 1991: **Operation DESERT STORM** ended with a coalition-declared ceasefire. The F-117A flew only two percent of the total combat sorties, but successfully attacked 40 percent of Iraq's strategic targets. Altogether, the F-117A flew 1,270 combat sorties to deliver 2,041 tons of precision-guided bombs. Nearly 80 percent of those bombs hit their targets. The Air Force deployed F-15C, D, and E aircraft to the Persian Gulf. The F-15s accounted for 36 of 39 air-to-air victories. LANTIRN-equipped F-15Es operated primarily at night, hunting SCUD missile launchers and artillery sites. In the 43 days of around-the-clock operations, USAF aircraft flew 59 percent of all combat sorties. The US had 1,990 aircraft, or 75 percent of all coalition aircraft, in the theater. SAC deployed 75 B-52Gs to Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, Jeddah New, Saudi Arabia, Moron AB, Spain, and RAF Fairford in the UK, that flew hundreds of combat sorties, delivering some 40 percent of the ordnance dropped in the war. SAC KC-10s and KC-135s delivered 1.2 billion pounds of fuel in some 85,000 refuelings, while carrying nearly 17,000 passengers and 6,500 tons of cargo. KC-10s released by SAC to MAC carried 1,111 passengers and 12,129 tons of cargo through 10 March 1991. Strategic airlift--using C-5s, C-141s, KC-10s, C-9As, and commercial aircraft--flew 15,976 missions to carry 500,720 people and 542,759 tons of cargo. MAC C-130s and C-21s flew 52,300 intratheater sorties through 7 August 1991 to deliver 514,600 passengers and 245,200 tons of cargo. Aeromedical aircraft airlifted 4,437 litter-borne and 7,883 ambulatory patients on intertheater flights, while intratheater airlift carried 1,600 litter-borne and 2,424 ambulatory patients through 10 March 1991. (16) (18) (30)
- 1992: Through 29 February, B-1B Lancers set 11 records for rapid climbing to high altitudes with heavy payloads. (16)
- 1993: **Operation PROVIDE PROMISE:** The 435 AW completed the first airdrop mission over eastern Bosnia, where refugees had fled from advancing Serbian forces. (16)
- 1994: **Operation DENY FLIGHT:** Two F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 526 FS, 86th Wing, at Ramstein AFB shot down four Serbian Jastreb-Galeb attack aircraft over Bosnia. This action was the first aerial combat in NATO history. (16) (21)
- 1998: The RQ-4 Global Hawk UAV flew for the first time. It completed a 56-minute flight above Edwards AFB. It performed the entire flight autonomously on a mission plan that allowed it to reach 32,000 feet in altitude while remaining within the Edward's airspace. (3) (21)
- 2003: The UCAV completed its Block 1 testing at Edwards AFB. Both aircraft flew a total of 16 sorties and nearly 13 hours of flight time. (3)



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- 2006: **Operation DEEP FREEZE.** The Air Mobility Command completed its final airlift sortie in a record-setting season of Antarctic support to the annual National Science Foundation. Ski-equipped LC-130s from the 109 AW, New York ANG, and a C-17 Globemaster III from the 62 AW at McChord AFB provided the support. The 62d used 51 long-range C-17 missions from Christchurch, New Zealand, to deliver more than 3 million pounds of cargo and 4,739 passengers to McMurdo Station in Antarctica. The 109th's LC-130s set a single-season record by flying 466 missions around Antarctica, including 377 missions to the South Pole. Other LC-130 records included: the most cargo (14.4 million pounds) carried in a single season; the most cargo (9.9 million pounds) delivered to the South Pole; and the most fuel (4.54 million pounds) offloaded at the South Pole. The final LC-130 mission to the South Pole on 21 February 2006 marked the latest date that any aircraft had ever landed there. (22)

### 29 February

- 1944: Fifth Air Force bombers put both Japanese air bases at Alexishafen, New Guinea, out of operation. This command also supported the first landing made in the Admiralty Islands to complete the isolation of Rabaul. (24)
- 1960: Through 7 March, USAFE C-118s airlifted US Army Engineer troops and rescue equipment to an earthquake scene at Agadir, Morocco. (4)
- SAC's 4135 SW at Eglin AFB launched the first Hound Dog missile. (6)
- IRBM flight testing ended at Cape Canaveral with the launch of a Thor missile. (6)
- 1964: A 10 SMS crew from Malmstrom AFB launched two Minuteman missiles in less than 20 minutes ("ripple" fashion) at Vandenberg AFB. (6)
- President Lyndon B. Johnson acknowledged the existence of Lockheed's A-11 (YF-12A), which could fly 2,000 MPH (Mach 3) above 70,000 feet. The YF-12 then entered testing at Edwards AFB to determine its suitability as a long-range interceptor. The Central Intelligence Agency ordered it in 1960 as a single-seat reconnaissance plane (A-12), and the USAF later produced it as the SR-71. (3) (8: Feb 90)
- 1968: USAF Southern Command aircraft delivered emergency supplies to flood-stricken Bolivia. (16) (26)
- 1992: **Operation PROVIDE HOPE II.** USAF airlift assets moved food and medical supplies to former Soviet republics. Additionally, US Navy and Army units moved cargo by sea and land to provide more assistance. (16) (26)

### 1 March

- 1912: Albert Berry made the first (attached-type) parachute jump from a heavier-than-air aircraft, a Benoist pusher, while flying 1,500 feet above Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, Mo. (21) (24)
- 1918: The US Navy bought its first dirigible, the AT-1, from France. On 3 March, this craft made its first American-controlled flight in France. (24)
- 1923: The largest American nonrigid airship, the TC1, delivered. (5)
- 1928: Through 9 March, Lt Burnie R. Dallas and Beckwith Havens flew the first transcontinental flight in a Loening Amphibian airplane. They used 32 hours 45 minutes of flight time for the trip. (8)

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- 1937: The 2 BG at Langley Field received the first YB-17A Flying Fortress. (11)
- 1939: Maj Gen Delos C. Emmons became the GHQ Commander at Langley Field. (5)
- 1942: Ensign William Tepuni, USN Reserve, flying a Lockheed Hudson, sank a German submarine near Newfoundland. It was the first German sub sunk by American forces in World War II. (24)
- 1946: A Pan American Airways Constellation Clipper set a commercial record for the New York to Lisbon flight by covering the 3,425 miles in 9 hours 58 minutes. (5)
- 1947: Maj Gen Charles F. Born, Fifteenth Air Force Commander, led six B-29s on a goodwill trip from Smoky Hill Army Air Field, Kansas, to Uruguay to honor the new President, Tomas Beret- ta. (1)
- 1950: Boeing Airplane Company turned over the first production B-47A Stratojet bomber to the Air Force Inspection Board. (5)
- 1953: The Air Guard's 138 FIS Syracuse, N. Y., and 194<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber Squadron (FBS) at Hay- ward, Calif., began augmenting Air Defense Command's runway alert program. This event be- gan the USAF's total force approach to reserve component use and training. (21)
- 1954: The US exploded its first hydrogen bomb in the Marshall Islands. (8)
- 1960: The prototype GAM-72A Quail completed its first powered flight at Holloman AFB. (6)
- 1962: A Polaris missile, launched from Cape Canaveral, hit its target area 1,500 miles away. (24)
- 1963: The USAF achieved its first Advanced Ballistic Missile Reentry System (ABRES) launch from Cape Canaveral. (26)
- 1965: **Project LONG LIFE.** The first Minuteman I (model B) to be launched left an ICBM silo at Newell, S. Dak. With this shot, the 44 SMW at Ellsworth AFB demonstrated that a Minuteman could be launched from an operational site. (1) (6)
- 1966: Venera 3 became the first spacecraft to reach Venus. (5)
- 1968: A Minuteman II at the 341 SMW, Malmstrom AFB, received the first Minuteman Mark I pene- tration aid. (6)
- 1972: First production SRAM delivered to SAC. (6) (12)
- 1973: Fairchild-Republic received a contract for the A-10. (12)  
  
McDonnell-Douglas received production approval for the first 30 operational F-15s. (30)
- 1977: The first three F-111Fs arrived in Europe for assignment to the 48 TFW at RAF Lakenheath, UK. (16) (26)
- 1979: **TEAM SPIRIT.** Through 17 March, aircraft flew 9,952 sorties in the fourth annual joint/combined exercise in Korea. (16)
- 1986: To 5 March, the first humanitarian flights to airlift Afghan patients and aid Afghan refugees in Pakistan began. By November 1991, the DoD had evacuated over 1,200 Afghans for medical care in Europe and the U.S and delivered more than \$50 million in excess DoD property. The operation continued through May 1993. (18)

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- 1989: General Dynamics delivered the first F-16A to the ANG's 114<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Training Squadron (TFTS) at Kingsley Field, Or.
- 1990: Rockwell rolled out the X-31A Enhanced Fighter Maneuverability (EFM) Demonstrator at Palmdale, Calif. The X-31A developed out of a cooperative venture between Rockwell International and Messerschmitt-Bolkow-Blohm that made it the first multinational experimental aircraft. (8: May 90)
- 1991: Through 30 June, 42 C-5 Galaxies and 3 C-141 Starlifters from the 60 MAW and 436 MAW moved more than 1,000 tons of fire-fighting equipment and 100 fireman to Kuwait City. There, the firemen battled more than 500 burning oil wells set afire by retreating Iraqi forces. (16)
- Through 31 December, C-5s moved 150 tons of relief supplies to Bucharest, Romania, to help the government overcome a critical economic situation. The capital city faced violent street protests in an effort to attain a democratic government. (16) (26)
- 1992: **Operation DESERT SORTIE.** Although the redeployment of DESERT STORM forces to the US from the Middle East officially started on 10 March, redeployment activities actually began earlier. From 6 March through 31 May, KC-10s and KC-135s flew 4,925 sorties to deliver 34 million gallons of fuel as well as 2,894 airlift sorties. From 1 March 1991 through 14 April 1992, C-5s, C-141s, C-130s, KC-10s, and commercial aircraft flew 5,892 missions to move 473,472 passengers and 173,648 tons of cargo. (18)
- 1993: **Operation PROVIDE PROMISE.** Seven Guard and Reserve C-130s deployed to Rhein-Main AB to join the airlift to Bosnia-Herzegovina. (18)
- 2000: **Operation ATLAS RESPONSE.** After flooding in Mozambique left about one million people homeless, a C-17 from the 315 AW (AFRC) at Charleston AFB, augmented by crewmembers from the 446 AW (AFRC) at McChord AFB, flew the first planeload of emergency relief supplies to flood-ravaged Mozambique to initiate this operation. The crew was at Ramstein AB, Germany, when the Tanker Airlift Control Center tasked it to fly the mission. The crew picked up bottled water, food, and rolls of plastic sheeting for emergency shelters from Pisa, Italy, and then delivered the supplies to Maputo and Beira in Mozambique. There, C-130s, along with MH-53 and HH-60 helicopters, distributed the food, water, tents, and medicine. By the end of the operation on 16 April, the Air Mobility Command system had flown 29 strategic airlift missions with C-5s and C-17s to transport 720 passengers and 910 short tons of cargo. (21) (22)
- 2002: **Operation ENDURING FREEDOM/ANACONDA.** The US and its coalition partners launched Operation ANACONDA in eastern Afghanistan. Using B-52s, B-1s, AC-130s, A-10s, and F-15s for air support, the coalition ground operation tried to surround and kill Taliban and al Qaeda forces regrouping south of Gardez. (21)
- 2005: At Langley AFB, Va., Lt Gen William Fraser III, the Air Combat Command Vice Commander, declared an initial operating capability for the MQ-1 Predator, even though it had already seen extensive operational service in Afghanistan and Iraq. The MQ-1 version had advanced sensors and carried AGM-114 Hellfire missiles. (3)

### 2 March

- 1910: Lt Benjamin D. Foulois began solo flying at Fort Sam Houston. Foulois was the only pilot and only one with flying duty assigned to the Signal Corps at that time. (21)
- 1913: First flying pay authorized. Officers detailed on aviation duty received a 35 percent bonus over base pay. (11)

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- 1931: A contract to Hamilton Standard Propeller Company for two fighter aircraft propellers initiated a development program that led to the adoption of variable pitch propellers. (5)
- 1943: **BATTLE OF THE BISMARCK SEA.** Through 4 March, Fifth Air Force aircraft smashed a 16-ship Japanese troop convoy in this battle. This ended the enemy's effort to reinforce Lae. The aircraft sank over 40,000 tons of Japanese shipping, including eight troop-laden transports and four of eighth escorting warships. They also destroyed between 50-60 enemy planes. Modified B-25s used low-level skip bombing for the first time. (21) (24)
- 1961: The USS Observation Island made the first shipboard firing of an advanced Polaris A-2 missile, while cruising 10 miles off Cape Canaveral. (24)
- 1962: **Operation BRISTLE CONE.** This 12-day exercise examined the USAF/Army capability to airlifting 40,000 combat troops from Fort Lewis, Wash., and Fort Riley, Kans., to George AFB, Calif. (24)
- 1965: North Vietnam shot down Lt Hayden J. Lockhart's F-100 during his raid against an ammo dump north of the demilitarized zone. A week later, he became the first USAF pilot taken as a prisoner of war. He was not released until 12 February 1973. (21)
- 1968: Lockheed rolled out the first C-5A Galaxy at its plant in Marietta. (8)(12)
- 1971: At Myrtle Beach AFB, S.C., the 511 TFS became the first operationally ready A-7D unit. (26)
- 1972: The Pioneer X Jupiter probe, launched from the Eastern Test Range, reached the highest launch velocity ever attained, 32,000 MPH relative to earth. This mission tried to get scientific information from beyond Mars by investigating the interplanetary medium, asteroid belt, and Jupiter and its environment. The 569-pound spacecraft was be the first to attempt the Jupiter probe. (5)
- 1973: The Boeing T-43, the USAF's navigation trainer, rolled out of the plant at Renton. (5)
- 1987: First F-15E arrived at Edwards AFB for flight testing. (11)
- 1997: **Operation DEEP FREEZE.** The 60 AMW's last scheduled C-141 mission in support of this operation left Travis AFB. For more than 40 years, Travis aircrews flew Deep Freeze missions from Christchurch, New Zealand, to McMurdo Station to resupply scientists near Antarctica's southern polar ice cap. The 62 AW at McChord AFB took over the mission. (22)
- 2003: The 118<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Tennessee ANG, mobilized 300 members to serve at an undisclosed location in a possible war against Iraq. (32)
- 2007: **Exercise KOA LIGHTNING.** At Andersen AFB, Guam, B-52s *Stratofortresses* from the 96th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, 36th Operations Group, played in a Pacific Command exercise over the Hawaiian islands. The 6,880-nautical mile trip from Guam to the exercise area and back often exceeded 18 hours of continuous flight and required two air refuelings. In the exercise area, the aircrews tested their offensive and defensive skills with a wide variety of military units and aircraft from across the Pacific. (AFNEWS, "Andersen Bombers Participate in Koa Lightning Exercise," 5 Mar 2007)

### 3 March

- 1911: Lt Benjamin D. Foulois and civilian pilot Phillip O. Parmalee made a 106-mile nonstop flight from Laredo to Eagle Pass, Tex., in the Collier Wright B, trying to prove to ground forces the usefulness of the airplane. The two men dropped messages and received radiotelegraphic mes-

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sages in return. (24)

Congress authorized \$125,000 for air operations for first time in the Army budget of Fiscal Year (FY) 1912. (11) (24)

1952:     **Operation SATURATE.** FEAF initiated this round-the-clock interdiction effort against North Korean railroad lines. Fighter-bombers attacked during the day and B-26 bombers at night. The attacks were carried out with intensity through May, and continued periodically thereafter. The B-26's increased vulnerability to communist ground fire provoked a reassessment of the night interdiction campaign in the spring of 1952. (17)

1953:     North American Aviation's missile booster engine for the Navaho fired for the first time at the Experimental Rocket Engine Test Station on Luehman Ridge at Edwards AFB. (3)

1959:     Cape Canaveral launched the Pioneer IV space probe to within 38,000 miles of the moon. It eventually went into a solar orbit. Radio contact with Pioneer IV continued to a record distance of 406,620 miles from the earth. (12)

1969:     **APOLLO IX.** Through 13 March, a Saturn V launched from Kennedy Space Center carried Apollo IX astronauts James A. McDivitt (Colonel, USAF), the commander; David R. Scott (Colonel, USAF), the command module pilot; and Russell L. Schweickart (a civilian), the lunar module pilot, into space. The mission's achievements included the first manned flight of the Apollo lunar module and the first transfer between space vehicles via an internal connection. After 152 orbits, or 241 hours 53 seconds in space, the command module splashed down in the Atlantic 180 miles east of the Bahamas. (8)

TRW Systems Group received a \$74 million contract to develop and produce six communications satellites for the Defense Satellite Communications System Phase II (DSCS II). (5)

1971:     **Exercise FREEDOM VAULT.** Through 7 March, PACAF tactical aircraft and forces participated in a JCS-directed, joint Republic of Korea-US exercise at Osan AB. Events included an airborne assault by 683 US paratroopers from Fort Bragg, who flew to Korea aboard 12 MAC C-141s and were dropped at Osan AB. A Republic of Korea battalion also parachuted from 9 C-46s. (17)

1982:     **COMMANDO VULCAN.** The first six A-10 Thunderbolts arrived at Suwon AB to bolster PACAF forces in South Korea. The USAF built more than 50 facilities, totaling 700,000 square feet, at Suwon to support the A-10 beddown project. (16)

1986:     TAC's first OT-37 Tweet replaced the Cessna O-2 aircraft at Shaw AFB.

1988:     The Pioneer 8 solar orbiter finally ceased operations. When launched on 13 December 1967, it had a six-month life span, but lasted more than 20 years. (20) (Note: Only one instrument, the electric field detector, remained operational past 1982. During tracking on 23 July 1995, NASA could not switch on Pioneer 8's transmitter, probably because the spacecraft was too far away from the Sun to charge its solar panels. On 22 August 1996, NASA reacquired contact via a backup transmitter. The electric field detector remained functional through June 2001.)

2001:     **COLLIER TROPHY.** The FAI awarded the 2000 Robert J. Collier Trophy to the Global Hawk unmanned aerial vehicle system as the nation's greatest achievement in aeronautics. (3)

2003:     **Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.** Global Hawk AV-3 left Edwards AFB for the Persian Gulf area, arriving in the United Arab Emirates on 8 March, to fly reconnaissance missions as part of the prewar air campaign against Iraq's air defenses. The sorties identified Iraqi surface-to-air missile locations and potential SCUD missile sites. (3)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 4 March

- 1915: Congress budgeted \$300,000 for Army aviation in FY1916. (24)
- 1924: After 6 hours of bombing, two Martin Bombers and two DH-4s broke a Platte River ice jam at North Bend, Neb. (8)
- 1944: **FIRST DAYLIGHT-BOMBING RAID ON BERLIN.** Eighth Air Force carried out the first daylight attack on Berlin. Bad weather caused the Eighth to recall the bombers after launch; however, 31 B-17s successfully completed the attack. (21)
- 1949: The Navy's Martin JRM-2 flying boat, Caroline Mars, set a new world passenger load record by carrying 269 people from San Diego to Alameda, Calif. (8) (24)
- 1954: The Lockheed XF-104 Starfighter first flew at Edwards AFB. (5)
- 1968: **EXERCISE RAMASOON.** Through 15 March, six Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) nations participated in this combined command post exercise at Korat Royal Thai AFB. (17)
- 1972: The 42 BMW at Loring AFB, Maine, received SAC's first operational AGM-69A SRAM for use with its B-52Gs. (1) (6)
- 1980: The E-4B flew its first mission as SAC's "Looking Glass" aircraft. (12)
- 1986: **Exercise BRIGHT STAR.** During this combined U.S. and Egyptian exercise, USAF tankers refueled foreign aircraft for the first time. (21)
- 1992: Two B-52 Stratofortresses landed in Russia on a friendship mission to demonstrate the end of the Cold War. (16)
- 1995: The C-17 flew across the Pacific for the first time, landing at Yokota AB. (16)
- 1997: **Exercise Green Flag.** The only remaining SR-71 flew from Edwards and performed its first real-time downlink of data while flying at Mach 3.07 at 79,600 feet. (3)
- 2001: At Newport News, Nancy Reagan christened the USS Ronald Reagan, the Navy's newest aircraft carrier. (21)
- 2002: **Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.** During Operation ANACONDA, the USAF experienced its first combat deaths since the 1991 Gulf War. Two airmen died in helicopter assaults near Gardez, Afghanistan. (21)
- Operation ENDURING FREEDOM/SILVER STAR.** A Kentucky ANG pararescue specialist from the 123<sup>d</sup> Special Tactics Squadron, TSgt Keary Miller, cared for wounded troops and participated in a 15-hour firefight with nearby enemy forces after his Army special operations helicopter crashed on Taku Ghar mountain in eastern Afghanistan. For his heroism, Miller received the Silver Star, the nation's third highest award for valor. (32)

### 5 March

- 1913: Army Field Order No. 1 officially organized Headquarters 1st Aero Squadron (Provisional) in a field near Texas City, Tex. It was the first unit created to conduct aircraft operations. (4) (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1923: An auxiliary jettisonable belly tank, fitted on an MB-3A's bomb rack at Selfridge Field, boosted the aircraft's flying radius to about 400 miles. (24)
- 1939: Norman Rintoul and Victor Yesulantes used a Stinson Reliant, equipped with a trailing hook, to demonstrate a nonstop airmail system. They picked a mailsack off a pole at Coatesville, Pa. (8)
- 1944: **Operation THURSDAY.** Through 11 March, allied aircraft and gliders airlifted Brig Gen Orde C. Wingate's Special Force with 9,000 personnel and 1,400 mules and horses from India at night to a location 200 miles behind enemy lines in Burma. (21)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** While jet fighters stilled enemy antiaircraft fire, an USAF helicopter lowered a hoist sling and rescued a downed US Navy pilot in the vicinity of Yongyon, Korea. (28)
- 1957: The USAF issued initial operational capability directives to place 40 Atlas and 40 Titan I ICBMs on alert between March 1959 and March 1961 and 60 IRBMs on alert between July 1959 and July 1960. (6)
- 1962: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Capt Robert G. Sowers and crew flew a 43 BMW B-58 Hustler to three FAI records in a round-trip flight from Los Angeles to New York: round-trip speed of 1,044.46 MPH in 4 hours 41 minutes 15 seconds; Los Angeles to New York in 2 hours 59 seconds at 1,214.65 MPH; and New York to Los Angeles in 2 hours 15 minutes 50 seconds at 1,081.8 MPH. Sowers and his crew received the Mackay Trophy for this flight. (1) (9) (21)
- 1964: At Grand Forks AFB, workers began building Minuteman II operational facilities. (6)
- 1965: The F-111 made its first supersonic flight at Fort Worth. (6)
- At Vandenberg AFB, SAC launched its last Titan I. (6)
- 1971: The ADC started a realignment of its operational elements, moving from a concept of a broad defense of the Continental U. S. (CONUS) to a perimeter defense along America's northern border and its east and west coasts. This move affected 19 bases in 13 states and transferred all remaining ADC F-101s to the ANG. (16)
- 1975: Students flew the last navigator-training sortie in a T-29 at Mather AFB, Calif. (16)
- 1976: An AFSC aircrew, flying a B-52G, launched the first ALCM at White Sands Missile Range. (6)
- 1985: Through 9 March, airlift crews flew 123 tons of food and medicine as part of four famine relief missions to Sudan, Niger, and Mali. (16)
- 1986: **MACKAY TROPHY.** From the 68 AREFG, Capt Marc C. Felman and his KC-10 Extender crew provided emergency refueling to a KC-10 and three A-4s Skyhawks over the Atlantic Ocean when a crippled plane on the runway at Santa Maria AB, Portugal, prevented a landing. The KC-10 and A-4s did not have enough fuel to divert to another base. Learning of their plight while on the ground at Santa Maria, Captain Felman stopped the refueling of his KC-10, left two crewmen behind in Base Operations, did not pay for his fuel or get a flight clearance, and did not align his inertial navigation system before taking off in near zero-zero weather to intercept and save a crippled Marine A-4M. He received the Mackay Trophy for the flight. (16)
- Under the 1986 McCollum Amendment, the USAF began airlifting Afghan patients and refugees from Pakistan to the US. (26)
- 1988: **Operation ELECTION DISTRICT.** Through May 1989, C-5s, C-130s, and a C-141 airlifted a UN Transition Advisory Group and its cargo to Namibia. Altogether, the airlift moved 854 passengers and 1,023 tons of cargo. The operation supported UN peace objectives to withdraw

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Cuban troops from Angola, pullout South African forces from Namibia, and give independence to Namibia. (18)

- 1995: Under the START agreement, the first Russian weapons inspectors arrived at Malmstrom AFB to monitor the dismantling of LGM-30F Minuteman IIs. (16) (26)
- 1996: A C-141 from Charleston AFB flew nonstop to Tel Aviv, Israel, with 2,800 pounds of highly sophisticated explosive-detection devices after four terrorist suicide-bombings in two weeks. A KC-135 Stratotanker from the 100 AREFW at Mildenhall refueled the C-141 en route. (18)
- 2001: The Space Shuttle landed at Cape Canaveral AFS for the first time. NASA's modified 747 carried the Columbia there from Palmdale, Calif. (AFNEWS Article 0313, 7 Mar 2001)
- 2002: An AFFTC test aircrew from Edwards AFB dropped the first Wind Corrected Munitions Dispenser (WCMD) from an F-15E. The WCMD, a tail kit for conventional bombs, achieved accuracy by automatically compensating for the effects of wind, launch transients, and ballistic errors. (3)

### 6 March

- 1913: Lt John H. Towers and Ensign Godfrey de C. Chevalier (USN), in the Navy Curtiss flying boat, scouted a "hostile fleet" during Guantanamo maneuvers. (24)
- 1918: An unmanned flying bomb-type plane was launched and flown for 1,000 yards at the Sperry Flying Field, Long Island, NY. The launching device was a falling weight-type catapult. (5)
- 1942: The US Army Air School at Tuskegee, Ala., for black aviators graduated its first class. The five black military pilots included Capt Benjamin O. Davis. (24)
- 1944: 672 B-17s and B-24s dropped 1,600 tons of bombs in the first major American attack on Berlin. In this daylight raid, 75 bombers were lost. (4) (24)
- 1951: The Naval Ordnance Test Station launched a Talos missile; its 2-minute trip was the longest full-scale ramjet flight to date. (24)
- 1953: Boeing delivered its last piston-engine bomber, a TB-50H, to the Air Force. (5)
- 1958: After four successful test launches, Northrop Aircraft Inc. delivered the first production-model SM-62 Snark ICBM to the USAF. (6)
- 1962: A Navy F4H-1 Phantom II broke records by climbing 7 1/2 miles in 1 minute 17 seconds. (24)
- 1964: The DoD canceled the development of the XB-70A-3 Valkyrie. (3)
- 1965: Cmdr J. R. Williford set a helicopter distance record. He flew 2,105.49 miles from San Diego to Jacksonville in a Sikorsky SH-3A. (5)
- 1984: A 319 BMW B-52G Stratofortress conducted the first ALCM captive-carry test over Canada's northern test range. (16) (26)
- 1990: **SR-71 RETIRED.** Lt Col Ed Yeilding (pilot) and Lt Col J. T. Vida (RSO) set four speed records when they flew the SR-71A Blackbird into retirement at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington DC. They flew a 2,404-mile course from Oxnard, Calif., to Dulles Airport, near DC, in 1 hour 8 minutes 17 seconds at 2,112.52 MPH for one record. Other records: 1 hour 4 minutes for Los Angeles to DC (2,153 MPH); 26 minutes 36 seconds from Kansas City,



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mo., to DC (2,200.94 MPH), and eight minutes 20 seconds from St. Louis to Cincinnati, Ohio (2,242.48 MPH). (20)

- 1997: An AFFTC crew used the ALE-50 Towed Decoy System on a B-1B for the first time. (3)
- 1998: The SECDEF approved the permanent retirement of the SR-71 Blackbird. With that decision the USAF would retire two SR-71A models (returned to active duty in 1995), a SR-71A and the SR-71B trainer model on loan to NASA, and two from returnable storage. While in the Air Force inventory, the SR-71 set numerous world high-altitude and speed records. (AFNEWS Article 980558, 28 Apr 98)
- 2007: **Operation ACHILLES.** A C-130 Hercules dropped 30,000 warning leaflets over the mountains of southeastern Afghanistan to deter Taliban insurgency. The mission supported International Security Assistance Force efforts to secure Afghanistan. (AFNEWS, "Operation Achilles: Leaflet Airdrop Delivers Message to Taliban, 6 Mar 2007.)

### 7 March

- 1911: At Palm Beach, Fla., Percy G. B. Morris and John A. "Douglas" McCurdy demonstrated a new airplane radio that employed a small Marconi transmitter and a loop antenna. This replaced the hanging antenna. (24)
- 1919: Lt (JG) F. M. Johnson launched an N-9 landplane from a sea sled traveling at 60 MPH at Hampton Roads, Va. (24)
- 1924: Lt Eugene Hoy Barksdale and his navigator, Lt Bradley Jones, flew a DH-4B, powered by 400 horsepower Liberty engine from McCook Field to Mitchel Field using instruments only. (24)
- 1954: Northwest Orient Airlines set a transpacific speed record for commercial aircraft by flying 5,000 miles from Tokyo to Seattle in 16 hours 18 minutes. (24)
- 1958: The US Navy commissioned the USS Grayback at Mare Island, Calif. It was the first US submarine built from the keel up with a guided cruise missile launch capability.
- 1961: SAC declared the B-52's GAM-72A Quail missile system operational. (12)
- Maj Robert M. White flew the X-15A-2, with the XLR99 57,000-pound thrust engine, on its first Mach 4 flight. (3)
- 1962: NASA launched its first second-generation satellite, a 450-pound Orbiting Solar Observatory from Cape Canaveral. (24)
- 1965: Qantas Airlines completed the first nonstop commercial flight across the Pacific by flying a Boeing 707 from San Francisco to Sydney, Australia, in 14 hours 33 minutes. (5)
- 1967: **EXERCISE SIYASAT.** This 14-day Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) air-land-sea exercise in the Philippines climaxed on 21 March with a massive firepower demonstration at Fort Magsaysay. Observers from six SEATO nations attended the event. F-102s from the 405 FW participated. (17)
- 1977: A MAC C-130 airlifted approximately 6.6 tons of medical supplies from Ramstein AB to Bucharest, Romania, after an earthquake. (18)
- 1983: In the largest B-52 mining exercise to date, 10 B-52D/Gs dropped mines off the South Korean coast in "Team Spirit 83." This exercise included US Navy and Marine minelayers and fighters,

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SAC and Navy tankers, and South Korean fighters. (1)

1986: The Air Force conducted its 11th flight test for the Peacekeeper (M-X) missile in the third launch from a modified Minuteman silo at Vandenberg AFB. The missile carried eight unarmed MK-21 reentry vehicles to the planned target area, 4,100 miles away at the Kwajalein Missile Test Range. Contractor crews conducted all previous launches; however, the 11th flight used two Air Force launch control officers with contractor support. (5)

An F-16 conducted a successful separation control test of the Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile. (11)

1990: Rockwell's Missile Systems Division received a \$125,200,000 contract to build 4,864 AGM-114 Hellfire missiles for the Army. (8: May 90)

2003: President George W. Bush issued an ultimatum giving Saddam Hussein and his sons 48 hours to leave Iraq. (32)

2007: **Operation Deep Freeze.** Ski-equipped LC-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster IIIs redeployed from Christchurch, New Zealand, to end the 2006-2007 season of support to the National Science Foundation and US Antarctic Program. In this period, the LC-130s flew 430 missions to move nearly 11 million pounds of cargo and 1,000 passengers throughout Antarctica, while the C-17s flew 57 missions to McMurdo Station, Antarctica, from Christchurch carrying more than 3 million pounds of cargo and 2,700 passengers to McMurdo, and more than 720,000 pounds of cargo and 2,600 passengers to Christchurch from McMurdo. The LC-130s came from the 109th Airlift Wing, New York Air National Guard, while the C-17s came from the 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings, McChord Air Force Base, Wash. (AFNEWS, "Operation Deep Freeze Ends Record-Setting Year," 7 Mar 2007.)

### 8 March

1913: Shakir S. Jerwan, chief pilot for the Moisant International Aviators, delivered an airmail letter to former President William H. Taft. He dropped the letter from his monoplane in front of Taft's hotel in Augusta. (24)

1918: Maj Edward C. Schneider and James L. Whitney reached an artificial altitude of 34,000 feet in 24 minutes in a simulated altitude flight at Signal Corps Laboratory, Mineola, N. Y. (24)

1944: Eighth Air Force attacked Berlin with 623 bombers, escorted by 891 fighters. (4)

1946: The Civil Air Authority (CAA) gave the Bell Model 47, a two-place helicopter, the first commercial helicopter license (NC-1H). (24)

1949: William P. Odom, in a Beechcraft Bonanza, set an FAI world distance record for light planes by flying 5,273 miles from Honolulu to Teterboro, N. J., in 36 hours 2 minutes. (9) (24)

1955: At Great Falls AFB, the USAF formed the 91 SRS to perform a unique mission. It could launch and recover F-84F Thunderstreaks from B-36 bombers. (24)

1960: The first Atlas D equipped with an all-inertial (open loop) guidance system intended for the E- and F-models launched from Cape Canaveral. (6)

1961: **F-86D PHASE-OUT.** PACAF sent three of its few remaining F-86Ds to the Military Assistance Program; the remainder went to salvage by 10 March. On 3 March, the last programmed F-102 Delta Dagger arrived at Clark Air Base for the 509 FIS. This completed the replacement program begun in 1960. (17)

## **AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- 1965: SAC phased out its first B-52B (number 52-8714) from the 22 BMW at March AFB. The bomber went to Chanhute AFB, Ill., for use in training. (1)
- Major Dan D. Fulgham of Edwards AFB took part in the Gemini personnel recovery system tests by jumping from 15,000 and 23,000 feet in the Gemini suit and egress equipment. (3)
- The 431st Air Refueling Squadron, the last in TAC, inactivated at Biggs AFB, Tex. (11)
- 1979: Orbital Space Shuttle "Columbia" left Palmdale overland to Edwards AFB for its flight to Patrick AFB, Fla. (12)
- 1985: First TAC F-16C/D Fighting Falcon arrived at Shaw AFB. (16)
- MAC helicopters assisted Bahamian police and U.S Drug enforcement officials in confiscating 1,800 pounds of cocaine worth \$320 million. (16)
- 1991: The first Martin-Marietta Titan IV, propelled by a heavy lift space booster, launched from Vandenburg AFB. The Titan IV had two upper stage options, which allowed the missile to carry critical military payloads. (16) (26)
- 2007: The Air Force marked its 50th consecutive successful launch with an Atlas V loaded with six experimental satellites. The Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles AFB, Calif., successfully launched the rocket from Cape Canaveral AFS, Fla., using the 45th Space Wing spacelift team. The firsts on this mission include: The first launch of an Air Force payload on an Atlas V; the first flight of an Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle Secondary Payload Adaptor; the first Air Force mission with six unique spacecraft; the first dedicated Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle mission for the Department of Defense Space Test Program; and the first Atlas V mission to carry multiple satellites to two different low-Earth orbits. The Atlas carried: NextSat and ASTRO for the Defense Advanced Projects Agency; STPSat-1 for the Space Test Program; Cibola Flight Experiment for the Los Alamos National Laboratory; MidSTAR for the U.S. Naval Academy; and FalconSat-3 for the U.S. Air Force Academy. (AFNEWS, "Air Force's Satellite-Loaded Atlas V is 50<sup>th</sup> Launch Success," 12 Mar 2007.)

### **9 March**

- 1927: The Navy bought its first transport, the JR-1 trimotor, from the Ford Motor Company. (24)
- Capt Hawthorne C. Gray set an FAI altitude record of 28,510 feet for subclass A-8 (2,200 to 3,000 cubic meters capacity and A-9 balloons (3,000 to 4,000 cubic meters). (9)
- 1940: TSgt T. A. Petra (USMC) piloted an AD-17A Beechcraft biplane to 21,050 feet in altitude--a probable record altitude above Antarctica--to measure cosmic rays for the US Antarctic Expedition. (5)
- 1945: Changing tactics to low-altitude flights to double the bombload, the XXI Bomber Command dispatched more than 300 B-29s on an incendiary night raid from the Marianas Islands against Tokyo. They destroyed about 25 percent of the city. Previously, the bombers conducted high-altitude daylight attacks against specific targets. (21)
- 1955: In a F-84F Thunderstreak, Lt Col Robert R. Scott set a 3-hour, 44-minute, 53-second record for the 2,446-mile flight from Los Angeles to New York. (9) (24)
- 1956: The Boeing B-52C Stratofortress first flew. (5)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Hollywood filmed "Toward the Unknown" at Edwards AFB. (5)

- 1959: **F-102 CONVERSION.** The 16 FIS at Naha AB, Okinawa, became the first squadron in PACAF to convert to Convair's F-102 Delta Dagger. The unit, previously equipped with F-86D Sabres, became operationally ready later in September. (17)
- 1971: Thomas C. McMurtry, a NASA engineer and pilot, flew an F-8 fighter with a supercritical wing for the first time. (5)
- 1976: The Defense Systems Acquisition Review Council approved the M-X concept, the system validation plans, and the preference for the buried trench basing. (6)
- After a coal mine disaster in Whitesburg, Ky., two 314 TAW C-130s from Little Rock AFB airlifted rescue teams and equipment. (18)
- 1977: The 354 TFW at Myrtle Beach AFB received the first A-10 for hands-on training. (11)
- 1979: Cadet Reza Pahlavi, the Crown Prince of Iran, graduated from undergraduate pilot training at Reese AFB, Texas. (16)
- Operation FLYING STAR.** Two E-3 AWACS deployed to Saudi Arabia to respond to a threat to that country's southern border. (21)
- 1993: A Lockheed SR-71A Blackbird came out of retirement to fly a scientific flight for NASA at the Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards AFB. The aircraft, outfitted with an ultraviolet video camera, flew to nearly 83,000 feet to collect 140,000 images of stars and comets (20)
- 1998: Through 9 April, Air Mobility Command performed 104 airlift and 110 air refueling missions for a 6-nation tour of Africa. On 22 March, President Clinton--with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, and a large official party on Air Force One--left Andrews AFB on a 12-day journey through sub-Saharan Africa. It was the first time a sitting American president had visited Ghana, Uganda, Rwanda, South Africa, Botswana, and Senegal. (22)

### 10 March

- 1934: The army suspended Air Corps airmail operations until 19 March to assess the high fatality rate. A lack of instrumentation for flying at night and in bad weather contributed to nine fatalities. (5)
- 1943: A few P-47 Thunderbolts participated in a fighter sweep from the UK for the first time.
- 1945: When a pilot from the 36th Fighter Squadron landed a P-47 on an airstrip near Aachen, Germany, he became the first to land an American combat plane voluntarily in Germany since the war began. (4)
- 1948: A B-29 dropped a nonexplosive, 42,000-pound bomb at Muroc. (24)
- 1959: A Snark missile flew a several-thousand-mile round-trip after launching from Cape Canaveral. (24)
- The X-15A-1 rocket research plane completed its first captive flight on the wing of a B-52. (3)
- 1961: The 565 SMS became the second US war-ready ICBM unit to achieve operational status. (24)
- 1966: TAC accepted its first F-4D at Nellis AFB. (5)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**MEDAL OF HONOR.** Maj Bernard Fisher from the 1st Commando Squadron landed an A-1E on A Chau runway, Vietnam, under fire from North Vietnamese troops to rescue a downed pilot, Maj Dafford W. Myers from the 602 FS. President Lyndon B. Johnson presented Major Fisher this medal for heroism on 19 January 1967. He thus became the first Air Force man to be so honored for action in the Southeast Asian conflict. (5) (16)

- 1967: **MEDAL OF HONOR.** F-105 Thunderchiefs and F-4C Phantoms bombed the Thai Nguyen steel plant in North Vietnam for the first time. At the time, Thai Nguyen was the only plant in Southeast Asia making bridge sections, barges, and drums for fuels and lubricants. While attacking the steel plant, Capt Merlyn Hans Dethlefsen used his severely damaged F-105 to silence enemy defenses, despite intense enemy ground fire and fighter attacks, to earn the Medal of Honor. (16) (17) (21)
- TWIN MIG KILLER.** Capt Mac C. Brestel, a F-105 pilot with the 355 TFS at Takhli Royal Thai Air Force Base (RTAFB), Thailand, became the first USAF pilot to down two MiGs in one mission in the Vietnam War. (16) (26)
- 1971: An Air Force helicopter saved 10 Japanese fishermen from rough surf and a coral reef after they were shipwrecked 200 miles southwest of Kadena AB. (16) (26)
- 1977: The first female navigator candidates reported to Mather AFB for undergraduate navigator training. (16) (26)
- 1995: The 11<sup>th</sup> Space Warning Squadron became the first unit with the ability to warn battlefield commanders of incoming theater ballistic missiles, such as the Scud missiles fired by Iraq in DESERT STORM. (26)
- 2007: The 326th Airlift Squadron, 512th Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve Command), at Dover AFB, Del., flew its final C-5 Galaxy flight. According to plans, the squadron converted to the C-17 Globemaster III mission on 1 April and the first of 12 C-17s arrived in June. (AFNEWS, "Dover Reserve Squadron Flies Final C-5 Flight," 13 Mar 2007.)

### 11 March

- 1912: Lt Frank P. Lahm opened an Army Air School at Fort William McKinley, Philippines, with two volunteer students, Lt Moss L. Love and Cpl Vernon L. Burge, who later became the first enlisted pilot. (24)
- 1918: Lt Paul Baer, 103d Aero Squadron, received the first Distinguished Service Cross awarded to an Army Air Service member for attacking seven German pursuit planes. He destroyed one. (8)
- The Navy's General Board approved Capt Alfred A. Cunningham's plan to form the 1st Marine Aviation Force with a mission to bomb German submarine bases in Europe. (10)
- 1941: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Lend-Lease Act to provide war materiel, including aircraft, to friendly nations. Under this act, the U.S. supplied over 43,000 aircraft to its allies in World War II. (21)
- 1945: Eighth Air Force dispatched 1,079 bombers to attack Essen, Germany. This raid posted the greatest weight of bombs, 4738 tons, on a single target to date. (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Fighter-bombers dropped 150 tons of bombs and approximately 33,000 gallons of napalm on a four square mile supply storage and troop training area near Sinmak, Korea. Fifth Air Force operations officers reported this to be the most intensive napalm attack on a single area in the war. Also, through 12 March 10 B-29s struck the Sinchang-ni choke point, 10

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

miles east of Sunchon, Korea, with 91 tons of high explosives, rendering the point unpassable. (28)

- 1957: A Boeing 707 set a transcontinental speed record for passenger flight with 42 passengers and 10 crewmen by flying 2,335 miles from Seattle to Washington DC in 3 hours 48 minutes. (24)
- 1959: The Sikorsky SH-3A Sea King first flew. (5)
- 1960: Cape Canaveral launched NASA's Pioneer V satellite on a Thor-Able rocket into a solar orbit between Earth and Venus. (24)
- 1964: The 500th Minuteman ICBM rolled off the assembly line at Air Force Plant No. 77 at Ogden, Utah. (5)
- 1967: US Navy fighters attacked North Vietnamese targets with television-guided Walleye glide bombs. This attack introduced electro-optical/television precision-guided weapons into the Vietnam War. (21)
- 1974: The YF-16 attained Mach 2 for the first time in test flights at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1986: An Air Force Program Management Directive sought a night and under-the-weather surface attack capability for the F-15. (30)
- 1990: The Navy conducted its last Trident II missile test from the submerged USS Pennsylvania near Cape Canaveral. It was the first shot from the Pennsylvania and second demonstration and shakedown launch in the program. This test allowed the Navy to reach an initial operating capability with the missile on schedule in late March. (8: May 90)
- 1991: **Operation ARC WIND.** Returning from DESERT STORM, AFRES C-130 Hercules aircraft began flying reservists from ports of entry in the US to their home units. (16)

### 12 March

- 1908: Lt Thomas E. Selfridge's Red Wing, the first Aerial Experiment Association airplane, made its first flight at Lake Keuka, Hammondsport, N. Y., with Frederick W. "Casey" Baldwin at the controls. (24)
- 1915: 1Lt Byron Q. Jones, Cpls Carl T. Hale, and Robert H. Houser flew a Burgess-Renault (Signal Corps No. 28) to a three-man duration record of 7 hours 5 minutes. (5)
- 1917: An Army and Navy board submitted the first interservice agreement on aircraft operations and the development of aeronautic resources to Service Secretaries. This document stressed joint development and operation, but recognized a general division of aeronautic functions along traditional service lines. (5)
- 1949: Capt Roy Showalter flew a 7 BG B-36 to a long-distance record by flying 9,600 miles in 43 hours 37 minutes without refueling. The flight began and ended at Fort Worth. (1)
- 1956: **FIRST CENTURY SERIES AIRCRAFT IN EUROPE.** The first F-100Cs landed at Bitburg AB, Germany, on their way to Sidi Slimane, Morocco, for duty with the 45<sup>th</sup> Fighter Day Squadron. That arrival made the F-100C the first Century series aircraft to arrive in the European theater, at least publicly. Earlier in May 1955, six RF-100As secretly arrived at Bitburg, with assignment to the Rhine-Main based 7407<sup>th</sup> Support Squadron as Detachment #1, to fly reconnaissance missions over Eastern Bloc countries under Project Slick Chick. (4)  
([http://www.cottonpickers.org/recce\\_pukes.htm](http://www.cottonpickers.org/recce_pukes.htm))

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Attack Squadron 83, with F7U-3M Cutlass aircraft and Sparrow I missiles, deployed for the Mediterranean from Norfolk in the first overseas employment of a Navy jet fighter squadron armed with air-to-air missiles. (24)

- 1965: Four USN enlisted men ended a 30-day rotating-room test that studied the effect of spinning on spacecraft occupants. (5)
- The last test Atlas D launched from Vandenberg. (6)
- 1970: Vice President Spiro T. Agnew gave Harmon International Trophies to Maj Jerauld R. Gentry, an AFFTC pilot, and to Col Frank Borman, James A. Lovell, Jr., and Lt Col William A. Anders, the Apollo VIII crewmen. (3)
- 1980: **AROUND-THE-WORLD FLIGHT/MACKAY TROPHY.** Through 14 March, two 410 BMW B-52Hs from K. I. Sawyer AFB, Mich., flew nonstop, 19,353 nautical miles around the world in 42 hours 30 minutes, averaging 488 MPH. Majors William H. Thurston and John M. Durham commanded the flight from Offutt AFB, across Canada, the North Atlantic, Europe, the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean, the Strait of Malacca, the South China Sea, and back to Offutt. They earned the trophy for the flight. (1)
- 1998: **Operation HOMECOMING's Silver Anniversary.** A C-141 from the 445 AW (AFRC) at Wright-Patterson AFB landed at Randolph AFB with more than 50 former US prisoners of war. On 12 February 1973, the same C-141 (tail number 66-0177) airlifted Americans from Gia Lam Airport, Hanoi, North Vietnam on the first Operation HOMECOMING mission to repatriate American servicemen from Southeast Asia. The Starlifter took the men to Randolph AFB for the 25th annual "Freedom Flyers" reunion and the operation's silver anniversary. (22)
- 1998: NASA's B-52 dropped the X-38 atmospheric test vehicle from 23,000 feet on its first test. The vehicle deployed its parafoil parachute and glided to a landing on the Precision Impact Range Area at Edwards. The X-38, designed as a lifting body resembling the X-24A, was planned as an emergency crew return "lifeboat" for the International Space Station. (3)
- 2001: The AFFTC completed the Developmental Test & Evaluation (DT&E) of the F-16 Block 40T6 Avionics Upgrade program with 139 flight test missions and 220-plus flying hours. (3)

### 13 March

- 1911: Capt W. Irving Chambers (USN) joined the Bureau of Navigation to devote his efforts exclusively to naval aeronautics. (24)
- 1917: The birth of Army air intelligence took place when Chief Signal Officer Brig Gen George O. Squier approved an intelligence subdivision office in the Aeronautical Division. (24)
- 1958: The USAF Ballistic Missile Committee picked Lowry AFB to become the first Titan I base. (6)
- 1959: Aviation Cadet E. R. Cook soloed in a TT-1 Pinto and became the first student in naval aviation history to solo a jet without previous experience in propeller aircraft. (24)
- An Aerobee-Hi rocket launched from White Sands took the first ultraviolet photos of the sun from an altitude of 123 miles. (24)
- 1977: TAC received its first air refuelable Combat Talon C-130 Hercules. (16)
- 1993: **STORM OF THE CENTURY.** Through 14 March, 301 RS helicopters saved 93 people after

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

a major blizzard swept over a third of the US from the Gulf of Mexico to New England. (16)  
(26)

1994: The first Taurus booster lifted two military satellites into space from Vandenberg AFB. (16)  
(26)

2007: The first MQ-9 Reaper, a newer, larger and stronger version of the MQ-1 Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, arrived at Creech AFB, Nev. The 42nd Attack Squadron commander, Lt Col Jon Greene, flew the MQ-9 more than 250 miles in two hours to land there. (AFNEWS, "First MQ-9 Reaper Makes Its Home on Nevada Flightline," 14 Mar 2007.)

At Little Rock AFB, Ark., General Duncan McNabb, the Air Mobility Command commander, delivered the first combat-ready C-130J Hercules to the 463d Airlift Group. (AFNEWS, "Air Mobility Command, 463d Airlift Group Welcomes First C-130J," 15 Mar 2007.)

### 14 March

1915: Lincoln Beachey, world-famous stunt flyer, died at the San Francisco Exposition. He was pulling out of a dive, when the wings broke off from his monoplane's fuselage. (24)

1918: The 1st Pursuit Group engaged in its first activities in France, when an element of two pilots from the 95th Pursuit Squadron went on patrol. (24)

1945: In cooperation with Soviets, Fifteenth Air Force bombers based in Italy attacked tactical targets selected by the Soviets target planners in Austria, Hungary, and Yugoslavia. (24)

1956: First Jupiter A (Redstone missile) launched from Cape Canaveral. (6) (24)

1966: Aeronautical Systems Division announced the awarding of \$2 million in study contracts to develop an avionics subsystem for the Advanced Manned Strategic Aircraft (AMSA), a long-range versatile bomber that later became the B-1. (16)

1970: Two A-7D Corsair IIs flew 3,502 unrefueled miles from Edwards AFB to Homestead AFB, Fla, to show its capabilities. (3)

1976: From the Eastern Test Range, a Titan IIIC, launched Lincoln Experimental Satellites 8 & 9 and Solar Radiation Satellites 11A and B (SOLRAD 11A/B) for the Space Test Program. (5)

1980: Through 4 April, participants from PACAF flew over 7,500 sorties in Team Spirit 1980. (16)

1988: In ceremonies at Greenville, Texas, E-Systems Inc. unveiled the new MC-130H Combat Talon II special operations airlifter. The Air Force planned to use aircraft for special operations units to infiltrate/exfiltrate troops and resupply behind enemy lines at night or in poor weather. (8)

1990: Sikorsky rolled out the Army's first MH-60K Special Operations Helicopter at Stratford. [8: May 90]

2001: An Army CH-47 *Chinook* released the X-40A at 15,000 feet successfully for its first free flight and autonomous landing at Edwards AFB. (3)

2003: An AFFTC team conducted the first Global Air Traffic Management (GATM) system test on the KC-10 *Extender*. The GATM would modernize the tanker fleet to operate in Future Air Navigation Systems (FANS) airspace around the world. (3)



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Through 19 March, AFFTC accelerated a dual-door separation test to give the F-117A a wider envelope for dropping the EGU-27 laser guided bomb. AFFTC then communicated the results and recommendations to F-117s in the Middle East, and within hours they used the tactic in the opening phases of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. (3)

### 15 March

- 1916: Capt Benjamin D. Foulois, and his 1st Aero Squadron, arrived at Columbus, N. Mex., for duty with General Pershing's punitive expedition against Mexican raiders. (11) (21)
- 1945: Fifteenth Air Force flew heavy bombers from bases in Italy on their longest mission of the war to attack the synthetic oil plant at Ruhland, Germany. (24)
- 1950: The JCS gave the USAF formal and exclusive responsibility for strategic guided missiles in a basic decision on the role and mission of guided missiles (See 21 March). (24)
- The only jet-powered and last remaining USAF Flying Wing, the YRB-49, crashed at Edwards AFB when its nose gear collapsed during a taxi test. (See 5 June 1948) (5)
- 1951: Using a KC-97A Stratofreighter, Boeing refueled a B-47 bomber for the first time. (12) (26)
- 1956: The USAF issued a requirement for an air-to-surface missile for the B-52. This missile became the Hound Dog. (6)
- 1957: **HARMON TROPHY FLIGHT.** The Navy's ZPG-2 airship landed after setting new world records for distance and endurance, covering 9,448 miles and remaining airborne 264 hours 12 minutes without refueling. The ship's commander, Cmdr J.R. Hunt received the Harmon Trophy for Aeronauts. (5)
- 1964: USAFE accepted five 412L air weapon control system sites, the first in this new air defense system. (4)
- 1967: The Sikorsky HH-53B, the largest and fastest helicopter in the USAF inventory, made its first flight. (16) (26)
- 1968: Major Jerauld R. Gentry flew the modified HL-10 Lifting Body on its first flight. (3)
- 1969: **Exercise FOCUS RETINA.** Through 20 March, Focus Retina deployed a brigade of the 82d Airborne Division from Fort Bragg in the largest tactical airlift attempted to date to move 2,500 assault troops and supporting equipment to Korea. The brigade staged through Okinawa and dropped into the Korean exercise area on 17 March. MAC, TAC, the US Strike Command, and Air Force Communications Service (AFCS) units supported the airlift. (16) (17)
- 1975: From Vandenberg AFB, Production Verification Missile (PVM-13) completed the last flight in the Wing VI Hybrid Explicit Flight Program. It supported the Wing VI configuration upgrade for the Minuteman at Grand Forks AFB. (5)
- 1977: Responding to a request from Zaire, MAC began a commercial airlift to move 642 tons of medical supplies, clothing, food, and equipment from Dover AFB in Delaware, Hill AFB, Barksdale AFB, and Pisa AB, Italy, to Kinshasa, Zaire. Fourteen DC-8s and one B-747 airlifted the supplies between March and June. (2)
- 1983: Through 28 March, SAC successfully demonstrated its new sea interdiction capability with three AGM-84 Harpoon missile launches from a B-52 at the Pacific Missile Test Range on Kwajalein Atoll. (16) (26)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1985: A MAC C-5 Galaxy delivered 1,000 rolls of plastic sheeting used to create protective shelters for victims of a 3 February earthquake that ravaged the coastal and interior regions of central Chile. (16)
- 1992: Through 18 April, C-5 Galaxies and C-130 Hercules aircraft moved 165 tons of food, medical supplies, clothing, blankets, and other relief items to eastern Turkey following a major earthquake. (16)
- 1999: An electric arcjet rocket engine, developed at the Air Force Research Laboratory's Propulsion Directorate as part of the Electric Propulsion Space Experiment (ESEX), fired for the first time in space aboard an ARGOS spacecraft. The arcjet engine consumed less than one-fourth the amount of fuel of an equivalent chemical engine. (3)
- 2003: **Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.** AFFTC deployed its NKC-135E *Big Crow* electronic combat aircraft from Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, to Souda Bay, Crete, where it carried out 37 communications jamming missions to support the operation. (3)
- 2005: An AFFTC team completed the first Avionics Modernization Program (AMP) risk-reduction flight on an MC-130E *Combat Talon I*. The project tested improved terrain-following radar and algorithms for Air Force Special Operations Command pilots who would fly low level sorties. The upgrade included a new radome and a "glass cockpit" with a heads-up display. (3)
- 2007: The YAL-1A Airborne Laser successfully fired its target illuminator laser during a five-hour flight from Edwards AFB, Calif. The mission and test firing represented the Airborne Laser's first in-flight external laser firing and used the "Big Crow" NC-135E to verify the YAL-1A's ability to track an airborne target and measure atmospheric turbulence. (AFNEWS, Airborne Laser Fires Tracking Laser, Hits Target," 21 Mar 2007.)

### 16 March

- 1907: Cortlandt F. Bishop, Aero Club of America President, contacted President Theodore Roosevelt about the Wright Brothers project for an Army airplane. His effort led to a contract between the Army and the Wright Brothers. (12)
- 1916: Capt Townsend F. Dodd, pilot, and Capt Benjamin D. Foulois, observer, flew a Curtiss plane made the first American military reconnaissance flight over foreign territory. They flew from Columbus, N. Mex., over Mexican territory for Pershing's Punitive Expedition. (24)
- 1926: Dr. Robert H. Goddard test flew the world's first liquid-fueled rocket at Auburn, Mass. It flew 184 feet in 2.5 seconds at about 70 MPH. (4) (24)
- 1944: Seventh Air Force sent 11 B-24s from Kwajalein to make the first land-based attack on Truk, Caroline Islands. (24)  
  
The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) recommended the development of a jet-propelled transonic research aircraft. This suggestion led to the Bell X-1. (8)
- 1949: Fairchild Aviation Corporation delivered the first track-type landing gear to the USAF and the 314 TCW for installation on the C-82 aircraft. (24)
- 1953: Republic delivered its 4,000th F-84 Thunderjet to the USAF. (8)
- 1954: Representative W. Sterling Cole, Joint Atomic Energy Committee Chairman, reported America's capability to deliver a hydrogen weapon to any target in the world by airplane. (16) (26)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1961: Construction on the first Minuteman I (Model A) operational facilities began at Malmstrom AFB. (6)
- 1962: From Cape Canaveral the USAF launched its first Titan II down the Atlantic Missile Range to a target 5,000 miles away. (6)
- 1965: The nation observed the first "Robert H. Goddard Day," to honor the late Dr. Goddard's first liquid-fueled sounding rocket flight in 1926 at Auburn, Mass. (5)
- 1966: The National Space Club presented the 1966 Robert H. Goddard Memorial Trophy to President Lyndon B. Johnson for his legislative and executive leadership in the space program. (5)
- GEMINI VIII.** An USAF Gemini launch vehicle (Titan II) took Neil Armstrong and David Scott into orbit for this mission. The astronauts accomplished the first docking maneuver in space by meeting up with an Agena Target Vehicle, developed by Space Systems Division, and launched on an Atlas booster. Air Force pararescuemen attached flotation gear to the Gemini VIII space capsule within 20 minutes of splash down 500 miles east of Okinawa. This was the first time pararescue forces participated in the recovery of a Gemini capsule. (16) (21)
- 1971: The Holloman High Speed Test Track recorded the fastest run on record (8,215 feet per second) made during a fuzing test for the AF Weapons Laboratory. (5)
- 1974: Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) satellite F-31 launched from Vandenberg AFB aboard an Atlas F with Burner IIA upper stage. (5)
- 1979: The Arnold Engineering Development Center test fired the large rocket motor for the space shuttle's Inertial Upper Stage for the first time. In the successful 145-second test, the motor generated more than 50,000 pounds of thrust. (5)
- 1983: After 25 years, the USAF ended the German Air Force pilot training program at Luke AFB. (16)
- 1988: At Long Beach, McDonnell Douglas/British Aerospace unveiled the T-45A Goshawk, the Navy's new training aircraft. (8)
- 1995: An HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter from the 56 RS at Keflavik AB saved three Icelandic skiers caught in a blizzard. (26)
- 2006: While deployed to the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing (AEW), a C-17 Globemaster III from McChord AFB dropped 32,400 pounds of humanitarian goods (food, blankets, winter survival gear, and school supplies) within 40 minutes to four places in central and eastern Afghanistan. The mission set a record by airdropping the most cargo to multiple drop zones in the shortest amount of time in the history of US airdrop operations. (22)

### 17 March

- 1911: At Potomac Park in Washington DC, Army and government officials watched the first flight of the military-type Curtiss D. The Signal Corps bought the plane, making it the first from the Curtiss Manufacturing Company and second in the inventory (Signal Corps No. 2). (4)(12)
- 1945: 307 B-29s delivered 2,300 tons of incendiary bombs on Kobe, Japan. (24)
- 1947: The US AAF's first multiengined jet bomber, the North American XB-45 Tornado, powered by four General Electric J-35 engines, flew for the first time. (12)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1958: Vanguard I, the second US satellite to go into orbit, launched from Cape Canaveral. (5)
- 1961: Northrop delivered the first T-38 Talon, a supersonic jet trainer, to ATC at Randolph AFB. (24)
- 1966: The X-22A V/STOL research airplane, designed and built by Bell Aerosystems Company, completed a 10-minute first flight at Niagara Falls IAP. (5) (26)
- 1967: The US and Thai governments announced that USAF units in Thailand were flying missions against North Vietnam. (16)
- 1978: A Defense Systems Acquisition Review Council approved development of the Space Shuttle's inertial upper stage. (5)
- 1981: At Long Beach, the Douglas Aircraft Company turned over the first KC-10 Extender (79-0434) to Lt Gen Edgar S. Harris, the Eighth Air Force Commander. He flew it to Barksdale AFB for testing with the 4200th Test and Evaluation Squadron. (1) (12)
- 1988: **Exercise GOLDEN PHEASANT.** Through 18 March, 50 airlifters carried 3,200 US soldiers to Honduras for this exercise after Sandinista forces from Nicaragua crossed the border. For the mission, 23 tankers refueled 31 planes with 1.5 million pounds of fuel. (16)
- 1997: **Operation GUARDIAN RETRIEVAL.** The Air Force Special Operations Command provided a joint task force with MC-130 aircraft and MH-53 helicopters to evacuate U. S. citizens and other foreigners from Zaire due to an outbreak of civil unrest. By late March, the special operations effort had moved 532 passengers in 57 missions. To assist, Air Mobility Command dispatched C-5s, C-17s, C-141s, and KC-135s. Besides placing tankers at Moron AB in Spain, Air Mobility Command airlifted a Joint Task Force and special operations forces to Libreville, Gabon, and Brazzaville, Congo, while setting up support operations at Ascension Island; Brussels, Belgium; and Yaounde, Cameroon. By 17 April, AMC had flown over 115 missions, carrying over 1,200 passengers and 2,400 short tons of cargo. (21) (22)
- 2001: A C-5 Galaxy from the New York ANG's 105 AW delivered 65,600 pounds of relief supplies to earthquake-ravaged El Salvador at the San Salvador International Airport. (32)

### 18 March

- 1942: The US and Panama signed an agreement for defense sites and air bases in Panama to defend the canal. (24)
- 1944: **Operation STRANGLE.** The Mediterranean Allied Air Force initiated a seven-week bombing effort against German supply lines to support an allied offensive in Italy. By 11 May, allied aircraft had completed over 50,000 sorties to drop over 26,000 tons of bombs. (21)
- 1945: The AD-1 Skyraider first flew. (5)
- 1,250 bombers with 670 fighter escorts conducted the heaviest daylight attack of the war on Berlin. They dropped 3,000 tons of bombs on the transportation and industrial areas. (4) (24)
- After Germans shot down Maj Pierce W. McKennon near Berlin, his wingman, Lt George D. Green landed near him, dumped out his dingy and parachute, let McKennon get in, and then sat in the Major's lap to take off. They made it home safely, using the "two-in-one" Mustang trick. (4)
- 1952: Two F-84 Thunderjets landed in Neubiberg, Germany, after a 2,800-mile flight without refuel-

## **AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

ing. It was believed to be the longest sustained jet fighter flight to date. The planes crossed seven nations, averaged 585 MPH, and were airborne for 4 hours 48 minutes. (5)

- 1954: First production model of the Boeing B-52A Stratofortress rolled out at Seattle. (8)
- 1958: The USN fired a Bull Goose, an intercontinental jet-propelled “decoy” missile designed to deceive enemy radar. (5)
- 1960: First Snark ICBM placed on alert with the 702 SMW at Presque Isle AFB, Maine. (6) (12)
- The USN launched a Polaris on a 900-mile flight from an underground pit that simulated a ship’s motion. (24)
- 1964: The USAF issued a requirement for the SRAM. (6)
- 1969: Vandenberg AFB launched three satellites, containing 17 experiments, in the Orbiting Vehicle Program under the direction of Office of Aerospace Research scientists. (16) (26)
- 1970: Through 30 June, after the fall of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, joint US and South Vietnamese conducted air and ground operations into Cambodia against North Vietnamese troop and supply sanctuaries. This operation intensified on 30 April. (17)
- 1977: All 10 members in the first group of women undergraduate pilot students completed the Phase II Training program in the T-37 Tweet. They then started Phase III with the T-38 Talon. (16)
- 1981: The 18 TFW received 80 F-15 Eagles. This delivery completed PACAF’s conversion to the new fighter. The 18<sup>th</sup> then transferred 79 F-4 Phantoms to other commands. (16)
- 1987: The Navy launched its second Trident II flight test missile from a pad at Cape Canaveral into an impact area in the Eastern Missile Test Range. (5)

### **19 March**

- 1910: Orville Wright opened the first Wright Flying School at Montgomery, Ala. This site became Maxwell AFB. (24) (18)
- 1918: Ensign Stephan Potter shot down a German seaplane and became the first American naval aviator to be officially credited with an enemy seaplane. (24)
- The 94th Aero Squadron (Hat in the Ring Squadron), 1st Pursuit Group, flew its first operation across French lines. (8) (11)
- 1943: Lt Gen Henry Hap Arnold received his fourth star, making him the first four-star general for the US AAF. (8)
- 1945: Eighth Air Force’s 496 BG conducted one of the last “Carpetbagger” operations in World War II by dropping 82 agents into Germany. (4)
- 1969: SECDEF Melvin Laird announced that the FB-111 program would be reduced, due to its lack of intercontinental range. He thus limited the USAF to four squadrons with 60 aircraft and a few replacements. Laird revealed that a new bomber, the Advanced Manned Strategic Aircraft (AMSA) would be developed. This aircraft later became the B-1. (1)
- 1970: Major Jerauld R. Gentry, an AFFTC test pilot, made the first powered flight of the Martin Marietta X-24A Wingless Lifting Body over Edwards AFB. A B-52 dropped the X-24A. (3)

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- 1971: USAF Southern Command began moving residents from Nicaraguan farming areas ravaged by the Cerro Negro volcano. During the 10-day mission, C-123s airlifted 885 Nicaraguans and 190,000 pounds of household goods, food, and other supplies to a new area. (5)
- 1978: For the first time, USAFE F-15 Eagles and Navy F-14 Tomcat aircraft began joint dissimilar air combat tactics training. (16) (26)
- 1984: **Operation EAGLE LIFT.** Through 9 April, MAC flew 28 C-5 Galaxy and 17 C-141 missions to carry 1,286 passengers and 1,594 tons of cargo for the deployment of 3 E-3A AWACS to provide aerial surveillance for Egypt and the Sudan against threats from Libya. Five KC-135 and 2 KC-10 missions provided aerial refueling. (16) (21)
- Exercise GRANDERO I.** Through 2 July, MAC aircraft participated in a combined US and Honduran field training exercise in Honduras. (16)
- 1989: Bell Pilot Dorman Canon and Boeing pilot Dick Balzer flew the V-22 Osprey at the Bell Helicopter Textron's flight research center at Arlington, Tx. (20)
- 1992: Two F-15s intercepted two Russian TU-95 Bear bombers near the Alaskan coast, the first such interception since the breakup of the Soviet Union. (26)
- 1997: **Exercise CORONET 97-2.** Through 20 March, the 509 BW conducted the longest B-2 Spirit Global Power mission to date when The Spirit of Florida flew from Whiteman AFB to Puerto Rico. Major Robert O'Neal and Capt Scott Hughes of the 393 BS flew the nearly 30-hour, round-trip flight with its four aerial refuelings and a live conventional weapon release at the Vieques Range, Puerto Rico. (AFNEWS Article 970345, 26 Mar 97)
- 2000: The Air Force Research Laboratory at Edwards AFB fired a Lockheed Martin Titan IV solid-fuel rocket booster for the first time since 1993 in its Leuhman Ridge test stand. The test lasted 140 seconds and generated 1.7 million pounds of thrust. (3)
- 2003: **Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.** Just after 9:30 p. m. Eastern Standard Time (EST), US forces fired about 40 Tomahawk cruise missiles into Iraq, striking three targets around Baghdad. The attack began the US-led, multinational coalition effort to liberate the people of Iraq and depose Saddam Hussein and his regime from power. F-117A *Nighthawks*, flying "decapitation strikes," successfully used the new dual-door and ripple launch techniques. (See 15 March 2003) (3) (22)
- 2004: The first active-duty C-130J Hercules (No. 02-0314) arrived at the 314 AW at Little Rock AFB. (22)

### 20 March

- 1909: The Herring-Curtiss Company formed to build airplanes with a capital stock of \$360,000. (24)
- 1918: The 28th Pursuit Squadron was attached by flights to various RAF squadrons on the British Front in France. (5)
- 1922: The Navy commissioned its first airplane carrier, the USS Langley (the Jupiter, a converted Collier, or coal ship), at Norfolk, Va. (24)
- 1932: The Boeing XP-26, prototype for the P-26 Peashooter, first flew. It was the first all-metal monoplane fighter purchased by the Army and the last pursuit plane with an open cockpit and fixed landing gear. (5) (21)

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- 1942: The Douglas C-54 Skymaster entered military service. (18)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** In the Sui-ho Reservoir area in Korea, MiG-15s attacked a USAF patrol. The F-86 pilots destroyed five MiGs and damaged approximately 13 others. (28)
- 1953: The ZP2N-1, a production model of the postwar "N" Class nonrigid airship (975,000 cubic feet), designed for midocean anti-submarine warfare, made its first flight. Twelve such airships were procured. (24)
- 1964: The 50th Minuteman launched from Cape Canaveral. (5)
- 1966: The 43 BMW at Davis-Monthan AFB received the first KC-135Q. It was an A model modified to carry the special fuel for the SR-71 Blackbird. (18)
- 1967: USAFE released nine bases in France to the Military Liquidation Section under Project Fast Relocations. (4)
- 1970: A Thor-Delta rocket carried a 535-pound NATO I military satellite, the first of two, into stationary orbit over the Atlantic from the Eastern Test Range. It contained X-band communications systems. (26)
- 1977: In the third and final flight of the materials screening vehicle program, an Athena D launched from Wallops Island with three reentry vehicles to gather data on nose tip materials and designs. (5)
- 1979: Boeing rolled out ALCM Flight Test Missile No. 1. (12)
- 1984: The 23 TFW at England AFB, La., received the 713th and last A-10 ordered by the USAF. (11)
- 2003: **Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.** Conventional US and coalition ground forces invaded Iraq. (32)
- 2006: The C-17 Globemaster III fleet surpassed its millionth flight hour during a mission to evacuate injured US troops from Iraq to Germany for medical treatment. Colonel William O. Hill, the 172 AW Commander (Mississippi ANG) from Allen C. Thompson ANGB at Jackson International Airport, flew C-17 (tail no. 03-3113) on the mission. (22)

### 21 March

- 1912: Lt Frank P. Lahm flew a Wright B airplane, Signal Corps No. 7, at Fort William McKinley, Philippines. Thus, Lahm completed the first flight of American airplane overseas. (21)
- 1916: The French Air Department authorized Escadrille Americaine, or Nieuport 124, for American volunteer pilots. It later became the Lafayette Escadrille. (5) (20)
- 1939: Col Hugo E. Pitz, Lt Col Joseph T. McNarney, and Maj Karl S. Axtator and Maj George C. Kenney selected sites for permanent air base and auxiliary landing fields in Puerto Rico. (24)
- 1945: A massive four-day assault involving 42,000 sorties against the Luftwaffe started over German airspace. It effectively ended German air activities in World War II. (4)
- 1950: SECDEF Louis A. Johnson approved JCS recommendations on missiles to give: (1) the Army and Navy responsibility for surface-to-air missiles with a range more than antiaircraft artillery and short-range surface-to-surface missiles used in place of artillery and naval guns; (2) the USAF and Navy responsibility for air-launched and surface-to-air missiles for interceptor air-

## **AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

craft; (3) the Navy responsibility for surface-to-surface missiles that replaced naval aircraft; (4) the Army and USAF responsibility for surface-to-surface missiles that replaced close support aircraft, and (5) the USAF responsibility for surface-to-surface missiles that replaced strategic aircraft. (6)

- 1957: Cmdr Dale W. Cox, Jr., flew an A3D-1 Skywarrior to two FAI cross country records: New York to Los Angeles in 5 hours 12 minutes 39 seconds at 469 MPH; and a round trip in 9 hours 31 minutes 35 seconds at 513 MPH. (9)
- Presque Isle AFB selected as the first Snark base. (6)
- 1958: Holloman high-speed test track established new speed record of 2,704 MPH for rocket-propelled monorail sleds. (5)
- 1962: A black bear named “Yogi” became the first living creature ejected from a supersonic aircraft when the USAF tested the B-58’s escape capsule. Ejected at 35,000 feet from a B-58 flying at 870 MPH, the bear landed unharmed 7 minutes 49 seconds later. (16) (24)
- 1965: Ranger IX, a 10-foot, an 800-pound spacecraft and the last of the series, launched from Cape Kennedy and impacted within 4 miles of the target area on the moon in the crater Alphonsus on 24 March. It sent back the first TV pictures from the moon and took 5,814 photos of the moon’s surface. This flight ended a program that began in 1961. Ranger VI was the first to hit the moon, but its TV cameras failed. Rangers VII, VIII, and IX sent 17,167 good photos back to earth. (5)
- 1973: Two Libyan Mirage aircraft intercepted and fired upon an unarmed C-130 Hercules from Rhein Main AB. The C-130, reportedly on a reconnaissance mission over the Mediterranean, successfully evaded its attackers and recovered safely at Athenai Airport, Greece. (16) (26)
- 1975: Following the crash of a C-141 (64-0641) into Mt. Constance in the Olympic Mountains near Seattle, Wash., ARRS personnel assisted in the recovery of 10 crewmen and 6 passengers and equipment from the wreckage through June. (26)
- 1989: NASA ended the Mission Adaptive Wing test program and retired the special F-111 to the Flight Test Center Museum at Edwards AFB. In its 144.9 test hours and 59 sorties, the F-111 showed a 25 percent increase in range, an 18 percent increase in G-loading, and a 71 percent increase in its ability to pull up and clear an obstacle. (20)
- 1997: Lt Col Marcelyn A. Atwood became the first woman to command a flying training squadron and the first USAF officer to command a Navy squadron at Pensacola, Fla. Her unit trained Air Force and Navy pilots. (21)
- 2007: A KC-135 flew from Bagram AB, Afghanistan, on the first non-stop medical evacuation flight of non-critical patients to Ramstein AB, Germany. Previously, C-130s transported these non-critical patients without life-threatening injuries to a classified airfield in the US Central Command’s area of responsibility (AOR), where they typically waited a day or two for a medical evacuation to Ramstein by C-17. This policy change enabled in-theater C-17s to continue delivering cargo and equipment to airfields in the AOR without interrupting the airflow. By early 2007, security at the classified staging base allowed KC-135s to land and take off for “frequency” aeromedical evacuation missions. The new policy transformed a former aeromedical evacuation “spoke” activity performed by C-130s and C-17s into a “hub” system supported by KC-135 operating in an aeromedical evacuation role. (AMC Historical Highlights, 2007)

### **22 March**

- 1915: “Naval Aviator” replaced the former “Navy Air Pilot” designation for naval aviators. (24)



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- 1944: Through 23 March, Mount Vesuvius in Italy erupted and buried Pompeii airdrome, where the 340 BG conducted operations against retreating German forces. Lava cinders destroyed or damaged some 88 B-25s in what may have been the worst single loss of aircraft in the war. (5)
- 1946: Douglas built America's first rocket to escape earth's atmosphere. It reached 50 miles in altitude. (24)
- 1948: Lockheed T-33 Tee Bird (the TF-80C) made its first flight. (5)
- 1950: First four of 70 B-29s, called the Washington in British service, for the Royal Air Force (RAF) under the Atlantic Pact arms aid program reached Marham, England. (24)
- 1957: Lt Ralph S. Barnett (USN) flew an A3D Skywarrior to an unofficial coast-to-coast speed record of 3 hours 39 minutes 24 seconds for the 2,076-mile flight from Burbank to Miami. (24)
- 1962: The first Minuteman to be launched at night from a silo at Cape Canaveral flew 4,000 miles. (24)
- 1963: The National Rocket Club presented the Robert H. Goddard Memorial Trophy to Astronaut (Lt Col) John H. Glenn, USMC, for advancing missile, rocket, and space flight programs. (5) (16)
- 1966: The UK ordered 10 F-111s and components for 40 more aircraft. (16)
- 1976: A U-2 reconnaissance plane left U-Tapao Airfield, Thailand, and became the last SAC aircraft to leave SEA. In February 1964, a U-2 also became first SAC aircraft deployed to the area. (1)
- Davis-Monthan AFB received the first A-10 for operational testing and evaluation. (11)
- 1982: Through 30 March, the Space Shuttle Columbia completed its third mission. That third launch made it the first three-time spacecraft in history. Pilots Jack Lousma and Gordon Fullerton also successfully landed the Columbia at White Sands, when heavy winter rains made Rogers Dry Lake at Edwards AFB unusable. (3)

### 23 March

- 1903: First patent on the Wright Brothers' airplane, based on their 1902 glider, filed in America. It was not issued until 22 May 1906. (12)
- 1921: Lt A. G. Hamilton parachuted from 23,700 feet at Chanute Field. (24)
- 1951: **Operation TOMAHAWK.** In the Korean War's second airborne operation, and the largest to date in one day, 120 USAF transports dropped more than 3,400 troops and 220 tons of materiel behind enemy lines at Munsan-ni, Korea. (21)
- 1958: The US Navy accomplished the first underwater test firing of a dummy Polaris missile, using a pop-up launcher, near San Clemente Island, off Los Angeles. (16)
- 1959: TAC started its DEW Line Extension (Eastern) supply mission, when a C-130 made the first ski-equipped landing on Dye 2 Station on Greenland's west coast near the Arctic Circle. (11)
- 1964: The GAM-72A Quail missile made its first operational test flight (nicknamed Shotgun) at Eglin AFB. (6)
- 1965: **GEMINI III.** The US manned space program's second phase began. In the "Molly Brown,"

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

launched by an Air Force Atlas missile from the Air Force Eastern Test Range at Patrick AFB, Fla., astronauts Virgil I. Grissom and John Young (USN) orbited Earth three times. They achieved the first two-man flight, first manual orbit change, and first reentry control by an astronaut. The astronauts returned to earth after 4 hours 53 minutes in space. Grissom also became the first man to go into space a second time. (4) (21)

SECDEF Robert McNamara approved development of the SRAM. (6)

- 1970: The first A-7D trainer went to the 310 TFTS at Luke AFB, Ariz. (5)
- 1977: Contractors completed the Minuteman integrated program of modifications on Wing VI at Grand Forks AFB. (6)
- 1978: Capt Sandra M. Scott, KC-135 pilot with the 904 AREFS at Mather AFB, Calif., was the first female pilot to perform SAC alert duty. (1) (8)
- 1979: NASA brought space shuttle orbiter 102 from Edwards AFB to Cape Canaveral. (5)
- 1983: B-1A No. 2 (modified for the B-1B effort) flew its first flight at Edwards AFB to begin the flight test program. (3) (12)
- 1999: An AFFTC test team successfully released an AGM-154 JSOW for the USAF the first time at the Edwards AFB Precision Impact Range Area. The weapon impacted well within its boundaries. (The Navy received the weapon in 1998) (3)
- 2005: The USAF received its last and seventeenth E-8C Joint STARS aircraft. All E-8Cs were assigned to the blended ANG/USAF 116<sup>th</sup> Air Control Wing (ACW) at Robins AFB, Ga. (32)

### 24 March

- 1939: Jacqueline Cochran used a Beechcraft plane, with Twin Wasp engines, to set a women's national altitude record of 30,052.43 feet over Palm Springs, Calif. (24)
- 1945: **Operation VARSITY.** Eighth Air Force sent 1,000 bombers to support an Allied airborne and amphibious assault across the Rhine River. More than 2,000 transports and gliders from the IX Troop Carrier Command dropped two airborne divisions near Wesel, Germany, in daylight. Some 7,000 sorties supported the crossing. Ninth Air Force fighters provided reconnaissance, interdiction, and air support. (4) (21)

Nearly 150 B-17s from Fifteenth Air Force, flying from Southern Italy, bombed Berlin for the first time. The aircraft dropped 357 tons of bombs on industrial targets. (24)

- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Far East Air Forces used an H-19 helicopter for the first time to evacuate wounded troops in Korea. Additionally, 52 C-119s and C-46s dropped an additional 264 tons of supplies to troops at Munsan-ni, because they could not depend on surface lines of communication for supplies. (21) (28)
- 1965: Alvin S. White and Van Separd broke the world records for weight and speed endurance in the XB-70A bomber. It weighed 534,000 pounds at takeoff, flew at a supersonic speed for 80 minutes, and cruised at a top speed of 1,400 MPH. (3)

The Titan II completed its first operational test launch from Vandenberg AFB successfully. (5)

- 1970: Tyndall AFB completed the first launching of a BOMARC B guided missile, using the new BUIC computerized command and control equipment. (16)

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- 1971: In the first operational test of Minuteman III, missile crews and maintenance technicians assigned to the 91 SMW at Minot AFB launched a missile from Vandenberg AFB. (1) (6)
- 1977: TAC's 552d Airborne Warning and Control System Wing at Tinker AFB received the first production E-3A AWACS aircraft. (12) (20)
- 1982: USAFE acquired Comiso Air Station, Sicily, for the ground-launched cruise missile. (16) (26)
- 1992: Last USAF fighter aircraft to be stationed in Spain left the country. They had served in Spain for 26 years. (16) (26)
- The US signed the Open Skies Treaty along with 24 other nations. The treaty permitted unarmed aerial reconnaissance flights over any member country. (16) (26)
- 1995: The last Atlas E missile launched a satellite from Vandenberg AFB into a polar orbit. (16) (26)
- 1998: An F-15E successfully launched a live AIM-120C Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile above Edwards AFB, Calif., to complete the aircraft's Suite 3 avionics upgrades for an air-to-air and air-to-ground capability. (3)
- 1999: **Operation ALLIED FORCE/NOBLE ANVIL/PHOENIX DUKE II.** To prevent the forced eviction and genocide of ethnic Albanians living in Kosovo, NATO launched this operation against Serbia in the former Yugoslavian Republic. It was exclusively an air campaign and NATO's first combat operation against a sovereign nation. The U.S. named its part of the Operation NOBLE ANVIL. Additionally, the USAF used the B-2 for the first time in combat, while F-15 pilots shot down two MiG-29s on the first day of combat. Under Operation PHOENIX DUKE II, Air Mobility Command's role in the operation preceded the bombing and continued afterward. From 18 February when the first airlift mission was flown, through 3 July when the tanker redeployment came to an end, Air Mobility Command flew 2,130 airlift missions to transport 32,111 passengers and 52,645 short tons of cargo. In the air campaign, which ended on 9 June, KC-10s and KC-135s flew 9,001 missions to deliver 348.5 million pounds of fuel to receiving aircraft. KC-135 Stratotankers and crews from the Hawaii ANG's 203 AREFS, on a previously scheduled deployment to France, participated in the operations. Air Mobility Command's last air refueling aircraft returned to the US on 20 July, while the final airlift missions finished on 26 July. (21) (22) (32)

### 25 March

- 1898: Theodore Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, recommended the appointment of two officers "of scientific attainments and practical ability" to join War Department representatives in the examination of Professor Samuel P. Langley's flying machine. They were to report upon its practicability and its potentiality for use in war. (29)
- 1918: Ensign John F. McNamara, flying out of RNAS Portland, England, made the first attack on an enemy submarine by a US naval aviator. (5)
- 1940: The US allowed Air Corps contractors to sell modern Army combat planes to anti-Axis governments under a "liberalized release policy." This program tried to expand Air Corps production facilities for the future. (12) (24)
- 1942: Flying with the RAF's 64th Squadron, Maj C. P. Lessig became the first Eighth Air Force pilot to fly a mission over France in World War II. (4)
- 1944: Fifteenth Air Force made the first operational delivery of a VB-1 Azon radio-controlled bomb

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

against the Avisio Viaduct in the Brenner Pass to cut the main highway between Italy and greater Germany. Azon bombs were later employed in the European Theater in June 1944, and most successfully in China-Burma-India from November 1944 to August 1945. (8) (21)

- 1949: Bell's XH-12 helicopter claimed a new world speed record of 133.9 MPH at Niagara Falls. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** H-5 helicopter aircrews from the 3 ARS recovered 148 paratrooper casualties in the second biggest paradrop of the Korean War. Despite intense mortar and ground fire, the crews flew 77 sorties in two days near Musan. (2)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force flew 959 sorties, concentrating on interdiction of the rail line from Sinanju to Chongju in Korea and making approximately 142 cuts in the track. Some aircraft struck the Sunchon-Pyongyang highway, scoring 27 hits. (28)
- 1955: The Chance Vought F-8 Crusader first flew. (5)
- 1956: The last XB-51 crashed at El Paso, Tex., going to Eglin AFB for use in the movie "Toward the Unknown." (3)
- 1960: The USS Halibut fired a Regulus I guided missile off Oahu. This was the first guided missile launch from a nuclear-powered sub. (16) (24)
- Asst SECDEF James H. Douglas authorized the USAF to field 150 Minutemans by July 1963. (6) (12)
- NASA test pilot Joseph A. Walker began the NASA/Air Force/Navy phase of the X-15A-1 test program with a powered flight above Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1961: From Cape Canaveral, NASA launched Explorer X into a highly elliptical ("Yo-Yo") orbit with an apogee of 148,000 miles and perigee of 100 miles to survey magnetic fields and charged particles. (24)
- 1965: SAC inactivated five Atlas and three Titan I squadrons under SECDEF McNamara's phaseout orders of 19 November 1964. (6)
- 1966: Lt Col R. C. W. Blessley flew an F-111A on the longest low-level penetration flight to date (1,201.8 miles). He flew 1,000 feet above terrain ranging from 500 feet to over 10,000 feet. (5)
- 1968: Four F-111As flew the first F-111 combat mission from Takhli AB, Thailand, under radar control to target areas northwest of Dong Hoi, North Vietnam. (12)
- 1975: The USAF organized an airlift to evacuate 10,000 people a day from Da Nang, South Vietnam. Communist forces had surrounded and completely cut off this provincial city. (16) (26)
- 1977: The YC-141B "stretched" cargo aircraft completed its first test flight. (3)
- 1980: Boeing's AGM-86B won the ALCM competition. (3) (12)
- 1985: The SECAF announced change in the combat exclusion policy to allow women to serve as forward air controllers, fly and crew various models of C-130 Hercules aircraft, and to serve at munitions storage facilities. (16) (26)
- 1986: The first all-female Minuteman crew stood alert at the 351 SMW, Whiteman AFB. This was the first time an all-female crew accomplished Minuteman combat crew duty under the gender-specific crew policy. (16)

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- 1994: **Operation RESTORE HOPE.** American involvement in this relief effort to Somalia ended when the last US military personnel climbed aboard a C-5 Galaxy. (16) (26)
- 1999: A test team successfully released the first JSOW guided munition from a B-2 flying at 25,000 feet over the Precision Impact Range Area at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 2002: The USAF dispatched a third Global Hawk UAV (AV-4) from Edwards AFB to duty in the Southwestern Asia war zone. (3)
- 2004: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Five C-17 airmen from the 62 AW at McChord AFB won the 2003 Mackay Trophy for serving as the lead aircrew for a 26 March 2003 C-17 airdrop over northern Iraq. It was the largest combat airdrop since Operation JUST CAUSE in December 1989. The recipients included: Lt Col Shane Hershman and MSgt Chris Dockery, 7 AS; Maj Bob Colvin, 8 AS; 1Lt Matt Clausen, 4 AS; and MSgt Shawn Brumfield, 62d Operations Group. (22)

### 26 March

- 1939: Pan American began survey flights between Baltimore and South Hampton. (5)
- 1940: US commercial airlines ended a year of flying without a fatal accident or serious injury. (24)
- 1942: The Douglas C-54 Skymaster first flew. (<http://www.afa.org/magazine/gallery/c-54.html>)
- 1943: The first Air Medal awarded to a woman went to 2Lt Elsie S. Ott, Army Nursing Corps, who served as nurse for five patients evacuated from India to Washington DC. (24)
- 1944: Marine Corsairs from Engebi flew the first fighter escort for US AAF B-25s on a 360-mile bombing mission against Ponape. (24)
- 1949: The YB-36D prototype, the first 10-engine plane with six reciprocating and four Allison J35 jet-assist engines, made a successful maiden test flight at Fort Worth. The later production-model B-36D received J47-GE-19 jet engines. (16) (24)
- 1958: White Alice, a military radio relay network using tropospheric scatter, inaugurated in Alaska for better communications between isolated Arctic posts and their headquarters. It joined the radar warning outposts of the Alaskan segment of the DEW line with the Alaskan Air Command. (5)  
  
Explorer III, the third US satellite to go into orbit, launched from Cape Canaveral. (16)
- 1959: The US and Italy signed an agreement to deploy to squadrons of Jupiter IRBMs to Italy. (6)
- 1961: NASA's Aerobee research rocket attained 252 miles in altitude after being launched from Wallops Station. (24)
- 1965: A successful first launch of the Army's rapid-acceleration intercept Sprint missile took place at White Sands Missile Range. (5)
- 1968: Maj William J. Knight received the 1968 Octave Chanute Award for flying the X-15A-2 rocket aircraft to a new speed record of 4,354 MPH. (16)
- 1977: **TEAM SPIRIT 77.** Through 26 April, 548 aircraft from the USAF, US Navy, USMC, and the Republic of Korea flew about 6,400 sorties. (16) (26)
- 1987: Gruman's F-14A Tomcat passed the 1,000,000 flight hour milestone. Lt Bing Stickney (pilot) and Cmdr Ed James (radar intercept officer) of VF-111 (The Sundowners) achieved the record

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in F-14 (number 160666).

- 1996: The F-4 Phantom line retired from active service.
- 1998: The National Science Foundation (NSF), DoD, USAF, Navy, U.S. Transportation Command, and the National Guard Bureau signed a Memorandum of Agreement to transfer responsibility for airlift support of NSF operations in Antarctica from the US Navy to the New York ANG's 109th Airlift Wing. (32)
- 1999: **Operation ALLIED FORCE.** An F-15 shot down two MiG-29s in aerial combat over Yugoslavia on the third day of the operation. (3) (21)
- 2003: **Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.** Nearly 1,000 173d Airborne Brigade "Sky Soldiers," based at Vicenza, Italy, parachuted from C-17 Globemaster IIIs into the Kurdish-controlled area of northern Iraq. It was the C-17's first insertion of paratroopers into combat. The aircraft and aircrews came from Charleston AFB and McChord AFB. (22)

### 27 March

- 1909: The Aero Club of America entered an agreement and became the Aviation Section of the Automobile Club of America. (24)
- 1916: 1st Aero Squadron aircraft started carrying mail and dispatches for the Mexican Punitive Expedition. (18)
- 1941: The US and Great Britain signed the 2 September 1940 Base-Lease Agreement to give the US rights to eight air and naval bases in the British Atlantic and Caribbean possessions in return for US destroyers. (24)
- 1942: The US War and Navy Departments announced the Navy's command over anti-submarine warfare off America's East and West coasts with authority over Army air patrol units. (5)
- 1945: Gen Carl Spaatz sent Eighth Air Force against Berlin to destroy the Luftwaffe. Spaatz realized the enemy would defend Berlin, so he sent bombers over the city with P-51 Mustang escorts. General Galland of the Luftwaffe later said, "Whenever our fighters appeared, the Americans hurled themselves at them. Nowhere were we safe from them." (4)
- To close Japan's Shimonoseki Strait to shipping, the XXI Bomber Command sent 105 B-29s to drop mines. Most of the planes carried 12,000-pound loads. (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Upon learning that Chinese troops had captured a downed U.S. pilot near Pyoksong, Korea, a helicopter crew made several low passes that enabled him to escape. While one helicopter crewman fired a rifle at the Chinese soldiers, others lowered a hoist to rescue the pilot. (28)
- 1956: SECDEF Charles E. Wilson made E.V. Murphree the "unpaid Czar" of the US missile program. Murphree helped to direct and coordinate "activities connected with research, development, engineering, and production of guided missiles, particularly ballistic missiles." (24)
- 1958: A KC-135 Stratotanker completed the first nonstop flight from Castle AFB to Wellington, New Zealand, and covered the approximate 6,000-mile distance in 15 hours. (9)
- 1977: Through 30 March, after two Boeing 747 airliners with 643 passengers crashed at Tenerife, Canary Islands, a C-130 from USAFE flew medical personnel there and then airlifted 56 survivors to Las Palmas, Canary Islands. A MAC C-141 later airlifted the survivors to various locations

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in the US for treatment. (21)

- 1989: Through April, MAC dispatched 7 C-5 and 4 C-141 missions to fly equipment, cargo, and passengers to Valdez, Alaska, to assist in oil spill cleanup efforts after an oil tanker ran aground. One C-5 carried two Navy oil skimmers to Elmendorf AFB. (16) (18)
- 1997: An Air Mobility Command C-141 crew from Scott AFB flew the first US aircraft through the new Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM) airspace over the North Atlantic from Gander, Newfoundland, to Stuttgart, Germany. The RVSM cut vertical separations between aircraft from 2,000 to 1,000 feet at altitudes between 33,000 and 37,000 feet in an effort to deal with the tremendous growth in air traffic. (22)
- 1999: **Operation ALLIED FORCE.** Enemy ground fire brought down an F-117 in Yugoslavia. It was the first combat loss of the stealth fighter. An A-10 pilot, Capt John A. Cherrey, located the downed pilot for rescue efforts. Cherrey later received the Silver Star for his actions. (21)
- Operation ALLIED FORCE/DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.** Four KC-135 aircrew members—Capt Clifton G. Janney, Maj Kevin Torres, Capt Russell O'Dell, and SSgt Matthew DellaLucca—from the 6 AREFW at MacDill AFB risked their lives to air refuel two A-10s, which had nearly run out of fuel. On 16 August 2000, Gen Charles T. Robertson, Jr., AMC commander, awarded the DFC to the crewmembers. (22)
- Operation ALLIED FORCE.** About 100 ANG volunteers and two EC-130 Commando Solo aircraft from Pennsylvania's 193rd Special Operations Wing deployed to Germany to support this operation. (32)
- 2004: NASA's X-43A unmanned aircraft became the first jet to break Maj William J. Knight's X-15 record of 4,520 MPH. While the X-1, Skyrocket, X-2, and X-15 were rocket-powered, the X-43 featured an advanced scramjet engine, which allowed it to cruise at 4,780 mph (Mach 6.83) for 11 seconds at 95,000 feet. (<http://www.aerospaceweb.org/question/history/q0217c.shtml>)
- 2006: An RQ-4A Global Hawk, designated N-1, took off from Edwards AFB on a one-way sortie to NAS Patuxent River. The Navy acquired N-1 through the Global Hawk Maritime Demonstration Program for long-range patrol and reconnaissance. Before the flight, AFFTC received a military airworthiness certificate for N-1. It was the first time an UAV was certified safe for flight in national airspace. (3)

### 28 March

- 1913: Lts Thomas DeWitt Milling and William C. Sherman flew a Burgess H to a two-man duration and distance record of 4 hours 22 minutes for 220 miles from Texas City to San Antonio. (5)
- 1935: Dr. Robert Goddard launched the first rocket with gyroscopic controls to a height of 4,800 feet and a distance of 13,000 feet. It reached 550 MPH. (5)
- 1941: The Army asked for black volunteers to man a pursuit squadron. The 99th Pursuit Squadron, the first black fighter unit, activated earlier on 22 March at Tuskegee, Ala. (4)
- 1944: **Operation STRANGLE.** Fifteenth Air Force flew its first 1,000-ton air raid against communications targets in Italy to cut supply support to German troops in central Italy. Through 11 May, the Mediterranean Allied Air Force had supplied 50,000 sorties to drop 26,000 tons of bombs on enemy lines of communication in Italy. (24)
- 1946: Northrop Aircraft received development contracts for the Snark surface-to-surface, subsonic, intercontinental nuclear cruise missile and the Boojum medium- to long-range (1,500- to 5,000-

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mile) surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile. (6) (12)

- 1948: **Operation DRIP.** Boeing and Air Materiel Command studied the British hose method for refueling B-29s. In a test, two modified B-29s transferred 400 gallons of water from one bomber to another. The test helped the USAF to decide to modify 80 B-29s for inflight refueling, 40 as tankers, and 40 as receivers. (18)
- 1950: TAC completed its evaluation of the B-61A (later TM-61A) Matador missile. This allowed the system to begin full-scale development through November 1952, when it started flight tests. (5)
- 1952: First F-86F Sabre delivered to TAC for the 21st and 50th Fighter-Bomber Wings. (5)
- 1961: President John F. Kennedy asked Congress to: (1) put 50 percent of SAC's bombers on ground alert, (2) speed up the B-47 phaseout, (3) produce the Skybolt to replace the Hound Dog missile, (4) defer three Mobile Minuteman squadrons for three squadrons in silos, (5) phase out the Snark program, (6) reduce the Titan force by two squadrons, and (7) reduce the B-70A Valkyrie program to a R&D effort. Congress approved these measures. (6)
- 1962: The US Army formed its first helicopter-borne cavalry troop at Fort Knox, Ky., to perform scouting and reconnaissance. (24)
- 1963: North American Aviation ended production of the Hound Dog missile. (6)
- 1964: **Operation HELPING HAND.** Responding to a massive earthquake near Anchorage, Alaska, the USAF used C-124s, C-123s, C-130s, and C-97s to deliver 1,850 tons of relief supplies and equipment. Two B-58s from the 43 BMW at Carswell AFB conducted low-level photography over Alaska's earthquake area. The B-58 round-trip flight covered 5,571 miles. (1) (21)
- 1966: The USAF Special Weapons Center achieved the first completely successful mid-air recovery of an Air-launched, Air-Recoverable Rocket. In the test, an USAF F-4C launched an ALARR at 44,000 feet and recovered it with a JC-130B at 5,000 feet over White Sands Missile Range. (16) (26)
- 1973: The last PACAF aircraft left South Vietnam. The first PACAF aircraft deployed to South Vietnam on 20 October 1961. (16) (26)
- 1979: The first two F-4G Wild Weasel aircraft in USAFE arrived at Spangdahlem AB. (16)
- 1986: The USAF terminated the T-46A program. (12)
- 1999: The National Guard Bureau asked Nebraska's 155th Air Refueling Wing to help in Operation Allied Force. Less than 60 hours later, the wing had personnel and three KC-135 tankers at Rhine Main AB, Germany. (32)

### 29 March

- 1923: At Dayton, three FAI records were established. First, Lt A. Pearson flew a Verville Sperry R-3 at 167.77 MPH over 500 kilometers for one speed record. Next, Lts Harold R. Harris and Ralph Lockwood flew a DH-4L with a Liberty 400 HP engine at 127.42 MPH for the 1,000-kilometer (620 miles) record. And third, Lt Russell L. Maughan flew a Curtiss R-6 at 236.587 MPH for a record over a straightaway course. (24) (9)
- 1946: North American Aviation received a contract to study a 175 to 500-mile range surface-to-surface missile. After many revisions, this program became the Navaho jet-powered cruise missile. (6)



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- 1949: Joe DeBona set a new cross-country record for piston aircraft by flying his North American P-51 from Burbank to La Guardia in 5 hours. (9) (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** With fighter escorts, B-29s returned to the Yalu River to bomb bridges, which had become important targets again as the river ice thawed. Fifth Air Force light bombers and fighters, which had handled interdiction in the area during the winter, could not destroy the larger Yalu River bridges. (28)
- 1954: An American DC-7 set a 6 hour 10 minute commercial transport record from Los Angeles to New York. (5)
- 1955: The Navaho jet-powered cruise missile completed its 15th and final test flight at Edwards AFB. (5)
- 1960: The Naval Weapons Station Annex at Charleston, S.C., opened. This facility gave the Navy a final assembly and loading capability for the UGM-27 Polaris sea-launched ballistic missile. (8: Mar 90)
- 1961: The USAF issued the Minuteman I (A and B model) requirement. (6)
- 1972: At St. Paul, Minn., Matt A. Wiederkehr used a Raven S50A balloon to set FAI distance records of 196.71 miles for subclass AX-6 through AX-10 (1,200 to 4,000 cubic meters capacity) hot air balloons. (9)
- North Vietnam began a massive invasion of the South with 12 divisions, supported by armor and artillery. With the invasion, the US discarded the previous rules of engagement, which treated the conflict as a civil war, and the restrictions on US air power ended. This policy change led to Operation Linebacker I and II with bombing attacks on Hanoi and Haiphong. The massive US air strikes persuaded North Vietnam to conclude the Paris peace negotiations. (17)
- 1973: With the departure of 219 passengers aboard a DC-8, the US ended its military involvement in South Vietnam. The US disestablished the Military Assistance Command, ending its 11 years of operations from Saigon. (18)
- 1975: The USAF began an emergency airlift of supplies and equipment to Saigon, Vietnam. (16) (26)
- 1995: **Operation PROVIDE PROMISE.** The operation passed the 1,000-day mark. (16)
- 1996: The Tier III Minus Dark Star, a stealthy drone designed for high altitude, long-duration reconnaissance missions over hostile territory completed its first flight at Edwards AFB. (26)
- The US opened the GPS System to full commercial access. (26)
- 2001: Boeing's lead short-takeoff and vertical-landing (STOVL) test pilot, Dennis O'Donohue, flew the X-32B Joint Strike Fighter demonstrator on its first flight from Palmdale to Edwards AFB. The 50-minute flight included initial airworthiness tests. The USMC wanted to use the STOVL variant. (3)
- 2003: **OPERATIONAL SUPPORT.** By this date, to support the Global War on Terrorism, the ANG flew 72 percent of the fighter sorties, 52 percent of the tanker sorties, and 35 percent of the airlift sorties for NOBLE EAGLE, and 24 percent of the fighter sorties, 21 percent of the tanker sorties, and 6 percent of the airlift sorties for ENDURING FREEDOM.

## **AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **30 March**

- 1931: At Scott Field, an airplane transferred mail in flight to an airship. (24)
- 1937: Pan American Airways completed a 7,000-mile survey flight from Pago Pago, American Samoa, to Auckland, New Zealand, in a Sikorsky S-42B seaplane to identify possible landing sites. (24)
- 1944: Navy Task Force 58, under VAdm Marc Mitscher, with 11 carriers attacked on Palau, Yap, Ulithi, and Woleai to prepare Hollandia for landings. (24)
- 1945: For the XX Bomber Command's final mission, 24 B-29s from bases in India completed struck Bukum Island, near Singapore. (24)
- 1949: President Harry S. Truman signed a bill to build a "permanent" US radar defense network. (16)
- 1953: A Convair XC-99 established a new, world's load-lifting record of 104,000 pounds. (5)
- 1961: Joseph A. Walker reached the highest altitude attained in manned flight to date when he flew the X-15, with the XLR-99 rocket engine, to 169,600 feet. (9) (24)
- SAC accepted its fourth and last Atlas D squadron, the 549 SMS at Offutt AFB, to complete the program. (1) (6)
- 1963: SAC accepted its first Titan II launch facility, site 570-2 at the 570 SMS, Davis-Monthan AFB. (6)
- 1970: USAF dispatched medical teams and support personnel from Turkey to provide medical aid and humanitarian services to thousands of earthquake victims around Gediz, Turkey. (16) (26)
- 1979: Rockwell International submitted a B-1 termination claim for \$394.8 million. (12)
- 1981: Mr. Robert J. Hermann, Assistant SECAF for Research, Development, and Logistics, approved the Long-Range Combat Aircraft's R&D program. (12)
- 2000: The X-38 successfully completed its highest, fastest, and longest flight to date, gliding from 39,000 feet and attaining 500 mph before deploying its parachutes for a gentle touchdown on Rogers Dry Lake. It was the X-38's third and final flight for NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center. (3)

### **31 March**

- 1909: Amherst College, Mass., put its name in 35-foot high white letters. This effort produced the first air marking on record. (24)
- 1913: On a nonstop cross-country flight from San Antonio to Texas City, Lt William C. Sherman, made the first Army aerial map from a plane. He rode as a passenger with Lt Thomas DeWitt Milling. (24)
- 1931: Planes from the USS Lexington, off Nicaragua, flew medical personnel, supplies, and provisions to the earthquake-wrecked city of Managua. (24)
- 1943: The North African Air Force used B-17s and Wellingtons against Decimomannu Airfield in Sardinia, Italy. (4)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1951: **KOREAN WAR.** The 3 ARS used the H-19 to retrieve 18 UN personnel from behind enemy lines, the first use of this type helicopter in a special operations mission. The 315 AD grounded its C-119s for modification and reconditioning. (28)

The Navy issued a development contract to Convair for the XFY-1 propeller-driven vertical takeoff fighter. (5)

1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Through 1 April, FEAF Bomber Command B-29s flew 29 sorties, nearly twice the normal rate, mostly against the Sinhung-dong railbridge and Kwaksan railroad track. Additionally, the 315th Air Division maintained a steady stream of troops, supplies and ammunition between Japan and Korea, airlifting 17,603 tons of cargo, which included 90,021 troops, and 7,840 medical evacuees. Search and rescue units flew 442 sorties, and helicopters evacuated 140 critically wounded patients from forward areas and rescued two airmen from behind enemy lines. (28)

1954: Joe deBona set a transcontinental speed record for piston-engine planes, when he flew an F-51 Mustang 2,467 miles from Los Angeles to New York in 4 hours 24 minutes 17 seconds. (24)

1960: Through 30 April, in response to flooding in Brazil, MATS C-124s transported 30 tons of disaster relief equipment, medical supplies, life rafts, and 2 helicopters and crews there. The helicopters then carried 130 tons of relief supplies within Brazil. (18)

1961: SAC declared the 549 SMS operational at Offutt AFB to complete its Atlas D deployment.

1965: When SAC removed the last Atlas E from alert with the 567 SMS at Fairchild AFB, it phased this model out of the operational inventory. (6)

1966: SAC phased out its last B-47 Stratojet. (16) (26)

1967: SAC's responsibility for Atlas and Titan I missiles ended with the completion of the service and salvage program. (6)

1968: President Johnson halted the bombing missions north of the 20<sup>th</sup> parallel in North Vietnam and proposed peace talks. (8)

1970: Phase out of the last CGM-13 (MACE) missile completed. The Air Force stored the missiles at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., for possible use as subsonic target drones. (16) (26)

The 12 TFW's three squadrons of F-4Cs at Cam Ranh Bay, South Vietnam, inactivated, and the 12 TFW moved to Phu Cat AB, South Vietnam, to replace the inactivated 37 TFW. The F-4Cs returned to the US. (17)

The Hawaii Army National Guard inactivated the 298th Artillery Group (Nike) under a nationwide reduction in air defense assets. The retirement of the Nike-Hercules missiles reduced the air defense of Hawaii to the Hawaii ANG's 199 FIS with 18 old F-102A Delta Daggers. (17)

1975: The USAF's overseas tactical airlift resources in PACAF, USAFE, and the Alaskan Air Command were transferred to MAC to consolidate military airlift into one command. (2)

1979: **THREE-MILE ISLAND DISASTER.** Through 15 April, after the Three-Mile Island nuclear power plant failed near Harrisburg, Pa., MAC flew 15 support missions (two C-5s, one C-130, and 12 C-141s). The aircraft delivered a 40,000-pound rawindsonde station, lead bricks and shielding, a water filtration unit, charcoal filters, and potassium iodine for the cleanup. Later, the aircraft flew out barrels of contaminated water. (2) (18)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

President Carter decided to develop the M-X in an undisclosed ground mobile basing mode. (6)

The Defense System Acquisition Review Council IIB reviewed airmobile basing for the M-X and concluded that this mode was feasible. The council, however, decided that airmobile basing was not desirable because it depended on tactical warning, had less accuracy, and cost too much. (6)

**MACKAY TROPHY.** Maj James E. McArdle, Jr., and his four-man H-3 helicopter crew saved 28 Taiwanese sailors in the Yellow Sea after their ship ran aground. For this event, McArdle earned the Mackay Trophy. (21)

- 1982: The USAF stationed the first of two SR-71 Blackbirds at RAF Mildenhall. (16)
- 1987: McDonnell-Douglas held a formal rollout ceremony for Low-Altitude Navigation & Targeting Infrared for Night (LANTIRN) equipped F-15s. (30)
- 1994: The first two F-16 Fighting Falcons from Ramstein AB arrived at Aviano AB. On 1 April, NATO named Aviano as one of its main operating bases for operations over the former Yugoslavia. (26)
- 1995: 2d Lt Kelly Flinn began training as the first woman bomber pilot in the USAF. (16) (26)
- 2005: AFFTC evaluated software for the T-38C's Block 4 Avionics Upgrade Program. The program made an effort to increase the T-38's combat training value as well as elevate all T-38A and AT-38B aircraft to T-38C configuration. (3)

### 1 April

- 1918: American Aviation Headquarters opened in Rome, Italy, and a definite agreement made with the Italians for training of American pilots. (24)
- 1941: The US and Mexico signed an agreement providing for reciprocal transit of military aircraft through the territory of the two countries. (24)
- 1942: Air Corps Proving Ground became Proving Ground Command with its main base at Eglin Field.
- 1945: **BATTLE OF OKINAWA.** The Tenth Army's main landing occurred at Okinawa's Hagushi beaches. The Marine III Amphibious Corps landed on the left, and quickly overran Yontan airfield. The Army's XXIV Corps captured Kadena airfield and then turned right and met the main Japanese defensive line, called the Machinato Line. Twentieth Air Force bombers, operating from the Marianas, devoted about 75 percent of their April effort to bombing airfields on Kyushu and Shikoku Islands to diminish the Kamikaze threat. (17)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force Sabre pilots destroyed ten MiGs while losing one F-86. In the battle, Col Francis S. Gabreski, the 51<sup>st</sup> Fighter-Interceptor Wing Commander, destroyed a MiG to become the eighth jet ace of the war. (28)
- 1954: Lt Cmdr Francis X. Brady (USN) caught some strong tail winds and set a transcontinental speed record for jets in an F9F-8 Cougar. He flew the 2,438 miles from San Diego to Brooklyn, N.Y., in 3 hours 45 minutes 30 seconds. (9) (24)
- 1958: SAC activated its first ICBM squadron, the 576 SMS, for the Atlas missile at Cooke AFB (renamed Vandenberg on 4 October 1958). It had two "soft" launch complexes, one with three gantries and the other with three above ground coffin launchers, for the Atlas D. (6) (12)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1960: From Cape Canaveral the TIROS I, the first picture-taking weather-reconnaissance satellite, launched on a Thor-Able rocket into an orbit expected to last for 50 to 100 years. In the 78-day life of its instruments, the TIROS transmitted almost 23,000 pictures. (21) (24)
- SAC activated its first Atlas E squadron, the 567 SMS, at Fairchild AFB. (6)
- 1961: SAC activated its first Atlas F squadrons, the 550 SMS at Schilling AFB, Kans., and 551 SMS at Lincoln AFB, Nebr. (6)
- 1962: The USAF made the Air Weather Service the single manager for aerial sampling aircraft. (18)
- 1965: SAC took its last Titan I missiles off alert with the 569 SMS at Mountain Home AFB to complete the operational phaseout of this weapon system. (6)
- 1966: The last of 14 operational centers comprising the BUIC II dispersed, automatic weapons control system completed for ADC.
- SAC activated its last Minuteman squadron, the 564 SMS, at Malmstrom AFB. (1) (6)
- 1968: President Johnson halted the bombing of N. Vietnam above 20 degrees north latitude, changing the bombing line to north of 19 degrees, effective 4 April. He expected North Vietnam to act in good faith and de-escalate. The N. Vietnamese, however, used the halt period for restoration and reconstruction, the reinforcement of air defenses, and the movement of more material and troops to the south. (17)
- 1970: **OCTAVE CHANUTE AWARD.** Maj Jerauld R. Gentry received this Award for outstanding achievements as the Air Force's X-24 Lifting Body project officer. (3)
- SAC placed the command and control of all strategic missiles under Fifteenth Air Force. (16)
- AFSC combined the Air Force Western Test Range at Vandenberg AFB and two aerospace test wings to form the Space and Missile Test Center under the Space and Missile Organization (SAMSO). (16)
- 1972: PACAF inactivated the 20 SOS, and its UH-1N helicopter gunships were shipped back to the U.S. (17)
- 1976: USAFE activated the 527<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Aggressor Squadron at RAF Alconbury to conduct dissimilar air combat tactics training for fighter and reconnaissance aircrews. (26)
- 1983: Through 8 April, a MAC C-130 airlifted 34 tons of shelters, medical supplies, generators, and floodlights from Panama to Southwestern Colombia to aid earthquake victims. (16)
- Through 1 May, the Air Force transferred 31 SAC units and four bases to AFSPACE, which assumed control over missile warning and space surveillance systems. (16) (26)
- 1985: The Minuteman Integrated Life Extension Program (Rivet Mile) began at the 341 SMW at Malmstrom AFB. (1)
- 1992: A 437 AW C-141 Starlifter from Charleston AFB dropped 115 barrels of helicopter aviation fuel to a floating American-Russian ice station in Antarctica. The drop allowed the \$9 million joint scientific effort to continue its efforts. The C-141 flew 7,000 miles from Charleston AFB to Howard AFB and on to Punta Arenas, Chile, before flying 1,200 nautical miles to the ice flow. A KC-135R from SAC's 340 AREFW at Altus AFB accompanied the Starlifter and provided two refuelings (16) (18)

## **AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

1997: At Langley AFB, Gen Richard E. Hawley, the ACC Commander, announced the initial operational capability of the 509 BW's B-2A Spirit at Whiteman AFB after earlier, successful tests of the JDAM and the GPS-Aided Munition (GAM). (21)

The USAF transferred all operational C-130s from ACC to Air Mobility Command, except for the 314 AW and its C-130 schoolhouse. Those units went to Air Education and Training Command (AETC). (21)

The 375 AW at Scott AFB regained control of C-21 flying operations in the US, when the USAF consolidated 8 C-21 units at various bases into two airlift squadrons and one wing. The reorganization standardized C-21 operations with the 458 AS operating from Scott and the 457 AS from Andrews AFB. Each squadron had three airlift flights based at other USAF installations in the US. (22)

2005: The Air Force Research Lab at Edwards AFB first fired an Atlas V solid rocket motor. The 67-foot-long motor, designed as one piece booster for the Atlas V heavy-lift vehicle, developed 250,000 pounds of thrust for 90 seconds. (3)

### **2 April**

1915: President Wilson appointed the first members to the NACA.

1916: Lt Richard C. Saufley (USN), flying a Curtiss Hydroairplane at Pensacola, bettered his own American altitude record with a mark of 16,072 feet. (24)

1931: First contract for a Navy fighter with retractable landing gear, the FF-1 biplane, made with Grumman. (24)

1942: Maj Gen Lewis H. Brereton led three heavy bombers in the first Tenth Air Force combat mission to attack ships near Port Blair, Andaman Islands, in the Bay of Bengal. (24)

1944: The XX Bomber Command's first B-29 landed in India.

1954: To 6 April, the 59 ARS and its H-19 helicopters helped refugees in Iraq's flooded Tigris River Valley. In 66 sorties, the H-19s dropped 30,000 pounds of food to 4,000 victims. (2)

1959: Out of 110 candidates, NASA selected Air Force Capts L. Gordon Cooper, Jr., Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, and Donald K. "Deke" Slayton; Navy Lt Cmdrs Walter M. Shirra, Jr., and Alan B. Shepard, Jr., and Lt M. Scott Carpenter; and Marine Lt Col John H. Glenn, Jr., as the Project Mercury Astronauts. (20)

1963: Explorer XVII, NASA's stainless steel satellite, entered an almost perfect orbit after being launched aboard a Delta Rocket. It reported data tripling all previous direct measurement of neutral gases in the upper atmosphere.

1966: SAC inactivated the 576 SMS (ICBM Atlas), its last Atlas unit. (1) (6)

1976: The last C-118A Liftmaster in the active inventory went to Davis Monthan for storage. (16) (26)

1990: In the McDonnell Douglas NF-15B Short Takeoff and Landing (STOL) Maneuvering Technology Demonstrator, Maj Erwin "Bud" Jenschke demonstrated in-flight thrust reversing for the first time over Edwards AFB. (20)

1997: A C-141 assigned to the 459 AW (AFRES) at Andrews AFB left Scott AFB for Sucre, Bolivia, with enough donated medical equipment to set up two surgical rooms. The Diocese of Joliet

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Peace and Justice at Romeoville, Ill., donated the cargo. (22)

### 3 April

- 1939: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Public Law 18, or the National Defense Act of 1940. In that act, Congress authorized the Air Corps to expand to 48,000 personnel and 6,000 airplanes with a \$300 million budget. It also authorized the training of Black pilots. (21)
- 1944: The Mediterranean Allied Air Force dispatched 375 B-17s and B-24s on the first heavy air attack against Budapest, Hungary. (4) (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** A service test YH-19 helicopter assigned to the 3d Air Rescue Squadron picked up a downed F-51 pilot southeast of Pyongyang, receiving small arms fire during the sortie. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR/ACE.** In aerial combat, Capt Robert H. Moore, 336<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Interceptor, destroyed his fifth MiG to become an ace. (28)
- 1965: The first nuclear power system to be tested in space, the SNAP 10A, was successfully launched into orbit aboard an Atlas-Agena spacecraft.
- PAUL DOUMER BRIDGE.** The first attempt to destroy the highway/rail bridge over the Song Ma River, a key feature of the supply line to the south, occurred, but the bridge remained standing until the US declared a bombing halt in 1968. The bridge became a symbol of North Vietnamese resistance, and remained a challenge to US fighter crews until May 1972. (17)
- 1967: **CURTAIN RAISER.** Through 7 April, SAC held its first missile combat competition. The 351 SMW at Whiteman AFB won the Blanchard Trophy for the best missile unit. (1) (6)
- 1969: Alvin Marks flew a Cessna 210 around the world from Sacramento and back. He completed the 23,356-mile journey in 13 days 8 hours 41 minutes. (9)
- 1979: **TYPHOON MELI:** Through 5 April, 2 C-141 Starlifter aircraft flew 21 tons of relief supplies from Howard AFB and Andersen AFB to Nandi IAP, Fiji Islands, after the typhoon battered the islands. (16) (18)
- 1996: A 76 AS CT-43 transport crashed near Dubrovnik, Croatia, and killed 35 people, including Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown. Brown was on an economic development mission to the former Yugoslavia. (26)

### 4 April

- 1933: The Navy dirigible Akron crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off the New Jersey coast, killing 73 people. Rear Admiral William A. Moffett, Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics, was one of the casualties. (21)
- 1944: Fifteenth Air Force conducted the first American bombing raid on Bucharest, Rumania. (24)
- 1957: The USAF announced that Rocketdyne Division of North American Aviation would study the use of ions as a power source for spaceships and missiles. (16) (24)
- 1963: In a fourth successful system trial, a Kwajalein-based Nike-Zeus anti-ICBM missile intercepted a Titan I ICBM launched from Vandenberg AFB.

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1964: After an earthquake hit Anchorage and Seward, Alaska, C-124s airlifted 235,000 pounds of supplies from McChord AFB to the area. The Air Rescue Service flew medical supplies, reconnaissance, and evacuated injured or homeless people. (2)
- 1966: NASA selected eight new astronauts: Capt Joe H. Engle, Maj William R. Pogue, Capt Charles M. Duke, Jr., Capt Alfred M. Worden, Capt Stuart A. Roosa, Navy Lt Cmdr Edgar D Mitchell and Lt Thomas K. Mattingly, and Mr. Fred W. Haise, Jr.
- 1969: The X-24 Lifting Body completed its first captive flight with test pilot Maj Jerauld R. Gentry at the controls. (3)
- MACKAY TROPHY.** Through 10 April, from Spangdahlem AB the 49 TFW redeployed its 72 F-4Ds to Holloman AFB, using 504 refuelings. The unit earned the Mackay Trophy for this event. (21)
- 1972: The USAF renamed the Advanced ICBM as Missile-X. (6)
- 1974: Northrop's YF-17 prototype lightweight fighter rolled out at Hawthorne, Calif. (3)
- 1975: **Operation NEW LIFE.** To evacuate Cambodia and Vietnam, SAC flew tanker and reconnaissance sorties to support the US withdrawal. Through 30 April, MAC C-141s and C-130s, under PACAF's operational control, flew 375 missions to carry 50,493 Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees from Indochina to Pacific staging areas. From 12 April to 16 August, Andersen AFB became a temporary haven for some 110,000 refugees who traveled to the US. (1) (18)
- Operation BABYLIFT/AIR FORCE CROSS:** A MAC C-5 crashed in an emergency landing near Saigon, while flying the first mission in this operation. It carried South Vietnamese children and their escorts from Tan Son Nhut AB in Saigon to Clark AB. Of the 314 passengers, 176 survived the crash. 1Lt Regina C. Aune, a flight nurse aboard the C-5, ignored broken leg and other injuries to help evacuate nearly 80 children from the plane's wreckage. She received the **1975 Cheney Award** for her efforts. The pilot and copilot, Captains Dennis W. Traynor III and Tilford W. Harp, also received the **Air Force Cross** for extraordinary heroism. Despite this tragedy, the operation succeeded as C-141s and commercial planes moved 1,794 orphans from South Vietnam and Thailand to the US West Coast through 9 May. (2) (18)
- 1983: From 4-9 April, in the Space Shuttle Challenger's first mission the crew completed the first American spacewalk in nine years and launched NASA's first tracking and data relay satellite, which failed to reach its proper orbit due to a rocket malfunction. The shuttle landed on 9 April at Edwards AFB. This landing, however, represented the first time a shuttle had to be diverted into Edwards. (3)
- 1990: McDonnell Douglas provided the last of 60 KC-10A Extenders to the USAF. (16) (26)
- 1991: SAC assigned KC-10s to TAC's 4th Wing, the first composite wing. SAC remained the single air refueling manager. (18)
- 1999: **Operation SUSTAIN HOPE or SHINING HOPE.** A C-17 Globemaster III started this operation by airlifting relief supplies from Dover AFB to Tirana, Albania. By the 8 July end of the humanitarian airlift component of Operation ALLIED FORCE, Air Mobility Command had used C-5s, C-17s, and C-130s to airlift 913 passengers and 5,939 short tons of food and supplies to refugee camps in Albania, Macedonia, and Montenegro. (21) (22)
- 2003: At Edwards AFB, the CV-22 Osprey completed a milestone by successfully flying a terrain-following radar sortie. (3)



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 5 April

- 1911: The Army organized its first provisional aero company at Fort Sam Houston.
- 1916: Philip A. Carroll organized the Governors Island Training Corps to teach civilians to fly. This corps became the nucleus of the 1st Aero Reserve Squadron, and then the 26th Aero Squadron. (24)
- 1930: Through 6 April, Capt Frank Hawks flew a Waco Biplane, with a glider in tow, from San Diego to New York and covered the 2,860 miles in 36 hours 47 minutes. (24)
- 1943: **Operation FLAX.** Northwest African Air Forces started a concentrated attack on the Axis air transport service between Italy via Sicily to Tunisia. The operation claimed 201 enemy aircraft destroyed. (24)
- Eighth Air Force sent 82 B-17s and B-24s to attack industrial targets, including the Erla aircraft factory in Antwerp, Belgium. (4)
- 1949: Fairchild completed the first two production models of the C-119 troop-carrying transport. (24)
- 1958: An USAF Atlas ICBM flew from Cape Canaveral to an impact area some 600 miles away. (16)
- 1966: The Air Force Avionics Laboratory conducted the first successful voice communication test with airplane, satellite, and ground equipment. (16) (26)
- SECDEF Robert S. McNamara approved the separation of Naval and USAF airlift. Under this decision, the Navy phased out three airlift and one maintenance squadron from MAC; however, MAC retained 48 C-130Es. That action ended an Air Force-Navy airlift partnership that began in 1948 when Air Transport Command and Naval Air Transport Service units merged. (18)
- 1978: An Air Force interim program management directive initiated the cruise missile carrier aircraft program to analyze the suitability of wide-body aircraft as missile carriers. (6)
- 1983: Through 10 April, after 20 inches of rain fell on southeastern Louisiana in five days, MAC used four C-141s to airlift 83 tons of tents, cots, field kitchens, and other relief cargo to the area. Over 40,000 homes were under water. (16) (26)
- 1985: MAC sent two C-141s and one C-130 with 10.9 tons of fire-fighting equipment, 21,000 gallons of fire retardant, and 190 fire fighters to fight a blaze covering 700 acres in the western North Carolina mountains. (16) (26)
- 1986: Through 6 April, four C-141 Starlifters and one H-3 Jolly Green Giant helicopter from the 63 MAW flew in fire suppressant foam and airlifted out burn victims from Osan AB after a 700,000-gallon tank of jet fuel exploded and burned. The helicopter flew the burn victims to Seoul for medical treatment. (16)
- 1988: Through 8 April, 8 C-5s and 22 C-141s airlifted 1,300 security specialists from the US to Panama, where political instability threatened the safety of thousands of Americans. The deployment included 45 missions. (18)
- 1990: Gordon Fullerton flew the NB-52 to 43,000 feet some 60 miles southwest of Monterey, Calif., and launched the Pegasus air-launched winged space booster for the first time. After falling for a few seconds, the first stage booster carried the rocket to 250,000 feet. Afterwards, the second and third stage pushed the 422-pound payload into a 320-mile polar orbit. The three-function payload, Pegsat, included a Navy communications satellite, a NASA atmospheric experiment, and instruments to measure inflight stresses. (8: Apr 90)

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- 1991: **Operation PROVIDE COMFORT.** To 15 July, MAC units flew more than 7,000 tons of supplies to Northern Iraq, Southeastern Turkey, and Western Iran to help more than 1,000,000 Kurdish rebels, who fled from Iraq after being defeated by Iraqi forces. (16)
- 1996: Through 9 April, tests to help determine C-17A Globemaster III's suitability for Air Force's aeromedical evacuation role took place at Pope AFB. Twelve active-duty and Reserve aeromedical evacuation personnel "put the C-17 through its paces" to test and critique its built-in aeromedical evacuation hardware and equipment. The airplane completed five simulated and actual flying missions, including a landing at a short dirt strip. (AFNEWS Article 296, 3 Apr 95)

### 6 April

- 1917: The US declared war on Germany. Army and Navy air strength included 179 officers, 1,317 enlisted men, about 350 aircraft, and a few balloons. A day later, the Army's Aviation Section boasted 65 officers, including 35 pilots. The De Havilland DH-4 bomber was the only US-produced airplane used in combat, mostly in an observation role, during the war. (4) (12)
- 1924: **KEY EVENT--FIRST AROUND-THE-WORLD FLIGHT/MACKAY TROPHY.** Four Army Douglas Biplanes took off from Seattle on the first global flight. Only two crews completed the 26,345-mile flight after 363 hours flying time in an elapsed time of 175 days. When the flight ended on 28 September, the two crews received Distinguished Service Medals and the Chevaliers of the Legion of Honor of France. This was the first transpacific flight and first westbound North Atlantic flight by plane. The crews included Maj Frederick L. Martin and SSgt Alva L. Harvey; 1Lt Lowell H. Smith, and Leslie P. Arnold; 1Lt Leigh Wade and SSgt Henry H. Ogden; and 1Lt Erik H. Nelson and John "Jack" Harding. Additionally, the group became the first military recipients of the Collier Trophy and won the Mackay Trophy for 1924. (9) (18)
- 1938: The Bell XP-39 Airacobra first flew.
- 1949: Curtiss-Wright announced that the Bell X-1 rocket plane with a Curtiss-Wright engine flew at a world record speed of 1,100 MPH for piloted planes. (9) (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** In air-to-air operations, Capt Iven C. Kincheloe, Jr., 25 FIS, destroyed a MiG, becoming the war's tenth ace. (28)
- 1953: The 306 BMW Commander, Col Michael N. W. McCoy, flew a B-47 3,120 miles from MacDill AFB via Limestone AFB, Maine, to RAF Fairford, UK, in a 5-hour, 38-minute record time. (1)
- 1955: A B-36 dropped an experimental atomic air-to-air missile warhead in a Mark 5 ballistic casing from 42,000 feet. Retarded by parachute, the bomb exploded six miles above Yucca Flat, Nev., at the highest known altitude of any nuclear blast by that date. (16) (24)
- 1959: Cmdr L. E. Flint flew a F4H-1 Phantom II to a new world altitude record by reaching 98,560 feet over Edwards AFB.
- The Snark completed its first full-range flight test. From Cape Canaveral, the missile flew 5,000 miles down the Atlantic Missile Range and hit the target area on 7 April. (6)
- 1965: Early Bird I, the first commercial communications satellite, launched from Cape Kennedy to set up communications between North America and Europe.
- 1966: The USAF and Army signed an agreement on aircraft use. The Army relinquished intratheater,

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fixed-wing airlift operations and gave the USAF all CV-2 Caribous and CV-7 Buffalos. They were designated the C-7A Caribou and C-8A Buffalo, respectively. In return, the USAF agreed to not use rotary-wing aircraft for intratheater movements, fire support, or supply of Army forces. (16) (26)

MAC C-141s began flying aeromedical evacuations from Europe. They replaced the bi-weekly C-135 flights. (18)

1967: **RYAN'S RAIDERS.** Flying modified F-105F Wild Weasel aircraft, capable of both night radar bombing and Wild Weasel missions, Ryan's Raiders went into action at night, striking a target deep inside North Vietnam. (17)

1972: American aircraft and warships began heavy, sustained attacks on North Vietnam, the first time since the October 1968 cessation of bombing. (16) (26)

1975: **Operation EAGLE PULL:** To support the evacuation of Americans and other nationals from Phnom Penh, Cambodia, MAC flew more than 1,400 US Marines and 1,561 tons of equipment from Kadena AB to Cubi Point, Philippines, in 29 C-141, 8 C-5, and 2 commercial contract missions. On 12 April, USAF and Marine Corps helicopters, with escorts from USAF fighters and gunships, evacuated 287 people in the final airlift from Phnom Penh. The city fell to communist forces on 17 April. (16) (18) (21)

1980: The first air refueled C-141B mission flew from Beale AFB to RAF Mildenhall. An aircrew assigned to the 443 MAW made the flight in 11 hours 12 minutes with one refueling. (2) (16)

1983: **SCOWCROFT COMMISSION.** A special President's Commission, led by retired Lt Gen Brent Scowcroft, suggested several ICBM Modernization efforts. The suggestions included: (1) developing a small single warhead ICBM; deploying 100 Peacekeeper missiles in Minuteman Silos, (3) studying the silo and shelter hardness basing modes, and (4) continuing other strategic programs--anti-ballistic missiles, Trident, bombers, ALCMs and command and control. (1)

1984: **FIFTH CHALLENGER/ELEVENTH SPACE SHUTTLE MISSION.** Astronauts made the first successful capture and repair of a satellite, the sunwatching Solar Maximum Mission satellite, in space. They returned to earth on 13 April. (3)

The 375 AAW accepted the first Lear Jet C-21A. It was the first of 80 Learjets to be delivered to the USAF as replacements for the CT-39 Sabreliner. (16) (26)

1994: **Operation DISTANT RUNNER.** Through 10 April, USAF airlifters moved 148 Americans and 82 other foreigners from Bujumbura, Burundi, to Nairobi, Kenya, when ethnic violence broke out. (16)

2007: After 42 years of serving as the primary pilot instructor training aircraft at Randolph AFB, Tex., the T-37 Tweet turned over its responsibilities to the T-6 Texan II in a special ceremony. While at Randolph with the 559th Flying Training Squadron, the Tweet flew more than 597,000 sorties and 813,000 hours to train 7,737 T-37 instructor pilots. (AFNEWS, "Tweet Closes 42-Year Randolph Career," 9 Apr 2007.)

### 7 April

1916: Mexican mounted Rurales fired on Lt Herbert A. Dargue at Chihauhau City, Mexico, where he had landed with dispatches from the US Consul. Capt Benjamin D. Foulois, who had left the plane before the incident, was arrested when he objected. (21) (24)

1945: Twentieth Air Force made the first fighter-escorted B-29 mission against Japan. The taking of

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Iwo Jima, within fighter range of Japan, made this raid possible. (21)

- 1955: First production-model Lockheed C-130A Hercules (53-3129) flight occurred at the company's facility in Marietta. (8: Apr 90)
- 1958: **Operation JET STREAM.** Through 8 April, Brig Gen William E. Eubank, Jr., 93 BMW Commander at Castle AFB, flew a KC-135 on an 18-hour flight from Tokyo, Japan, to Lajes Field, Azores, to set two records. The marks included longest straight-line distance without refueling, 10,229.3 miles in 18 hours 48 minutes; and speed, 492.262 MPH from Tokyo to Washington DC in 13 hours 45 minutes 46.5 seconds. (1) (9)
- 1966: A US Army OH-6A helicopter made a 2,213-mile, nonstop, nonrefueled flight from Culver City, Calif., to Daytona Beach, Fla., in 15 hours 13 minutes. This flight broke a record set on 5 March 1965 by a US Navy Sikorsky SA-3A helicopter.
- 1967: AFSC's 6511th Parachute Test Group dropped 50,150 pounds from a C-130 to claim an unofficial world record. (3)
- 1972: **Operation CONSTANT GUARD I.** To 9 April, the US answered North Vietnam's Spring offensive. For this operation, MAC moved personnel and cargo from McConnell AFB, Kans., and Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. to Thailand. Through 13 May, the USAF moved 12 squadrons and 200 aircraft to Southeast Asia to fight off the North Vietnamese. (2) (21)
- 1995: **Operation PROVIDE HOPE.** A C-141 left McGuire AFB for Donetsk, Ukraine, carrying 40 passengers and six pallets of equipment and medical supplies. The passengers from the US European Command later taught hospital personnel in Donetsk how to use the donated medical equipment. (18)
- 1999: The USAF and DARPA selected Boeing to build two unmanned combat air vehicles (UCAVs) for testing at the Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 2006: The Scaled Composites *White Knight* mothership dropped the X-37 at about 37,000 feet, and the UAV then flew to the Edwards AFB runway safely. Originally, the X-37 was a NASA flight demonstrator aircraft for the Future X orbital test and reentry research program in the 1990s. DARPA and Boeing revived it as an Approach and Landing Test Vehicle (ALTV). (3)
- 2007: **Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.** The 128th Expeditionary Airborne Command and Control Squadron, one of three operational E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attacks Radar System squadrons, recently reached a milestone of 23,000 flight-hours in support of this operation. The JSTARS deployment began on 16 January 2003 when the aircraft flew missions for Operation SOUTHERN WATCH and then Operation Iraqi Freedom. They were first deployed to Prince Sultan AB, Saudi Arabia, and Royal Air Force Akrotiri, Cyprus. In May 2003, the unit relocated to the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing. (AFNEWS, "Joint Stars Exceeds 23,000 Flight Hours, 7 Apr 2007.)

### 8 April

- 1918: The 1st Aero Squadron, I Corps, was the first American squadron assigned to the front in World War I. (1)
- 1925: **FIRST NIGHT CARRIER LANDINGS.** Lt John D. Price, flying a plane of VF-1, made a night landing on the USS Langley, off San Diego. Later, Lts D. L. Conley, A. W. Gorton, and R. D. Lyon followed him on board. Except for an accidental night landing on 5 February, when Lt H. J. Brow stalled while practicing approaches, these were the first night landings on a US carrier.

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1931: Amelia Earhart flew an Autogiro to an altitude of 19,000 feet at the Pitcairn Aviation Field near Philadelphia. (24)
- 1940: A B-18 made the first nonstop flight from Denver to Miami. (24)
- 1942: Using aircraft acquired from Pan American Airlines, the Army began the largest airlift in World War II. Two DC-3s airlifted gasoline and lubricating oil over the Himalaya Mountains from Dinjan in eastern India to Yunnan-yi in southern China to begin the “Hump Airlift.” A total of eight airplanes carried enough fuel and oil to refuel and service the B-25 bombers from the later “Doolittle Raid.” From December 1942, when the airlift became the ATC’s responsibility, through the close of the operation in November 1945, the airlift delivered nearly 740,000 tons of cargo. Over half of this total was transported during the last eight months of the war. (18) (21)
- 1943: A P-47 Thunderbolt flew its first combat sortie over Western Europe. (4)
- 1944: By sending 163 B-26s and 105 P-47s against enemy facilities at Hasselt, Belgium, Ninth Air Force conducted one of the largest tactical raids of World War II. (21)
- 1947: American Overseas Airlines received rights for commercial service to Finland, the first US route into Russia’s sphere of influence. (24)
- 1959: Col E. H. Taylor set a world record of 700.05 MPH in an RF-101C over a 1,000-kilometer closed-circuit course.
- 1964: NASA orbited the first unmanned Gemini capsule on a Titan II. (26) (16)
- 1967: **Exercise CLOVE HITCH III.** The Atlantic Command initiated this joint exercise in Puerto Rico for 21,000 Army, Navy, Air Force, and National Guard personnel. The exercise featured C-141s making their first airdrop of paratroopers. (16) (26)
- 1970: The USAF launched two Vela nuclear-detection satellites from the Eastern Test Range on a Titan III-C booster. Each 700-pound satellite carried optical sensors to detect electromagnetic impulses, or brief radio signals generated by atomic explosions anywhere in the atmosphere. Sensors could also detect atomic weapons tests up to 100 million miles in space and distinguish between weapons tests and exploding stars.
- A USAF Thor booster launched its 400<sup>th</sup> payload, a Nimbus weather satellite for NASA. (16)
- 1995: **Operation PROVIDE PROMISE.** Small arms fire hit a C-130 Hercules 12 times on takeoff from Sarajevo, Bosnia, on a flight to Italy. The aircraft had carried flour to Bosnia. (16) (26)

### 9 April

- 1918: First American fighter unit, the 94th Pursuit Squadron, assigned to the front in World War I. (4)
- 1941: An American and Danish agreement gave the US the right to construct and operate airfields in Greenland. (24)
- 1944: Eighth Air Force sent 542 bombers with 719 fighter escorts from VIII and IX Fighter Commands, against German and Polish targets. The mission lost 32 bombers and 10 fighters, while three B-17s were interned in Sweden. (4)
- 1947: The CAA approved the Army’s wartime GCA radar for commercial planes, for use by Pan American World Airways at Gander, Newfoundland, only. (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1953: Convair's XF2Y-1 Sea Dart, a seaplane jet fighter first flew.
- 1957: The KB-50J, jet-augmented tanker, made its first flight.
- 1964: Explorer IX reentered the atmosphere and disintegrated after some three years in space. This 12-foot balloon was NASA's most effective satellite for measuring atmospheric density and temperature. Orbited on 16 February 1959, it traveled more than 340 million miles and 14,000 orbits of earth. It was also the first satellite orbited by a solid-fuel launch vehicle, the Scout, and the first launched from Wallops Island.
- The last Titan II R&D launch from Cape Kennedy succeeded. (6)
- 1967: Through 14 April, the 315 AD began the largest tactical unit move in the Vietnam War. In 351 sorties, C-130s airlifted the entire 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade, with 3,500 people and 4,000 tons of equipment, 375 miles from Tay Ninh to Chu Lai. (16) (17)
- 1971: The DC-10 began its FAA certification tests. (3)
- 1974: Between 9 April and 11 May, the USAF conducted the flyoff between the A-10 and A-7 at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1992: The General Dynamics NF-16, a new Variable Stability In-Flight Simulator Aircraft (VISTA), flew for the first time at Fort Worth. It would replace the Air Force's NT-33, a 40-plus year old aircraft. (20)
- 1996: **Operation ASSURED RESPONSE.** USAF MH-53 Pave Low helicopters, KC-135 Strato-tankers, C-130 Hercules, MC-130 Combat Talons, and AC-130 Spectre gunships evacuated more than 2,000 noncombatants in 94 missions from Liberia during civil unrest there. (21)
- 1997: Lockheed-Martin and Boeing rolled out the F-22 air superiority fighter at its Marietta plant. (26)

### 10 April

- 1915: The first Junior Military Aviator test issued. (24)
- 1931: Lt Wilfred J. Paul demonstrated the airship subcloud observation car at Langley Field. (24)
- 1945: About 50 German jets shot down 10 American bombers near Berlin. This was the largest loss of the war to jets in a single mission. (4) (24)
- 1953: The USAF decided to adopt SAGE (MIT's Lincoln Laboratory electronic defense system) instead of the Air Defense Integrated System (ADIS) development. (24)
- 1959: Northrop's YT-38 Talon prototype, a replacement for the T-33 training jet, flew its first flight at Edwards AFB. (7) (3)
- 1961: The USAF issued a requirement for the Titan II. (6)
- 1963: Capt Wylie H. Drummond flew his Boeing 707-123 to a new record for commercial jets by flying from Los Angeles IAP to Idlewild Airport, N.Y., in 3 hours 38 minutes. He averaged 680.9 MPH over the 2,474-mile route.
- 1966: Aviatrice Geraldine Mock set a world nonstop distance record for women, flying 4,515.93 miles

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

from Honolulu to Columbus in 31 hours in a single-engine Cessna 206.

1967: **Operation POKER DICE.** SAC accomplished the beddown of B-52s at U-Tapao with the first 3 aircraft arriving during the day. Later in the day, the B-52s from U-Tapao flew their first bombing mission in the Vietnam War. Combat sorties averaged three hours in duration as compared to 12 hours for Guam-based aircraft. (16) (17)

1970: **PROJECT PACER BRAVO.** ATC shipped 872 trainers under this program to support an Improvement and Modernization Program for the Vietnamese Air Force. (16)

1972: B-52s resumed deep bombing raids into North Vietnam, halted since November 1967. (16) (26)

1973: First flight of the T-43A navigation trainer, or military version of Boeing's advanced 737-200 aircraft. (20)

Through 30 April, USAFE hosted the first overseas deployment of the new AWACS. (16)

1974: **Operation NIMBUS STAR.** USAFE C-130 Hercules aircraft, crews, and communicators supported this operation to sweep the Suez Canal free of mines and other obstacles to navigation. (16) (26)

1975: Rockwell's B-1 Lancer achieved supersonic speeds for the first time in a test flight near Edwards AFB. (3)

1994: **Operation DENY FLIGHT.** Two USAF F-16s attacked a Bosnian Serb command post at Gorazde following an attack on UN personnel. This attack was the first close air support mission in this operation and the first air-to-ground bombing in NATO history. (16)

Through 14 April, Air Mobility Command C-141s evacuated 242 American citizens and other foreigners from Rwanda while airlifting Belgian forces on 12 C-5 missions from Belgium to Kenya for possible military intervention in Rwanda. After an airplane carrying the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi crashed suspiciously, violence in Rwanda's capital, Kigali, erupted and claimed tens of thousands of lives. (18)

2007: A 167<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing crew (West Virginia ANG) flew the unit's first C-5 Galaxy operational mission, delivering two CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters and over 60 Marines to the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa at Djibouti. (32)

### 11 April

1911: The Army inaugurated its first permanent flying school at College Park with a request to build four hangars. (24) (18)

1918: The 1st Aero Squadron, I Corps Observation Group, equipped with bi-place Spads, made the first US observation patrol over enemy lines in World War I. (5)

1934: The Secretary of War convened the Baker Board to study the Army Air Corps, flying equipment, and training in peace and war.

1942: The Curtiss-Wright Company unveiled its first production C-46 Commando. After deliveries began two months later, the C-46 eventually became the largest and heaviest twin-engined aircraft used by the US AAF. Due to its load capacity and high-altitude performance, the US AAF primarily used it in the Pacific region and it became an important factor in the success of the "Hump" airlift over the Himalayas. (18)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1944: **MEDAL OF HONOR.** Lt Edward Michael received his medal after cannon shells riddled his B-17 Flying Fortress, wounding himself, the copilot, and most crewmen. As the crew left the plane, he noticed that the bombardier's parachute was badly damaged. Thus, he decided to try a crash landing. For 45 minutes, he evaded German fighters before taking the crippled plane down to 100 feet above the ground over France. Amazingly, the B-17 flew across the English Channel to a RAF base. With the wheels and flaps inoperable, and the bomb bay doors jammed open, the seriously wounded Michael still had enough strength left to skillfully bring the bomber in on its belly. (4)
- 1957: The Ryan X-13 Vertijet showed its ability to takeoff vertically, transition to conventional flight, and return to hovering for the first time. (3) (16)
- 1963: The X-15, with an Army KC-1 aerial survey camera, completed its first test in aerial mapping.  
A 6595th Aerospace Test Wing crew launched the first Minuteman I from Vandenberg AFB. (6)
- 1966: The Air Force defined the Minuteman III weapon system in a system management directive. (6)  
**MEDAL OF HONOR/AIR FORCE CROSS.** Near Cam My, South Vietnam, A1C William H. Pitsenbarger, a pararescueman, hoisted nine soldiers to safety aboard a HH-43 Huskie and then remained behind to treat the wounded amid heavy mortar and sniper fire. In the ensuing battle, he was mortally wounded. He became the first airman to receive the Air Force Cross posthumously. The Air Force later upgraded his award to the Medal of Honor. (18)
- 1969: A SAC missile crew, with help from AFSC technicians, launched the first Minuteman III missile from Vandenberg AFB. (12)
- 1970: **APOLLO XIII.** James A. Lovell, Fred W. Haise, Jr., and John L. Swigert were launched into space on this unlucky mission. First, Thomas Mattingly came down with German measles two days before the flight. Second, the Saturn V's five first stage engines shut down early after launch. Third, after 56 hours in space a service module oxygen tank ruptured and forced an early return to the earth. Nevertheless, the men returned safely in the Odyssey and splashed down in mid-Pacific southeast of American Samoa on 17 April. (8) (26)  
TAC gained its first ANG tactical airlift unit with the reorganization of the 146 TAW in the California ANG. (16) (26)  
USAF Southern Command personnel and aircraft began operations to assist thousands of flood victims in Costa Rica and Panama. (16) (26)
- 1973: **CAMBODIAN RICE LIFT – Project SCOOT (Support Cambodia Out of Thailand).** Through October, USAF C-130s flew 1,290 sorties from U-Tapao AB to deliver 3,314 tons of rice to Phnom Penh, and 7,055 tons of ammunition to Cambodian forces. They also airdropped another 39.7 tons of rice. (17)
- 1990: Vandenberg AFB launched the 19th consecutive Atlas booster. It carried an Air Force/Navy payload, called the Stacksat, with three small satellites and four atmospheric and geodetic experiments.  
A C-5 moved the first European-based GLCM scheduled for destruction under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. (16) (26)
- 2005: In the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility, a 175<sup>th</sup> Wing (Maryland ANG) aircrew made the first short-field, dirt airstrip landing with a C-130J at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan. The crew loaded a 25,000-pound fire truck and delivered it to an undisclosed location. They took off from a 4,000-foot strip at a high elevation weighing 137,000 pounds. (32)



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 12 April

- 1927: Clarence D. Chamberlin and Bert B. Acosta set a new American duration record of 51 hours 11 minutes 25 seconds in Miss Columbia, a Bellanca aircraft with a Wright J5 Whirlwind engine. They circled New York City. The flight prepared them for a nonstop flight attempt across the Atlantic. (24)
- 1930: The Army Air Corps set a world record for altitude combat formation flying at Mather Field. In this effort, Capt Hugh M. Elmendorf led 19 P-12s of the 95th Pursuit Squadron to 30,000 feet to break the previous 17,000-foot record. (24)
- 1942: Brig Gen Ralph Royce led three B-17s and 10 B-25s in an attack on Japanese shipping and installations in the Philippines. These planes, based at Darwin, Australia, staged at Mindanao in the Philippines and returned to complete a 4,000-mile round trip. (24)
- 1947: Through 15 April, Capt William P. Odom (pilot), T. Carroll Sallee (navigator) and Milton Reynolds (owner) flew the Reynolds Bombshell, a converted A-26, from La Guardia Field on a 20,000-mile around-the-world flight. They landed back at La Guardia after a 78-hour, 56-minute flight. Because they did not apply to the FAI before the flight, their effort was declared an unofficial record. (9) (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** To date, the heaviest concentration of B-29s against a single bridge encountered the largest and most determined enemy counter air effort, resulting in the war's largest jet air battle so far. In the battle, 46 B-29s with 100 escorting fighters attacking the Yalu River Bridge at Sinuiju encountered as many as 125 MiGs. The MiGs shot down three bombers and damaged seven others, while B-29 gunners destroyed seven MiGs. The F-86 pilots downed four more, by far the highest daily MiG tally thus far. Despite numerous direct hits, the bridge remained standing. (28)
- 1959: Through 19 April, the first World Congress of Flight, sponsored by the Air Force Association, met in Las Vegas. (24)
- 1960: **Operation BLUE NOSE.** A 4135 SW B-52G crew at Eglin AFB launched a Hound Dog missile at the end of a 20-hour, 30-minute flight to the North Pole and back. This test verified the ability of the B-52 and missile to operate in temperatures as low as 75 degrees below zero. (1)
- 1962: From Point Mugu, the US Army launched its first Nike-Zeus 3-stage anti-missile. (16) (24)
- 1965: SAC took the last Atlas F missiles from alert with the 551 SMS at Lincoln AFB to phaseout this weapon system. (6)
- 1966: SAC B-52s hit targets in North Vietnam for the first time, when they attacked a supply route in the Mu Gia Pass, 85 miles north of the border. (16) (26)
- Three C-141s from Travis AFB tested for the first time the use of C-141s for mass airdrops of troops and equipment in an exercise at Fort Bragg. (18)
- 1972: **FINAL TROPIC MOON MISSION.** The 13 BS flew Tropic Moon night B-57G combat missions from 15 September 1970 through 12 April 1972 at Ubon RTAFB. In May, its personnel and equipment moved to Forbes AFB, Ks. The 13th inactivated on 30 September 1973. (17)
- 1981: **SPACE SHUTTLE'S MAIDEN VOYAGE.** The Space Shuttle Columbia with Capt Robert Crippen (USN) and John Young on board launched on the first flight of a reusable spacecraft. On 14 April, they returned from space and landed at Rogers Dry Lake at Edwards AFB for the

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

first time. USAF space tracking and communications systems under ADC's and the Air Force Communications Command's (AFCC's) operational control supported this mission. (3) (12) (16)

- 1991: F-15 Eagle aircrews, stationed at Galena Airport, Alaska, intercepted their first Soviet AN-74 Coaler aircraft. (16)
- 1993: **Operation DENY FLIGHT.** NATO initiated sorties to protect zones in Bosnia from hostile aircraft. The USAF provided most of the resources for this operation. (16) (21)
- 1999: The ANG Director, Maj Gen Paul A. Weaver, Jr., activated a Crisis Action Team at Andrews AFB, Md., to handle ANG tanker issues related to Operation Allied Force in Bosnia. (32)

### 13 April

- 1913: At San Diego, Lt S. H. McLeary set a new Army altitude record of 8,400 feet in his Curtiss plane. (24)
- 1925: Henry Ford started airplane freight operations between Detroit, Mich., and Chicago. This was the first regularly scheduled commercial freight operation in the US. (24)
- 1944: Bombers assigned to the 3 AD traveled through heavy anti-aircraft fire to raid the Messerschmitt aircraft plant in Augsburg, Germany. (4)
- 1959: The USAF launched the Discoverer II satellite from Vandenberg AFB into a polar orbit. It ejected an information capsule. (24)
- 1960: Transit I-B, a Navy navigational satellite launched from Cape Canaveral on a Thor-Able-Star rocket, went into a 16-month orbit. The rocket achieved the first known restart in space. (24)
- 1962: Lt Cmdr Del W. Nordberg (USN) set a new rate-of-climb record when his F4H-1 Phantom II ascended from a standing start at Point Mugu to 98,425 feet in 371.43 seconds. (24)
- Capt Boyce B. Buckner (USA) set a world time-to-climb record by flying a YHU-ID Iroquois helicopter to 19,686 feet in 5 minutes 51 seconds. (24)
- 1971: The L-1011 Tri Star set several records: take off with its heaviest load of 404,000 pounds; climb to 30,000 feet; and cruising speed to date of 569 MPH for 6 hours 41 minutes. (3)
- 1972: Vandenberg AFB launched the last Minuteman II in Phase I operational tests. (6)
- 1973: USAFE accepted the responsibility to man and train the Iranian Air Force in F-4 Phantom operations. (26)
- 1979: To aid undernourished and starving people in Zaire, a C-141 delivered 20 tons of vegetable seeds for Kamina Base. (16) (26)
- 1992: A KC-135 delivered 22,000 pounds of fuel to C-17 test aircraft T-1 to demonstrate the new airlifter's ability to be refueled while airborne. (18)
- 1999: **Operation ALLIED FORCE.** US Army General Wesley Clark, the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, asked for 300 more U.S. aircraft in addition to the 82 aircraft he requested on 9 April. His request brought the total U.S. aircraft involved in the operation to 800. (32)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 14 April

- 1917: The Navy's first guided missile effort began when the Naval Consulting Board recommended a \$50,000 payment to test aerial torpedoes--automatically controlled airplanes or aerial machines carrying high explosives--to the Navy Secretary. (24)
- 1918: Lts Douglas Campbell and Alan F. Winslow, flying Nieuport 28s of the 94th Pursuit Squadron, shot down the first two enemy aircraft in a 10-minute battle over Toul Airdrome on the first day of U.S combat operations in World War I. (4) (20)
- 1936: Boris Sergievsky set a 24,950.712-foot world altitude record and a world record for amphibians with a payload of 500 kilograms (1,100 pounds) at Stratford using a Sikorsky S-43. (24)
- 1940: First Air Corps detachment assigned to an Alaskan station arrived at Fairbanks, Alaska. (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** The first AFRES wing ordered to active duty service, the 403d Troop Carrier Wing (Medium), arrived at Ashiya AB, Japan. An SA-16 from the 3 ARS, while under enemy small arms fire from the shoreline, rescued a U.S. naval aviator from the water. (28)
- 1960: The US Navy's first underwater launch of a Polaris missile, from a depth of 200 feet off San Clemente Island, achieved a surface ignition. (24)
- Through 16 June, TAC's first RB-66C quarterly rotation to Europe, called Swamp Fox, took place.
- 1962: Lt Col Leland F. Wilhelm (USA) set a world time-to-climb record by flying a YHU-ID Iroquois helicopter to 9,843 feet in 2 minutes 14.6 seconds. (24)
- 1966: The C-141A's first airdrops from an altitude below 1,200 feet were made at Fort Bragg. The aircraft made "jeep size" drops from 700 feet. (18)
- 1970: The Minuteman III deployment in North Dakota began when Minot's 91 SMW accepted its first missile. It arrived on board a C-141 in a flight from Hill AFB in the first airlift of an operational Minuteman III. (6) (16)
- 1972: **BATTLE OF AN LOC.** Through 30 June, C-130s airdropped 4,853 tons in 359 sorties to the besieged garrison at An Loc to prevent a North Vietnamese take over. The C-130s used high-altitude airdrops for the first time to resupply US forces. By the time the road routes to An Loc reopened on 23 July, the C-130s had flown 763 sorties to deliver 10,081 tons of supplies. B-52 attacks provided essential close air support to embattled troops in An Loc. (18)
- 1986: **Operation EL DORADO CANYON.** The US retaliated against Libya for its involvement in terrorism with an airstrike, using 24 F-111s from RAF Lakenheath, five EF-111s from RAF Upper Heyford and Navy aircraft from the USS America and USS Coral Sea (14 A-6Es, six A-7s and six F/A-18s). In the mission, the aircraft successfully hit targets at Benina Airfield, Benghazi Military Barracks, and Aziziyah Barracks in Tripoli. The USAF lost an F-111 in the attack. Air refueling support came from 28 KC-10 Extenders and KC-135 Stratotankers, flying out of RAF Fairford and RAF Mildenhall. The tankers refueled the F-111 strike force four times, maintaining radio silence during the entire mission. On the return flight to the UK, the tankers refueled the F-111s two more times. (16) (26)
- 1999: **Operation NORTHERN WATCH.** Through 15 April, New York's 107 AREFW deployed nearly 100 members and 4 KC-135Rs to Turkey for a month with this operation. They teamed up there with New Hampshire's 157 AREFW. (32)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2000: Through 15 April, the Global Hawk UAV set a new unofficial record for its weight class by completing a 31.5-hour endurance mission. The Compass Cope-R remotely piloted vehicle held the previous record of 28.2 hours for 26 years. (3)
- 2006: An AFFTC crew flew an F-22 *Raptor* at Edwards AFB for the first time with an AIM-120D Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile. The test determined the effects of noise and vibration on the missile while still under development. (3)

### 15 April

- 1912: The Signal Corps ordered its first tractor airplane from the Burgess Company and (Greeley) Curtiss. This airplane was also the first Signal Corps plane to have a cockpit. (24)
- 1916: De Lloyd Thompson flew his Day Biplane to launch a mock air raid on Washington DC to show his concern about Zeppelin raids on European cities. Cars and pedestrians below crowded on the streets to watch firework bombs explode in the night sky. (7)
- 1928: Through 21 April, British explorer George H. Wilkins and Lt Carl B. Eielson made the first eastward Arctic crossing in a ski-equipped Lockheed Vega monoplane. They flew 2,200 miles from Point Barrow to Green Harbor, Spitzbergen, in 20 hours 20 minutes. A storm enroute forced them to spend five days on the ground. (9) (24)
- 1941: Igor Sikorsky flew a Vought-Sikorsky in the first officially recorded rotor helicopter flight in the western hemisphere. He flew for 1 hour 5 minutes 14.5 seconds at Stratford. (24)
- 1943: A 4 FG P-47 Thunderbolt shot down an enemy aircraft. It was the P-47's first kill over Europe.
- 1945: The XP-82 Twin Mustang first flew.
- 1946: The US AAF changed an aircraft crew training facility at Muroc Field into a jet and rocket airplane research center. (3)
- 1952: Boeing pilot A. M. "Tex" Johnston flew the YB-52 prototype for the first time at Seattle. (12)
- 1957: The Air Force activated the 1<sup>st</sup> Missile Division at Los Angeles to plan and prepare for future operational missile units. It was assigned to the ARDC. (24)
- 1959: Flying a RF-101 Voodoo on a closed-circuit course at Edwards AFB, Capt George A. Edwards, Jr., set a new speed record of 816.279 MPH. (20) (24)
- 1960: The USAF launched the Discoverer XI into polar orbit from the Pacific Missile Range.
- 1965: NASA test-fired a 3,500-pound thrust engine designed to lift an Apollo Lunar Excursion Module (LEM) off the moon at White Sands Missile Range.
- The USAF shipped the last Titan I from the 725 SMS at Lowry AFB to storage facilities. (6)
- 1968: SAC opened a Replacement Training Unit at Castle AFB to cross-train B-52F through B-52H aircrews in B-52D conventional bombing operations. (1)
- 1969: North Korean MiGs shot down a US Navy EC-121 reconnaissance aircraft with 31 crewmen during its routine mission some 100 miles off the North Korean coast. Within seven minutes, Osan-based F-106s were in the air on combat air patrol, and in 30 minutes the USAF launched an HC-130 search aircraft from Tachikawa. On 20 April, the USAF ended the search and rescue effort, finding no survivors. Soviet naval forces aided the search operation. (17)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1972: The last F-100 Super Sabre left USAFE. (16)
- 1974: From 15 April to 9 May, the Air Force conducted a flyoff between the Fairchild A-10 and the LTV A-7D Corsair at McConnell AFB. The A-10 won. (12)
- 1979: An earthquake struck Yugoslavia, leaving more than 230 people dead, 350 injured, and 80,000 homeless. MAC airlifted 139 tons of supplies and equipment in 7 C-141s and 4 C-130 missions from Howard AFB; McGuire AFB and Camp Darby, Italy, to Titograd IAP, Yugoslavia. (2)
- 1996: Interservice undergraduate navigator training became full joint as Air Force student navigators and student naval flight officers combined at Randolph AFB into a single class with a single syllabus. Later in the month, Air Force and Navy electronic warfare officer training combined at NAS Pensacola and the Naval Technical Training Center at Corry Field, Fla. (26)

### 16 April

- 1912: First US licensed woman pilot, Harriet Quimby, flew the English Channel. (24)
- 1915: Lt Patrick N. L. Bellinger successfully catapulted the AB-2 Flying Boat from a barge at Pensacola. (24)
- 1916: The Lafayette Escadrille, a group of American pilots fighting with the French, established. (4)
- 1923: Through 17 April, Lts John A. Macready and Oakley G. Kelly flew a Fokker T-2 Transport to FAI records at Dayton. They stayed aloft for 36 hours 4 minutes and flew 2,516.58 miles. (9)
- 1926: The Department of Agriculture purchased its first cotton-dusting plane. (24)
- 1935: Through 17 April, the Pan American Clipper flew from Alameda, Calif., to Honolulu in 18 hours 37 minutes in the first test flight for Pan American Airways' transpacific commercial air service. (24)
- 1946: The US Army launched a V-2 rocket, the first in the US, at White Sands Proving Ground. (21)
- 1949: The YF-94 Starfire first flew.

**BERLIN AIRLIFT'S BIGGEST DAY.** Military aircraft delivered a record 12,940 tons of supplies to Berlin in 1,398 flights within 24 hours. (4) (24)

- 1951: SAC redesignated its RB-50Bs by missions: RB-50Es were used for photoreconnaissance, Fs for photomapping, and Gs for electronic reconnaissance. (1)

**KOREAN WAR.** Through 20 April, FEAF Bomber Command averaged 10 B-29 sorties a day against Pyongyang, Kangdong, Yonpo, and other North Korean airfields. (28)

A Snark research test vehicle completed its first sled launch at Holloman AFB. (6)

- 1956: Lockheed unveiled its F-104A Starfighter at Palmdale. General Otto P. Weyland observed, "This is much more than just another fighter, it is a significant and tremendous step forward in our progress in supersonic flight."
- 1959: A RAF crew launched its first Thor successfully from Vandenberg AFB. (6)
- 1969: The first Minuteman II operational test launch from Vandenberg AFB was unsuccessful. (6)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1972: Apollo XVI carried John W. Young, Charles M. Duke, Jr., and Thomas K. Mattingly II from the Kennedy Space Center on the fifth lunar landing mission. The lunar module "Orion" touched down in the moon's Descartes region on 20 April, lifted off on 24 April, rejoined the "Casper" command module, and landed in the Pacific on 27 April after an 11-day, 2-hour mission.
- 1973: USAF B-52s resumed bombing against North Vietnamese positions in Laos following reports that communist forces overran a town in the Plaine des Jarres. (16) (26)
- 1980: The Douglas Aircraft Company revealed the KC-10 Advanced Tanker/Cargo aircraft for the first time at its Long Beach facility. (12)
- 1997: The Test Pilot School's NT-33A in-flight simulator, the USAF's last T-33, flew to the USAF Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, for permanent display. (3)
- 2004: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Near Kharbut, Iraq, in near-zero visibility, two USAF HH-60G helicopters were dispatched to rescue a U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter that had crashed in a sandstorm. The brown-out conditions left the rescue crews' infrared and night vision goggles ineffective, making navigation extremely difficult and the rescue attempt much more dangerous. In executing the rescue mission, the crews also had to navigate through multiple surface-to-air missile attacks. In the end all five Army crash survivors were located, rescued and evacuated out of the combat zone unharmed. For that action, the crews earned the trophy. The rescue crews, from the 41 RS and 38 RS at Moody AFB, Ga., were: Capts. Bryan Creel and Robert Wrinkle, Aircraft commanders; Maj. Joseph Galletti and Capt. Greg Rockwood, Co-pilots; TSgts Michael Preston and SSgt Patrick Ledbetter, Flight engineers; MSgt Paul Silver and TSgt Thomas Ringheimer, Aerial gunners; and TSgt Matt Leigh and SSgts Vincent J. Eckert, John Griffin and Michael Rubio and SrA Edward Ha, Pararescuemen. (Pentagon Press Release No. 011205, Airmen to Receive Mackay Trophy for Heroics, 2 Dec 05)
- 2005: The first U-2S upgraded through the Reconnaissance Avionics Maintainability Program (RAMP) returned to the 9 RW at Beale AFB. The RAMP upgrade replaced the original cockpit with new equipment including three 6-by-8 inch multifunction displays, an up-front control and display unit, and an independent secondary flight display system. Lockheed-Martin received the contract to modify the entire fleet of 31 U-2S aircraft and 4 U-2 trainers by 2007. (ACC News Release, "First Upgraded U-2 Arrives at Beale AFB," 29 April 2005)

### 17 April

- 1923: Lt Rutledge Irvine flew a Douglas DT with a Liberty engine to a world altitude record for class C airplanes with a load of 1,000 kilograms by reaching 11,609 feet over McCook Field. (5)
- 1923: Lt Harold R. Harris set a world speed record of 114.35 MPH for 1,500 kilometers (930 miles) in a DH-4L Liberty 375 at Dayton. He also set a speed record of 114.22 MPH for 2,000 kilometers in this flight. (24)
- 1943: Eighth Air Force made its first 100-plane attack on a single target at Bremen, Germany. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR/Operation MiG.** An intelligence operation behind enemy lines resulted in the recovery of vital components of a crashed MiG-15. A YH-19 helicopter flew a U.S. and South Korean team to the crash area south of Sinanju, N. Korea. Under friendly fighter cover, the party extracted MiG components and samples and obtained photographs. On the return flight southward the helicopter came under enemy ground fire and received one hit. The successful mission led to greater technical knowledge of the MiG. (28)
- 1954: The US Army announced that it was delivering the Corporal guided rocket and the Honest John

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ballistic rocket to troops for ground fighting. (16) (24)

- 1961: The USAF Cambridge Research Center launched a constant-altitude balloon from Vernalis, Calif. It stayed at 70,000 feet for 9 days with a 40-pound payload. (16) (24)
- 1962: Maj David W. Crow flew a MATS C-135B to 47,171 feet to set new weight/altitude records for payloads of 33,069, 44,092, 55,115, and 66,138 pounds. (24)
- 1964: Mrs. Jerrie Mock became the first woman to fly solo around the world when she landed her Cessna 180 Spirit of Columbus at Columbus after a 29-day, 11-hour, 59-minute flight. She made 21 stops in flying 23,206 miles and became the first woman to fly across both the Atlantic and Pacific. (9)
- 1967: The Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird set a record for the longest Mach 3 flight in history.  
  
The Airborne Launch Control System (ALCS) successfully launched a Minuteman II on its first attempt from Vandenberg AFB. (1)(6)  
  
At Bien Hoa AB, Vietnam, PACAF's 19 FS (Commando) transferred its F-5s to the Vietnamese Air Force's 522 FS. (17)
- 1969: After being dropped by a B-52, test pilot Maj Jerauld R. Gentry completed the X-24 Lifting Body's first free-flight over Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1970: SAC emplaced its first Minuteman III into a 91 SMW silo at Minot AFB. (6)
- 1988: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Through 23 July, improved relations between the Soviet Union and the US led to joint verification experiments to monitor nuclear testing. Refueled by KC-10s, C-5s carried test equipment and scientists from the US to Semipalatinsk in Kazakhstan. To complete the first mission to Semipalatinsk, Capt Michael Eastman and fellow crewmembers (Maj John L. Cirafici, Capt James Runk and Kelly Scott; SMSgt Arthur Vogt; MSgts Robert Downs, Charles Finnegan, James Maurer, and William Tobler; TSgts William Nunn Jr.; SSgt Timothy Hahn; and Sgts Andrew Benucci, Jr. and Thomas Siler) had to overcome a void of information and numerous obstacles. For that effort, they received the Mackay Trophy for 1988. (18)
- 1989: Lockheed delivered the 50th and last C-5B Galaxy transport to the USAF. (16)  
  
Through 18 April, Lockheed test pilots Jerry Hoyt and Ron Williams set 16 time-to-climb and altitude records in a NASA U-2C at the Dryden Flight Research Facility at Edwards AFB. After the flight, the aircraft retired to a museum. (20)
- 1996: **Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY.** The operation in Haiti officially came to an end. The US only lost one soldier to hostile fire in the 18-month operation in which US military forces dismantled a military dictatorship. (26)
- 1998: The USAF accepted the first of two C-38A Courier aircraft. Two ANG pilots from the 201 AS flew the aircraft from St. Louis to Andrews AFB to replace the older C-21. (32)  
  
The 20 SOS at Hurlburt Field, Fla., received the Air Force's first production-modified MH-53J Pave Low III helicopter from Lockheed Martin. (AFNEWS Article 980545, 25 April)
- 1999: **Operation ALLIED FORCE.** The USAF sent the RQ-1 Predator on its first flights into a combat zone to perform reconnaissance over Serbia. (21)
- 2000: Through 20 April, a 437 AW C-17 from Charleston AFB airlifted Polish soldiers and equipment from Strachowice AB in southwestern Poland to Mitrovica, Kosovo, to augment NATO

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peacekeeping forces in the Yugoslav province. In four days, Air Mobility Command moved 130 Polish troops and 205,000 pounds of equipment. A single C-17 Globemaster III, flown by several aircrews, performed the shuttle missions between Ramstein AB, Strachowice, and Mitrovica. (22)

### 18 April

- 1910: Walter Brookins, a Wright pilot, made night flights at Montgomery. (24)
- 1911: At the Wright School in Dayton, Lt John Rodgers (USN) soloed. He thus became Naval Aviator No. 2. (24)
- 1942: **KEY EVENT--MEDAL OF HONOR.** From the carrier USS Hornet, located 668 miles off Tokyo, Lt Col James H. Doolittle led 16 B-25s in the first raid on Japan. The range of the mission caused the raiders to crash land in China. The attack caused little damage; however, the mission raised U.S. morale and reversed a trend of Japanese victories. Doolittle later received the Medal of Honor for leading the mission. (18) (24)
- 1943: 1Lt Rex T. Barber and Capt Thomas G. Lanphier, Jr., two P-38 pilots from Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, intercepted and shot down two Mitsubishi "Betty" bombers near Bougainville. Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, who planned the Pearl Harbor attack, died in the aerial attack. (20)
- 1950: The Air Force announced that it would buy 1,250 aircraft for \$1.2 billion from FY1950 funds, including \$302 million for 82 Boeing B-47B Stratojets. (8: Apr 90)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** H-5 helicopters from the 3 ARS evacuated 20 critically wounded U.S. soldiers from front line aid stations to the nearest field hospital. Five of the ten sorties encountered enemy fire. (28)  
  
An Aerobee research rocket launched from Holloman AFB, N. Mex., with a monkey onboard in a space biology experiment. It was the first primate in space. (16) (24) (26)
- 1958: Lt Cmdr George C. Watkins (USN) flew a Grumman F11-1F at Edwards AFB to a world altitude record of 76,932 feet. (9)
- 1962: A MATS C-135B set weight-speed records for payloads of 11,023, 22,046, 33,069, 44,092, 55,115, and 66,138 pounds, flying over a 770-kilometer (1,240 miles) closed course at 615.59 MPH. (24)  
  
At Lowry AFB, SAC accepted nine missiles for the first Titan I squadron, the 724 SMS. These were the first operational missiles in hardened underground silos. (6)  
  
A Turkish combat crew successfully launched a Jupiter IRBM from Cape Canaveral on their first attempt. (6)
- 1963: Northrop's X-21A Laminar Flow Control test aircraft made its first flight from Hawthorne to Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1975: Following SECDEF James R. Schlesinger's July 1974 orders to transfer 128 KC-135s to the Air Reserve Forces, SAC transferred the first KC-135 (No. 57-1507) from the 301 AREFS to the 160 AREFG. Both units operated at Rickenbacker AFB, Ohio. The transfer heralded reserve and guard support for SAC alert operations. (1)
- 1983: Moslem fanatics conducted a suicide attack against the American Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon.



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USAFE units and aircraft were sent to assist. (4)

- 1986: A Titan 34D booster with a classified satellite on board exploded after liftoff at Vandenberg AFB. This accident, and the 28 January 1986 Space Shuttle disaster, marked a serious setback in the US space program and deployment of satellites. (26)
- 1988: Through 19 April, tankers refueled US Navy aircraft attacking Iranian offshore oil platforms and warships in the Persian Gulf. The Reagan Administration initiated the two-day campaign as a measured military response to Iran's provocative mining of international waters. Earlier on 14 April, 10 sailors were injured when a US Navy frigate hit an underwater mine. (18)
- 1991: In a launch from Vandenberg AFB, the Martin-Marietta and Boeing MGM-134A Small ICBM completed its first test in a 4,000-mile flight to the Kwajalein Missile Range in the Pacific. (16) (26)
- 1992: C-141 Starlifters began airlifting humanitarian relief supplies to Sarajevo, the capital of the new Bosnia-Herzegovina Republic. (16)
- 1996: C-17 Globemaster III aircraft airlifted tow MH-52J Pave Low special operations helicopters from Sierra Leone, Africa, to England, thus saving time, refuelings, and fuel. (26)
- 1997: Through 8 August, Grand Forks AFB opened its doors to 3,500 homeless flood victims after a heavy melt of winter snow broke through dikes in North Dakota's Red River Valley. By the time the emergency ended in early August, Air Mobility Command had flown 13 missions to Grand Forks to airlift 146 tons of cargo and 143 passengers to support the flood relief operation. (22)
- 2002: The MC2A-X, an experimental electronic communications and command and control aircraft, made its first flight at Hanscom AFB. The UAV received the name "Paul Revere" to commemorate Revere's famous ride 227 years ago. (21)
- 2003: A B-2A successfully released a guided EGBU-28 for the first time at the Utah Test and Training Range. The weapon scored a direct hit on the target. (3)
- 2005: Under SECDEF for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Michael W. Wynne, approved the full rate production capability of the F/A-22. (Aimpoints, "F/A-22 Raptor approved for full production," 27 April 2005)

### **19 April**

- 1919: Leslie Leroy Irvin made the first successful parachute jump from an airplane.
- Capt E. F. White and mechanic H. M. Schaefer flew a DH-4 with a Liberty 400 HP engine for 738.6 miles in 6 hours 50 minutes to set an American distance record in nonstop flight between Chicago and New York. (24)
- 1932: A Goddard rocket with gyroscopically-controlled vanes for automatically stabilized flight flew for the first time in New Mexico. (4)
- 1935: Amelia Earhart flew from Burbank to Mexico City with one stop. She completed the trip in 13 hours 32 minutes. (24)
- 1937: New York City dispatched the first letter to encircle the world by commercial airmail. It went to San Francisco, Hong Kong, Penang, Amsterdam, and Brazil before returning to New York on 25 May 1937. (24)

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- 1938: Lewin B. Barringer set a US glider record of 212.45 miles from Wichita Falls, Tex., to Tulsa.
- 1941: The Naval Aircraft Factory started work on a Glomb (glider bomb) with a television camera aboard to transmit a view of the target to control planes. Plans called for the Glomb to be towed long distances by powered aircraft for release and guidance to the target by radio control.
- 1946: Lt R.A. Baird III flew a P-80 to a 494,973-MPH speed record for 100 kilometers.
- Consolidated Vultee (Convair) Aircraft Corporation received a contract to study subsonic and supersonic missiles with a 1,500- to 5,000-mile range. This program led to the development of the Atlas missile. (6)
- 1956: After years of controversy, the DoD concluded that the Army would conduct the aviation training needed to support existing Army activities.
- 1957: Cape Canaveral successfully launched a Douglas-built Thor IRBM (SM-75). (16) (24)
- 1961: In the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, the Alabama ANG lost four B-26 crewmembers—Riley Shamburger, Wade C. Gray, Pete W. Ray, and Leo F. Baker—in a special operations mission. (21)
- 1967: From the Air Force Western Test Range, an Atlas booster lifted a Precision Recovery Including Maneuvering Entry (PRIME) unmanned spacecraft into space, where it demonstrated maneuvering, lifting, reentry, and aerial recovery techniques. (16)
- 355 TFW F-105s shot down four MiG-17s during strikes against the Xuan Mai army barracks southwest of Hanoi. (17)
- MEDAL OF HONOR.** Maj Leo K. Thorsness earned his medal by protecting a mission to rescue downed airmen in North Vietnam. While flying an F-105 with low fuel, Thorsness shot down one MiG-17, damaged another, and drove off three more. Despite an urgent need for fuel, Thorsness decided to recover at a forward operating base to allow another aircraft in an emergency condition to refuel from a tanker. Enemy forces, however, shot him down, captured him, and held him as a prisoner of war until 4 March 1973. (21)
- 1975: **Operation FREQUENT WIND.** Through 24 April, to support the extraction of Americans, South Vietnamese and other nationals from Saigon, MAC deployed the 18 TFW from Kadena AB to Korat AB, Thailand; airlifted 951 troops and 269 tons of cargo from Kaneoke, Hawaii, to Kadena AB; and airlifted two passengers and 12 tons from Osan AB to Korat. The command operated a total of 17 C-141, 1 C-5, and 3 commercial missions. (18)
- 1976: SECDEF Donald H. Rumsfeld flew in the B-1. This was the first time a SECDEF had flown in a test aircraft. (3)
- 1979: Through 20 April, MAC used 7 C-141 and 4 C-130 missions to deliver 139 tons of supplies and equipment to Titograd IAP after a major earthquake rocked the southern Adriatic coast of Yugoslavia and Albania. (16)
- 1984: The USAF held ground-breaking ceremonies for Site III of the phased array, sea-launched ballistic warning system, Pave Paws, at Robins AFB.
- 1993: Through 24 April, units in Alaska participated in the USAF's first combined exercise with the Russian Air Force. It featured a search-and-rescue effort in Siberia. (21)
- 1995: **OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING.** A powerful car bomb leveled a federal building in Okla-

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homa City, killing 169 and wounding 400 people. The USAF airlifted firefighters, search and rescue teams, investigators, and medical personnel to Oklahoma. Units at Tinker AFB provided supplies, equipment, and bomb-sniffing dogs. Through 4 May, Air Mobility Command aircraft flew 25 missions to move 1,359 passengers and 3,864 tons of cargo. (16) (18)

- 1999: The AFFTC performed a unique flight test for Operation ALLIED FORCE by having a B-52 drop emergency food supplies from a high altitude with reasonable precision. The successful test resulted in considerable humanitarian assistance to refugees. (3)
- 2003: A McChord AFB C-17 Globemaster III, flown by a crew assigned to the 315 AW (Reserve-Associate) at Charleston AFB returned seven former US Army prisoners of war to the US, one week after their rescue in Iraq. The C-17 flew five men and women from the 507th Maintenance Company to Fort Bliss, Tex., and two Apache helicopter crewmen from the First Cavalry Division to Fort Hood, Tex. A KC-135 and crew from the 157 AREFW at Pease ANGB, N. H., refueled the C-17 on its trip from Ramstein AFB to the US. (22)

### 20 April

- 1912: The Secretary of War published the conditions of the Military Aviator Test in a report to the House of Representatives. (24)
- 1916: Sgt Maj Elliot Cowdin became the first American pilot to receive the French Medaille Militaire. (24)
- 1917: The Navy's DN-1 airship made its first flight at Pensacola. It was accepted on 16 May, but after three flights it was grounded and never flew again. (24)
- 1923: Maj Henry "Hap" Arnold led a group of Army Corps airmen from Rockwell Field to prove the possibility of inflight refueling. Arnold and his men ran a hose between two DeHavilland DH-4Bs for the first inflight hose contact. Although no fuel transferred during the 40-minute test at San Diego, California, the modified tankers demonstrated the feasibility of gravity-flow air refueling. (4) (18)
- 1942: The carrier USS Wasp entered the Mediterranean and launched 47 RAF Spitfires to Malta. (24)
- 1943: Staging from Funafuti in Ellice Islands, Seventh Air Force B-24s attacked Tarawa for the first time. (24)
- 1951: Mrs. Ana Louisa Branger, piloting a Piper Super Cub, set an international altitude record of 27,152 feet in a Class C-1a aircraft (planes of less than 1,103 pounds) at Alexandria. (24)
- 1959: The Navy's prototype UGM-27A Polaris missile successfully flew a 500-mile course. (16) (24)
- 1962: The first Titan Is placed on alert to make the 724 SMS operational at Lowry AFB. (6)
- 1965: Phase out of all first-generation ICBMs completed with the shipment of the last Atlas to storage. Later, on 25 June SAC inactivated three Atlas E, six Atlas F, and six Titan I squadrons. (1) (6)
- 1966: President Dwight D. Eisenhower's aircraft, a VC-121 Super Constellation named *Columbine III*, was retired and flown from Andrews AFB to Wright-Patterson AFB. The aircraft went into service with MAC's 89 MAW in August 1954. (18)
- 1966: Vandenberg AFB launched its last Titan II operational test vehicle. (6)
- 1972: Apollo XVI: Astronauts John W. Young and Charles M. Duke set a record for the greatest mass

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landed on the moon. The Lunar Module Orion and the two men weighed 18,208 pounds. When the Orion left on 23 April, the two men set another record for the greatest mass (10,949 pounds) lifted into lunar orbit. (9)

- 1982: The crew for the movie “The Right Stuff” arrived at Edwards AFB to shoot the film. (3)
- 1985: B-52 crews completed initial training for Harpoon anti-ship missile operations. (16) (26)
- 1996: The Idaho ANG’s 124th Fighter Wing flew the F-4G Wild Weasel’s last operational flight from Gowen Field in Boise, Idaho, to the Aircraft Maintenance and Regeneration Center at Davis-Monthan AFB. (<http://www.boeing.com/defense-space/military/f4/last.htm>)
- 2007: A Russian Volga-Dnepr AN-124 touched down at Moffett Air Field, Calif., to deploy the 129th Rescue Wing (California Air National Guard), their HH-60G Pave Hawk Rescue Helicopters, and support equipment to Afghanistan. The Air Force contracted the AN-124 for the deployment, because the high operations tempo from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom prevented the use of C-17 Globemaster IIIs and C-5 Galaxys for the deployment. (AFNEWS, “Russian Aircraft Transports ANG Rescue Helicopters,” 24 Apr 2007.)

**Exercise SNIPER LANCE 2007.** More than 200 airmen from US Air Forces in Europe bases arrived Mihail Kogalniceanu, Romania, to participate in this exercise. Sniper Lance provided realistic combat flight training for USAF F-15 Eagles, KC-135 Stratotankers and Romanian Air Force MiG-21s based out of the 86th Air Base near the town of Fetesti. (AFNEWS, “USAFE Airmen Kick Off Sniper Lance 2007,” 20 Apr 2007); and (AFNEWS, “Air Force Gains Larger Presence in Romania,” 9 May 2007.)

### 21 April

- 1911: Lts Thomas DeWitt Milling and Henry H. Arnold received orders to Dayton for flight instruction at the Wright School. (4)
- 1913: Mr. Boise Penrose of Pennsylvania proposed the first aircraft registration and license bill in the Senate (S.1295). (24)
- 1933: The Navy’s dirigible Macon made its maiden flight. (24)
- 1948: **KEY WEST AGREEMENT.** The SECDEF issued a memo to his Secretaries, with a paper defining the functions of the services and the JCS, based on the National Security Act. It was the first functions paper drawn up after the act. The Air Force received responsibility for the air defense of America. (20)
- 1950: Lt Cmdr R. C. Starkey took off from the USS Coral Sea in a P2V-3C Neptune bomber with a gross weight of 74,688 pounds. This was the heaviest aircraft launched from a carrier to date. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** An SA-16 from the 3 ARS tried to pick up a downed enemy YAK pilot near Chinnampo for intelligence purposes. The aircrew landed and put out a raft but had to take off because of intense enemy fire, leaving the YAK pilot behind. (28)
- 1952: In aerial combat, Capt. Robert J. Love, 335 FIS, destroyed two MiGs to become an ace. (28)
- 1953: **Operation LITTLE SWITCH.** Through 15 May, the USAF airlifted more than 150 sick and wounded former prisoners of war from Korea to Japan and from Japan to the US. (21)
- 1960: The USAF retrieved the instrument capsule from a Titan that had flown 5,000 miles. (24)

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- 1961: Maj Robert White set a speed record in the X-15's first full-throttle flight. At 79,000 feet, he attained 3,074 MPH before coasting upward to 105,100 feet. (9) (24)
- 1964: The numbers of ICBMs and bombers on alert in SAC were equal. Hereafter, the ICBM became the dominant alert force. (1)
- 1967: SAC declared its 20th Minuteman squadron, the 564 SMS at Malmstrom AFB, to be operational. When the squadron's last Minuteman IIs went on alert in May, the deployment of a 1,000-missile Minuteman force ended. (1) (6)
- 1969: SECAF Robert C. Seamans, Jr., and NASA Administrator Thomas O. Paine signed an agreement to establish a joint civilian-military manned space station. (16)
- 1972: The F-111 Joint Test Force at Edwards AFB flew an F-111A on its longest flight to date—5,400 nautical miles in 12 hours.
- 1975: Lt Col Fred C. Hartstein of the 1st Combat Evaluation Group at Barksdale AFB flew a operational KC-135 from March AFB to refuel Rockwell's B-1 Lancer for the first time. (1)
- 1995: Geraldine P. May, first director for Women in the Air Force (WAF), celebrated her 100th birthday at her residence in Menlo Park, Calif. May, who was born in Albany, N.Y., entered the Women's Army Corps in 1942. She became WAF director on 16 June 1948, and held the position for nearly three years before leaving the service in the early-1950s. (AFNEWS, 21 Apr 95)
- 2003: The last of 546 AMC KC-135 tankers completed the final PACER CRAG modification. Eight program depot maintenance facilities ran 25 production lines to install PACER CRAG upgrades. It took approximately 4,150 man-hours to modify each aircraft. (22)
- 2005: While offloading 84,000 pounds of JP-8 fuel to three aircraft over Iraq, a KC-135R Stratotanker from the 92 AREFW at Fairchild AFB achieved a historic milestone while assigned to the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron. The tankers exceeded one billion pounds of fuel offloaded in the US Central Command's theater since 30 January 2003. (22)

### 22 April

- 1908: Capt Charles DeForest Chandler took Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., the President's son, and Capt Fitzhugh Lee, the President's military aide, on a 4-hour, 30-minute balloon ascent. They landed at Delaware City, Del. (24)
- 1938: Eddie Rickenbacker, the World War I ace, bought Eastern Airlines from North American Aviation for \$3.5 million. (20)
- 1943: Lt John S. Stewart, 76 FS, and Lt Chin Hao, Chinese Air Force, flew a reconnaissance mission over Lashio, Burma. This flight was one of the first missions involving both Chinese and American personnel. (24)
- 1946: Glenn L. Martin Company received a contract to build project MX-771, a surface-to-surface missile that became the Matador. (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Due to shortages of fighter-bombers, Fifth Air Force assigned a new task to F-86 Sabres from the 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Interceptor Wing and 51<sup>st</sup> Fighter-Interceptor Wing, the armed reconnaissance of enemy lines of communication. (28)
- 1958: The USAF and DoD agreed to establish an IRBM force with nine Thor squadrons and three

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- Jupiter squadrons. (6)
- 1960: The RAF accepted its fourth and final Thor squadron to end the deployment program. (6)
- The first attempted Atlas D launch from a Vandenberg AFB coffin-launcher was a success. (6)
- SAC transferred its last RB-47 (C-model number 53-3839) from the 4080 SW at Laughlin AFB to Headquarters Command, Bolling AFB. (1)
- 1961: An Italian combat training crew successfully launched a Jupiter missile on its first attempt from Cape Canaveral. (6)
- 1962: Jacqueline Cochran claimed 49 world records for her 5,120-mile, three-stop flight in a Lockheed Jet-Star from New Orleans to Hanover, Germany, via Gander, Newfoundland and Shannon, Ireland. (24)
- 1964: The USAF accepted its first production RF-4C.
- 1968: Representatives of 43 nations signed the unanimous space rescue treaty of 19 December 1967 at ceremonies in Washington DC, London, and Moscow.
- 1980: 33 ARRS Detachments at Clark AB and Kadena AB assisted in the rescue of 900 passengers from a ferry that sank about 150 miles south of Manila. (16) (26)
- 1981: The 81 TFW set an USAF record by generating 533 sorties in a single day. (4)
- 2001: Through 23 April, Global Hawk No. 5 completed a record trans-Pacific flight from Edwards AFB to the Royal Australian AFB at Edinburgh, Australia, in 23 hours and 23 minutes. AV-5, renamed "*Southern Cross II*" to honor the first manned trans-Pacific flight in 1928 by Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith, was the first UAV to cross the Pacific. (3) (21)
- 2004: A 92 AREFW KC-135R from Fairchild AFB, assigned to the 340th Expeditionary AREFS, flew the first combat mission with an operational Global Air Traffic Management (GATM) system. The GATM incorporated a series of air traffic system upgrades to enable the safe operation of commercial and military aircraft in congested airspace. The system also enhanced aircrew situational awareness and communications. Captain Earl Ardales commanded the aircraft on the mission. (22)
- 2005: AFFTC at Edwards AFB completed the first-ever five-bundle sequential Low Velocity Airdrop from a C-130J. The cargo bundles landed 1,000 feet apart on the Precision Impact Range Area, only five yards off the planned point of impact. (3)

### **23 April**

- 1912: Lt Col Charles B. Winder, Ohio National Guard, became the first Army-trained Guardsman to qualify as a pilot (FAI pilot certificate No. 130). (24)
- 1915: Over Pensacola Bay, Lt Patrick N. L. Bellinger set an American altitude record of 10,000 feet for seaplanes in a Burgess-Dunne AH-10. (24)
- The NACA held its first meeting in Secretary of War Lindley M. Garrison's office. Brig Gen George P. Scriven, Chief Signal Officer, elected temporary chairman.
- 1919: Under Special Order 95, Brig Gen William "Billy" Mitchell, Lt Col Lewis H. Brereton, Lt Col John W. Reynolds, Maj Melvin A. Hall, Maj Carl A. Spaatz, and Capt Reed M. Chambers were

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rated Military Aviators for distinguished service in World War I with 75 percent flying pay. (24)

- 1924: Ward T. Van Orman won the National Balloon Race at San Antonio. He landed at Rochester, Minn., after covering 1,725.22 kilometers, or 1,070 miles. (24)
- 1945: In Consolidated PB4Y-2 Privateers, Patrol Bombing Squadron 109 launched two Bat missiles against enemy shipping in Balikpapan Harbor, Borneo. This was the first combat employment of the only automatic homing missile used in World War II. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Far East Air Forces flew some 340 close air support sorties, one of the highest daily totals prior to 1953. The 336 FIS began operating from Suwon AB, S. Korea, so that its F-86s could operate for longer periods in MiG Alley near the Yalu River. Through 26 April, Far East Air Forces flew over 1,000 combat sorties daily, inflicting enemy casualties and destroying supplies needed to sustain the offensive. (28)
- 1956: The Douglas C-133 Globemaster first flown. (3) (12)
- 1958: From Cape Canaveral, a Thor-Vanguard reentry vehicle carried a mouse to obtain data on how space flight affected animals.
- 1959: A B-52 fired the first North American GAM-77 Hound Dog missile at Eglin AFB. The supersonic air-launched missile was designed to deliver a nuclear warhead to a target several hundred miles away. (6) (12)  
  
Launched from Cape Canaveral, a Thor missile struck a target area over 1,500 miles away. (24)
- 1962: NASA's Ranger IV, a lunar satellite, failed to achieve its planned parking orbit around the moon. NASA believed the satellite crashed on the moon's dark side on 26 April. (24)
- 1964: The DoD renamed the A-11 as the YF-12A, a fighter-interceptor that did not enter the USAF inventory. The USAF later accepted a reconnaissance variant, the SR-71 Blackbird. (4)
- 1965: The 1501 ATW at Travis AFB received the first operational C-141 Starlifter (63-8075). (12)
- 1970: A C-130 dropped 16 million leaflets over North Korea in the first FOCUS TRUTH mission since November 1968. These PACAF missions depended on rare southeast winds to ensure the proper distribution of leaflets. (17)
- 1979: The first B-52G modified for the ALCM program arrived for testing at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1980: **CLOUD CHORUS.** Through 24 April, PACAF E-3A AWACS aircraft participated in this NATO exercise for the first time. The exercise occurred at Ramstein AB. (16)
- 1981: The 416 BMW, Griffiss AFB, received SAC's first operational ALCM. (6)
- 1991: SECAF Donald B. Rice announced the winner of the Advanced Tactical Fighter competition. He selected the Lockheed/Boeing/General Dynamics F-22 with the Pratt and Whitney F-119 engine. (20)
- 1998: A test team from Edwards AFB successfully dropped the first Wind Corrected Munitions Dispenser Sensor-Fused Weapon from a B-52. (3)

### 24 April

- 1909: The first aerial motion picture was shot while Wilbur Wright flew his Wright Biplane over Cen-

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tocele, Italy. (20)

1929: Flying a Bellanca CH monoplane, Miss Elinor Smith, a 17-year-old, set a women's solo duration record of 26 hours 21 minutes 32 seconds at Roosevelt, Long Island. (20) (24)

1943: First class of women pilots graduated from US AAF flight training.

1945: **MEDAL OF HONOR.** In his fighter-bomber, Lt Raymond L. Knight of Twelfth Air Force flew several low-level strafing missions in Italy's northern Po Valley. He destroyed 14 enemy aircraft and wrecked 10 others on the ground. In his final attack, Knight's plane was damaged so badly it was virtually inoperable. Realizing his unit's critical need for aircraft, he tried to return to base. He crashed and died in the Apennines Mountains. Knight earned the medal for his actions and sacrifice. (4)

1946: At Philadelphia, Winged Cargo Incorporated inaugurated the first glider commercial freight service. The company employed a DC-3 towing a Waco glider and made Miami its first stop. Other stops included Havana, Cuba, and San Juan, Puerto Rico. (24)

1951: **KOREAN WAR.** On separate pickups, a 3 ARS H-5 helicopter rescued the pilot first, then the navigator of a downed B-26 near Chorwon, about 15 miles north of the 38th parallel. The navigator, suffering a broken leg, had been captured by two enemy soldiers, but he managed to seize a gun from one enemy soldier, causing them to run for cover. Friendly fighters kept them pinned down, while the helicopter made the pickup. (28)

1958: The USAF increased the Atlas force to nine squadrons. (6)

1962: The USAF used an orbiting satellite for the first time to transmit TV photographs from Camp Parks, Calif., to Westford, Mass. (4)

1967: **AIRFIELD STRIKE.** Eight F-105s attacked Hoa Lac Airfield, a North Vietnam MiG base. This first authorized attack against an occupied North Vietnamese air base under the restrictions imposed on US air power destroyed approximately 14 MiGs on the ground. (17)

1975: **FIRST WOMEN IN MISSILE COMPETITIONS.** Through 2 May, the first female technicians actively participated in SAC's eighth missile competition. A1C Jeanine A. Sousley competed with the 308 SMW's reentry vehicle maintenance team, while Sgt Jo A. Williamson competed with the 321 SMW's electronic laboratory maintenance team. The 381 SMW from McConnell AFB won the Blanchard Trophy. (1) (6)

1980: **Operation EVENING LIGHT/EAGLE CLAW.** An attempt to rescue American hostages in Iran failed after mechanical difficulties caused some Navy RH-53 helicopter crews to turn back. An RH-53 and an Air Force HC-130 also crashed together in a sandstorm, killing eight servicemen. (21)

1990: The USAF accepted its first British Aerospace C-29A Combat Flight Inspection Aircraft from LTV's Sierra Research Division at the Company's plant at Buffalo, N.Y. The C-29 would help the USAF inspect and calibrate its air traffic control and landing facilities, replacing CT-39s and C-140s used for that mission. (8: Jul 90)

Boeing's Condor, an unmanned autonomous aircraft, completed eight test flights as part of a high altitude, long-endurance technology effort under the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). The aircraft had a wing span larger than the Boeing 747. (8: Jul 90)

**HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE.** On the 35<sup>th</sup> Space Shuttle flight, the Discovery lifted off with a crew of five. Astronaut Steven Hawley released the telescope the next day. (20)



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1992: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Two Peruvian fighters attacked and heavily damaged an USAF C-130 Hercules in international airspace. Captain Pete B. Eunice, a 310 MAS pilot, still managed a safe landing. For that effort, the C-130 crew earned the 1992 Mackay Trophy. (16) (18)

### 25 April

1914: **FIRST SORTIE AGAINST ANOTHER COUNTRY.** The USS Mississippi's aviation unit completed its first flight near Vera Cruz, Mexico, when Lt (JG) Patrick N. L. Bellinger flew the Curtiss AB-3 Flying Boat from the battleship to observe the city and harbor. (20)

1922: Eddie Stinson flew Stout Engineering Laboratory's twin-engine ST-1, the Navy's first all-metal plane, on its first flight. Although the ST-1 had inadequate longitudinal stability, it marked a step forward in the development of all-metal planes. (24)

1940: The Navy commissioned the carrier USS Wasp. (24)

1944: Seventh Air Force B-24s made the first land plane attack on Guam from Eniwetok, while Navy PBVs flew photo reconnaissance missions. (24)

Flying a Sikorsky YR-4 helicopter, Lt Carter Harman, 1<sup>st</sup> Air Commando Group, rescued four men from the jungle in Burma. That rescue was the first combat rescue by helicopter in the US AAF. (21)

1945: Eighth Air Force made its last attack on an industrial target in World War II, when 274 bombers dropped 500 tons of bombs on Skoda Works at Plyn, Czechoslovakia. (4) (24)

1953: Col Joseph J. Preston, 91 SRW Commander, flew the first RB-47 (# 51-2194) to Lockbourne AFB, Ohio. (1)

1956: The X-2 completed its first supersonic flight.

1966: The first Minuteman II squadron, the 447 SMS, became operational at Grand Forks AFB, when AFSC's Ballistic Systems Division transferred the 50 missiles and 5 launch control centers to SAC. (6) (16)

1967: Maj Gen Benjamin D. Foulois died at Andrews AFB at the age of 87. He was the first person to fly an Army dirigible; first military observer on a cross-country flight with Orville Wright; first military man to teach himself to fly; one of two Americans to first use a plane in combat; and the first Chief of Staff of the Army Air Corps to be a military aviator. (16) (26)

The first jet-assisted C-123K Provider assault transports arrived at Tan Son Nhut AB for duty with the 19th Air Commando Squadron. The older C-123Bs began returning to the CONUS for modification on 27 April. (17)

1969: SAC decided to disperse its bomber and tanker aircraft to improve the survivability of its alert forces. (16)

1970: The 175 TFG in Baltimore, Md., received an A-37 aircraft, the ANG's first. (16)

1971: The last C-130A in PACAF, assigned to the 374 TAW at Naha AB, flew to the states for an assignment with a reserve or ANG unit. (17)

1990: Boeing delivered the 200th re-engined KC-135R to the 340 AREFG at Altus AFB. This program replaced the Pratt & Whitney J57 engines on 237 KC-135's with CFM International F-108 engines. (20)

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- 2001: An AFFTC pilot from Edwards AFB released the first Joint-Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM) from a B-52H. (3)
- 2003: The General Electric F110-GE-132 engine, with 32,500 lbs of thrust, flew for the first time. The engine would be fitted in the Block 60 F-16. It was the highest-thrust fighter engine ever developed for that aircraft. (3)

### 26 April

- 1934: Boris Sergievsky carried 16,608 pounds to 2,000 meters (1.24 miles) in altitude at Bridgeport, Conn., to set a world seaplane record. (24)
- 1945: Eighth Air Force fighters raided over 40 Luftwaffe installations in Germany and Czechoslovakia and destroyed a record 747 German fighters in one day. (4)
- 1948: The Northrop XB-49 set a record by flying 9 hours 30 minutes without refueling in a test flight.
- 1949: At Fullerton, Calif., Bill Barris and Dick Riedel set a new world endurance record of 1,008 hours 2 minutes in an Aeronca sedan, the Sunkist Lady. During the flight they picked up food and fuel four times a day from a jeep. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** At night, over the western sector, a B-29 close air support strike against enemy troops forming for an attack on the U.S. Army IX Corps broke up the assault. (28)
- The Boeing B-47B first flew.
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** In air-to-air operations, Maj. William H. Wescott, 51<sup>st</sup> Fighter-Interceptor Group, destroyed his fifth MiG in four weeks to become the war's twelfth ace. (28)
- 1956: Naval Aircraft Factory at Philadelphia renamed as the Naval Air Engineering Facility (Ships Installations). Its mission changed to add research, engineering, design, development, and limited manufacturing of devices and equipment for launching and recovering aircraft and guided missiles.
- 1962: The US and Great Britain launched Ariel I, the first international satellite, on a Thor-Delta booster from Cape Canaveral. The 132-pound NASA-built satellite carried British equipment for six experiments. (24)
- NASA launched a Nike-Cajun rocket from Wallops Island to begin a joint US-Japanese three-shot test series on atmospheric phenomena. (24)
- 1963: An advanced Atlas F carried a slender, pointed reentry vehicle from Cape Canaveral over a 5,000-mile course down the Atlantic Missile Range.
- 1966: Using Sidewinder missiles, an F-4C crew shot down a MiG-21 over North Vietnam, the first to be destroyed in combat. Major Paul J. Gilmore and 1Lt William T. Smith were escorting F-105 Thunderchiefs near Hanoi when the MiGs attacked. (16) (26)
- Col Joseph F. Cotton and Lt Col Fitzhugh L. Fulton, Jr., became the first Air Force crew to fly the XB-70A bomber. (3)
- The Air Force selected the Martin Company to develop a manned lifting body vehicle--a rocket plane without wing--to explore atmospheric maneuverability of future spacecraft. (16)

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SECDEF Robert S. McNamara approved a joint Air Force and Navy recommendation to discontinue the Navy's participation in MAC. (16)

1971: Charleston AFB received its 16th C-5A aircraft to complete the first operational C-5A squadron.

**MACKAY TROPHY/HARMON INTERNATIONAL TROPHY.** Lt Col Thomas B. Estes flew an SR-71 to a record speed at high altitude in a 10-hour 30-minute flight from Beale AFB. He flew 15,000 miles at speeds over Mach 3 above 80,000 feet. The SR-71 used inflight refuelings to make two round trips across the northern and central US and a complete circle of the western states. Colonel Estes and his reconnaissance systems officer, Maj Dewain C. Vick, later received the 1971 Mackay Trophy and the Harmon International Trophy. (1)

**Operation CONSTANT GUARD II** (see 7 April): Through 1 May, MAC moved personnel and cargo from Homestead and Eglin AFBs to Thailand. (2)

A SAM shot down an O-2 flying northwest of Ban Karai Pass, Laos. It was the first US aircraft lost over Laos. (17)

1983: The first GLCM training class graduated from Davis-Monthan AFB. (26)

1999: **Operation ALLIED FORCE.** Secretary of Defense William Cohen ordered 30 tankers, their aircrews and support personnel, to deploy by 1 May 1999 from active duty and Air Reserve components. They were sent overseas in response to General Wesley Clark's 13 April 1999 request for additional U.S. military aircraft. (32)

### 27 April

1911: The Signal Corps accepted the first Army Curtiss plane, a Curtiss IV Model D, and the second Army Wright plane, a Wright B, at San Antonio. Both aircraft were pusher-types. (21)

1913: Robert G. Fowler flew from Panama to Cristobal, ocean-to-ocean, nonstop, in 57 minutes with cameraman Raymond A. Duhem. The flight represented the first seaplane flight across Panama, the first seaplane flight in Panama, and the first passenger-carrying flight in Central America. Duhem also shot the first pictures from the air of the Canal and Central America. Panamanian authorities later arrested them when the story and pictures appeared in a newspaper. (20) (24)

1949: At Cleveland, Ohio, Harold E. Thompson flew the Sikorsky S-52-1 helicopter to a world speed record of 129,616 MPH over three kilometers (see 6 May). (24)

1963: A Titan II, launched from an underground silo at Vandenberg AFB, made the first successful flight of intercontinental range.

1972: Four USAF fighters used Paveway I laser-guided "smart" bombs to knock down the Thanh Hoa Bridge. Prior to this attack, 871 conventional missions had caused only minor damage to the bridge. (16) (21)

1977: When the 525 TFS arrived at Bitburg AB with its F-15 Eagles, the 36 TFW became the first unit outside the US to be equipped with these aircraft. (4) (30)

Through 30 April, after the Ethiopian government announced the closure of some US facilities in that country, 9 MAC C-141s flew 22 missions and a World Airways DC-8 flew 1 mission to airlift 323 Americans and 692,000 pounds of cargo from Addis Ababa and Asmara to Athens, Greece. (18)

1978: Two KC-135 crewmembers shared the distinction of being the first female navigators to per-

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form alert duty in SAC: Capt Elizabeth A. Koch from the 22 AREFW at March AFB and 1Lt Ramona L.S. Roybal from the 916 AREFS at Travis AFB. (1)

- 1990: After a scheduled five-month layoff, Northrop's B-2A started flying again. This six-hour, five-minute test flight above Edwards AFB took the Stealth Bomber to 35,000 feet. It also completed four mid-air refuelings with a KC-10. (8: Jul 90)
- 1991: A C-141 delivered 15 tons of blankets for Kurdish refugees in the first airlift mission into Iran since 1979. (18)
- 1995: AFSPACE declared its GPS satellites fully operational. This system provided accurate geographical coordinates. (16) (26)
- 1999: **Operation ALLIED FORCE.** To support NATO operations over Kosovo, President William J. Clinton approved a Selected Reserve Call-Up of air refueling resources, including 47 tankers and 2,116 personnel assigned to 4 AMC-gained AFRC units and five ANG units. (22)
- 2007: Following a 12-minute performance at Langley AFB, Va., Air Combat Command officials gave F-22A Raptor demonstration the official seal of approval for future air shows. (AFNEWS, "ACC Approves Raptor Demonstration," 27 Apr 2007.)

### 28 April

- 1919: Leslie Irving made the first jump from an airplane with a free-type backpack parachute at McCook Field. He jumped from a DH-9 flown at 1,500 feet by James "Floyd" Smith, the parachute's designer. (21)
- 1927: The Ryan NYP Spirit of St Louis first flew.
- 1937: The Pan American Clipper arrived at Hong Kong to complete the first transpacific commercial flight. (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** A 3d Air Rescue Squadron H-19 helicopter picked up a downed Hawker Sea Fury exchange pilot for the second time. Exactly three weeks earlier a 3d Air Rescue Squadron helicopter rescued the same pilot. (28)
- 1958: **DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.** An inflight explosion on a 341 BW B-47 caused the pilot and navigator to eject. While attempting to egress, the copilot, 1Lt James E. Obenauf, found the remaining crewman unconscious and unable to escape, so he stayed on the crippled, burning aircraft. From his backseat position, he flew the B-47 to a safe landing at Dyess AFB. He later received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions. (21)
- 1960: The Army's first underground test firing of the Nike-Zeus proved successful. (24)
- 1961: In a test flight from the carrier USS Antietam, a Stratolab High balloon rose to 6,000 feet over the Gulf of Mexico to become the first manned balloon to be launched from, and to be landed back aboard, a naval vessel. (16) (24)
- 1963: The first successful Titan II launch from an underground silo occurred at Vandenberg AFB. (6)
- 1967: An Air Force Titan IIIC successfully launched five satellites (two Vela nuclear detection and three scientific) into orbit. (16) (26)

**Operation CREEK PARTY.** From Ramstein AB, ANG volunteer crews and KC-97L tankers started flying air refueling missions for USAFE fighters. The ANG's first sustained volunteer

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operation to support active duty requirements lasted 10 years. (21)

- 1968: USAF Special Operations C-130s airlifted some 92,000 pounds of food to La Toma, Ecuador, a drought-stricken area, over a 13-day period.
- 1970: The 603d Direct Air Support Squadron ferried the first six O-2A aircraft from Itazuke AB to Osan AB to give PACAF a FAC capability in Korea. Before the O-2As arrived, all FAC personnel were jeep mounted. The 603d eventually received 28 O-2As. (17)
- 1977: The ANG ended the rotation of KC-97 Stratofreighter aircraft to Europe. These air refueling operations began on 1 May 1967. (16)
- 1986: Through 7 May, Air Weather Service WC-130s flew air-sampling missions to track radioactive contamination from the Chernobyl reactor accident in the Soviet Union. (16)
- 1993: SECDEF Les Aspin announced that women would be allowed to serve in combat roles. This policy change allowed female pilots to fly USAF combat aircraft. (16) (26)
- 1999: A B-52 successfully launched its first live AGM-86C Conventional Air Launched Cruise Missile (CALCM). The cruise missile scored a direct hit on the target at the Utah Test and Training Range. (3)

**Operation Southern Watch.** Under a Presidential Selective Reserve Call-Up, ACC mobilized elements of the ANG's 106<sup>th</sup> and 129<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wings for deployment to the Persian Gulf region to maintain the no-fly zone over southern Iraq. (32)

- 2001: NASA's X-43A hypersonic research vehicle made its first captive-carry flight on a B-52 over the Pacific Test Range. At Edwards AFB, NASA mated the X-43 to a Pegasus booster rocket and loaded it on the B-52's wing pylon for the flight. It was powered by a "scramjet," a supersonic combustion ramjet, designed for speeds up to Mach 10. (3)
- 2003: **END OF Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.** The Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC) at Prince Sultan AB, Saudi Arabia, with responsibility for air operations in Southwest Asia, moved to Al Udeid AB, Qatar. The move coincided with the end of SOUTHERN WATCH, the operation to enforce a no-fly zone in southern Iraq. On 29 April, at a joint news conference in Riyadh, SECDEF Donald Rumsfeld and Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz announced the withdrawal of all US combat forces from Saudi Arabia to end 12 years of a continuous US presence in Saudi Arabia. The US military presence officially ended on 26 August. (22)

### 29 April

- 1898: The first joint Army-Navy board on aeronautics submitted a report on Professor Samuel P. Langley's flying machine (at that time a model with a 12-foot wing span) to the War Department. The report favored further support for Professor Langley's experiments. (29) (See 25 March 1898)
- 1905: Using the Montgomery Glider, Daniel Malony began a series of glides. He took off from captive balloons. (24)
- 1918: Lt Edward V. Rickenbacker, who became the leading American ace of World War I, downed his first aircraft. (4)
- 1926: Ward T. Van Orman and W. W. Morton won the National Balloon Race at Little Rock by flying 848 miles to Petersburg, Va. (24)

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- 1931: The Boeing XB-901 first flew.
- 1946: Bell Aircraft Corp. received a contract to research and design a 100-mile range subsonic air-to-surface missile. It later became the Rascal. (6) (24)
- 1960: NASA's first test firing of all eight first-stage rocket engines on the Saturn produced 1,300,000 pounds of thrust. (24)
- 1965: **Operation POWER PACK.** The USAF used C-130s and C-124s to airlift 12,000 troops and 17,250 tons of equipment and supplies from Pope AFB to San Isidro, Dominican Republic. The airlift, as part of the operation, allowed the US to restore stability to the Caribbean island nation and prevent unfriendly elements from taking it over. Reserve transports and ANG communications aircraft also joined USAF fighters and reconnaissance aircraft in the operation. (21)
- The Air Force initiated the F-X (later F-15) program by directing AFSC to begin efforts toward acquiring a new tactical fighter. (30)
- 1967: President Johnson gave the go-ahead to build two prototype supersonic jet transports that could carry 300 passengers at 1,750 MPH. Boeing built the airframe and General Electric the engines at a total cost of \$1.144 billion.
- 1970: **APOLLO XI/THOMAS D. WHITE TROPHY.** Neil A. Armstrong, and Cols Edwin W. Aldrin and Michael Collins received the trophy for the outstanding scientific and technological accomplishment in achieving the first landing of man on the moon. (See 6 May 1970). (5) (16)
- 1972: A C-141 airlifted 394 South Vietnamese refugees fleeing a Communist invasion of the Central Highlands to Tan Son Nhut AB. The passenger total was the greatest number transported on a C-141 to date. (18)
- 1974: SECDEF James R. Schlesinger redirected the lightweight fighter program as a competition between the YF-16 and YF-17 to become the new air combat fighter for the Air Force. (3)
- 1975: **Operation NEW LIFE.** Just before the fall of South Vietnam, MAC moved the last of 50,493 refugees from Saigon to safe haven bases in the Pacific on 201 C-141 and C-130 missions. Air Rescue and Recovery Service HH-53 helicopters airlifted another 362 evacuees from Saigon to the USS Midway. (2) (16) (18)
- Operation NEW ARRIVAL.** Through 16 September, MAC used 196 C-141s and C-130s to airlift 31,155 Vietnamese refugees from the Philippines to Guam, while commercial contract carriers began an effort to move 121,560 refugees from SEA to the US. (18) (21)
- Operation FREQUENT WIND.** Through 30 April, USAF, Marine, and Navy helicopters airlifted 6,000-plus people in the final evacuation of Saigon. This was the first major operation involving flights of USAF helicopters from an aircraft carrier, the USS Midway. (21)
- 1976: Through 15 May, USAFE aircrews participated in the first Allied Air Forces Center Europe Tactical Weapons Meet at Twenthe AB, Netherlands. (16) (26)
- 1983: First multinational staged improvement program modified F-16B flight accepted. (12)
- 1985: In the seventh Challenger mission, the Space Shuttle carried Spacelab-3 in the cargo bay. It returned to earth on 6 May.
- Through 17 May, USAFE units at Spangdahlem AB participated in Exercise Salty Demo, the first integrated basewide effort to measure all facets of an air base's ability to survive attacks and generate post-attack sorties. (26)

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- 1986: Through 7 May, MAC's Weather reconnaissance squadrons carried over 700 air sample containers from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident in the Soviet Union to the Air Force Technical Applications Center at McClellan AFB, Calif. (16)
- 1993: The Rockwell X-31A EFM Demonstrator made the first high-angle-of-attack, post-stall, 180-degree turn known as the Herbst Manuever. The aircraft made the turn in a 475-foot radius. (20)
- 2006: A C-17 flew 110 Iraqi children, along with 97 parents and escorts, from Amman, Jordan, to Baghdad International Airport, Iraq, in support of "Operation Smile," an international, non-governmental organization that provides corrective facial surgery for children. Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld approved the C-17 flight to keep the group from having to travel 22 hours by bus from Amman to Baghdad through Iraq's volatile western provinces. (22)

### 30 April

- 1908: Aviation buffs in the 1<sup>st</sup> Company, Signal Corps, New York National Guard, set up an aeronautical corps to learn about balloons. This effort was the earliest known involvement of the guard in aviation. (21)
- 1917: In World War I, Maj William "Billy" Mitchell became the first American officer to fly over the German lines. He flew as an observer in a French aircraft. (21) (24)
- 1919: The Navy-Curtiss NC-4 first flew.
- 1946: The Army and Navy adopted a standard system for designating guided missiles and giving them popular names. For designations, four letters would be used: A for air, S for surface, U for underwater, and M for missile. These letters would be mixed in three letter combinations, with the first indicating the missile's origin, the second its objective, and the third its identity as a missile. As such, a surface-to-air missile became a SAM. (6)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force set a new record of 960 effective sorties in one day. Two H-5 helicopters each picked up a downed UN pilot behind enemy lines. Small-arms fire damaged one helicopter. The first indication of enemy radar-controlled antiaircraft guns came with the loss of three out of four F-51s making an air-to-ground attack against a target at Sinmak. (28)
- 1952: Through 1 May, Max Conrad used a Paper Pacer to fly 2,462.33 miles from Los Angeles to New York, setting a world distance record for light planes (aircraft with total weight in flying order between 1,102.3 and 2,204.6 pounds). (24)
- 1955: Adm John H. Towers, Naval Aviator No.3, died. (24)
- 1962: Joseph A. Walker flew the X-15 to a record altitude of 246,750 feet for a piloted aircraft. (9)
- 1963: Between 30 April and 12 May, Mrs. Betty Miller made the first solo flight of a woman across the Pacific Ocean. She made four stops in her flight from Oakland to Brisbane, Australia, in a twin-engine Piper Apache.
- 1965: After a political crisis flared into a revolution in the Dominican Republic, the US intervened to protect and evacuate American and foreign citizens. The US also provided medical aid and other assistance. TAC and MATS transports flew 1,702 sorties to airlift 16,000 passengers and 16,086 tons of cargo to the island. (2)
- 1966: North American pilot Alvin S. White and Col Joseph A. Cotton saved the XB-70A (No.2) from

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disaster. When the landing gear got stuck, Colonel Cotton crawled through the aircraft to reach a relay box. Then, he used a paper clip to short out two malfunctioning terminals and lower the gear. (3)

- 1967: The Air-Launched, Air-Recoverable Rocket (ALARR) completed its first operational test. It was designed to detect and identify nuclear tests in the atmosphere. (16) (26)
- 1969: The USAF inactivated the last Mace unit, the 71st Tactical Missile Wing, at Bitburg AB. (4)
- 1973: The AWACS completed its European evaluation successfully.
- 1974: Maj Mike Love completed the X-24B's first powered flight after a B-52 dropped the wingless research vehicle from 45,000 feet. (3)
- 1980: The Defense System Acquisition Review Council (DSARC) decided to produce Boeing's AGM-86B as the ALCM. (3)
- 1981: The B-1 prototype No.4 completed its last flight to end the B-1 test program. (3)
- 1990: The Navy decommissioned the USS Coral Sea aircraft carrier at Norfolk, Va. It went into service in 1947. (8: Jul 90)
- 1996: The USAF revealed the Tacit Blue aircraft that was secretly used until 1985 to test stealth technology. With its 56-foot wingspan, Tacit Blue furnished the technology used to produce the B-2 Spirit bomber. (26)
- 1997: An AFFTC aircrew launched a live Mk 84 JDAM for the first time from a B-52 at the Navy's China Lake range. (3)
- 1998: The *Perseus B* completed its first checkout flight, reaching 15,500 feet in a one-hour flight. The propeller-driven RPV conducted atmospheric research in support of NASA's Environmental Research Aircraft and Sensor Technology (ERAST) project at altitudes up to 60,000 ft for as long as eight hours. (3)
- 1999: The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards AFB unveiled the X-34, a technology demonstrator for a reusable space launch vehicle. (3)

### 1 May

- 1913: Army airplanes flew in their second maneuvers, when Lt Thomas DeWitt Milling in a Burgess tractor and Lt Roy C. Kirtland in a Wright airplane flew reconnaissance from Texas City for the 2d Division. Lt William C. Sherman and Lt Eric L. Ellington rode as observers with Milling and Kirtland, respectively. (24)
- 1925: Ward T. Orman and C.K. Wollam won the National Balloon Race at St. Joseph, Mo., landing at Reform, Ala., after covering a distance of 941.468 kilometers, or 584 miles. (24)
- 1934: Using a Berliner-Joyce OJ-2, Navy Lt Frank Akers made a blind (instrument only) landing at College Park to demonstrate a system designed for carrier use. (20)
- 1941: Barrage balloon operations transferred from the Air Corps to the Coast Artillery Corps.
- 1943: **MEDAL OF HONOR:** A bomber, with Sgt Maynard H. Smith as gunner, came under intense enemy fire while returning from a mission to enemy-occupied Europe. Smith, on his first mission, elected to fight a fire, administer first aid, man the waist guns, and fight intense flames alternately. For his actions, Sergeant Smith received his medal. (4)



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- 1945:     **Operation CHOW HOUND.** Eighth Air Force sent nearly 400 B-17s from England on a mercy mission to drop nearly 700 tons of food over German-occupied Holland. The Germans approved this flight and promised not to shoot down the bombers if they flew along specified routes. Eighth and RAF bombers flew five more “Chow Hound” missions during the next week and delivered nearly 7,900 tons of food. (7)
- 1958:     The Air Force redesignated the Florida Missile Test Range as the Atlantic Missile Range. (6)
- 1959:     Construction of the first Titan I launch and support facilities began at Lowry AFB. (6)
- 1960:     Soviet air defenses shot down a U-2 from Incirlik AB while flying from Pakistan to Norway. They captured Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) pilot Francis Gary Powers near Sverdlovsk. (4)
- 1962:     SECDEF Robert S. McNamara told the British that the US would not support the Thor squadrons in England after 31 October 1964. (6)
- Construction ended on the first squadron of Model A Minuteman I facilities at Malmstrom AFB. SAC also activated its third and last Model A squadron, the 490 SMS, there. (6)
- 1963:     The Bell Helicopter Company successfully test flew its Wing Ding, a winged helicopter designed to lift heavy loads.
- The Air Force Weapons Laboratory established from R&D elements of the Air Force Special Weapons Center and became the tenant unit at Kirtland AFB, N. Mex.
- The USAF dedicated the General H. H. Arnold, the first Advanced Range Instrumentation Ship, at Port Canaveral.
- The 6511th Test Group (Parachute) dropped a full size test module of the Apollo manned spacecraft from a modified C-133 during the first test of the earth landing system. (3)
- 1964:     **PROJECT ADDED EFFORT** to phaseout first-generation ICBMs began by taking the first Atlas-D off alert with the 576 SMS at Vandenberg AFB. (6) (12)
- 1965:     The YF-12A (SR-71 prototype) set nine FAI records at Edwards AFB: 2,070.101 MPH for straightaway speed; 1,642 MPH for a 500-kilometer closed course; 1,688 MPH for a 1,000-kilometer closed course; and 80,257 feet for sustained altitude in horizontal flight. Col Robert L. Stevens and Lt Col Daniel Andre set two records, while Maj Walter F. Daniel and Capt James Cooney set the other two. (3) (9)
- 1967:     A UH-1F helicopter in Ohio completed the first two-way communication to a NASA ground station in Australia via satellite relay. (16)
- 1968:     ANG tactical refueling units completed a year of overseas duty on a continuous basis without mobilization. This was the first operation of its type in Guard and Reserve history. (26)
- 1974:     For the first time, a KC-135 refueled a C-5 in an operational setting. (18)
- 1983:     **Operations BAHAMAS AND TURKS.** MAC’s Twenty-Third Air Force supported South Florida’s Task Force on Organized Crime. Two 20 SOS H-1s and aircrews deployed from Hurlburt Field to the Bahamas, where they flew surveillance missions to help local police capture drug traffickers. In its first year, the task force seized or destroyed \$114 million in cocaine, \$179 million in Marijuana, ten vessels, and 17 aircraft, while apprehending 72 people. (2)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1992: Through 11 May, after race riots in Los Angeles, MAC aircraft airlifted troops, police, and their equipment to southern California. (26)
- 1999: **Operation ALLIED FORCE.** The AFRC mobilized its first units to support this operation. Eventually the command called six tanker wings and one rescue wing to active duty. (21)
- Operation ALLIED FORCE.** The 171 AREFW (Pennsylvania ANG) received an order to deploy about 400 personnel and 14 KC-135Es for this operation. Additionally, the ANG mobilized the 117 AREFW (Alabama), 128 AREFW (Wisconsin), 141 AREFW (Washington), 151 AREFW (Utah), and the 161 AREFW (Arizona). (32)
- Operation CORONET Nighthawk.** The Air National Guard shifted its drug interdiction program with fighter aircraft in the Caribbean region from Panama to Curacao with the pending closure of U.S. military bases in Panama. (32)
- 2001: The Space Shuttle Endeavour landed at Edwards AFB after a mission to the International Space Station to deliver a robotic arm, a multipurpose logistics module, and an UHF antenna. (3)
- 2003: **END OF MAJOR IRAQI FREEDOM COMBAT OPERATIONS.** President George W. Bush declared the major combat operations in Iraq to be over on the deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln in a speech before 5,000 crewmembers. (22)
- END OF Operation NORTHERN WATCH.** The Operation NORTHERN WATCH mission ended. Between 1 January 1997 and the final NORTHERN WATCH sortie on 17 March 2003, more than 100,000 American, British, Turkish, and French airmen had rotated through Incirlik AB to enforce UN Security Council resolutions north of the 36th parallel in Iraq. (22)

### 2 May

- 1918: Lt Col Henry J. Damm and Maj Oscar Brindley were killed while testing a DH-4 at Dayton. (24)
- 1923: **MACKAY TROPHY/DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.** After adding extra fuel tanks to their Fokker T2 Liberty 400, Lts Oakley G. Kelly and John A. Macready flew the first nonstop transcontinental flight from New York to San Diego, flying the 2,520 miles in 26 hours 50 minutes 3 seconds. (9) (18)
- 1948: The Navy successfully tested a submarine capable of firing guided missiles. (16) (24)
- 1957: The USAF accepted its first F-101A Voodoo. (12)
- 1963: Jacqueline Cochran flew a Lockheed TF-104G near Edwards AFB to a world speed record for women of 1,203.94 MPH over a closed 100-kilometer course.
- 1965: Early Bird satellite went into operation as a public communications facility by shuttling TV programs across the North Atlantic.
- The Oklahoma ANG's "Talking Bird" C-97 Command Post flew to the Caribbean to support US forces in the Dominican Republic. (See Operation POWER PACK) (16)
- 1970: Ground fire in Cambodia claimed an F-4, the first PACAF aircraft to be lost in combat operations in that country. (17)
- 1971: At Lancaster, Calif., Lois Elmstrom flew a Piccard Balloon to a FAI duration record of 2 hours 6 minutes 10 seconds for balloons, subclasses AX-3 and AX-4 (400-900 cubic meters). (9)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1975: The Navy selected the Northrop and McDonnell-Douglas team to develop the twin-engine F-18 air combat fighter. (12)
- 1977: 1Lt Christine E. Schott became the first woman undergraduate pilot student to solo in the T-38 Talon. (16) (26)
- 1979: Through 3 May, two E-3A Sentry aircraft flew the first AWACS training mission over the Central Region of Europe. (16) (26)
- 1981: Davis-Monthan AFB received TAC's first OA-37 Dragonfly. It replaced the O-2A in the forward air control role. (11)
- In a first, an airborne laser destroyed an aerial target, when the Airborne Laser Laboratory, a modified KC-135 aircraft armed with a carbon dioxide laser, shot down a drone over White Sands Missile Range. (21)
- 1988: Col Phillip J. Ford, the 384<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing Commander, and Lt Gen Ellie G. "Buck" Shuler, Jr., the Eighth Air Force Commander, flew the last B-1B from the Rockwell International plant to McConnell AFB. (<http://www.sr-71.org/aircraft/b-1.php>)
- 1999: **Operation ALLIED FORCE.** Serbian ground forces shot down an F-16 over Yugoslavia. It was the second and last US aircraft lost in the operation. An MH-60 helicopter rescued the pilot. (21)
- An AFFTC aircrew from Edwards flew an NC-130J loaded with Red Cross supplies to Sofia, Bulgaria in support of Operation ALLIED FORCE. (3)
- 2002: An AFFTC B-1B dropped three different weapons (a MK-82, a MK-84, and a CBU-89) on a single pass. The B-1B released the bombs from separate bomb bays to strike individual targets that were 10,000 feet apart. AFFTC conducted this Air Force "first" as part of the B-1 Block E Computer Upgrade Test Program at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 2004: The 164 AW (Tennessee ANG) in Memphis phased out the last C-141 (tail no. 60157) from the ANG inventory. The then unit converted to C-5s. (32)
- 2006: The Air Force Research Laboratory's Propulsion Directorate at Edwards AFB conducted the first full-scale test of Thiokol's new solid-propellant motor for ICBMs. It was similar in size and weight to the Minuteman III first stage motor, but used advanced case, propellant, and thrust vector technologies. The new engine produced over 282,000 pounds of thrust, compared to Minuteman motor's 202,000 pounds. (3)

### 3 May

- 1930: Laura Ingalls completed 344 consecutive loops. Afterwards, she tried again and accomplished 980 loops. In another flight later in the year, she successfully completed 714 barrel rolls, giving her a pair of records no one has cared to challenge. (2)
- 1943: Lt Gen Frank M. Andrews, Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, US Army, died in an air crash in Iceland. (11) (24)
- 1945: In the last 9th Bomb Division mission, 132 A-26s bombed Czechoslovakia's Stod ammunitions plant. (4)
- 1949: The Navy fired its Martin Viking rocket at the White Sands Proving Ground. It reached an alti-

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

tude of 51½ miles and a speed of 2,250 MPH. (24)

1950: North American Aviation's Mark X-1 inertial guidance system for the Navaho missile completed its first flight test in a C-47. The X-1 was the first US inertial guidance system tested. (6)

1952: **KOREAN WAR/ACES.** In aerial combat, F-86 Sabre pilots destroyed five MiG-15s. Major Donald E. Adams from the 16<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Interceptor Squadron destroyed two and Capt Robert T. Latshaw, Jr., from the 335<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, downed another to become aces. That gave the USAF 14 aces to date in the Korean War. (28)

An Air Force C-47 Skytrain, equipped with ski and wheels made the world's first successful North Pole landing. (16) (24)

1960: General Curtis E. LeMay, VCSAF, announced the approval of a single tanker force, SAC managed and KC-135 equipped, to support training and combat for full implementation by the end of Fiscal Year 1963. (18)

1961: An AFSC crew launched the first ICBM, a Titan, from an underground silo at Vandenberg AFB. (1) (12)

1966: The first operational service of Minuteman II began when 50 missiles were delivered to SAC's Wing VI at Grand Forks AFB.

At Edwards AFB, an HC-130H completed the first live ground-to-air recovery with a single-harness capture of Capt Gerald T. Lyvere and a double harness capture of Col Allison Brooks and A3C Ronald L. Doll. (3)

1968: The first ANG unit called to active duty, the 120 TFS from Buckley ANGB, Colorado, arrived in South Vietnam. It started flying combat operations on 5 May. (16) (21)

1973: The National Aeronautic Association presented the 1972 Mackay Trophy to three Vietnam aces: Captains Richard S. "Steve" Ritchie, Charles B. DeBellevue, and Jeffery S. Feinstein.

1990: An all-Air Force crew flew Northrop's B-2A for the first time. Lt Cols Tom LeBeau and John Small flew the Stealth Bomber on a 7-hour, 20-minute test flight above Edwards AFB. (8: Jul 90)

1992: Through 4 May, C-141 Starlifters and C-130 Hercules transports evacuated 350 people, including some Americans, from Sierra Leone after a military coup. (16) (26)

1994: The Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center at Davis-Monthan AFB received the last B-52G for storage. That transfer left only B-52H models in the active USAF inventory. (16)

2001: The Northrop X-4 *Bantam* tailless transonic research plane, originally tested by NACA in 1950-1953, returned to the AFFTC from the USAF Academy for permanent display. (3)

2006: AFFTC completed the first-ever wet runway taxi testing of an unmanned vehicle, the Global Hawk. The tests at Edwards AFB validated the Global Hawk's anti-skid braking system and gathered braking performance data on wet runways. (3)

### 4 May

1911: The War Department decided to send the Army's first Wright plane to the Smithsonian Institution. (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1916: Katherine Stinson gave a short aerobatic show over New York at night. At first, she planned a daytime show at the Sheepshead Bay Speedway, but she arrived too late in her biplane to be assembled for the show. To keep from disappointing her audience, she took off, climbed to 3,000 feet, and performed two loops that could be traced from her plane's lights. She landed on the racetrack below by using red flares as lights. (7)
- 1927: Capt Hawthorne C. Gray (Air Corps) flew a free balloon to 42,470 feet at Scott Field. (24)
- 1929: Two Navy officers, Lt Thomas G. W. Settle and Ensign W. Bushnell, won the National Balloon Race for subclass A-7 through A-9 balloons (1600-4000 cubic meters with a FAI distance record of 952 miles) from Pittsburgh, Pa., to Savage Harbor, Prince Edward Island. Their flight also set a 43-hour, 20-minute FAI duration record for subclass A-6 (1200 to 1600 cubic meter) balloons. (9) (24)
- 1942: **BATTLE OF CORAL SEA.** Through 8 May, the Battle of Coral Sea featured the first naval engagement fought by aircraft as the opposing ships made no contact. Although both sides lost a carrier (the Japanese Shoho and the USS Lexington), the U.S. successfully thwarted a Japanese invasion of Port Moresby, New Guinea, where they would have been able to launch an invasion of Australia. (20) (21)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** In air operations, 25 F-86s strafed and destroyed 5 of 24 YAK-9s parked in revetments at Sinuiju Airfield in extreme northwestern Korea. (28)
- 1961: Cmdr Malcolm D. Ross and Lt Cmdr Victor A. Prather (both Navy Reserve) reached a FAI record balloon altitude of 113,739.9 feet in a two-place open gondola. Launched from the USS Antietam near the Mississippi River mouth, the balloon reached its maximum altitude in 2 hours 36 minutes. The death of Commander Prather, who fell from the recovery helicopter's sling after being pulled from the water, marred this achievement. (9)
- 1962: At Lowry AFB, the 725 SMS became the first Titan I unit to achieve alert. (7)
- 1968: Gen Carl Spaatz (USAF retired) received the Thomas D. White National Defense Award for 1968. (16)
- 1963: A TWA Boeing Star Stream established a record for a jet-powered passenger transport by covering the San Francisco to Paris route in 9 hours 55 minutes.
- 1970: A SAC task force of four B-52s won the Blue Steel Trophy for the best combined bombing and navigation results in the RAF Strike Command's bombing and navigation competition at RAF Station Marham, England. (26)
- 1979: The A-10B flew its first flight at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1982: Through 8 May, the E-3A Sentry AWACS deployed to Turkey for the first time. (16) (26)
- 1989: During a 4-8 May mission, Air Force Maj Mark Lee on the Space Shuttle Atlantis released the Magellan probe that would map Venus with synthetic aperture radar. (20)
- 1990: The Hughes/Raytheon AIM-120A Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile demonstrated its ability to achieve multiple kills against multiple targets. On the Gulf Test Range near Eglin AFB, an F-15 flying 650 MPH at 15,000 feet fired two missiles at two QF-100 drones at 10,000 feet and two more at two drones at 5,000 feet. The test resulted in three direct hits and one pass within lethal distance. (20)
- 1999: **Operation ALLIED FORCE.** An F-16CJ shot down a MiG-29 over Kosovo. It was the fifth and last USAF aerial victory in the operation. (21)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Operation ALLIED FORCE.** Through 6 May, the 161st Air Refueling Wing (Arizona ANG) deployed nearly 300 members and six KC-135s to Europe to support NATO's war against Yugoslavia. (32)

### 5 May

- 1910: At Mount Weather Observatory in Virginia, a kite flew to a 23,800-foot world altitude record. (24)
- 1927: The Patent Office issued a patent on hinged inset trailing edge ailerons, an invention that later became a standard feature on aircraft. (20)
- 1947: McDonnell's H-20 Flying Bike, the world's first ramjet helicopter, completed its first flight. (3)
- 1948: Fighter Squadron VF-17A, equipped with 16 FH-1 Phantoms, became the first carrier-qualified jet squadron in the US Navy. (16) (24)
- BOEING FLIGHT-TESTED B-29S MODIFIED FOR AERIAL REFUELING.** To install the basic British hose system on the B-29s, Boeing removed all armaments and most armor to install a hose reel, hauling line, more fuel lines, and nylon-lined aluminum fuel tanks in the forward and aft bomb bays. Receiver aircraft had some oxygen equipment removed and fueling lines added. The success of the tests ultimately led the USAF to convert 92 B-29s into KB-29M hose-method tankers. Seventy-four B-29s were equipped to receive aerial refuelings by hose. (18)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** A 3 ARS H-5 helicopter rescued a downed F-51 pilot north of Seoul. It encountered small arms fire in the area. (28)
- 1952: The Grumman XF10F-1 Jaguar first flew. It had a swept-wing variable geometry wing.
- 1954: The USAF issued a requirement for a turbo-jet tanker to support the refueling needs of jet aircraft. (18)
- 1956: **Operation REDWING.** Press reports said the first shot in a test series on Eniwetok Atoll had been of a "pocket-size" H-bomb small enough for delivery by a small aircraft or missile. (16)
- 1961: Navy Lt Cmdr Alan B. Shepard, Jr., became the first astronaut to cross the space frontier in a Mercury-Redstone 3 capsule, Freedom 7. During a 14-minute, 22-second suborbital flight, he reached 116 miles in altitude and 5,100 MPH. After lifting off from Cape Canaveral, Freedom 7 carried him 302 miles to a landing zone in the Atlantic. He set a FAI altitude record without leaving the Earth's orbit. Cameramen and equipment from Air Photographic and Charting Service's 1365th Photographic Squadron provided photographic coverage. (7) (9) (18)
- 1966: USAF A-1E Skyraider pilots flew their first strikes against targets in North Vietnam. (16) (26)
- 1969: The Smithsonian Institute received X-15 No.1 for display with other aircraft firsts. (3)
- 1971: The USAF's sea-launched ballistic missile detection and warning system, called the Pave Phased Array Warning System (PAWS), achieved its initial operating capability. (21)
- 1981: A B-52H from the 410 BMW at K.I. Sawyer AFB landed at Royal Australian Air Force Base Darwin for two days of public display. This event came after years of negotiating an agreement, signed in March 1981, to let B-52s land in Australia. On 22 June, the bomber flew an operational sortie from Darwin on a sea-search mission. (1)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1987: The last Titan II missile came off alert at Little Rock AFB, marking “the close of a quarter century of uninterrupted service as the vanguard of America's deterrent force.” (16) (26)
- 1996: Colonel Betty L. Mullis became the first woman to command a flying wing when she assumed command of the 940 AREFW (AFRES) at McClellan AFB. (21)
- 1999: **Operation PROVIDE REFUGE.** A DoD-chartered Tower Air Boeing 747 landed at McGuire AFB with the first group of refugees from Kosovar, Serbia’s southern province in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In this operation, up to 3,000 Kosovar Albanians were flown to McGuire and temporary quarters at neighboring Fort Dix until arrangements could be made for permanent resettlement with relatives or sponsors in the US. (22)
- 2001: The Boeing X-32B flew from Edwards AFB to NAS Patuxent River, Md., to validate the suitability of its direct-lift capability to Navy requirements. (3)
- 2003: **Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.** Global Hawk (AV-3) landed at Edwards AFB after flying 19 sorties in 446.6 hours over Iraq to collect some 3,700 surveillance images. While only flying 5 percent of the surveillance sorties in the theater, the Global Hawk gathered more than 55 percent of the data on time-sensitive targets. Subsequently, the Air Staff credited the Global Hawk with destroying scores of Iraqi tanks and advancing the defeat of the Republican Guard by several days. (3)
- 2004: Two C-130s from the 146 AW (California ANG), equipped with the Modular Airborne Firefighting System, dropped 21,600 gallons of fire-retardant on Santa Barbara County’s Cachuma fire. (32)

### 6 May

- 1908: Through 14 May, the Wrights resumed flights at Kitty Hawk, N.C., with reporters as witnesses. This ended all doubts about the Wright's ability to fly. (24)
- 1912: Three Army planes from College Park flew the first group cross-country flight to Chevy Chase Club, Md. (4) (11)
- 1914: While observing Mexican positions from a Curtiss AH-3 hydroairplane at Vera Cruz, Lt (JG) Patrick N. L. Bellinger, the pilot, and Lt Richard C. Saufley, the observer, were struck by rifle fire. This was the first Navy and first American plane to come under hostile fire. (21) (24)
- 1918: The Navy commissioned NAS Coco Solo to maintain patrols over the seaward approaches to the Panama Canal. (24)
- 1937: The German dirigible Hindenberg burned while moored at Lakehurst, N.J. Thirty-five people died in the fire. (21)
- 1941: Company test pilot Lowery Brabham flew the XP-47B Thunderbolt on its first flight in a trip from the Republic plant to Mitchel Field. (12)
- 1949: At Cleveland, the Sikorsky S-52-1 helicopter set an international record of 122.75 MPH for a 100-kilometer course (see 27 April 1949).
- 1957: The 363d Tactical Reconnaissance Wing (TRW) at Shaw AFB received TAC’s first RF-101 supersonic reconnaissance aircraft. (11)
- 1959: Launched from Cape Canaveral, the 16th Jupiter missile struck a target area 1,500 miles down range near Antigua Island. Afterwards, the USAF declared the missile operational. (6)

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- 1960: At Edwards AFB, the Minuteman made its first public flight from an underground launch pad--not a silo. (24)
- 1962: **Operation DOMINIC.** The submerged USS Ethan Allen launched a Polaris missile on a flight test from the Pacific. This may have been the first US missile launch with a live nuclear war-head.
- 1967: SAC flew its 10,000th B-52 mission in SEA. By this time, the B-52s had dropped over 190,000 tons of bombs in combat operations. (1)
- 1970: **COLLIER TROPHY.** Neil A. Armstrong and Cols Edwin E. Aldrin and Michael Collins from Apollo XI received the trophy for putting the first man on the moon. (5) (16)
- 1972: **Operation CONSTANT GUARD III:** After a North Vietnamese offensive, MAC helped the 49 TFW move 3,195 airmen and 1,600 tons of cargo from Holloman AFB, to Takhli, Thailand, through 15 May. As this offensive continued, MAC's C-5s airlifted 26 tanks, weighing 1.6 million pounds, on 10 flights to Da Nang, where they joined the battle in a matter of hours. (2)
- 1973: A C-5A returned to Edwards AFB after a 15,000-mile flight that included a low-altitude cargo drop by parachute and an inflight refueling. (3)
- 1987: At Sembach AB, Germany, the 43d Electronics Combat Squadron, 66<sup>th</sup> Electronic Combat Wing, received its first EC-130H Compass Call aircraft. (16)
- 1994: 1Lt Leslie DeAnn Crosby became the first female pilot in the AFRES to graduate from the ANG's F-16 fighter training course at Tucson, Ariz. (16)
- 2006: The last operational C-141 *Starlifter* (Tail No. 66-0177) from the 445<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing (AFRC) at Wright-Patterson AFB landed at Wright Field, Ohio, for donation to the National Museum of the USAF. The landing ended 42 years of Starlifter operations in the active-duty USAF, the Air National Guard, and the Air Force Reserve Command. The C-141, named the "*Hanoi Taxi*," flew the first Vietnam prisoners of war from Hanoi to freedom on 12 February 1973. (22)

### 7 May

- 1945: Mass produced B-17s, B-24s, B-25s, B-29s, P-38s, P-40s, P-51s, and C-47s led to Victory Day in Europe. On 7 May, the German High Command surrendered unconditionally at Reims, effective 9 May. With that surrender, ATC began Projects Green and White, for personnel and aircraft, respectively, to move 250,000 people and 5,900 aircraft from Europe and the Mediterranean theaters to the US by September 1945. (4) (12) (18)
- 1953: The 63 TCW (Heavy) at Donaldson AFB, S. C., received the first C-124 aircraft. Service testing for the aircraft occurred in February-March 1952, and the first live paratroop drops from these aircraft took place at Fort Bragg. (11)
- 1956: The 762d Air Control and Warning Squadron began operating the "Texas Tower" radar defense installations erected on Georges Shoal some 100 miles east of Cape Cod, Mass. (24)
- 1958: Flying a Lockheed F-104A Starfighter at Edwards AFB, Maj Howard C. Johnson set a 91,243-foot FAI altitude record for class C jets. (9)
- 1962: **Operation QUICK KICK.** Units of all US military services cooperated in the largest US land-sea-air exercise since World War II. (24)

While submerged, the USS Ethan Allen successfully launched a Polaris missile on the full-flight



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test with a nuclear warhead for the Operation Dominic nuclear tests in the Pacific. This launch was reported as the first US firing of a missile with a live nuclear warhead. (16) (24)

- 1963: Dr. Theodore von Karman, sometimes called the Father of Astronautics, died at Aachen, West Germany, a few days before his 82d birthday. (5) (16)
- 1966: The Minuteman Force Modernization program started at Whiteman AFB, when SAC removed the first flight of 10 Minuteman I missiles from their silos. These missiles were replaced with Minuteman IIs. (1) (6)
- 1984: The HH-60D helicopter completed its first data flight at Edwards AFB.
- 1985: **Exercise DISTANT HAMMER:** Through 17 May, USAFE EF-111 Ravens participated in their first NATO exercise. (16)
- 1994: Through 9 May, six USAF airlift aircraft moved 623 people, including 448 Americans, from Yemen to Saudi Arabia after civil war broke out. (16)

### 8 May

- 1911: The Navy ordered its first airplane, the A-1 amphibian, from Glenn Curtiss. Therefore, today is officially the birthday of naval aviation. (21)
- 1918: Cpts John F. Gallagher, Robert J. Hunter, and Claude T. Uren became the first medical officers to be assigned as flight surgeons at US airfields. (24)
- 1919: Lt Cmdr A. C. Read took off on the first air crossing of the Atlantic in an NC-4 flying boat.
- 1926: Through 9 May, Floyd Bennett and Lt Cmdr Richard E. Byrd flew the Josephine Ford, a Fokker C-2 Trimotor monoplane, on the first flight to the North Pole from Kings Bay, Spitsbergen. (9)
- 1935: In 14 hours 19 minutes, Amelia Earhart flew the first nonstop flight from Mexico City to Newark.
- 1937: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Six officers and two enlisted men (Army Air Corps) received the trophy for flight maneuvers in which three bombing planes flew from Langley Field to Allegan, Mich.
- 1944: Eighth Air Force began large raids on French and Belgian airfields at Juvencourt, Laon, Florennes, Thionville, St. Dizier, Orleans, Bourges, and Avord. (4)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** An H-5 helicopter picked up two U.S. soldiers north of Seoul, encountering small arms fire in the area. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** In the first of four major interdiction strikes, Fifth Air Force fighter-bombers flew nearly 465 sorties against the enemy supply depot at Suan, about 40 miles southeast of Pyongyang, in the largest one-day attack since the war began. In a 13-hour period, the UN pilots damaged or destroyed over 200 supply buildings, personnel shelters, revetments, vehicles, and gun positions. Enemy anti-aircraft fire shot down an F-86 at the Kunu-ri marshaling yards. This was the first loss of a Sabre on a fighter-bomber sortie. (28)
- 1960: The Air Force removed its first operational missile, a Thor, from a field unit in the UK and sent it to Vandenberg AFB for confidence testing. Confidence launches preceded SAC's operational test program. (6)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1970: **MACKAY TROPHY.** An AC-119K gunship attacked a heavily defended road section in SEA. Despite losing 15 feet of the aircraft's right wing and an aileron, the crew destroyed three enemy supply trucks and then returned to base. For that feat, the crew earned the trophy. (21)
- 1972: **Operation LINEBACKER I.** President Nixon approved this operation as a military measure to end the Vietnam War. It included the mining of all ports in North Vietnam, and the interdiction of supply and communication lines. (5) (17)
- 1994: **Operation PROVIDE PROMISE.** Through 26 July, 5 C-141s started flying humanitarian missions from Germany to Bosnia. They joined the earlier deployment of C-130s from the 437 AW and 315 AW at Charleston AFB. The C-141s delivered over 7,000 tons of cargo by the time their flights ended on 26 July. (16)
- 1995: Through 11 May, ANG units rescued thousands of flood victims after 22 inches of rain fell on Louisiana within two days. (16) (26)
- 2000: Through 9 May, the RQ-4A Global Hawk participated in a Linked Seas Exercise, flying from Eglin AFB to Portugal and back during a 28-hour sortie. The Global Hawk also completed a 14.1-hour mission on 11-12 May 2000. (3)
- 2001: SECDEF Donald H. Rumsfeld made the USAF the executive agent for the Pentagon's space activities. (21)

### 9 May

- 1932: Capt Albert F. Hegenberger (Army Air Corps) made the first blind solo flight using instruments, with no check pilot, at Dayton. He later received the Collier Trophy. (11) (24)
- 1937: Henry T. Merrill and John S. Lambe flew a Lockheed Electra monoplane from New York to London in 20 hours 29 minutes 45 seconds to set a FAI record for the transatlantic flight. (9)
- 1944: Eighth Air Force B-17s and B-24s bombed French airfields to begin an offensive a month before the Normandy invasion that would prevent the German Air Force from recovering before D-Day. (4)
- 1949: The Republic XF-91 Thunderceptor, a jet-rocket interceptor, successfully completed its first flight at Muroc Field. (20) (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** In one of the largest counter air efforts so far, Fifth Air Force and 1st Marine Air Wing fighter-bombers flew over 300 sorties against Sinuiju Airfield in extreme northwestern Korea. (28)
- 1961: The 379 BMW at Wurtsmith AFB, Mich., received SAC's first B-52H (number 60-001). (1)
- 1969: **Exercise EXOTIC DANCER II.** More than 150 AFRES aircraft from 25 units participated in this exercise in Puerto Rico. The exercise involved more than 349 missions, carrying 1,224 tons of cargo, and an airlift of 1,267 people. (16)
- 1978: McDonnell Douglas delivered the 5,000th F-4 Phantom built to the Air Force.
- 1979: Through 23 May, SAC's first B-52 contingency mission to an overseas forward operating base since Vietnam occurred, when three B-52s from Dyess AFB deployed to RAF Upper Heyford, UK, for Exercises Flintlock and Dawn Patrol. (1)
- 1983: A C-141 crew from the 18 MAS at McGuire AFB became the first all-female crew to fly a

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round-trip mission across the Atlantic. (20)

- 2001: The AFFTC at Edwards AFB completed qualification testing on the HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter's new satellite communications system, the AN/ARC-210. (3)

### 10 May

- 1911: Lt George E. M. Kelly became the first Army pilot to die in an airplane, when he crashed his Curtiss pusher at San Antonio to avoid striking encamped soldiers. However, he was the second Army officer to die in a crash. Lt Thomas E. Selfridge, flying as an observer with Orville Wright, died on 17 September 1908. (4) (11)

- 1913: **FIRST AERIAL BOMBING.** Didier Masson and Thomas Dean, flying for Mexican General Alvarado Obregon, conducted the first aerial bombing in an American war by bombing Mexican Federal gunboats in Guaymas Bay, Gulf of California. (21)

- 1942: The carrier USS Ranger, off the African Gold Coast, launched 60 US AAF P-40s to Accra. From there, they were flown in stages to the 10th Air Force in India. (24)

- 1944: **CHENG TU PROJECT.** Using primitive construction methods, 400,000 laborers completed this project to build five very heavy bomber bases and six fighter fields in China to support B-29 operations. The work started in January. (21) (24)

- 1953: **KOREAN WAR.** Flying through intense flak Col Victor E. Warford, 58 FBW Commander, led 8 F-84 ThunderJets to attack the hydroelectric generating facilities at Sui-ho near the Yalu River. Through 11 May, 39 B-29 Superfortresses raided the 375-acre Yangsi troop concentration area twelve miles southeast of Sinuiju City, achieving 63 percent destruction of one of the last large lucrative targets remaining in N. Korea. (28)

- 1955: The USAF issued a requirement for a surface-launched, turbojet subsonic decoy missile for the B-47 or B-52. It became the Goose missile. (6)

General Electric's XJ79 turbojet engine made its first flight in the NB-45 test aircraft over Schenectady, N.Y. This engine later powered the Convair B-58, the Lockheed F-104, and the McDonnell Douglas F-4. (8: May 90)

- 1961: Maj Elmer E. Murphy flew a B-58 from Carswell AFB (43 BMW) on a 30-minute, 45-second flight at 1,302 MPH over a 669.4-mile closed-course. This gave the USAF permanent possession of the Bleriot Cup given by the Aero Club of France. (1) (24)

- 1962: After a 3-year testing program, a USAF BOMARC-A launched from Eglin AFB intercepted an F-104 Starfighter drone 150 miles away. (16) (24)

- 1964: At Rosemount, Minn, Tracy Barnes rode a Barnes 14A Balloon to an FAI altitude record of 38,650 feet for balloons in subclasses A-3 through A-9 (400 to 4000 cubic meters). (9)

- 1965: Lt Col James W. Wood became the first pilot to fly the variable, swept-wing F-111 at Edwards AFB. (3)

Tactical control of aircraft in battle areas assigned to the Air Force by the JCS. (16) (26)

- 1972: The Fairchild-Republic A-10A prototype, an entry in the USAF's A-X competition to select a close-air-support fighter, completed its first flight at Edwards AFB. (3)

**LINEBACKER I:** Through 11 May, 8 TFW F-4 Phantoms dropped precision-guided muni-

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tions on the Paul Doumer Bridge in Hanoi, North Vietnam, and closed the bridge to traffic. The attacks began a campaign against logistics and industrial targets in North Vietnam, including the mining of North Vietnamese harbors. (17) (21)

After several months of dropping bombs against the invading North Vietnamese, Navy fighter squadrons spent the day engaging MiGs in the heaviest aerial action of the war. VF96 from the USS Constellation (CVA64) destroyed six of eight MiGs. In their F-4J, Lt Randy Cunningham and his backseater, Lt (JG) Willie Driscoll, of VF96 downed three MiG-17s. When combined with their two earlier kills on 19 January and 8 May, they became the first American aces of the Vietnam War, the first all-missile aces, and the first U.S. aces since the Korean War. After their third kill, a SAM hit forced both men to eject from their F-4 south of Hanoi. The effort required to rescue the Navy's two newest aces was hectic and dangerous as the rescuers faced fire from two North Vietnamese PT boats and heavy fire from communist shore positions.  
([http://www.aerosphere.com/html/randy\\_cunningham.shtml](http://www.aerosphere.com/html/randy_cunningham.shtml))

- 1995: A C-141 Starlifter from the 349th Air Mobility Wing (AMW) carried a ton of medical supplies to Zaire after an outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in Central Africa. A C-5 Galaxy delivered another ton of supplies to Kinshasa, Zaire, later in the month. (16)

### 11 May

- 1918: Air Service, American Expeditionary Forces, received its first American-made DH-4, with a Liberty engine. It made its first flight six days later. (11) (24)
- 1942: First contingent of US AAF arrived in England to join Eighth Air Force. (4)
- The President ordered an Air Medal established to award any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard after 8 September 1939, distinguished or had distinguished himself by meritorious achievement in an aerial flight.
- 1949: President Truman signed a bill to provide a 5,000-mile guided missile test range to the USAF. The USAF established this range at Cape Canaveral. It was designated the Atlantic Missile Range on 1 May 1958. (6)
- 1953: North American's F-86H Sabre made its first flight at Edwards AFB.
- 1958: Lt Cmdr Jack Neiman (USN) completed a 44-hour stay in a pressure chamber under conditions existing between 80,000 and 100,000 feet.
- 1960: An Army Signal Corps' balloon ascended to a record night-time altitude of 144,000 feet before bursting. (24)
- 1964: The North American XB-70 Valkyrie went on public display for the first time at Palmdale. This 275-ton aircraft measured 185 feet in length and had a 105-foot wing span. It was designed to fly three times the speed of sound at altitudes above 70,000 feet. (3) (12)
- Jackie Cochran became the first woman to fly more than Mach 2, when she flew an F-104G at 1,429 MPH at Edwards AFB.
- 1966: At Holloman AFB, a Surveyor spacecraft made the first softlanding under its own power to demonstrate its ability to softland on the moon.
- Lockheed unveiled a full-scale mockup of the C-5A Galaxy at its plant in Marietta. (12)
- 1972: A C-5A Galaxy set a nonstop distance record from Kadena AB to Charleston AFB. The

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8,019-mile flight lasted 16 hours 5 minutes.

- 1989: **Operation NIMROD DANCER.** To 18 May, MAC moved a brigade-size security augmentation force to Panama in 34 C-5, 39 C-141, and 2 commercial L-1011 missions. In all, MAC airlifted 2,679 soldiers and 2,950 tons of cargo. (18)
- 1990: Lockheed Missiles and Space Company received a \$971 million contract to build advanced solid rocket motors (ASRMs) for the Space Shuttle. These new motors increased the shuttle's payload by 12,000 pounds to 65,000 pounds. (8: Jul 90)
- Hughes won a competition with Raytheon for the AGM-65 Maverick air-to-ground missile. The \$194 million contract called for 3,006 missiles, 75 F-model captive-carry training missiles, and 61 G-model guided training missiles. (8: Jul 90)
- 1991: **Operation SEA ANGEL.** Through 13 June, in response to flooding along the Bangladesh coastline from Cyclone Marion, with its 150-MPH winds and 20-foot tidal waves, MAC dispatched 10 C-5, 14 C-141, and 5 C-130 missions to deliver 738 passengers and 832 tons of food, equipment, and supplies. A C-130 intratheater airlift delivered food from in-country depots. (18)
- 1994: **Operation PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.** Through 17 May, 13 C-141 missions moved 239 tons of relief supplies from Incirlik AB to Mwanza, Tanzania, in a joint operation to help over 100,000 Rwandan victims of tribal warfare. Four C-141s from the 438 AW at McGuire AFB flew most of the missions. (16)
- 2001: The T-6A *Texan II* primary trainer completed wet runway testing at Edwards AFB. (3)

### 12 May

- 1909: Dr. R. M. Randall in *Greylock* won the second contest for the Forbes Trophy in a point-to-point balloon race from North Adams to Leeds, Mass. (24)
- 1917: Capt W. A. Robertson set a new American altitude record of 17,230 feet over the North Island Flying School, San Diego. (24)
- 1926: Explorer Lincoln Ellsworth flew from Spitsbergen across the North Pole to Teller, Alaska, in the dirigible Norge, commanded by Roald Amundsen. (9)
- 1928: Lts R. W. Douglas and J. E. Parker made a record flight for single-seat planes from France Field, Canal Zone, to Bolling Field in two Boeing PW-9 planes. A Curtiss D-12 engine with 440 HP powered the two Boeing PW-9s. (24)
- After 65 hours in the air over a two-month period, Lt Julian S. Dexter, Air Corps Reserve, completed a 3,000-square-mile aerial survey of Florida's Everglades. (8)
- 1938: Three Army B-17s intercepted the Rex, an Italian vessel, 700 miles from American shores to prove the feasibility of using long-range bombers in coastal defense. The Navy subsequently demanded the restriction of bomber operations to within 100 miles of the coast. (21)
- 1949: **BERLIN AIRLIFT ENDS.** The Soviet Union ended the Berlin blockade; however, the airlift continued until September to build up stockpiles. From 12 June 1948 to 12 May 1949, USAFE primarily used C-54 cargo aircraft (C-47s also flew from June until 30 September 1948) to airlift some 1,783,000 tons of food, clothing, fuel, medical supplies, and coal to the beleaguered city. The Combined Airlift Task Force (both the British and U.S. efforts) flew 277,569 missions to deliver a total of 2,325,510 tons of cargo into Berlin with coal accounting for 60 percent of

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the total tonnage. (2) (4)

- 1950: Capt Chuck Yeager flew the number one Bell X-1 research aircraft on its last flight above Edwards AFB. Film clips of the flight were used in the movie "Jet Pilot." (8: May 90)
- 1954: Langley AFB received TAC's first F-84F Thunderstreak, a fighter equipped for boom refueling. (11)
- 1960: At El Centro, a C-130 Hercules dropped 35,000 pounds of heavy equipment in one bundle by parachute. The USAF claimed this feat as a world weight record for airdrops. (24)
- 1964: Miss Joan Merriam became the second woman pilot to fly around the world alone when she landed at Oakland. She flew her Piper Apache 27,750 miles in 56 days over Amelia Earhart's intended route from 1937. (9)
- 1968: SAC renamed Bunker Hill AFB, near Peru, Ind., Grissom AFB to honor Astronaut Virgil Grissom, who died in the 27 January 1967 Apollo capsule fire. (16)

**EVACUATION OF KHAM DUC.** Under extremely hostile conditions, C-130s assisted in the evacuation of Kham Duc, a training site and special operations base for Allied reconnaissance teams near Laos. Air Force transports carried over 500 of the 1,800 military and civilians from Kham Duc before it fell into enemy hands. The enemy killed 259 people and destroyed several aircraft. (17) (18)

**MACKAY TROPHY 1968.** Lt Col Daryl D. Cole, 374 TAW flew a C-130 into the besieged camp at Kham Duc. After an aborted takeoff and with fuel pouring out of his wings from hostile fire, Colonel Cole managed to takeoff and flew his C-130 and a three-member Air Force combat control team to safety. (18)

**MEDAL OF HONOR.** Lt Col Joe M. Jackson volunteered to rescue a three-man Air Force combat control team at **Kham Duc**. Before the rescue, enemy forces set the camp afire, overran the forward outpost, and established gun positions on the airstrip. They had destroyed eight aircraft, and one aircraft remained on the littered runway. Despite the odds, Jackson and his crew (Maj Jesse Campbell, TSgt Edward M. Trejo, and SSgt Manson L. Grubbs) landed their C-123 under intense hostile fire, but were forced to take off. Making a second attempt, under hostile conditions again, Jackson landed his C-123, extracted the combat controllers, and returned to safety. For his valiant effort, he received the Medal of Honor, the only airlifter so honored in the Vietnam Conflict. Major Campbell received the Air Force Cross, while Sergeants Trejo and Grubbs earned Silver Stars. (18)

- 1972: C-130s flew 5,000 pounds of civilian-donated medical equipment from Stuttgart, Germany, to a new hospital at Sile, Turkey. (16)

### 13 May

- 1908: First radio reception on a balloon in the US received while flying from Fort Myer, Va., to Woodwardville, Md. (24)
- 1911: Lts Henry H. Arnold and Thomas DeWitt Milling completed their training at Simms Station, Dayton, to become the first Army pilots to graduate from the Wright School. (4)
- 1940: Igor Sikorsky flew his VS-300 (Vought-Sikorsky) helicopter in its first free flight. Earlier flights were tethered. (21)
- 1941: In a mass flight over the Pacific, 21 B-17s took off from Hamilton Field, and landed on 14 May

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at Hickam Field 13 hours 10 minutes later. (21)

- 1942: The first US bombardment squadron, the 15th, sent to England without aircraft. It flew the first US AAF operations over Western Europe on 4 July against enemy airfields in the Netherlands.
- 1948: The first US built two-stage rocket, the Bumper-WAC, launched from White Sands. (6)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force F-86 Sabres destroyed five MiG-15s in aerial combat. In the morning 12 F-86s attacked targets in Sinuiju, Sinuiju Airfield, and Uiju Airfield in northwestern Korea. In early afternoon, Sabres hit the marshaling yards at Kunu-ri, and, in late afternoon, bombed Sinuiju with 1000-pound bombs. Unfortunately, Col Walker M. Mahurin, the 4 FIG Commander who had led all three missions, was shot down and captured. (28)
- 1957: Three USAF F-100C Super Sabres set a distance record for single-engine jet aircraft by flying 6,710 miles from London, England, to Los Angeles in 14 hours 5 minutes. (24)
- 1958: Trans World Airlines hired the first black stewardess. (8)
- 1962: **Project FIELD GLASS.** Through 7 June, an F-100 detachment of the 510 TFS from Clark AB deployed to Takhli RTAFB, Thailand, in response to an increasing threat on the Laotian border. On 16 May, the rest of the 510 TFS deployed to Takhli. On 7 June, a TDY F-100 squadron from Cannon AFB, N. Mex., replaced the 510 TFS. (17)
- 1967: For the second time, the 8 TFW's pilots shot down seven MiGs in a single day's action over North Vietnam. (16)
- 1968: The DoD called up three more ANG and six more AFRES units with 22,000 people to extended active duty to augment regular Air Force units involved in the Vietnam War. (16) (21)
- 1976: **TYPHOON OLGA.** Through 1 June, after Typhoon Olga hit the Philippines, ARRS helicopters saved 734 flood victims. (2)
- 1985: The AFFTC at Edwards AFB completed its evaluation of the KC-135R Stratotanker under minimum interval takeoff conditions. The improved tanker demonstrated an ability to take off at 12-second intervals. (16)
- 1995: The 931 AREFG at McConnell AFB became the first KC-135 associate unit to fly an operational mission with an all-reserve crew. The aircraft refueled a B-2 Bomber during one of its flight tests. Previously, the reserve crews flew on active duty aircraft. (16) (18)
- 2004: The final C-141 airdrop of paratroopers took place at Fort Benning, Ga. Army Private Jason Stewart, a native of Chandler, Ariz., became last paratrooper to jump from a C-141, when he jumped from C-141C (No. 65-0229) of the 452 AMW (AFRC) at March ARB, Calif. (22)

### 14 May

- 1908: First airplane passenger flight in history took place at Kitty Hawk as the Wrights prepared to deliver their "Flyer" to the US government. Wilbur Wright piloted the machine and Charles Furnas, an employee, flew as passenger. (4) (21)
- 1923: The Army accepted the first PW-8 prototype. It evolved into the Curtiss Hawk series of bi-plane pursuit aircraft. The "W" designated water-cooled engine. (21)
- 1951: In a 1,000-pound Piper Pacer, Max Conrad set an unofficial nonstop transcontinental record for a light plane of 23 hours 4 minutes 21 seconds. (24)

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The ANG's 116 FBW received a warning order to prepare for a move to Europe to help shore up NATO against a possible attack by the Soviet Union. (McLearn, *Republic F-84 Photo Chronicle*, p 114.)

- 1963: The USAF's X-21A, a twin-jet laminar flow control aircraft, flew successfully for the first time with its slit wing mechanism in operation.
- 1969: **Operation COMBAT MOSQUITO.** USAF Southern Command personnel began a massive campaign to combat an encephalitis epidemic in Ecuador. Two C-141s flew 50 tons of pesticide there, where two UC-123s then sprayed the country's coastal marshes. The operation, involving the USAF, State Department, and Public Health officials, successfully eradicated 95 percent of the area's mosquitoes. (16) (21)
- 1970: The SECDEF ordered a halt to defoliation operations flown by the 12 SOS and its UC-123K aircraft at Bien Hoa AB, South Vietnam. This order ended the application of Agent Orange on Vietnam's jungles. (17)
- 1973: From Kennedy Space Center, a two-stage Saturn V launched Skylab 1 into orbit, where its two Solar Array System wings failed to deploy. The Skylab was America's first manned orbiting space station.
- 1974: The USAF/Northrop F-5F two-place fighter made its roll out at Hawthorne.
- 1979: The last ANG C-121 type aircraft, an EC-121 "Coronet Solo" operated by the 193<sup>d</sup> Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (Pennsylvania), retired from service and flown to the Military Aircraft Storage and Disposition Center at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. (Francillon, *United States Air National Guard*, p. 190)
- 1984: The 375 AAW accepted its first C-12F Huron, a militarized version of Beechcraft Super King B200C, for operational support airlift missions. The USAF ordered 40 C-12Fs as replacements for the T-39 Sabreliner. (18) (26)
- 2000: Boeing's RS-68 rocket engine completed a major milestone with a 160-second burn at 100 percent power during Air Force Research Laboratory tests at Edwards AFB. The liquid hydrogen, liquid oxygen engine was being developed for the *Delta IV* family of launch vehicles. (3)
- 2001: The Boeing RS-68 rocket engine surpassed its previous records with a test run of 210 seconds at the Air Force Research Laboratory's ground test facility at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 2002: Twelve C-17 Globemaster IIIs from Charleston AFB launched shortly after daybreak to fly the largest C-17 formation in history. Aircrews assigned to the 437 AW and 315 AW (AFRC) flew the multi-ship formation over downtown Charleston, the Ashley River, and Charleston AFB to train for their strategic brigade airdrop mission. (22)
- An F-15E successfully attacked five targets with JDAMs on a single sortie. The F-15 released the JDAMs from 25,000 feet while flying at Mach .80. (30)
- 2003: AMC began the "Baghdad Express," a daily C-141 resupply mission from Ramstein AB to Baghdad IAP, Iraq. Two C-141s and two active-duty aircrews from the 305 AMW at McGuire AFB, N. J., and one aircrew from McGuire's 514 AMW (Reserve-Associate) were staged at Ramstein to fly the missions. (22)

### 15 May

- 1918: Pilots in the Army Aviation Section (Signal Corps) started the government's first permanent



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airmail route from Washington to New York. (See 12 August 1918) (5) (18)

- 1930: Ellen Church, who was a registered nurse, became the first airline stewardess. She served sandwiches on a Boeing Air Transport flight between San Francisco and Cheyenne, Wyo., and rode in the jumpseat of a Boeing Model 80A. (8: May 90)
- 1938: Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes refused to export inert helium gas to Germany for use in Zeppelin airships, because the gas could be used for military purposes. (8)
- 1942: Interceptor and pursuit organizations of US AAF redesignated "fighter."
- 1948: Air Materiel Command asked Boeing to develop an American aerial fueling system, the flying boom to overcome problems with the British hose system used on B-29s. Among the deficiencies noted were slow rate of fuel flow, time-consuming contact procedures, excessive weight and space requirements, and relatively slow flying speeds during refueling. (18)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Through 16 May, communist forces launched the second phase of their spring offensive against Republic of Korea Corps in the east in a last attempt to drive UN forces from the Korean peninsula. FEAF day-time aerial attacks limited the enemy's tactical assaults to night. (28)
- The first personnel of the ANG's 136 FBW left the US for Japan. (History, 136<sup>th</sup> FBW, 1 Apr-30 Jun 51, p. 2)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force fighter-bombers flew 265 sorties against a vehicle repair factory at Tang-dong, north of Pyongyang, destroying at least 39 buildings and a power plant. 1Lt James H. Kasler, 335 FIS, destroyed two MiGs to become an ace. (28)
- 1956: The 309th Troop Carrier Group (TCG), with C-123 aircraft, deployed to Freux, France. This was the first time this plane appeared in Europe.
- 1959: MATS began using computer flight plans produced by the Joint Numerical Weather Prediction Unit at Suitland, Md. This test program became operational in the Air Weather Service on 14 December 1959. (2)
- The Air Force Ballistic Missile Division revised its plan to develop an operational rail mobile Minuteman system. (6)
- 1961: NASA Deputy Administrator Hugh L. Dryden revealed that the Ames Research Center at Moffett Field, Calif., had simulated free flight speeds of almost 30,000 MPH. (24)
- 1963: **LAST MERCURY FLIGHT.** After 22-orbits around the earth, Maj L. Gordon Cooper ended a 34-hour, 20-minute flight in Mercury capsule Faith 7 before landing in the Pacific, 80 miles southeast of Midway Island. He was the first American to orbit for more than one day and the last pilot in the Mercury series. (8)
- 1964: Air Force Western Test Range activated and assigned to the National Range Division, and the Atlantic Missile Range became the Eastern Test Range.
- 1966: Nimbus II, the largest weather satellite yet, launched from Vandenberg AFB.
- 1968: US airmail service celebrated its 50th year at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington DC.
- 1973: **Operation AUTHENTIC ASSISTANCE.** A humanitarian action to Africa's drought-stricken Sahelian region began. In the next six months, the USAF airlifted 9,250 tons of food, seed

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grain, medical supplies, and vehicles to Mauritania, Chad and Mali. (5) (21)

- 1975: **MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT:** Cambodian Communists seized the USS Mayaguez on 12 May in the Gulf of Siam near Koh Tang Island. Afterwards, MAC used 16 C-141s on 30 sorties to airlift 1,165 Marines and 121 tons of cargo from the Philippines and Okinawa to Utapao AB, Thailand. The ARRS sent HH-53 helicopters to fly the Marines to Koh Tang Island and to the USS Holt, and later picked them up. In the operation, hostile fire damaged six helicopters and wounded two airmen. MAC then supported the later redeployment with 14 C-141 and 1 C-5 mission. (2) (18)
- MACKAY TROPHY.** During efforts to rescue the crew of the USS Mayaguez, Maj Robert W. Undorf received the trophy for conspicuous gallantry, initiative, and resourcefulness. This was the last major operation in Southeast Asia. (21)
- 1977: SECDEF Brown directed the Air Force to develop the extended range ALCM-B rather than the ALCM-A due to a significant cost savings.
- 1983: The comparative flyoff between the F-16XL and F-15 in a dual-fighter role ended at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1993: The 178 FG, Ohio ANG, was the last unit in the U.S. armed forces to fly the A-7. The unit honored the Corsair II during a "SLUF [i.e., Short, Little Ugly Flyer] Salute" at Springfield, Ohio. (2Lt Carol Thompson, "The Buckeye Guard Gives A Grand SLUF Salute," *National Guard*, August 1993, pp 20-22.)
- 1996: The eleventh operational B-2 Spirit bomber arrived at Whiteman AFB for duty with the 509 BW to mark another important milestone in the B-2 program. It was the first Block 20 series aircraft to arrive at Whiteman. The aircraft featured improvements in avionics, GPS-aided munitions, and terrain following software. The earlier Block 10 aircraft were retrofitted with those upgrades later. (AFNEWS Article 960484, May 96)

### 16 May

- 1919: **FIRST ATLANTIC CROSSING BY AIR.** Lt Cmdr Albert C. "Puffy" Read and his five-man crew left Trepassy Bay, Newfoundland, in an NC-4. They arrived at the Azores on 17 May and at Lisbon, Portugal, on 27 May, thus completing the first crossing of the Atlantic by air. Two other flying boats failed to finish the trip. (9)
- 1940: President Roosevelt asked for the production of 50,000 planes a year. (12) (24)
- 1945: Fighter-bombers assaulted the Ipo Dam area, Luzon, with the largest mass employment of napalm in the Pacific War. (21) (24)
- 1947: Over New York, 101 B-29s "theoretically" dropped bombs in SAC's first maximum effort mission. (1)
- 1950: The USAF gained full responsibility for developing and operating the Joint Long Range Proving Ground Division. The Division had the status of a major air command.
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** In a maximum effort through 26 May, 315 AD cargo aircraft flew an average of over 1,000 tons of supplies daily from Japan to Korea to support UN ground forces seeking to halt the communist offensive. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Through 17 May, in an emergency unit movement by air, the 315 AD dispatched C-119, C-54, and C-46 aircraft to transport 2,361 members of the 187th Regimental

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Combat Team and combat equipment, vehicles, and supplies from Japan to Pusan, Korea. The team quelled rioting POWs at Koje-do, where the UN Command had established a large POW compound. (28)

- 1958: Capt Eli L. Beeding, Jr. became the first man to absorb 83 "Gs" in a Daisy Track experiment.
- Over a 10-mile level course at Edwards AFB, Capt Walter W. Irwin flew a Lockheed F-104A Starfighter to a FAI speed record of 1,404.09 MPH. (9)
- The first F-101 Voodoo aircraft to reach Europe arrived at Phalsbourg AB, France. (4)
- 1964: SECDEF McNamara accelerated the phaseout of Atlas E and Titan I missiles. His directive advanced the retirement from FY1968 to FY1965. (6)
- 1968: MAC airlifted 88.5 tons of food and relief material to Ethiopia in response to a flood. (16) (26)
- 1978: **Operation ZAIRE I/MACKAY TROPHY.** Through 27 May, after Katangan rebels from Angola attacked Zaire's Shaba province, MAC used one C-5 and 42 C-141 missions to carry 931 tons of cargo and 124 passengers to support Belgian and French operations. During the C-5 mission, Lt Col Robert F. Schultz and his 436 MAW aircrew carried a 130,000-pound outsized load and earned the Mackay Trophy for overcoming fatigue, limited en route support, crippling mechanical problems, and adverse operational conditions in a hostile area. (21)
- 1980: General Dynamics launched the Tomahawk GLCM for the first time at the Utah Test and Training Range. (3)
- 1984: MAC C-141s flew 22 tons of medical supplies to Afghan refugees in Peshawar, Pakistan. (16)
- 1989: **Operation BLADE JEWEL.** Based on deteriorating relations between the US and Panama, President Bush ordered military dependents not residing on American bases to leave Panama. MAC evacuated 5,915 dependents, mainly on civil aircraft, to the US. (18)
- 2001: **Operation FOCUS RELIEF.** Through 24 May, in Operation FOCUS RELIEF II, five C-5 missions airlifted 201 US troops and 217 short tons of cargo from Fort Bragg and Ramstein AB to Ghana and Senegal, where they trained indigenous military personnel to support UN peacekeeping efforts in Sierra Leone. From August to October 2000, in Operation FOCUS RELIEF I, AMC flew American forces and equipment to Nigeria to help train Nigerian forces for a peacekeeping role in Sierra Leone. By late 2001, AMC flew another 4 C-5, 4 C-17, and 2 C-141 missions for peacekeeper training in Ghana, Senegal, and Nigeria. Seven airlift sorties from 11 September through 2 October were flown as FOCUS RELIEF III missions. (22)

### 17 May

- 1913: Domingo Rosillo flew from Key West to Havana in a Morane land monoplane to win a \$10,000 prize, flying 90 miles in 2 hours 30 minutes. (24)
- 1919: The Director of the Air Service ordered the use of the national star insignia on all service planes. (4)
- 1933: The Army's nonrigid helium coastal patrol airship, the TC-13 (the largest nonrigid airship built for the Air Corps), arrived at Langley Field.
- 1934: In a Sikorsky S-42, Boris Sergievsky and Raymond B. Quick set a US seaplane altitude record by carrying a 5,000-kilogram (11,000-pound) payload to 20,407 feet at Bridgeport. (24)

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- 1942: Igor I. Sikorsky and Les Morris flew the Sikorsky XR-4 to Wright Field to deliver the Army's first helicopter. (21)
- 1944: USS Saratoga joined a British Eastern Fleet carrier air strike against the Japanese base at Soerabaja, Java. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Through 22 May, FEAF Bomber Command B-29s flew 94 (mostly night-time) sorties against enemy ground forces, far more close air support missions in a similar previous period in the war. The B-29s flew few other types of missions during this time. (28)
- 1961: Cmdr Patrick L. Sullivan and Lt Beverly W. Witherspoon (USN) flew an HSS-2 helicopter to a 192.9 MPH world speed record over a 3-kilometer (1.86 miles) course at Bradley Field, Windsor Locks, Conn. (24)
- 1964: **Operation WATER PUMP.** The Royal Lao Air Force (RLAF) began operations against the Pathet Lao. Earlier in March, Detachment 6, 1st Air Commando Wing, moved four T-28s to Udorn RTAFB, Thailand, to train the RLAF in operations and maintenance. The T-28s were painted on 18 May with Laotian markings and turned over to the RLAF. Additional aircraft were obtained from the Vietnamese in late May. (17)
- 1990: Col Frank Birk and Leroy Schroeder flew Northrop's B-2A on a six-hour, 36-minute test flight above Edwards AFB. The bomber completed several performance tests and three air refuelings in the test. (8: Jul 90)
- A MAC C-141 airlifted a Soviet SS-20 intermediate range nuclear missile to Andrews AFB for display at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C. In exchange, a 438 MAW crew and aircraft from McGuire AFB transported a Pershing II missile to the Shermetyevo Airport near Moscow. (18)
- 1993: Through 29 May, 9 C-5 Galaxies and 15 C-141 Starlifter missions moved 254 UN troops and 326 tons of equipment to Cambodia to supervise that country's first free elections in 40 years. Three tankers from PACAF provided refuelings to the C-5s flying from Namibia to Cambodia. (16) (18)
- 1997: The McDonnell-Douglas X-36 Tailless Fighter Agility Research Aircraft made its first flight from Edwards AFB, but an overheated engine forced the 28-percent scale concept demonstrator to land six minutes later. It was a remotely piloted jet vehicle designed by NASA to study the maneuverability of aircraft with no vertical tail surfaces. (3)
- 1998: An AFFTC pilot, Lt Col Steven M. Rainey, became the first USAF pilot to fly the F-22 *Raptor*. It was the aircraft's third flight and its first flight at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1999: The ANG mobilized 18 A-10s and nearly 510 personnel from the 104th Fighter Wing (FW), 110th FW, and 124th FW. The forces formed the 104<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group and left Barnes Municipal Airport, Massachusetts heading for Italy to participate in Operation Allied Force. The 104th Expeditionary Operations Group arrived on 19 May at Trapani AB in Sicily and began flying operations two days later. (32)

### 18 May

- 1918: American day bombing began with the arrival of the 96th Aero Squadron at Amanty Airdrome, France. (4) (11)
- 1942: The US and Panama signed an agreement for defense sites in Panama that included several air-bases.

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1949: New York's first heliport opened at Pier 41, East River. (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** An SA-16 amphibian from the 3 ARS, while under fire from the enemy shoreline, rescued a downed F-84 pilot. (28)
- 1953: Jacqueline Cochran, flying a Canadian-built F-86 Sabre at Edwards AFB, became the first woman to fly faster than sound. She averaged 652.337 MPH on a 100-kilometer closed-course (62 miles) to earn the women's jet speed record. (24)
- Capt Joseph C. McConnnell, Jr., shot down his 16<sup>th</sup> enemy aircraft in the Korean War to become its top ace. (21)
- 1955: Leading four F-84 Thunderjets, Col Harold M. McClelland set a nonstop record for single-engine jets by flying 4,840 miles from Yokota AB to Williamstown, Australia, in 12 hours 10 minutes. (24)
- 1958: The US recovered its first full-scale ablative-type nose cone from the Atlantic Ocean. It was launched from Cape Canaveral on a Jupiter missile. (6)
- 1964: Jacqueline Cochran set a speed record for women: 1,429 MPH at 37,100 feet in altitude, in an F-104G at Edwards AFB.
- First McDonnell-Douglas RF-4C flight lasted 50 minutes. (12)
- 1965: First flight of the Navy's F-111B.
- 1966: Ling-Temco-Vought Aerospace's XC-142A triservice V/STOL transport made its first carrier takeoffs and landings during tests aboard the USS Bennington at sea off San Diego. (3)
- 1969: **APOLLO X.** Through 26 May Apollo X, the first lunar orbital mission using a complete Apollo spacecraft, launched from Kennedy Space Center on a Saturn V with Col Thomas F. Stafford (USAF), Capt John W. Young (USN), and Cmdr Eugene A. Cernan (USN) aboard. They landed eight days later in the Pacific. (26)
- 1968: The USAF delivered 88.5 tons of food and emergency materials to Ethiopia after a massive flood. (8)
- 1973: Lockheed-Georgia delivered the last production-model C-5A aircraft, No. 81, to MAC at Dover AFB. (16) (26)
- 1980: After Mount St. Helens erupted, a C-141 from the 63 MAW at Norton AFB, Calif., and a C-130 from the 62 MAW at McChord AFB flew above the stricken area to provide communications for rescue aircraft. The USAF Rescue Coordination Center at Scott AFB managed 568 sorties by the ARRS, Coast Guard, Civil Air Patrol, and Army aircraft through 5 June that saved 101 lives. SR-71 aircraft conducted photoreconnaissance sorties to aid the rescue and recovery operations. (2) (21)
- 1992: A production C-17 Globemaster III flew for the first time in a flight from Long Beach to the test facility at Edwards AFB. (16)

### 19 May

- 1908: Lt Thomas E. Selfridge, the first US Army officer to fly an airplane, flew the White Wing at Hammondsport. It was Dr. Alexander Graham Bell's second Aerial Experiment Association

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

plane, and it had hinged ailerons. (20) (21)

- 1917: A General Order described a distinguished insignia for all US government aircraft and directed it be placed on all naval aircraft. The insignia was a red disc within a white star on a blue circular field, and would be placed on the wings with red, white, and blue vertical bands on the rudder, with the blue forward.
- 1918: Raoul G. Lufbery, who posted 17 aerial victories with Lafayette Escadrille before joining the American Expeditionary forces, died in aerial combat. (21)
- 1919: **DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.** MSgt Ralph W. Bottriell became the first American military person to jump from an aircraft using a manually-operated backpack parachute. He later received the DFC for this feat. (4)
- 1949: The Navy's flying boat, the JRM-1 Marshall Mars, broke the record for number of people carried on a single flight when 301 passengers and a crew of seven were flown from Alameda to San Diego. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** An H-5 helicopter rescued a downed F-51 pilot southwest of Chorwon, sustaining damage from small arms fire during the pickup. (28)
- 1961: First Titan I arrived at Lowry AFB. (6)
- 1963: On a nonstop Washington DC to Moscow flight, the US presidential aircraft, a Boeing 707-320B (VC-137C), with Col James B. Swindal at the controls, set 15 nonstop FAI records in flying the 5,004-mile route in 8 hours 39 minutes 2 seconds. On the 20-21 May return flight, Colonel Swindal and his crew set another 15 FAI records on the Moscow to Washington trip, flying the distance in 9 hours 54 minutes 48.5 seconds, or an average speed of 490.96 MPH. (9)
- 1965: The USAF used a single Thor-Agena rocket to launch simultaneously eight separate satellite vehicles from Vandenberg AFB. This was the greatest number of satellites the US had ever launched on a single vehicle.
- 1966: Pioneer VI, launched on 16 December 1965, reached its perihelion, some 75.7 millions miles from the sun. During 154 days in solar orbit, the spacecraft transmitted 340 million readings of 3,000 separate scientific measurements and 3 million readings of 100 individual engineering measurements to earth.
- 1967: Douglas Aircraft Company received a contract to design and build the MOL. (16)
- 1970: **HARMON TROPHY.** The Apollo XI crew (Astronauts Michael Collins, Neil A. Armstrong, and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr.) received the trophy for outstanding scientific and technological accomplishment in achieving the first landing of man on the moon. (16)
- 1977: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Capt James W. Yule, a B-52 instructor pilot, received the Mackay Trophy for gallantry and unusual presence of mind during an in-flight emergency. (21)
- 1980: The Air Force launched its first Tomahawk GLCM at the Utah Test and Training Range. (3)
- 1987: **Exercise HAMMER 87-1.** USAFE units participated in the largest multiwing, multinational, composite force exercise conducted in Europe since World War II to date. (16)
- 2000: After one test flight at the White Sands Missile Range, the USAF delivered the Boeing X-40A to the Dryden Flight Research Facility. It was an 80 percent scale version of the proposed X-37 Space Maneuver Vehicle (SMV), an unmanned autonomous spacecraft able to deliver small satellites into orbit, conduct on-orbit reconnaissance, and perform other space chores. (3)

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2001: The Boeing X-40A completed its seventh and last flight. Released from a U.S. Army Chinook helicopter from 15,000 feet, the X-40A attained 304 mph in its unpowered two-minute descent to a safe landing on Rogers Dry Lake at Edwards AFB. (3)

### 20 May

- 1915: The Army accepted its first Curtiss JN-2 aircraft. It went to the 1<sup>st</sup> Aero Squadron. (21)
- 1926: President Calvin Coolidge signed the Air Commerce Act. It was the first federal law regulating civil aviation. (21) (24)
- 1927: **KEY EVENT—SOLO FLIGHT ACROSS THE ATLANTIC/MEDAL OF HONOR.** Charles A. Lindbergh, a Captain in the Missouri National Guard's 110<sup>th</sup> Observation Squadron, landed his Ryan Monoplane, the "Spirit of St. Louis," in Paris on 21 May after the first nonstop solo flight across the Atlantic. He set a 3,609-mile FAI record for straight-line distance in his 33-hour 39-minute flight. For this feat, President Calvin Coolidge presented Lindbergh with a special Medal of Honor (not the "Congressional" Medal of Honor). (9) (21)
- 1932: Amelia Earhart flew a Wasp-powered Lockheed Vega on the first solo flight across the North Atlantic by a woman. She flew from Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, to Londonderry, Ireland, in 15 hours 20 minutes. (9)
- 1939: Pan American Airways started the first scheduled transatlantic airmail service, using a southern route through the Azores, Portugal, and Marseilles, France. A northern route through New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Eire, and England started later on 24 June. (5) (21)
- 1948: A production North American P-86 Sabre, the first swept-wing jet fighter, made its first flight. (12)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR/FIRST JET-TO-JET ACE.** In an F-86 Sabre, Capt James Jabara from the 334 FIS became the world's first jet ace by shooting down his fifth and sixth MiG-15s. (21) (24) (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Col Harrison R. Thyng, 4 FIW Commander, destroyed his fifth MiG to become the sixteenth jet ace of the war. (28)
- 1954: The first Matador surface-to-surface guided missile arrived in the European theater. (4)
- 1960: From Cape Canaveral, the USAF launched a Convair HGM-16 Atlas ICBM with a 1.5-ton payload to a target 9,040 miles away in the Indian Ocean. This feat represented the greatest distance traveled by an ICBM to date. (20) (24)
- 1966: The NORAD Attack Warning System (NAWS) became operational.
- 1970: An FB-111 launched a SRAM successfully for the first time at the White Sands Missile Range. (6)
- 1978: McDonnell Douglas delivered its 5,000th F-4 Phantom to the services. (8)
- 1983: The 18 MAS at McGuire AFB sent a C-141 with an all-female crew on a round-trip flight across the Atlantic. They became the first all-woman crew to make that flight.
- 2005: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) launched its NOAA-N spacecraft from Vandenberg AFB into a polar orbit to collect information about Earth's atmosphere

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

and environment. The data would be used to improve weather prediction and climate research across the globe. NOAA-N also has instruments to support an international search-and-rescue program. The Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking System, called COPAS-SARSAT, transmits to ground stations the location of emergency beacons from ships, aircraft and people in distress around the world. ([http://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/noaa-n/main/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/noaa-n/main/index.html))

The 53d Weather Reconnaissance Squadron's "Hurricane Hunters" from Keesler AFB flew their first WC-130J operational mission into a storm to gather data about Hurricane Adrian off the coast of El Salvador. Prior to this event, the 53d's crews had flown the WC-130J into storms for training and evaluation, but not to fulfill a National Hurricane Center tasking. (AF-NEWS Article, "Hurricane Hunters Fly First Operational WC-130J Mission," 23 May 2005)

- 2003: Boeing's 777-300ER extended-range jetliner set an FAI world weight record of 774,600 pounds at takeoff, the heaviest weight ever for a twin-engine airplane. Boeing test pilot Frank Santoni and FAA pilot Eugene Arnold set the record during the airliner's FAA certification testing. The 777-300ER had General Electric 90-115B engines rated at 115,000 pounds of thrust each, the most powerful in the world. (3)

### 21 May

- 1929: Assistant Secretary of War for Aviation F. Trubee Davison directed the Army Air Corps to hold a public demonstration of the usefulness of air refueling in military operations. The demonstration was to be part of the maneuvers of 1929. What was planned as a round-trip, nonstop bomber mission from Dayton to New York on 21-22 May failed to reach fruition when weather grounded the tanker. The Keystone bomber, however, continued on to New York and Washington, D.C. On the return leg, the bomber and tanker successfully connected over New York City.
- 1931: Through 30 May, Brig Gen Benjamin D. Foulois, Assistant to the Chief of the Air Corps, led a provisional division in the largest maneuvers to date. The exercise involved 667 airplanes and 1,400 men in flights over northeastern and midwestern states. The provisional division included a pursuit wing, a bomb wing, an attack group, two observation wings, and a transport group. (21)
- 1937: Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan left San Francisco on a West to East around-the-world flight. Their trip ended on 2 July when they disappeared near Howland Island in the Pacific. (9)
- 1944: **Operation CHATTANOOGA CHOO-CHOO.** An effort began to attack trains in Germany and France by air. (4)
- 1949: Capt Hubert D. Gaddis, flying a Sikorsky S-52-1 helicopter, set an international and US altitude record of 21,220 feet at Bridgeport. (24)
- 1953: **KOREAN WAR.** Using SHORAN to aim the bombs, B-29s hit the Kuwonga dam directly seven times. The dam did not burst, because the N. Koreans had lowered the water level 12 feet to reduce the pressure on the dam. (28)
- 1955: In his F-86 Sabre, Lt John M. Conroy (ANG) made the first dawn-to-dusk round trip transcontinental flight from Los Angeles to New York and back in 11 hours 18 minutes 27 seconds by averaging a FAI record 432.6 MPH. Returning, he also set a New York to Los Angeles record of 4 hours 24 minutes for the 2,446-mile flight. (9) (24)
- 1956: **Operation REDWING.** On Bikini Atoll in the Pacific, Maj David Crichlow flew a B-52 bomber to nearly 50,000 feet and dropped an H-bomb. This was the first known air-borne-dropped H-bomb to explode. (16) (24)



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- 1957: Maj Robinson Risner flew Lindbergh's transatlantic route with a F-100 in 6 hours 40 minutes (as compared to 33 1/2 hours).
- 1958: The USAF said that the first site for the Titan I ICBM would be at Lowry Range near Denver, Colo.
- 1959: The Air Force recovered a Thor-Able nose cone after a 6,000-mile flight over the Atlantic from Cape Canaveral. (24)
- Test pilot Maj Robert C. Ferry flew Bell Aircraft's XV-3 Convertiplane on its first flight for the USAF. (3)
- 1960: At Eglin AFB, the Air Force retired the last World War II B-25 Mitchell medium bomber from its active inventory. It was a VB-25J model that flew staff support missions. (20)
- 1966: The 1370th Photo Mapping Wing retired the USAF's last RB-50.
- 1969: The C-5A Galaxy became the heaviest aircraft flown to date in a flight from Dobbins AFB, Ga., with a 728,100-pound takeoff weight. This exceeded the C-5's designed gross weight takeoff load by 100 pounds. Previous record was 703,826 pounds.
- 1973: Maj Herbert K. Fisher was the first USAF officer to enter a Pilot Requalification Program for former prisoners of war.
- 1984: The 390 SMW at Davis-Monthan AFB took its last Titan II site (570-5) off alert. (1)

### 22 May

- 1908: Roy Knabenshue's three-man airship made its first ascent at Toledo, Ohio, with the owner, Charles K. Hamilton, and George Duesler aboard. (24)
- 1912: 1Lt Alfred A. Cunningham reported for "duty in connection with aviation" to the Philadelphia Navy Yard. He thus became the Marine Corps' first aviator and the fifth in the Navy. As such, today is the birthday of Marine Corps aviation. (10)
- 1917: Curtiss schools at Newport News and Miami stopped training civilian pilot candidates for Air Service Signal Officers, Reserve Corps. The students were assigned to cadet schools at several universities. (24)
- 1934: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Capt Westside T. Larson received the 1933 trophy for developing procedures for instrument takeoffs and landings on land and sea and instrument flying over water. (4) (11)
- 1941: The Curtiss Hawk 87A Warhawk first flew.
- 1946: Maj F. T. Caschman and W. E. Zims in a Sikorsky set a 703.6-mile distance record for helicopters.
- Technicians at White Sands launched the first WAC Corporal E. It was the first US ballistic missile to use a guidance system (a ground-controlled radar system). (6)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** In close air support sorties, Fifth Air Force fighter-bombers inflicted some 1,700 casualties on enemy forces, one of the highest daily totals thus far. (28)

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- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force flew 472 fighter-bomber sorties at the Kijang-ni industrial area near Pyongyang to destroy more than 90 percent of the complex, which produced hand grenades, small arms, and ammunition. (28)
- An Air Force Aerobee rocket carried two monkeys and two mice to a height of about 38 miles. These astronauts returned to earth safely. (16) (24)
- 1958: Over a two day period, Maj E. N. LeFaivre (USMC) piloted an F4D-1 at NAMTC Point Mugu to five world records in speed of climb to 3,000, 6,000, 12,000, and 15,000 meters with marks of 44.392, 66.095, 90.025, 111.224, and 156.233 seconds.
- 1964: Through 5 June, to combat the effects of the volcanic eruptions of Mount Irazu in Costa Rica, eight C-133s and five C-124s airlifted flood control equipment and personnel. (18)
- 1966: The US Army claimed 21 world records for its OH-6A light observation helicopter. Flights at Edwards AFB resulted in 12 speed records, with three each for distance, climbing, and sustained altitude. The records were submitted to the FAI in Paris.
- 1967: Two F-111As showed their long-range capabilities by flying from the US to Europe without refueling or external tanks.
- 1976: **TYPHOON PAMELA.** Through 15 June, after a typhoon struck Guam, MAC airlifted engineering repair teams and 2,650 tons of cargo, including generators, vans, utility vehicles, and communications equipment to Andersen AFB in 24 C-5, 83 C-141, 3 C-130 and 1 commercial missions. (18) (21)
- 1990: McDonnell Douglas pilot Larry Walker and Maj Erwin Jenschke landed the NF-15B STOL Maneuvering Technology Demonstrator in 1,650 feet at Edwards AFB. The Pratt and Whitney two-dimensional, thrust-reversing engine nozzles were used to stop the aircraft. (20)
- 1993: Lt Cmdr Kathryn P. Hire, the Navy's first woman to be assigned to a combat unit, flew her first mission in a Lockheed P-3C Update III Maritime Patrol Aircraft. (20)
- 2002: The X-45A Unmanned Combat Air Vehicle (UCAV), designated Blue, flew for the first time at Edwards AFB over an oval shaped track for 14 minutes at 7,500 feet and 195 knots. It was the first unmanned aircraft designed for autonomous combat operations. (3) (21)

### 23 May

- 1923: Ralph H. Upson won the National Balloon Race at Birmingham, Ala., by landing at Stuart, Va., and covering 424 miles, or 683.972 kilometers. (24)
- 1940: During Third Army maneuvers at Barksdale Field, 320 Army aircraft demonstrated complete military maneuvers that simulated European combat operations. (4) (24)
- 1948: At Aberdeen, Md., the Army announced the dedication of the first continuous wind tunnel capable of 3,000-MPH winds. (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** In the last of four major interdiction strikes, Fifth Air Force flew 275 fighter-bomber sorties against a steel factory complex in the Kijang-ni area, destroying 80 percent of the target. During poor weather, a 3 ARS H-19 helicopter flew most of its sortie "on instruments" and picked up a downed Marine Corps AD-2 pilot-one of the first instances of a "primarily-instruments" helicopter rescue. Through 24 May, B-26s seeded the Kijang-ni area with delayed-action bombs to hamper repair efforts. (28)

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- 1960: **Operation AMIGOS.** The USAF initiated a large humanitarian airlift to aid earthquake victims in Chile. In the next month, airlifters carried 1,000 tons of relief supplies and equipment to the stricken area. (21)
- 1966: From Wichita, Kans., Henry G. Beaird and John O. Lear flew a Lear Jet around the world, completing the 22,992-mile journey in 65 hours 39 minutes at 350.11 MPH. In doing so, they set a FAI record for class C (Jet Business) aircraft. (9)
- 1968: World's first passive satellite, Echo I, launched on 12 August 1960, reentered the earth's atmosphere and disintegrated over southeastern Pacific.
- PAVEWAY LASER GUIDED BOMBS.** An 8 TFW squadron, the 433 TFS Satan's Angels, used a Paveway Laser Guided Bomb (LGB) in combat for the first time. Modified F-4Ds, fitted with laser illuminators, designated target for the strike.
- 1969: In its final research and development test launch from Cape Kennedy, a Titan IIIC placed two Vela nuclear detection satellites in orbit. The Titan also put three Orbiting Vehicle Program satellites in orbit to gather environmental data in deep space. (16)
- 1988: The Bell-Boeing V-22 Osprey, the first production tilt rotor aircraft, was unveiled at the Bell Helicopter Textron plant at Arlington, Tx. (20)
- 1997: Through 25 May, the 509 BW completed the longest B-2 global power mission to date. The 29.9-hour, record-setting flight started from and returned to Whiteman AFB, Mo. It featured a stop at RAF Mildenhall and simulated bomb runs over mid-America. (AFNEWS, 19 Jun 97)
- 2000: Randolph AFB received the first production-model T-6A Texan II. The USAF's new primary trainer would replace the T-37 and the Navy's T-34 training aircraft. (21)
- 2001: The first of four C-17s for the British Royal Air Force arrived at RAF Brize Norton, UK.
- 2003: Edward C. "Pete" Aldridge, the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, approved an Air Force initiative to lease 100 KC-767A tankers for six years, beginning in 2006. (22)

### 24 May

- 1912: Paul Peck set a new unofficial American duration record of 4 hours 23 minutes 15 seconds in his airplane, Miss Columbia, at Mineola. (24)
- 1917: French Premier Ribot asked the US to furnish 5,000 pilots, 50,000 mechanics, and 4,500 planes for active service by mid-1918. (24)
- 1922: Routine operation of catapults aboard ship started when Lt Andrew C. McFall, with Lt D.C. Ramsey as passenger, successfully launched a VE-7 from the USS Maryland, off Yorktown, Va. They used a compressed air catapult. With the installation of catapults on other battleships and then cruisers, the Navy gained the ability to operate aircraft from existing capital ships. Techniques were thus developed to support conventional surface forces, particularly in spotting for ships guns. The Navy also experimented with aerial tactics that would be later developed by carrier aviation. Perhaps more importantly, aircraft capabilities and limitations were demonstrated to the officers and men throughout the Navy.
1927. Because of an attempted prison break at Folsom Prison, two aircraft from the California National Guard's 115<sup>th</sup> Observation Squadron, armed with machine guns, were sent to Sacramento to stand

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

by for possible use. But, no prisoners escaped and the aircraft returned to their home station at Griffith Park in Los Angeles. (32)

- 1948: Jacqueline Cochran set a world speed record of 432 MPH for propeller-driven planes over a 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) closed circuit course. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Flying F-84Es belonging to the 27 FEW, pilots of the Air National Guard's 136 FBW saw their first combat action. (28) (32)
- 1954: Martin Viking XI, a single-stage rocket, set a 158-mile altitude record (834,240 feet) and attained 4,300 MPH at White Sands Proving Ground. (24)
- 1960: Midas II, an infrared scanning satellite for early warning of missile launches, launched on an Atlas-Agena A rocket into an orbit expected to last 40 months. On 26 May, its telemetry system failed.
- 1961: Lt Richard F. Gordon Jr. and Lt Bobbie R. Young (USN) flew an F4H-1 from Los Angeles to New York. They covered the 2,421.4 miles in 2 hours 47 minutes 19.75 seconds by flying 869.73 MPH. They won the Bendix Trophy Race. (9) (24)
- 1962: Lt Cmdr Scott Carpenter (USN) became the second American to orbit the earth in his Mercury spacecraft, Aurora 7. He made three successful orbits and landed in the Atlantic 300 miles east of the planned landing zone. (16) (24)
- 1963: A Titan II launched from Cape Canaveral made a 6,500-mile flight down the Atlantic Missile Range and dropped the largest nose cone ever carried within one mile of the target.  
  
The Air Force decided to phaseout Atlas D, Atlas E, and Titan I missiles between 1965 and 1968. (6)  
  
From Vandenberg AFB, the first successful Minuteman I (Model B) launch occurred. (6)
- 1968: First satellite telephone link between the US and Australia began with the opening of earth station at Moree, Australia.
- 1972: President Nixon and USSR Premier Aleksei N. Kosygin in Moscow signed an Agreement Concerning Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.
- 1994: The C-17 Globemaster flew across the Atlantic for the first time. (16)
- 1996: The Air Force decided to upgrade the original B-2 flight test vehicle (AV-1) to operational status and thus bring the operational B-2 fleet to 21 aircraft. The upgrade included new landing gear, a new avionics suite and modifications to the aircraft structure, fuel system and weapons bay doors. (AFNEWS Article 960500, May 96)
- 2007: A C-17 Globemaster III deployed to Southwest Asia made the first combat airdrop using the Joint Precision Airdrop System (JPADS) with a screamer steerable GPS-guided container delivery system. The C-17 conducted airdrops in two locations, using two different delivery systems, to deliver food, water and ammunition to U.S. forces in two remote locations in Afghanistan. The aircraft first delivered 21,000 pounds of supplies using 14 of the JPADS steerable screamer chutes, and then it resupplied a different group of ground forces with 8,000 pounds of supplies using six Improved Container Delivery System bundles. (AFNEWS, "C-17 Employs Screamer in Combat Air Drop," 25 May 2007.)

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### 25 May

- 1910: Orville and Wilbur Wright flew together for the first time at Dayton. (24)
- 1927: Lt James H. Doolittle performed the first known successful outside loop. (4) (24)
- 1931: **COLLIER TROPHY.** Walter E. Lees and Frederick A. Brossy started a flight that set a non-refueled world endurance record of 85 hours 32 minutes 28 seconds. They used a Packard-owned Bellanca "Pacemaker," with a 225 HP diesel engine, at Jacksonville, Fla. For this event, Lees and Brossy earned the 1931 Collier Trophy. (24)
- 1938: Frank W. Fuller, Jr., in a Seversky, flew from San Francisco to Seattle in a record time of 2 hours 31 minutes 41 seconds. (24)
- 1948: Using a modified B-29 as the tanker aircraft, the Air Force completed its first in-flight refueling. Prior to this event, Boeing conducted the refueling demonstration program. (See 5 May 1948) (12)
- 1953: George Welch, a North American test pilot, flew the prototype YF-100A Super Sabre for the first time at the AFFTC on Edwards AFB. He broke Mach 1 during the flight. (3) (12)
- 1954: **DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS/HARMON INTERNATIONAL TROPHY.** Cmdr M.H. Eppes landed his ZPG-2 airship at NAS Key West after staying aloft for 200.1 hours. Eppes received the DFC and the 1955 Harmon International Trophy for Aeronauts. (24)
- 1959: The ADC received its first F-106 Delta Dart. It was designed to replace the F-102 Delta Dagger. (21)
- 1960: Through 21 June, after a series of earthquakes and a tidal wave hit Chile, the MATS sent C-118 and C-124 aircraft to transport 851 tons of cargo and 1,020 passengers for relief operations there. (2) (18)
- 1962: SAC turned over the last Jupiter IRBM squadron to Turkey. (6)
- 1964: First conventional flight of the Army's XV-5A, a Ryan-built STOL research aircraft, (formerly the VZ-11) occurred at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1984: A MAC C-141 flew the body of the Unknown Soldier of the Vietnam War from Travis AFB to Andrews AFB prior to its interment at Arlington National Cemetery. (18)
- 1993: Through 3 August, NASA demonstrated aerobraking, which used atmospheric drag to slow a spacecraft, to place the Magellan Venus probe into a lower orbit. (20)
- 1995: Through 26 May, USAF aircraft joined in on NATO attacks against Serbian military bunkers to halt Serb artillery attacks on Sarajevo. (16) (26)
- 1996: Through 26 May, during Air Fete '96, an annual air show at RAF Station Mildenhall, the first joint MiG-29, F-15C and F-15E formation flyby in aviation history occurred as a featured display. The F-15s came from nearby RAF Lakenheath, while the MiG-29 came from the Slovak Republic for the airshow. (AFNEWS Article 960522, May 96)
- 1999: The F-117 test force at Edwards AFB completed the Single Configuration Fleet program, which provided a uniform radar absorbing material (RAM) coating for the entire F-117 fleet to significantly reduce costs and maintenance hours. (3)
- 2007: C-17 Globemaster III crews of the 816th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron delivered bullets to

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Beirut as part of a short notice ammunition re-supply tasking in support of the Lebanese military. (AFNEWS, "Airmen Deliver Strategic Aid to Lebanese Military, 28 May 2007.)

### 26 May

- 1920: The Boeing 5-ton GA-1 armored triplane with twin-Liberty engines, eight machine guns, and a 37MM GAX cannon tested at McCook Field. (24)
- 1923: Lt H. G. Crocker used a DH-4B Liberty 400 to make a nonstop transcontinental South-North flight from Ellington Field, Houston, Tex., to Gordon, Ontario, in 11 hours 55 minutes. (24)
- 1942: Vance Breese flew Northrop's prototype P-61 Black Widow, the first American-designed night fighter with radar guidance, for the first time at Hawthorne, Calif. (12)
- 1948: At the White Sands Proving Ground, the first Navaho research test vehicle (NATIV) launched successfully. (6)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** The 315<sup>th</sup> Air Division received its first C-124 Globemaster as two squadrons began the conversion from C-54 to C-124 aircraft. Through 27 May, 10 B-29s from the 19<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group attacked the Sinhung-dong rail bridge, destroying 1 locomotive, 16 boxcars, 350 linear feet of the bridge, and nearly 400 feet of track on the approaches. (28)
- 1956: A Pan American Airways DC-7C claimed the distance record for a nonstop commercial flight by flying from Miami to Paris, France in 13 hours 55 minutes. (24)
- First flight of Republic's F-105 Thunderchief. (12)
- 1959: Douglas Aircraft Company received a contract from the Air Force for advanced design studies of the Skybolt missile. (6)
- 1961: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Maj William R. Payne and Captains William L. Polhelmus and Raymond Wagener from the 43 BMW at Carswell AFB flew a B-58 Hustler 4,612 miles across the Atlantic from New York to Le Bourget Field, Paris, in FAI record time. They completed the trip in 3 hours 19 minutes 41 seconds by flying at 1,089.36 MPH (by comparison Lindbergh's flight took 33 1/2 hours) to earn the Mackay Trophy for the flight. On 3 June, however, the crew died when the B-58 crashed after take-off from LeBourget Field for the Paris Air Show. (1) (21)
- 1972: In Moscow, President Nixon and Communist Party Leader Leonid I. Brezhnev signed a treaty that limited anti-ballistic missile (ABM) systems and an interim agreement on strategic offensive arms. The ABM treaty limited each country to two ABM deployment areas with a radius of 150 kilometers (93 miles) each and with no more than 100 missiles (ABMs) each. Under the strategic agreement, the Soviet Union could deploy 1,618 ICBM and 740 SLBM launchers, while the US could have 1,054 ICBM and 656 SLBM launchers. (26)
- 1973: **SKYLAB 2.** The lab launched from Kennedy Space Center on a Saturn IB with Astronauts Charles Conrad, Jr., Paul Weitz, and Dr. Joseph Kerwin aboard. On 26 May, the astronauts met with Skylab 1 during the fifth orbit, where they worked in space to repair the space station through 21 June. On 18 June, the astronauts surpassed the endurance record in space set by the Soyuz 11 crew. They returned on 22 June, landing 830 miles southwest of San Diego. (21)
- 1983: General Dynamics delivered the 500th F-16A aircraft to Hill AFB. (12)
- 1999: **Operation ALLIED FORCE.** The 104<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group deployed a small contingent of Air Guardsmen and A-10s from Trapani AB to Tazar AB, Hungary, to perform combat search and rescue operations. (32)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 27 May

- 1913: Under General Order No. 39, Army officers who qualified as military aviators received a Military Aviator's Certificate and badge. At the time, 24 officers qualified. (18)
- 1931: The first full-scale wind tunnel for testing airplanes placed in operation at the Langley Field Laboratory of the NACA. (21)
- 1939: Lt Col Alfred A. Cunningham, first Marine and fifth naval aviator, died at his home in Sarasota, Fla.
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Unit 4/SAM C-47s flew leaflet drop/voice broadcast sorties encouraging the enemy to surrender to elements of the U.S. Army's IX Corps. Some 4,000 enemy soldiers surrendered, with many carrying leaflets. The captives reported morale problems among the enemy because of UN aerial attacks. (28)
- 1958: Gen O. P. Weyland accepted TAC's first production F-105B Thunderchief from Republic at its Farmingdale plant in Long Island. (12)
- Company test pilot Robert Little flew the McDonnell Douglas' XF-4H-1 Phantom II prototype on its first flight in St. Louis. (8)
- 1959: The 702 SMW (ICM-Snark) at Presque Isle AFB received SAC's first Snark missile. (6)
- 1963: McDonnell-Douglas' two-seat, twin-engine F-4C Phantom II completed its first flight. (4) (12)
- 1965: The Army's XH-51A, fastest helicopter in the world, demonstrated its rigid motor system and auxiliary jet engine during a test flight. It had a top speed of 272 MPH. Without thrust from the engine, the XH-51A could be operated as a helicopter.
- 1966: The McDonnell Douglas F-4J Phantom made its first public flight.
- 1970: The Air Force completed the Minuteman III's basic R&D program. The last launch of the Minuteman III at the Eastern Test Range took place on 14 December 1970.
- 1971: Boeing received a \$81,745,707 contract to produce 19 737 jet transports for the USAF's Undergraduate Navigator Training System. Honeywell received an earlier contract to build 52 ground simulators for the system. (16)
- 1996: The Air Force named the ninth B-2 the "Spirit of Hawaii" in ceremonies at Hickam AFB. (AF-NEWS Article 960453, May 96)

### 28 May

- 1913: Lts Thomas DeWitt Milling and William C. Sherman set two-man duration and distance records of 4 hours 22 minutes and 220 miles from Texas City to San Antonio. (24)
- 1914: Glenn Curtiss flew the redesigned and rebuilt Langley airplane, with its original engine, off the water for 150 feet at Hammondsport. (24)
- 1940: Dr. Robert H. Goddard offered his research data, patents, and facilities to the military at a meeting with representatives of Army Ordnance, the Army Air Corps, and the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics. The representatives were interested in using rockets for aircraft assisted takeoffs.

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(6)

- 1941: In Newark, a spin-proof private plane, designed for General Aircraft Company, demonstrated. (24)
- 1952: **Operation HIGH TIDE.** Through 29 May, the ANG's 116 FBW participated in this operation to conduct the first air refueling under combat conditions. After launching missions from Japan and attacking targets near Sariwon, N. Korea, the 116<sup>th</sup>'s F-84 fighter-bombers were refueled by KB-29 tankers on their way back to Misawa AB. (32)
- 1958: Test pilot Capt Robert F. Titus became the first military pilot to accomplish a zero-length launch of a F-100 Super Sabre at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1959: A Rhesus monkey, Able, and a squirrel monkey, Miss Baker, were the first primates to be launched and recovered successfully from space. They were recovered after their nose cone hit in the Atlantic Ocean near Antigua Island. They flew to 300 miles in altitude on a PGM-19 Jupiter missile launched from Cape Canaveral. (16) (24)
- 1962: SAC received the last GAM-72A Quail missile from McDonnell Aircraft Company. (6) (12)
- 1963: Cape Canaveral launched the first Minuteman equipped with retro-rockets. The project tried to increase the separation distance between the third stage and reentry vehicle. (6)
- 1964: A Saturn VI carried the first Apollo command and service module mockups into orbit from Cape Kennedy.
- 1968: The Cessna Aircraft Plant at Wichita, Kans., rolled out the first A-37B attack aircraft. (16)
- Exercise Cold Mass II:** MAC's Twenty-First and Twenty-Second Air Forces put 36 C-141s and 3 C-130s in the air to form the largest C-141 combat airdrop formation to date. (16)
- 1995: To commemorate the World War II Hump Airlift, a C-17 Globemaster III and KC-10 Extender flew over the Himalayan Mountains from Calcutta, India, to Kunming, China. (16)

### 29 May

- 1910: Glenn H. Curtiss flew a record 142.5 miles from Albany to New York in 2 hours 50 minutes to win his third Scientific American Trophy. This flight gave him permanent possession of the trophy as well as the \$10,000 prize from *New York World*.
- 1934: **COLLIER TROPHY.** The Hamilton Standard Propeller Company, with credit to Frank W. Caldwell, received the 1933 trophy for developing a controllable pitch propeller. (24)
- 1940: The Vought F4U Corsair first flew.
- 1951: Flying a converted P-51, Charles F. Blair, Jr., traveled 3,300 miles across the North Pole from Bardufoss, Norway, to Fairbanks in 10 hours 29 minutes. Thus, he became the first man to make the trip alone and in a single-engine plane. (9) (24)
- 1953: SAC received its first KC-97G Stratofreighter, a flying boom-type tanker that could dispense 8,513 gallons of aviation gasoline. Unlike previous models, the KC-97G could haul cargo without reconfiguration or carry 96 troops or heavy equipment without modification. (18)
- 1966: The ARRS observed its 20th anniversary. In this period, the ARRS rescued more than 12,000



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people throughout the world. (16)

- 1997: A B-2 from the 509 BW at Whiteman AFB dropped a GAM-113 bomb over the China Lake Range near Edwards AFB. This drop marked the first time the 4,700-pound conventional penetrating weapon was paired with the B-2. (AFNEWS, 19 Jun 97)

### **30 May**

- 1912: Wilbur Wright died of typhoid fever at the age of 45 at Dayton. (21)
- 1913: Assistant Naval Constructor Jerome C. Hunsaker started a course in aerodynamics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. (5) (18)
- 1917: The Navy's first successful dirigible, the B-1, landed 10 miles from Akron, Ohio, after completing an overnight test flight from Chicago, Ill. Goodyear's Ralph H. Upson piloted the craft.
- 1928: Capt Charles E. Kingsford-Smith and three other crewmen piloted a Fokker F-VII Trimotor, the Southern Cross, on the first flight from the US to Australia. The 7,400-mile flight ended at Brisbane on 8 June after stops in Honolulu and the Fiji Islands. (9)
- 1929: A DH-4 with a 400-HP Liberty engine completed cross country refueling tests during a flight from Dayton to New York to Washington DC.
- 1932: Lt Wilfred J. Paul and Lt K. J. H. Bishop won the National Balloon Race. They flew 901.4 miles from Omaha, Nebr., to Hatton in Saskatchewan, Canada, in 29 hours 15 minutes. This set new distance and duration records for a 35,000 cubic foot capacity balloon. (24)
- 1942: The first Boeing B-17F was built.
- 1958: The Air Force disclosed the development of the GAR-9, the first air-to-air atomic missile. (16)
- 1966: After a 30 May launch and a 63 1/2-hour flight, Surveyor I became the first US spacecraft to softland on the moon. It landed in the Ocean of Storms and sent clear TV pictures of the lunar surface back to earth. (21)
- 1972: Northrop's A-9A prototype completed its first flight. This aircraft competed against Fairchild's A-10A to become the Air Force's next close-air-support fighter. (3)
- 1974: The US launched the world's first communications broadcast satellite, the Applications Technology Satellite (ATS-6). From its synchronous orbit, the satellite provided coverage to half of the globe.
- 1998: The Dryden Research Center and the Caltech Jet Propulsion Laboratory successfully dropped the Mars Aerobot Validation Program (MABVAP) vehicle over the Rogers Dry Lake bed. The Planetary Aerobot Testbed (PAT) was a reversible-fluid balloon platform designed to hover for several days on end as an autonomous Mars explorer. (3)
- 2001: A C-17 from Charleston AFB flew a Thermosphere, Ionosphere, Mesosphere, Energetics, and Dynamics (TIMED) spacecraft from Andrews AFB to Vandenberg AFB. The TIMED would be launched later in 2001 on a two-year mission. Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Md., which designed and built the TIMED, would operate the spacecraft to study the sun's influences on the Mesosphere and Lower Thermosphere/Ionosphere, some 40 to 110 miles above the earth. (22)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2003: A 910 AW C-130 from Youngstown ARS, Vienna, Ohio, delivered 7.5 tons of humanitarian supplies to Houari Boumediene Airport in Algiers, the capital city of Algeria. The C-130 crew, on temporary duty at Ramstein AB delivered the first American relief supplies to the earthquake victims. (22)

### 31 May

- 1908: The Glenn H. Curtiss Manufacturing Company at Hammondsport announced that it would accept orders for and deliver flying machines in 60 days at \$5,000 a plane. (12)
- 1922: Maj Oscar Westover and Lt C. F. Bond won the National Balloon Race by traveling 866.5 miles from the starting point at Milwaukee.
- 1930: Capt Arthur H. Page (USMC) won the last Curtiss Marine Trophy Race, an annual event for service seaplanes, in an F6C-3 Curtiss fighter with a speed of 164.08 MPH. (24)
- 1944: The experimental VB-7 vertical bomb, with television sighting, launched for the first time. (24)
- 1945: The last of 18,188 B-24 Liberators and Liberator variants delivered to the US AAF. This "workhorse" was produced in larger numbers than any other American aircraft and employed on more operational fronts than any other Allied or enemy bomber in World War II. (4)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR/Operation STRANGLE.** FEAF launched an attempt to paralyze enemy transportation between the 39th parallel and the front lines. By late July, FEAF knew the interdiction of North Korean supply and communication lines, while substantial, had failed to isolate North Korean forces. In late December, however, General Weyland announced that the STRANGLE operations had shattered the North Korean rail-transportation net. The bombing effort destroyed or damaged 40,000 trucks and prevented a Red Chinese buildup for future offensive operations. (17)
- 1956: The 4080 SRW at Turner AFB, Ga., received the first RB-57, a D-model (number 53-3973) reconnaissance version of the British-designed B-57 Canberra light bomber. (1)
- 1967: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Maj John H. Casteel and his crew from the 902 AREFS at Clinton-Sherman AFB, Okla., began a routine KC-135 mission to refuel two F-104s over the Gulf of Tonkin. Before the flight ended, however, the tanker saved six Navy carrier aircraft. During the operation, Casteel refueled an A-3 tanker while it refueled a F-8, an event that later earned the crew the ninth Mackay Trophy. (1)
- The Airborne Launch Control System (ALCS) achieved its initial operating capability to give SAC the ability to launch ICBMs from airborne command posts. (6)
- The USAF completed its phase out of Atlas E, Atlas F, and Titan I missiles. (16)
- 1978: **Operation ZAIRE II.** On 31 May through 16 June, another 61 C-141 and 11 C-5 missions moved a Pan-African peacekeeping force to Zaire and took the French and Belgian forces, with 1,619 tons of cargo and 1,225 passengers back to Europe. (2) (16) (18)
- 1991: Complying with the 1987 INF Treaty, the USAF inactivated the 501 TMW at RAF Greenham Common, UK. The wing was the first GLCM wing to activate in Europe, the first to become operational, and the last to inactivate. (26)
- 1996: The USAF awarded C-17 multi-year contracts to McDonnell Douglas and Pratt and Whitney for 80 C-17 Globemaster III aircraft and engines over seven years. The contracts, valued at \$16.2 billion, were the longest and the largest multi-year contracts ever entered into by the govern-

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ment to date. That acquisition gave the USAF 120 C-17s and enabled the retirement of C-141s from the USAF inventory. (21)

- 2001: An AFFTC aircrew from Edwards AFB launched the first live JASSM from a B-52H over the White Sands Missile Range. The weapon destroyed a concrete bunker from a range of 195 miles. (3)

### 1 June

- 1912: Capt Charles DeForest Chandler made the first night flight at College Park.
- 1915: The Navy awarded its first contract for a lighter-than-air craft, a nonrigid airship that became the DN-1, to the Connecticut Aircraft Company in New Haven. (24)
- 1919: Responding to the San Francisco District Forester's request, the first organized and sustained aerial forest fire patrol started at Rockwell Field with Curtiss JN-4D and JN-6H planes. (24)
- 1934: Army Air Corps airmail operations ended. The official record for the enterprise reflected 57 crashes and 12 fatalities (main reason for ending the program), with 1.5 million miles flown to carry 777,000 pound of mail at a cost of \$2.7 million. (21)
- 1939: The Army Air Corps inaugurated a plan to use civilian flying schools for the primary training of its flying cadets. (24)
- 1944: Navy airships completed the first crossing of the Atlantic Ocean by nonrigid airships, flying from South Weymouth, Mass., to Argentia, Newfoundland, and the Azores, to Port Lyautey, Morocco. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** A flight of F-86s from the 336 FIS, escorting B-29s, engaged 18 MiG-15s, destroying two. A second flight of B-29s from 343 BS defended itself against 22 MiG-15s in the vicinity of Sonchon. The MiGs destroyed one B-29 and damaged another, while the defenders destroyed two enemy jets. FEAF Special Air Mission C-47s dropped 15 Koreans into enemy held territory to retrieve parts from a crashed MiG-15; however, communist forces captured all 15 Koreans. (28)
- Maj John P. Stapp survived 45 "G's" in a rocket sled powered by a 4,000-pound thrust engine.
- 1961: At Kincheloe AFB, Mich., the USAF declared the first BOMARC-B pilotless interceptor site operational. (16) (24)
- The USAF activated the last Titan I squadron at Mt. Home AFB, Idaho. (12)
- 1962: The USAF launched Oscar II, a 10-pound satellite, piggyback on a Thor-Agena B rocket from Vandenberg AFB. Launched for the American Radio Relay League, Oscar II transmitted radio signals in Morse code for use of amateur radio operators. (16) (24)
- 1964: Miss Jacqueline Cochran flew the 100-kilometer circular course at Edwards AFB at 1,302 MPH to break Jacqueline Auriol's 4 June 1963 international women's record.
- 1967: Two 48 ARRS HH-3E helicopters completed the first helicopter crossing of the Atlantic. The 4,270-mile flight followed Lindbergh's route from New York to Paris of 40 years earlier. They completed the flight in 30 hours 46 minutes with nine inflight refuelings from HC-130P tankers to set a FAI record. (2) (9) (16)

The Vietnamese Air Force bought its first jets, 20 F-5 Freedom Fighters. (12)

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For his role in the MOL development program, Alexander H. Flax, Assistant SECAF for Research and Development, became the first civilian to win the General Thomas D. White USAF Space Trophy. (16)

- 1979: Maj Gen Philip J. Conley, Jr., the Commander of the AFFTC at Edwards AFB, accepted the first F-15C (SN78-0468) for the Air Force. (3)
- To support SAC's air tanker operations, USAFE activated RAF Fairford, UK. The base became fully operational on 12 September when the first two KC-135 Stratotankers arrived. (16) (26)
- 1990: SAC turned over the first FB-111s to TAC. After modifications, the USAF redesignated the jets as F-111Gs. (20)
- 1994: Maj Jacqueline Parker arrived at 174th FW at Hancock Field, N.Y., to begin mission qualification training in the F-16. She was the first female F-16 pilot in the ANG. (16)
- 1999: **Operation ALLIED FORCE.** Through 2 June, the 108 AREFW (New Jersey ANG) deployed an advanced party and four KC-135s to an undisclosed European location to support NATO operations in Kosovo. (32)
- 2005: A C-17 aircrew flew the first IRAQI FREEDOM support mission from the new "hub and spoke" location at Incirlik AB. Under the "spoke and hub" concept, contract commercial aircraft and AMC airlifters carried cargo to Incirlik from Charleston AFB, after which C-17s airlifted the cargo to Iraqi locations. This new system made it possible for AMC to deliver more cargo to US forces in Iraq with fewer aircraft. (22)

### 2 June

- 1917: In World War I, the first group of aviation specialists (93 skilled civilian mechanics) to go overseas sailed for England to study British and French airplanes and manufacturing methods.
- 1941: USS Long Island, first escort carrier of the Navy, commissioned. (24)
- 1944: **Operation FRANTIC.** The first shuttle-bombing mission using Soviet bases to attack Eastern European targets occurred. The bombers took off from Italy and landed at Poltava, Soviet Union, after bombing Debrecen, Hungary. Lt Gen Ira C. Eaker, head of the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces, flew in one B-17. (4) (24)
- 1949: Gen Henry H. Arnold received the permanent rank of General of the Air Force. (24)
- 1950: The 28 SRW at Rapid City AFB, S. Dak., received the first RB-36D (number 44-92091). This reconnaissance version of the B-36B had four jet engines added to the six propeller engines. (1)
- 1954: Test pilot James F. "Skeets" Coleman flew Convair's XFY-1, a vertical takeoff plane, in its first free takeoff and landing at Moffett NAS, Calif. (16) (24)
- 1957: **PROJECT MAN HIGH I.** Capt Joseph W. Kittinger Jr. set FAI altitude and endurance records for manned, lighter-than-aircraft. He went aloft in a balloon over Minnesota for 6 hours 34 minutes and stayed above 96,000 feet for 2 hours. (9) (26)
- 1958: **FIRST FIGHTER SYMPOSIUM.** Through 6 June, PACAF held a US/Asian Fighter Weapons Symposium at the mountain resort of Baguio in the Philippines. PACAF Staff officers met with their counterparts from the Chinese Nationalist Air Force, Korean Air Force, Philippine Air

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Force, Royal Thai Air Force, and the Vietnamese Air Force. It was the first such conference on operational requirements and problems. (17)

1967: The DoD assigned the last naval air transport squadron under MAC to the Navy, ending a 19-year partnership between the command and service. (2)

1970: William A. Dana flew NASA's M2-F3 Lifting Body on its first flight, without power, after a launching from a B-52. (3)

Southern Command personnel and aircraft from Howard and Albrook AFBs, the Canal Zone, and C-130s from Lockbourne AFB began massive disaster relief operation for victims of an earthquake in Peru. In the next 31 days, USAF Special Operations airlifted 1.5 million pounds of supplies and equipment, 2,827 passengers and 501 patients for medical reasons, while operating from bare base conditions, 1,500 miles from base. (16) (26)

1995: **MACKAY TROPHY/CORONET BAT.** Through 3 June, two B-1B Lancers flew around the world in record time--36 hours 13 minutes 36 seconds. The bombers received inflight refueling six times from KC-135s and KC-10s. In one B-1 the autopilot failed, forcing the crew to hand fly the bomber for most of the flight. For that effort, the crew earned the 1995 Mackay Trophy. (16) (18)

Through 8 June, after a surface-to-air missile downed his F-16, Capt Scott O'Grady evaded capture by hostile forces for six days until Marine helicopters successfully rescued him. (26)

1998: The 22 AREFW at McConnell AFB received the first production modified KC-135 PACER CRAG (Compass, Radar, and GPS) aircraft (tail number 57-1435). The PACER CRAG equipment served as the centerpiece of several KC-135 modernization efforts. Using the CRAG radar, a pilot would be able to detect cloud formations, wind shear and other weather hazards. The FMS 800, a state-of-the-art flight management system, formed the heart of the CRAG system. It gave pilots the ability to plot courses in a training facility, download the information to a data card, and upload it into the aircraft. That new capability eliminated the need for a navigator. (22)

2001: After launching from an Orbital Sciences Corporation mother ship, NASA's X-43A Hyper-X hypersonic research vehicle broke up and fell into the Pacific Ocean. The Pegasus XL booster lost its fins and spun out of control. (3)

### 3 June

1936: On 3-7 June, Maj Ira C. Eaker, Air Corps, made the first blind (instruments only) transcontinental flight from New York to Los Angeles. (21)

1941: The grade of aviation cadet was created. (24)

1942: **BATTLE OF MIDWAY.** The battle raged through 6 June. Three US carriers destroyed four Japanese carriers, while only losing one of their own. The Japanese also lost a heavy cruiser, 322 aircraft, and 5,000 men, including a host of skilled pilots. This defeat ended Japan's eastern offensive and marked a major turning point in the war. Seventh Air Force flew 55 B-17 sorties and four B-26 torpedo attacks, claiming 22 hits on ships and 10 Japanese fighters shot down. It lost two B-17s and two B-26s. (20) (21)

1946: Flying a P-80 at 463 MPH, Lt Henry A. Johnson set a 1-hour, 20-minute, 31-second world record for 1,000 kilometers. (24)

1951: **KOREAN WAR.** UN antiaircraft artillery destroyed two 315 AD C-119's while the aircraft

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were attempting a resupply airdrop. This fratricide incident led to new Identification-Friend-or-Foe procedures for airdrop operations. (28)

- 1958: In response to a request from the Thai government for assistance, a PACAF C-130 airlifted 300,000 units of anti-cholera serum from Manila to Bangkok to fight a cholera epidemic. (17)
- 1960: A Marine Corps HUS-1 helicopter successfully test fired Bullpup air-to-surface missiles. (24)
- 1961: The USAF test-fired the most powerful solid-fuel rocket engine known to Western scientists. In the test at Sacramento, Calif., some 94,000 pounds of propellant produced in excess of 500,000 pounds of thrust. (16) (24)
- 1964: Miss Jacqueline Cochran claimed her third jet speed record in a month, flying a Lockheed F-104 fighter at 1,135 MPH over a 500-kilometer course at Edwards AFB. Miss Cochran bettered her 17 September 1961 mark of 680.75 MPH on the same course.
- 1965: **GEMINI IV.** Through 7 June, Edward H. White II and James A. McDivitt completed a 97-hour, 58-minute space flight with two firsts: White made a 23-minute space walk (the first), and Houston's Manned Spaceflight Center controlled its first mission. This mission also set a space endurance record (62 orbits). (9)
- 1966: **GEMINI IX.** Through 6 June, Astronauts Lt Col Thomas P. Stafford (USAF) and Lt Cmdr Eugene A. Cernan (USN) completed three rendezvous operations and a record 2-hour, 5-minute space walk. They were launched from the Eastern Test Range aboard a Titan II booster. Then, they landed only 2 1/2 miles from the recovery force (the most accurate reentry to date) after 45 revolutions of earth. Live TV coverage of splashdown and recovery came from the Early Bird I satellite. (5) (16)
- 1984: TAC deployed the first maritime radar-equipped E-3 Sentry to the Persian Gulf area. (16)
- 1999: **Operation ALLIED FORCE.** Yugoslavia accepted an international peace plan for ending the Kosovo conflict, bowing to NATO demands for withdrawal of all its army and police forces and deployment of a NATO-dominated peacekeeping force to that war-torn province. (32)

### 4 June

- 1907: Corporal Edward Ward, the first NCO in the Army's new balloon organization, detailed to learn balloon manufacturing. The unit later became the Signal Corps' Aeronautical Division. (24)
- 1920: Congress created a new rating of "Airplane Pilot" and authorized flying pay of 50 percent above base pay. (12)
- 1927: Clarence D. Chamberlin and Charles A. Levine made the first nonstop flight from New York to Germany in a Bellanca 15-Wright 200 in 43 hours 49 minutes 33 seconds. They set a 3,910-mile FAI straight-line distance record by landing at Eisleben. (9) (24)
- 1930: Lt Apollo Soucek (USN) flew a Wright Apache to a 43,166-foot FAI altitude record at NAS Anacostia DC. (9) (24)
- 1931: Stunt pilot William G. Swan flew his first flight in a rocket-powered glider at Atlantic City, N.J. He climbed 100 feet and flew 1,000 feet before making a perfect landing. The glider, with 10 rockets able to produce 50 pounds of thrust each, only used one rocket for the flight. (7)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** An H-19 helicopter of the 3d Air Rescue Squadron picked up a downed British pilot, encountering automatic weapons fire during the rescue. (28)

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- 1953:     **REFLEX OPERATIONS.** The USAF began “reflexing” B-47 wings to England on 90-day rotational training and alert duty in Europe. From 4-6 June, SAC deployed 45 B-47s in equal flights of 15 bombers from the 306 BMW at MacDill AFB to RAF Fairford, UK. On 6 June, a B-47 set a new record of 5 hours 22 minutes for the 3,120-mile flight to RAF Fairford to break the former record of 6 April 1953. (1)
- 1954:     Maj Arthur Murray flew the Bell X-1A to an unofficial record of 91,000 feet. (3) (9) (24)
- 1958:     At Cape Canaveral, a Thor missile completed its first launch from a prototype tactical-type launcher. (6)
- 1959:     Max Conrad set a world nonstop distance record, flying a Piper Comanche 7,683 miles from Casablanca, Africa, to Los Angeles. (24)
- 1963:     An Atlas-E, launched from Vandenberg AFB, flew on a 4,000-mile flight down the Pacific Missile Range.
- Jacquelin Auriol flew a jet at 1,266 MPH to capture the 100-kilometer record from Jacquelin Cochran.
- 1966:     Arthur Godfrey, Richard Merrill, Fred Austin, and Karl Keller flew a Jet Commander 23,333 miles around the world at a FAI record pace. They flew from New York and back in 86 hours 9 minutes at an average of 271.31 MPH. (9)
- 1968:     Lockheed rolled out the VX-4B Hummingbird II VTOL aircraft at its plant in Marietta. (16)
- 1969:     The Thunderbirds held their first demonstration using the F-4 Phantom. (16) (26)
- 1970:     Flying the NF-104 modified with a rocket engine, Gen Alton D. Slay reached 104,000 feet in altitude to become the first general officer to surpass 100,000 feet. (3)
- 1983:     At Hill AFB, F-105 Thunderchiefs made a final flyby to signal the inactivation of the last AFRES F-105 squadron. (16)
- 1991:     Col Clarence “Dick” Anderegg and his backseater, Maj Hugh Riley, flew PACAF's last F-4 mission. They flew from Clark AB, Philippines, to Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., where the Phantom would be mothballed. The flight ended over a quarter of century of service for the F-4 with PACAF. (17)
- 1992:     **Operation PROVIDE HOPE.** A C-141 from Charleston AFB flew the first mission in this operation since the activation of AMC to Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Between June 1992 and May 1993, AMC flew 109 missions, including 25 by commercial aircraft, to deliver 2,438 tons of cargo for the operation. (18)
- 1996:     Lyle Schaefer, Lockheed-Martin’s chief test pilot, flew the advanced-technology C-130J Hercules on its first test flight. The 6-hour 14-minute sortie launched from Dobbins ARB, Marietta. (AFNEWS, 2 Jul 96)
- 1997:     The Air Force reached a milestone recently in advanced missile propulsion with the successful ground testing of the Variable Flow Ducted Rocket at Atlantic Research Corp., Gainesville, Va. A solid-fuel, ducted rocket engine, the VFDR increased the capabilities of conventional rockets by burning fuel-rich rocket-exhaust gases with air, thereby doubling or tripling the total energy produced by the engine (AFNEWS, 30 June).

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1999: In a proposal to the NGB, the Virginia ANG suggested moving the 192 FW from Richmond IAP to Langley AFB to form a new Virginia ANG associate unit to fly the new F-22 “Raptor” along with the 1 FW when it received the aircraft. (32)

### 5 June

1909: John Berry and Paul McCullough won the first National Balloon Race. They flew 377.9 miles from Indianapolis, Ind., to Fort Payne, Ala., in 25 hours 35 minutes. (24)

1917: In World War I, the First Aeronautic Detachment, the first US military unit sent to Europe, reached Pauillac, France. Lt Kenneth Whiting (USN) commanded the unit with its 7 officers and 122 enlisted men. (5) (18)

1920: The FY1921 Appropriations Bill limited the Air Service to operations from land bases. (24)

1944: **Operation OVERLORD.** Through 6 June, the IX Troop Carrier Command used 1,400 C-47s, C-53s, and gliders carrying artillery weapons, to drop 13,000 Allied paratroopers on Normandy, France. (18) (21)

**MEDAL OF HONOR.** While leading a B-24 group against enemy coastal positions close to Wimereaux, France, Lt Col Leon R. Vance’s bomber sustained repeated hits from anti-aircraft fire. These hits perilously crippled the bomber, killed the pilot, and wounded other crewmen, including Vance. Despite an injury and three lost engines, Vance still led the formation over the target and bombed it successfully. Returning to England, he gradually lost altitude. As Vance neared the English Coast, he ordered the crew to bail out. One man, however, was badly injured; so Vance ditched his B-24 in the channel. After landing on water, the plane started to sink with Vance pinned inside. An explosion occurred and threw Vance clear of the wreckage. After resting, he started to search for the other crewman. A search and rescue craft found Vance 50 minutes later. Sadly, while still recuperating from his wounds, Vance boarded a C-54 returning to the states. His aircraft went down somewhere in the North Atlantic with all souls on board lost. For his heroism in the B-24, Vance received the Medal of Honor. (4)

Twentieth Air Force launched the first B-29 combat mission from India against the Bangkok railroad yards. (21)

1946: The US AAF changed the ADC mission for ANG units to training only rather than a high state of operational readiness. (32)

1948: The YB-49 Flying Wing (No.2) crashed northwest of Muroc AFB. Capt Glenn Edwards, the copilot, died in the crash; a year-and-a-half later the base became Edwards AFB.

1950: Republic’s F-84F made its first test flight at Edwards AFB.

1970: SECAF Robert C. Seamans, Jr., announced that North American Rockwell and General Electric would build the B-1’s airframe and engines, respectively. (1) (12)

1976: In a missile verification test, a Grumman A-6 launched a General Dynamics Tomahawk GLCM at the White Sands Missile Range for its first fully guided flight that lasted for 61 minutes over 446 nautical miles.

1981: The KC-10 completed qualification testing at Edwards AFB. (3)

1987: The USAF picked the Boeing 747-200 to become the next Air Force One.



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 6 June

- 1923: Through 13 June, US Navy pilots of Aircraft Squadrons, Battle Fleet, set 20 new world records for Class C seaplanes at San Diego. The 6 June records included: Lt (JG) Mainrad A. Schur with a 72 MPH speed record for 500 kilometers in a DT-2 torpedo plane; Lt Henry T. Stanley with distance and duration records, with a 250 kilogram payload, of 574.75 miles in 10 hours 23 minutes 58 seconds in an F-5L patrol plane; Lt Herman E. Halland with a distance and duration records, with a 500 kilogram payload, of 466 miles in 7 hours 35 minutes 54 seconds; and Lt Robert L. Fuller with distance and duration records, with a 1,000 kilogram payload, of 205.2 miles in 2 hours 45 minutes 9 seconds. (See 7 June) (24) (25)
- 1936: The Socony-Vacuum Oil Company, Inc., at Paulsboro, N.J., began producing 100-octane aviation gasoline, using the catalytic cracking method. (21)
- 1944: **Operation OVERLORD.** American and Allied aircraft flew approximately 15,000 interdiction, close air support, and airlift sorties in support of the D-Day invasion. (4) (21)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force F-86 Sabres destroyed eight MiG-15s in aerial combat, the highest daily tally for the month. (28)
- 1957: Navy fighters flew nonstop from the USS Bon Homme Richard near California to the Saratoga off eastern Florida in the first carrier-to-carrier transcontinental flight. (24)
- 1960: SECDEF Thomas S. Gates, Jr., announced an agreement to give Skybolt missiles to the British. (6)
- ELECTRONIC FLIGHT PLANNING.** Two F-100s took off from Itazuke AB on PACAF's first computer-planned mission, a 2-hour 30-minute training flight. The 8 TFW developed the system to electronically compute flight plans. The computer-produced frag orders were more detailed and accurate and could be produced in a few seconds with the touch of some buttons. The new system permitted a quick reaction to changes in combat profiles, a factor that would later prove a vital ingredient in combat missions to come. (17)
- 1962: Capt William Stevenson flew a 19 BMW B-52H from Homestead AFB, 11,336.92 miles over a closed course (from and back to Seymour-Johnson AFB). He averaged 510 MPH in the 22-hour, 38-minute, 42-second nonstop, nonrefueled flight. (1) (9)
- 1964: A team of nine USMC parachutists claimed world records for 7-man, 8-man, and 9-man team jumps at night after freefalling from 44,100 to 1,300 before opening their parachutes. They jumped from a USMC KC-130F at Ft. Bragg, NC. (16)
- 1967: **Operation CREEK HAVEN.** Through 11 June, during the 7-Day War between Israel and neighboring Arab states, MAC, TAC, and USAFE aircraft and aircrews evacuated nearly 7,000 people from Libya to Europe, with 2,556 then airlifted to the US. (18)
- 1970: Lockheed delivered the first C-5 Galaxy to an operational wing. General Jack J. Catton, the MAC Commander, flew the aircraft from Marietta to Charleston AFB, where Brig Gen Clare T. Ireland, the 437 MAW Commander, accepted it. (2)
- 1975: The last 16 B-52s at U-Tapao AB, Thailand, began their redeployment to the US. (16) (26)
- 1979: First F-16 from the Dutch production line delivered in a ceremony at Fokker-VFW Schiphol Plant at Schiphol Airport in the Netherlands. (12)
- 1991: The Air Force unveiled the Northrop AGM-137A Tri-service Standoff Attack Missile (TSSAM). It was a stealthy ground-attack weapon with a less than 600 kilometers range. (20)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1996: At NAS Whidbey Island, Washington, the first Air Force aircrew graduated from the Navy's EA-6B Fleet Replacement Squadron to join one of five new combined Navy/Air Force EA-6B "Prowler" squadrons. The joint venture between the Air Force and Navy consolidated the airborne threat radar jamming mission and led to the retirement of the EF-111 Raven. (AFNEWS Article 960505)

The first woman commander of a group that maintains USAF missiles, Lt Col Kai Lee Norwood, assumed command of the 91<sup>st</sup> Logistics Group. (26)

2000: An AFFTC B-1B from Edwards AFB dropped three different Wind Corrected Munitions Dispensers (WCMD) on a single bombing pass. The WCMD was a 1,000-pound inertially guided cluster munition. (3)

### 7 June

1908: The first aviation column in an American newspaper began in the Sunday Philadelphia Inquirer. John Trevor Curtis, managing editor, wrote the column. (24)

1911: Lt John P. Kelly, Medical Reserve Corps, the first air medical officer, assigned to Signal Corps Aviation Field at College Park. (24)

1912: With Lt Thomas DeWitt Milling flying a Wright B, Capt Charles DeForest Chandler became the first person to fire a machine gun from an airplane in the US. Colonel Isaac N. Lewis designed the ground-type gun for mounting on aircraft. (4) (12)

1923: US Navy pilots at San Diego, Calif., continued their assault on the record books with eight new world marks for Class C seaplanes as follows: Lt Earl B. Brix used a DT-2 to set an altitude record of 10,850 feet for planes carrying 250-kilograms; Lt Robert L. Fuller used an F-5L to set an altitude record of 8,438 feet for planes carrying 500-kilograms; Ensign Edward E. Dolecek used an F-5L to set an altitude record of 7,979 feet for planes with 1,000-kilograms; Lt Cecil F. Harper used a DT-2 to set the altitude record of 13,898 feet for planes with no payload; Lt Henry T. Stanley used an F-5L, with a 1,500-kilogram load, to set the duration mark at 2 hours, 18 minutes, and an altitude record of 5,682 feet; and Lt Herman E. Halland used an F-5L with a 2,000-kilogram load to set a duration record of 51 minutes and an altitude record of 4,885 feet. (25)

1932: At the request of the Guernsey County sheriff, 2Lt Karl E. Bushong (Ohio National Guard), flying a Douglas O-38, dropped 25 tear gas bombs on a group of protestors near a mine and sprayed machine gun fire on an adjacent hillside to scare them away. The protestors, mostly angry women who had been stoning working miners during a coal strike, dispersed. (32)

1944: **Operation OVERLORD.** Transport aircraft dropped 356 tons of supplies to Allied forces. (18)

1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Through 10 June, B-26 and B-29 aircraft made radar-directed area attacks against the Iron Triangle at night, raining 500-pound bombs set to explode over the heads of the enemy troops. These operations were in preparation for UN ground forces' assaults. (28)

1952: **KOREAN WAR/Operation HIGHTIDE.** In an air refueling test, 35 F-84 Thunderjets took off from Japan, refueled from KB-29Ms over Korea, and attacked targets in the north. The 31<sup>st</sup> Fighter-Escort Wing from Misawa AB, Japan, finished the air refueling test on 31 August 1952. (28)

1958: SECDEF Donald A. Quarles approved the construction of the first Titan I squadrons. (6)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

At Francis E. Warren AFB, construction of the 706 SMW's Atlas launch and support facilities began. (6)

- 1966: The first successful launch of an Orbiting Geophysical Laboratory took place when OGO III went into orbit to perform 21 experiments, a record number for a US scientific spacecraft.
- Ryan's XV-8A "Fleep" arrived at Edwards AFB for testing of its suitability as a flying jeep. (3)
- 1976: **FIRST TEAM SPIRIT EXERCISE.** Through 24 June, this joint/combined field-training event took place in Korea to exercise, test, and evaluate the Korean Tactical Air Control System. (16) (26)
- 1989: A C-5 set a world record by airdropping four Sheridan armed reconnaissance vehicles, weighing 42,000 pounds each, and 73 fully combat-equipped paratroopers. The total weight reached 190,346 pounds. (18)
- 1993: **Operation CONTINUE HOPE.** The USAF deployed AC-130 Spectre gunships to Somalia to suppress local warlords. The operation started on 5 May to provide a safe environment for the distribution of humanitarian supplies and to begin nation building in the wartorn country. A month later, armed conflict erupted between UN and Somali forces. (16) (23)
- 2002: A Predator UAV launched a mini-UAV while in flight over Edwards AFB. This was the first time that an operational UAV carried and launched another UAV. The Predator carried the mini-UAV, a 57-pound Navy Flight Inserted Detector Expendable for Reconnaissance (FINDER), on a wing pylon and released it at 10,000 feet. Following launch, the mini-UAV conducted a 25-minute preprogrammed mission before landing on the dry lakebed. (3)
- 2004: **OPEN SKIES TREATY.** A Russian TU-154 observation aircraft landed at Travis AFB, marking the first Russian Open Skies mission over the US. The Open Skies Treaty, which became effective on 1 January 2002, permitted unarmed aerial observation flights over the territories of the 30 participating nations. (22)

### 8 June

- 1908: The first aeronautical exhibit building was dedicated at the Jamestown Exposition on Sewell's Point, facing Hampton Roads across from Norfolk Va. (24)
- 1911: The Connecticut State Air Regulation passed and became the first state air law. (24)
- 1920: Lt John H. Wilson made a new unofficial world record parachute jump of 19,861 feet over San Antonio. (24)
- 1921: Lt Harold R. Harris flew an Army Air Service's first pressurized cabin airplane, the USD-9A. Harris was a noted Air Service pilot of the period. He flew the XNBL-1 "Barling" Bomber's first flight and became the first Air Service pilot to save his own life using a free-fall parachute. (18) (24)
- 1942: A presidential directive established the European Theater of Operations with Maj Gen James E. Chaney as commander.
- 1953: The Thunderbirds, officially known as the 3600<sup>th</sup> Air Demonstration Flight, gave their first performance at Luke AFB, Ariz. (21) (26)
- 1959: The USS Barbero submarine fired a Navy Regulus I missile off the Florida coast to deliver the mail ashore at Mayport. The missile made a 22-minute flight. (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

After a B-52 launched the X-15A-1 rocket research plane at 38,000 feet for its first nonpowered glide flight, Scott Crossfield flew the aircraft on a five-minute unpowered descent to Edwards AFB. (3) (7) (9)

- 1960: The 4135 SW from Eglin AFB launched SAC's first GAM-72A Quail missile. (6)
- While testing the X-15's new 57,000-pound thrust XLR-99 engine on a static test stand at Edwards AFB, Scott Crossfield endured a force of 50 G's.
- 1962: The USAF ejected Zena, a chimpanzee, from a B-58 flying at 45,000 feet at 1,060 MPH to test an escape capsule. (24)
- 1963: At Davis-Monthan AFB, the 570 SMS became SAC's first operational Titan II squadron. (6)
- 1966: Research pilot Joseph A. Walker, a veteran of 25 flights in the X-15 and holder of the world's speed and altitude records, died when his F-104N (NASA) chase plane collided with the XB-70 No. 2 near Edwards AFB. Alvin S. White, the XB-70 pilot, ejected successfully; however, his copilot, Maj Carl S. Cross, died when the aircraft crashed into the ground. (3)
- 1968: The Colorado ANG's 120 TFS, deployed to Phan Rang Air Base, flew its first combat mission in Vietnam. (32)
- 1971: An Air Force Thor space booster, with a Burner II upper stage, placed two instruments into a circular 300-nautical-mile polar orbit. This launch was part of the DoD's Space Experiments Support Program (SESP) to test a celestial mapping service. (16)
- The Air Force and Navy signed a joint agreement to develop the AIM-9L Short Range Missile for the F-15. Additionally, the Air Force approved the F-100 engine design for the F-15. (30)
- 1980: In the first all-woman airlift mission, Capt Susan R. Regele flew a C-9 from Scott AFB. The crew included two other pilots, two flight nurses, three aeromedical technicians, and a flight engineer. (18)
- 1984: The HH-60D Night Hawk helicopter flew for the first time at night. (3)
- 2001: Global Hawk No. 5 landed at Edwards AFB after a 22.3 hour flight from Australia. While there, the UAV completed 11 of 12 planned sorties in 238.5 flight hours. The Global Hawk took over 1,500 pictures. (3)
- Technicians towed a Boeing 747 fuselage from an aircraft salvage facility at Mojave Airport to south Edwards for integration into the airborne laser program's System Integration Laboratory under construction. (3)

### 9 June

- 1916: Lt Richard C. Saufley died in a crash near Pensacola after being in the air 8 hours 51 minutes on an endurance flight. He set an American altitude record earlier on 2 April 1916. (24)
- 1945: 110 B-29s attacked the aircraft factories at Nagoya, Osaka, and Kobe, Japan. (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** An H-19 helicopter of the 3d Air Rescue Squadron picked up a downed UN pilot, encountering moderate small arms fire enroute. (28)
- 1959: The Republic F-105D Thunderchief first flew.

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- First Navy fleet ballistic missile submarine, the nuclear- powered USS George Washington, launched.
- 1960: SAC began a test program to disperse B-47s to civilian airfields in times of crisis. (1)
- 1961: The 1611 ATW at McGuire AFB received the first C-135A Stratolifter, the first jet aircraft in MATS. (18) (21)
- 1964: **FIRST KC-135 SUPPORT FOR VIETNAM COMBAT OPERATIONS.** Four KC-135s from Clark AB refueled eight F-100s from Da Nang AB, South Vietnam, on an attack against anti-aircraft batteries in North Laos. PACAF RF-101Cs and KB-50Js supported the strike. (1) (17)
- 1967: The first O-2A Forward Air Controller aircraft arrived in Vietnam. (16) (26)
- The USAF started evacuating some 1,300 military and civilian Americans from the Middle East because of the Arab-Israeli War. (16) (26)
- 1971: Karl Stefan set a FAI altitude record for 2,220-3,000 cubic meter balloons (Subclass AX-8) by taking his Raven S-60 to 31,000 feet over Boulder, Colo. (9)
- 1974: Northrop's YF-17 prototype made its first flight at Edwards AFB. Northrop pilot Henry E. "Hank" Chouteau flew the jets for 61 minutes at altitudes up to 18,000 feet and speeds of 610 MPH. (3)(12) (21)
- 1983: C-5B fabrication began almost three months early. (12)
- 1989: MAC units flew four tons of medical supplies to aid the victims of a rail disaster at Ufa on the Trans-Siberian Railroad about 750 miles southeast of Moscow. A liquid-gas pipeline exploded as two trains passed each other. One train derailed and crashed into the other. Nearly 850 passengers were either killed or injured, making it the worst rail disaster in history. (16)
- 1995: A B-2 Spirit flew its first "Global Power" mission by flying from Whiteman AFB, Mo., to the Netherlands in 12 hours. It simulated a bomb drop. (16)
- 1997: During the 9-20 June Central Enterprise exercise, for the first time in the 10-year history of the B-1B bomber, two units became one force at a forward operating location, RAF Fairford, England. The 7th Bomb Wing from Dyess AFB and the 28th Bomb Wing from Ellsworth AFB, along with 350 people, fused together to form the 7th Expeditionary Bomb Group. (AFNEWS, 19 Jun 97)
- 1997: The *Pathfinder* RPV set a new world record for high-altitude flight by a solar powered aircraft, reaching 67,350 ft. This flight to the highest altitude ever reached by a propeller-driven aircraft took place at the Pacific Missile Range Facility at Kauai, Hawaii. (3)
- 2003: The General Atomics Aeronautical Systems *Altair* UAV first flew at Gray Butte at El Mirage (near Edwards AFB), Calif., where it reached 7,000 feet in altitude. The turboprop *Altair* was a high altitude research vehicle for NASA's Environmental Research Aircraft and Sensor Technology (ERAST) program. (3)
- 2005: The USAF accepted 420th, and final, re-engined KC-135R from Boeing. The KC-135R (tail number 57-1441) went to the 141 AREFW, an ANG unit at Fairchild AFB. (22)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1908: The Aeronautical Society, first of its kind, formed in New York. The society later obtained Morris Park Airfield for its use. (24)
- 1909: President William H. Taft presented Aero Club of America medals to Orville and Wilbur Wright at the White House. (24)
- 1943: The US AAF and RAF initiated the Combined Bomber Offensive against Germany. In that offensive, Eighth Air Force attacked enemy industrial targets by day, while the RAF hit enemy cities by night. (21)
- 1948: The USAF confirmed that Capt Chuck Yeager had repeatedly attained supersonic speeds in the Bell X-1 (formerly XS-1). (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** The airfield at Chunchon, some 50 miles northeast of Seoul and 10 miles south of the 38th parallel opened to cargo traffic, adding to 315 AD's ability to meet the growing demand for airdrop capability. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Through 11 June, 8 B-29s from the 19<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group attacked the rail bridge at Kwaksan, N. Korea. Enemy MiGs, operating in conjunction with radar-controlled searchlights and flak, destroyed two B-29s and badly damaged a third. This new development in the enemy's air defense system prompted Far East Air Forces to improve electronic countermeasures to jam and confuse enemy radar. (28)
- 1960: The US Army reported that a Nike-Hercules had shot down a Corporal in the first known instance of one guided missile intercepting another. (16) (24)
- 1963: The two-seat F-105F, designed as a mission trainer and combat fighter-bomber, flew for the first time.
- 1967: **Project TURN KEY.** The USAF completed a \$52 million airbase at Tuy Hoa, Vietnam, in one year. It was the first base to be designed and built completely under Air Force supervision. (16)
- Operation CREEK DIPPER.** Through 11 June, during the 7-Day War between Israel and neighboring Arab states, MAC, TAC, and USAFE aircraft and aircrews evacuated 816 people from Jordan to Iran. (18)
- 1969: AFSC gave the number one X-15 rocket-powered, manned research aircraft to the Smithsonian Institution for display. (16)
- SECDEF Melvin Laird cancelled the USAF's MOL program. (16)
- PROJECT MISTY BRONCO.** The USAF approved the arming of OV-10s in SEA to provide an immediate strike presence to ground forces. The Misty Bronco concept test ran from April to June. (17)
- 1974: Northrop's YF-17 achieved Mach 1.1 at Edwards AFB without using its afterburner. This was the first time a US aircraft had reached this speed in level flight. (3)
- 1975: A memorandum of understanding between the US and Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Norway selected General Dynamics' F-16 for European production. (12)
- 1982: **FAIR FORCE ONE.** Capt Kelly S. C. Hamilton, then SAC's only female aircraft commander, joined copilot 1Lt Linda Martin, navigators Capt Cathy Bacon and 1Lt Diane Oswald, and boom operator Sgt Jackie Hale on a 5-hour KC-135 training sortie from Castle AFB. Thus, SAC's first all-female crew, nick-named "Fair Force One," made a historic flight. An all-female ground crew prepared the aircraft for its flight. (1)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1989: Capt Jacquelyn S. Parker became the first female pilot to graduate the Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards AFB. (16)
- 1997: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Lt Col Frank J. Kisner and his MC-130 crew from the 352d Special Operations Group evacuated 56 people, including 30 U. S. citizens, from Brazzaville, Congo, after an outbreak of civil strife. For this outstanding flight of the year, Kisner and his crew earned the trophy. (21)
- 1998: Through 8 July, to support President William J. Clinton's 9-day trip to China, AMC flew 33 C-5, 2 C-141, and 7 KC-135 missions. In this first trip to China by a US President since 1989, President Clinton met with Chinese President Jiang Zemin in Beijing on 27 June in a summit meeting before visiting Shanghai and Xian, China's ancient capital. (22)
- 1999: **Operation ALLIED FORCE.** NATO suspended airstrikes against Yugoslavia after its president agreed on 9 June to withdraw Serb forces from Kosovo. That capitulation made ALLIED FORCE the first war won by airpower alone. Then through 8 July AMC airlifters deployed Task Force Falcon and elements of Task Force Hawk to Macedonia to help constitute the US military part of the Kosovo multinational peacekeeping force. (21) (22)
- 2001: To support flood relief efforts in Houston, a C-17 from Charleston AFB flew 25 federal relief workers and 15 tons of relief supplies from Albuquerque, New Mexico, to Ellington Field. (22)
- 2002: For the B-1 Block E Computer Upgrade Test Program, a B-1B crew from the Edwards AFB AFFTC passed a third milestone in two months by delivering three different weapons against four targets in a single, 20-second bomb pass. The crew released a GPS-guided GBU-31 JDAM, MK-82 500-pound gravity weapon, and two CBU-105 WCMDs. Each weapon struck its designated target, which were placed from 300 to 4,000 feet apart. (3)
- 2005: The Air Force Research Lab at Edwards AFB fired a hybrid rocket motor, using a rubberized fuel and liquid oxygen. The low-cost small launch vehicle developed 23,000 pounds of thrust, and was part of the joint DARPA and USAF Falcon Satellite Launch Vehicle program. (3)
- 11 June**
- 1926: The Ford 4-AT Trimotor first flew.
- 1930: Through 4 July, John and Kenneth Hunter used a Stinson "Detroit" monoplane to set a world endurance record of 553 hours 41 minutes 30 seconds. (24)
- 1943: After weeks of Allied bombings, the Italian garrison on Pantelleria Island surrendered without firing a shot. It was the first large defended area to fall to air power. (21)
- 1944: In a "shuttle raid" between the USSR and Italy, Fifteenth Air Force bombed the Rumanian airfield at Foscani. (4)
- Navy Task Force 58, with seven heavy and eight light carriers, opened the campaign to occupy the Marianas. (24)
- 1945: The 393d BMS aircrews arrived at Tinian Island in the Marianas from Wendover AFB, Utah. Their aircraft, Boeing B-29s, were the only combat planes assigned to the 509th Composite Group, which later dropped the atomic bombs on Japan. (8: June 90)
- 1948: The USAF revised its aircraft designations from "P" for pursuit to "F" for fighter. (12)
- 1951: Bill Bridgeman flew the D558-II to a record speed of Mach 1.79 at Edwards AFB.

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**KOREAN WAR/DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS.** An SA-16 of the 3 ARS picked up a downed F-51 pilot from the Taedong River near Kyomipo, N. Korea. The SA-16, although receiving fire from both sides of the river, made a landing approach without lights, avoiding low electrical transmission lines and rocks and debris on the river's surface. The pilot earned the award for the rescue. (28)

1956: Chrysler Corp. received the Jupiter IRBM contract. (6)

1957: The General Dynamics' (Convair Division) experimental Atlas missile made its first launch from Cape Canaveral. (12)

The 4080 SRW at Laughlin AFB, Tex., received SAC's first U-2 (serial number 56-6696). (1)

1993: **Operation CONTINUE HOPE.** AC-130 Spectre gunships joined a UN raid on Somali warlord forces to retaliate for a 5 June attack on UN forces in Mogadishu. (16) (26)

1996: ACC received its first J-8 JSTARS aircraft. (21)

**2007: ROBERT J. COLLIER TROPHY.** The National Aeronautic Association presented its annual trophy to the Lockheed Martin Corporation and the USAF for developing the F-22 *Raptor*. The award submission focused heavily on the F-22's performance during the 2006 Northern Edge exercise in Alaska where Raptors flew 97 percent of their assigned sorties. The F-22 pilots scored an 80-to-1 kill ratio against their opponents and direct hits with 100 percent of their 1,000-pound GBU-32 Joint Direct Attack Munitions. The exercise increased overall situational awareness for the entire team through the F-22's integrated avionics package. (AFNEWS, "F-22 Team Garners Collier Trophy," 11 June 2007.)

### 12 June

1918: The 96th Aero Squadron carried out the first American daylight-bombing mission in World War I from Amanty Airdrome against the occupied Dommary-Baroncourt rail yards in France. (4)

1922: Capt Albert W. Stevens, Air Service, made a record parachute jump from 24,206 ft. from a supercharged Martin bomber over McCook Field. (24)

1934: Federal Aviation Commission (Howell Committee) appointed to study the Army and Air Corps separation issue. It made no recommendations, because the earlier Baker Board opposed that separation.

1942: Twelve B-24s raided oil refineries in Ploesti, Rumania, unsuccessfully. This was the first heavy bomber attack in Europe during World War II. Col Harry A. Halverson led the raid from Fayid, Egypt. (4) (21)

1958: Capt William H. Howell flew a Boeing KC-135 at 670 MPH from Los Angeles to New York and set an FAI record of 3 hours 42 minutes 45 seconds for that route. (9)

1959: The USAF transport VC-137, a military version of the Boeing 707, flew from Washington DC to London on its maiden transoceanic voyage. (24)

1970: A USAF K-30, one of the largest reconnaissance cameras, retired to the Air Force Museum after more than 20 years in service. The camera measured 3' x 4 1/2' x 5', weighed 665 pounds, and used 100-inch focal length optical system.

1971: Chauncy Dunn flew his Raven S-60 to an FAI altitude record of 32,949 feet for three balloon subclasses (AX-8, AX-9, and AX-10) at Boulder. The records covered balloons between 2,200



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

and over 4,000 cubic meters. (9)

- 1973: Early Warning Space Satellites joined the aerospace surveillance system. Fourteenth Air Force operated the satellite system that augmented the ground-based, missile-launch detection sensors.
- 1979: Bryan Allen flew the Gossamer Albatross I under pedal-power across the English Channel. (21)
- President Carter approved full-scale engineering development for the M-X missile. (1)
- 1980: First AGM-86B ALCM launched and flown over the Utah Test and Training Range. (12)

### 13 June

- 1910: Through 18 June, the Indianapolis Air Meet took place at the Speedway. The Wright Exhibition Team flew here for the first time. (24)
- In 3 hours 27 minutes, Charles K. Hamilton flew 149.54 miles from New York to Philadelphia and back to win the *New York Times* \$10,000 prize. (24)
- 1913: Lt (JG) Patrick N. L. Bellinger flew the Curtiss A-3 at Annapolis to a 6,200-foot US altitude record for seaplanes. (24)
- 1925: In a sham air battle staged 4,000 feet over Times Square, four National Guard aircraft defeated an attack on New York City by four Army planes and then chased them back over Long Island. An estimated 6,000 people watched the clash, and radio station WOR in Newark, New Jersey, broadcast the event live. (32)
- 1943: Eighth Air Force lost 26 of 60 bombers in a raid on Kiel, Germany. That mission demonstrated the need for fighter escorts. (21)
- 1962: Capt Richard H. Coan flew the H-43B Huskie helicopter to a world distance record of 656.258 miles over a 25-mile closed-course at Mono Lake, Calif. (24)
- 1968: A Titan IIIC launch vehicle placed eight Initial Defense Communication Satellite Program (IDCSP) jam-proof satellites into an equatorial orbit, for a total of 26, to extend the system's life span. The launch from Cape Kennedy also ended the IDCSP program. (16) (26)
- 1972: At Edwards AFB, Maj Buzz Lynch became the first USAF pilot to fly the A-10A. (3)
- 1973: Seventh Air Force, Eighth Air Force, and the Navy Task Force 77 received the Robert J. Collier Trophy for 1972 for the use of advanced aerospace technology in Operation Linebacker II.
- 1983: Pioneer 10 became the first spacecraft to leave the solar system. (21)
- 1995: A B-2 bomber dropped a precision-guided munition on target in a test of a Global Positioning System Aided Munition. The test occurred at China Lake. (16)
- 1999: **Operation ALLIED FORCE.** A KC-135R and aircrew from the 319 AREFW at Grand Forks AFB, flying with the 92 AEW in southern Europe, performed the first-ever combat sortie in a Pacer CRAG-modified KC-135 while supporting this operation. Although Pacer CRAG tankers had been deployed to Southwest Asia to support Operation SOUTHERN WATCH, the 13 June mission marked the first time a Pacer CRAG aircraft had logged actual combat time. (22)
- 2007: The U. S. Army announced a \$2.04 billion contract award to L-3 Communications Integrated Systems after selecting the C-27J Spartan as the Joint Cargo Aircraft. (AFNEWS, "C-27J

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Named as Joint Cargo Aircraft,” 14 Jun 2007,

### 14 June

- 1910: Walter Brookins set a FAI altitude record of 4,380 feet at Indianapolis, Ind. in a Wright airplane. (9)
- 1912: Cpl Vernon L. Burge became the Army's first enlisted pilot after training in the Army's Air School, Philippines. (4)
- 1919: Ensign Charles H. Hammann, the first naval aviator to receive a Medal of Honor, died in an aircraft crash at Langley Field. (<http://www.history.navy.mil/avh-vol2/Appen9.pdf>)
- 1949: A monkey endured a rocket flight to a height of 83 miles, but a malfunctioning parachute caused its death on impact. (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** After reconnaissance flights revealed repairs at the Pyongyang Airfield, Fifth Air Force fighter-bombers cratered the runways, rendering them unserviceable in approximately 150 sorties without a loss. (28)
- 1957: In flying an Aero Commander 680 to 30,300 feet at Tulsa, aviatrix Jerrie Cobb set a world altitude record for light two-engine planes. (24)
- 1965: Carl L. Norden, the inventor of the Norden bombsight, died. His device was widely used by American bombers in World War II. (8: June 90)
- 1975: Congress rejected a 1974 DoD proposal to inactivate New York's 102 FIS and several other Air Guard outfits. Instead, the ANG redesignated the squadron as the 102 ARRS and converted the unit's aircraft from F/TF-102As to Lockheed HC-130H'Ps and Sikorsky HH-3Es. That equipment change created the first Air Guard rescue unit. (32)
- 1981: USAFE sent six F-15s from the 36 TFW and one from the 32 TFW to Nellis to participate in a RED FLAG exercise. This participation was a first for the command. (26)
- 1989: Martin-Marietta's first Titan IV heavy-lift space booster launched from Cape Canaveral for the first time. It carried a DoD satellite. (16) (21)
- 1991: **Operation FIERY VIGIL.** Following the volcanic eruption of Mount Pinatubo, the USAF conducted the largest US airlift evacuation since the Vietnam War. Through 28 June, the USAF evacuated military members and their dependents from Clark AB and Subic Bay Naval Station in the Philippines for the US. Civil aircraft, C-5s, C-130s, and C-141s carried more than 18,000 people to safety. (18)
- 1993: The 437 AW at Charleston AFB received its first operational McDonnell Douglas C-17A Globemaster III. (20)

### 15 June

- 1928: Flying an Air Corps blimp over an Illinois Central train, Lt Karl S. Axtater and Lt Edward H. White dipped down and handed a mailbag to a postal clerk on the train to complete the first airplane-to-train mail transfer. (20)
- 1940: Congress authorized 10,000 useful airplanes and 48 useful airships for the Navy. (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1942: Seven B-24s from the Halverson Detachment attacked and damaged the Italian battleship Littorio east of Malta. (4)
- 1944: **KEY EVENT.** Brig Gen LaVerne G. Saunders, XX Bomber Command, led the first B-29 strike against Japan. In that raid, 47 B-29s flew from bases in Chengtu, China, to attack steel mills at Yawata on Kyushu. (20) (21)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** In aerial combat, 2Lt James F. Low, 335th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, destroyed his fifth MiG, becoming an ace just six months after completing flight training. (28)
- 1959: The 463 TCW at Sewart AFB, Tenn., received the first C-130B.
- 1963: The Air Force launched its 200th Thor missile.
- 1965: SAC declared the 400 SMS to be operational at Francis E. Warren AFB. This act ended the deployment of 800 Minuteman Is in 16 squadrons. (1) (6)
- 1969: C-5A No. 2 set several records: heaviest takeoff at 762,800 pounds and heaviest landing with 600,000 pounds. (3)
- 1970: A C-130 flew the final Blind Bat flare mission over the Barrel Roll area of Laos. The PACAF C-130s involved in this mission returned to Naha AB. (17)
- 1971: The first Titan III-D space booster launched from Vandenberg AFB. It was a two-stage liquid-fueled, core vehicle with two additional outboard strap-on thrust pods of solid propellant.
- 1972: A 42 BMW B-52G crew from Loring AFB launched the first operational SRAM at White Sands Missile Range. (1) (6)
- 1975: The last F-111s in Thailand began their redeployment to the US. (16) (26)
- 1978: SAC demilitarized and removed the last Hound Dog missiles from its inventory at the 42 BMW, Loring AFB. (6)
- 1984: MAC C-130s flew 4.5 tons of pumps and other equipment from Dyess AFB to Kansas City, Missouri, to assist in flood fighting efforts in northwest Missouri. (16) (26)
- The first Peacekeeper with a Mark-21 Reentry Vehicle completed a flight test at Vandenberg AFB. (16) (26)
- 2006: The last production Block 10 Global Hawk arrived at Edwards AFB for acceptance and operational check flights before delivery to Beale AFB for operational use. (3)
- 2007: The last operational F-16A Fighting Falcon (Tail No. 82-993) flew its final mission in Arizona's skies, taking off from the Tucson Air National Guard base for indefinite storage at the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group yard at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. (AFNEWS, "Air Guard Retires Last F-16A in Service," 20 Jun 2007.)

### 16 June

- 1922: Lt Clayton Bissell initiated night cross-country flights from Bolling Field to Langley Field and back. (18) (24)
- Henry Adler Berliner made the first US helicopter flight of importance at College Park before representatives of the US Bureau of Aeronautics. (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1928: Successful tests made at Wright Field of superchargers designed to give sea level pressure at 30,000 feet, and a new liquid oxygen system for high altitude flying. (24)
- 1936: Seversky Aircraft Company received a contract to build P-35s for the Army. It was the Army's first single-seat fighter with a closed cockpit and retractable landing gear. (21)
- 1941: Consolidated's B-24 Liberator entered the Air Corps inventory. It flew faster and farther than the B-17. Eventually, more than 18,000 B-24s entered the inventory. (21)
- 1945: **FIRST HELICOPTER MEDEVAC MISSION.** Through 29 June, R-4Bs and R-6As of the 5th and 6th Aircraft Repair Units (Floating) evacuated 70 wounded soldiers from frontlines on Luzon, Philippines.
- 1953: North American delivered its 1000<sup>th</sup> T-28 Trojan to the Air Force. (20)
- 1959: The first F-105s arrived at Seymour Johnson AFB.
- 1965: AFSC directed its Aeronautical Systems Division to begin the prerequisite studies for the F-X fighter. (30)
- 1966: In the first Titan III-C launch from the Eastern Test Range, the USAF placed seven Defense Communications Satellite Program (IDCSP) repeaters and one gravity-gradient satellite into a random, near synchronous, equatorial orbit. This formed the nucleus of a world-wide military communications system that would have 15 other satellites. (26)
- 1971: The USAF and NASA signed an agreement to conduct joint Transonic Aircraft Technology (TACT) Program to explore application of supercritical wing technology to highly maneuverable advanced aircraft. The F-111 became the test bed aircraft.

**Operation BONNY JACK.** Through 18 July, four C-130s from Pope AFB flew 308 sorties to support the humanitarian airlift of East Pakistani refugees from the Indian border state of Tripura to resettlement areas in Gauhati further inland. On return flights, the C-130s carried more than 1,750 tons of rice to feed refugees remaining in Tripura. On the deployment from the CONUS, the aircraft delivered one million doses of anti-Cholera vaccine to India. (16) (26)

### 17 June

- 1909: Orville and Wilbur Wright received special gold medals from Congress. (24)
- 1917: The Aeronautical Mission (known as the Bolling Mission), under Maj Raynal Cawthorne Bolling, sailed for Europe. It determined the types of aircraft the US should build and surveyed foreign manufacturing techniques. (21)
- 1922: RAdm William A. Moffett became the first Naval Aviation Observer. (24)
- 1928: **FIRST WOMAN TO CROSS THE ATLANTIC:** Amelia Earhart flew her airplane, the Friendship, with Wilmer Stultz and Lou Gordon (navigator) from Newfoundland to Wales in 20 hours 40 minutes. (9) (24)
- 1942: Army Air Corps tow planes picked up their first gliders.
- 1943: **PROJECT WINDOW.** Tinfoil strips (chaff) were used to confuse German radar so American bombers could strike targets. (4)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1952: Goodyear delivered the world's largest nonrigid airship, ZPN-1, 324 feet long and 94 feet 5 inches high, to the Navy at Lakehurst, N. J. (24)
- 1957: The formation of the International Council of Aeronautical Services officially announced.
- 1958: The USAF accepted the Martin Company's first Titan I. (6)
- The Air Force picked the Boeing and Martin companies to be competing prime contractors on the X-20 Dyna-Soar boost-glide space vehicle. (20)
- 1963: The Polaris A3 made its first successful firing at sea from the USS Observation Island. (5)(16)
- 1964: The triservice XC-142A, a vertical takeoff and landing VTOL aircraft, made its roll-out in Dallas, Texas.
- 1968: MAC's first C-9 Nightingale aeromedical evacuation aircraft rolled out at the McDonnell Douglas facility at Long Beach. (16) (21)
- 1975: Detachment 5, 37 ARRS, saved 131 flood victims from a 13-county flood in Montana. (16) (26)
- 1983: The USAF launched the first Peacekeeper ICBM from Vandenburg AFB. Its unarmed reentry vehicles landed in the Kwajalein target area. (21)
- 1985: SAC initiated studies of five alternative basing modes in case Congress approved the second installment of 50 Peacekeeper missiles. The modes included superhardened silos in pattern array, superhard silos in Minuteman spaced basing, rail mobility, multiple protective shelters, and ground mobility. (16)
- 1986: Rickenbacker ANGB, Ohio, retired the last operational UC-123K Provider. (18)
- 1993: At Minot AFB, Lt Col Patricia Fornes became the 740th Missile Squadron commander. She was the first woman to command a combat missile unit. Her father, Lt Col Glenn L. Fornes, also commanded the 740<sup>th</sup> from 1969 thru 1971. (16) (26)
- 1996: The USAF selected Lockheed-Martin Integrated Systems of Orlando, Fla., and McDonnell Douglas Aerospace of St. Louis to compete to build the new JASSM. (AFNEWS)
- 1997: **Operation PROVIDE HOPE.** A C-5A Galaxy from the 436 AW at Dover AFB flew from Andrews AFB to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on the 500th humanitarian airlift mission supporting this operation. (22)
- 2003: **DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSSES.** The USAF awarded 34 aircrew members from Charleston AFB the DFC for actions in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Eight recipients earned the DFC during the first night of humanitarian relief operations in Afghanistan (7 October 2001), while the others received the DFC for inserting Marine forces at the Rhino Landing Zone near Kandahar on 28-30 November 2001. The crews flying to the landing zone performed the deepest insertion of Marines into hostile territory in Marine Corps history. They also accomplished three C-17 operational milestones: (1) the first C-17 combat landings on an unimproved dirt strip; (2) the first missions by C-17 special operations low-level aircrews in hostile conditions; and (3) the first use of night vision goggles by C-17 aircrews to make blacked-out approaches and landings in hostile territory. (22)
- An AFFTC B-1B dropped two JSOWs, the first time the new long-range glide weapon had been dropped from a *Lancer*, as part of a separation test. (3)
- 2007: The 555<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron deployed 300 airmen and 18 F-16 *Fighting Falcons* to Kunsan AB,

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Republic of Korea, making it the first U.S. Air Forces in Europe unit to deploy to a Pacific Air Forces unit for an air expeditionary force rotation. During its deployment to Kunsan, the 555th from Aviano AB, Italy, reunited with the 8th Fighter Wing for the first time since 1966, when the squadron joined the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing at Ubon AB, Thailand. (AFNEWS, "USAFE Fighter Squadron Deploys to Kunsan," 20 Jun 2007.)

### 18 June

- 1861: Thaddeus S. C. Lowe telegraphed the first message from a balloon to a ground station. In the White House, President Lincoln received Lowe's telegraphic report. (4)
- 1916: The Germans shot down H. Clyde Balsley of the Lafayette Escadrille near Verdun, France. Balsley was the first American aviator to be shot down in World War I. He survived. Hit in the pelvis, he made it through a crash landing and endured several operations, but never returned to the air. (4)
- 1934: Boeing initiated company-funded design work on the Model 299, the B-17 prototype. (20)
- 1957: SAC placed the KC-135 Stratotanker into service. (12)
- 1959: Six US Navy enlisted men began an 8-day experiment in a dummy spaceship at the Air Crew Equipment Laboratory, Naval Air Materiel Center, Philadelphia Naval Base. (18)
- 1962: The USAF's Aerospace Research Pilot School, the first for operational personnel, began a 7-month course at Edwards AFB with seven Air Force officers and one USN officer. (16) (24)
- A RAF crew launched the last combat training Thor missile, the 22d, at Vandenberg AFB. (6)
- 1963: A SAC crew launched the first Minuteman missile under simulated combat conditions. (12)
- 1964: General Dynamics delivered the first RB/WB-57F (a Canberra B-57 modified with extremely long wings) to the Air Weather Service for its aerial sampling mission. (18)
- 1965: The Titan III-C, the first liquid-fuel spacecraft lifted by solid-fuel rockets, completed its maiden flight. (12)
- The 1st Air Commando Squadron, 34th Tactical Group, Bien Hoa AB received the Presidential Unit Citation. This was the first unit so honored since the Korean War.
- FIRST ARC LIGHT MISSION.** From Andersen AFB, the 320 BMW and 7 BMW dispatched 28 B-52Fs to hit a Viet Cong jungle stronghold near Saigon. This was the first use of B-52s in Vietnam, and the first time B-52s dropped bombs in combat. The operation used 30 KC-135s to provide refueling support. (1) (16) (18)
- 1966: The USAF finished a year of B-52 strikes against the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces. The bombers flew more than 350 conventional missions to drop more than 70,000 tons of bombs on selected targets. (16)
- 1968: In three years of Vietnam operations, SAC's B-52 accomplished more than 25,000 sorties to deliver more than 630,000 tons of conventional bombs. (16)
- 1974: At Edwards AFB, Lt Col James G. Rider became the first USAF pilot to fly the YF-17. (3)
- 1981: The F-117A Nighthawk, the first stealth combat aircraft in the world, flew for the first time at the Tonopah Test Range, Nev. Hal Farley flew the aircraft. (21)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1983: **KEY EVENT--FIRST US WOMAN IN SPACE.** Dr. Salley K. Ride became the first US woman in space on the second Challenger and seventh Space Shuttle mission. On 24 June, the craft returned to earth. (3)
- 1996: The 35 FW at Misawa AB, Japan, once again became a "Wild Weasel" unit in a brief formal ceremony. The 35th began its training in the radar detection and suppression mission at George AFB, Calif., in July 1973 with F-105s, later F-4Cs and F-4Gs. In Operation DESERT STORM, the wing's 24 F-4Gs flew more than 1,180 combat sorties in the Arabian Gulf, suppressing enemy air defenses, with no losses incurred. The 35 FW activated at Misawa on 1 October 1994 to operate 36 F-16CJ aircraft. (AFNEWS)
- 1999: Two 159 FW (Louisiana ANG) F-15As deployed to NAS Keflavik, Iceland, for a NATO exercise intercepted Russian TU-95 Bear bombers in the Icelandic Military Air Defense Identification Zone in a long range probe not seen since the Cold War's end. Two more 159th Eagles, launched from Keflavick, escorted the bombers out of the area. (32)
- 2001: At McGuire AFB, SMSgt Jere Garvin, a 2 AREFS flight engineer, reached 10,000 flying hours. His 24-year career included flying time in C-130s, C-141s, the E-3 Sentry, and KC-10 Extender in over 2,400 sorties. On this date, Garvin was the only active-duty flight engineer to reach that milestone. (AFNEWS Article 0947, 13 July 2001)
- 2003: The USAF released a roadmap to retire 133 KC-135E Stratotankers and assign 100 KC-767A tankers to be leased. Under the plan, Fairchild AFB would become the first active-duty base to receive the new KC-767As in FY2006. By 2010, several Air Reserve Component units would also convert from E-model to R-model KC-135s to the KC-767A. (22)
- Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.** AMC released Civil Reserve Air Fleet carriers from supporting this operation. From 8 February to 2 June 2003, the 11 CRAF carriers flew 1,625 missions to airlift 254,100 troops to the Middle East and other destinations. (22)
- 2005: **TALISMAN SABER 2005.** Through 21 June, six C-17 Globemaster IIIs from McChord AFB and Charleston AFB supported an international exercise. The participants included more than 6,000 Australian and 10,000 US service members from the USAF, Army, Navy, and Marines. The Globemaster IIIs flew from Elmendorf AFB on 18 June and flew 7,000-plus miles across the Pacific Ocean to northeastern Australia in one of the C-17's longest direct-delivery airdrops yet. Each C-17 received two air refuelings, the first near Alaska and the second near Hawaii. American and Australian armed forces practiced a "forced entry operation" in the exercise, and the C-17s airdropped troops and supplies at night. (22)

### 19 June

- 1944: **BATTLE OF THE PHILIPPINE SEA.** Through 20 June, American pilots shot down 476 Japanese aircraft in a battle known as "The Marianas Turkey Shoot." The US lost 130 planes. Navy submarines and aircraft also sank three Japanese carriers. Afterwards, Japanese naval air-power was not a serious threat to US forces in the Pacific. (20) (21)
- 1947: Col Albert Boyd set a world speed record of 623.8 MPH, flying an XP-80R jet airplane over a 3-kilometer course at Muroc. (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Through 20 June, B-29s flew 35 sorties against N. Korean targets, nearly three times the nightly average for the month. Another 27 medium bombers hit the Huichon rail bridge. (28)
- 1961: The first Atlas F arrived at Vandenberg AFB. (6)

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- 1962: A superpressure balloon launched at Kindley AFB, Bermuda, on 31 May 1962, landed near Iwo Jima after 19-days at a constant altitude of 68,000 feet. (16) (24)
- FIRST GENERAL WHITE SPACE TROPHY.** SECAF Eugene M. Zuckert presented the first Gen Thomas D. White Space Trophy to Astronaut Capt Virgil I. Grissom. (16) (24)
- 1970: The first flight of Minuteman III missiles became operational with the 741 SMS at Minot AFB (See 19 August 1970). (6) (12)
- 1977: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Capt David M. Sprinkel flew his C-5, with a 40-ton superconducting magnet aboard, nonstop from Chicago's O'Hare Airport to Sheremetyevo Airport in Moscow. The 5,124 nautical-mile flight needed two aerial refuelings. This was the first time a MAC C-5 landed in the Soviet Union. This feat earned the Mackay Trophy for 1977. (16) (18)
- 1986: All USAF Rapier surface-to-air missiles in Europe became operational. The British provided this missile defense system by agreement to USAF bases in Europe. (16) (26)
- 1998: The first of four C-32As left Boeing's plant in Seattle and flew to the 89 AW at Andrews AFB. The military version of Boeing's 757-200 replaced the VC-137 aircraft in the presidential airlift fleet. (22)
- 1999: A Global Hawk flew to northern New Mexico and returned to Edwards AFB, logging some 13 hours of autonomous flight, to support the DoD's annual Roving Sands air defense exercise.
- 2002: Due to bad weather in Florida, the Space Shuttle *Endeavour* landed at Edwards AFB after 14-day mission (STS-111) to the International Space Station. The astronauts assembled and repaired space station robotics during the mission. The shuttle also brought back a Russian cosmonaut and two U.S. astronauts after 196 days in orbit. (3)
- 2006: The first Lockheed-Martin C-5M test aircraft made its first flight at Edwards AFB. The former C-5B received a complete avionics modernization, reliability enhancement, and re-engining in its conversion to an M-model. In the avionics modernization, Lockheed-Martin added a new cockpit with a digital all-weather flight control system and autopilot, a new communications suite, flat panel displays, and enhanced navigation and safety equipment. (USAF Aimpoints, "Second C-5M Takes Flight," 21 Nov 2006)

### 20 June

- 1913: Ensign William D. Billingsley became the first Naval aviator killed in a plane when he was thrown from a Navy Wright B2 seaplane and drowned. (20) (24)
- 1923: The Army's first all-metal airplane, the Gallaudet CO-1, Liberty 400, made its first flight. The Air Service engineering division designed the aircraft. (4) (24)
- 1930: The Army Air Corps dedicated Randolph Field in San Antonio as its West Point of the Air for primary and basic pilot training. (21)
- 1934: The Daniel Guggenheim Medal presented to William W. Boeing for his achievements in air transportation and aircraft manufacture. (24)
- 1951: The Air Force announced the first launching of its first B-61 Matador, a pilotless aircraft, at the Missile Test Center. (24)

The first F-89 Scorpions were assigned to Hamilton AFB with the Western Air Defense Force.



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The X-5 completed its first flight at Edwards AFB.

- 1960: **Operation BIG STAR.** Through 27 June, SAC conducted four tests to check the feasibility of deploying Minuteman missiles on mobile railroad car launchers at Hill AFB. Four tests led to the activation of the 4062 SW [ICBM - Minuteman (Mobile)] at Hill later on 1 December. (1) (6)
- 1973: At Francis E. Warren AFB, SAC accepted the first Minuteman III missile flight. They belonged to the 90 SMW and the 400 SMS. (1)
- 1974: The DoD announced that the A-10 won a comparative fly-off with the A-7. (3)
- 1976: After entering Mars orbit on 19 June, the Viking I lander touched down on 20 June and began taking soil samples. (8) (21)
- 1980: **GLOBAL SHIELD II.** Through 29 June, SAC conducted this unannounced exercise at 44 bases. It involved over 100,000 people and 437 aircraft flying 1,035 sorties. (16)
- 1984: After a two-year operational test and evaluation program, the 384 AREFW at McConnell AFB received the first reengined KC-135R (Number 61-0293). (1) (26)
- 1999: **Operation ALLIED FORCE.** NATO officially ended the air war against Yugoslavia after Serb forces finished their withdrawal from Kosovo. (32)
- 2007: The Virginia ANG's 192 FW flew its last F-16 *Fighting Falcon* training mission. The wing would become the nation's first ANG unit to fly the F-22 *Raptor*, in associated operations with the 1st Fighter Wing at Langley. The 192d began moving from Richmond IAP to Langley in February 2006 to take on the F-22 mission. (All American Patriots.com, Virginia Air National Guard Wing Transitions at Langley, 20 June 2007)

### 21 June

- 1908: Glenn H. Curtiss, designer, flew the June Bug. It was the third Aerial Experiment Association plane. (24)
- 1913: **FIRST AMERICAN FEMALE PARACHUTIST:** 18-year-old Georgia "Tiny" Broadwick jumped from Glenn L. Martin's plane at 1,000 feet near Los Angeles. (20)
- 1921: First peacetime Army Air Service in-plant inspection office formed at Boeing Airplane Company in Seattle. (12)
- 1944: **Operation FRANTIC.** Nearly 1,000 bombers with over 900 fighter escorts attacked targets in the Berlin area. Of those, 144 heavy bombers and 51 P-51s continued on in shuttle-raid fashion to land at Poltava, Mirgorod, and Piryatin in Russia to reload and restrike targets in Germany on their return to England. (4)
- 1954: Maj Gen Walter C. Sweeney, Jr., 15th Air Force Commander, led three 22 BMW B-47s on a 6700-mile nonstop flight from March AFB to Yokota AB in less than 15 hours with two KC-97 refuelings. This longest point-to-point B-47 flight to date marked its first appearance in the Far East. (1)

The USAF directed the ARDC to create a Western Development Division under Brig Gen Bernard A. Schriever to accelerate the Atlas ICBM program. (21)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1957: An USAF precision team of six F-100C Super Sabres flew from Kindley AFB, Bermuda, to Bedford. They covered the 683 nautical miles in a record of 1 hour 13 minutes. (24)
- 1960: **AIRCRAFT PHASEOUTS.** The last operational flight of a B-29 ended on 21 June when an 6023d Radar Evaluation Squadron RB-29 landed at Naha AB after a routine electronic counter-measure training mission. On 30 June, the unit's last four aircraft were salvaged. In addition, PACAF's last C-119 Flying Boxcars were transferred to India under the Military Assistance Program. (17)
- 1964: The New York Times reported that B-52s were equipped with terrain-avoidance radar to operate at extremely low levels.
- 1965: Two Athena missiles were successfully launched in less than three hours from the Green River, Utah, test complex under the Advanced Ballistic Reentry Systems (ABRES) program. (16)
- 1968: The first group of US Marine Corps pilots to be trained by the USAF received their pilot wings at Laredo AFB. (16)
- 1972: The McDonnell Douglas DC10-30 first flew.
- 1982: **Operation DEEP FREEZE.** SAC's tanker operations accomplished another milestone when a KC-10A transferred a record 67,400 pounds of fuel to a MAC C-141 some 750 miles north of the South Pole. (16)
- 1984: A KC-10A from the 22 AREFW at March AFB, flying the first time from Christchurch IAP, New Zealand, refueled a C-141B three times on its way to resupply the US Antarctic bases at the South Pole and McMurdo Sound. (1) (26)
- 1985: Through 25 July, three C-123K Providers with aerial spray capabilities responded to an infestation of grasshoppers in southern Idaho. The aircraft treated over 735,000 acres in 73 sorties to end the agricultural threat to private croplands. (16)
- 1996: Cmdr David Cheslak became the first Navy flight officer to command an Air Force squadron when he assumed command of the 562d Flying Training Squadron at Randolph AFB. The unit provided joint navigation training to Air Force and Navy personnel. (26)
- 1999: **Operation ALLIED FORCE.** The 104<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group (ANG) at Trapani AB, Sicily, flew its final A-10 airborne close air support alert sorties for this operation. (32)
- 2004: SpaceshipOne became the first private venture craft to successfully attempt to leave earth's atmosphere into space (62 miles up) and return to earth. Burt Rutan and his Scaled Composites Company designed the rocket-powered SpaceShipOne and its carrier aircraft, the twin-jet White Knight, for this attempted flight from Mojave, Calif., near Edwards AFB. Michael Melvill, a veteran test pilot, flew in Spaceship One under the White Knight to 47,000 feet, where he dropped off for a 10-second glide. The ignition of the rocket motor eventually carried SpaceShipOne to 328,491 feet before it reentered the atmosphere and returned to earth. (<http://www.richard-seaman.com/Aircraft/AirShows/SpaceShipOne2004>)
- 2007: The 11th Reconnaissance Squadron flew an MQ-1 Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle past the 250,000 flying hour mark, and celebrated the historic event with a ceremony at Creech AFB, Nev. Major Robert Forino flew the Predator for this milestone. (AFNEWS, "Predator Reaches Quarter Million Flight Hours," 26 Jun 2007.)

### 22 June

- 1909: Wykoff, Church, and Partridge, a New York automobile sales concern, established America's

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first airplane sales agency. (24)

- 1915: **FIRST AERIAL FOREST PATROL.** Jack Vilas flew Wisconsin State Forester E. M. Griffith over a forest fire. (24)
  
- 1924: At Anacostia, Lts F.W. Wead and J.D. Price flew a Curtiss CS-2 with a Wright T-3 Tornado engine to five world seaplane records: distance, 963 miles; duration, 13 hours 23 minutes 15 seconds; and speed, 73.41 MPH for 500 kilometers, 74.27 MPH for 1,000, and 74.17 MPH for 1,500 kilometers.
  
- 1943: Eighth Air Force bombed Germany's Ruhr industrial area for the first time, hitting the chemical works and synthetic rubber at Huls so severely that it could not resume full production for six months. (21)
  
- 1944: The 318 FG, Seventh Air Force, pioneered the use of napalm fire bombs during the 22-29 June fight for Saipan. (17)  
  
**Operation FRANTIC.** After the second FRANTIC raid, the Luftwaffe attacked the B-17s at Poltava, destroying 47 and damaging 19 more. (21)
  
- 1946: Two US AAF P-80s left Schenectady, N.Y., for Washington DC and Chicago to make the first airmail deliveries by jet. (24)
  
- 1951: The Martin P5M Marlin Flying Boat first flew.
  
- 1954: Company pilot Robert Rahn flew the Douglas A4D (A-4) Skyhawk for the first time at Edwards AFB. (20)
  
- 1956: **Operation SIXTEEN TON.** Through 15 September, the AFRES demonstrated its ability to carry out sustained operations for the first time. During the mission, Reserve aircrews flew 164 sorties to airlift 856,715 pounds of cargo to support long-range navigation stations for aircraft and vessels in the Caribbean. The mission fell under the operational control of Reserve airlift units from the CONAC's First, Tenth and Fourteenth Air Forces. Ultimately, 12 of the 13 Reserve C-46 and C-119 airlift wings participated. Daily, one to four aircraft left New York NAS for Miami IAP, Fla., where the 2585th Air Reserve Flying Center operated the traffic control center. From Miami, the planes either went to San Juan, Puerto Rico, or San Salvador Air Force Base, Bahamas. (AFRES News Service, 22 Jun 96)
  
- 1959: First operational Thor unit transferred to the 77 RAF SMS. (6)
  
- 1960: The Navy Research Laboratory launched the Transit II-A navigational satellite on a Thor-Able-Star with a GREB (Galactic Radiation and Beta) "piggyback" satellite. This was the first twin satellite launch. (24)  
  
A Thor missile completed its first confidence firing at Vandenberg AFB. (6)
  
- 1965: The initial F-X briefing called for a small, low cost, high performance aircraft capable of visual air-to-ground and air-to-air missions with an initial operating capability in the early 1970s. (30)
  
- 1967: The last naval transport squadron mission under the operational control of MAC took place. The mission marked the end of 19 years participation in the MATS and MAC by the Navy.
  
- 1980: Through 8 July, after a Vietnamese incursion into Thailand, the U. S. accelerated a shipment of military items to Thailand. MAC C-141s flew six short-notice missions from several US locations to deliver 127.8 tons of weapons and munitions to Bangkok. (18)

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- 1982: After passing its Operational Readiness Inspection, the 50 TFW's 313 TFS became the first F-16 operationally ready squadron in USAFE. (4)
- The first KC-135R (number 61-0293) reengined with CFM-56 engines rolled out of the Boeing plant in Wichita, Kans. (1)
- 1983: The Air Force extended the B-1B test program to include ALCM carriage capability testing. (3)
- 1990: Northrop unveiled its twin-tail, twin-engined YF-23 Advanced Tactical Fighter in ceremonies at the Advanced Tactical Fighter Combined Test Force Facility at Edwards AFB. (20)
- 1994: Through 30 June, AMC dispatched 2 C-5s and 2 C-141s to move 50 armored vehicles from Rhein-Main AB to Entebbe Airport in Kampala, Uganda, for UN forces deploying to Rwanda. Another 3 C-141s airlifted a Tanker Airlift Control Element, equipment, and cargo for the operation. (16) (18)
- 1995: Air Force and Navy officials announced the purchase of a new aircraft trainer, the Beech Mk II, for the Joint Aircraft Training System (JPATS). Each service planned to procure 300 aircraft. The Air Force planned to use the new aircraft to replace its aging T-37s. (16)
2002. A 116 BW aircrew, Georgia ANG, flew the wing's last scheduled B-1 training flight. On 1 October 2002, the unit became the 116 ACW to fly E-8C Joint STARS (Surveillance Target Attack Radar System) missions. (32)

### 23 June

- 1905: The Wright Flyer III made its first flight at Huffman Prairie, near Dayton. This first fully-controllable aircraft could turn and bank and stay up in the air for 30 minutes. (20)
- 1924: **RACE WITH THE SUN.** In a Curtiss PW-8, powered by a 375 HP D-12 engine, Lt Russell L. Maughan began his 2,670-mile from Long Island, New York, to San Francisco. He landed at 9:47 p.m. after five brief refueling stops. He spent 18 hours 20 minutes in the cockpit and 3 hours 20 minutes on the ground. (4) (9)
- 1931: Wiley Post and Harold Gatty left New York on a global flight in a Lockheed Vega, the "Winnie Mae," powered by a Pratt & Whitney 550 HP radial engine. The 15,474-mile trip ended 8 days 15 hours 51 minutes later. (9) (24)
- Ruth Nichols crashed in St. Johns, Newfoundland, during her attempt to become the first woman to fly alone across the Atlantic. (9)
- 1937: The US Army issued a contract to Lockheed to build the first XP-38.
- 1938: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Civil Air Authority Act. (24)
- 1942: The first BOLERO flight with 7 P-38s and 2 B-17s left Presque Isle for England to begin the buildup of US Air Forces in Europe. (24)
- 1944: While escorting B-17s on a raid to Ploesti, the 52 FG downed 12 enemy aircraft. This gave the unit 102 aerial victories in 30 days for a record that was never equaled by another group in Europe. (4)
- MEDAL OF HONOR.** 2Lt David R. Kingsley, 97th Bombardment Group, Fifteenth Air Force, earned a Medal of Honor for putting his own parachute on his wounded tail-gunner

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(whose chute had been damaged). Kingsley thereby was directly responsible for saving the life of the wounded gunner by sacrificing his own.

- 1950: First run of rocket-propelled research sled made on the 3,550-foot track at Holloman AFB.
- FIRST USAF LOSS IN KOREAN WAR.** A C-54, grounded for a damaged wing at Kimpo Airfield, near Seoul, South Korea, became the first aircraft lost in the Korean War. (18)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Through 24 June, combined air attacks by the Air Force, Navy, and Marines nearly destroyed the electric power potential of North Korea. The 2-day attack involved over 1,200 sorties in the largest single air effort since World War II. The Sui-ho complex sustained seventy percent structural damage, rendering it non-operational. (16) (28)
- 1953: TAC transferred its F-51 aircraft, “the USAF's last propellor-driven fighter in front-line service,” from the 366th Fighter-Bomber Wing.
- 1961: Maj Robert White set a speed record for manned airplanes by flying the X-15 at 3,603 MPH. He attained this speed with a 75-second full-throttle operation of the XLR-99 engine. (9)
- 1966: PAGEOS, a passive geodetic satellite used by US Coast Guard, Geodetic Survey, and US Army Map Service, launched for use with 41 ground stations to develop a worldwide reference grid. In space, the satellite inflated to its 100-foot diameter and served as a photographic target.
- 1972: Northrop Corporation at Hawthorne unveiled the F-5E international fighter in a ceremony.
- At Edwards AFB, Maj Larry D. Fortner became the first USAF pilot to fly Northrop's A-9A. (3)
- 1987: The 308 SMW removed the last Titan II from its silo at Little Rock AFB. This removal ended the deployment of the Titan II in SAC's strategic arsenal.
- 1997: An AFFTC team conducted flew a model of the LoFLYTE Neural Network Waverider RPV. The NASA program tried to design a hypersonic (Mach 5.0+) low observable aircraft capable of riding its own shock wave in the manner of the XB-70. (3)

### 24 June

- 1914: The Signal Corps Aviation School at San Diego received its first Curtiss J tractor (Signal Corps No. 29). It was the forerunner of the “Jennies.” (21)
- 1943: Near Ephrata, Wash., Lt Col William R. Lovelace made a record parachute jump of 40,200 feet. (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Far East Air Forces flew 1,043 sorties, the highest daily total for the month. Fifth Air Force fighter-bombers flew over 250 sorties against N. Korean hydroelectric power plants, four of them having been targets the previous day. (28)
- KOREAN WAR.** Through 25 June, 26 B-29s flew close air support sorties, one of the largest such medium bomber missions since the early days of the war. Fifth Air Force fighter-bombers rendered temporarily unserviceable the Samdong-ni rail complex, the choke point of the east-west and north-south rail lines in North Korea. Night-flying B-26s seeded the area with delayed-action bombs to hamper repair efforts. (28)
- 1963: SAC accepted the first flight of 10 Minuteman I (Model B) missiles at Ellsworth AFB with the 66 SMS. (6)

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- 1978: The Sea Satellite (SEASAT), with remote sensing and monitoring of the world's oceans, launched.
- 1987: President Ronald Reagan signed National Security Decision Directive No. 280, National Airlift Policy, to redefine the roles of military and commercial airlift. It made both "important and interdependent" for fulfilling national security mobility requirements. (18)
- 1993: The USAF authorized the destruction of B-52 Stratofortress bombers and LGM-30F Minuteman II silos. The Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center at Davis-Monthan AFB started destroying the 363 B-52s immediately. (16)
- 1996: **Exercise MARCOT '96.** On a global power mission, SECAF Sheila E. Widnall flew on one of three B-52s from the 5 BMW at Minot AFB. Widnall and her crew took off from Andrews AFB on an eight-hour mission for the exercise. The flight included anti-ship operations in the North Atlantic, live MK-82 bomb drops at Gagetown Range, Canada, aerial refueling over western New England and fighter intercepts. Lt Kelly Flinn, a co-pilot of the 23 BS at Minot, joined Widnall on the flight. Flinn was the first B-52 combat-qualified woman. (AFNEWS)
- 1997: **Operation PROVIDE COMFORT/NORTHERN WATCH.** EF-111A Ravens from the 429th Electronic Combat Squadron (ECS) at Cannon AFB left Turkey for home after nearly 2,100 days of deployment to support the two operations. (AFNEWS, 26 June 1997)
- 1998: AMC announced a modernization program to re-engine its entire C-5 fleet over 10- to 12-year period. Besides new engines, the modernization included a comprehensive avionics upgrade with the new All Weather Flight Control System and Global Air Traffic Management equipment. (22)
- 1999: **Operation ALLIED FORCE.** Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen authorized the redeployment of 315 aircraft, including the 18 A-10s from the 104<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group (ANG), to their home stations. As of this date, the ANG activated 4,227 Guardsmen under the Presidential Selected Reserve Call-Up for Kosovo operations. Of those, the ANG deployed 2,976 people to support those operations and the activities of 73 KC-135s and 18 A-10s. (32)
- 2001: Lockheed Martin's X-35B (STOVL) concept demonstrator made its first vertical takeoff and landing, at the contractor's facility at Plant 42 in Palmdale. The event validated the aircraft's unusual shaft-driven lift fan propulsion system, marking the first time in aviation history that a shaft-driven lift fan propulsion system had lifted an aircraft off the ground. (3)

During a flight at NAS Patuxent River, Boeing test pilot Dennis O'Donoghue flew the X-32B through its first successful transition from horizontal flight to a jetborne hover. Altogether, the plane hovered four times in five flights.

### 25 June

- 1934: Richard C. DuPont set a glider distance record of 158.299 miles from Elmira, N.Y., to Basking Ridge, N.J., in a DuPont Bowlus sailplane. (24)
- 1937: Richard Archbald made first nonstop transcontinental amphibian flight in a PBY-1 Catalina from San Diego to New York. (24)
- 1943: Eighth Air Force sent B-17s to attack enemy convoys off Wangerooge and Juist Islands in the North Sea. (4)

In the heaviest single attack made to date by the Northwest African Air Forces, 130 B-17s dropped more than 300 tons of bombs on Messina, Sicily. (24)

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- 1947: First flight of the Boeing B-50. (12)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR BEGAN.** The North Koreans moved their army along the 38th parallel, and at 0400 hours they launched a sudden and all-out attack against the Republic of Korea. The USAF took its B-29s from “mothballs” and pressed them into service along with current combat-ready fighters, bombers, and cargo aircraft. (1) (12) (17)
- Boeing flew its B-47A Stratojet for the first time. (31)
- 1951: President Truman dedicated the Arnold Engineering Development Center at Tullahoma for testing and evaluating aircraft and guided missiles. (24)
- Edwards AFB became the AFFTC.
- 1961: Four months after reaching combat readiness, the 702 SMW at Presque Isle AFB inactivated as SAC phased the obsolete Snark out of the Air Force inventory. (6)
- 1965: SAC inactivated the last Titan I units: the 724 SMS and 725 SMS and 451 SMW at Lowry AFB, and the 569 SMS at Mountain Home AFB. (6)
- 1968: President Johnson reappointed Gen John P. McConnell as CSAF for one year beginning 1 August 1968.
- 1975: The USAF conducted the first of two jettison vehicle flight tests on Boeing's ALCM from a B-52 SRAM rotary launcher. (6)
- 1986: Lt Gen James Abrahamson, Director of the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization announced the selection of Falcon Station as the site of the SDI National Test Facility. (16)
- 1991: The 60 MAW delivered 80 tons of food to Nairobi, Kenya, to relieve a drought-induced food shortage. (16)
- 1996: Terrorists bombed Khobar Towers near King Abdul-Aziz AB, Saudi Arabia, killing 19 Air Force personnel and injuring 300 others. It was the worst terrorist attack against American military personnel since the 1983 bombing of a US Marine barracks in Lebanon. USAF personnel were in Saudi Arabia to support Operation Southern Watch. (26)
- 1999: An all-Air Force crew flew the V-22 Osprey for the first time in a 20-minute sortie from Marine Corps Air Facility Quantico, Va., to NAS Patuxent River. (AFNEWS Article 991306, 8 Jul 99)

### 26 June

- 1909: Glenn H. Curtiss flew his first Curtiss airplane in exhibitions at the Aeronautical Society's meet at Morris Park aerodrome. These were the first flights over New York City. (24)
- 1942: The F6F Hellcat first flew.
- 1945: B-29s started nighttime raids on Japanese oil refineries. (20)
- 1946: The Aeronautical Board agreed that the US AAF and US Navy would use the knot and nautical mile as standard aeronautical units of speed and distance. (20)
- 1948: **KEY EVENT--Operation VITTLES.** An airlift began with C-47s in response to the blockade of Berlin. At Furstenfeldbruck, Germany, SAC had a 301 BG squadron with B-29s in place for

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training. SAC also ordered two other 301st squadrons to Furstenfeldbruck along with the 28 BG from Rapid City AFB and 307 BG from MacDill AFB to England for alert duty. (1) (2)

The 7 BG at Carswell AFB received SAC's first B-36A Peacemaker (44-92004). With its 160-foot length and 230-foot wingspan, the six-engine Peacemaker was the world's largest war-plane. The bomber had an intercontinental capability. (1) (12) (21)

1950: President Truman ordered the USAF and US Navy to aid South Korea, which had been invaded by the North Korean Communist forces.

The 68<sup>th</sup> Fighter All-Weather Squadron flew F-82 Twin Mustangs to provide cover for a Norwegian ship evacuating US citizens from Seoul, Korea, by sea. SB-17 planes then covered the ship's movement from Inchon to Japan. In continued preparation for air evacuation of US citizens from Korea, FEAF traded C-54s for C-47s from all over the Far East to permit operations on smaller airfields. (21) (28)

1954: **Operation WOUNDED WARRIOR.** Through 17 July, airlift aircraft from FEAF and MATS carried 509 French Foreign Legion veterans from Saigon, Vietnam, to Paris, France, and Oran, Algeria, by way of Tokyo and Westover AFB, Mass. The 14,000-mile airlift had to follow an eastern route for political reasons. (18)

1956: An aircraft flew the first mission in the CARTRAC air traffic control tests conducted at Shaw AFB. This test continued through 15 December.

1957: TAC's first WB-66 weather reconnaissance aircraft arrived for duty with the 9th Reconnaissance Squadron, 363d TRW, at Shaw AFB.

1962: At Vandenberg AFB, a 389 SMS crew of Francis E. Warren AFB successfully launched an Atlas D in the first test of the Army's Nike-Zeus interceptor. The interception failed. (6)

1963: A Thor-Delta rocket launched NASA's SYNCOM II communications satellite into orbit from Cape Canaveral. Five hours later, an apogee kick motor fired to place the satellite into a synchronous orbit. (16)

1964: Through 24 July, C-130s delivered over 950 tons of food to remote areas in Pakistan in affected by flooding. (18)

1971: The last F-100 unit in Southeast Asia, the 35 TFW at Phan Rang AB in S. Vietnam, ceased operations. (17)

1972: The Air Force unveiled the F-15 superiority fighter in ceremonies at the McDonnell Douglas facility in St. Louis. (30)

1983: Through 1 July, three USAF C-130s moved 170 tons of food, medicine, and other relief supplies to help victims of a flood in northwestern Peru. (16)

1994: A 60 AW C-5 from Travis AFB flew a 34-ton Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine to Chernobyl, Ukraine. There, medical specialists used the machine to treat victims of the 1986 nuclear reactor meltdown. (16)

2001: Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld proposed a one-third cut in USAF's fleet of 93 B-1B bombers. Under that initiative, which surprised Congress and the National Guard Bureau, the ANG B-1B units in Georgia and Kansas would lose their B-1s and unit funding by 1 October 2001. (32)



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### 27 June

- 1909: In New York, the *Sun*, *Times*, and *Herald* newspapers printed the first ads in the world of a practical airplane for sale. (24)
- 1911: Lt (JG) John H. Towers (USN), reported to the Curtiss School in Hammondsport for instruction. He became Naval Aviator No. 3. (24)
- 1923: Lts Lowell H. Smith and John P. Richter made the Army Air Service's first complete hose refueling between two aircraft over San Diego, while setting world refueled speed records for 2,500 and 3,000 kilometers. Their DH-4B received two hose refuelings from a DH-4B flown by Lts Virgil Hine and Frank Seifert. (18) (24)
- 1929: Capt Frank Hawks set a FAI record for a round-trip cross-country flight from New York to Los Angeles and back. He reached Los Angeles in 19 hours 10 minutes 32 seconds and returned to New York in 17 hours 38 minutes 10 seconds. (9)
- 1944: American bombers left Russian bases with an escort of P-51 Mustangs and attacked oil production plants in Poland before flying on to Italy. (4)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** FEAF and the 374 TCW flew C-54, C-47, and C-46 aircraft to airlift 748 evacuees from Kimpo and Suwon airfields to Japan. Moreover, F-82s, F-80 jets, and B-26 light bombers provided air cover for the evacuation. (21)

**KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force accepted a mission to establish air superiority over S. Korea to prevent N. Korean air attacks on Republic of Korea forces and to protect evacuation forces. When N. Korean planes appeared over Kimpo and Suwon Airfields, USAF fighters engaged them in the first air battle. Major James W. Little, the 339th Fighter All-Weather Squadron Commander, fired the first shot; however, Lt William G. Hudson flying an F-82 Twin Mustang from the 68th Fighter All-Weather Squadron scored the first aerial victory by shooting down an enemy Yak-11. In all, six pilots shot down seven N. Korean propeller-driven fighters over Kimpo, the highest number of USAF aerial victories in one day for 1950. (16) (24) (28)

**KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force B-26s, flying from Ashiya AB, Japan, attacked enemy targets in South Korea in the evening, but bad weather made the raids ineffective. (28)

- 1952: Glide tests on the Bell X-2 rocket research airplane began at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1956: Through 28 June, Navy held its first annual Fleet Air Gunnery Meet at El Centro, Calif. VF-112 won team honors and the Earle Trophy, while Lt (JG) H. N. Wellman from VF-43 earned individual honors. (24)
- 1957: The SM-73 (Goose) was the first plastic airframe missile to fly and the first missile to complete countdown, launch, and flight on the first attempt. (16) (24)
- 1958: First production model F-105B Thunderchief delivered to the USAF.

**Operation TOP SAIL.** Two 99 AREFS KC-135s from Westover AFB, Mass., broke the FAI speed record from New York to London. Major Burl B. Davenport landed his lead tanker in London after 5 hours 29 minutes 14.6 seconds. Two days later, they returned in 5 hours 53 minutes 12.8 seconds for another record. (1) (9)

The 556 SMS from Patrick AFB launched SAC's first Snark missile from Cape Canaveral. (6) (12)

- 1961: At the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., NASA fired the eight-engine Saturn

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SA-72 successfully in a 29.9-second static test. (24)

- 1962: Joseph A. Walker flew the X-15 No. 1 at its maximum speed to set a record 4,159 MPH (Mach 5.92) in a climb from 96,000 to 120,000 feet. (3) (9)
- 1963: Maj Robert A. Rushworth flew the X-15 No. 3 to 54.15 miles (285,000 feet) and became the second military pilot to receive astronaut's wings for space flight in a winged aircraft. (3) (9)
- 1966: The McDonnell Douglas F-4K Phantom II first flew.
- 1968: The first Marine pilot to fly the NF-104 on a zoom flight flew it to 91,000 feet over the desert near Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1970: The ADC marked its 20th anniversary of continuous 24-hour alert.
- 1972: USAF C-123 Provider aircraft operations in SEA ended with the inactivation of the 310<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Squadron (TAS) and the transfer of its aircraft to the Vietnamese Air Force. (16) (17)
- 1976: Vandenberg AFB launched the first Titan II with a Universal Space Guidance System. (6)
- 1990: In the forest north of Santa Barbara, Calif, a fire erupted near the Painted Cave. Through 2 July, MAC C-130 aircrews delivered first suppressant chemicals, fire fighters, and fire-fighting equipment to the area. Aircraft also sprayed the fire from the air. The fire burned 4,900 acres and more than 450 homes, causing \$250 million in damage. (26)
- 1994: C-130 Hercules aircraft from ANG and AFRES units (the 145th Airlift Group (AG), 153 AG and 302 AW) began flying missions to fight fires in the West. Eight aircraft continued this operation through September and dropped more the 5 million gallons of fire retardant. The fires burned more than 2 million acres in six western states. (16) (26)
- 1995: Lockheed-Martin started assembling the first production model F-22. (16) (26)
- For the first time a Space Shuttle, the Atlantis, visited the Russian Mir space station. (21)
- 1996: A C-5 returned to Dover AFB the remains of 19 Air Force officers and airmen killed in the 25 June terrorists attack on the Khobar Towers housing area in Saudi Arabia. (22)
- 1998: At Edwards AFB, Aurora Flight Service's *Perseus B* reached 60,200 feet in altitude, slightly above its designed altitude. (3)
- 2003: An F/A-18 *Hornet* from the Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards AFB achieved a 29 percent fuel savings by flying in a DC-8's wingtip vortex for a study of vortex-induced performance benefits on fighters. The *Hornet* flew about 200 feet behind the larger plane at 25,000 feet in altitude. (3)

### 28 June

- 1917: Langley Field authorized as an experimental air station. (24)
- 1924: Lt John A. Macready, flying a Curtiss bomber, set FAI records for altitude (16,732 feet) and duration (2 hours 13 minutes 49.6 seconds) with payloads of 2,204.6 and 3,306.9 pounds.
- 1927: **MACKAY TROPHY/DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.** Lts Lester J. Maitland and Albert F. Hegenberger flew a Fokker C-2, powered by three Wright 220 HP engines, the "Bird of

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Paradise,” on the first nonstop flight from Oakland to Wheeler Field, Honolulu. They flew 2,407 miles in 25 hours 50 minutes by using the directional beacons of San Francisco and Maui. They received the Mackay Trophy for 1927 and a DFC. (9)

- 1934: The Army awarded a contract to Boeing Aircraft Company to design the B-17. (12)
- 1946: The first V-2 rocket, with instruments for upper air research, launched to an altitude of 67 miles from White Sands Proving Ground. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** FEAF launched its first successful airstrike as more than 20 B-26s from the 3 BG bombed the Munsan rail yards near the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel and the rail and road traffic between Seoul and North Korean border. One B-26, heavily damaged by enemy antiaircraft fire, crashed on its return to Ashiya AB, killing all aboard. (21)
- KOREAN WAR.** Flying from Kadena AB, the 19 BG made the first B-29 medium bomber strikes of the Korean War by attacking a railroad bridge and tanks, trucks, and supply columns along North Korean invasion routes. Bad weather over Japan limited Fifth Air Force sorties, but 18 fighters flew close air support and interdiction missions. More than 30 F-80s from Itazuke escorted C-54s and B-26s flying between Japan and Suwon. 1Lt Bryce Poe II, in an RF-80A, flew the USAF’s first jet combat reconnaissance mission, photographing the North Korean advance. C-54s and C-47s flew out the last of 851 U.S. citizens evacuated by air from South Korea. FEAF transports airlifted 150 tons of ammunition from Tachikawa AB to Suwon, about twenty miles south of Seoul. (28)
- 1954: The Douglas RB-66A made its first flight. The Air Force accepted this plane earlier in June, but it did not take possession of the plane pending the correction of obvious defects. None of the five RB-66As ever joined the combat air forces. (31)
- 1957: **PROJECT FAR SIDE.** The first phase of this project ended when the world’s largest balloon lifted a load of military equipment and instruments weighing almost two tons above 104,000 feet. This flight was part of a series of tests to reach extreme altitudes using the “Rockoon” concept--hanging a 4-stage sounding rocket under a balloon and launching it from altitudes above 100,000 feet. The 4-stage vehicle included two Recruit and two Arrow II rockets. The vehicles reached 4,000 miles in the tests. (24)
- The 93 AREFS at Castle AFB received SAC’s first KC-135A Stratotanker, “The City of Renton” (SN 55-3127). (1)
- 1964: The rebuilt X-15A-2 first flew.
- 1965: NASA confirmed the selection of Owen K. Garriott, Edward G. Gibson, Duane E. Graveline, Lt Cmdr Joseph P. Kerwin (USN) Frank Curtis Michel, and Harrison Schmitt as science astronauts for the Apollo program.
- Telephone calls between President Johnson and European leaders via the Early Bird I communications satellite began commercial satellite service between the US and Europe.
- 1974: Dr. Vannevar Bush, who guided US scientific effort during World War II and helped usher in the atomic age, died in Massachusetts at the age of 84.
- 1978: A B-1 launched the first live SRAM over the White Sands Missile Range. (12)
- 1994: McDonnell Douglas delivered the final nine F-15s to the Air Force. (27)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1909: With Orville Wright at the controls, the first Army airplane began trial flights at Fort Myer, Va. (12) (24)
- 1927: Through 1 July, Lt Cmdr Richard E. Byrd, Lt George O. Noville, Bert Acosta, and Bernt Balchen, set a record four-passenger flight in their airplane, the America. They flew from Roosevelt Field, N.Y., to Ver-Sur-Mer, France (about 125 miles from Paris), and covered the 3,477 miles in 46 hours 6 minutes. (9) (24)
- 1928: John H. Mears and Capt C. B. D. Collyer flew around the world from New York and back in 23 days 15 hours 21 minutes to establish an FAI record. (9)
- 1936: Maj Gen Frank M. Andrews, along with Maj John Whiteley and crew, set a world's distance record for amphibians in a Douglas YOA-5. Two Wright Cyclone 800 HP engines pulled the aircraft 1,429.7 miles from San Juan, Puerto Rico, to Langley Field. (24)
- 1940: A program to build over 12,000 airplanes by 1 April 1942 approved as the "Army's first aviation objective for training, organization, and procurement. (12)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** President Truman authorized General MacArthur to dispatch air forces against targets in North Korea. Later that day, the 3 BG launched 18 B-26s to attack Heijo Airfield near Pyongyang, North Korea. (21)
- KOREAN WAR.** General MacArthur directed General Stratemeyer to concentrate air attacks on the Han River bridges and North Korean troops massing north of the river. B-26s attacked the bridges, and Fifth Air Force F-80s patrolled the Han River area. F-82s from the 86 FAWS, using jettisonable fuel tanks, attacked with napalm for the first time. The 35 FBS and 80 FBS shot down five North Korean airplanes that were attacking Suwon Airfield, while eight 19 BG B-29s attacked enemy-held Kimpo Airfield and the Seoul railroad station, reportedly killing a large number of enemy troops. As the B-29s turned toward Kadena AB, enemy aircraft attacked the formation, enabling B-29 gunners to shoot down an enemy airplane for the first time. (28)
- KOREAN WAR.** General MacArthur authorized FEAF attacks against North Korean airfields. In the first USAF attack, eighteen 3 BG B-26s attacked Heijo airfield near Pyongyang, claiming up to 25 enemy aircraft destroyed on the ground. The 8 TRS began photographing North Korean airfields. Using RB-29 aircraft, the 31 SRS (Photographic) also started operations over Korea from Yokota. (28)
- 1955: The first Boeing B-52B Stratofortress (serial number 52-8711) entered operational service with SAC at Castle AFB and the 93 BMW. (1) (12)
- 1956: An Aerobee-Hi rocket, built by Aerojet General Corporation, attained an altitude of 163 miles in a launching from White Sands Proving Ground. (24)
- 1961: The US Navy's Transit IV-A navigational satellite, launched from Cape Canaveral on a Thor-Able-Star booster, became the first satellite equipped with a nuclear power generator. A radio-isotope-powered battery of the Snap series provided its power. Two other satellites, the Injun and Greb III, mounted "piggyback" on the Transit IV-A failed to separate and function. (24)
- 1962: The first Minuteman to be launched by an USAF crew was fired from an underground silo at Cape Canaveral to a target area some 2,300 miles away. (16) (24)
- In an offensive operation against the Viet Cong about 20 miles northwest of Saigon, 16 Mule Train C-123s and 10 Vietnamese AF C-47s dropped over 1,000 Vietnamese paratroopers. (17)
- 1965: Capt Joseph Engle qualified as a military astronaut by flying the X-15 No. 3 to 280,600 feet at

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

3,432 MPH (Mach 4.94). By exceeding 264,000 feet (50 miles), Engle became the third USAF and youngest astronaut. (3)

- 1972: **MEDAL OF HONOR.** Capt Steven L. Bennett, a forward air controller, and his observer found enemy troops attacking a friendly unit. He then strafed the enemy forces into retreating. After a surface-to-air missile hit and crippled his OV-10 Bronco and shredded his observer's parachute, Bennett ditched his OV-10 into the Gulf of Tonkin even though he knew the OV-10 was not likely to survive the ditching. He died, but his observer survived. For his heroic sacrifice, Bennett received the Medal of Honor posthumously. (21)
- 1982: Lockheed delivered the last C-141B to the USAF. The program cost \$489.6 million, an impressive \$193.3 million below the 1978 estimate. (18)
- 1984: The HH-60D completed its first air refueling from an HC-130 tanker. (3)
- 1985: The 60 BMS, 43 SW, at Andersen AFB became the second B-52G Stratofortress unit to be equipped with the Harpoon antiship missile. This event gave the weapon system full operating capability. (16) (26)
- 1993: Wright-Patterson AFB successfully tested the OC-135B Open Skies reconnaissance aircraft. The aircraft performed surveillance over signature nations to the Open Skies Treaty. (16) (26)
- 1998: At Edwards AFB, the *DarkStar 2* high altitude UAV made its successful first flight, flying for 44 minutes and completing pre-programmed flight maneuvers at up to 5000 feet. (3)
- 2007: The 552nd Air Control Wing at Tinker AFB, Okla., celebrated the 30th anniversary of the E-3A Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System. The first E-3 Sentry arrived at Tinker on 23 March 1977, and since then it served in almost every U. S. military operation. The wing also honored the crewmembers lost in an accident on 22 September 1995, the only E-3 lost in the airframe's 30-year history. (AFNEWS, "Airmen Honor 30 Years of AWACS," 3 Jul 2007.)

### 30 June

- 1917: Lt Col William "Billy" Mitchell relieved Maj Townsend F. Dodd as Aviation Officer, American Expeditionary Force. (24)
- 1928: The US won the Gordon Bennett International Balloon Race for the third successive time at Detroit. In the two-day event, Capt William E. Kepner and Lt W. O. Eareckson, the pilot and aide, respectively, won the trophy permanently after the 460-mile flight. (24)
- 1941: Turboprop engine project initiated as a joint Army-Navy effort. The Navy gave a contract to Northrop Aircraft Corporation to build a gas turbine, weighing less than 3,215 pounds that would develop 2,500 HP.
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** 3 BG B-26s strafed, bombed, and rocketed enemy troops and traffic in the Seoul area. One flight hit a stalled enemy column. Fifteen B-29s attacked railroad bridges, tanks, trucks, and troop concentrations on the north bank of the Han River near Seoul. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** The 315th Air Division had only 28 of 71 C-119 transportst operational in June. To remedy the problem, Air Materiel Command prodded C-119 manufacturers to speed up the delivery of spare parts to Japan, while the Tactical Air Command sent newer-model Flying Boxcars to the Far East, and the 403d Troop Carrier Wing transferred the troubled C-119s to the US. Far East Air Forces flew 170 leaflet, nineteen voice broadcasts, and 129 flare-dropping sorties, in addition to search and rescue missions. (28)

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- 1965: The XB-70 flew at a speed of Mach 2.85 (1,870 MPH) at an altitude of 68,000 feet. In a 104-minute flight, covering 2,035 miles, the aircraft flew for 50 minutes at twice the speed of sound.
- The C-141 set an unofficial world record for paratroops when it delivered two pallets totaling 64,630 pounds.
- Project ORION.** The USAF terminated its nuclear propulsion aircraft project.
- The 800th and last Minuteman I ICBM became operational at Francis E. Warren AFB. (12)
- 1966: CONAC announced the greatest record of productive airlift in the history of AFRES flying units. Reservists flew 14,234 missions in 83,097 flying hours to airlift 20,522 tons of cargo and 58,722 passengers in FY1966. (16)
- 1967: First production model of F-4E Phantom (USAF version), featuring a multiple barrel 20mm cannon in addition to missile armament, made its initial flight at McDonnell Douglas' St. Louis plant.
- 1968: Lockheed Georgia Company test pilot Leo J. Sullivan flew the C-5A Galaxy, the world's largest aircraft at the time, on a 94-minute maiden test flight from Dobbins AFB, Ga. (12)
- 1970: During FY1970, the AFRES supported MAC's airlift requirements in SEA by flying 419 missions to deliver 4,900 tons of cargo. (16)
- Operation FREEDOM DEAL.** After US ground operations ceased in Cambodia, air strikes continued in interdiction efforts against North Vietnamese sanctuaries under the name Freedom Deal. (17)
- 1971: SAC's 340 BG at Carswell AFB received the last FB-111 fighter-bomber (SN 68-291). (1)
- 1973: Deputy SECDEF William C. Clements, Jr., canceled the Subsonic Cruise Armed Decoy (SCAD) program. (1) (6)
- 1975: The last Hound Dog missiles were removed from alert. (6)
- The USAF retired its last Douglas C-47A Skytrain (Gooney Bird) to the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB. Douglas Aircraft delivered the first aircraft in 1941. (8: June 90)
- 1977: President James E. Carter terminated the B-1 bomber program to produce the ALCM. (1) (6)
- 1978: SAC took the last GAM-72A Quail missiles off alert. (6)
- 1982: Rockwell International rolled out the Space Shuttle Challenger.
- 1983: The 401 TFW flew the last F-4D Phantom training sortie in Europe. (16)
- 1985: At Vandenberg AFB, AFSC conducted the final Peacekeeper test launch from an above ground pad. (16)
- 1992: AMC withdrew the last nuclear artillery shells, Lance missile warheads, and naval depth bombs from overseas to support President George H. W. Bush's Nuclear Forces Initiative of 7 September 1991. (18)
- 1995: **Operation QUICK LIFT.** Through 10 August, 27 C-5s and 53 C-141s airlifted 4,742 British and Dutch military personnel and 1,504 tons of cargo to Croatia to support this UN action. (16)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(18)

- 1996: **Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.** Through 31 August, 4 KC-135R tankers from the 905 AREFS at Grand Forks AFB flew to Doha, Qatar, to join an Airpower Expeditionary Force (AEF) of 34 aircraft (4 tankers and 30 fighters). The AEF provided land-based air forces to augment US forces already supporting the operation. The deployment also gave the USAF an opportunity to work and train with coalition partners in the Persian Gulf region. (18)
- 1999: Orbital Sciences Corporation's X-34, a reusable launch vehicle demonstrator, made its first captive-carry flight on a modified L-1011 jetliner for NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards AFB. The flight marked the space agency's first rocket plane test effort since the X-15 program ended in 1968. (3)

### 1 July

- 1922: Eight Navy Medical officers, the first to receive flight training, began their instruction at NAS Pensacola. (24)
- 1924: US Post Office began through transcontinental airmail service with a route between New York and San Francisco with stops at Chicago, Omaha, and Salt Lake City. (21)
- 1933: The Douglas DC-1 first flew.
- 1939: The Aeronautical Board, the Joint Board (later the JCS), the Joint Economy Board, and the Munitions Board all previously functioned under an understanding between the Secretaries of War and Navy. A presidential order, however, placed the offices under the direction and supervision of the President as Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy.
- 1941: Lt Cmdr W. D. Anderson made the first landing, takeoff, and catapult launch from an escort carrier, the USS Long Island. (24)
- The Air Corps Ferrying Command (ACFC) sent its first air transport flights from Bolling Field to Scotland via Montreal and Newfoundland. Using modified B-24 Liberator bombers with seats in the bomb bay, the "Arnold Line" (after Gen Henry H. Arnold) made six round trips to Scotland monthly. Lt Col Caleb V. Haynes flew the first flight from Bolling Field to Scotland, via Montreal and Newfoundland. (2) (18)
- 1946: **Operation CROSSROADS.** From the 509<sup>th</sup> Composite Group, Maj Woodrow P. Swancutt flew a B-29, named "Dave's Dream" to Bikini Atoll, where he dropped a Nagasaki-type Atomic bomb from 30,000 feet on 73 ships. He sank five and heavily damaged nine ships. (1) (24)
- The first C-118 Liftmaster entered the ATC inventory as a presidential airplane when the Independence arrived at Washington National Airport. A military version of the Douglas DC-6, the four-engine Liftmaster could carry 20,200 pounds for 2,000 miles, and it could carry up to 76 troops. (18)
- 1949: Lockheed's F-94 Starfire prototype first flew. (12)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** The 374 TCW airlifted the first troops from the USA 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Japan to Pusan. (21)
- 1957: The 704 SMW, the USAF's first ballistic missile wing, activated at Cooke AFB to maintain an Atlas D alert force and train crews for duty with the missile. (6)

The USAF (TAC) used the C-130 aircraft as a paratrooper jump platform for the first time. (11)

## **AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- 1959: SAC inactivated its first missile wing, the 704 SMW, at Vandenberg AFB. (6)
- 1960: SAC began testing an airborne command post, a modified KC-135, in ground alert operations at Offutt AFB. (1)
- SAC activated the 394th Missile Training Squadron at Vandenberg AFB to train combat crews for the Minuteman missile. (1)
- 1961: NORAD began operating its SPADATS to provide electronic cataloging of man-made objects in space. (16) (24)
- 1962: SAC activated its first Minuteman I (Model B) squadron, the 66 SMS, at Ellsworth AFB. (6)
- 1964: Navy's navigational satellite, Transit, declared operational. It was used extensively in August through September during the round-the-world voyage of Task Force One. The satellite served as an artificial star for fixing the position of submarines and surface vessels.
- SAC activated its last and 13th Minuteman I (Model B) squadron, the 400 SMS at Francis E. Warren AFB. (6)
- Curtiss-Wright X-19 tri-service VTOL completed its first test flight.
- The first jet-augmented KC-97L became operational. (18)
- 1965: TIROS X, the first weather satellite paid for by the US Weather Bureau, launched into a north-south polar orbit from Cape Kennedy to report on hurricane situations in the Caribbean and Atlantic.
- The Navy's F-111B completed its first supersonic flight.
- 1966: SECAF Harold Brown presented the Gen Thomas D. White Space Trophy to Lt Col Edward H. White II, the first astronaut to walk in space. The trophy was awarded annually to the Air Force officer or unit making the foremost contribution to US progress in aerospace. (26)
- The USAF started aeromedical flights from Saigon to the US via Japan. This route reduced flight time by 24 hours. (16) (26)
- CONAC activated 14 AFRES units to help the Air Force Logistics Command (AFLC). The new units included reserve maintenance squadrons (mobile) and reserve supply squadrons (mobile support) with a mission to augment AFLC during limited wars and other emergency actions. (16)
- 1967: An USAF Titan III-C booster launched from the Eastern Test Range inserted six satellites--three Initial Defense Communications Satellite Program (IDCSP) satellites, a scientific capsule, a gravity-measuring device, and a antenna test satellite--into orbit. These IDCSP satellites combined with 15 others launched on 16 June 1966 and 18 January 1967 to complete the Pacific link of the DoD's IDCSP system. This system was designed to provide reliable, full-time radio communications between Washington DC and Vietnam. (5) (16)
- 1969: Aerospace Rescue and Recovery forces in SEA completed their 2,500<sup>th</sup> save when they evacuated three wounded men from the Mekong Delta.
- 1971: At Pease AFB, N. H., the 509 BMW became the first operationally ready unit equipped with FB-111 aircraft.



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The ADC turned Selfridge AFB, Mich., over to the ANG. This was the first active, major Air Force Base to come under ANG control. (16) (26)

1974: Aerojet-General received a follow-on contract for the Titan III. (12)

1975: ANG air refueling units began supporting SAC operations. (21)

1976: SAC transferred its drone reconnaissance program from the 100 SRW at Davis Monthan AFB to TAC. Teledyne Ryan Aeronautical Division built the small unmanned, remotely piloted, jet powered drones that were launched from DC-130 aircraft and recovered in mid-air by CH-3 recovery helicopters. All SAC drones, six DC-130s and seven CH-3 recovery helicopters were transferred. (1)

Responsibility for ANG aerial refueling wings transferred from TAC to SAC. (16)

1979: General Dynamics and Boeing began competitive tests to determine which company would receive the ALCM contract. (6)

1982: At Shaw AFB, TAC formally accepted the F-16. (11)

USAFE activated its first GLCM wing, the 501<sup>st</sup> Tactical Missile Wing, at RAF Greenham Common, UK. (16) (26)

1985: The 7 BMW at Carswell AFB became the first unit to receive the ALCM, modified for use on B-52H Stratofortress bombers. (16) (26)

A C-141 Starlifter from the 438 MAW flew 39 passengers that were released from the hijacked Trans World Airlines flight 847 on 30 June by two Shiite Muslims. These survivors were flown from Damascus to Rhein-Main AB. (16)

1988: Through 31 August, the US and the Soviet Union agreed to destroy their intermediate-range missile stockpiles in the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. Each side sent inspectors to conduct on-site inspections of production facilities. During Phase I, C-5s and C-141s flew Soviet inspectors to the US and carried American inspectors to the ports of entry in the Soviet Union to inaugurate a continuing mission. (18)

1994: **Operation DESERT STORM.** The last F-15E Eagle left the Persian Gulf region. The aircraft went to the area in August 1990 at the start of DESERT SHIELD. (16)

The 184 BG, Kansas ANG, became the first Guard unit to receive B-1B Lancers. (16) (26)

The USAF transferred the responsibility for ICBMs from ACC to AF Space Command. (21)

1996: An Air Force crew flew an EA-6B Prowler off the deck of the USS Constellation for the first time. The Navy's EA-6B was destined to replace the EF-111 as an Air Force jamming aircraft. (26)

### 2 July

1914: First of Martin's T Tractor airplanes (Signal Corps No. 31) accepted at San Diego.

1926: Congress created the DFC, retroactive to 6 April 1917, to honor heroic acts or extraordinary flight achievements by armed services' members. (4)

First known aerial reforestation occurred in Hawaii. (24)

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- 1943: Lt Charles Hall, 99<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, became the first US black pilot to shoot down an Axis plane, a German Focke-Wulf 190 over Sicily. (21)
- 1944: Using Fifth Air Force air support, the 158<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team (Task Force Cyclone) landed on Noemfoor Island, Schouten Islands, off the north coast of Dutch New Guinea. The RAAF's Number Two Works Wing started construction on Kamiri airstrip started at once. The next day, 54 TCW C-47s dropped the 1st Battalion, 503d Parachute Infantry Regiment over the airfield. Infantry from the 158th Royal Construction Team (RCT) secured Kornasoren Airfield on 4 July. The airdrome at Kamiri received its first fighter group on 16 July, the Kornasoren field on the 25th. (17)
- 1952: The USAF announced that the Lockheed F-94C Starfire was first fighter to be armed solely with rockets. (16)
- 1955: The biggest troop airlift in history to date began at Donaldson AFB, S. C., when 3,900 paratroopers moved from the US to Japan and 3,100 from Japan to the US. (16) (24)
- 1964: SAC received its first KC-135B airborne command post.
- The final Polaris A3 missile of the test program launched from Cape Kennedy. Its 2,500-mile flight was the 41st in a program that began in 1962.
- 1966: Mrs. Jerrie Mock set a closed-course distance record of 3,800 miles for women in an airplane weighing 3,850-5,300 pounds.
- 1982: Fairchild Republic Company selected to develop the T-46A, next generation trainer. (12)
- A Titan II (site 570-9), belonging to the 570 SMS at Davis-Monthan AFB, came off alert for testing. It became the first Titan II to inactivate under a phase out program. (6)
- 1984: The inactivation of a second Titan II unit, the 381 SMW at McConnell AFB, began earlier in the year. The wing's first site (533-8) came off alert on 2 July.
- 1987: Rockwell International received a \$155.2 million contract to build AC-130U gunships. (12)
- 1991: The McDonnell Douglas MD520N, the first production helicopter built without a tail rotor, made its first flight. The helicopter used a blown air system for anti-torque and directional control. (20)
- 1993: AMC integrated tanker and airlift forces under Fifteenth and Twenty-First Air Forces. (16)
- 1998: **Operation PHOENIX FLAME.** Through 7 July, AMC flew 10 C-5 and 2 C-141 missions to assist Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) firefighting efforts in Florida. The airlifters delivered more than 300 people and 740 tons of equipment to NAS Jacksonville and Patrick AFB. Active duty, reserve, and guard units supported efforts to fight wildfires in some 200,000 acres of Florida. (22)
- 2007: The 119th Wing (North Dakota Air National Guard) in Fargo, N. Dak., flew its first MQ-1 Predator unmanned aircraft system mission. The 119th Wing converted from its previous mission with F-16 *Fighting Falcons* to Predators and C-21s. (AFNEWS, "North Dakota ANG Unit Flies First Unmanned Mission, 3 Jul 2007.)

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- 1915: Lt Byron Q. Jones became the first Army officer to deliberately loop and stall an aircraft at San Diego. (4) (24)
- 1936: Henry Ford bought the Wright Brothers workshop, where the Wrights built the first airplane, in Dayton for his Greenfield Village exhibit in Dearborn, Mich. (24)
- 1942: Lt Cmdr J. H. Hean (USN) flew a PBV-5A over Goldstone Lake, Calif., to fire the first retro-rocket in flight. (24)
- 1949: The USAF gave the B-29 Enola Gay, the plane that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, to the Smithsonian Institute. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Gen Hoyt S. Vandenberg ordered the 22d Bombardment Group and 92d Bombardment Group to deploy with their B-29s to the Far East for conventional bombing operations against North Korea. FEAF continued to airlift US Army troops to Korea, but substituted smaller C-46s and C-47s for C-54s, which damaged Pusan's runways. Four F-80s completed the first mission with external rockets. Carrier F9F Pantherjets went into action in Korea with strikes in and around Pyongyang. This day also marked the first Navy kills in air combat as Lt Leonard H. Plog and Ensign E. W. Brown each shot down a Yak-9. (1) (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Brig Gen Chester E. McCarty, 315th AD commander, flew the 374th Troop Carrier Wing's first operational C-124 Globemaster from Japan to Korea. Additionally, in 13 sorties over enemy territory, C-47s dropped more than 22 million leaflets, over one-sixth of all dropped during the month. (28)
- 1958: A Boeing 707 Stratoliner set a commercial speed record by flying 1,550 miles from Mexico City to Los Angeles in 3 hours 9 minutes. (24)
- 1970: Through 13 July, MAC's first C-5A "Galaxy," assigned to the 437 MAW, left Charleston AFB on its first mission outside the CONUS. The Galaxy made a 10-day tour of PACAF bases to provide a first-hand explanation of its unique capabilities to MAC officers and airmen. The C-5A stopped at Hickam AFB, Andersen AB, Clark AB, Cam Ranh Bay, Kadena and Yokota ABs in Japan, and Elmendorf AFB, before returning to Charleston on 13 July. In the states, the C-5 also visited Dover and Travis AFBs, on its 21,500-nautical-mile tour. (17)
- 1992: **Operation PROVIDE PROMISE.** The US European Command launched the operation to send C-130s, C-141s, C-5s, and C-9s to airlift relief supplies to Bosnia-Herzegovina on a regular basis. (16) (26)
- 1996: Majors Gavin L. Ketchen and Richard Vanderburgh from the 509 BW flew the twelfth operational B-2 Spirit from the Northrop Grumman plant at Palmdale, Calif., to Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. (AFNEWS, 9 Jul 96)
- 2001: Lockheed Martin ferried the X-35B Joint Strike Fighter to Edwards AFB. (3)

### 4 July

- 1908: Scientific American offered the first American air trophy for the first flight of one kilometer. Glenn H. Curtiss won this award at Hammondsport in the June Bug with a 1-minute, 42.5-second flight at 39 MPH. An FAI representative timed and measured the event, and it was the first official test of an airplane made in America. (20)
- 1923: Lts R. S. Olmstead and J. W. Shaptoe won the National Balloon Race at Indianapolis by flying 449.5 miles.

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- 1927: In a flight from Ford Airport to Montvale, Va., D. J. Hill and A. G. Schlosser set a FAI duration record for subclasses A-5 and A-6 balloons (900-1,600 cubic meters) that lasted until 1939. They stayed aloft 26 hours 28 minutes. In a second balloon, S. A. Rasmussen flew from Ford Airport to Hookerton, N.C. to set a FAI distance record of 571 miles for the A-5 subclass (900 to 1,200 cubic meters). (9)
- 1939: Lt Robert M. Stanley (USN) set an American altitude record for single-place gliders when he soared to 17,263.743 feet at Elmira. (24)
- 1942: **KEY EVENT.** The 15 BMS flew the first American bombing mission from the UK in World War II. Six American-manned A-20 Boston Bombers belonging to the RAF joined six British-manned A-20s in an attack against four Nazi airdromes in Holland. (4) (24)
- The Flying Tigers joined the Army Air Forces as the 23 FG. (20)
- 1952: **Operation FOX PETER ONE.** Through 17 July, the first mass flight of jet fighters to be supported by aerial refueling, as well as the first flight by large numbers of jet fighters from the United States to Japan, flew westward. In the operation, KB-29Ps provided 118 air refuelings to the 59 F-84G Thunderjets from the 31 FEW at Turner AFB, Ga. Col David C. Schilling led the flight from Turner on 4 July and landed at Yokota AB on 16 and 17 July. They flew the 10,895 miles with only seven stops. The KB-29 refuelings occurred over the US and before Hawaii. MATS aircraft also carried wing support members to Japan. (16) (18)
- KOREAN WAR.** Approximately 53 MiGs, some piloted by Soviets, attacked some 50 F-86s and 70 F-84s during a raid on the N. Korean Military Academy at Sakchu near the Yalu River. Fifth Air Force pilots downed 13 MiG-15s at a cost of 2 Sabres. Although 4 MiGs succeeded in passing through the protective fighter screen, they failed to destroy any fighter-bombers. Bombing results were poor.
- 1960: Max Conrad set a new world-class distance record in a Piper Comanche by flying 6,921.38 miles nonstop over a closed circuit course in 60 hours 6 minutes. (24)
- 1968: Radio Astronomy Explorer (RAE-H) launched from Western Test Range. The X-shaped antenna array "listened" for radio signals from solar, galactic, and extra-galactic sources.
- 1973: An AFRES HU-16, assigned to the 301st Aerospace Recovery Squadron at Homestead AFB, set a world's altitude record for twin-engine amphibious aircraft. The plane flew to 32,833 feet and exceeded the old record by 4,000 feet.
- 1982: The Space Shuttle Challenger flown on a modified Boeing 747 to Kennedy Space Center. Meanwhile, the Columbia made its first landing on a concrete runway on its last test flight with nearly 500,000 spectators, including President and Mrs. Reagan, looking on. (16)
- The F-16E/XL completed its first flight at Carswell AFB. (3)
- 1985: Through 10 July, C-141 Starlifters transported 285 fire fighters and 460 tons of flame retardant to suppress forest fires in Idaho and California. C-130 Hercules aircraft flew 200 sorties to drop flame retardant on hot spots. (16) (18)
- 1987: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Four USAF crewmembers took off in a B-1B from the Rockwell plant at Palmdale for its initial acceptance flight. They set a speed and payload record off the Pacific Coast by traveling 1,080 nautical miles with a 66,140-pound payload at 685 MPH. Then through 17 September, two B-1Bs from Detachment 15, Air Force Plant Representative Office and System Program Office set 72 world and national speed, distance, and payload records. For this achievement, the detachment won the Mackay Trophy. (16) (26)

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### 5 July

- 1911: The Chief Signal Officer approved the first flight form (Form N.277). Subsequently, the Army's Aviation School at Augusta inaugurated its use. (24)
- 1912: Capt Charles DeForest Chandler, Lts Thomas DeWitt Milling, and Lt Henry H. Arnold became the first qualified "Military Aviators." They received their badges on 6 October. (11) (24)
- 1938: Richard C. DuPont set US glider altitude record of 6,806 feet at Elmira.
- 1943: The first turbo jet engine developed for the Navy, the Westinghouse 19A, completed its 100-hour endurance test. (24)
- 1944: Harry Crosby, company pilot, flew the Northrop MX-324, the first US rocket-powered aircraft, for the first time at Harper Dry Lake, Calif. (20)
- 1952: World record of 124 parachute jumps in one day set at Grand Prairie, Tx., by paratrooper Neal Stewart of Birmingham, Ala. (24)
- 1962: Flying from Hill AFB to Springfield, Minn., Capt Chester R. Radcliffe, Jr., piloted a H-43B Huskie to a world's distance records of 900 miles. (24)
- 1970: Boeing received the first contract for the new AWACS that would serve as a combat direction center for ADC. (16) (26)
- 1974: The 555 TFS moved without personnel or equipment from Udorn RTAFB to Luke AFB to become the first F-15 Eagle squadron in the USAF. (16) (26)
- 1993: Through 12 July, AMC moved 334 US Army soldiers and 850 short tons of equipment from Germany to Macedonia on 15 C-5, 2 C-141, and 3 C-130 missions to help the UN prevent the spread of fighting in the former Yugoslavia. (16) (26)

### 6 July

- 1908: The Signal Corps appointed the Aeronautical Board to conduct tests on dirigibles, balloons, and airplanes being built under contract. (12) (24)
- 1915: Capt V. E. Clark, the first air officer to graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a Doctor of Engineering, reported to North Island. (24)
- 1924: Maj Henry H. Arnold set a new speed record by flying 500 miles between Rockwell Field and San Francisco in 4 hours 25 minutes.
- 1945: The North American XP-82 Twin Mustang first flew. (12)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR/FIRST STRATEGIC ATTACK.** Nine B-29s conducted the first strategic air attacks of the Korean War by bombing the Rising Sun oil refinery at Wonsan and a chemical plant at Hungman in North Korea. (21) (28)

The Harmon International Aviation Awards Committee named James H. Doolittle the Aviator of the Decade, Jacqueline Cochran the Outstanding Aviatix, and Vice Admiral Charles E. Rosendahl the top aeronaut (lighter-than-air). (16) (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** A 43 AREFS aircrew flew a KB-29M in the first combat air refueling operation. It refueled four RF-80s flying reconnaissance missions over North Korea. (1) (26) (28)
- 1953: **Operation KINDERLIFT.** USAFE began an airlift of children from Berlin to West Germany for a summer vacation in German and American homes. (4)
- 1954: The Lockheed XF-104 made its first flight.
- 1961: An Atlas-E, launched from Cape Canaveral, set a US record by flying 9,050 miles and dropping a 1.5-ton payload on target, 1,000 miles southeast of Capetown, South Africa. (24)
- 1967: The Chaparral monorail sled set a record, when it reached 6,834.2 feet per second (4,750 MPH). The two-stage sled was 21 feet long, 12 inches high, and weighed about 780 pounds.
- An Atlas D booster successfully launched an Advanced Ballistic Reentry Vehicle System (AB-RES) vehicle from Vandenberg AFB. (16)
- 1982: A MAC C-130 left Rhein-Main AB for Kano, Nigeria, with two crews, maintenance personnel, an airlift control element, parts, rations, satellite communications, and water. After setting up an operating base, the aircraft flew to N'Djamena, Chad, where the crews began alternating flights to Abe'che' and Faya-Largeau. In a week, the C-130 carried 113 tons of food supplies to Chadian civil war refugees. (2)
- 1989: Under the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty, the US destroyed its last MGM-31 Pershing 1A missile, the 169th, at the Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant, Karnack, Tex. (20)
- President George Bush presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award to Gen James H. Doolittle (retired) at the White House. (26)
- 2005: The 305 AMW at McGuire AFB received the 13th and last C-17 (tail number 04-4137), when Lt Gen Walter Buchanan III, the Ninth Air Force and US Central Command Air Forces commander at Shaw AFB delivered the C-17 from the Boeing in Long Beach, Calif. The first C-17 had been delivered to the 305th on 24 September 2004. (22)

### 7 July

- 1914: Dr. Robert H. Goddard, the "father" of American rocketry, received a US patent for a two-stage solid-fuel rocket. It was the first of 69 patents he received for inventions. (21)
- 1920: The Navy flew an F-5L seaplane by radiocompass from Hampton Roads to the USS Ohio located 94 miles away at sea. (24)
- 1929: Transcontinental Air Transport, Incorporated, inaugurated a 48-hour cross country train-plane service. (24)
- 1942: Flying a Lockheed Vega A-29 Hudson, Lt Harry J. Kane of the 396 BMS attacked and sank a German submarine (U-701) off Cherry Point, N. C., to make the first sure "kill" off the Atlantic Coast of the US. (4) (21)
- 1955: First test mission of Project Whoosh, which evaluated escape from high-speed aircraft at nearly Mach 2.
- 1960: Public Law 86-601 provided \$311 million for airlift modernization, including an initiative to build the C-141 Starlifter. (18)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1961: NASA successfully fired the eight-engine Saturn SA-72 for the second time at the Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, in a 119-second test.
- 1965: Rockwell rolled out the first OV-10A Bronco at Columbus, Ohio. (8: Jul 1990)
- 1971: SAC transferred its last C-47 "Gooney Bird" (Number 44-76326) from the 97 BMW at Blytheville AFB to the USS Alabama Monument Commission. (1)
- 1973: The McDonnell-Douglas TF-15, the two-seat trainer version of the F-15 Eagle, flew its first flight. (30)
- 1985: The 96 BMW accepted SAC's first operational B-1B (SN 83-0065) at Dyess AFB. (1)
- 1987: The 76th and last C-5A (number 66-8307) to receive stronger wings rolled out of Lockheed's Marietta plant to complete a \$1.5 billion project that began in 1975. (12)
- 1991: The 436 MAW delivered 70 tons of food and relief supplies to N'Djamena, Chad, to help that country overcome a drought-induced food shortage. (16) (21)

### 8 July

- 1913: Beckwith Havens made the first long-distance flight in a Curtiss Flying Boat, flying 885 miles on the Great Lakes. (24)
- 1940: Boeing's 307B Stratoliner, with a pressurized cabin, made its first commercial flight from Burbank, Calif., to Long Island, N. Y. (21) (24)
- 1941: The RAF used B-17s for the first time in a daylight raid on Wilhelmshaven, Germany. (21)
- 1943: Col Malcolm G. Grow, an Eighth Air Force surgeon, received a Legion of Merit for designing the flak vest and steel helmet to deflect low velocity missiles from American airmen. (4) (24)
- 1944: Lt Col Clifford Heflin flew his C-47 on the first mission into France to rescue airmen who had parachuted behind enemy lines. (21)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** From radio-equipped jeeps, Lts Oliver Duerksen and Frank Chermak provided the first forward air control to direct air-to-ground attacks. (28)
- 1955: At Hurricane, Utah, a rocket sled made the first run on the 12,000-foot Supersonic Military Air Research Track (SMART). (24)
- 1960: **Operation NEW TAPE.** The Congo's independence from Belgium led to civil war. To help the Africans, the UN started airlift operations. Through January 1964, MATS flew 2,128 missions to move 63,798 people and 18,593 tons to cargo. On 15 July, USAFE also began helping with the airlift operations. (2) (4)
- 1961: Using three RB-50s and one C-54, a 138-man team from the 1370th Photo Mapping Wing surveyed the Hawaiian archipelago to establish a geodetic position for the Midway and Johnston Islands in relation to the Hawaiian Islands.
- 1962: **Operation DOMINIC.** From Johnston Island, a Thor IRBM carried a megaton-plus hydrogen bomb above 200 miles in altitude. The detonation marked the highest thermonuclear blast by a US bomb, and perhaps, the highest of any nation. It also provided the U.S. public with the first display of the major EMP effects of a high-alt nuclear burst. (16) (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1965: SYCOM II and III communications satellites transferred from NASA to the Defense Communications Agency. The USAF also gained control over three telemetry and command stations at the Seychelles Islands, Hawaii, and Guam. These stations maintained control and positioning of the satellites. (21)
- Hollywood stunt pilot Paul Mantz died in a crash at Buttercup Valley, Ariz., while filming the Flight of the Phoenix. (8: Jul 90)
- 1966: From Cape Kennedy, a Minuteman II launched, carrying the first Mark 12 Multiple Independent Reentry Vehicle. (6)
- 1969: The first of 25,000 troops to be withdrawn from SEA under President Nixon's new policy were airlifted by C-141s from Vietnam to McChord AFB. (16) (26)
- 1977: SECDEF Harold Brown decided to end production of the Minuteman III. (12)
- 1979: **Exercise GLOBAL SHIELD I.** Through 16 July, SAC exercised every phase of its Single Integrated Operations Plan (SIOP), short of nuclear war. The Global Shield exercise featured full involvement by SAC's active forces and AFRES units as most bombers, tankers, and missiles were placed on alert. Some aircraft also dispersed to preselected bases, while others flew sorties over radar bomb-scoring sites. (1)
- 1993: At its plant in York, England, Slingsby Aviation rolled out the first T-3A Enhanced Flight Screener for the USAF. (20)
- 1998: An upgraded T-38C Talon advanced trainer aircraft flew for the first time over Mesa, Ariz. The T-38 received improved avionics under the Avionics Upgrade Program (AUP) and the Pacer Classic initiative. The T-38C took off from the Williams Gateway Airport Runway for a 1 hour 20 minute flight with Boeing test pilot Ed Wilson sitting in the front seat and USAF test pilot, Capt John Deems, in the rear seat. (AFNEWS Article 981017, 14 Jul 98)
- Exercise BALTIC CHALLENGE '98.** Through 9 July, a 445 AW (AFRC) C-141 aircrew from Wright-Patterson AFB airlifted five dolphins, their handlers, and veterinarians from NAS North Island to Palanga IAP, Lithuania, to participate in this joint military land and sea exercise. The dolphins found and marked mines on the Baltic Sea floor and searched for live ordnance from World War II. On 20 July, another 445 AW aircrew returned the dolphins to California. (22)
- 2001: Boeing's X-32 Joint Strike Fighter successfully completed its flight-test program with a series of short takeoffs at NAS Patuxent River. (AFNEWS Article 0942, 12 Jul 2001)
- 2006: In a ceremony within a Wyoming ANG hangar at Cheyenne, Lt Col Steve Hopkins (USAF) took command of the USAF's new 30<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron. The 30<sup>th</sup> would be under the operational control of the Wyoming Air Guard's 153<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing and share the latter's C-130 transports, but it would be administratively attached to the 463<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Group at Little Rock AFB, Ark. The 30<sup>th</sup> was the first unit of its kind associated with the ANG. (32)

### 9 July

- 1942: Seven P-38s arrived in the UK after flying across the North Atlantic with stops in Greenland and Iceland. This was the first time single-seat US aircraft flew this route. (4)
- 1943: The invasion of Sicily began with the first major Allied airborne assault using gliders and paratroops.
- 1944: **MEDAL OF HONOR.** During an attack on Ploesti oil refineries, Lt Donald D. Puckett's B-24



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

received heavy and direct hits. He turned over controls of his bomber to the copilot to administer first aid and survey the damage. Although he jettisoned all the guns and equipment possible, the plane continued to lose altitude. Pucket ordered his crew to abandon ship, but three men refused. Therefore, he tried to control the plane. A few moments later, the flaming bomber crashed on a mountainside. For his courage and supreme sacrifice, Pucket received the Medal of Honor. (4)

P-38 pilots of the 475 FG escorted B-24s to the Vogelkop area of New Guinea to test cruise control concepts. Charles A. Lindbergh arrived in the New Guinea area earlier in the month to teach cruise control techniques to the pilots. This 8-hour- and-15-minute test mission was the longest Fifth Air Force fighter mission to date. (17)

- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Forward air controllers used L-5G and L-17 liaison airplanes to direct the first F-80 strikes to support ground forces. (28)
- 1958: The Air Force's Thor-Able reentry vehicle, in its first test at ICBM range and velocity, carried a mouse 6,000 miles over the Atlantic from Cape Canaveral to the Ascension Islands. (16) (24)
- 1959: The last C-45 aircraft were phased out of TAC. (11)
- 1965: **FIRST FLIGHT:** The XC-142 Tiltwing V/STOL transport flew from the Ling-Temco-Vought plant in Dallas to Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1966: A General Dynamics crew took the F-111A for the first time to its Mach 2.5 design speed (about 1,800 MPH) in a test flight at Fort Worth. (16) (26)
- 1979: Voyager 2 neared the planet Jupiter and started sending photos back to earth. (21)
- 2001: British test pilot Simon Hargreaves flew the Lockheed Martin X-35B through an in-flight conversion from the conventional to the STOVL mode and back before accelerating to Mach 1.08. This was the first time one of the two JSF demonstrator types had made a conversion and flown supersonically on the same flight. (3)

### 10 July

- 1910: Walter Brookins became the first American aviator to reach one mile in altitude, when he flew a Wright Biplane to 6,259 feet at Atlantic City, N. J. He set an FAI altitude record and won the Atlantic City Aero Club prize of \$5,000. (9)
- 1911: Lt Frank P. Lahm won the National Balloon Race by traveling 772.5 kilometers from Kansas City, Mo., to La Paz, Ind. (24)
- 1935: Bell Aircraft company founded.
- 1938: Through 14 July, Howard Hughes and his four-man crew started an around-the-world flight from New York. They stopped their Lockheed Model 14 Super Electra passenger aircraft in Paris, Moscow, Omsk, Yakutak, Fairbanks, Minneapolis, and returned to New York. They covered the 14,791 miles in 3 days 19 hours 8 minutes. (9) (24)
- 1943: Allied airborne troops landed at Gela and Syracuse, Sicily, in the first large-scale airborne operation attempted by the allies in World War II. (24)
- 1945: The last aircraft carrier action of World War II began with attacks against targets in the Japanese home islands. (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force started using T-6 trainers for the forward air control mission, because the liaison aircraft were too slow to evade enemy fire. When an enemy convoy stopped at a bombed-out bridge near Pyongyang, F-80s, B-26s, and F-82s attacked and claimed the destruction of 117 trucks, 38 tanks, and 7 halftracks. (28)
- A joint USAF and Royal Canadian Air Force conference agreed to erect the Pinetree radar network on Canadian soil. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** A flight of F-80s reported a long N. Korean Army convoy of trucks and tanks halted by a demolished bridge. Fifth Air Force diverted every available aircraft to attack with bombs, rockets, and gunfire, resulting in the destruction of over 150 vehicles, a third of them tanks. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Beginning this date, over the next three weeks the 315th Air Division airlifted the 474<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber Wing from Misawa AB, Japan, to Kunsan AB, S. Korea, the largest unit movement by air to date. (28)
- 1959: The first Red Richard unit relocation began. This program withdrew atomic-capable USAFE units from France. (4)
- 1961: The Air Force conducted a test to see how far a pilot could fly using radar navigation under simulated combat conditions. For this test, an F-105D flew a 1,520-mile nonstop blind flight at altitudes between 500 and 1,000 feet. (24)
- 1962: NASA used a Delta rocket booster to launch Telestar I, the world's first experimental commercial communications satellite (AT&T). (24)
- 1965: Two 45 TFS aircrews, flying McDonnell-Douglas F-4C Phantom IIs from Ubon RTAFB, used Sidewinder missiles to shoot down two MiG-17s some 75 miles northwest of Hanoi. These were the first enemy jets shot down in air-to-air combat over North Vietnam. (17)
- 1966: William R. Berry flew his Raven S50R balloon to an FAI altitude record of 18,980 feet for sub-class AX-7 balloon (1,600 to 2,200 cubic meters) at Livermore, Calif. (9)
- 1968: The DoD stopped the Navy's F-111B development program, following a budget reduction.
- 1971: The Aeronautical Systems Division announced a decision to proceed with the full-scale development of the Subsonic Cruise Armed Decoy (SCAD) missile.
- 1979: **Exercise GLOBAL SHIELD.** During this annual exercise, SAC launched two Minuteman III ICBMs from Vandenberg AFB. One mission, Glory Trip 40GM, was the last Phase I Minuteman III flight test. (1)
- 1980: **Exercise PROUD PHANTOM.** Through 3 October, 12 F-4Es flew from Moody AFB to Cairo to participate in the exercise. It was the USAF's first tactical deployment to Egypt. (16) (26)
- 1998: Col Teresa M. "Marné" Peterson became the first active duty woman to command an operational flying wing when she assumed leadership of the 14 FTW at Columbus AFB, Miss.
- 2002: A C-5 from the 436 AW left Dover AFB for Kabul, Afghanistan, with 13,115 pounds of school supplies collected by children from 58 American schools. (22)
- The USAF lost a second *Global Hawk* (AV-4) in a combat zone. An engine component failed, causing further internal damage to the engine, and the UAV was destroyed while making an emergency landing in Pakistan. (3)

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Through 11 July, the 210<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron (Alaska ANG), using an HC-130 tanker and an HH-60 helicopter, rescued a seriously-ill Filipino sailor from his ship 1,000 miles at sea and delivered him to a hospital at Kodiak. The mission lasted about 26 hours. (32)

### 11 July

- 1914: R. A. D. Preston won the National Balloon Race by flying from St. Louis and landing at Point Pleasant, Ky., 305 miles away. (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR/Operation PRESSURE PUMP.** Far East Air Forces flew 1,329 sorties, the highest daily total for the month. In the first raid, nearly every operational air unit in the Far East attacked 30 targets in Pyongyang, in the largest single strike so far of the war. Attacking aircraft destroyed three targets, including the N. Korean Ministry of Industry. Most others sustained heavy damage. (28)
- 1953: **KOREAN WAR.** Maj John F. Bolt became the first jet ace in Marine Corps history. He was flying an F-86 Super Sabre on temporary duty with the USAF's 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing. (16) (24)
- 1956: TAC's first KB-50 tanker arrived at Langley AFB.
- 1958: A KC-135 Stratotanker completed the first nonstop flight from Washington DC to Honolulu. It covered 5,000 miles in 11 hours 8 minutes. (9)
- 1960: The US emplaced the first Jupiter missile in an Italian missile base. (6)
- 1962: The USAF launched the second Titan II from Cape Canaveral. It flew 5,000 miles down the Atlantic Missile Range. (24)
- 1963: When SAC accepted three Blue Scout Junior launch sites at Wisner, West Point, and Tekamah, Nebr., the Emergency Rocket Communications System became operational. (1)
- 1967: In public ceremonies, Martin Marietta rolled out the X-24A, a manned, flat-iron shaped wingless lifting body for reentry studies. It was powered by a rocket engine. (16) (26)
- 1968: Two Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) satellites, OVI-15 and OVI-16, were placed in an orbit to measure density and density variations at low altitudes. (16)
- 1971: **Operation COMBAT VEE.** Through 22 July, in a joint operation with the US Department of Agriculture, seven UC-123Ks from Langley AFB and Hurlburt Field, and eight C-47s from England AFB sprayed Malathion on more than 2.5 million acres in southeast Texas to combat Venezuelan Equine Encephalomyelitis. (16) (26)
- 1972: The USAF launched a giant balloon, 962 feet tall, to support NASA's Viking Project for landing an unmanned spacecraft on Mars in 1976. (16) (26)
- 1975: The 550th Minuteman III became operational with the 341 SMW at Malmstrom AFB to give the Air Force a force mix of 450 Minuteman II/550 Minuteman III missiles. (1) (6)
- 1979: Skylab, after 38,981 orbits, reentered the atmosphere.
- 1993: Through 1 August, after one of the worst floods in American history covered 16,000 square miles in eight midwestern states near the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, 20 C-5 and C-141 missions airlifted 800 tons of relief equipment, supplies, sandbags, and water purification systems to the area. (16) (18)

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1999: A C-141 from the 62 AW at McChord AFB and a KC-135 (Hawaii ANG) left Christchurch, New Zealand, on a 6,375-mile round-trip journey to the South Pole. The C-141 airdropped emergency medical supplies near the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station to support the diagnosis and treatment of a physician who had discovered a lump in her breast. The continual darkness and extreme cold of the Antarctic winter prevented her evacuation until 16 October, when a ski-equipped LC-130 from 109 AW (ANG) from Schenectady Airport, N.Y., made the trip from Amundsen-Scott South Pole Research Station to McMurdo NAS. (22)

### 12 July

1915: A board of officers at San Diego adopted aviation mechanic examination requirements. (24)

1940: Pan American's Alaskan Clipper, a Sikorsky S-42B, made the first flight from the US to Alaska (Seattle to Juneau). (24)

1942: The Curtiss-Wright Corporation delivered the first C-46 Commando to the Army Air Forces. (18)

1944: **Operation MALLERY MAJOR.** The US Tactical Force launched this operation in perfect weather to destroy bridges over the Po River, on the Italian front. (4)

1950: The 91 SRW at Barksdale AFB received SAC's first RB-50 (number 47-123), a "B-model" configured for reconnaissance. (1)

**KOREAN WAR.** Four MATS airplanes flew from the US to Japan with 58 3.5-inch bazookas and shaped charges to use against North Korean tanks. North Korean fighters shot down a B-29, a B-26, and an L-4 for their first aerial victories. The 92 BG, flying from its first mission from Yokota AB, bombed the Seoul marshalling yards. (28)

1952: **KOREAN WAR/Operation PRESSURE PUMP.** Through 12 July, B-29s flew 71 effective sorties, over 50 against the Pyongyang supply area. (28)

1955: The Air Force issued its operational requirement for the Atlas and Titan ICBMs. (6)

1957: The USAF cancelled the Navaho program. The Navaho provided technologies for other missiles: the Atlas and Thor used a modified Navaho booster, and the Hound Dog, Polaris, and Minuteman missiles used its inertial guidance system. (6)

1961: Midas III, a 3,500-pound infrared missile-scanning satellite went into a near-circular polar orbit from Point Arguello, Calif. With a "kick-in-the-apogee" technique, scientists maneuvered it from an elliptical orbit into a high circular orbit. It was the heaviest object orbited by the US to date.

1966: After launching from a B-52, Milt Thompson flew the M2-F2 Lifting Body for the first time. (3)

1968: Last USN flying boat SP-5B, the Martin Marlin, was formally retired from active service to the Smithsonian Institute.

1978: The USAF retired its last Boeing KC-97L Stratofreighter to the Military Aircraft Storage and Disposition Center at Davis-Monthan AFB. (16) (26)

1980: The McDonnell-Douglas KC-10 tanker-cargo aircraft made its first flight. (16)

1981: TAC retired the last CH-21B in the Air Force inventory. (11)

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- 1990: The USAF received the 59th and last F-117A Stealth Fighter from Lockheed. (16) (26)
- 1997: From Edwards AFB, a Northrop Grumman crew launched a BQM-74 *Chukar* jet-propelled drone RPV to test its new JATO unit. It was designed as a high speed aerial target and has been used as a decoy over hostile territory. (3)
- 2002: **Operation NOBLE EAGLE.** The 119<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron (New Jersey ANG) became the first unit in the DoD to fly one thousand missions for this operation. Major Yarko Sos flew the mission in an F-16C fighter. (32)
- 2007: The 341st Space Wing removed the first Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile from a launch facility near Brady, Mont., to begin missile deactivation activities at Malmstrom AFB, Mont. The 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review called for the removal of 50 Minuteman III missiles and closure of five missile alert facilities belonging to the 564th Missile Squadron. (AF-NEWS, "Missile Deactivation Begins at Malmstrom, 13 Jul 2007.)

### 13 July

- 1911: Glenn Curtiss flew the Navy's second aircraft, the A-2, at Hammondsport for the first time; Lt Thomas G. Ellyson flew the second flight. (24)
- 1916: The 1st Aero Company, from New York's National Guard, became the first Guard unit to be mobilized into Federal Service in answer to the border crisis with Mexico. The unit trained at Mineola, but did not deploy to the border. (21)
- 1918: The 1st Marine Aviation Force left Miami for Philadelphia, where the Marines boarded the De Kalb Navy Transport for France. They disembarked at Brest on 30 July. (10)
- 1921: **KEY EVENT.** Brig Gen William "Billy" Mitchell's Martin MB-2 and Handley Page bombers sank several ships off the Virginia Capes. The tests studied the use of bombs on ships to suggest how ship design could counter an air attack. The bombers sank a German sub, the destroyer G-102, the light cruiser Frankfurt, and the battleship Ostfriesland on 21 July to prove that unopposed aircraft could sink capital ships. (5) (18)
- 1948: The first of three Consolidated Vultee rocket research test vehicles built under a cancelled research contract with the US AAF launched successfully. (6)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** An Air Weather Service RB-29 led the first strategic bombing strike from Japan against North Korea. The FEAF Bomber Command sent 49 B-29s from the 22 BG and 92 BG to attack oil refineries and marshalling yards at the port of Wonsan. (1) (2) (28)
- The 3 ARS began flying SB-17s off the Korean coast to drop rescue boats to downed B-29 crews. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Far East Air Forces initiated a new general warning leaflet drop program over enemy territory. The new leaflet identified specific towns and targets to be destroyed by air attacks. (28)
- 1959: **PROJECT SKYHOOK.** The Office of Naval Research sent a "record-sized" plastic balloon to 139,500 feet in altitude. (24)
- The 4530th Combat Crew Training Wing at Williams AFB, Ariz., graduated the last active duty F-86F class (60A).

**Operation HERCULES ARK.** The 4440th Air Delivery Group airlifted 20 calves donated by

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businessmen in Waco, Texas, to Colonel Dean Hess's Orphans Home of Korea. (11)

- 1965: SAC issued a requirement for a mobile ICBM. (6)
- 1967: **DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSSES.** Nine Air Force, eight Navy, and one Marine astronaut received DFCs for their Mercury and Gemini space flights. (16)
- 1968: An FB-111A bomber successfully completed a 30-minute maiden flight from Carswell AFB.
- 1972: At Eglin AFB, the GAM-72A Quail missile completed its last operational test in an overwater flight. (6)

### 14 July

- 1914: Dr. Robert H. Goddard received a US patent for a liquid-fueled rocket. (21)
- 1922: Aeromarine Airways began a flying boat service from Detroit to Cleveland. (24)
- 1943: Comiso Airfield was the first airfield recaptured in Sicily. Afterwards, a German JU-88 landed amid US flak shots. The pilot climbed out, shook his fist at the flak battery, and much to his surprise, became a prisoner. Later, two German ME-109s also landed, believing the airfield to be in German hands. They were also taken prisoner. (4)
- 1944: Navy PB4Y Liberators flew from Saipan to make the first strike on Iwo Jima by shore-based planes. (24)
- 1945: From Hollandia, A-20s set fire to Japanese oil fields at Boela, Ceram. They used rocket bombs for the first time in the Southwest Pacific. (24)
- 1948: Through 20 July, in the first West-East transatlantic flight of jets, 16 F-80s flew from Selfridge Field to Scotland. The trip across the Atlantic took 9 hours 20 minutes. (16) (26)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** The 35th Fighter-Interceptor Group (FIG) moved from Japan to a new airfield at Pohang, thus becoming the first USAF fighter group to be based in S. Korea during the war. The 6132d Tactical Air Control Squadron, the first tactical air control unit in the war, activated at Taegu AB to provide forward, ground-based air control for aircraft providing close air support of UN forces. (28)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** In one of the more spectacular night strikes of the war, a single B-26 of the 452 BG attacked two enemy convoys north of Sinanju in the early morning hours, claiming sixty-eight destroyed or damaged vehicles. Additionally, the first KB-29P flying boom refueling took place over enemy territory when a RB-45C was refueled over North Korea. (18) (28)  
  
Boeing delivered the first KC-97E tanker (number 51-183) to SAC's 306 AREFS at MacDill AFB. (1)
- 1952: The Ground Observer Corps started its Skywatch program under a nationwide air defense effort. (16) (24)
- 1958: The USAF decided that the flying boom delivery system would be its standard for air refueling aircraft. (18)
- 1960: **Operation SAFARI.** The Congo Airlift started from Evreux, France. (24)
- 1965: Launched on 28 November 1964, Mariner IV, came within 5,500 miles of Mars. It relayed the

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first photos of Mars taken from a spacecraft over 134 million miles to earth. (21)

- 1970: The C-5A Galaxy completed its first transpacific flight of 21,500 miles, inaugurating service to Hickam AFB, Andersen AFB, Clark AB, and Kadena AB. (16) (26)
- 1974: Gen Carl “Tooey” Spaatz, the first CSAF, died at Walter Reed General Hospital at age 83.
- 1980: From Vandenberg AFB, the 394th ICBM Test Maintenance Squadron launched the last Block 5D-1 Defense Meteorological Satellite. A Thor booster failed to place it in orbit. (6)
- 2001: A prototype Minuteman ICBM interceptor targeted and destroyed an unarmed Minuteman II ICBM over the central Pacific. Ten minutes after launch, the interceptor destroyed the warhead, traveling some 15,000 mph at more than 140 miles in altitude above the Earth. The 30th Space Wing at Vandenberg AFB and the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization conducted the Ground-based Midcourse Defense Segment, formerly called the National Missile Defense Program, test. (AFNEWS Article 0961, 17 Jul 2001)
- 2005: An FA/22 *Raptor* flown by an AFFTC pilot dropped its first 1,000-pound GBU-32 JDAM at supersonic speed. The test significantly increased the Raptor’s operational capabilities. (3)

### 15 July

- 1920: **KEY EVENT.** Capt St. Clair Street led a flight of four DH-4s from Mitchel Field, New York, to Nome, Alaska, and back to Mitchel Field, covering 8,690 miles in 110 flying hours. (U.S. Air Service, “To Nome and Back,” Clifford A. Tinker, Vol 3, No. 5)
- 1925: Dr. A. Hamilton Rice’s Expedition, with Lt Walter Hinton piloting the Curtiss Seagull plane, returned from the Amazon after discovering the headwaters of the Amazon River. Rice’s expedition was the first to use a plane for exploring. (24)
- 1933: Through 22 July, Wiley Post completed the first solo global flight in a Lockheed Vega, the “Winnie Mae.” He flew the 15,596 miles in 7 days 18 hours 49 minutes at an average speed of 134.5 MPH. (9) (20)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** The 51 FS (Provisional) at Taegu flew the first F-51 Mustang combat missions in Korea. Fifth Air Force assigned the “Mosquito” call signs to airborne controllers in T-6 aircraft. This name later became the aircraft’s identifier. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force fighter-bombers flew approximately 175 sorties against the Sungho-ri cement plant and a nearby locomotive repair facility. (28)
- 1954: The first jet-powered transport built in the US, the Boeing 707, the prototype for the KC-135 Stratotanker and the commercial Stratoliner, underwent flight testing near Seattle. (16) (24)
- 1958: **Operation BLUE BAT.** After the Iraqi government fell, tensions increased in Lebanon. This strain led Lebanon’s President to seek US security assistance. TAC dispatched its Composite Air Strike Force BRAVO to the Middle East in 12 hours. By the 8 September end of the crisis, MATS aircraft had moved 5,500 passengers and 5,500 tons of cargo in 314 missions to support the strike force. (2) (24)
- 1961: The 341 SMW activated at Malmstrom AFB as SAC’s first silo-based Minuteman wing. (1) (6)
- 1965: The Air Force awarded the first Minuteman III R&D contract to Boeing. (6)
- 1968: Commercial air service between the US and USSR began when an Ilyushin-62 aircraft of the

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Soviet flag carrier Aeroflot left Moscow. The aircraft landed at Kennedy IAP on 16 July after a 13-hour, 17-minute flight via Montreal. Pan American World Airways, the US flag carrier, flew two Boeing 707s from New York on 16 July to Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport via Copenhagen.

- 1970: Deputy SECDEF David Packard approved the Subsonic Cruise Aircraft Decoy (SCAD) for development. (6)
- 1973: **LAST SEA COMBAT MISSION/VIETNAM SUMMARY.** All US bombing in Cambodia ended after eight years of conventional operations in SEA. An A-7D from 354 TFW flew the last combat mission in SEA. Altogether, the USAF flew 5.25 million sorties over South Vietnam, North Vietnam, northern and southern Laos, and Cambodia. The USAF lost 2,251 planes—1,737 to hostile action and 514 for operational reasons—at a cost of \$3,129,948,000. During the Vietnam War, tactical or intratheater airlift carried 7 million tons of passengers and cargo between 1962-1973. The Air Force Reserve made valuable contributions to strategic airlift operation. By October 1972, reserve aircrews had made 1,294 trips to Vietnam, delivering 30,434 tons of cargo and 3,600 personnel. Between 1964 and mid-August 1973, air rescue operations in Southeast Asia saved 3,883 lives. And from 9 June 1964 through 15 August 1973, KC-135s flew 194,687 sorties to supply 8,964 million pounds of fuel during 813,878 refuelings. They also routinely airlifted people, equipment, and aircraft parts between the US, forward bases, and bases in the Far East and Southeast Asia. (16) (26)
- 1975: **Apollo XVIII.** Astronauts Thomas Stafford, Vance Brand, and Donald “Deke” Slayton launched from Cape Canaveral to meet up with the Soyuz 19 cosmonauts. Mr. Slayton, at 51, became the oldest man to fly in space. He was also one of the original seven astronauts. This Apollo mission, when it ended on 24 July, was the last US manned space mission until the first space shuttle launch in 1981. (8: Jul 90)
- 1976: Mather AFB started interservice navigator training for Navy and Marine personnel. (16) (26)
- 1981: The first TR-1, a high-altitude tactical reconnaissance aircraft rolled out at Lockheed's plant in Palmdale. (12)
- 1982: SAC launched its 1,500 missile from Vandenberg AFB. (16) (26)
- 1985: **Exercise READEX 85-2.** Two B-52s from the 42 BMW simulated Harpoon launches as part of this US Atlantic Command exercise. The event marked the first Full Operational Test and Evaluation (FOT&E) of the Harpoon anti-ship missile. (16) (26)
- 1998: Raytheon Aircraft Company's first T-6A Texan II aircraft, or the Joint Primary Aircraft Training System (JPATS), successfully completed its initial flight at Wichita, Kan. To meet Air Force and Navy primary aircraft training needs, the DoD decided to buy 740 T-6A aircraft, along with the accompanying JPATS Ground Based Training System. (AFNEWS Article 981039, 17 Jul 98)
- 2000: Whiteman AFB received the final B-2A from Northrop Grumman. It was the first test vehicle (AV-1 or Tail No. 82-1066), named *Fatal Beauty*. With its assignment to the 509<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing at Whiteman AFB, the aircraft received a new name, *Spirit of America*. (21)
- 2002: The first production C-17 (P-86), fitted with the Block 13 software upgrade, arrived at McCord AFB. The Block 13 upgrade included a state-of-the-art Terrain Awareness Warning System (TAWS) and improved Station Keeping Equipment (SKE). The TAWS featured a terrain map to help aircrews detect and avoid terrain, while the upgraded SKE had a multi-functional display that enabled 18 aircraft to fly in formation within 10 nautical miles and up to 100 aircraft to fly in formation within 100 nautical miles. The new SKEs also allowed C-17 aircrews to perform formation airdrops in nearly all types of weather. (22)



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 16 July

- 1917: The Aircraft Manufacturers Association formed to solve aircraft patent problems facing US military aviation as war for America neared.
- 1940: First bombardier training in Air Corps Schools began at Lowry Field with the first class of bombardier instructors. (24)
- 1945: First atomic bomb, called the “Gadget,” exploded near at the Trinity Site near Alamogordo, N. Mex. This bomb had a yield of 19 kilotons. It was the prototype for the Fat Man bomb used against Japan. (8: Jul 90) (12)
- 1953: Lt Col William F. Barnes flew a F-86D Sabre over a 3-kilometer (1.86 miles) course at Salton Sea, Calif., to a world speed record of 715.74 MPH. (24)
- In a Cessna L-19B at Wichita, Kans., William Thompson set a world altitude record of 37,063 feet for light planes. (24)
- 1957: Maj John H. Glenn, Jr. (USMC) used a F8U-1P Crusader to break the cross-county speed record. He flew from Los Alamitos, Calif., to Long Island in 3 hours 22 minutes 50 seconds at 723.51 MPH. He also completed the first upper atmosphere supersonic, west coast-to-east coast flight. (9)
- 1964: The US Army’s XV-5A, a “lift-fan” VTOL aircraft, made by General Electric and Ryan Aeronautical, made its first vertical takeoff and landing at Edwards AFB.
- 1965: Rockwell’s OV-10A counterinsurgency aircraft flew its first test flight at company plant in Columbus. (12)
- 1969: **APOLLO XI/FIRST LUNAR LANDING.** From Kennedy Space Center, the Apollo XI manned lunar landing mission began for Astronauts Michael Collins, Neil A. Armstrong, and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin, Jr. On 20 July, Aldrin and Armstrong flew the lunar module Eagle to the Sea of Tranquility, where Armstrong took the first step on the moon. On 21 July, after 21 hours 36 minutes on the moon the module lifted off; 4 hours later it docked with the command module to return home. On 24 July, the module splashed down in mid-Pacific, 195 hours 19 minutes after launch. The astronauts set FAI records for greatest mass landed on the moon with 16,153 pounds and greatest mass lifted into lunar orbit from the moon with 5,928.6 pounds. For the USAF, Colonels Aldrin and Collins set two records—Aldrin became the second man to step on the moon, while Collins established a record of 59 hours 27 minutes 55 seconds in lunar orbit. (9) (16)
1999. Lockheed Martin Corporation of Marietta received a \$370 million contract to produce seven more C-130J aircraft, including four for the ANG. (32)

### 17 July

- 1908: **FIRST AVIATION LEGISLATION.** Kissimmee, Fla., enacted a municipal ordinance regulating aircraft within city limits. (24)
- 1918: Through 19 July, Naval Reserve Lt Godfrey L. Cabot practiced “the art of picking up Burdens in Flight . . . to make possible Trans-Atlantic Flight.” Flying a seaplane and using a grappling hook attached to a rope, he hoisted 45- and 55-pound bags from floats into the aircraft. He

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

estimated “that with practice . . . two men, in one hour, [should be able] to wind up all the fuel that an airplane . . . requires for a full load.” (18)

- 1927: Maj Ross E. Rowell (USMC) led five DH’s in a strafing and bombing attack against bandit forces surrounding a USMC garrison at Ocotol, Nicaragua. This was the first preplanned and organized diving attack in combat. (24)
- 1929: Dr. Robert H. Goddard fired a liquid-fueled, 11-foot rocket at Auburn, Mass. It carried a small camera and a barometer. Both were recovered intact after the flight. (24)
- 1938: Supposedly trying to fly to California, Douglas (Wrong-Way) Corrigan left Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn in a 9-year-old Curtiss Robin and arrived on 18 July in Dublin, Ireland, 28 hours 13 minutes later. (9) (24)
- 1944: **FIRST NAPALM USE IN EUROPE.** P-38 pilots from Ninth Air Force dropped napalm incendiary bombs on a fuel depot at Coutances, France. (20) (21)
- 1948: With the Berlin Blockade still in effect, B-29s arrived in England for training at British bases. These were the first US bombers to be based in the UK after World War II. (16) (24)
- 1962: Maj Robert White flew X-15 No. 3, with the XLR-99 rocket engine, on the first spaceflight by a manned aircraft. He reached a record altitude of 58.7 miles (314,750) feet above Edwards AFB. This was the first flight in which the X-15 achieved its designed altitude. White also became the first man to exceed Mach 6, when he attained 3,784 MPH. (3) (9)
- 1967: The ADC’s 73d Surveillance Wing, which detected and tracked objects in space, became operational at Tyndall AFB, Fla. (16)
- 1969: The Alaskan Air Command assumed responsibility for resupplying Fletcher’s Ice Island (T-3) with food, fuel, equipment, and supplies. Scientists used the floating, 20-square-mile island for weather and other research. The Ward Hunt Ice Shelf, on the northern coast of Ellesmere Island in Canada’s high Arctic, produced a tabular iceberg that was 160 feet thick and covered an area of 35 square miles. Discovered by Col Joseph Fletcher, the iceberg was named T-3 or Fletchers Ice Island. It moved around the Arctic Ocean for many years, before exiting through the Fram Strait, between Greenland and Svalbard, and moving around the southern tip of Greenland to disintegrate and melt in Davis Strait. (26)
- 1979: The ALCM test program began when General Dynamics launched its first AGM-109. (3)
- 1987: The first of 33 MH-53J Enhanced Pave Low III helicopters rolled out of the Naval Air Rework Facility at NAS Pensacola. Pave Low provided night and adverse weather navigation capabilities to the helicopter. (16)
- 1989: Northrop pilot Bruce Hinds and Lt Col Richard Couch, B-2 Combined Test Force Director, flew the B-2A’s first flight over Edwards AFB. (20)
- 1990: Through 1 August, the 60 MAW, 62 MAW, 438 MAW, and the 374 TAW delivered 582 tons of relief supplies and moved 2,475 passengers to Clark AB after a 7.7 earthquake devastated the village of Baguio. (16) (26)

### 18 July

- 1909: American Louis Paulhan set an FAI altitude record of 492 feet in a Voisin airplane at Dounais, France. (9)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1916: The Secretary of the Navy created allowances for flight clothes. (24)
- 1943: A German sub shot down the Navy's K-74 Airship off the coast of Florida. It was the only airship lost to enemy action in the war. (24)
- 1946: Formal jet transition training course established at Williams Field with P-80 Shooting Stars.
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** The 19 BG began modifying a few B-29s to use radio-guided (Razon) bombs to bomb bridges accurately. (28)
- 1958: The USAF awarded a contract to North American's Autonetics Division to develop an all-inertial guidance system for the Minuteman. (6)
- 1961: The largest polyethylene balloon manufactured to date, holding 13.5 million cubic feet of helium at peak altitude, launched from Bemidji, Minn.
- 1962: NASA achieved a record for man-made objects in space when it launched "Big Shot." This rigidized Echo-type balloon left Cape Canaveral aboard a Thor missile. When it inflated at 922 miles in altitude, the balloon stood 13-stories tall. (16) (24)
- 1966: The Air Force's Cambridge Research Laboratory sent up a balloon twice as large as any previously launched from Holloman AFB. The 456-foot-diameter, 26-million-cubic-foot balloon lifted 1,700 pounds to 130,000 feet to test its equipment in rarified air similar to that of Mars for the Voyager program. (5) (16)
- GEMINI X:** Through 21 July, a Titan booster sent Astronauts Cmdr John W. Young (USN) and Maj Michael Collins (USAF) into space to practice docking with targets. In the first hookup, the astronauts achieved the longest docking yet, while in the second they retrieved an object from a passive satellite. Young and Collins splashed down 594 miles east of Cape Kennedy after 70 hours 47 minutes in space and 43 orbits. They also set an FAI altitude record of 476 miles. (9) (26)
- 1967: For the first time, an HH-3E Jolly Green Giant helicopter was refueled during a rescue mission. The helicopter was refueled by an HC-130 Hercules. (18)
- 1969: NASA and the Air Force decided to conduct a cooperative YF-12 flight research program. (3)
- 2002: At McConnell AFB, the Airborne Laser (ABL), a highly-modified Boeing 747-400F, made its first flight. The world's first directed-energy combat aircraft had a rotating nose turret with a 5-foot diameter telescope to focus and direct a laser to destroy ballistic missiles in flight. (3)
- 2006: The eighth and final C-17 (tail no. 05-5153), named the *Spirit of Kamehameha-Imua* in honor of Kamehameha the Great, arrived at Hickam AFB to complete the 15 AW's conversion to an operational strategic airlift wing. (22)

### 19 July

- 1911: Orville Wright delivered the first Wright airplane, a Wright B, to the Navy at Annapolis. It was converted to a seaplane by adding twin floats. (21)
- 1913: The Bryant brothers initiated skywriting as an advertising form, when Milton J. (Johnny) Bryant wrote "SP" in fire over Seattle on the last night of the Seattle Potlatch celebration. (20) (24)
- 1931: In a Navy balloon, Lt Thomas G. W. Settle and Lt (JG) W. Bushnell won the Litchfield Trophy and National Elimination Balloon Race at Akron, Ohio, with a distance of 195 miles to Marilla,

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

N.Y.

- 1934: **MACKAY TROPHY/DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.** Through 20 August, Lt Col Henry H. Arnold commanded 10 Martin B-10s from Bolling Field to Fairbanks and back. They covered 7,360 miles in 51 hours 30 minutes, or 25 hours 30 minutes going north and 26 hours going south. For this flight, Arnold received the Mackay Trophy and DFC. (21) (24)
- 1941: Capt Benjamin O. Davis reported to the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama with 12 black aviation cadets to begin flight training. (21)
- 1943: In the first raid on Rome, 700 B-17s and B-24s dropped 800 tons of bombs. (4)
- 1947: John Robinson set a US glider distance record of 330 miles in a flight from Wichita Falls to Barstow in Tex. (24)
- 1948: SAC activated the USAF's first two air refueling squadrons, the 43d and 509th, at Davis-Monthan AFB and Roswell AFB, N. Mex., respectively. (1)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force F-80s shot down three enemy Yaks near Taejon, while seven F-80s from the 8th Fighter-Bomber Group destroyed 15 enemy airplanes on the ground near Pyongyang. (28)
- 1952: The USAF announced the first successful flying of balloons at controlled constant altitudes in the stratosphere for periods of more than 3 days. (16) (24)
- 1957: An F-89J fired the Air Force's first air-to-air nuclear defense rocket, the Douglas-built MB-1 Genie, over Yucca Flat. (16) (24)
- 1961: An Air Force H-43B Huskie rescue helicopter claimed two time-to-climb records: 3,000 meters in 2 minutes 44.5 seconds and 6,000 meters in 6 minutes 42.3 seconds. (24)  
  
Donald L. Piccard flew his Golden Bear 600-cubic-meter balloon to 34,462 feet at Faribault, Minn. As such, he set FAI records that spanned subclasses A-5 through A-8 (600 to 3,000 cubic meters). (9)
- 1962: A Nike-Zeus anti-missile missile fired from Kwajalein Island made the first known interception of an ICBM, when it hit an Atlas nose cone above the Pacific. A 565 SMS crew from Francis E. Warren AFB launched the Atlas from Vandenberg AFB. (6)  
  
Maj Robert M. White received astronaut wings for flying the X-15, a winged aircraft, into space (see 17 Jul 62). (9)
- 1963: Joseph A. Walker flew X-15 No. 3 to records of 347,800 feet (66.3 miles) and 3,710 MPH. (9)
- 1968: The USN awarded contracts to develop an F-111B replacement, the VFX-1 with vertical swept wings and the same jet engine.
- 1969: USAF Southern Command aircraft airlifted emergency supplies in a seven-nation effort to mediate a cease-fire in a conflict between Honduras and San Salvador. (16) (26)
- 1973: NASA's X-24B lifting body completed the first captive flight on a B-52 at the Edwards AFB.
- 1984: TAC took possession of its first E-3B Sentry at Tinker AFB. (16)
- 1986: **Operation SOUTHERN HAYLIFT.** Through 28 July, 24 C-141 Starlifters and 8 C-130 Hercules aircraft flew 32 missions to supply 535.9 tons of donated hay to drought-stricken farmers

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

in 7 southeastern states. (16) (26)

### 20 July

- 1918: The 148th Aero Squadron began operations with the RAF in the field from Capelle Airdrome, near Dunkirk. (24)
- 1937: First shoulder sleeve insignia authorized for an independent American air unit, General Headquarters Air Force. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force F-80s shot down two enemy aircraft for the last aerial victories until November, a sign that UN forces had attained air superiority. (28)
- 1953: The Martin B-57A first flew at Baltimore. It was our version of the English Electric Canberra twin-jet bomber. (12)
- 1955: The NB-36H, with an atomic reactor, made its first flight without activating the reactor. The plane carried the reactor aboard for structural and systems feasibility studies. (24)
- 1956: The Navy commissioned the USS Thetis Bay, the first helicopter assault carrier, at San Francisco. (24)
- 1960: A 6511th Parachute Test Group C-130 dropped 40,500 pounds of cargo by parachute to set a new world record. The group, which belonged to the ARDC, broke an earlier record of 35,000 pounds. (24)
- The USS George Washington became the first sub to launch a Lockheed UGM-27 Polaris missile while submerged. It flew from a point 30 miles off Cape Canaveral 1,150 miles away down the Atlantic Missile Range. Two hours later, the sub launched a second missile. (16)
- 1961: The first Titan I equipped with rocket decoys launched from Cape Canaveral. It released 10 decoys over the Atlantic, which allowed downrange tracking stations to practice in distinguishing between decoys and real reentry vehicles. (6)
- 1962: The US Weather Bureau transmitted photos made by TIROS V of cloud formations west of Australia to Australia. This effort was the first transmission of TIROS photos for foreign weather analysis. (24)
- 1963: **Operation FARM GATE/MACKAY TROPHY:** Under hostile fire, Capt Warren P. Tomsett flew his C-47, the "Extol Pink," of the 1st Air Commando Wing to evacuate wounded soldiers from Loc Ninh, Laos. Tomsett and his crew (Capt John R. Ordemann, Capt Donald R. Mack, TSgt Edsol P. Inlow, and SSgts Jack E. Morgan and Frank C. Barrett) later received the Mackay Trophy for 1963. (21)
- The Air Force launched its 100th Agena missile.
- The United Technology Center successfully fired the Titan III-C'd solid fuel rocket motor. (5)
- 1964: NASA's SERT I (Space Electric Rocket Test) marked the first operation in space of an electric rocket engine.
- 1966: **OPERATION TALLY HO.** During early 1966, USAF aircraft flew over 3,000 sorties per month. With lines of communication cut or disrupted, harassed day and night, the enemy concentrated on infiltration through the demilitarized zone. This gave birth to Operation Tally Ho, which scheduled 2,600 sorties a month above the demilitarized zone against the enemy. (17)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1968: **Exercise GUARD STRIKE II.** The largest joint Army and ANG field training exercise ever staged to this date within the CONUS began. (16)
- 1969: **APOLLO XI/FIRST MAN ON THE MOON.** Astronauts Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin, Jr., flew the lunar module Eagle to the Sea of Tranquility, where Armstrong took the first step on the moon. (26) (See 16 July for full details of mission)
- 1970: Electronics System Division at Hanscom Field turned over the Compass Link photo relay system to the AFCS. Compass Link used three ground stations and two satellites to transmit exposed film from SEA to the Pentagon via electronic signals and laser beams. (26)
- 1973: Dr. Malcom R. Currie, Director of Defense and Engineering, asked the USAF to develop an ALCM, from the SCAD program. (6)
- 1974: Alexander Kartevelli, who designed the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt, the X-12 Rainbow, the F-84, and F-105, died at age 77.
- The Thunderbirds made their first public demonstration with T-38 aircraft at the International Air Show in Everett, Washington. (11)
- 1982: The F-16E/XL made its first flight at Edwards AFB. (16)
- 1987: General Dynamics delivered the first of eight F-16C/Ds to Turkey from its Fort Worth plant. The next 152 F-16s would be built in Turkey under a special licensing agreement.
- 1999: During a two-hour flight, Col Clyde D. Moore II flew F-22 No. 1 over Mach 1.5 without afterburners for a sustained period to meet a “super cruise” test milestone. (3)
- 2001: During his “Mission X” flight, Maj Arthur Tomassetti (USMC) took off from Edwards AFB in the X-35B at 100 knots in STOVL mode, converted to conventional flight at about 180 knots, accelerated to Mach 1.05 at 25,000 feet. He then returned to Edwards and converted to the STOVL mode to complete a vertical landing. This marked the first time that either of the JSF demonstrators had achieved both extremes of speed during a single flight. (3)
- 2002: Through 2 August, five C-5s flew 23 combat missions from a forward operating location to Kandahar to redeploy more than 780 troops and 1,350 short tons of equipment from Canada’s Princess Patricia’s Light Infantry Regiment. The five C-5 aircraft, with three crews each from Travis AFB and Dover AFB and a C-5 leadership package with a seventh aircrew and 44 maintenance personnel, operated from the same forward operating location as the 782d Expeditionary Airlift Squadron. A 31-person Tanker Airlift Control Element from the 615th Air Mobility Operations Group supported the C-5s at Kandahar. This redeployment demonstrated that the USAF’s largest jet transport aircraft could successfully operate at a remote, austere airfield. (22)

### 21 July

- 1910: Orville Wright made experimental flights at Dayton with a wheeled chassis comprising a set of twin wheels attached to each skid. (24)
- 1930: Capt Arthur H. Page (USMC) made the longest blind flight to date. He flew 1,000 miles from Omaha to Washington DC via Chicago and Cleveland. (24)
- 1946: Lt Cmdr James Davidson (USN) flew a McDonnell XFH-1 Phantom off the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. He thus made the first jet takeoff and landing on a carrier. (21)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1953: At San Diego, the Navy demonstrated America's first jet fighter seaplane, the Sea Dart. It had hydro skis. A Royal Air Force SR.A/1 prototype, the "Squirt," made its first flight on 15 July 1947. (16) (24)
- 1954: The USAF Atlas Scientific Advisory Committee recommended the development of a second ICBM airframe. This suggestion led to the development of the Titan missile. (6)
- 1958: The Air Force selected five companies to conduct R&D on the solid-propellant, variable-range Minuteman. (6)
- 1961: America's second Mercury astronaut, Capt Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, reached an altitude of 118 miles and 5,310 MPH in a 303-mile suborbital space flight from Cape Canaveral in the Liberty Bell 7 launched by a Mercury-Redstone 4 booster. Grissom thus became the first Air Force and the world's third man in space. (9) (20)
- 1972: Through 15 August, PACAF airlifted 2,000+ tons of food, medical supplies, and other relief supplies to Luzon for flood victims in the Philippines. C-130s, and H-3 and H-43 helicopters airlifted more than 1,500 passengers, disaster relief teams, and medical evacuees. (21)
- 1976: Through 23 July, to support an earthquake disaster relief operation, two C-130s airlifted 20.5 tons of tents, cots, and blankets from Andersen AFB to Sentani Airport, Indonesia. A C-141 transported 400 tents from Singapore to Bali IAP. (18)
- 1991: Through 24 July, MAC completed the first military airlift to Albania since 1946. In this operation, seven C-141 missions carried 140 tons of food to Tirana, Albania, to alleviate a food shortage. Another four missions in August delivered 60 tons of food. (18)
- 1994: The last F-16 Fighting Falcon left the 86 FW at Ramstein AB for Aviano AB, Italy. This action ended USAFE fighter operations at Ramstein. (16) (26)

### 22 July

- 1929: First airmail delivery by sea from Europe completed as the German vessel S. S. Bremen catapulted a plane from its deck while 250 miles off the US coast. This cut about 24 hours off delivery time.
- 1935: Capt Albert F. Hegenberger won the Collier Trophy for 1934 for developing and demonstrating a successful blind landing system. (24)
- 1944: Fifteenth Air Force made the first all-fighter unit shuttle raid in Europe from Italy with 76 P-38 Lightnings and 58 P-51 Mustangs. They hit German air bases in Rumania at Buzau and Zilistea, near Ploesti, and landed at Russian bases. (4) (24)
- 1948: **ROUND-THE-WORLD FLIGHT.** Through 6 August, three B-29s from the 43 BG at Davis-Monthan AFB flew around the world. Lt Col R. W. Kline's "Gas Gobbler" and 1Lt A. M. Neal's "Lucky Lady," completed the 15-day, 20,000-mile flight in 103 hours 50 minutes. The third aircraft crashed into the Arabian Sea. (1) (9)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** The USN aircraft carrier, the USS Boxer, arrived in Japan with 145 USAF F-51s on board. The 3 ARSq deployed the first H-5 helicopter in Korea to Taegu. (28)
- 1960: NASA launched its Iris sounding rocket for the first time. The rocket lifted a 100-pound package from Cape Canaveral to an altitude of 140 miles. (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1962: Mariner I, the first US attempt to send a space probe to Venus, failed when the Atlas-Agena B began to veer off course and was intentionally destroyed.
- 1971: The SRAM completed its flight test program successfully. The program included 38 test flights over the White Sands Missile Test Range. (12) (16)
- 1987: **Operation ERNEST WILL.** Through 21 December, SAC provided KC-10s and KC-135s support to Navy fighters during this operation over the Persian Gulf. The aircraft protected Kuwaiti convoys from Iranian attack during the war between Iran and Iraq. Additionally, USAF E-3 AWACS joined C-5s and C-141s in supporting this operation. (16) (21)
- 1991: A 445 MAW C-141 delivered nearly 20 tons of medical supplies to Ulan Bator, Mongolia to overcome a critical shortage. This mission was the first USAF flight to Mongolia. (16) (26)
- 2005: Five F-16 *Fighting Falcons* from Eglin AFB, Fla., arrived at Edwards AFB to join two AFFTC F-16s in testing the M4.2+ core avionics suite upgrade. The upgrade equipped the F-16 for the suppression of enemy air defenses (SEAD) missions as well as the air-to-surface attack role. (3)

### 23 July

- 1908: Thomas S. Baldwin delivered the Army's first airship and hydrogen plant to Fort Myer. (18)
- 1914: Special Order 171 appointed a board of visitors at the North Island Aviation School to examine candidates for the new aviation mechanic rating. (24)
- 1918: The Director of the Army Air Service ordered every flying field in the United States to have an air ambulance. This was based on the February 1918 efforts of Maj Nelson E. Driver, a medical officer, and Captain William C. Ocker, Commander of Flight Training at Gerstner Field, Louisiana, to modify the rear cockpit seat of a JN-4 Jenny to accommodate a patient in a semireclining position. (18)
- 1936: The Navy awarded a contract to Consolidated for the XPB2Y-1 four-engine flying boat. (24)
- 1940: Radar used for the first time in shooting down an enemy bomber.
- 1948: MATS deployed men and equipment to establish an Airlift Task Force in Germany to relieve Berlin. Maj Gen William H. Tunner commanded the Task Force operations under USAFE's operational control. (16) (24)
- 1951: Lockheed flew the first production model of L-1049 Super Constellation.
- 1956: At Edwards AFB, Lt Col Frank K. (Pete) Everest flew the Bell X-2 at a record speed of Mach 2.87, over 1,900 MPH. (3) (9)
- 1958: The Boeing Vertol VZ-2A Tiltwing research aircraft successfully transitioned from vertical to horizontal flight and back for the first time. (20)
- 1959: A Boeing 707 flew the first commercial flight from New York to Moscow. The 8-hour, 54-minute flight time broke the record for the 5,090-mile flight of 11 hours 6 minutes made a few days earlier by a Russian TU-114. (24)
- At Vandenberg AFB, construction began on the first Atlas E coffin-type launcher. (6)
- 1966: **MACKAY TROPHY.** The YF-12A Test Force received the trophy from General John P. McConnell, CSAF, at Edwards AFB for flights on 1 May 1965 that set 9 world speed



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

and altitude records. (3)

- 1970: McDonnell-Douglas DC-10, first wide-bodied trijet transport, rolled out at Long Beach.
- 1971: Hughes Aircraft Company received a contract to build 2,000 Maverick air-to-surface missiles for F-4Es and A-7Ds. (12)
- 1972: Earth Resources Technology Satellite (ERTS-1) launched from Western Test Range. As the first US civilian satellite to be flown, it acquired synoptic, multispectral repetitive images for three months and derive data on agriculture and forestry resources, minerals, and land resources. The satellite also represented the first step in merging space and remote sensing technology to manage earth resources more efficiently.
- 1987: At Sacramento, Aerojet General conducted the first full-duration firing of a Titan IV first stage engine. During the test, the engine burned for 200 seconds and generated 500,000 pounds of thrust.
- 1995: To ease economic suffering in Byelorussia, a 433 AW C-5 Galaxy airlifted in 28 pallets of medical supplies, blankets, clothes, furniture, and a military ambulance. (16)
- 1999: Through 27 July, the Space Shuttle Columbia flew a mission to deploy a new satellite, the Chandra X-Ray Observatory to watch X-rays from high-energy regions of the universe. In the mission, Col Eileen Collins, the first female pilot of a space shuttle, became the first female commander of a space shuttle mission. (21)
- 2004: Congressman Jerry F. Costello (D-Ill.) announced that the 932 AW at Scott AFB would receive three new C-40Cs, the military version of the Boeing 737, and three modern C-9C Nightingales. The C-9Cs were transferred from Andrews AFB to replace the three C-9As at Scott. (22)

### 24 July

- 1917: An appropriation of \$640,000,000 enabled the Aviation Section to expand to 9,989 officers and 87,083 enlisted men. (11) (24)
- 1919: Through 9 November, Lt Col Rutherford S. Hartz and Army aircrew flew a Martin Bomber-2 with Liberty 400 HP engines on a 9,823-mile flight around the US coasts and borders. The flight took 114 hours 25 minutes flying time in 108 days. (21)
- 1943: Eighth Air Force sent 167 heavy bombers on a raid against the nitrate works at Heraya, Norway. This was the Eighth's first mission to Norway and its longest (1,900 miles roundtrip) to date. (4)
- 1950: First missile launched from the Joint Long Range Proving Grounds at Cape Canaveral down the Atlantic Missile Range. It had a German V-2 as its first stage and a WAC Corporal as a second stage booster. (6) (12)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** The 116 FBW, the second Air National Guard wing deployed to the Far East, arrived with its F-84 ThunderJets at Misawa and Chitose Air Bases in Japan. (28)
- 1959: A Thor nose cone made the first known stabilized non-tumbling flight for a reentry vehicle. (24)
- 1960: At Minneapolis, Donald L. Piccard flew his Piccard S-10 Holiday Balloon to 3,740 feet. He thus set an FAI altitude record for subclass A-1 balloons (less than 250 cubic meters). (9)
- 1961: The first Atlas F to be deployed in the field arrived at Schilling AFB for the 550 SMS. (6)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1964: President Johnson disclosed the SR-71's development. (1)
- 1965: The 45 TFS lost an aircraft in SEA due to a surface-to-air missile attack. It was the first aircraft lost to a surface-to-air missile in the Vietnam conflict. (11)
- 1970: The C-5A Galaxy flew its first flight from the US to Europe, from Charleston AFB to Dover AFB to Rhein Main AB, Lakenheath RAF Station, England, and Torrejon AB, Spain.
- PACAF inactivated the 509 FIS at Clark AB and its detachments in Tainan, Taiwan, and Don Muang Airport in Bangkok, Thailand. The 509<sup>th</sup>'s F-102 fighters were flown to Itazuke to be scrapped, because it cost less to salvage the planes than it did to ship them back to the states. (17)
- 1973: At Eglin AFB, the Hound Dog missile completed its last operational test flight. (6)
- 1974: Mather AFB received the 19th and last Boeing T-43A aircraft delivered for undergraduate navigator training. (12)
- 1983: Through 6 August, two USAF UH-1 helicopters moved medical personnel and 10 tons of food and medical supplies to aid victims of a flood in western Ecuador. (16)
- 1990: With the termination of the Cold War, the landing of SAC's Boeing EC-135 Looking Glass Airborne Command Post at Offutt AFB ended 29 years of continuous operation with over 250 million miles of accident-free flying. (20) (26)
- 1994: **Operation SUPPORT HOPE.** USAF airlift aircraft started flying relief supplies to Rwandan refugees in Zaire after President Bill Clinton directed "an immediate and massive increase" in US relief efforts to assist Rwandan refugees. Through 11 September, AMC flew 700 airlift missions to transport over 11,000 passengers and 23,000 short tons. Nearly 400 KC-135 missions refueled the C-5s and C-141s, while KC-10s flew several dozen missions to ferry fuel from Harare, Zimbabwe, to Entebbe. (16) (18)

### 25 July

- 1912: The Secretary of the Navy published the first general specifications for naval aircraft. (24)
- 1918: The Secretary of War approved a Joint Army and Navy Airship Board suggestion to assign rigid airship development to the Navy.
- 1927: Lt C. C. Champion (USN) set a FAI altitude record of 38,419 feet in a Wright Apache, equipped with a Pratt & Whitney 425 HP engine. (9) (24)
- 1944: **Operation COBRA.** An effort to breakout US forces at Normandy began with 3,000 planes, including 1,500 Eighth Air Force bombers, attacking German posts at St. Lo near American lines for 3 hours. Although the operation succeeded, a few bombers hit the wrong target area and killed almost 500 US troops, including Lt Gen Lesley J. McNair, the US Ground Forces Commander. (4) (21)
- 1946: **Operation CROSSROADS.** Task Group 1.5, a 2,200-man US AAF element, conducted the second phase of this test to burst an A-bomb underwater off Bikini Island. This group provided aircraft and personnel to photograph and collect data on the explosion. (1)
- 1961: A Titan I completed its first full-range flight test with an all-inertial guidance system. It launched from Cape Canaveral and flew down the Atlantic Missile Range. (6)

## **AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- 1969: Mariner 7 shot its first pictures of Mars.
- 1981: A B-52 with an offensive avionics system (OAS) fired an ALCM for the first time. (6) (12)
- 1983: Through 15 September, MAC operated 29 C-141 missions to move 397 tons of equipment from the US and Europe to Chad as part of a security assistance program. (18)
- 2000: Through 23 September, in the worst fire season in decades fire consumed over 6.5 million acres in the American West, more than twice the annual average. For the fire suppression effort, AMC, the ANG, and the AFRC, and commercial carriers flew 48 missions between 1 August and 23 September to move 339 short tons of cargo and 5,967 Army and Marine troops to augment civilian firefighters in Montana and Idaho. Guard and Reserve C-130s equipped with modular airborne fire-fighting systems flew 774 sorties from 25 July to 6 September to drop 970,500 gallons of fire retardant on wildfires in California, Idaho, and Montana. (22) (32)
- The F-22 Raptor No. 02 successfully launched an AIM-9 missile at the China Lake test range to confirm its ability to launch an air-to-air missile from an internal weapons bay. (3)
- 2001: USTRANSCOM CINC and AMC Commander, Gen Charles T. Robertson, Jr., flew the first of three C-37A special airlift support aircraft, a military version of the Gulfstream V business jet, from the Gulfstream plant in Savannah to MacDill AFB for duty with the 6 AMW. The USAF purchased the C-37A to replace older EC-135 and CT-43 aircraft. Two other C-37As would be based at Andrews AFB, one at Chievres, Belgium, and a seventh at Hickam AFB. (22)
- 2005: The 337th Test and Evaluation Squadron from Dyess AFB, Tex., established a B-1B Lancer "first" at the White Sands Missile Range by having two B-1Bs auto-release a JASSM, a single warhead self-propelled missile, and three dissimilar weapons from the same launcher. The JASSMs struck their targets after traveling more than 170 nautical miles. (AFNEWS Article, "Dyess AFB Demonstrates B-1B's Upgrades, Combat Capabilities," 19 August 2005)

### **26 July**

- 1915: Through 29 July, Capt Benjamin D. Foulois and his 1st Aero Squadron with 8 JN-2 airplanes traveled from San Diego by train to Fort Sill, Okla. There they participated in observation and fire control experiments with the Field Artillery School. (24)
- 1937: Jacqueline Cochran, flying a Beechcraft, set the women's US record of 203.895 MPH for 1,000 kilometers (620 miles). (24)
- 1939: A B-17 Flying Fortress, carrying a 1,123-pound load, set a 204-MPH average speed record over a closed triangular course of 1,000 kilometers.
- 1943: A flight of 10 P-47s destined for various units in the United Kingdom, supported by two B-24s and one C-87, flew from Presque Isle, Me., to Prestwick, Scotland, with stops at Goose Bay, Labrador, Bluie West One, Greenland, and Reykjavik, Iceland. The formation lost one P-47 in a landing accident at Greenland, while a second P-47 developed a mechanical problem on the last leg to Prestwick and had to return to Iceland. When the eight P-47s landed at Prestwick on 11 August, the pilots achieved the first, last, and only flight of single-engine fighters (reciprocating engines) across the Atlantic in World War II. The P-47 with mechanical problems made the flight to Prestwick on 12 August. The P-47 pilots from the 2d Ferrying Group at Newcastle Army AB in Wilmington, Del., included Capt Barry Goldwater, who ran as the Republican nominee for President in 1964.
- 1949: The National Military Establishment announced production of the Sikorsky H-5H, the first amphibian helicopter.

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1951: The US services created Project LINCOLN, an Armed Forces-supported and MIT-managed study of the air defense program. (24)
- 1958: Explorer IV, a US Army satellite, placed in orbit. (16) (24)
- Capt Iven C. Kincheloe, a Korean War ace who set a 126,200-foot altitude record in 1956, died in a F-104 crash at Edwards AFB. In September 1959, the Air Force renamed Kinross AFB, Mich., as Kincheloe AFB. (24)
- 1960: The Pershing I missile first launched from a mobile tactical launcher. (16) (24)
- 1963: The launch of Syncon 2 placed the first satellite in a geosynchronous orbit. The satellite's speed matched the earth's rotation, which allowed it to remain over the same geographic area. (21)
- 1970: In a Schleicher ASW-12 sailplane, Ben Green and Wallace A. Scott set a new glider record of 717 miles for straight-line distance between Odessa, Tx., and Columbus, N. Mex.
- 1971: **APOLLO XV.** The Apollo XV Endeavor capsule carried David R. Scott, Alfred M. Worden, Jr., and James B. Irwin, on the fourth moon mission from Kennedy Space Center. The lunar module Falcon separated from the Endeavor and landed in the Moon's Hadley-Apennine region near Salyut Crater on 30 July. It left on 2 August and landed in the Pacific on 7 August. Apollo XV had two firsts: use of a lunar rover and first deep space walk. The mission also set three FAI records: greatest mass lifted from the earth to lunar orbit, 76,278 pounds; time outside a spacecraft on the moon, Scott with 18 hours 18 minutes; and distance traveled on the moon, 16,470 feet in the Lunar Rover. (9)
- 1972: North American Rockwell selected to develop a \$2.6 billion space shuttle and space transportation system. (12)
- 2005: The Space Shuttle *Discovery* made the first "Return to Flight" flight into space (STS-114) after the 1 February 2003 Space Shuttle *Columbia* disaster. On 9 August, the *Discovery* returned from its successful trip to resupply the International Space Station. Prolonged bad weather in Florida caused Mission Commander Eileen Collins to land at Edwards AFB. The external tank debris problem that destroyed *Columbia* unexpectedly recurred during *Discovery*'s launch. As a result, on July 27 NASA postponed future flights to make additional modifications to the flight hardware. On 4 July 2006, NASA resumed shuttle flights with STS-121. (3)
- 2006: A C-17 from the 62 AW at McChord AFB airdropped a 72,000 pound mockup of a 65-foot long rocket booster over Rogers Dry Lake at Edwards AFB. The airdrop was the third in a series of airdrop tests flown to verify the C-17's ability to safely release at launch altitude the AirLaunch Company's QuickReach rockets, which carried small satellites into low-earth orbit under the Falcon Small Launch Vehicle (SLV) program. This was the heaviest weight ever dropped by a C-17 and a new record for the heaviest single item ever dropped from an aircraft. (3)

### 27 July

- 1909: Orville Wright, with Lt Frank P. Lahm riding as a passenger, flew the Army's first airplane for 1 hour 12 minutes 40 seconds to set a two-man endurance record. Thus, the first official flight test of the airplane fulfilled a contract requirement for an hour-long flight with a passenger. (20)
- 1917: The Secretary of the Navy authorized the building of Philadelphia's Naval aircraft factory. (12)
- The first British DH-4 arrived in the US. It became the model for later US planes produced with Liberty engines. (21)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1953: **KOREAN WAR ENDS.** UN and Communist representatives signed an armistice at Panmunjom. When it ended, US pilots enjoyed a 10-1 edge in air-to-air combat. US aircrews flew more than 625,000 combat sorties and destroyed 839 MiG-15s, probably destroyed 154 more, and damaged 919 others. FEAF pilots destroyed the North Korean Air Force in the first weeks of the war. They obliterated strategic targets within the first months and conducted an effective interdiction campaign throughout the conflict. FEAF aircraft, including B-29s in a tactical role, wiped out 34,000 vehicles, 276 locomotives, and 3,800 railroad cars. Interdiction destroyed 70 percent of North Korea's tanks, trucks, and artillery pieces--and inflicted nearly 50 percent of the casualties sustained by North Korea troops. MATS used C-47s, C-54s, C-97s, C-119s, and C-124s to airlift 214,000 passengers and 80,000 tons of cargo to the combat area. In Korea, MATS aircraft airdropped another 15,000 tons of supplies and equipment, while medical aircraft airlifted 386,536 patients. The Air Rescue Service also recovered 9,898 UN troops, with 996 saves in the combat zone. SAC's B-29s flew 1,995 reconnaissance and 21,328 effective combat sorties to drop 167,000 tons of bombs on various targets. Air Force casualties numbered 1,729. (1) (2) (17)
- Capt Ralph S. Parr, Jr., shot down an Il-12 for the last aerial victory of the Korean War. (21)
- 1958: Commanders Malcolm Ross and Morton L. Lewis ascended to 82,000 feet in a balloon with 5,500 pounds of equipment, where they stayed aloft for 34 hours 30 minutes to set an endurance record for a flight into the stratosphere. They also transmitted the first stratospheric television pictures. (24)
- 1962: SAC's first Minuteman I (Model A) went into site A-9 at Malmstrom AFB. (6)
- 1964: The 1964 Daniel Guggenheim Medal was awarded posthumously to Dr. Robert H. Goddard, the father of American rocketry. (26) (16)
- 1967: The USAF launched a flare activated radio-biological observatory satellite to study solar-flare radiation.
- 1972: Test pilot Irving L. Burrows took the McDonnell Douglas F-15 Eagle up for its first flight at Edwards AFB. (3) (30)
- 1976: At Edwards AFB, Maj Adolphus H. Bledsoe, Jr., the pilot, and Maj John T. Fuller, the reconnaissance systems officer (RSO), flew an SR-71 over a 1,000 kilometer closed course (621 Miles) at to set three new world speed records: world absolute speed of 2,092.29 MPH, speed with 2,200-pound payload, and speed without payload. (1)
- 1986: A C-9 Nightingale flew Father Lawrence Jenco, who was released as a hostage by Muslim extremists in Lebanon, from Damascus to the USAFE Medical Center at Rhein-Main AB. (26)
- 1996: Lt Gen Lawrence Boese, the Eleventh Air Force Commander at Elmendorf AFB, joined Senator Ted Stevens (Alaska) and Gen Richard Hawley, the ACC Commander, in a dedication ceremony at Eielson AFB to christen a B-2 the Spirit of Alaska. (AFNEWS, July 1996)
- 1999: The 135<sup>th</sup> Airlift Group (Maryland ANG) accepted the ANG's first new C-130J (Tail No. 97-1351) at Martin State Airport, Md. (32)
- 2007: **DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS:** An Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot, Maj Keith Wolak, with the 74th Fighter Squadron at Pope AFB, N. C., received his cross for his actions in a night rescue mission in Afghanistan. During a mission to retrieve a U. S. Navy Seal on 2 July 2005, Major Wolak cleared a helicopter landing zone while suppressing the enemy's attacks. He not only attacked several fighting positions around the landing zone, but he also coordinated the rescue mission. (AFNEWS, "A-10 Pilot Awarded Distinguished Flying Cross," 2 Aug 2007.)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 28 July

- 1917: The first American Aero Squadron to arrive for duty with the American Expeditionary Forces, the 29th Provisional (later 400th Construction) Aero Squadron, docked at Liverpool. (18)
- 1926: Lt C. B. Momsen, commanding submarine S-1, surfaced and launched Lt D.C. Allen in a seaplane. He later recovered the aircraft and submerged to carry out the first complete cycle of experimental operations on basing airplanes aboard submarines. (24)
- 1930: Instrument flying added to the Army Air Corps Advanced Flying School curriculum at Kelly Field.
- 1931: Russell N. Boardman and John Polando set a new airline, nonstop, nonrefueled distance record by flying 5,011.8 miles in a Bellanca Monoplane from Floyd Bennett Field to Istanbul, Turkey. They landed on 30 July. (9) (24)
- 1934: **DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.** Maj William E. Kepner and Capts Albert W. Stevens and Orville A. Anderson reached 60,613 feet in altitude in a 3-million-cubic-foot, hydrogen-filled balloon, the Explorer I, during a flight financed by the National Geographic Society. The balloon exploded on descent and the three men had to parachute to safety. They all received the DFC. (24)
- 1935: Leslie R. Tower, a Boeing test pilot, flew Boeing's Model 299 on its first flight. It was a prototype of the B-17 Flying Fortress. (8: Jul 90)
- 1938: In a Seversky P-35, Lt Harold L. Neely achieved a 278-MPH average speed and completed a transcontinental flight in 9 hours 54 minutes flying time. His journey, however, took 11 hours 29 minutes in elapsed time with stops. (24)
- 1943: Eighth Air Force's first long-range fighter escort mission occurred when 100 P-47 Thunderbolts escorted B-17 Flying Fortresses from the Dutch border. (4)

**MEDAL OF HONOR.** During a bombing mission in Europe, numerous enemy fighters attacked and severely damaged Flight Officer John C. "Red" Morgan's B-17. A cannon shell totally shattered the windscreen and split the pilot's skull open, leaving him in a crazed condition. Morgan, as copilot, tried to fly the plane, while struggling with the pilot to keep him from flying the bomber. He continued the flight and for two hours flew in formation with one hand at the controls and the other holding off the pilot until the navigator came in to provide relief. For completing the bombing mission and safely returning to England, on 18 December 1943 Morgan received the Medal of Honor. On 6 March 1944, the German's shot his plane down on the first mission to Berlin. That made him the only Medal of Honor recipient to become a prisoner of war after receiving a Medal of Honor. (Morgan's feat formed the basis of the movie "Twelve O'Clock High") (4)

- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** The first SA-16 Albatross arrived in Japan to provide air rescue service off the Korean coast. (28)
- 1952: SAC presented its general concept of operations and maintenance for the Snark, Rascal, and Navaho missiles to the Air Force. (6)
- 1953: A B-47 Stratojet bomber set a nonstop transatlantic speed record by completing the 2,925 miles from Limestone AFB to Fairford, England, in 4 hours 43 minutes. It averaged 618 MPH. (9)
- 1959: The first Atlas D launch took place at Cape Canaveral. (6)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1964: **RANGER VII.** Cape Kennedy launched the spacecraft on its flight to the moon. On 31 July, the spacecraft took and relayed 4,316 high quality closeup pictures of the lunar surface to earth. It then crashed on the moon near the Sea of Clouds. (26) (16)
- 1973: Skylab 3 launched from Kennedy Space Center on a two-stage Saturn IB, with Allan L. Bean, Jack R. Lousma, and Dr. Owen K. Garriott. They rendezvoused with the workshop on the fifth orbit, undocked on 25 September, and then separated. The craft splashed down 250 miles southwest of San Diego.
- Boeing's Compass Cope, the largest RPV in the USAF todate, completed its first flight. (3)
- 1976: At Edwards AFB, an SR-71 flown by Capt Eldon W. Joersz and Maj George T. Morgan, the RSO, set four world records, including 2,193.64 MPH for the absolute and jet speed records over a 15-25 kilometer straight course. In a second flight, Capt Robert C. Helt and Maj Lang A. Elliot, RSO, flew their SR-71 to 85,069 feet in altitude to set absolute and jet records for altitude in horizontal flight. (1) (3)
- 1980: Through 30 July, four 3 TFW F-4E Phantoms from Clark AB flew to Tengah AB, Singapore, in the first visit by USAF tactical aircraft to the city-state since 1965. (26)
- 1999: The Global Hawk completed its longest and most diverse military image-gathering mission for Global Patriot, a joint Army/Air National Guard exercise at the Utah Test and Training Range. The UAV took off from Edwards AFB and flew for 23.9 hours at 66,000 feet. (3)
- 2001: Aircrews from the 509 BW, 325 BS, at Whiteman AFB flew back-to-back 21-hour sorties in just 45.5 hours using the B-2 "Spirit of Kansas." It performed flybys at the Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF Cottesmore, England, on 28 and 29 July. The crews performed three aerial refuelings, one with a KC-10 and the others with KC-135s, and they practiced a Global Power bombing mission. The maintenance crews at Whiteman performed a quick turn on the aircraft in 3.5 hours. (AFNEWS Article 1133, 18 Aug 2001)

### 29 July

- 1912: Through 1 August, Lt Benjamin D. Foulois conducted several airplane radio-telegraph tests in an Army Wright B at College Park. Messages were received at a distance of 10 miles. (24)
- 1921: Brig Gen William "Billy" Mitchell led 19 bombers in a mock raid on New York. He concluded that his attack destroyed the target and subsequently argued that the air arm should be allowed to take over the defense of the nation's coastlines. (21)
- 1931: Through 26 August, Col Charles Lindbergh and his wife flew in a Lockheed Sirius seaplane from Glenn Curtiss Airport, North Beach, N.Y., to Tokyo in one of the earliest transpacific flights. They traveled through Canada, Alaska, and Siberia to reach Japan. (9)
- 1937: The Lockheed 14 first flew.
- 1948: President Truman approved the construction of a flush-deck 65,000-ton aircraft carrier, later named the USS United States. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** UN jet fighter-bombers and reconnaissance aircraft operating near Pyongyang encountered MiGs much further south than usual. Evading the attacking MiGs, the UN aircraft returned safely to base. (28)
- 1952: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Maj Louis H. Carrington, Maj Frederick W. Shook, and Capt Wallace

## **AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- D. Yancey flew a 91 SRW RB-45C on the first nonstop transpacific flight from Elmendorf AFB to Yokota AB with two refuelings from KB-29s to earn the 1952 award. (1) (24)
- 1955: The US announced its plans to launch a basketball-sized earth satellite during the International Geophysical Year (July 1957-December 1958). (16) (24)
- 1961: At Fairchild AFB, SAC accepted its first Atlas E complex. It belonged to the 567 SMS. (6)
- 1966: The DoD announced that the Army's OV-1 Mohawk surveillance aircraft had claimed five new world records: (1) time-to-climb for 3,000 meters (9,842 feet), 3 minutes 46 seconds; (2) time-to-climb for 6,000 meters (19,685 feet), 9 minutes 9 seconds; (3) sustained horizontal altitude, 32,000 feet; (4) nonstop straight-line distance, 2,422 miles at 255 MPH; and (5) average speed over a 100-kilometer (63 miles) closed-circuit course at 5,000 feet in altitude, 292 MPH. This flight also led to a new FAI category for land-based turboprop aircraft weighing between 13,227 and 17,636 pounds.
- 1969: The Air Force Missile Development Center at Holloman AFB directed the first SRAM launch. A B-52H flying over the White Sands Missile Range launched the missile. (6) (12)
- 1970: Col Vere Short, a C-141 pilot, attained 25,000 accident-free flying hours, the most military flying time by anyone on active duty. (16)
- 1971: McDonnell-Douglas delivered the first two DC-10 jet transports to American Airlines and United Airlines at Long Beach.
- The X-24A lifting body completed its flight test program. It was then converted to a different shape with the X-24B designation. (16) (26)
- 1974: SECDEF James R. Schlesinger directed the consolidation of all military airlift under one manager. As a result, the USAF became the single manager for all armed services. (16) (26)
- 1980: Through 1 August, the 146 TAW and 433 TAW provided three C-130s to drop fire retardant chemicals on seven brush fires in the San Bernardino National Forest near Palm Springs, Calif. This assistance allowed the firefighters to control the fire in three days. (16) (26)
- 1985: In the Challenger's next-to-last mission, the Space Shuttle carried Spacelab-2 to conduct a series of experiments. The craft returned to earth after seven days.
- 1995: The 11th Reconnaissance Squadron activated at Nellis AFB to operate unmanned drones, the Predator. It was the first such unit in the Air Force. (16)
- 1996: At Cannon AFB, the 27 FW retired the remaining F-111F Aardvarks from the USAF inventory with a ceremony marking the last four-ship flight to the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center at Davis-Monthan AFB. (AFNEWS Article 960493, July 1996)
- 2005: Uzbekistan evicted the US from Karshi-Khanabad AB, or "K2." The base, located 125 miles north of Afghanistan near Uzbekistan's border with Tajikistan, had served as the hub for USAF combat and humanitarian missions to Afghanistan after the 11 September 2001 terrorist attack on America. Uzbekistan provided no reason for its action and gave the US 180 days to remove its aircraft, personnel, and equipment from K2. (22)

### **30 July**

- 1909: The Wright plane completed its second test with a 10-mile flight from Fort Myer to Alexandria and back at 42.583 MPH. The speed gave the Wrights a \$5,000 bonus (10 percent of a \$25,000



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

base price for each MPH over 40) and made the purchase price \$30,000. (4) (12)

- 1935: Lt Frank Akers (USN) flew an OJ-2 from NAS San Diego and made the first blind landing aboard the carrier USS Langley. He later received the DFC. (24)
  - 1939: The US regained the world payload carrying record when Maj Caleb V. Haynes and Capt W. D. Old flew the Boeing XB-15 to 8,200 feet with a payload of 15 1/2 tons at Wright Field. (24)
  - 1944: **VOGELKOP OPERATION.** FEAF aircraft supported an amphibious operation, the landings on the Vogelkop Peninsula on the western end of New Guinea. Troops of the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division met no opposition and began work immediately on airfields at March and Sansapor. Middleburg and Amsterdam Islands, just offshore, were secured, and an airfield on Middleburg was ready for fighters on 17 August.
  - 1948: North American Aviation delivered the first operational jet bomber, the B-45A Tornado, to the Air Force. (21)
  - 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** 47 B-29s bombed the Chosen Nitrogen Explosives Factory at Hungnam on North Korea's east coast. (28)
  - 1951: **KOREAN WAR/ATTACK ON PYONGYANG.** Fighters participated in a coordinated attack on selected targets in Pyongyang. The 91 F-80s performing flak suppression, although hampered by cloud cover over the target, were successful as no UN aircraft were lost to flak at Pyongyang during the day. The 354 USAF and USMC fighter-bombers attacking targets around Pyongyang reported fair results. (17) (28)
  - 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Following extended heavy rains, 3d Air Rescue Squadron helicopters carried approximately 650 flood-stranded U.S. military members and Koreans to safety. Flying over 100 sorties, five large H-19s transported some 600 evacuees, while two H-5s carried the rest. In the I Corps sector, two H-5s flew over 30 sorties to rescue 60 flood-stranded Koreans and U.S. soldiers. (28)
- KOREAN WAR.** Through 31 July, in one of the largest medium bomber raids against a single target, 60 B-29s destroyed 90 percent of the Oriental Light Metals Company facility, only four miles from the Yalu River. The B-29s achieved the unusally extensive destruction of the target in spite of encountering the largest nighttime counter-air effort to date by the enemy. The attacking bombers suffered no losses. (28)
- 1959: The Norair N-156F (later modified into the F-5) twin jet tactical fighter completed its first flight at Edwards AFB. (3)
  - 1965: The 7-year Saturn I program ended with the launch of Pegasus III, the tenth success in as many attempts for this booster.
  - 1969: Mariner 6 flew by Mars.
  - 1971: The last C-133 Cargomaster retired from Travis AFB to aircraft graveyard at Davis-Monthan AFB to end a chapter in military airlift history. It fell victim to the jet age and the jumbo airlift capability of the C-5A Galaxy. This event ushered in the modern all-jet airlift fleet. (5) (18)
- The last F-100 left Vietnam for the CONUS. Its departure ended a combat employment, which began in 1964 and produced 360,283 combat sorties with 243 aircraft losses. (17)
- 1981: Through 9 August, MAC supported the Gambia evacuation. When Gambia's president attended the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana in London, leftist guerrillas attempted a coup. When loyal Gambian troops and their Senegalese allies were unable to rescue rebel-held hostag-

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es and quell rioting in Bangul, MAC sent two C-141s to Dakar, Senegal. On 8 August, the rebel force surrendered and released its hostages. One C-141 evacuated 95 civilians from Bangul to Dakar. (2)

- 1984: Modified B-1A number four, avionics flight test aircraft, completed its first flight at Edwards AFB. (12)
- 1985: The USAF Bomarc aerial target drone program ended. (16) (26)
- 1993: The VISTA NF-16 employed its multi-axis thrust-vectoring system for the first time in a flight over Edwards AFB. That system enabled the aircraft to achieve a 110-degree transient angle-of-attack and a sustained angle-of-attack by September. (20)
- 1997: Captain Dewey Gay flew a F-16C Fighting Falcon (Tail No. 83-1164) from the 62d Fighter Squadron at Luke AFB to history when he touched down after a 1.3-hour sortie that pushed the F-16 over 4,000 hours. It was the first C-model to reach the 4,000-hour mark. The feat took 14 years. (AFNEWS Article 970991, 13 Aug 97)
- 1997: The X-38 atmospheric test vehicle made its first captive-carry flight aboard a B-52. The sub-scale, unmanned X-38 shape was joint NASA Dryden Center and Johnson Space Center project to validate concept for a future International Space Station emergency Crew Return Vehicle. The space "lifeboat" relied on Lifting Body technology. (3)
- 1998: At Edwards AFB, testing on the C-141A Electric Starlifter came to an end. The joint Air Force Research Laboratory Propulsion Directorate and Lockheed-Martin/Lucas Aerospace testing program outfitted a large military cargo aircraft with electrically operated Fly-By-Wire, Power-By-Wire flight controls for the first time in aviation history. The C-141A aircraft, assigned to the 418th Flight Test Squadron, flew over 1,000 hours in the program. It was the last C-141A in operational service. With the completion of the test program, the Air Force retired the aircraft to Davis-Monthan AFB. (AFNEWS Article 981113, 30 Jul 98)
- 2001: The DoD awarded Boeing a \$485 million contract to engineer and manufacture an Avionics Modernization Program (AMP) and a separate \$1 billion contract for aircraft modifications, support, and other services to complement the AMP enhancements for 519 C-130s. The program would equip the C-130 cockpits with flat panels, digital displays, multi-functional radar, and a state-of-the-art communications system. (22)

AETC's C-141 aircrew training school at Altus AFB officially closed to end more than 25 years of C-141 training there. The closure came with the phased retirement of more than 265 C-141Bs. The Air Force, however, modified 56 C-141Bs with state-of-the-art glass cockpits and redesignated them as C-141Cs. (22)

A crew from Minot AFB delivered a B-52H to the AFFTC for transfer to NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center. It would be converted into an air launch platform to replace Dryden's venerable B-52B Tail No. 52-0008. (3)

### 31 July

- 1912: Navy pilot Lt Theodore G. Ellyson launched the first airplane from a catapult, designed and built by Capt W. Irving Chambers (USN). The plane lifted from its platform on the seawall at Annapolis, but immediately dove into the water. (24)
- 1941: The Lockheed PV-1 Ventura first flew.
- 1952: **PROJECT HOP-A-LONG.** Two MATS Sikorsky H-19 helicopters completed the first trans-

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atlantic helicopter flight. They touched down five times en route between Westover Field and Prestwick, Scotland. This proved the feasibility of ferrying helicopters overseas. (2) (9)

1957: The DEW Line, a distant early warning radar defense installation extending across the Canadian Arctic, reported as fully operational. (11) (24)

1958: Construction of a prototype hardened Titan I launch control facility with a silo-lift launcher and blockhouse began at Cooke AFB. (6)

1964: Alian Parker set a new, world distance-in-a-straight-line record for gliders by flying 647.17 miles from Odessa to Kimball, Neb.

1968: Two UH-1F helicopters from USAF Southern Command helped the Costa Rican government evacuate people endangered by the Mount Arenal volcano. (16) (26)

**COMBAT BRONCO.** The first new, twin-turboprop OV-10A Bronco aircraft arrived at Bien Hoa AB to fly armed forward air controller missions with the 504th Tactical Air Support Group. (17)

1969: The Mariner space probes used infrared spectrophotometer and detectors to determine the surface temperature and atmospheric composition of Mars. (16)

1970: The first class of foreign students to graduate under the President's Vietnamization Program completed undergraduate pilot training at Keesler AFB. (16) (26)

1973: First Boeing T-43A aircraft delivered to Mather AFB. (12)

1984: The 390 SMW at Davis-Monthan AFB became the first Titan II wing to inactivate under the missile phaseout program. (1) (26)

1987: Grumman's plant in Melbourne, Fla., received the first E-8A (a modified Boeing 707-300) aircraft for upgrading to the JSTARS configuration.

1989: Through 7 August, MAC aircraft moved nearly 1,000 fire fighters, 850 tons of equipment, and medical supplies to southwestern Idaho, where a raging fire spread through thousands of acres of forest. The aircraft also sprayed 3,350 tons of fire retardant on the fire from high altitudes. (16) (26)

1995: The 351st Missile Wing, the last Minuteman II unit, inactivated at Whiteman AFB, Mo. (16)

1999: Two improved T-38C fighter training aircraft transferred from Edwards AFB to Columbus AFB, Miss., for testing. At Edwards, the T-38s completed a development test and evaluation of the aircraft's Avionics Upgrade Program, while the move to Columbus took the planes into initial operational testing and evaluation for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training course and Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals. (AFNEWS Article 991727, 18 Sep 99)

2001: A B-2 Spirit successfully launched its first Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM) at China Lake. Launched at 14,000 feet, the stealthy JASSM conducted a suite of preprogrammed maneuvers, including a full 360-degree segmented roll, and then tracked to its target. (3)

2006: AFFTC conducted a live fly exercise with pilots using a Network Centric Warfare environment for the first time. Pilots in multiple types of aircraft connected to data links of several real and simulated players over a US-wide distributed network. (3)

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### 1 August

- 1934: Lts C. H. Kendall and H. T. Orville won the National Elimination Balloon Race in a 206.4-mile flight from Birmingham to Commerce, Ga. (7)
- 1939: Cpts C. S. Irvine and P. H. Robey used a Boeing YB-17A to set a 34,016.88-foot altitude record with a payload of 11,023 pounds.
- 1942: The Coast Guard's Squadron 212 sank the first enemy submarine off the passes of the Mississippi. (24)
- 1943: **Operation TIDAL WAVE.** In this operation, 177 B-24 Liberators used low-level routes to drop 311 tons of bombs on the Ploesti Oil Refinery in Rumania. This was the first large-scale, minimum-altitude attack against a strongly defended target, and the longest major bombing mission from base to target undertaken to date.
- MEDALS OF HONOR.** During the Ploesti raid, the lead aircraft flown by Lt Col Addison Baker, the 93 BG Commander, received serious damage and caught fire. Baker, who was a mobilized guardsman from Ohio, continued to lead the formation and dropped his bombs before trying to gain enough altitude for the crew to parachute. The attempt failed and the B-24 crashed. For that gallant leadership and intrepidity, Colonel Baker earned the Medal of Honor. In this raid, Col Leon W. Johnson, Col John R. Kane, 2Lt Lloyd H. Hughes, and Maj John L. Jerstad also earned Medals of Honor. The Eighth lost 54 bombers, but successfully reduced Ploesti's refining capacity by 40 percent. (4)(21)
- 1945: In the largest one-day B-29 combat effort, 851 Superfortresses attacked four Japanese urban areas, a petroleum plant, and mine fields. (24)
- At Edwards AFB, prototype YP-80As displayed their ability to attack bombers, even when outnumbered by six to one.
- 1946: Cpts B. L. Grubaugh and J. L. England flew a B-29 from New York to Burbank in 7 hours 28 minutes 3 seconds to set a FAI speed record for multi-engined aircraft. (9)
- 1950: The Collins-Vandenberg Agreement established cooperation between ADC and the Army Anti-aircraft Command for the air defense of the US. (16) (24)
- KOREAN WAR.** The USAF established the 6147th Tactical Control Squadron (Airborne) at Taegu for forward air control operations with T-6 aircraft. The 22 BG and 92 BG dispatched 46 B-29s to bomb the Chosen Nitrogen Fertilizer Factory at Hungnam, the largest chemical plant in the Far East. (28)
- 1951: Canada and the US exchanged diplomatic notes to erect and operate a radar defense network in Canada. (16)
- 1954: First flight of Convair's XFY-1 vertical takeoff fighter.
- 1955: The USAF began the first zero gravity research flight in T-33 jet trainers to study the effects of weightlessness. (16) (24)
- 1956: President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill to include flight instruction in Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs. (16)
- 1958: The US detonated a missile-borne nuclear weapon at high altitude over Johnston Island in the Pacific as part of an anti-ICBM defense program. (16) (24)

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Capt Marion Boling, a commercial pilot, flew a Beechcraft Bonanza 6,979 miles from Manila, Philippines, to Pendleton, Oreg., to set a distance record for nonstop flight in a single-engine aircraft. (24)

- 1960: General Thomas S. Power, CINCSAC, accepted the first of 12 operational supersonic B-58 Hustlers to be delivered to the 43 BMW at Carswell AFB. (1)
- 1961: The AFRES mobilized five C-124 groups and more than 15,000 reservists in response to the construction of the Berlin Wall. (21)
- 1962: From an underground silo at Vandenberg AFB, the USAF launched its first operationally configured Atlas F. It landed near the Marshall Islands. (6) (12)
- 1963: NASA's Mariner II, launched on 27 August 1962, completed its first orbit around the sun after a trip of 540 million miles. (26)
- 1968: The USAF Southern Command flew 13,000 pounds of disaster relief supplies to San Jose, Costa Rica, to aid more victims of the Mount Arenal volcano. (16) (26)
- 1969: The Air Force added Quicktape, using broadcast tapes recorded in the air from a ground radioman and rebroadcast directly through the plane's loudspeaker, to its psychological warfare program in SEA. (16)
- 1972: The first B-52 SRAM wing activated on schedule at Loring AFB.
- 1974: William P. Clements, Jr., the Deputy SECDEF, approved plans for the A-10 close air support aircraft. (12)
- 1976: Through 2 August, two USAF UH-1 Iroquois helicopter crews saved 81 people stranded by a flash flood in Big Thompson Canyon, Colo. (16) (26)
- 1987: Rockwell International received a \$1.3 billion contract to build a replacement space shuttle for the lost Challenger.
- 1988: The 177 FG retired the last three F-106 Delta Darts from the USAF's active inventory. Two of the F-106s were A-models and one was a B-model. (26)

### 2 August

- 1909: After tests at Fort Myer, the Army accepted the Wright Flyer as its first aircraft. The aircraft met and exceeded all specifications. (4) (12) (21)
- 1911: Harriet Quimby became the first woman pilot to get an FAI certificate in the United States. She received number 37 at Mineola. (24)
- 1918: The 135th Corps Observation Squadron sent 18 airplanes on patrol from an airdrome at Ourches, France, to make first patrol along the front by American-built DH-4s with Liberty engines. (20)
- 1922: Lt Leigh Wade, Capt Albert W. Stevens, and Sgt Roy Langham used a supercharged bomber to set an unofficial three-man altitude record of 23,350 feet over McCook Field. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Through 3 August, the 374 TCG airlifted 300,000 pounds of equipment and supplies from Ashiya AB to Korea in 24 hours to set a new airlift record for the war. (28)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1957: Republic unveiled its F-105, a future TAC aircraft, to the public.
- 1958: In its first test, an Atlas-B, with a full propulsion system (boosters and sustainers), flew 2,500 miles down the Atlantic Missile Range after launching from Cape Canaveral. In this flight, the missile underwent the first successful stage separation of a US ICBM. (6)
- 1968: The modified XV-5A (now the XV-5B Verifan aircraft) made its first vertical and hovering flights.
- 1969: John A. Manke, NASA test pilot, flew the HL-10 Lifting Body on its first flight of more than 1,000 MPH. (3)
- 1985: AFLC rolled out the prototype FB-111A aircraft modified under the Avionics Modernization Program for electronics warfare. (16)
- 1987: The 552d Airborne Warning and Control Wing from Tinker AFB completed its 5,000th mission for the Elf One deployment to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Elf One began on 1 October 1980, when the war between Iran and Iraq erupted.
- 1989: The USS Tennessee successfully completed an underwater launch of the UGM-133A Trident II missile for the first time off the coast of Florida. (20)
- 1992: **Operation INTRINSIC ACTION.** Through 20 August, AMC moved forces to Kuwait in this exercise to show Iraq our resolve to support the Middle East. (16)
- 1994: Two B-52s from the 2 BW set an FAI record for an around-the-world flight during a Global Power mission to Kuwait. The 47.2-hour flight needed 5 aerial refuelings. This flight was a first too, going around the world on a bombing mission to drop 54 bombs in a Kuwaiti range near the Iraq's border. (16)

### 3 August

- 1904: Capt Thomas S. Baldwin made the first circuit flight in an airship equipped with a Curtiss motor at Oakland. This was the first successful powered airship flight in the US. (21)
- 1938: Through 12 August, Maj Vincent J. Meloy led three B-17s of the 2 BG at Langley Field on a goodwill mission to Bogota, Colombia. (21)
- 1942: The US began work on its top secret Manhattan Project to develop an atomic bomb. (4)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Lt Gen George E. Stratemeyer, FEAF Commander, ordered Fifth Air Force to destroy key transportation facilities between the 37th and 38th parallels in Korea in FEAF Interdiction Campaign No. 1. (17)  
  
Marine fighters began operations over Korea. (16) (24)  
  
SA-16 amphibious rescue aircraft began flying sorties along the Korean coast to retrieve U.S. pilots forced down during operations. (28)
- 1954: The Navy's YF2Y-1 Sea Dart, a hydro-skifighter and the world's fastest water-based plane, exceeded the speed of sound in a test flight at San Diego. (24)
- 1956: The first missile wing in the USAF and USAFE, the 42924st Tactical Missile Wing, established.
- 1963: Sam Miller and Louis Fodor completed a round-the-world flight from New York and return in

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

46 hours 28 minutes to set a FAI record. (9)

- 1965: The first firing of a Lance battlefield missile from its self-propelled launchers took place at White Sands Missile Range.
- 1969: Members of the Alaskan Air Command helped put out Alaska's worst forest fire of the year.
- 1972: The F-15 Eagle fighter completed its first supersonic flight. It reached Mach 1.5 during a 45-minute test flight at Edwards AFB.
- 1973: The USAF accepted its first F-5E for flight testing at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1981: USAF air traffic controllers manned civilian airport facilities in the US to replace striking air controllers. The USAF's assistance allowed civilian air operations to continue service despite the widespread strike. (26)
- 1982: The YA-10B flew its first test flight at Edwards AFB in the night attack evaluation program. The two-seat model allowed a safety observer to fly behind the pilot. (3)
- 1987: Martin Marietta rolled out its first converted Titan II space launch vehicle in a ceremony at its Denver facilities.
- NASA powered up the Space Shuttle Discovery at Kennedy Space Center to check out modifications made since the 1986 Challenger accident, marking a major milestone in the shuttle's return to flight.
- 1994: A B-52 launched a research satellite using a Pegasus rocket. (16) (26)

### 4 August

- 1908: With Thomas S. Baldwin at the controls and Glenn H. Curtiss as the engineer, Signal Corps Airship No. 1 made its first test ascent, a 7-minute flight, above Fort Myer. (24)
- 1910: Elmo N. Pickerill made the first plane-to-ground-to-plane radiotelegraphic communication in the US while flying a Curtiss pusher from Mineola to Manhattan Beach and back. (21) (24)
- 1921: Lt John A. Macready, at the request of the entomologist at Cleveland, flew the first aerial insecticide application flight.
- 1925: The MacMillan polar expedition started with Lt Cmdr Richard E. Byrd's assistance and Loening amphibians. (24)
- 1944: **Operation APHRODITE.** Eighth Air Force launched radio-controlled B-17 drones, carrying 20,000 pounds of TNT, against V-1 rocket sites in Pas de Calais, France. (4) (21)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** B-29 attacked key bridges above the 38th parallel to start FEAF "Interdiction Campaign No. 1." (28)
- 1953: A B-47 Stratojet set a nonstop distance record for jets in making a 4,450-mile flight from Fairford, England, to MacDill AFB, in 9 hours 53 minutes.
- 1955: China released the crewmen of a Special Operations B-29, "The Stardust 40." They were captured on 13 January 1953 and were held longer than any other prisoners of war in the Korean War. (21)

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- 1960: Pilot Joseph A. Walker flew the X-15 to an unofficial world speed record of 2,196 MPH.
- 1964: North Vietnamese torpedo boats attacked US destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin. On 7 August, Congress authorized President Johnson to use all measures to assist South Vietnam. That decision led to a buildup of airpower in the region. (See 5 August)
- 1964: First US air strikes against North Vietnam.
- 1970: From Vandenberg AFB, the Minuteman Emergency Rocket Communication System (ERCS) completed its first operational test launch. (6)
- AFRES aircrews airlifted 73 handicapped children from Corpus Christi, Texas, after Hurricane Celia destroyed the Texas Department of Mental Health and Retardation School. (16) (26)
- 1977: The last T-33 Shooting Star left the AFFTC at Edwards AFB for retirement at Davis-Monthan AFB; however, active USAF units continued to fly the T-33 until the mid-80s. The 87th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at K.I. Sawyer AFB, Mich., actively flew the T-33s until the unit inactivated on 1 October 1985. In addition other Air Defense Tactical Air Command units at Minot and McChord continued to fly F-106s and T-33s for a few more years. (16) (26)
- 1982: The first KC-135R (number 61-0293) with the new CFM-56 engines made its first flight. (1)
- The NF-16 Advanced Fighter Technology Integration (AFTI) aircraft made its first flight. (16)
- 2000: The AFFTC at Edwards AFB completed the GBU-27A/B enhanced guided bomb unit's flight test evaluation for the F-117, just two months after its first captive-carry flight. (3)
- 2002: The last B-1 departed from the 184<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, Kansas ANG. The unit officially became an air refueling wing on 16 September 2002. (32)
- 2007: **PHOENIX MARS LANDER.** NASA launched this lander to study Mars on a Delta II booster from Space Launch Complex 17-A at Cape Canaveral, Fla. After a 422 million-mile journey, the Phoenix spacecraft landed in the arctic region of northern Mars on 25 May 2008. The lander tried to answer questions about the Martian arctic's ability to support life. A 920th Rescue Wing (Air Force Reserves) HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter conducted pre- and post-flight operations to clear the launch path, while the 45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing at Patrick AFB, Fla., provided mission support. (AFNEWS, "Air Force Supports Launch of NASA Mission to Mars," 6 Aug 2007.)

### 5 August

- 1911: Lincoln Beachey won the New York to Philadelphia race for the Gimbel \$5,000 purse in 1 hour 50 minutes 18 seconds with one stop for fuel. (24)
- 1922: Lt Clayton Bissell began first model airway night flight from Washington DC to Dayton and return. (24)
- 1937: The XC-35, first aircraft with a pressurized cabin, made its first performance flight at Wright Field.
- 1944: **FIRST ATTACK AGAINST PHILIPPINES.** Night raids began when the 63d Bombardment Squadron from Fifth Air Force launched a single radar-equipped B-24 Snooper. It conducted an ineffective attack on the Sasa airdrome, north of Davao, Mindanao. (17)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR/MEDAL OF HONOR.** Maj Louis J. Seville, the 67 FBS Commander, died



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

near Hamchang, Korea, when he crashed his severely damaged F-51 into an enemy position. Major Seville received the first Medal of Honor for an USAF member in the Korean War posthumously. (16) (26)

In the first SA-16 rescue operation of the war, Captain Charles E. Shroder led a crew in saving a Navy pilot who had crashed into the sea off the Korean coast. (28)

1951: Richard H. Johnson set a world record for single-place gliders, covering 535.69 miles from Odessa, to Salina, Kans.

1954: A production-model B-52 flew for the first time. (12)

1964: The National Academy of Sciences set up a 10-man committee to study sonic boom effects in the development of supersonic transports. The FAA managed this program with support from NASA and the USAF. (5) (16)

The JCS established the Yankee Team Tanker Task Force (renamed the Foreign Legion on 3 September) with eight KC-135s at Clark AB to support combat operations in the area. (1)

**SOUTHEAST ASIA FORCE DEPLOYMENTS.** The USAF deployed more squadrons of tactical fighters, bombers, and reconnaissance aircraft to Southeast Asia. On 5 August, B-57s from Clark AB deployed to Bien Hoa AB and additional F-100s moved to Da Nang AB. On 6 August, 18 F-105s from the 36 TFS from Yokota AB deployed to Korat RTAFB. Tactical Air Command provided three tactical fighter squadrons, two troop carrier squadrons, and six reconnaissance aircraft to the battle zone. (17)

1965: The 321 SMW at Grand Forks AFB accepted the first Minuteman II to arrive in the field. (6)

1968: A 1,095-foot long STOLPORT (short takeoff and landing strip) opened at LaGuardia Airport, N.Y.

1971: American Airlines flew the first McDonnell Douglas DC-10 flight between Los Angeles and Chicago in 3 hours 18 minutes.

1975: The X-24B became the first lifting body to land on a concrete runway.

1983: **EXERCISE AHUAS TARA II:** Through 31 December, for exercises with Honduran forces, MAC moved 6,000 passengers and 4,000 tons of cargo to Honduras. (2)

1994: Two A-10 Thunderbolt IIs destroyed an armored vehicle near Sarajevo after the Serbs took heavy weapons from a UN compound. The weapons were returned. (16) (26)

1997: After a 747 Korean Airlines jetliner crashed on Guam, a C-141 from the 305 AMW at McGuire AFB flew a 31-member team of the National Transportation Safety Board from Andrews AFB to Fairchild AFB, where they boarded a 92 AREFW KC-135 for the flight to Andersen AFB. A second C-141 from the 305 AMW took medical equipment and seven physicians from Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe, Hawaii, to Guam to help treat the crash survivors, while a C-141 from the 62 AW at McChord AFB airlifted Red Cross, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and FAA representatives from Hawaii to Guam. Additionally, a joint Army-Air Force critical care team, consisting of two Critical Care Air Transport Teams, each augmented by a second critical care nurse, and two burn teams from the Brooke Army Medical Center's Institute of Surgical Research, left for Guam on 6 August. (22)

2000: AFRC C-141s from the 452 AMW at March ARB and 445 AW at Wright-Patterson AFB joined two active-duty C-141s from the 62 AW at McChord AFB to move firefighters and equipment to Idaho Falls, Idaho, where they were bused to Clear Creek, Idaho, to fight raging wildfires.

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Two AFRC C-130s from the 302 AW at Peterson AFB and two ANG C-130s from the 146 AW at Channel Islands ANG Station, Calif., dropped fire retardant on wildfires near Los Angeles and Fresno. The 145 AW (ANG) at Charlotte, N. C., and the 153 AW (ANG) at Cheyenne, Wyo., flew sorties from Hill AFB to drop fire retardant over the wildfires in California. (22)

- 2005: Through 7 August, AMC participated in an unusual rescue operation. A C-5 returning to Travis AFB diverted to NAS North Island in San Diego to pick up a 32 US Navy sailors and two Super Scorpio Remotely Operated Vehicles. The C-5 then carried the Navy team 3,700 nautical miles nonstop for 10 hours to Yelizovo Airport, near the city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky on the Kamchatka Peninsula, to help rescue seven sailors from a stranded Russian AS-28 mini-sub that became entangled in fishing net during a 4 August military exercise. On 6 August, three AMC aircraft landed at Yelizovo Airport with more people and equipment, including a C-17 Globemaster III from the 172<sup>d</sup> Airlift Wing (Mississippi ANG) that flew non-stop from New Orleans NAS to Russia with 95,000 pounds of equipment and personnel. On 7 August, the US and British rescue specialists freed the submarine from the fish nets, and all seven Russians survived. A KC-10 Extender from the 60 AMW at Travis AFB, a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 939 AREFW (AFRC) at Portland, and two KC-135s from the 168 AREFW (ANG) at Eielson AFB provided four refuelings to support the operation. (22)

### 6 August

- 1945: Flying his "Enola Gay" B-29 from Tinian Island, Col Paul W. Tibbets, Jr., dropped the atomic bomb "Little Boy" on Hiroshima. (4) (12)
- 1946: Two radio-controlled B-17s, escorted by control planes, flew 2,174 miles from Hawaii to Muroc Lake, Calif. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Far East Air Forces began nightly visual reconnaissance of enemy supply routes. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force pilots observed an estimated 250 MiGs, the largest daily total since 1 April. In the major air-to-air battle of the month, 34 F-86s destroyed 6 of 52 MiG-15s. Far East Air Forces organized Detachment 3, 6004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron, to increase effectiveness of evasion and escape techniques by downed airmen. The detachment continued on-going experiments, such as "snatching" downed personnel by especially equipped C-47s. It also emphasized aircrew training in emergency procedures, the use of radios and survival equipment, and helicopter rescue procedures. (28)
- 1953: The N-69A Snark research test vehicle flew its first flight test at Cape Canaveral. In this configuration, the missile's length increased from 50 to 68 feet and weight from 28,000 to 49,000 pounds for greater range and payload capability. (6)
- Operation BIG SWITCH.** Through October, the USAF used C-124, C-54, C-46, and C-47 transports to airlift more than 800 former prisoners of war from Korea to the US. (21)
- 1954: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Through 7 August, two 308 BMW B-47s made a 10,000-mile, nonstop round-trip flight from Hunter AFB, Ga., to French Morocco with four KC-97 inflight refuelings. One bomber finished in 24 hours 4 minutes, while the other took 25 hours 23 minutes. The 308th received the Mackay Trophy for this flight. (1)
- 1958: The USAF issued a requirement for the Minuteman ICBM. (6)
- 1959: The TM-76 Mace replaced the Matador in USAFE's inventory. (4)
- 1966: **HARMON TROPHY.** Walter M. Schirra, Jr. (USN) and Thomas B. Stafford from Gemini VI

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and Frank Borman and James A. Lovell, Jr. (USN) from Gemini VII won the trophy for the first rendezvous in space of two separate launch vehicles. (5)

The first three civilian scientist-astronauts Owen K. Garriott, Edward G. Gibson, and Harrison H. Schmitt received their Air Force pilot wings at Williams AFB. (16) (26)

- 1971: Vandenberg AFB launched an Air Force Atlas rocket to place nine experiments into three different orbits. (16)
- 1982: Through 5 September, MAC supported a Multinational Peacekeeping Force in the Sinai Peninsula by sending 9 missions (1 C-141 and 8 commercial) to deliver a 101st Airborne Division battalion from Fort Campbell to Ras Nasrani and then to return a 82d Airborne Division battalion to Fort Bragg.
- 1987: Aeronautical Systems Division began phase two of the Mission Adaptive Wing tests at Edwards AFB. This phase tested four automated flight control modes: cruise camber control, maneuver camber control, maneuver load control, and maneuver alleviation/gust enhancement. This wing allowed aircraft to achieve a 25-30 percent increase in range and a 25 percent improvement in sustained G-forces.
- 1991: Through 9 August, MAC units moved 75 tons of blankets and supplies to Shanghai, China, after floods in eastern China caused 1,000 deaths and left over 100,000 homeless. (16) (26)
- 1998: During a 15-hour flight in Hawaii, the solar-powered Pathfinder-Plus, an upgraded version of the Pathfinder UAV, reached nearly 80,300 feet in altitude, the highest point ever reached by a propeller-driven aircraft. It carried a simulated payload of 68 pounds. (3)
- 2001: The 93rd Air Control Wing at Robins AFB received the first updated Block 20 E-8C JSTARS production aircraft. The Computer Replacement Program enhancement in the Block 20 aircraft reduced the number of on-board computers from five to two, while increasing processing power and speed. It also had several engineering changes to improve maintainability. (AFNEWS Article 1071, 6 Aug 2001)
- Following a final sortie by the Lockheed Martin X-35B, the X-32/X-35 Joint Strike Fighter concept demonstration flight test program ended. After 39 sorties (21.5 flight hours), the X-35B flew to Air Force Plant 42 at Palmdale for final disposition. (3)
- 2003: A B-2 released 80 inert JDAMs as part of a weapon separations test. The AFFTC test program integrated the Smart Bomb Release Assembly (SBRA) into the B-2. (3)
- 2007: **EXERCISE NORTHERN GOSHAWK.** Through 11 August, the Distributed Mission Operations Center at Kirtland AFB, N. Mex., implemented a complex, new electronic exercise to bring more "reality" to virtual reality simulations. The five-day exercise also gave Royal Air Force members their first opportunity to connect to the center in a virtual battlespace to engage simulated enemy forces. (AFNEWS, "Info Sharing Allows Realistic Coalition Training, 7 Aug 2007.)

### 7 August

- 1916: The Wright Company and the Glenn L. Martin Company merged into the Wright Martin Aircraft Corporation. (24)
- 1944: Carrier Division 11, with carriers Saratoga and Ranger, commissioned specifically for night operations. (24)
- 1947: Through 10 August, Capt William P. Odom broke his earlier 15 April 1947 around-the-world

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

record. He flew the Reynolds Bombshell 19,645 miles and landed in Chicago after 73 hours 5 minutes 11 seconds to shave nearly 5 hours off his previous record. (9) (24)

1950: **KOREAN WAR.** The 98 BG flew its first mission shortly after 20 of its B-29s landed at Yokota AB. (28)

1951: A Navy Viking rocket built by the Glenn L. Martin Company set an altitude record for single-stage rockets, climbing 135 miles and reaching a speed of 4,100 MPH, at White Sands. (24)

Bill Bridgeman flew the Navy's Douglas D-558-2 Skyrocket to a 1,238-MPH speed record. (9)

1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Through 8 August, Capt Clifford D. Jolley, 335th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, destroyed three additional MiGs in two days to become the eighteenth ace of the war. (28)

1954: The School of Aviation Medicine had received the first piece of experimental equipment ever built to study living conditions in space. It was a sealed cabin that simulated the interior of a spaceship. (16) (24)

1956: The first F-100Cs with an inflight refueling capability became operational at Foster AFB, Tex.

1959: Two F-100F aircraft made the first flight by jet fighter aircraft over the North Pole. (16) (24)

The Explorer VI, NASA's "paddlewheel" satellite, launched into orbit from Cape Canaveral by a Thor-Able III. It transmitted the first television pictures from space. In addition, Maj Robert C. Mathis used the satellite to relay the first intercontinental voice message. He later became the VCSAF. (20) (21)

1963: Benjamin Greene set a new distance record for single-place gliders for a 457.97-mile flight from Marfa, Tex., to Boise City, Okl.

1965: First Minuteman II missile emplaced in a 447 SMS silo at Grand Forks AFB. (6) (12)

1975: Two C-141s flew from Ramstein AB to Bucharest with disaster relief supplies after extensive flooding of the Danube River and its tributaries. (16) (26)

1976: The Viking 2 spacecraft entered orbit around Mars. (8: Sep 90)

1980: **HURRICANE ALLEN.** Through 12 August, 3 MAC missions (1 C-5 and 2 C-141s) and one ANG C-130 mission airlifted 107 people and 61 tons of supplies to Haiti and St Lucia from the US and Howard AFB. The hurricane killed 57 and left hundreds homeless. (18)

1982: At Sheppard AFB, ATC ended the German Air Force undergraduate pilot training program. (16)

1984: The HH-60D helicopter flew its first rescue mission to save a young couple that had been stranded above 10,000 feet in the high Sierras overnight. (3)

**Operation INTENSE LOOK.** Through 2 October, MAC supported the deployment of US minesweeping assets to the Red Sea to help Egypt and Saudi Arabia determine the cause of mysterious explosions that damaged ships plying the Red Sea. MAC flew 27 C-5, 14 C-141, and 3 C-130 sorties to move 983 passengers and 1,324 tons of cargo. (18)

1990: **Operation DESERT SHIELD.** As a response to Iraq's 2 August invasion of Kuwait, the US military initiated deployment actions to protect Saudi Arabia from Iraqi aggression and to liberate Kuwait. The 71 TFS deployed 24 F-15C Eagles on a 15-hour, 8,000-mile, non-stop flight from Langley AFB to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, with 12 inflight refuelings. (16) (26)

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- 1995: A B-52H bomber from the 2 BW at Barksdale AFB employed precision-guided munitions in a training mission for the first time. (16)
- 1998: Scaled Composite's D-2 technology demonstrator UAV made its first flight after a two-year hiatus. The twin-tail propeller D-2 was a testbed vehicle for NASA's Environmental Research Aircraft and Sensor Technology (ERAST) program. (3)
- 2003: In an Automatic Air Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) test, as two AFFTC F-16s repeatedly approached each other in flight. The Auto ACAS activated every time to separate them without pilot input. (3)
- 2007: The 75th Fighter Squadron Commander, Lt Col Sam Milam, flew the first A-10C Thunderbolt II to its new home at Moody AFB, Ga. It was the first of 50 upgraded A-10Cs to move to Moody under base realignment plans. The base finished the move in early 2008 as the A-10s were converted from A-10A to A-10C models. (AFNEWS, "First Improved Thunderbolt Arrives at Moody," 8 Aug 2007.)

### 8 August

- 1903: The Langley gasoline engine model plane was successfully launched from a catapult on a houseboat; however, the flight did not last very long and the vehicle was uncontrollable. For this reason, the Wrights received credit for the first sustained, controllable flight. (24)
- 1908: At Camp d'Auvours, France, Orville Wright broke French records for duration, distance, and altitude. (8)
- 1910: A civilian mechanic, Oliver G. Simmons, and Cpl Glen Madole built and installed the first tri-cycle landing gear on the Army Wright plane. (4) (24)
- 1913: Lt Harold Geiger (US Army) flew a military airplane for the first time in Hawaii at the Fort Kamehameha Aviation School. He flew a Curtiss E two-seater, Signal Corps No. 8, over Pearl Harbor. (21)
- 1933: The Navy accepted the variable-pitch propeller. (24)
- 1945: At NACA's Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory, scientists published an article suggesting that it may be possible to fly an aircraft with an atomic engine and brick-sized fuel source around the world nonstop several times. (8: Aug 90)
- 1946: The Convair XB-36 Peacemaker first flew at Fort Worth. (24)
- 1947: A. L. Berger of Wright Field received the Thurman H. Bane Award for 1947 for work in developing new types of high temperature ceramic coatings for use in aircraft engines. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Advancing N. Korean forces caused the 18 FBG to evacuate Taegu to Ashiya. The 307 BG, newly based in Okinawa, flew its first mission. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force fighters flew 285 close air support sorties, the highest daily total for the month. At night B-26s flew three voice broadcast sorties totaling almost four hours over enemy-held positions near the east coast. (28)
- 1955: Over Edwards AFB, the X-1A rocket research plane exploded on its B-29 carrier and was jettisoned to destruction. NACA pilot Joe Walker escaped safely. (3) (8: Aug 90)
- 1961: The USAF launched the Atlas F from Cape Canaveral for the first time. It was designed to store

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

liquid fuels for a long time and for a short countdown. It was the only Atlas model put in hardened underground silo lift-launchers. (6) (24)

**Operation SWIFT STRIKE.** This joint USAF-Army exercise at Fort Bragg began when USAF airplanes dropped 7,500 paratroops of the 82d Airborne Division into the area. (16)

- 1962: In tests to reveal the relationship of speed, altitude, and angle of attack to aerodynamic heating of an aircraft's exterior surfaces, the X-15 No. 2 reached nearly 900° F while flying at about 90,000 feet and about 2,900 MPH. Major Robert A. Rushworth flew the aircraft. (24)
- 1967: McGuire AFB received the last C-141 Starlifter, the "Garden State Starlifter," to be delivered to a MAC base from Lockheed. (18)
- 1969: The C-131A Samaritan flew its last domestic aeromedical evacuation mission. Samaritans flew nearly 437,000 accident-free flying hours to airlift some 400,000 patients during their 14-year history in domestic service. (18)
- 1972: An over-the-horizon radar system, capable of detecting missiles as they penetrate the ionosphere, came under the operational command of ADC. This system had sites in both the Pacific and European areas.
- 1975: Five AFRES and ANG C-130s flew 104 sorties through 15 August to drop 1,400 tons of fire retardant on fires in southern California. (21)
- 1984: The first USAFE C-23 Sherpas entered USAF service in the European Distribution System. (16)
- 1990: **Operation DESERT SHIELD.** The first USAF transport, a C-141, arrived in Dhahran. The aircraft had a reserve aircrew. (16) (26)
- 1998: Boeing-Rocketdyne and Air Force Research Laboratory personnel conducted the first successful test burn of the RS-68 rocket engine at Edwards AFB. It was the first new large liquid-fuel rocket motor developed in the US in 25 years. (3)
- 2007: Air Force officials in Washington DC signed a production contract with Lockheed Martin to add 60 F-22 *Raptors* to the Air Force inventory by December 2011. The multiyear contract for the fifth-generation fighters saved the Air Force \$411 million as compared to a traditional annual procurement program of three separate, single-year contracts for 20 aircraft. (AFNEWS, "Air Force Signs Multiyear Contract for F-22," 8 Aug 2007.)

Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne certified the synthetic Fischer-Tropsch fuel blend for the B-52H Stratofortress in a ceremony at Edwards AFB, Calif. (AFNEWS, "SECAF Certifies Synthetic Fuel Blends for B-52H," 8 Aug 2007.)

Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, welcomed its first F-22 *Raptor*. Its arrival made Elmendorf the second operational base in the Air Force and the first base in Pacific Air Forces to receive the new air superiority fighter. At Elmendorf, the F-22s joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wing and the Air Force Reserve Command's 477th Fighter Group. The 477th Fighter Group became the first Air Force Reserve unit to operate and maintain the F-22. (AFNEWS, "Elmendorf Welcomes F-22 Raptor," 8 Aug 2007.)

### 9 August

- 1919: The Secretary of the Navy authorized construction of the Navy's first rigid airship ZR-1, the future USS Shenandoah. (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1944: **MEDAL OF HONOR.** While leading 33 B-26 Marauders from the 394 BG against a railroad bridge on the Seine River in France, Capt Darrell R. Lindsey's right engine received a direct hit and caught on fire. Even though his fuel tanks could explode at any moment, Lindsey decided to lead the bomb run to excellent results. After delivering the bombs, Lindsey ordered the crew to bail out. Before he jumped, the bombardier offered to lower the aircraft's wheels so the pilot could escape, but Lindsey refused. The fuel tanks exploded before Lindsey could leave the controls and the plane plummeted to the ground. For his courage, the Army awarded Lindsey a Medal of Honor posthumously. (4)
- 1945: Maj Charles W. Sweeney, flying the "Bockscar" B-29, dropped a second atomic bomb, called "Fat Man," on Nagasaki. Later in his career, Sweeney became the commander of the Massachusetts ANG. He died on 16 July 2004. (12) (24) (32)
- Through 10 August, 95 B-29s from Guam carried a record average bombload of 20,648 pounds to strike the Nippon Oil Refinery at Amagasaki, Japan. (24)
- 1949: While flying in an F2H-1 Banshee at over 500 knots near Walterboro, S.C., Lt Jack L. "Pappy" Fruin (USN) became the first pilot in the US to use an ejection seat for an emergency escape. (16) (24)
- 1952: Bob Faris flew a Mooney Mite, a light personal business plane, from Wichita to Montpelier, Vt. He covered the 1,400 miles in 11 hours 59 minutes 30 seconds, to set a new nonstop distance record for very light planes. (24)
- 1960: The first US ICBM base began functioning when SAC declared three Atlas D launching pads of the 564 SMS at Francis E. Warren AFB operational. (6) (12)
- 1962: The USAF first demonstrated a multiple countdown capability when a 389 SMW crew from Francis E. Warren AFB successfully launched two Atlas D missiles at Cape Canaveral on 5,000-mile flights. (6)
- 1965: A fire at a Titan II missile site near Searcy, Ark., claimed 53 lives, making this incident the worst disaster in the history of the US missile program.
- 1974: MAC airlifted 160,000 pounds of disaster relief supplies on a C-141 and a C-5 to Cyprus to aid victims of the fighting. (18)
- 1997: C-141 aircrews from the 446 AW (AFRC) at McChord AFB arrived at Kelly AFB with four victims from the 5 August Korean Airlines 747 crash in Guam. Flight nurses and medical technicians from the 349th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 349 AMW (AFRC) at Travis AFB supported the flight. (22)
- 1998: A 305 AMW C-141 from McGuire AFB flew 15 seriously injured State Department employees from Nairobi, Kenya, to Ramstein AB on their way to Landstuhl Region Medical Center. The 11 Americans and 4 Kenyan patients received injuries in the 7 August US embassy bombing in Nairobi, which claimed at least 200 lives and wounded more than 1,000. (22)
- 2005: The 452 AMW at March ARB received the first C-17 Globemaster III to be based in California. Called the *Spirit of California*, the C-17 (tail number 04-4138) flew 65 miles from the Boeing facility in Long Beach, Calif., to March ARB. It was the USAF's 138th operational C-17 and the first of 8 for the 452d to replace its aging fleet of C-141 Starlifters. The 452d was the first wing in the AFRC to be equipped with Globemaster IIIs. (22)

**10 August**

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1912: Through 17 August at Bridgeport, Lts Thomas DeWitt Milling and Benjamin D. Foulois flew Signal Corps planes in Army maneuvers for the first time. (4) (24)
- 1914: Tony Jannus, a hydroairplane pilot of St. Petersburg-Tampa Airline, received the first government license issued in America for aircraft. (24)
- 1938: First Berlin to New York nonstop flight by a B-18 took 24 hours 54 minutes.
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** President Truman mobilized the first two AFRES units, the 437 TCW and the 452 BW, for Korean War service. The 22 BG, 92 BG, and 98 BG dispatched 46 B-29s to bomb an oil refinery and railroad shops at Wonsan, N. Korea. (21) (28)
- 1958: Seven F-101 Voodoo jets set a 5,933-mile distance record for formation flying by completing a flight from Austin, Tex., to Brentwood, England. (24)
- 1960: At Cape Canaveral, the first operationally configured Titan I launched successfully. (6)
- 1961: An F-105 lifted the largest load ever carried aloft by a single-engine aircraft in dropping over seven tons of conventional bombs on a target. (24)
- 1962: The DoD revealed that Lockheed's VZ-10 Hummingbird turbojet vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) aircraft built for the Army had completed its first flight. (24)
- 1965: Bell Aerosystems began the first scheduled hovercraft service in the US between Oakland and San Francisco.
- 1966: Lunar Orbiter I launched from Cape Kennedy, and 92 hours later it entered a lunar orbit to take photos of possible Apollo landing sites.
- 1967: Maj Bernard F. Fisher received the Cheney Award, given annually for an outstanding act of valor. He rescued a fellow pilot in Vietnam while under enemy fire. (See 10 March 1966) (16)
- 1968: The 375 AAW at Scott AFB received the first McDonnell-Douglas C-9A Nightingale. It was the first military aeromedical evacuation aircraft to be jet powered. (18)
- 1976: Boeing's YC-14 flew its maiden flight around Seattle. (16)
- 1979: Through 17 August, MAC flew 31 C-141 missions from Lubumhashi, Zaire, to Rabat-Sale, Morocco; Dakar, Senegal; Lome, Togo; and Abidjan, Ivory Coast, to return 1,440 troops and 603.3 tons of cargo from a temporary Inter-African peacekeeping force in Zaire. (18)
- 1983: SECDEF Caspar W. Weinberger directed the USAF to deploy 100 Peacekeeper missiles in Minuteman Silos. (16) (26)
- 1988: Fighting between rebel and government forces in southern Sudan drove hundreds of thousands of people seeking food and shelter to refugee camps. At the request of the Sudanese government, the 60<sup>th</sup> and 436 MAWs flew humanitarian missions to furnish 70 tons of plastic sheeting for shelters in addition to food and other supplies. (26)
- 2006: NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards AFB began flight tests on the Quiet Spike project to study the suppression of sonic booms. The tests involved NASA's F-15B fitted with a 24-foot-long retractable spike on its nose. The spike, built of composite materials, changed its length in flight to create three small shock waves traveling parallel to each other, all the way to the ground. (3)



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 11 August

- 1906: Mrs. C. J. S. Miller became the first woman in the US to fly as an airship passenger. Her husband, Major Miller of Franklin, Pa., owned the 40-horsepower 22,500-cubic-foot airship. (24)
- 1910: Armstrong Drexel, an American, flew a Bleriot airplane to a FAI altitude record of 6,605 feet at Lanark, Scotland. (9)
- 1944: Eighth Air Force sent 956 heavy bombers, escorted by 578 fighters, to attack transportation facilities and military targets in eastern France. (4)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** C-119 Flying Boxcars began airlifting trucks from Tachikawa AB to Taegu. (28)
- Air Force detachable fuselage transport XC-120, built by Fairchild, completed its maiden flight.
- 1954: The Air Force issued a requirement for the Atlas ICBM. (6)
- 1960: Navy frogmen recovered a 300-pound capsule ejected by Discoverer XIII. This marked the first recovery of an object ejected by an orbiting satellite. When the capsule came down outside the designated area, the planned aerial retrieval had to be abandoned. (16) (24)
- 1961: Aerojet-General Corporation fired an Aerobee rocket in a test basin at Azuza, Calif. This test included the first successful underwater launching of a liquid-fueled rocket. (24)
- 1962: The 1608th Transport Wing at Charleston AFB received the first C-130E Hercules for the MATS. (18)
- 1972: Northrop's Hank Chouteau flew F-5E international fighter on its first flight. This flight marked the beginning of Northrop's development, test, and evaluation program. (3)
- 1977: Testing at Luke AFB revealed that the Missile-X buried trench basing mode could not withstand explosive pressures. This led the USAF to switch to a hybrid trench-basing concept. (6)
- 1978: In the Double Eagle II balloon, Ben Abruzzo, Maxie Anderson, and Larry Newman completed the first balloon crossing of the Atlantic. They flew 3,100 miles from Presque Isle, Maine, to Miserey, France. (21)
- 1993: Through 15 August, three C-5s from the 436 AW airlifted 190 tons of bridge components from England to Nepal after a flood washed out bridges there. (16)
- 1994: **GLOBAL ENTERPRISE.** Through 14 August, in an ACC power-projection exercise, two Rockwell B-1Bs from Ellsworth AFB, S. Dak., flew to Europe, across the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, and around the Arabian Peninsula to land at a staging base in Southwest Asia. After a crew change, the B-1s then flew back to Ellsworth through Japan and over the Aleutians. The 37.3 hours for the total flight and 24 hours for the first leg were the longest flights to date by the B-1B. (20)
- 2003: A C-9A Nightingale (No. 68-10959) assigned to the 375 AW at Scott AFB performed the last scheduled C-9 aeromedical evacuation mission. The aircraft airlifted one litter patient, a few space-available travelers, and several soldiers wounded in Iraq to their home stations in the US in a 5.6-hour mission. (22)
- 2004: AFFTC conducted the final evaluation sortie on a new F-16 High-Speed Anti-Radiation Missile (HARM) targeting system at Edwards AFB. The testers used a South Carolina ANG Block 50 F-16 to expedite the Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses (SEAD) improvement. (3)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 12 August

- 1908: Lts Frank P. Lahm, Benjamin D. Foulois,, and Thomas E. Selfridge began the first, official American airship tests at Fort Myer. (24) (See 28 August)
- 1918: Civilian pilots began flying airmail for the Post Office Department. (5)
- 1930: Capt Frank Hawks broke his previous round-trip transcontinental record of 27 June 1929 by 9 hours 33 minutes for a flight from New York to Los Angeles and back. He reached Los Angeles in 12 hours 25 minutes 3 seconds and returned to New York in 14 hours 50 minutes. (9)
- 1941: Capt Homer Boushey, Jr., flew an Ercoupe civilian airplane on the first successful rocket- assisted takeoff at Wright Field. (21) (24)
- 1945: From bases in China, Fourteenth Air Force attacked troops and convoys in Changsha corridor, China. (5)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** USN Task Force 77 moved up Korea's west coast to attack interdiction targets in N. Korea, leaving all close air support and interdiction strikes in S. Korea to FEAF. More than forty B-29s attacked the Rashin port in northeast Korea, near the Soviet border. (28)
- 1957: With Lt Cmdr James M. Pruitt (USN) as the pilot, a Douglas A3D twin-jet Skywarrior flew from Hawaii to California. It covered the 2,438 miles in 4 hours 12 minutes to set a record for the eastward flight.
- 1960: Echo I, a passive communications satellite, placed in orbit.
- Maj Robert M. White flew the X-15 to a new FAI record of 136,500 feet to break Capt Iven Kincheloe's 1956 record of 126,200 feet in the X-2. (9) (24)
- 1961: The USS Abraham Lincoln set a record for underwater launchings by firing six Polaris missiles in one day. (16) (24)
- 1962: After two years in orbit, the Echo I satellite established that inflatable structures could function in space for long periods. In its 9,000 orbits, the aluminized mylar plastic balloon covered 277,257,677.67 miles while supporting some 150 communications experiments. (24)
- 1971: 2Lt Robert Stratton weighed 1,520 pounds for 45 seconds to establish a record for sustained high-G endurance. He set the record in a USAF School of Aerospace Medicine study.
- 1972: Lt Col Wendell Shawler became the first USAF pilot to fly the F-15. (3)
- At Indianola, Ind., Wilma Piccard flew 17.6 miles in a Piccard S-10 balloon to set a FAI distance record for subclass A-1 balloons (under 250 cubic meters). (9)
- 1977: The Space Shuttle Enterprise, a test vehicle designed to operate in the atmosphere, completed its first launch, descent, and landing from the back of a 747 at 22,800 feet above Edwards AFB. NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center conducted the test program. (21)
- 1985: Through 15 October, a 436 MAW C-5A Galaxy delivered 35 tons of equipment, including three helicopters, to assist over 2 million flood- and famine-stricken victims in Western Sudan. The helicopters distributed grain to famine victims that were cut off from road and rail transportation. (16)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1987: Dr. Sally Ride, the first American woman in space and the Associate Administrator for the Office of Exploration in NASA, released a study on long range goals for the US space effort. It recommended four endeavors: using space to study Earth, exploring the solar system, setting up an outpost on the moon, and making a manned expedition to Mars.
- 1991: The F-15 STOL demonstrator made its last flight at Edwards AFB, validating the F-15's Autonomous Landing Guidance System during a night landing at Edwards. (30)
- 1992: **Operation PROVIDE TRANSITION.** Through 7 October, C-130s helped Angola prepare for its first democratic elections by flying 8,805 demobilized soldiers home after 16 years of civil war and 265 tons of cargo on 326 sorties. (16) (18)
- 2005: From the Virginia ANG's 192 FW, Lt Col Phillip Guy became the first pilot to complete F-22 initial qualification training, while TSgt Scott Browning and TSgt David Dehart became the ANG's first F-22 maintainers. After completing training, Guy moved from Richmond IAP to Langley AFB, Va., to begin the wing's integration with the 1 FW. (32)

### 13 August

- 1917: The 1st Aero Squadron, which departed Columbus, N.Mex., on 5 August, sailed for Europe under command of Maj Ralph Royce. It was the first squadron to report for flying duty in the American Expeditionary Forces. (24)
- 1943: The Northwest African Strategic Air Force bombed Weiner Neustadt in the first mission from Mediterranean bases against targets in greater Germany. (24)
- 1944: Two GB-4 Glide Bombs, with television and radio controls, were launched against E-boat pens at Le Havre, France. Four additional GB-4s were sent against targets in France and Germany between 17 August and 13 September 1944. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Advancing N. Korean Army forces caused two 35 FIG squadrons of F-51s to move from Yonil AB, S. Korea, to Tsuiki AB, Japan. (28)
- 1952: The USAF ordered the Boeing B-52 Stratofortress, an eight jet heavy bomber, into full-scale production. (12) (24)
- 1953: The XC-99, the world's largest plane to date, made its first transatlantic flight from Kelly AFB to Frankfurt, Germany, with 60,000 pounds of cargo.
- 1959: Using a Thor-Agena rocket, the USAF launched Discoverer V, a satellite with nose cone reentry capsule, into a polar orbit from the Pacific Missile Range. A malfunction prevented the capsule's recovery, and the satellite fell from orbit on 16 September. (16) (24)
- 1960: Through 17 August, in the largest peacetime maneuver to date, AF Reserve troop carrier wings moved 10,400 men of the 101st Airborne Division from Camp Campbell, Ky., to Fort Bragg. (24)
- 1962: Ten USAF pilots completed a month-long stay in a simulated space cabin. (24)
- 1967: Through 16 August the Alaskan Air Command, assisted by the Alaska ANG and other Air Force units, conducted a three-day rescue and support operation after a flood hit the Fairbanks area. AFCS in Alaska provided emergency communications, while MAC provided airlift support. (16) (26)
- 1978: **NEPTUNE III.** Through 22 August, the largest joint airborne operations conducted to date oc-

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

curred at Pope AFB, N.C. (16)

- 1987: The Marine Corps accepted five Kfir C-2 Lion Cub aircraft from Israel Aircraft Industries to use as aggressor aircraft in dissimilar air combat training at Yuma Marine Corps Air Station, Ariz.
  - 1995: A 60 AMW C-5 Galaxy airlifted 75 tons of food from Germany to Croatia to feed war victims. (16) (26)
  - 1998: At Altus AFB, a 54 AREFS KC-135 received the first Pacer CRAG and Traffic Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) modifications. The TCAS modification gave pilots the ability to see other aircraft and get advance warning of possible mid-air collisions. (See 2 June 1998 for details on Pacer CRAG) (AFNEWS Article 981260, 25 Aug 98)
- After 12 Americans died in a terrorist bombing of the US embassy in Nairobi on 7 August, a 437 AW C-17 from Charleston AFB returned 10 victims to Andrews AFB. In a hangar at Andrews, President William J. Clinton presided over a national ceremony of remembrance. On 12 August, a 436 AW C-5 from Dover AFB returned the eleventh victim, SMSgt Sherry Lynn Olds, from Ramstein AB to Dover, where a 375 AW C-9 from Scott AFB flew her remains to Panama City, Florida, her hometown. The twelfth American victim, married to a Kenyan, was buried in Kenya. (22)
- 2001: NASA's experimental, solar-powered, remotely piloted Helios aircraft reached a record 96,500 feet in altitude for UAVs in a 17-hour flight. (21)
  - 2004: A C-17 flying for the AFFTC at Edwards AFB airdropped a 52,500-pound Army Stryker Engineer Squad Vehicle, equipped with a Mobile Gun System, from some 12 feet above the Rogers Dry Lake as part of a feasibility test. (3)

### 14 August

- 1911: Through 25 August, Harry N. Atwood flew from St. Louis to New York, covering 1,155 miles, in the longest cross-country flight to date. (24)
- 1917: Lt. E.O. McDonnell (USN) launched a torpedo from a seaplane at Huntington Bay, Long Island. Afterwards, the Navy became seriously interested in launching torpedos from aircraft.
- 1919: An Aeromarine flying boat delivered the first airmail to a steamer at sea, when it dropped mail off to the White Star Liner Adriatic. (24)
- 1942: When Lt Elza Shahn ferried his P-38 to England, he spotted a German FW-200 Condor near Iceland. These German long-range reconnaissance aircraft gathered data on weather and allied shipping to help U-boats attack ships in the Atlantic. Shahn turned and shot the Condor down, becoming the first American Army pilot to shoot down a German plane in World War II. (4)
- 1945: **FINAL B-29 COMBAT MISSION AGAINST JAPAN.** This Twentieth Air Force mission included a record number of effective aircraft: 754 B-29s and 169 fighters. One phase of the mission, against Tsuchizaka, produced the longest unstaged mission (3,650 miles) of the war from the Marianas. (21)
- 1954: Convair delivered the last B-36 to the Air Force.
- 1957: SAC's Deputy Director of Operations, Brig Gen James V. Edmundson, flew a 321 BMW B-47 nonstop from Andersen AFB to Sidi Slimane, Morocco. He set a B-47 record for distance: 11,450 miles in 22 hours 50 minutes. He used four refuelings from KC-97 tankers during his journey. (1)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1959: The last active B-17 left for stockpile at Tucson. Seven days earlier, the Air Force destroyed the last B-17 drone.
- 1963: At Edwards AFB, Maj Robert W. Smith flew Northrop's F-5A multi-purpose fighter in its first military test flight. (3)
- 1964: The first combat employment of the F-105D in Southeast Asia involved 36 TFS aircraft from Korat RTAFB. (17)
- 1968: **PROJECT GIANT BOOST.** The third attempt to launch a Minuteman II from an operational base, Grand Forks AFB, failed. (6)
- 1971: The first C-5A landed at Tan Son Nhut AB to deliver general cargo and pick up three C-47 helicopters. (18)
- 1974: Northrop Corporation rolled out the F-5F at Hawthorne. (12)
- 1978: Through 16 August, as part of flood relief operations, a C-141 Starlifter delivered 26 tons of supplies to Khartoum. (16) (26)
- 1980: A C-5A with modified wings made its first flight at Dobbins AFB. Under this contract, Lockheed-Georgia had to retrofit 77 C-5As with new wings by July 1987. (16) (26)
- 1992: **Operation PROVIDE RELIEF.** Through 28 February 1993, US airlifters moved over 23,000 tons of food, water, medicine, and other relief supplies in 3,000 missions to Somalia. The supplies helped thousands of starving refugees, who suffered from a prolonged drought and civil war. The airlifters flew over 3,100 missions to deliver 34,400 tons of cargo in the operation. (16) (18) (21)
- 2003: A B-2 flown by an AFFTC crew released two GBU-28 B/B bombs at the Utah Testing and Training Range. This was the first successful live drop of the newly upgraded 5,000-pound weapon, an enhanced version of the GBU-28 designed specifically for the B-2. (3)

### 15 August

- 1929: Lts Nicholas B. Mamer and Arthur Walker flew the Buhl Sesquiplane, "The Spokane Sun God," with a Wright Whirlwind engine, from Spokane, Wash., to the East Coast and back. They set a nonstop distance record of 7,200 miles by using 11 inflight air refuelings. (9) (24)
- 1935: Will Rogers and Wiley Post died when their aircraft, a hybrid Lockheed Orion-Explorer, crashed on takeoff near Point Barrow, Alaska. (9) (24)
- 1944: In the greatest one-day effort in the Mediterranean to date, Allied Air Forces flew 4,249 sorties and landed 9,000 airborne troops in Southern France. (24)
- 1945: **VICTORY DAY--JAPAN.** After the 6 and 9 August bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with atomic bombs, the Japanese government announced its intention to surrender "unconditionally," subject to an Allied agreement to maintain the monarchy. Washington declared a cease-fire immediately. (17)
- 1951: At Muroc, Bill Bridgeman flew the Navy's Douglas D-558-2 Skyrocket to 79,494 feet to set a new altitude record. (9)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** The 315th Air Division transported 300 medical evacuees, the highest daily

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

total for the month. (28)

- 1958: A B-52 launched a GAM-72A Quail flight test vehicle on its first powered flight at Holloman AFB. (6)
- Congress created the FAA with broad responsibilities over airways, air traffic (including military) airports, and missile or rocket sites. This action permitted military participation in the agency, military deviations from air traffic regulations in an emergency, and appeals to the President on disagreements over military airport locations. (8)
- 1959: SAC activated the last Atlas D unit, the 566 SMS, at Offutt AFB. (6)
- 1961: NASA launched Explorer XII. This “windmill” satellite studied the Van Allen belts and energy particles. Its highly eccentric orbit permitted the study of phenomena at altitudes between 170 and 50,000 miles. (24)
- 1962: Capt Gene Kruse set a cross country speed record for commercial jets by flying a Boeing 707-720B from New York to Los Angeles (2,474 miles) in 4 hours 19 minutes 15 seconds, at 571.64 MPH.
- 1963: The last 15 Thor missiles were taken off alert in the UK to phaseout this program. (6)
- 1964: The President announced a program to develop a counterinsurgency (COIN) airplane to perform various missions in peace and war. The Navy, as the designated DoD development agency, selected North American Aviation as the contractor for construction of the prototype. This plane later received the designation of OV-10A and the name Bronco.
- In a sealed space station at General Electric's Valley Forge Space Technology Center, Valley Forge, Pa., Cpts Albert H. Crews and Richard E. Lawyer began a 15-day space mission. (3)
- 1970: Through 24 August, two new HH-53 rescue helicopters made a 9,000-mile flight from Eglin AFB to Da Nang, S. Vietnam. The flight, which took nine days with seven intermediate stops, included a 1,700-mile nonstop transpacific flight between Shemya Island in the Aleutians and Misawa Air Base, Japan. Lockheed HC-130 tankers refueled the helicopters in this first transpacific helicopter flight. (18)
- 1975: The USAF studied ground mobile and silo basing for the M-X missile. (6)
- 1977: Two AFRES C-130B Hercules aircraft deployed to California, where they made 38 fire-retardant drops on four major forest fires. (16) (26)
- 1981: Boeing Company in Wichita returned the first B-52G, modified to carry ALCMs, to Griffiss AFB and the 416 BWB. This modification included an offensive avionics system (OAS) to improve the B-52's navigation and weapons delivery. (1) (6)
- 1983: Through 15 September, MAC flew 12 C-141 missions loaded with 185 tons of cargo to Chad under a security assistance program. (2)
- 1988: **Operation POST ROAD.** Through 28 August, with support from 40 KC-135 and KC-10 refueling missions, C-5s airlifted a 500-man UN peacekeeping force from Trenton, Ontario, to Incirlik AB and Baghdad, Iraq. The peacekeeping force monitored the UN-negotiated cease-fire between Iran and Iraq. (18)
- 2002: The USAF and the Boeing Company signed a \$9.8 billion multiyear contract to buy 60 more C-17 Globemaster IIIs with delivery through July 2008. (22)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 16 August

- 1909: The Acting Secretary of the Navy disapproved a Navy Bureau of Equipment request to advertise for “two heavier than air flying machines,” because the airplane’s development had not progressed sufficiently for use in the Navy. (29)
- 1916: A group of American pilots fighting with the French set up the “Lafayette Escadrille.”
- 1922: The Sperry airway light beacon demonstrated at McCook Field. (24)
- 1927: Art C. Goebel and Lt William V. Davis (USN) won the Dole Oakland-Honolulu race in 26 hours 17 minutes in the Woolaroc, a small single-engine monoplane. It was named after the Woolaroc Ranch in northeastern Oklahoma, the retreat of oilman Frank Phillips. Of the eight aircraft beginning the race, only the Woolaroc and one other plane completed the flight. Ten people died in the event. (24)
- 1947: Physicist Martin Pomerantz announced at Swarthmore College that four free balloons carried cosmic ray equipment to a record height between 127,000 and 129,000 feet. (24)
- A production-model Convair B-36A flew for the first time. (24)
- 1948: Northrop’s XF-89 Scorpion made its first flight at Edwards AFB. (12)
- 1949: The Berlin Airlift carried a record 12,940 tons of supplies in 24-hours.
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** On a 27-square-mile area near Waegwan, South Korea, 98 B-29s dropped more than 800 tons of bombs on suspected enemy troop concentrations. This attack was the largest employment of heavy bombers against ground forces since World War II’s Normandy invasion. (21) (28)
- 1960: Capt Joseph W. Kittinger Jr. reached the highest altitude ever reached by man in unpowered flight. His 200-foot-diameter, helium-filled polyethylene balloon, with an open gondola, carried him to 102,800 feet over New Mexico. He then parachuted in free fall for 4 1/2 minutes, at speeds above 600 MPH, before opening his parachute at 17,500 feet. The jump took 13 minutes 8 seconds. (9) (24)
- 1965: **MACKAY TROPHY.** TAC’s 464 TCW received the 1964 trophy for its November 1964 airlift of 1,500 hostages and refugees from rebel-held territory in the Congo.
- 1968: The first Boeing LGM-30G Minuteman III ICBM launch from Cape Kennedy succeeded. (6) (12)
- 1969: Darryl Greenaymer, a civilian test pilot, flew a Grumman F8F-2 Bearcat to a FAI record of 482.462 MPH for piston-engine planes on a 3-kilometer course at Edwards AFB. (3) (9)
- 1970: A C-5A Galaxy flew a 20.5-hour nonstop flight without refueling in the longest endurance mission for the world’s largest aircraft of the time. The C-5A traveled more than 7,000 miles from Edwards AFB to Seattle, Bangor, Atlanta, and back to Edwards AFB, touching the four corners of the US. (3)
- 1972: The Air Force and Navy signed an agreement for joint participation in the F-15 engine program at the Pratt & Whitney plant in East Hartford, Conn. (12)
- 2002: **GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR.** The USAF extended the mobilization of over 14,000 Guardsmen and Reservists, mostly security forces, into a second year of this conflict. (32)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 17 August

- 1914: Capt Lewis E. Goodier, Jr., began official tests on the Scott bomb-dropping device in a new Martin T at Signal Corps Aviation School at North Island. This coincided with the start of unaided aerial bombing in the war. (24)
- 1918: Martin test pilot Thomas Eric Springer flew the first Martin Bomber at Cleveland. (24)
- 1942: **FIRST EIGHTH AIR FORCE MISSION.** Col Frank A. Armstrong, Jr., led 12 B-17s from the 97 BG against the Rouen-Sotteville marshalling yards in France. The raid, which was the first Eighth Air Force heavy bomber mission from the U. K. against Western Europe in World War II, demonstrated the feasibility of daylight bombing. (4) (21)
- 1943: Eighth Air Force sent more than 300 B-17s on its first raid against the ball bearing plants at Schweinfurt and the aircraft plants at Regensburg. It suffered heavy losses as 60 bombers fell, mostly to enemy fighters. Those losses caused military leaders to reexamine the heavy bomber's ability to protect itself and delayed the next mission to Germany until 6 September. This mission was also the first shuttle operation in the European theater as some aircraft landed at bases in North Africa. (4) (21)
- The ATC used a C-87 Liberator to carry Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt on a tour of the Pacific theater to boost morale, inspect Red Cross installations, and learn how women from Australia and New Zealand supported the war. (2)
- 1946: Sgt Lawrence Lambert at Wright Field became the first person in the US to be ejected from an aircraft by ejection seat. He ejected from a P-61 flying at 302 MPH at 7,800 feet in altitude. (21) (24)
- 1949: The Senate ratified the Geneva international treaty regarding rights in aircraft. (24)
- 1951: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Col Fred J. Ascani flew a combat-equipped F-86E Sabre at 635.686 MPH to set a 100-kilometer world record course at the National Air Races in Detroit. (21)
- 1955: Twelve F-84F Thunderstreaks flew nonstop 5,118 miles from London, England, to Austin in 10 hours 43 minutes to set distance and time records for a mass flight. (24)
- 1959: NASA launched a Nike-Asp rocket from Wallops Island to 150 miles in altitude and ignited a sodium flare to test wind direction, velocity and the rate of matter diffusion in the upper stratosphere. (24)
- 1961: The BOMARC-B missile completed a critical profile flight by destroying a B-47 drone at a minimum range of 50 nautical miles and 5,000 feet in altitude. (16) (24)
- 1962: The Douglas Aircraft Company fired the Saturn C-1 booster's S-IV stage in a 10-second static test at Sacramento. (24)
- 1963: A ferry from Okinawa sank in the Ryukyu Islands with 261 people aboard. PACAF rescue units from Naha AB and other military units responded and rescued 235 people from the sea. (17)
- 1969: Hurricane Camille, the strongest storm to hit the US to date, damaged the Mississippi Gulf Coast. People from TAC, MAC, ATC, and AFCS, the AFRES, and ANG provided emergency aid. The USAF delivered 5,900 tons of cargo with six different types of airlifters to the region by 16 September. (21)



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1972: The USAF changed navigator bombardier training into a nonflying training program to save \$1.9 million a year.
- 1974: The Teledyne Ryan long-range reconnaissance drone, Compass Cope, completed its first flight at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1978: The Air Force accepted its first production-model F-16 Fighting Falcon in a ceremony at the General Dynamics plant in Fort Worth, Texas. (16)
- 1990: **Operation DESERT SHIELD/STORM.** President George Bush activated the Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF) for the first time since its authorization in 1952. The move increased the availability of airlift for the Middle East. CRAF aircraft transported 709,613 passengers and 126,309 tons of cargo during the buildup and wartime operations. (16) (18)
- 1993: A 13,000-pound steel guillotine cut the first of 350 B-52Gs into pieces by the Aircraft Maintenance and Regeneration Center (AMARC) at Davis-Monthan AFB. The bombers were being destroyed under the terms of the START II Treaty. (20)
- 1994: The Air Force's second operational B-2 (#8-0330), the Spirit of California, joined the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman. (15)
- 1995: **Operation VIGILANT SENTINEL/Exercise INTRINSIC ACTION.** Following turmoil in Iraq and renewed threats of military action against its neighbors, AMC initiated an airlift to augment Southern Watch forces under Operation **VIGILANT SENTINEL**. The operation later evolved into Exercise **INTRINSIC ACTION**. AMC dispatched over 100 strategic and commercial aircraft flights to carry more than 2,200 passengers and over 1,300 short tons of cargo to the region through late August. (18)
- The E-8C JSTARS began flight tests. (16) (26)
- 1996: **Operation NOAH'S ARK.** Due to increased terrorism in the Persian Gulf, AMC contracted a Boeing 747 to return 300 DoD family members from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to the US on 18 August. On 17 August, a C-141 flew 90 cats and dogs belonging to the families to the US in the operation. (18)

### 18 August

- 1910: At Fort Sam Houston, Cpl Glen Madole and Oliver G. Simmons, the Army's first civilian aircraft mechanic, added wheels to Signal Corps Airplane No. 1. This effort produced a tricycle landing gear that eliminated the need for launching rails and catapults. (21)
- 1911: **CHICAGO AIR MEET.** Phillip O. Parmalee established a new American altitude record of 10,837 feet. (24)
- 1926: First contract let for a metal-clad airship. (24)
- 1941: President Roosevelt announced agreements to let Pan American Airways ferry warplanes from the US to British forces in the Middle East via West Africa. (24)
- 1948: The Berlin Airlift corridor equipped with flight aids to ensure winter airlift operations. (4)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR/Operation STRANGLE.** FEAF began this operation against N. Korean railroads. (28)
- 1956: Last class in Air Force to fly piston-engined T-6 aircraft graduated at Barstow AB, Fla. The Air

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Force used various versions of the T-6 to polish pilot skills since 1941.

- 1965: The first Minuteman II launch from an operationally configured silo at Vandenberg AFB succeeded. (6)
- 1977: The USAF accepted its first F-16B from General Dynamics at Fort Worth. (12)
- 1978: At McConnell AFB, A1C Tina M. Ponzer (381 SMW) became SAC's first enlisted female to perform Titan II alert duty. (1) (6)
- 1987: The 308 SMW's inactivation at Little Rock AFB officially ended SAC's Titan II missile program.
- 1992: **Operation SOUTHERN WATCH Begins.** The operation restricted Iraqi flights south of 32 degrees north latitude. AMC airlifted US forces to Saudi Arabia to support the operation. The command also deployed tankers to refuel fighters flying combat air patrols. (16) (18)
- 1993: The McDonnell Douglas "Delta Clipper Experimental" (DC-X), a subscale, single-stage-to-orbit prototype completed a 60-second flight over White Sands Missile Range. The 42-foot-tall craft took off vertically, hovered at 150 feet, moved laterally 350 feet, and landed tail down. (20)
- 1999: **Operation AVID RESPONSE.** After a devastating earthquake rocked western Turkey, AMC began its support of this international relief effort. A C-5 from the 436 AW at Dover AFB left the US for Istanbul with a 70-person search and rescue team. The team, with 5 search and rescue dogs, 56,000 pounds of equipment, and three vehicles, set up operations in nearby Izmit. Two KC-10s from the 305 AMW at McGuire AFB refueled the C-5 during its nonstop flight to Turkey. By 10 September, when the AVID RESPONSE task force at Topel NAS, Turkey, disbanded, AMC aircraft had flown 20 missions to support the earthquake relief effort. (22)
- 2005: The 7th Bomb Wing at Dyess AFB became the first unit to achieve initial operational capability with the JASSM cruise missile. (AFNEWS Article, "Dyess AFB Demonstrates B-1B's Upgrades, Combat Capabilities," 19 August 2005)

### 19 August

- 1910: Through 28 August, Glenn H. Curtiss gave the first real flying exhibition at Sheepshead Bay Track, Brooklyn. (24)
- 1928: Arthur Goebel and Harry Tucker used a Lockheed Vega monoplane to fly Los Angeles to Curtiss Field, Long Island. They set a new cross-country record of 18 hours 58 minutes. (9) (24)
- 1938: The first transcontinental nonstop flight by a B-18 bomber traveled from Hamilton Field to Mitchell Field in 15 hours 18 minutes. (24)
- 1940: North American B-25 Mitchell bomber first flew. (12)
- 1942: 2Lt Sam F. Junkin became the first active duty American pilot to shoot down a German fighter over Europe while giving air support to a commando raid on Dieppe, France. (4)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Aided by air strikes, U.S. troops drove N. Korean forces near the Yongsan bridgehead back across the Naktong River to end the Battle of the Naktong Bulge. Sixty-three B-29s attacked the industrial and port area of Chongjin in NE Korea, while nine B-29s from the 19 BG dropped 54 tons of 1,000-pound bombs on the west railway bridge at Seoul. Moreover, 37 USN dive bombers from two carriers followed up the USAF attack. Afterwards, aerial reconnaissance revealed the collapse of two spans. (28)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Far East Air Forces aircraft dropped general warning leaflets over Pyongyang concerning the next night's attacks. (28)
- 1957: **Project MAN HIGH II.** Through 20 August Maj David G. Simons set a FAI altitude record of 101,516 feet for manned balloon flight. He ascended at Crosby, Minn., and landed at Elm Lake, S.Dak., after being airborne for 32 hours. (9)
- 1959: Discoverer VI, a USAF satellite, launched into a polar orbit from the Pacific Missile Range. Its instrument capsule was not recovered. (24)
- 1960: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Capt Harold E. Mitchell piloted a Fairchild C-119 to make the first aerial retrieval of an orbited capsule. Discoverer XIV, which launched on 18 August, ejected the capsule. For this aerial recovery, the 6593d Test Squadron (Special) received the Mackay Trophy. (See 11 August 1960) (16) (24) (26)
- 1964: A Thor-Delta rocket carried the Hughes SYNCOM III communications satellite into space. After several weeks of minor maneuvering, the satellite achieved a near-perfect stationary position above the equator and International Date Line. That achievement made SYNCOM III the world's first geostationary satellite. (16) (26)
- 1970: At Minot AFB, the first Minuteman III ICBMs went on alert with the 741 SMS. (6)
- 1972: Through 20 August, MAC HH-3 Jolly Green Giant and HH-43 Huskie helicopters rescued 748 Koreans from flood waters in the Osan area after 18 inches of rain fell in less than 30 hours. (16) (26)
- 1974: Through 20 August, 3 C-141s carried 600 tents and 15,000 blankets into Bangladesh after severe floods. (18)
- 1976: **Operation PAUL BUNYAN.** Through 21 August, following the murder of 2 American Army officers in the Demilitarized Zone by North Koreans, MAC used 11 C-141 missions to airlift 212 F-4 air and ground crewmembers and 132 tons of their equipment from Kadena AB to Kunsan AB. Later, 3 C-5 and 13 C-141 missions airlifted an F-111 force of 348 people and 299 tons of cargo from Idaho to Taegu AB. With KC-135 refuelings, the C-5s flew their missions nonstop. Two more C-141 missions moved 38 passengers and 26 tons of ammunition from Eglin AFB to Osan AB. (18)
- 1984: **TYPHOON KELL.** Through 20 August, two C-141s from Twenty-Second Air Force evacuated 382 US military and civilian personnel from Johnson Island to avoid the typhoon. (16) (26)

### 20 August

- 1908: The Wright Flyer arrived at Fort Myer.
- 1910: At Sheepshead Bay Track near New York, Lt Jacob E. Fickel fired the first shot from an airplane with an Army Springfield .30 caliber rifle. Glenn H. Curtiss flew a Curtiss biplane in this flight. (20) (24)
- 1911: **CHICAGO AIR MEET.** Lincoln Beachey set a new, world altitude record of 11,624 feet. (24)
- 1912: 1Lt Alfred A. Cunningham, first Marine Corps pilot, flew his first solo flight in a Wright hydroplane after two hours 30 minutes of instruction with the Burgess Company at Marblehead. (10)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1935: Leslie R. Tower and three crewmen flew a Boeing 299 bomber, the B-17 prototype, for 2,100 miles from Seattle to Dayton nonstop, averaging 232.2 MPH. (24)
- 1947: Cmdr Turner F. Caldwell (USN) set a world speed record of 640.74 MPH in the Douglas Sky-streak D-588-1. (9) (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Through 21 August, 38 B-29s bombed supply areas in the enemy's capital, the highest number of medium bomber sorties against a single target this month. (28)
- 1953: **Operation LONGSTRIDE/MACKAY TROPHY:** SAC moved the 31st and 508th Strategic Fighter Wings (SFW) from Turner AFB to Nouasseur AB, French Morocco, and Lakenheath, UK, respectively. In Phase I, 8 F-84 Thunderjets from the 31st used 3 KC-97 air refuelings to reach Nouasseur in 10 hours 20 minutes. The 31st returned home on 2 September. Phase II also started today as 17 F-84Gs from the 508th flew 4,485 miles to Lakenheath AB. With 3 air refuelings (1 KB-29 and 2 KC-97), these F-84s traveled the greatest distance flown nonstop to date by single-engine jet fighters. The unit returned to Turner on 12 September. For this operation, the 40 AD earned the Mackay Trophy. (1) (24)
- Dr. Wernher von Braun and his team joined US Army personnel at Cape Canaveral in firing the first Redstone (Redstone No. 1). It was our first truly ballistic missile. (16) (24)
- 1955: **MACKAY TROPHY.** At Edwards AFB Col Horace A. Hanes, the AFFTC Director of Flight Testing, flew a F-100C to an FAI speed record of 822.135 MPH for straightaway flight. He later received the 1955 Mackay Trophy. (9) (24)
- 1962: In an X-15 flight, Maj Robert A. Rushworth participated in the first successful attempt to telemeter electrocardiogram (EKG) data. (3)
- 1973: Airlifters from MAC, TAC, and AFRES airlifted 2,400 tons of relief supplies and equipment to Pakistan for flood victims. (21)
- 1975: SECDEF James R. Schlesinger directed the USAF to provide refueling support to US Navy and Marine Corps tactical aircraft involved in peacetime training and transoceanic movements. He also tasked the USAF to provide refueling support to general-purpose forces in periods of increased tension. The directive allowed SAC to acquire additional tankers. (18)
- The 320 BMW at Mather AFB received the last SRAM. (6)
- Using a Titan III booster, NASA launched the Viking I mission to Mars (See 20 June 1976) from Cape Canaveral AFS. (8: Aug 90)
- 1977: Voyager 2 launched from Cape Canaveral. (20)
- 1990: **Operation DESERT SHIELD.** More than 15,300 reservists, roughly 22 percent of the reserve force, volunteered to serve in DESERT SHIELD. (26)
- 1995: Through 21 August, a C-5 flew 75 tons of food from Ramstein AB to Zagreb, Croatia, for refugees of a civil war. (16)
- 1998: **ATTACK ON US EMBASSIES IN AFRICA.** After the 7 August bombings of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, the US launched more than 75 Tomahawk land-attack missiles from ships and submarines against terrorist targets in Afghanistan and Sudan. (21)
- 2007: **Operation DEEP FREEZE 2007-08/WINTER FLY-IN.** Winter flights began to Antarctica, when the first C-17 Globemaster III delivered passengers and cargo to McMurdo Station. Landing 15 miles from McMurdo at Pegasus White Ice Runway, the C-17 Globemaster III from Mc-

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Chord AFB, Wash., carried in scientists and support members to start early pre-summer projects, augment maintenance personnel and prepare skyways and ice runways at McMurdo. On 25 August, McChord completed the 2007-08 winter fly-in season when the last C-17 took off from Pegasus. The 304th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron flew a total of 355 passengers and 119,953 pounds of cargo to and from McMurdo during this season. (AFNEWS, "Winter Flights to Antarctica Wrap Up," 27 Aug 2007, and AFNEWS, "Operation Deep Freeze 2007-08 Begins," 21 Aug 2007.)

### 21 August

- 1918: For saving a downed US Navy pilot near an Austrian naval base at Pola, Ensign Charles H. Hammann became the first naval aviator to receive the Medal of Honor. (24)
- 1923: First airways lighting occurred when 18- and 36-inch electric arc beacons were used to light 42 landing fields on a route between Chicago and Cheyenne. They were visible for 50 miles. (24)
- 1943: First Los Angeles to New York airfreight service started. (24)
- 1944: The F8F Bearcat first flew.
- 1948: In his final report as CSAF, Gen Carl Spaatz disclosed the development of a supersonic guided atomic missile with a 5,000-mile range. (24)
- 1953: A Boeing P2B-1S (B-29 Superfortress) dropped the Douglas D-558-2 Skyrocket at 34,000 feet above Edwards AFB. From that altitude, Lt Col Marion E. Carl (USMC) flew the aircraft to 83,235 feet to set a world record. (20) (24)
- 1956: Flying an F8U-1 Crusader over California's Mojave Desert, Cmdr Robert W. Winslow (USN) set a speed record for US combat planes of 1,015.428 MPH. (24)
- 1957: Lt Cmdr James M. Pruitt flew his twin-jet A3D Skywarrior from Hawaii to California to set a FAI record of 4 hours 12 minutes for the 2,438-mile eastward transpacific flight. (9)
- 1961: A test pilot exceeded Mach 1 in the new Douglas DC-8 jet airliner during an experimental flight. (24)
- Construction on first Minuteman I (Model B) operational facilities began at Ellsworth AFB. (6)
- 1965: **GEMINI V.** Through 29 August, Astronauts L. Gordon Cooper, Jr. and Charles Conrad, Jr. (USN) set eight records in the Gemini V mission: (1) longest flight--190 hours 55 minutes; (2) national man-hours in space--641 hours and 24 minutes; (3) longest multimanned flight--190 hours 55 minutes; (4) most orbits for manned flight--120; (5) most manned flights--9; (6) first man with a second flight--Cooper; (7) most flight time--Cooper; and (8) longest space flight--Cooper and Conrad. The capsule splashed down 600 miles east of Jacksonville after a 3,309,506-mile flight. (9)
- 1967: With a special coating of heat resisting material and protective white paint, Maj William J. Knight flew the X-15 at 3,409 MPH (Mach 6.5) above Edwards AFB. It was the X-15's first flight with an ablative coating. (3)
- 1968: An Air Force UH-1F helicopter evacuated 260 people and 52,000 pounds of personal belongings and food during a 4-day period to aid flood victims in northeastern Nicaragua. (16) (26)
- 1970: An A-7D Corsair completed its first aerial refueling over Death Valley, Calif. A KC-97L tanker from the Illinois ANG provided the fuel. (3)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1972: Fourth and last Orbiting Astronomical Observatory (OAO), named Copernicus, launched to observe interstellar gases, young hot stars, and X-ray stars and other phenomena. It was our costliest and heaviest unmanned satellite (4,900 pounds) to date.
- 1987: At Seattle, a Boeing 767 modified for the Strategic Defense Initiative Airborne Optical Adjunct mission, first flew. It carried a special infrared sensor built by the Hughes Aircraft Company.
- 1990: **Operation DESERT SHIELD.** In the first two weeks of the operation, the Air Force deployed six fighter wings to the area, while SAC increased refueling and reconnaissance flights over the region. (20)
- 1998: Maj. Michael J. Brill, a full-time air reserve technician with the 419 FW, 466 FS, at Hill AFB, became the first Air Force pilot to amass more than 4,000 total flying hours in the F-16 Fighting Falcon. According to Lockheed-Martin officials, more than 3,000 pilots have topped the 1,000-hour mark in an F-16; more than 400 pilots have surpassed 2,000 hours; and 21 have more than 3,000 hours. (AFNEWS, 26 Aug 98)
- 2002: The first Lockheed-Martin Atlas V lifted off from Cape Canaveral to inaugurate a new type of launch missile. Under the USAF's Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle Program, the system used a standard booster and added supplemental boosters to handle various payloads. (21)
- An AFFTC F-22 launched a radar-guided AIM-120 missile over the Pacific Test Range while flying at Mach 1.2. This event was the first supersonic launch of an air-to-air missile for the new fighter. (3)
- 2003: The Test Pilot School at Edwards AFB received a Czech L-39 *Albatross* for a six-month trial of its flight capabilities. Warsaw Pact countries used the L-39 as a trainer and light-attack jet, and the USAF studied it as a partial replacement for its retired T-39 fleet. (3)
- 2007: The A-10C Thunderbolt II achieved its Initial Operational Capability at Moody AFB, Ga. The A-10C received modifications to install the "hands-on-throttle and stick," a situational awareness data link, and an ability to drop Joint Direct Attack Munitions and Wind Corrected Munitions Dispensers. (AFNEWS, "A-10 Thunderbolt II Gets Technological Thumbs Up," 27 Aug 2007.)

### 22 August

- 1909: **FIRST INTERNATIONAL FLYING MEET.** Through 29 August, in the Le Grande Semaine d'Aviation de Champagne Flying Meet at Rheims, France, Glenn H. Curtiss flew one of his planes to win two first prizes (\$5,000 and \$2,000) and a second prize (\$600) for speed. The Gordon-Bennett Race for speed was the most prestigious event in the meet. The top speed in the meet was 45.7 MPH. (24)
- 1917: Air-to-ground radiotelephones went into production.
- 1923: Lt Harold R. Harris (pilot) and Lt Muir Fairchild (copilot) flew the XNBL-1 Barling Bomber, the Army's first long-range night bomber, in its first flight at Wright Field. (21)
- 1938: Civil Aeronautics Act became effective to coordinate all nonmilitary aviation under the CAA. (20) (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Chinese anti-aircraft gunners fired across the Yalu River at RB-29s flying border reconnaissance. This was the first hostile Chinese action against UN aircraft. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** On successive nights, three C-47s flew 60-minute voice broadcast sorties

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

near the front lines, indicating a greater emphasis by UN Command on psychological war. (28)

- 1955: First run on the 120-foot Daisy track held to study human tolerance to short-duration G-forces.
- 1959: Through 20 September, Peter Gluckmann used a Meyers 200 Airplane to complete a solo, 22,800-mile round-the-world flight from San Francisco and back in 29 days. (9) (24)
- 1963: Above Edwards AFB, NASA test pilot Joseph A. Walker flew the X-15 to new records of 354,000 feet (67 miles) in altitude and 3,614 MPH. (3)
- 1988: Through 6 October, aircrews flew 1 C-5, 1 C-130, and 29 C-141s to carry 2,497 Army firefighters and 420 tons of equipment to Bozeman, Mont., and West Yellowstone, Wyo., to fight a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park that had engulfed over 582,000 acres. (18)
- 1990: President George Bush called-up 200,000 ANG and AFRES personnel for Operation **DESERT SHIELD** and **DESERT STORM**. (18)
- 1997: A C-5 aircrew from Dover AFB delivered a NASA satellite from Andrews AFB to Kagoshima, Japan, after a 16-hour flight. The \$250 million satellite for the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission was the first joint space project between the US and Japan. (22)

### 23 August

- 1909: Glenn H. Curtiss set a 43.38 MPH FAI speed record in a Curtiss Airplane at Rheims, France. (9)
- 1917: The 1st Reserve Aero Squadron, the only squadron of its kind, sailed from New York. Arriving in France on 3 September, it then moved to Issoudun 14 days later. On 1 October, the Army re-designated the 1st as the 26th Aero Squadron.
- 1937: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Capt George V. Holloman completed the first wholly automatic landing--without help from a human pilot or from the ground--at Wright Field. Capt Carl J. Crane, the inventor, and Mr. Raymond K. Stout, as engineer, worked on the project. For this effort, Holloman and Crane received DFCs and the Mackay Trophy. (4) (24)
- 1948: The 31 FW at Turner AFB received TAC's first F-84 aircraft.
- McDonnell's XF-85 Goblin parasite fighter first flew at Muroc Field. It was designed to be carried inside a B-36 to provide fighter support over a target; however, it never actually flew in one. All test flights were carried out on a B-50. (8: Aug 90)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** The 19 BG flew the first Razon mission. With the exception of one bomb that hit a railroad bridge near Pyongyang, the World War II-era radio control equipment failed to guide the bombs to the target. (28)
- General Douglas MacArthur decided to invade Inchon on 15 September. (28)
- 1951: The X-1D rocket research plane caught fire on its first flight. Its B-50 carrier plane had to jettison the X-1 to destruction over Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1954: Lockheed pilots Stanley Beltz and Roy Wimmer flew the Hercules YC-130 transport on its first flight from Lockheed's plant in Burbank to Edwards AFB. (3) (20) (22)
- 1956: The Army's H-21 helicopter made the first transcontinental nonstop flight by flying 2,610 miles from San Diego to Washington DC in 31 hours 40 minutes. (21) (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1957: First Douglas C-133 delivered to Dover AFB. (12)
- North American Aviation received a contract for the Hound Dog missile. (6)
- 1961: Ranger I, test version of the spacecraft that would later attempt an unmanned crash landing on the moon, launched into orbit.
- 1977: Bryan Allen made the first sustained, maneuverable, man-powered flight by pedaling his Gos-samer Condor aircraft at Shafter, Calif. He made the aircraft with an aluminum frame with stainless steel bracing and covered it with mylar plastic. (21)
- 1978: The USAF asked Boeing Aerospace and General Dynamics to build 12 ALCMs each for a competitive contract. (12)
- 1985: From a modified Minuteman launch facility at Vandenberg AFB, AFSC conducted America's first land-based "cold launch" from an underground silo. The "cold launch" technique ejected a Peacekeeper missile by gas pressure, and its propellant ignited after becoming airborne. This method greatly reduced the damage to a silo from a launch. This successful launch was the ninth in the Peacekeeper's testing program. (16) (21)
- 1986: All B-52Gs completed their cruise missile integration modifications. (16)
- 1990: The 89 MAW received the first of two VC-25A, a modified 747-200B, Presidential aircraft at Andrews AFB. It replaced the VC-137C used as Air Force One. (16) (26)
- Secretary of Defense Richard B. Cheney gave the Air Force the authority to call up reservists for active duty in the Gulf crisis. The Air Force eventually called up more than 20,000 Air Force reservists. (26)
- 1994: **Operation DENY FLIGHT.** AMC-gained ANG refueling units operating from airfields at Istres, France, and Pisa, Italy, began participating in the operation to maintain a no-fly zone over Bosnia. (18)
- 2001: Developmental flight testing and evaluation of the F-16 Block 40T7 Avionics Upgrade started at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 2003: An RQ-1 Predator launched a *Finder* mini-UAV from its wing and then, for the first time, the AFFTC controlled the *Finder* using a Ku satellite communications link to complete the Combat Chemical Assessment System's Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration (ACTD) program. The AFFTC used line-of-sight control only in all previous testing. (3)
- 2004: The 43 AW at Pope AFB and other military organizations with C-130s flew special sorties to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first C-130 Hercules flight. (22)

### 24 August

- 1918: Maj William R. Ream became the first flight surgeon to die in an aircraft accident at Chanute Field. (24)
- 1935: Brig Gen Frank M. Andrews set three world seaplane speed and payload records from Langley Field to Floyd Bennett Field and back in a Martin B-12A bomber with pontoon floats. (24)
- 1938: The Navy flew the radio-controlled JH-1, the first powered drone target in the U.S., to test the USS Ranger's anti-aircraft batteries. (21)



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1940: Boeing received a contract for three B-29 prototypes. (12)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Through 25 August, B-26's claimed over 800 trucks destroyed in the new campaign of night anti-truck operations. (28)
- General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, CSAF, disclosed the development of atomic tactical weapons for use against armies in the field. (24)
- 1959: The USAF launched an Atlas-C over a 5,000-mile course. Later, the USAF recovered a data capsule containing movies taken from 700 miles up that showed one-sixth of the earth's surface. (16) (24)
- 1961: At Edwards AFB, Jacqueline Cochran flew a Northrop T-38 Talon to a world speed record for women, 842.6 miles per hour. (24)
- 1962: Donald L. Piccard set a FAI record for subclass A-2 balloons (250-400 cubic meters). At Sioux City, Iowa, he flew a Sioux City Sue Raven Industries balloon to 17,747 feet. (9)
- 1965: A 341 SMW crew from Malmstrom AFB, Mont., launched the 100th Minuteman I test missile from Vandenberg AFB. (8: Aug 90)
- 1974: Alexander P. de Seversky, airpower advocate and an inventive genius whose life and career followed the evolution of aviation, died in New York at 80. He developed the P-35, the Army Air Corps' first single seat, all-metal pursuit aircraft with retractable landing gear and a closed cockpit. He also developed inflight-refueling techniques.
- 1978: The 81 TFW, 92 TFS, at RAF Bentwaters/Woodbridge received the first three A-10s destined for USAFE. (4)
- 1979: Full-scale development of the Global Positioning System authorized. (12)
- 1989: The Voyager 2 Space Probe completed its tour of the solar system by flying within 3,000 miles of Neptune. (20)
- 1994: **HURRICANE JOHN.** Through 25 August, as a hurricane approached AMC aircraft evacuated 1,107 military and civilian personnel from Johnston Island, located 740 miles southwest of Honolulu. Six C-141s, 2 DC-8 charters, and 1 C-130 brought everyone to Hickam AFB. Although most evacuees returned to Johnston on commercial flights in early September, an AMC C-141 and a few C-130s returned some residents in late August. (16) (18)
- 2001: At Grand Forks AFB, contractors imploded Minuteman III missile silo H-22 near Petersburg, N.D. It was the last silo of 450 ICBM silos to be destroyed under the START I agreement. Contractors imploded 14 silos in 1999, 86 in 2000, and 49 in 2001. (21)
- An EC-18B Advanced Range Instrumentation Aircraft (ARIA) made its final AFFTC flight, ending that mission at Edwards AFB. For 30 years, the aircraft recorded and relayed telemetry information from ICBMs and manned spacecraft, both U.S. and foreign. The USAF intended to use the two EC-18Bs in the JSTARS program. (3)

### 25 August

- 1909: Louis Paulhan used a Voisin Airplane at Bethany, France, to set a 83-mile FAI distance record that lasted one day. (9)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Army leased Land for its first flying field at College Park. Pilot instructions began on 8 October 1909. (18) (21)

- 1914: Stephan Banic, a coal miner from Greenville, Pa., received a patent for the first workable parachute design. (20)
- 1916: Victor Carlstrom won the Curtiss Marine Trophy for flying a distance of 661.44 miles. (24)
- 1926: A pilot of a JN training aircraft, which carried an attached and stored parachute, opened the parachute at 2,500 feet above NAS San Diego. The parachute landed the plane with some minor damage. (24)
- 1932: Flying from Los Angeles to Newark, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to complete a nonstop transcontinental flight. (20)
- 1943: Twelfth Air Force sent 140 P-38s from the 1 FG and 82 FG on the first mass, low-level, long-range strafing raid in World War II. Flying from airfields in Sicily, the P-38s flew tree-top level to attack airfields at Foggia, where they claimed 143 planes destroyed or damaged. (4)
- 1947: Maj Marion E. Carl (USMC) flew the jet-powered Douglas D-588-1 Skystreak to a new FAI speed record of 650.92 MPH. He broke the Skystreak's earlier record of 640.74 MPH. (9) (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** FFAF directed Fifth Air Force to fly constant armed surveillance over enemy airfields to prevent the build-up of enemy air strength before the Inchon invasion. (28)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** In FFAF Bomber Command's largest operation of the month, 35 B-29s, escorted by U. S. Navy fighters, dropped 300 tons of bombs on marshaling yards at Rashin in far northeastern Korea. Previously excluded from target lists because of its proximity of less than 20 miles to the Soviet border, Rashin was a major supply depot. (28)
- 1952: **Operation HAJJI BABA.** Through 29 August, 13 C-54s airlifted 3,763 Muslim pilgrims stranded in Beirut, Lebanon, to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The operation helped to restore America's standing in the Middle East. (18)
- 1953: The USAF announced that the B-36 had become a "flying aircraft carrier." It could launch and recover F-84s Thunderjets in flight. (16)
- A number of B-36 bombers landed in Japan after a pioneering nonstop mass flight from the US. (24)
- 1958: SAC's 556th Guided Missile Squadron launched a Snark on a 6,000-mile course. (16) (24)
- 1959: Test pilot Frank E. Cole flew the C-130 Hercules 4,618 miles from Hickam AFB to Dobbins AFB in the longest nonstop flight for that plane to date. (3)
- 1961: Explorer XIII, the 50th US satellite, launched from Wallops Island to gather data on micro-meteorites.
- Beale AFB received the first Hound Dog missile for B-52s. (6)
- 1965: President Johnson approved the development of a MOL to determine "what [military] man is able to do in space" for the defense of America. (12)
- 1966: The first class of German Air Force student pilots entered training at Sheppard AFB, Texas. (26)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Tracy L. Barnes set a FAI altitude record of 28,585 feet for subclass AX-8 through AX-10 balloons (2,200 to over 4,000 cubic meters) in a Barnes Balloon at Pittsburgh. (9)
- 1968: The North American OV-10 Bronco, a forward air controller aircraft, began a 90-day combat evaluation in South Vietnam. (16) (26)
- 1969: MAC aircrews completed the first C-5 aerial refueling. (16) (26)
- 1983: Weapons separation testing for the B-1B began with the release of a dummy SRAM. (3)
- 1987: When Col (Dr.) Thomas J. Tredici retired from the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks AFB, he became the last remaining B-17 pilot from World War II to leave active duty.
- 1988: A civil war in Somalia produced a large-scale requirement to medically treat people fleeing to Mogadishu. The Somali government asked for medical aid and hospital beds. To provide that relief, a 41 MAS C-141 carried a 200-bed emergency hospital weighing 22 tons to Mogadishu. (26)
- 1992: **HURRICANE ANDREW.** The storm smashed Florida with sustained 140-MPH winds. Through 28 October, 724 airlift missions moved 13,500 relief workers and 21,000 tons of supplies to the area. The hurricane destroyed Homestead AFB, forcing its temporary closure. The 482 FW returned from its post-Andrew exile to MacDill AFB on 5 March 1994 to its new role as the predominant unit at the "new" Homestead ARB, while the former active duty 31 TFW moved to Aviano AB, Italy. (24)
- 1993: Through 27 August, continued violence against UN forces prompted the US to send 400 Army Rangers to Somalia. AMC flew them and their equipment there on 1 KC-10 and 5 C-5 missions. (18)
- 1994: **OPEN SKIES.** Through 31 August, the US and Ukraine conducted a joint trial flight. (16)
- 1995: A 2d Bomb Wing B-52H crew from Barksdale AFB set six speed records over a 10,000-kilometer close-circuit course, unrefueled and with a payload. Captains Russell Mathers, Dan Manuel, Hank Jenkins, Ralph Delatour and Allen Patton, of the 96th Bomb Squadron, made the record flight, nicknamed "Long Rifle." The B-52 took-off from Edwards AFB, flew to Adak NAS, Alaska, and returned in a record time of 11 hours 23 minutes, at an average speed of 556 miles per hour. The crew later earned the 1995 Gen Curtis E. LeMay award (AFNEWS, 1996)
- Through 29 August, 11 C-17 Globemaster IIIs from the 315 AW and 437 AW participated in their first exercise. The aircraft moved nearly 300 tons of cargo and personnel to Kuwait. (16)
- 1999: At Edwards AFB, the No. 2 F-22 successfully flew at 60 degrees angle-of-attack and demonstrated post-stall flight with thrust vectoring. (3)
- 2002: An F-22 Raptor from the AFFTC at Edwards AFB launched an AIM-9 Sidewinder, a supersonic heat-seeking air-to-air missile. This marked the F-22 program's first supersonic missile separation. (3)

### 26 August

- 1939: Maj Charles M. Cummings and Stanley Umstead, pilot and copilot, flew a B-17A from Miami to the Panama Canal Zone in 6 hours 45 minutes. The 1,200-mile flight indicated how fast reinforcements could be rushed to protect the canal. (24)
- 1943: The US AAF used a new type of perspective maps with targets drawn as seen from the air to

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

improve high altitude precision bombing abilities. (24)

1944: Eighth Air Force sent 997 heavy bombers and 897 fighters against targets in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany; 13 bombers and 13 fighters were lost, while 148 bombers and 15 fighters sustained damage. (4)

1950: The 91 SRW at Barksdale AFB received the first RB-45, a "C" model, four-engine jet reconnaissance aircraft. (1)

**KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force organized the 47 TCS and 48 TCS (Provisional) at Tachikawa with C-46s from the Far East to augment FEAF airlift resources for UN offensives in September. At Ashiya, Japan, FEAF organized the 1st Troop Carrier Task Force (Provisional) as the nucleus of the new Combat Cargo Command (Provisional) with Maj Gen William H. Tunner, architect of the "Hump" airlift of World War II and the Berlin airlift, 1948-1949, commanding the Combat Cargo Command. (28)

1954: After being launched by a B-29 Superfortress above Edwards AFB, Maj Arthur "Kit" Murray flew the Bell X-1A to 90,443 feet and set a new FAI altitude record. (9) (20)

1959: The first F-104 Starfighter landed in Europe as part of George AFB's rotation program.

1967: **MEDAL OF HONOR.** After shooting down his F-100 Super Sabre, the North Vietnamese captured Maj George E. Day. They took him to a prison camp for interrogation and torture. Despite crippling injuries, Day escaped and evaded the enemy for two weeks. He eventually crossed the demilitarized zone and came within two miles of a Marine Corps base before he was shot and captured again. He continued to resist his captors until released in 1973. For that action, he earned the Medal of Honor. (21)

1974: McDonnell Douglas test pilot Irving L. Burrows and Col Wendell ("Windy") Shawler, Vice Commander, 4950th Test Wing, flew the TF-15 prototype from Loring AFB to RAF Bentwaters, UK. They completed the 3,007-mile flight with no refuelings or escort in 4 hours 59 minutes.

Through 27 August, 2 C-141s airlifted more than 34 tons of medical relief supplies into Burma, India, after flooding devastated that country. (18)

1975: The YC-15 medium short takeoff and landing transport completed its first flight from the McDonnell Douglas facility at Long Beach to Edwards AFB. (3)

1976: SAC launched its 500th missile, a Minuteman II, from Vandenberg AFB. (6)

Two groups of women pilot candidates began flight screening at Hondo Municipal Airport, prior to entering undergraduate pilot training at Williams AFB on 29 September. The 77-08 class included Capts Connie Engle, Mary Donahue, Kathy La Sauce, Susan Rogers, and Christine Schott; 1st Lts Sandra Scott and Victoria Crawford; and 2nd Lts. Mary Livingston, Carol Scherer and Kathleen Rambo. They graduated on 2 September 1977. (16) (21)

1980: **PACIFIC COMFORT.** An F-15/E-3A team deployed for the first time to Australia to participate in this air defense exercise. The exercise continued through 11 September. (16)

1987: The A-6F completed its first flight from the Grumman facility at Calverton, N.Y.

The Navy launched a Tomahawk Sea-Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM) with a live conventional warhead in a pop-up terminal maneuver from a submarine off the California coast for the first time.

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2005: From Vandenberg AFB, the 576<sup>th</sup> Flight Test Squadron launched an unarmed Minuteman III as part of a test to demonstrate the ability to integrate a safety enhanced reentry vehicle into the existing Minuteman III weapons system. (AFNEWS Article, "Vandenberg Launches Minuteman III," 29 August 2005)

### 27 August

- 1923: At Rockwell Field, San Diego, Lts Lowell H. Smith and John P. Richter used a DH-4B Liberty 400 to set FAI refueled duration and distance records of 37 hours 15 minutes 14.8 seconds and 3,293.26 miles, respectively. They also set FAI speed records of 88 plus MPH for all distances from 2,500 through 5,000 kilometers during their two-day flight.
- 1926: Cmdr John Rodgers, Naval Aviator No. 2, died of injuries received in a airplane crash. (9)
- 1929: Through 4 September 1929, the Army Air Corps and Boeing Airplane Company, collaborated on the first air-to-air refueling experiment, using the Boeing *Hornet Shuttle* for a trans-continental flight. It was a Model 95 mail with additional fuel tanks and other alterations. The airplane flew between Oakland and New York, following what was then the longest mail route in the world. Capt Ira C. Eaker proposed this experiment as a means to investigate the potential of cross-country air refueling for military operations and flew the aircraft with Lt Bernard Thompson. Two modified Boeing 40B-4s, piloted by Boeing personnel, and two modified Army Air Corps Douglas C-1s, piloted by Capt St Clair Streett and Lt Newton Longfellow, provided the air refueling. The flight east to New York took 28 hours and 25 minutes. On the return leg, a five-gallon oil can fell from the refueling aircraft onto the Boeing *Hornet Shuttle*. The resulting damage forced the airplane to land at Cleveland, Ohio, and return to New York City for repairs. Airborne once more, the Boeing *Hornet Shuttle* flew back to Oakland. The aircraft attempted another flight east, but problems with the fuel line led to a forced landing near Salt Lake City, Utah, that damaged the aircraft and ended the experiment. (18)
- 1941: William R. Dunn, 71 Squadron (RAF), shot down his fifth enemy plane to become the first American "Ace" in Europe. He served in Europe, Burma, and China, and ended the war with 15 aerial victories and credit for 12 destroyed on the ground. (4)
- 1943: Ten SB-24's ("Snoopers"), with special radar sighting devices to make accurate bombing possible, irrespective of visual sightings, began operations from Carney Field, Guadalcanal. (24)
- 1945: B-29s completed their first supply drop operation to Allied POWs in the Weihsien camp near Peiping (now Beijing), China. In all, 154 camps with 63,500 prisoners in Japan, China, and Korea, got food, medical supplies, and clothing. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Two F-51 Mustang pilots accidentally strayed into China and strafed an airstrip near Antung, mistaking it for a N. Korean airstrip at Sinuiju on the border with China. The Chinese used the incident for propaganda and diplomatic purposes. The 92th BG sent 24 B-29s to Kyomipo to bomb the largest iron and steel plant in Korea. FEAF experimented with delayed action bombs to discourage enemy repairs on bridges. (28)
- 1953: The Snark subsonic intercontinental missile first flew.
- 1956: Douglas Airplane Company fired the Thor missile in a captive test at the Edwards AFB Rocket Engine Test Laboratory. (3)
- 1958: **PROJECT ARGUS.** On 27 and 30 August and 6 September, the US Navy launched three multistage rockets from the USS Norton Sound in the South Atlantic. Each rocket carried a low-yield atomic device that detonated at an altitude of 300 miles. (16) (24)

## **AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- 1959: The USS Observation Island launched a Polaris missile in its first successful launching at sea. (16) (24)
- 1960: A test of mobile Minuteman missiles deployed on trains ended at Hill AFB satisfactorily. (6)
- 1962: NASA launched an Atlas-Agena booster, carrying the Mariner II satellite, from Cape Canaveral on a journey to orbit the sun. (16) (21)
- 1964: SAC conducted its last Atlas E test launch from Vandenberg AFB. The launch supported the Army's Nike-Zeus program. (6)
- 1966: A C-133 carried the shaft and propeller of the *USS Coral Sea* from Travis AFB to Atsugi NAS, Japan, in 24 hours. The 63-foot-long shaft weighed 75,400 pounds and was to date the largest single load ever lifted. (18)
- 1970: The Air Force canceled the AIM-82A Short Range Missile for the F-15. (30)
- 1986: Through 29 August, a C-130 Hercules from the 50 TAS flew 250 tons to help 2,000 villagers in North Western Cameroon after a carbon dioxide cloud bubbled out of Lake Nyos. (16) (26)
- 1987: Morton Thiokol first the Space Shuttle's redesigned solid rocket motor at the Wasatch facility. The motor underwent a two-minute, full-duration horizontal firing test.
- The USAF and NASA selected Pratt and Whitney and Rockwell International to design super-sonic ramjet engines for the proposed National Aerospace Plane. (12)
- 1990: Northrop pilot Paul Metz flew the YF-23 for the first time above Edwards AFB. (20)
- 2003: A NASA Dryden Flight Research Center team flew several Navy F-5E sorties to support the Shaped Sonic Boom Demonstration (SSBD) program. The DARPA project tried to determine if modifying an aircraft's shape could change the sonic boom to reduce loudness. (3)

### **28 August**

- 1908: The Army accepted Dirigible No. 1 after flight tests at Fort Myer from Capt Thomas S. Baldwin. (21)
- 1909: Charles F. Willard, after receiving instruction from Glenn H. Curtiss, became America's first exhibition pilot by giving a show at Scarsborough Beach, Toronto, Canada. (24)
- 1919: Through 19 September, Lawson "Air Line," a 26-passenger twin-engine Liberty biplane, made a demonstration trip from Milwaukee to Washington DC, via Chicago, New York, and other cities. (24)
- 1942: The War Department directed the ATC to provide aircraft and equipment to evacuate sick and wounded American servicemen and women throughout the world. (2)
- 1943: The 482 BG, equipped with Oboe, H2S, and H2X blind bombing equipment, became the first radar-equipped Pathfinder unit in the USAAF. (4)
- 1944: Maj Joseph Myers and 2d Lt Manford O. Croy, Jr., from the 78 FG, Eighth Air Force, shared an aerial victory for a Me-262, the first jet to be downed in combat. At the time, Major Myers was leading eight P-47s flying top cover at 11,000 feet in the vicinity Termonde, near Brussels, Belgium, when he saw an aircraft flying low and extremely fast. Myers and Croy then made a 45-degree dive and caught up with the twin-engine Me262. Before they could fire on the jet, the

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

German pilot scuttled the aircraft in an open field. He fled on foot, but was but killed by other P-47s as they strafed the wreck to destroy it. Nevertheless, Major Myers and Lt Croy both received half credit for an aerial victory. (20) (21)

- 1945: **FEAF ARRIVAL IN JAPAN.** An advance communications team flew in to Atsugi Airfield near Tokyo. Under the protection of Imperial Army units, this team set up the control tower and communication equipment necessary for occupation forces to land. On 30 August, the Mission 75 began, and it ended 13 days later without a single fatal aircraft accident. The 1,336 C-54 flights brought the 11th Airborne Division, the 27th Infantry Division, and advanced echelons of General MacArthur's headquarters, FEAF, the Eighth Army, and an initial ATC detachment into Atsugi Airport. (17)
- 1948: A Navy transport, the Caroline Mars, landed at Chicago after a record nonstop flight from Honolulu. It carried 42 people and a 14,000-pound payload in setting the 24-hour, 9-minute FAI record. (9)
- 1953: At Santa Susana, a complete liquid-rocket engine assembly (Navaho) having thrust in excess of 200,000 pounds was fired for the first time. (16) (24)
- 1957: The 1607 ATW at Dover AFB received the first Douglas C-133A Cargomaster. (18)
- 1958: An Atlas ICBM, launched from Cape Canaveral flew 3,000 miles and landed in the target area in the first test of a radio-command guidance system. (16) (24)
- RF-101 CONVERSION.** The 15th TRS, 67 TRW, received its first new RF-101C, making the unit the first in PACAF to convert to this aircraft. (17)
- 1961: Lts Huntington Hardisty and Earl H. DeEsch (USN) flew a McDonnell F-4H Phantom II to a low-level record of 902.769 MPH over a 3-kilometer course at Holloman AFB. (9)
- 1963: First test of the Apollo program made with the launching of the General Dynamics/Convair Little Joe II rocket at White Sands Missile Range.
- 1964: A new weather satellite, Nimbus, launched. This 830-pound spacecraft offered two major improvements over the earlier TIROS. First its cameras faced the earth at all times during orbit, whereas TIROS could only photograph cloud coverage during a portion of an orbit. Second, it flew a near-polar circular orbit, which allowed it to view each section of the earth twice a day.
- 1970: SAC crews, using operational hardware and procedures, launched a Minuteman III on its first demonstration and shakedown operational test flight. (16)
- 1972: Capt Richard S. "Steve" Ritchie, with his backseater Capt Charles D. DeBellevue, shot down his fifth MiG-21 near Hanoi. He thus became the first USAF ace of the Vietnam War and first since the Korean War. For this feat, Ritchie shared the 1972 Mackay Trophy with Captains Jeffrey S. Feinstein, and Charles B. DeBellevue. (16) (17)
- 1981: SECAF Verne Orr selected McDonnell Douglas Corporation to develop the C-X aircraft. (12)
- 1984: A C-5 Galaxy delivered the first shipment of support equipment for GLCMs at Florennes AB, Belgium. (16)
- 1988: Shortages of hospital equipment and medical supplies on the island of Sao Tome off the west coast of Africa led the US to send a 20 MAS C-141 with 29 tons of supply items there. (26)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2005: AFFTC completed the RQ-4A Global Hawk UAV flight test program. The last three sorties supported an Air Combat Command decision process on the operational readiness of the Block 10 aircraft and their sensors. (3)

### 29 August

1916: Congress voted a \$3.5 million budget to buy naval aircraft and equipment. This act created a permanent Navy Flying Corps with 150 officers and 350 enlisted men for the Navy and Marine Corps. The Navy then ordered 60 planes, including 30 Curtiss floatplanes. (10)

1938: Maj Alexander de Seversky set an east-to-west transcontinental speed record of 10 hours 2 minutes 55.7 seconds in a 2,457-mile flight. (9) (24)

1952: The SM-62 Snark completed its first test at the Air Force Missile Test Center, Cape Canaveral. (12)

**KOREAN WAR/SORTIE RECORD.** Far East Air Forces fighter-bombers set a new 24-hour record by sending 854 Fifth Air Force sorties against Pyongyang, N. Korea. At the request of the U.S. State Department, Far East Air Forces conducted the largest air attack to date as a show of force during a visit by China's premier, Chou En-lai, to the Soviet Union. The State Department hoped the attack would lead the Soviets to pressure the Chinese into accepting an armistice rather than expend further communist resources in the war. Far East Air Forces aircraft, protected by USAF F-86 Sabres and RAAF Meteors, flew nearly 1,400 air-to-ground sorties. This closely coordinated attack destroyed 56 buildings and damaged 33 others. (17) (28)

1954: Flying a Sikorsky XH-39, Army Warrant Officer Billy I. Webster set a helicopter speed record of 156.005 MPH over a 3-kilometer course at Windsor Locks, Conn. (24)

1968: President Johnson signed Executive Order 11424 to give flight pay and incentive pay for hazardous duty to military personnel flying spacecraft.

1969: TAC received its first production-model A-7D attack aircraft.

A C-5A Galaxy completed its first inflight refueling successfully. (3)

**PEACE SPECTATOR PROGRAM.** The USAF delivered the first six F-4D Phantoms to the South Korean Air Force at Taegu AB. (17)

1970: The Army's Safeguard anti-ballistic missile system completed its first full-scale test, when a Spartan area defense interceptor missile launched from Kwajalein Atoll intercepted a Minuteman I reentry vehicle launched from Vandenberg AFB. (6)

The Douglas DC-10 tri-jet, ended its first flight at Edwards AFB, where it underwent FAA certification tests. (3)

1984: Rockwell International's chief test pilot, T. D. Benefield died when B-1A number two crashed near Boron, Calif. (12)

The last OV-10 Broncos left USAFE's Sembach AB, Germany, after a decade of operations in Europe for George AFB. (16) (26)

1990: The combined Lockheed/Boeing/General Dynamics team unveiled its YF-22A Advanced Tactical Fighter in ceremonies at Lockheed Plant 10 in Palmdale. (20)



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- 1998: The *Global Hawk* UAV reached 61,000 feet on an 8-hour mission over Edwards AFB and China Lake. The flight doubled the number of hours flown in its previous three tests and reached 10,000 feet higher. (3)
- 2003: At Edwards AFB, F/A-22 *Raptors* flew a four-ship formation, a first for the new fighter, to test the Intra-Flight Data Link. The new link allowed pilots to share flight data with other aircrews automatically without using radios. Three other F/A-22s were also in the air at the same time for their initial operational testing and evaluations, the first time seven *Raptors* were airborne simultaneously. (3)
- 2005: **HURRICANE KATRINA.** With 145 mph winds and torrential rains, Katrina came ashore near Buras, La., and then crossed the coast of Mississippi and Alabama to devastate low-lying coastal areas and obliterate the south's transportation, communication, and electricity networks. On 30 August, the protective levees around New Orleans gave way, allowing water from Lake Pontchartrain to flood the city and trap residents by the tens of thousands. From 30 August through the last mission on 10 October, AMC and its AFRC- and ANG-gained units flew 38 C-5, 69 C-17, 63 C-130, 5 C-141, 2 C-9, and 28 commercial relief missions in the region to move 5,191 short tons of cargo, 13,717 passengers, and 1,794 patients. Additionally, to help maintain law and order in New Orleans, AMC carried 82d Airborne Division troops at Fort Bragg, N. C., from nearby Pope AFB. Two C-130 flights and 13 commercial missions returned Fort Bragg's soldiers to Pope on 30 September and 1 October. (22)
- The AFFTC flew two sorties from Keesler AFB to test the WC-130J's modified propeller under severe weather conditions. Testers flew repeatedly into Hurricane Katrina as it approached New Orleans. Katrina virtually destroyed Keesler AFB shortly afterwards. (3)
- 2006: The 11th Intelligence Squadron's activation at Hurlburt Field, Fla., gave the Air Force Special Operations Command its first intelligence squadron. The squadron received the mission to process, exploit and disseminate to commanders information on terrorists and their operations gathered by the MQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicles and other airborne intelligence and surveillance sources. The 3rd Special Operations Squadron at Creech AFB, Nev., operated the medium-altitude, long-endurance, remotely piloted Predator. (AFNEWS, "New Intel Squadron Turns an Aerial Eye on Terrorists," 29 Aug 2006)
- 2007: **100<sup>th</sup> F-22 Delivered.** Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne accepted this milestone aircraft (Tail No. 05-0100) for the 90th Fighter Squadron at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, in a brief ceremony. (AFNEWS, "100<sup>th</sup> F-22 Delivered," 4 Sep 2007.)

### 30 August

- 1913: The General Board of the Navy asked for a naval air service to be created, with funding first budgeted in 1914. (10)
- 1939: The Pan American Airway's California Clipper landed at Auckland, New Zealand, to complete the first flight of fortnightly service from San Francisco. (24)
- 1945: Through 12 September, Special Mission 75 ferried 39,928 occupation troops and 8,202 tons of supplies from a staging area in Okinawa to Japan. The mission used 259 C-54s and 360 B-24 bombers as cargo planes, and associated aircraft. (18)
- 1946: Paul Mantz from Burbank won the Bendix Trophy air race. In a P-51, he averaged 435.604 MPH over a 2,048-mile course from California to Cleveland. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** An experimental B-29 flare mission lit the Han River near Seoul before dawn for a B-26 strike against an elusive enemy pontoon bridge. When it could not be found,

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the B-26s attacked the permanent bridge. (28)

- 1953: TAC's Eighteenth Air Force transferred its last C-122 aircraft into storage.
  
- 1955: The USAF proved its worldwide ability to deploy fighters when a flight commander, who had breakfast near London, England, took off with a F-84F Thunderstreak formation and reached Austin 10 hours 48 minutes later in time for lunch with his family. (4)
  
- 1958: **Operation DOUBLE TROUBLE or X-RAY TANGO/MACKAY TROPHY.** Concurrently with the Lebanon Crisis (see 15 July 1958), Chinese communists, with Soviet backing, threatened to invade Taiwan, Quemoy, and Matsu, To Taiwan, TAC deployed its Composite Air Strike Force of B-57s, F-100s, F-101s, and C-130s to Taiwan, while PACAF sent an F-86D squadron from Okinawa to provide night defense alert and the Air Defense Command deployed a squadron of F-104s. During the shelling of Quemoy and Matsu, Chinese MiG-17s began to fly over the Nationalist-held islands. Nationalist Chinese F-86 pilots from Taiwan proved to be more than a match for the communist pilots, shooting down 32 MiGs (with 3 probables and 10 damaged). MATS C-118s, C-121s, and C-124s airlifted the Composite Air Strike Force and ADC squadron, while later supporting the effort with 144 C-124 missions. The rapid deployment of the Composite Air Strike Force earned a Mackay Trophy. (2) (17) (18) (21)
  
- 1960: The USAF declared six Atlas missiles of the 564 SMS at Francis E. Warren AFB operational, which made it the first combat ready ICBM squadron. (See 9 August 1960) (6) (16)
  
- 1974: **Operation COLD JUICE I:** A C-5 flew MAC's first long-range, air refueled mission over water, flying from Dover AFB to Clark AB. The aircraft covered the 10,600 statute miles in 21 hours 30 minutes. KC-135s transferred 289,000 pounds of fuel. A total of eight Cold Juice demonstration flights were flown with the last flights in January 1975 leading to the development of cell air refueling procedures and techniques for strategic airlift. (2) (18)
  
- Through 31 August, Detachment 13 of the 41<sup>st</sup> Air Rescue and Recover Wing saved 36 Koreans from the floodwaters surrounding Kwang Ju, Korea. (16)
  
- 1979: **HURRICANE DAVID.** After the storm hit Dominica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, Guadeloupe, and the Dominican Republic, killing 6,000 people and leaving 150,000 homeless. MAC C-5s, C-141s, and C-130s moved 2,881 tons of supplies and 1,358 passengers on 251 missions to the area through 21 November. Jamaica also received 32 tons of cargo and 35 passengers for assistance. (2)
  
- 1982: The F-5G Tigershark (later F-20) flew its first flight at Edwards AFB. (3)
  
- 1983: The third Challenger and eighth Space Shuttle mission set several records: (1) 54-year-old Bill Thornton--the oldest astronaut, (2) Guion Bluford--first black astronaut in space, and (3) the first shuttle to launch and land at night at Edwards AFB. The Challenger also launched INSAT, India's satellite, before returning to Earth on 3 September. (8)
  
- 1994: **PEACEKEEPER 94.** Through 12 September 9 C-141 aircraft participated in the first joint US-Russian training exercise. From 30 August to 6 September, 25 C-141 missions carried 320 US troops and support personnel and 610 tons of cargo to Totskoye, Russia. On 8-12 September, AMC then redeployed the US troops to Germany on 27 C-141 missions. (16)
  
- 1995: **Operation DELIBERATE FORCE.** NATO and US aircraft began airstrikes on Serbian ground positions in Bosnia-Herzegovina to support this UN operation. The airstrikes, with a Bosnian-Croatian ground attack, convinced the Serbs to accept peace terms in late 1995. (16) (21)
  
- 2005: **HURRICANE KATRINA.** A 172d Airlift Wing aircrew and C-17 (Mississippi ANG) flew the

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Air National Guard's first Katrina relief mission. It lasted three days. (32)

**HURRICANE KATRINA.** ANG personnel made 600 rescues one day after Katrina made landfall on the Gulf Coast, 100 by helicopter and 500 by pararescue specialists in ZODIAC boats. (32)

**HURRICANE KATRINA.** The ANG deployed seven RC-26B aircraft and nine crews from eight states to assist in Gulf Coast relief operations. The RC-26B provided airborne imagery, on-board exploitation and limited dissemination to various ground components. Through 16 September, they flew 297.9 hours in support this effort.

**HURRICANES KATRINA/RITA.** Through 29 November, the ANG flew 4,132 airlift sorties, airlifted 34,639 passengers, and carried 11,496 tons of cargo for hurricane relief efforts in the southeastern US. In addition, ANG transports evacuated 2,046 patients from the region, while ANG helicopters moved 23,604 endangered people in Louisiana and Mississippi to local safe havens. (32)

2006: A Dryden Flight Research Center flight crew from Edwards AFB conducted the first-ever autonomous probe-and-drogue airborne refueling. The joint NASA and DARPA Autonomous Airborne Refueling Demonstration project was carried out by an F/A-18 configured to operate as an unmanned test bed. The system used GPS-based relative navigation and an optical tracker to position the probe into the center of a 32-inch basket streaming behind the tanker. (3)

### 31 August

1910: Glenn H. Curtiss flew over Lake Erie between Euclid Beach and Cedar Point, Ohio. He covered the 64.8 miles in 1 hour 18 minutes to win a \$5,000 prize from the *Cleveland Press*. (24)

1925: The Navy tried to fly from San Francisco to Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii, in a seaplane, but Cmdr John Rodgers (Naval Aviator No. 2) and his crew of four missed their mark. They ran out of gas and were lost at sea for 10 days despite an extensive air and sea search. Rodgers had the crew rig a sail out of wing fabric and they sailed for Kauai Island. On 10 September, they were spotted by a submarine and rescued 10 miles from Kauai. They were rewarded with a FAI record for flying 1,841 statute miles in 25 hours 23 minutes to their forced landing spot. (9)

1931: At the National Air Race meet in Cleveland, Mrs. Phoebe Omlie won the women's division of the handicap transcontinental derby. (24)

1932: Capt Albert W. Stevens and Lt C. D. McAllister (Army Air Corps) flew five miles above the earth's surface at Fyreburge, Minn., to photograph a solar eclipse. (24)

1943: Navy Task Force 15 attacked Japanese installations on Marcus Islands. The battle featured the first use of Essex and Independence class carriers and the first use of Grumman's F6F Hellcat fighters, which flew with VF-5 on the USS Yorktown. (8) (24)

1950: **KOREAN WAR.** After a 10-day lull in ground fighting, N. Korean forces launched a coordinated attack along the entire Pusan perimeter. Fifth Air Force provided close air support for the defending UN troops, while 74 B-29s bombed mining facilities, metal industries, and marshaling yards at Chinnampo in the largest strategic bombing mission of August. The targets included aluminum and magnesium plants. (28)

1956: The Boeing KC-135 Stratotanker flew its maiden flight. (12)

1963: Benjamin Greene set a new distance record for single-place gliders for a 457.97-mile flight from Marfa, Tex., to Boise City, Okl.

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Through 16 September, two Ranch Hand UC-123s flew 17 insecticide spray sorties in Thailand to help control destructive locusts. (17)

- 1965: First Minuteman II missile emplaced in a 447 SMS silo.
- 1967: The Air Force awarded McDonnell-Douglas a contract for eight C-9A medium-range jets to carry 30 litter patients, 40 ambulatory patients, or a combination of both. (18)
- 1981: A McDonnell Douglas DC-10 with winglets completed its first flight from the company's Long Beach factory to Edwards AFB. The winglets reduced drag and lowered fuel use by as much as 250,000 gallons an aircraft per year. (3)
- 1986: From an operationally configured launch facility, Vandenberg AFB launched the first operationally configured Peacekeeper missile. (16)
- 1987: Through 9 September, eight C-130 Hercules aircraft and even more C-141s carried 2,511 tons of fire retardant and a contingent of firefighters to coastal area in Oregon and California to fight forest fires in 970 square miles of forest, brush, and scrub lands. The effort helped the firefighters to bring the fires under control. (16) (26)
- 1992: A C-141 flew 70 children suffering from cancer in the wake of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident from Minsk, Byelarus, to Brussels, Belgium, for medical treatment. (18)
- 1994: The Air Force's third operational B-2 (#8-0328), the Spirit of Texas, joined the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman. (15)

**Operation SAFE HAVEN.** Through 10 September, USAF aircraft and other military services moved Cuban and Haitian refugees from overcrowded camps at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to Panama for shelter. (16)

Through 8 September, Russian, American, British, and French military forces withdrew from Berlin after 49 years. (26)

- 2001: **Operation CORONET NIGHTHAWK.** All ANG fighter operations ended, but the deployed fighters remained in 24-hour alert status until they left Curacao. The operation began in 1990 using fighters to help monitor and interdict illegal drug traffic in the Caribbean region. (32)
- 2007: The last two upgraded T-38Cs arrived at Randolph AFB, Tex. The aircraft received so many changes that the Air Force redesignated it as the T-38C. The delivery ended an 11-year avionics upgrade program, commonly called Avionics Upgrade Program (AUP). The modifications, along with an ongoing propulsion modernization, an ejection seat upgrade, and an improved braking system, extended the T-38C's life cycle through 2020. (AFNEWS, "Last Two T-38s Get Avionic Upgrade," 5 Sep 2007.)

### 1 September

- 1914: 1st Aero Squadron organized at San Diego, Calif., with 16 officers, 77 enlisted men, and eight planes.
- 1919: Using a DH-4B, Lt Lester B. Sweely (Air Service Reserve) demonstrated a diving attack at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. He dropped a 300-pound demolition bomb from under the fuselage. (20)
- 1927: American Railway Express and major airlines started air express operations. (24)

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- 1940: Pan American Airways began a new 3-day route from the US to Rio de Janeiro, using a 1,500-mile shortcut across the Amazon jungles. (24)
- 1944: Fifth Air Force sent 55 B-24s to bomb dispersal areas at three airfields near Davao, Mindanao Island, in the Philippines. Two of the Liberators were shot down by antiaircraft fire, and anti-aircraft fire or interceptors damaged several others. Strike photographs revealed the destruction of 22 Japanese aircraft on the ground. (17)
- 1948: The second XR-12 lifted off from the Air Force Flight Test Center at Muroc, Calif., and climbed westward to gain altitude over the Pacific Ocean. Upon reaching its 40,000-foot cruising altitude, the XR-12 headed eastward and began photographing its entire route over the entire US. The crew shot a continuous 325-foot long strip of film composed of 390 individual photos covering a 490-mile-wide field of vision. The aircraft landed at Mitchel Field in Long Island, N.Y., completing a flight lasting six hours and 55 minutes. The record shattering flight was featured in the 29 November 1948 issue of Life magazine, and the filmstrip went on display at the 1948 Air Force Association Convention in New York.
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force strafed and dropped napalm and bombs on N. Korean troops and armored columns attacking along the Naktong River front, while USN Task Force 77 aircraft provided close air support to the perimeter defenders. General MacArthur directed General Stratemeyer to use all available FEAF airpower, including B-29s, to help the Eighth Army hold the "Pusan Perimeter." (28)
- The 97<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron at Biggs AFB, Tex., received the first KB-29P tanker (Tail No. 44-86427), equipped with a flying boom. Earlier "M" models used Britain's trailing-hose refueling equipment. (1)
- 1953: In the first jet-to-jet air refueling, a KB-47B refueled a B-47 Stratojet in the air. (12) (24)
- 1959: At Vandenberg AFB, Calif., the USAF formally transferred the operational Atlas missile to the Strategic Air Command. (16)
- 1962: Last Titan II squadron, the 374<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron, activated at Little Rock AFB, Ark. (6) (12)
- Following a 7.3 earthquake, which killed over 10,000 people, the Military Air Transport Service sent C-118s, C-124s and C-133s to airlift nearly 480 tons of relief supplies from Ramstein AB, Germany, to Teheran, Iran. (18)
- 1964: First Titan III-A launched within one day of target month. Test results were 95 percent achieved, although it failed to attain the planned orbit.
- Capts Albert R. Crews and Richard B. Lawler completed a two-week stay in a simulated space cabin at the General Electric Space Center in Valley Forge, Pa. This test showed that man could perform more tasks in extended space flight than supposed. (16) (26)
- The Strategic Air Command inactivated its first Atlas D unit, the 564th Strategic Missile Squadron, at Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyo. (6)
- 1965: The first of 13 computer-controlled radar system sites for detecting enemy aircraft became operational at North Truro, Mass. Engineers designed the system, called Back Up Interceptor Control (BUIC), to take over America's air defense if the Semi-Automated Ground Environment System (SAGE) failed or was destroyed.
- 1966: The Tactical Air Command activated the Tactical Fighter Weapons Center at Nellis AFB, Nev.,

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to conduct special fighter training in F-100s, F-105s, and F-4s. (11)

The USAF Tactical Airlift Center activated at Pope AFB to provide airlift support to Army units and test new airlift equipment. (16)

- 1968: **MEDAL OF HONOR.** During a rescue attempt of a downed American pilot, Lt Col William A. Jones III served as the on-scene commander. He repeatedly flew his A-1H Skyraider over enemy guns and sustained heavy damage and severe burns. Discovering his radios to be broken, Jones refused to abandon his crippled aircraft and flew back to base in extreme pain, where he reported the downed pilot's location. On 15 November 1969, Colonel Jones died in a private plane crash near Woodbridge, Va. At the time, he commanded the 1<sup>st</sup> Flying Training Squadron at Andrews AFB, Md. Jones received the Medal of Honor posthumously at White House ceremonies for heroic actions in 1968. (16) (21)
- 1970: Air Rescue and Recovery Service helicopters began participating in the Military Assistance for Safety in Traffic (MAST) project to provide medical assistance to automobile accident victims and other people needing medical care in civilian communities. (16)
- 1971: First USAF Geodetic Receiver (Geoceiver) deployed. It used Navy satellites to pinpoint geographic locations.
- 1974: Maj James B. Sullivan, pilot, and Maj Noel F. Widdifield, reconnaissance systems officer (RSO), flew an SR-71 from New York to London in a record 1 hour 55 minutes 42 seconds for trans-Atlantic flight. They averaged 1,806.96 MPH for 3,490 miles to break the British Royal Navy's 1969 record of 4 hours 46 minutes and 723 MPH in an F-4K. (1)
- 1983: A Soviet SU-15 interceptor shot down Korean Air Lines Flight 007, a Boeing 747 with 269 passengers, near Sakhalin Island. Through 12 September, three HC-130s from the 33 ARRS at Kadena AB conducted subsequent search operations over the Sea of Japan, but found no survivors. SAC KC-135s also provided air refueling support. (16) (26)
- 1986: The Tactical Air Command's last Cessna O-2 left Shaw AFB, S. C., for storage at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. (11)
- 1987: The USAF reactivated the first Ryan AQM-34M Firebee Drone to test the over-the-horizon backscatter (OTH-B) radar system. It flew for one hour over the Utah Test and Training Range.
- 1992: **TYPHOON OMAR.** The storm hit Guam on 28 August with 150-MPH winds and 16 inches of rain. On 1 September, C-5 carried 62 tons of cargo from Yokota AB, Japan, for the first relief mission to Guam. Through 25 September, airlift aircraft flew in 750 relief workers and 2,000 tons of supplies to the island in 59 missions. (16) (18)
- 1995: The SR-71 returned to active service. It was retired in 1990 when strategists prematurely suggested that satellites were able to assume its mission. (16)
- 1999: **Operation ALLIED FORCE/SHINING HOPE.** Air National Guard KC-135s flew 1,640 sorties and 10,300 flying hours to offload over 50 million pounds of fuel to 5,100 aircraft in ALLIED FORCE. During SHINING HOPE, Air National Guard C-130s flew 512 sorties in 1,413 flight hours. (32)

### 2 September

- 1910: The first American woman pilot, Blanche Scott, soloed in a Curtiss Pusher over the Lake Keuka Field of the Curtiss Company at Hammondsport, N. Y. (20) (24)

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- 1916: **FIRST PLANE-TO-PLANE RADIO TRANSMISSION** Flying at North Island in San Diego, Calif., Lt William A. Robertson and Cpl Albert D. Smith sent radiotelegraphic messages from their plane nearly 2 miles to Lt Herbert A. Dargue and Capt Clarence C. Culver in a second plane. (4) (24)
- 1933: Lt Cmdr Thomas G. W. Settle and Lt Charles H. Kendall set a 51-hour duration record for balloons in the Gordon Bennett Balloon Race at Chicago, Ill. Their record spanned several subclasses: A-7 (1,600 to 2,200 cubic meters), A-8 (2,200 to 3,000 cubic meters), and A-9 (3,000 to 4,000 cubic meters). (9)
- 1938: Through 6 September, Merrill Phoenix and Howard Allen flew a Piper Cub from Syracuse, N.Y., to a world light plane endurance record of 106 hours 2 minutes. (24)
- 1940: The US agreed to trade 50 old destroyers to Great Britain for use against the German U-boats. In return, the US received rights to air and naval bases at eight strategic points in the Atlantic and Caribbean areas. (21) (24)
- 1945: Japan formally surrendered to the US on the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. This marked V-J Day and the end of World War II. (17)
- 1953: In a Piasecki H-21 Workhorse at Dayton, Ohio., Capt Russell M. Dobyms set a 22,110-foot altitude record of for helicopters. (24)
- Using an F-86D Sabre, Brig Gen Stanley Holtoner set a 690.118 MPH world speed record on a 100-kilometer, or 62-mile, closed course at Vandalia, Ohio. (24)
- Capt Harold E. Collins set a 707.876 MPH speed record in an F-86D Sabre over a 15-kilometer (9.3 miles) straight course at Vandalia, Ohio. (24)
- 1956: At the National Aircraft Show, Oklahoma City, Okla., an Army H-13 helicopter set an endurance record of 57 hours 40 minutes in the air. (24)
- 1960: The Strategic Air Command declared the 564th Strategic Missile Squadron and its Atlas D missiles operational. This made the 564th the first operational intercontinental ballistic missile squadron in the command. (6)
- 1966: **Exercise BAR FROST.** USAF, Army, and Marine Corps units from the US participated in this joint combined exercise with British and Norwegian forces in Norway. The US Strike Command's forces traveled to Norway aboard Tactical Air Command and Military Airlift Command aircraft. (16)
- 1969: The Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratory used its Lunar Laser Observatory to bounce a laser signal off a retroreflector placed on the moon by Apollo 11 astronauts.
- 1977: First class of women pilots graduated at Williams AFB, Ariz. Five of the 10 new pilots were assigned to the Military Airlift Command. (16) (18)
- 1980: The Air Weather Service established a detachment at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Tex., to advise space shuttle personnel of environmental issues and provide meteorological support for orbital test flights. (26)
- 1982: After an 11.4-hour nonstop flight from Edwards AFB, Calif., a B-1B prototype landed at Farnborough, England, for static display. This was the aircraft's first landing at a site other than Edwards. (3)
- 1984: Through 3 September, air rescue units in Korea saved 148 people from flood waters. (16)

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- 1996: **Operation DESERT STRIKE.** Through 3 September, 1 KC-10 from McGuire AFB, N. J., and 8 KC-10s from Travis AFB, Calif., joined 14 KC-135s from Fairchild AFB, Wash., in refueling missions to support a US bombing raid on selected military targets in Iraq. The tankers made four critical refuelings to enable two 2d Bomb Wing B-52s to travel 13,683 miles roundtrip from Barksdale AFB, La., on a 34-hour nonstop mission. Additionally, a Travis C-5 airlifted some 75 personnel and support equipment from the US to Guam to support the operation. (18)
- 2005: **HURRICANE KATRINA.** Air National Guard airlifters flew 389 sorties to transport 4,409 passengers and 1,605 tons of cargo in one day supporting hurricane relief efforts. (32)

### 3 September

- 1908: Orville Wright flew the Wright Flyer on its first test flight at Fort Myer, Va. (12)
- 1925: The Navy's dirigible, Shenandoah, collapsed in a storm over Ava, Ohio, killing 14 of 43 passengers, including Lt Cmdr Zachary Lansdowne, the commander. The event later led Brig Gen William "Billy" Mitchell to charge the War and Navy Departments with incompetency and an almost treasonable administration of the national defense. In response to that charge, President Calvin Coolidge ordered Mitchell's court-martial. (21) (24)
- 1932: Maj James H. Doolittle flew a Granville Gee Bee Monoplane with a Wasp engine at an average speed of 294 MPH to set a Federation Aeronautique Internationale record for 3 kilometers at Cleveland, Ohio. (9) (24)
- 1945: Maj G. E. Cain flew an Air Transportation Command C-54 Skymaster with movies of Japan's surrender on a record 31-hour, 25-minute flight from Tokyo to Washington. (9)
- 1947: A. Paul Mantz flew a North American P-51 from New York, N. Y., to Burbank, Calif., to set Federation Aeronautique Internationale records for distance and speed: 2,453.8 miles in 7 hours 4 seconds at 350.49 MPH. (9)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** USN Task Force 77 withdrew its carriers from the Pusan area for replenishment and movement north to strike communications targets. That action left all close air support responsibility with Far East Air Forces. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Through 4 September, B-29s flew 52 effective sorties, the monthly high and all but two against the Chosin hydroelectric power plant complex. (28)
- 1954: Maj J. L. Armstrong flew an F-86 Sabre 649.46 MPH at Dayton, Ohio, to set a record over a 500-kilometer closed course. (24)
- 1963: National Air and Space Administration test pilot Milton O. Thompson landed the wingless M-2 "Flying Bathub," a lifting reentry glider, after a C-47 dropped it from 13,000 feet.
- 1964: A two-stage, 7-foot monorail sled set a 4,200-MPH land speed record in a 16-second ride at the AF Missile Development Center.
- 1965: Test pilot Donald F. McCusker landed a Gemini-type craft after a 4-1/2 minute flight. In this first successful manned free flight of a paraglider, McCusker demonstrated an ability to guide a spacecraft to a preselected landing site.
- Brenda Bogan set a record of 9,770 feet at Anoka, Minn., for subclass AX-3 hot air balloons (400-600 cubic meters). (9)



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- 1974: **FORCE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM.** The Strategic Air Command took its last Minuteman I off alert with the 90th Strategic Missile Wing at Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyo., for its conversion to the Minuteman III. (1) (16)
- 1976: The Viking 2 lander touched down on Mars. (8: Sep 90)
- 1980: The flight test program for the B-52 Offensive Avionics System (OAS) started at the Boeing facility in Wichita, Ks. (3)
- 1983: **Operation RUBBER WALL.** Through 25 September, the Military Airlift Command flew 85 C-141 Starlifter, 24 C-5 Galaxy, and 4 C-130 Hercules missions to move 4,000 tons of supplies from the US to support US Marines in Lebanon. (16)
- 1987: First flight of a production McDonnell Douglas F/A-18C.
- 1996: The 11th Reconnaissance Squadron at Nellis AFB, Nev., began operating the Predator unmanned aerial vehicle above Bosnia-Herzegovina. (21)
1999. Capt Julie Hudson of the 175<sup>th</sup> Wing (Maryland Air National Guard) qualified as the Guards's first fully combat ready female A-10 fighter pilot. (32)

### 4 September

- 1911: **BOSTON AIR MEET.** Lt Thomas DeWitt Milling became the first Army officer to fly at night. While participating in a 160-mile tristate air race, Milling had to land his plane by the light of gasoline flares. Earle L. Ovington won the race. (24)
- 1922: **KEY EVENT.** Lt James H. Doolittle completed the first transcontinental flight in one day in a rebuilt DH-4B with Liberty 400 HP engines. He flew from Pablo Beach, Fla, to Rockwell Field, Calif., and covered the 2,163 miles in 21 hours 20 minutes flying time. (9)
- 1923: The airship USS Shenandoah (ZR-1) made its first flight at Lakehurst, N.J. (20)
- 1933: At Glenville, Ill., James R. Wedell flew his Wedell-Williams Airplane to a 305-MPH world speed record. (9)
- 1936: Louise Thaden and Blanche Noyes won the Bendix Trophy Race. They also set an east-west transcontinental speed record for women, when they flew from Floyd Bennett Field, N. Y., to Los Angeles, Calif., in 14 hours 55 minutes in a Beachcraft airplane with a Wright Whirlwind engine. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** At Hangan-dong, an H-5 helicopter made its first rescue of a U.S. pilot behind enemy lines, when Lt Paul W. Van Boven saved Capt Robert E. Wayne. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** 75 fighter-bombers flew well north of the Chongchon River to attack targets, flushing out about 89 MiGs from their bases in Manchuria. While protecting the F-84s, 39 F-86 Sabres engaged the MiGs, destroying 13, to equal the one-day record set on 4 July. Four F-86s fell to the MiG pilots. Maj Frederick C. Blesse, 334th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, destroyed his fifth enemy aircraft to become an ace. An H-19 from the 3d Air Rescue Squadron saved a downed fighter pilot and two crewmen of a US Navy helicopter, which had lost power and crashed in the water while attempting to pick up the pilot. (28)

The USAF awarded the production contract for Lockheed's 383 transport, better known as the C-130 Hercules. (4)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1957: Lockheed's C-140 Jetstar prototype first flew. (12)
- 1958: Four F-100 Super Sabres completed the first nonstop jet fighter flight from the US to Norway. (24)
- 1959: At Sioux Falls, Idaho, an unmanned balloon, launched for scientific purposes, soared to an altitude of 150,000 feet. (24)
- The Minuteman missile program received the highest national priority for production. (6)
- 1961: **PROJECT TACKHAMMER/OPERATIONS STAIR STEP and BRASS RING.** Through 27 November, three operations offered a show of force to Soviet Union's erection of the Berlin Wall. Airlift units moved a Composite Air Strike Force to Europe from 4 to 7 September under Project TACKHAMMER, and then they carried nearly 10,000 troops and some 2,380 tons of cargo to the region from 31 October to 27 November during Operation STAIR STEP. In November, airlifters also moved Tactical Air Command F-104s and personnel in Operation BRASS RING. (18)
- 1970: The Army's CH-47 Chinook helicopter flew its maiden flight with the new T-55-1-11A Lycoming engines at Edwards AFB, Calif. (3)
- 1975: For outstanding air refueling support, the Tactical Air Command gave Strategic Air Command its "Gen Carl 'Tooey' Spaatz Award" in memory of the first Chief of Staff of the Air Force and pioneer in air refueling. On 4 October, the Strategic Air Command then gave the first award to the 11th Air Refueling Squadron at Altus AFB, Okla. (1)
- 1981: Vandenberg AFB, Calif., moved the last modified Thor space booster into storage at Norton AFB in San Bernardino, Calif. (6)
- 1984: At Palmdale, Calif., Rockwell International rolled out the first B-1B (Tail No. 82-0001) for the public. (1)
- Exercise GALLANT EAGLE '84.** Through 12 September, the Strategic Air Command, the Tactical Air Command, Military Airlift Command, and Army units in the west took part in the largest US military exercise since 1962. Gallant Eagle involved 44 B-52s (182 sorties), KC-135s and KC-10s (309 support missions), command and control, and reconnaissance aircraft. (1)
- 1987: An F/A-18 fired an Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile for the first time at supersonic speeds at Point Mugu, Calif. (5)
- 1996: A C-141 Starlifter from the 305th Air Mobility Wing at McGuire AFB, N. J., evacuated 30 passengers from Bujumbura, Burundi, to Nairobi, Kenya, to remove them from the danger of a civil war in Burundi. (26)
- 2005: **HURRICANE KATRINA.** Air Guard pararescue specialists saved 538 human lives in one day. This one-day total was the highest number of saves by Air National Guard rescue assets during the hurricane relief operation. (32)
- HURRICANE KATRINA.** During their first three days of relief operations, Air National Guard aircrews flew 785 sorties to transport 12,854 people and 39,013 tons of cargo. (32)

### 5 September

- 1923: Army bombing tests off Cape Hatteras, N.C., sank the condemned naval vessels New Jersey and Virginia by bombing.

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1931: M. S. Boggs made the first solo blind landing using the Bureau of Air Commerce blind flying system.
- 1941: Nine B-17D Flying Fortresses began a mass transpacific flight from Hawaii to the Philippines. After flying through Midway, Wake, Port Moresby, and Darwin, Australia, the bombers landed at Clark Field, near Manila on 12 September. (21) (24)
- 1944: Capt William H. Allen of the 55<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Eighth Air Force, became an ace in one P-51 mission by scoring five aerial victories in just a few minutes. Flying with another ace, Capt William H. Lewis, Allen's flight encountered and shot down 16 German fighters. Between 3 and 11 September, the 55<sup>th</sup> shot down 106 enemy fighters to earn a Distinguished Unit Citation. (4)
- 1948: The Navy's Martin JRM Mars seaplane, the Caroline Mars, lifted 62,282 pounds, the heaviest payload to date, from Patuxent River to Cleveland, Ohio. (24)
- 1951: The USAF awarded a contract to Consolidated Vultee for the world's first atomic-powered plane. General Electric built the engine. (16)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** In two daylight strikes, Far East Air Forces flew over 200 sorties against an ore and processing plant located northeast of Sinanju, damaging or destroying approximately 70 buildings and repair shops. (28)
- 1953: In a Piasecki YH-21 Workhorse, Capt Russell M. Dobyns set a 3-kilometer (1.86 miles) speed record of 146.743 MPH for helicopters at Dayton, Ohio.
- 1960: Lt Col T. H. Miller (USMC) piloted a McDonnell F4H-1 Phantom II at 1,216.77 MPH over a 500-kilometer (310 miles) course to set a new world's record. (24)
- 1968: President Johnson ended the Advisory Committee on Supersonic Transport, which had been set up on 1 April 1964.
- 1983: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Capt Robert J. Goodman and his KC-135 crewmembers (Capt Michael R. Clover, 1Lt Karol R. Wojcikowski and SSgt Douglas D. Simmons) from Loring AFB, Maine, refueled a group of F-4Es crossing the North Atlantic. When an F-4 lost power in an engine and diverted to Gander International Airport in Newfoundland, 500 miles away, Goodman took up escort duty. Later, the F-4 pilot shut down that engine and reduced power in the other, which forced him to lose altitude, airspeed, and jettison his centerline tank. Through four, interrupted refuelings and extreme peril as the fighter dropped to 2,000 feet, the KC-135 towed or escorted the fighter to Gander. For this meritorious flight, Goodman and his crew received the Mackay Trophy. (1) (18)
- 1986: A C-141 Starlifter from United States Air Forces in Europe flew Americans injured during a hijacking at Karachi Airport, Pakistan, to Frankfurt, Germany, for medical treatment. (16) (26)
- 1984: The Discovery Space Shuttle completed its first flight with a landing at Edwards AFB, Calif. (3)
- 1996: **HURRICANE FRAN.** C-130s from the 145<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing airlifted engineers, security police, generators, mobile kitchens, and showers to the Raleigh and Wilmington, N. C. (26)

### 6 September

- 1916: The Army dropped its first fragmentation bomb, the "Barlow Return Action," at the Signal Corps Aviation Station in Mineola, N. Y. (12) (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1919: At Dayton, Ohio, Maj Rudolph W. Schroeder, chief test pilot for the Engineering Division at McCook Field, and Lt G. A. Elfrey set a new unofficial two-man world altitude record of 28,250 feet. They used a Packard-Lepere LUSAC II, powered by a 400 HP Liberty engine with a Moss Turbo Supercharger. Schroeder used an oxygen system and special oxygen. (24)
- 1942: The VIII Bomber Command lost its first aircraft in combat when two B-17s failed to return from a strike on the Avions Poetz aircraft plant at Meaulte, France. (24)
- 1943: P-47s escorted a B-17 attack on an aircraft and bearing factory in Stuttgart, Germany. The fighters had little chance for combat as the Luftwaffe avoided them. Bad weather also frustrated the original target plans, so the bombers turned to targets of opportunity in Germany and France. This proved disastrous as enemy fighters claimed 45 bombers. (4)
- 1947: The carrier USS Midway successfully fired a captured German V-2 rocket from its deck. (24)
- 1978: General Dynamic's first production-model F-16 fighter landed at Edwards AFB, Calif., for testing, following a two-hour flight from the plant at Fort Worth, Tex. (3)
- 1985: **Exercise BRAVE DEFENDER.** Through 14 September, United States Air Forces in Europe forces participated in this exercise, the first off-post national ground defense exercise held by the British. (16)
- 1995: The Air Mobility Command coordinated an Air Transport International DC-8 mission from Charleston AFB, S. C., to Zagreb, Croatia, to carry 18 pallets of pharmaceutical and medical supplies for victims of the civil war in the former Yugoslavia. (18)
- 1997: From Charleston AFB, S. C., a 315th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron aircrew flew the first C-17 aeromedical evacuation training flight aboard the "The Spirit of Charleston" on a round trip to Bermuda. (22)
- 2002: **Operation NOBLE EAGLE.** Fighters resumed 24-hour combat air patrols temporarily over Washington DC and New York City as the anniversary of the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks approached. (32)

### 7 September

- 1911: Lt Theodore G. Ellyson (USN) demonstrated a shipboard wire launching of the Curtiss seaplane. His plane took off from a wire cable stretched across a platform on shore, representing a ship's deck, and then alighted on the water at Lake Keuka. (24)
- 1917: A winged fowl anchor became the official insignia for Navy aviators. It was nearly the same as the device used today.
- 1918: Several planes carried 18 enlisted men from Chanute Field to Champaign, Ill., to make the first demonstration of troop transport by air in the US. (18) (24)
- 1933: Lt Cmdr H. E. Holland led six Consolidated P2Y-1 flying boats on a 25 hour 19 minute nonstop flight from Norfolk to Coco Solo, Panama Canal, to set a 2,059-mile record for formation flying. (24)
- 1938: Seventeen Navy planes completed a mass flight from San Diego to Hawaii, covering the 2,570 miles in 17 hours 21 minutes. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** The 22 BG employed 24 B-29s against the iron works at Chongjin in north-

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

east N. Korea. (28)

- 1956: **MACKAY TROPHY.** At Edwards AFB, Capt Iven C. Kincheloe set an altitude record for manned flight by flying the Bell X-2 rocket-powered aircraft to 126,000 feet. He later received the Mackay Trophy for this flight. (3) (9)
- 1968: Max Conrad set a closed circuit record in a twin-engine Piper Aztec, flying 4,968 miles over a 621-mile triangle between St. Louis, Des Moines, and Kansas City, eight times in 37 hours 50 minutes.
- 1975: Through 3 November, following the Angolan civil war, USAF-managed civil aircraft flew 31,597 refugees to Portugal. Altogether, international airlift moved over 204,000 refugees. (18)
- 1979: President Carter selected the horizontal multiple protective shelter basing mode for the M-X missile (Peacekeeper). (6)
- 1988: The F-15 STOL demonstrator made its first flight at St. Louis. (30)
- 1995: Two 436 AW C-5s from Dover AFB airlifted gas turbine generators from Ramstein AB to Incirlik AB to provide electrical power for Kurdish refugees living in northern Iraq. (18)
- 1997: F-22 Chief Test Pilot Paul Metz flew the Lockheed Martin-Boeing F-22 Raptor for the USAF for the first time from Dobbins ARB over Marietta and north Georgia. The aircraft reached 15,000 feet in altitude in three minutes, where Metz then tested its handling characteristics and engine performance. ([http://www.boeing.com/news/releases/1997/news\\_release\\_970907.html](http://www.boeing.com/news/releases/1997/news_release_970907.html))

### 8 September

- 1920: A plane and train transcontinental mail route from New York to Chicago to San Francisco completed. (24)
- 1944: The allies issued the “Joint British-American Directives on Day Bombing Operations Involving Fighter Cooperation.” This plan formed the blueprint for the 24-hour bombing of Germany. (4)
- Republic Aviation assembled the first prototype JB-2, a copy of the German V-1 rocket. (6)
- 1955: President Eisenhower gave the ICBM development program the highest national priority. (6)
- 1958: Lt R.H. Tabor (USN) finished a 72-hour flight in a pressure chamber at simulated altitudes up to 139,000 feet. (24)
- 1967: Surveyor V sent to the moon, where it took photographs and made a chemical analysis of the surface.
- 1970: The DoD changed its March 1961 space policy by regarding service functions to assign systems for development and acquisition. A Director of Defense, Research and Engineering had to provide broad space programs that met the needs of other services.
- 1971: The USAF’s 17 SOS at Tan Son Nhut AB flew its final AG-119G “Shadow” gunship mission and then turned the aircraft over to the Vietnamese Air Force. Nicknamed Shadow for its close air support and interdiction of enemy supply lines on night missions, the AC-119 aircraft were the first assigned to the Vietnamese. PACAF retained the jet augmented AC-119Ks. (16) (17)
- 1981: The C-X aircraft renamed as the C-17. (12)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1990: The Air Force promoted Marcelite Jordan Harris to Brigadier General, making her the first black woman to hold the grade of general in the Air Force. (21)
- 1994: **OPERATION UPHOLD DEMOCRACY/ MAINTAIN DEMOCRACY.** To support **UPHOLD DEMOCRACY**, AMC airlifters and tankers began moving US forces to predeployment locations to await the President's order to invade Haiti. Airlifters carried an invasion force toward Haiti on 18 September, when former President James E. Carter and his delegation convinced the Haitian dictator to step aside and thus avert the attack. AMC aircraft then delivered US troops and equipment to Port-au-Prince IAP and Cap Haitien, where they joined a multinational peacekeeping effort under Operation **MAINTAIN DEMOCRACY**. From 8 September through 31 December 1994, AMC completed 1,528 airlift missions and 92 tanker missions to support the operations. (18)
- 1999: The AeroVironment *Helios* prototype UAV made its first flight at Edwards AFB. The flying wing, developed as part of NASA's ERAST program, had a 247-foot wing span to reach 100,000 feet in altitude and fly missions lasting four days or more. An accidental deployment of the emergency parachute cut the first flight short. (3)
- 2001: SECAF James G. Roche, Lt Gen Lance W. Lord, the Assistant VCSAF, and former first lady Nancy Reagan flew aboard the "Spirit of '76" on its final flight from Andrews AFB to San Bernardino IAP, Calif. It would be retired and displayed at the Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif. (AFNEWS Article 1257, 11 Sep 2001)
- 2004: From AFFTC at Edwards, an NKC-135 *Stratotanker*, the Flying Infrared Signature Technology Aircraft (FISTA), flew NASA scientists to 39,000 feet to study the *Genesis* spacecraft's reentry after its three-year mission to collect solar wind particles at the Lagrange I Point between the Earth and the sun. Unfortunately the *Genesis* parachute system failed at high altitude, and it was destroyed upon ground contact. (3)
- AFFTC retired its NKC-135E refueling tanker (s/n 55-3135) after 49 years of USAF service. Originally, the unusual aircraft had most of its windows on one side to monitor nuclear testing activities. It was then remodified for the FISTA program before resuming its career as a tanker. It was the second oldest operational plane in the USAF, with the Dryden Flight Research Center's venerable B-52B 52-0008 being the oldest. (3)

### 9 September

- 1908: Lt Frank P. Lahm became the first military passenger to fly with Orville Wright in the Wright Flyer at Fort Myer. They set new a duration record of 57 minutes 25 seconds, making 57 trips around the field at 100 feet. Later that day, Wright also flew for 62 minutes 15 seconds. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** While N. Korean forces neared Taegu, FEAF bombers started a rail interdiction campaign north of Seoul to slow enemy reinforcements. Medium bombers attacked marshalling yards and cut rails at multiple points along key routes. (28)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Some 70 MiGs attacked 28 F-86 Sabres between Sinanju and Pyongyang. Despite such odds, Capt Richard S. Becker, 334 FIS, and Capt Ralph D. Gibson, 335 FIS, each destroyed a MiG, increasing the number of jet aces from one to three. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Protected by F-86s, 45 F-84s attacked the N. Korean Military Academy at Sakchu. Of approximately 64 MiGs in the area, some penetrated the Sabre screen, shot down three ThunderJets, and forced several flights to jettison their bombs. The F-86s suffered no losses during the aerial combat and destroyed five MiGs. (28)
- 1958: A Lockheed X-7 ramjet, air-launched from a B-50 bomber, exceeded Mach 4 to become the

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

fastest air-breathing missile. (24)

- 1959: **KEY EVENT.** A SAC crew fired the first Atlas D from Vandenberg AFB. Afterwards Gen Thomas S. Power, SAC's Commander-in-Chief, declared the system operational. The missile traveled 4,300 miles at 16,000 MPH. (6) (21)
- Big Joe, NASA's test version of a Mercury astronaut capsule, recovered from the Caribbean in good condition after making a 1,500-mile flight aboard an Atlas rocket. The capsule reached an altitude of 100 miles and a speed of 14,000 MPH. (24)
- 1962: The first Atlas F squadron, the 550 SMS, became operational at Schilling AFB, Kans. (6)
- 1967: **AIR FORCE CROSS:** A1C Duane D. Hackney (ARRS) became the first living enlisted man to receive an Air Force Cross for his heroic efforts to rescue a pilot downed North Vietnam's jungles. (See 6 February 1967) (16) (26)
- 1972: To become the Vietnam War's leading ace, Capt Charles B. DeBellevue, flying as a weapon systems officer in a 555 TFS F-4, shot down his fifth and sixth enemy plane. He became the first non-pilot ace in the USAF. For this feat, DeBellevue shared the 1972 Mackay Trophy with Captains Richard S. "Steve" Ritchie and Jeffrey S. Feinstein. (17) (21) (26)
- 1975: A Martin Marietta Titan III/Centaur booster launched the Viking 2 Mars mission. (8: Sep 90)
- 1976: The ALCM completed its first fully guided flight test. (6)
- 1983: The Belgian government announced the deployment of GLCMs at Florennes AB. (4)
- 1998: **Operation KEIKO LIFT.** Through 10 September, a 437 AW C-17 aircrew from Charleston AFB flew Keiko, the Orca killer whale who starred in the movie *Free Willy*, on a 8,630-mile, 10-hour nonstop flight from the Oregon Coast Aquarium at Newport, Oregon, to Iceland's Vestmannaeyjar Island. A KC-10 from Travis AFB and KC-135s from McGuire AFB refueled the C-17 during its flight to Iceland. (22)
- 2000: **Operation CENTRAZBAT 2000.** Two C-17s, one from Charleston AFB and one from Altus AFB picked up 160 paratroopers from Fort Bragg's 82d Airborne Division at Pope AFB and then flew 20 hours nonstop to a drop zone near Almaty, Kazakhstan. The paratroopers joined troops from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and other NATO partners in this operation, a humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping field training operation. The C-17s each received two aerial refuelings on the 6,700-mile flight to Kazakhstan. (22)
- The 185th Fighter Wing (Iowa ANG) learned it would convert from F-16s to KC-135 tankers by 2004. The change would cost \$32.2 million in construction and \$30 million in training and conversion costs to place 10 KC-135s with the unit. (32)
- 2003: The first production RQ-4A Global Hawk (AV-8) arrived at Edwards AFB for sensor installation and a sensor acceptance flight. Following completion of a 23 September sortie, the aircraft was delivered to the 9<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Wing at Beale AFB. (3)

### 10 September

- 1927: E. J. Hill and A. G. Schlosser set a FAI distance record for subclass A-7 balloons (1,600 to 2,200 cubic meters) in the Gordon Bennett International Balloon Race by flying 745 miles from Detroit, Mich., to Baxley, Ga. Georges Blanchett and Dr. George LeGallee also set a 49-hour duration record in the same event by flying to Waverly, Ga. His record went into the books for three subclasses: A-7, A-8 and A-9 (2,200 to 3,000 and 3,000 to 4,000 cubic meters). (9)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1942: The Secretary of War formed the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron. Then in October, female pilots began ferrying aircraft from production sites to airfields in the US. (18)
- 1944: Over 1,000 Eighth Air Force bombers, escorted by hundreds of fighters, raided aircraft factories, motor transport parks, engine plants, a jet engine plant, and German airfields. (4)
- The C-82 prototype made its first flight at Fairchild's plant at Hagerstown, Md. It was the first aircraft designed in World War II to carry cargo exclusively. (12)
- 1945: The USS Midway, first of the 45,000-ton class carriers, commissioned at Newport News. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** After USN Task Force 77 withdrew its close air support of the Eighth Army (see 3 September), General Stratemeyer asked General MacArthur to direct all close air support requests to the Fifth Air Force. If unable to meet a request, Fifth Air Force would forward it to FEAF headquarters for coordination with the Commander, Naval Forces, Far East. (28)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** South of Pyongyang, a 3 ARS H-5 helicopter, with fighter escort, rescued an F-80 pilot, Capt Ward M. Millar, 7 FBS. He suffered two broken ankles during his ejection from the jet, but escaped after two months as a prisoner of war and then evaded recapture for three weeks. The helicopter delivered Millar to Seoul. (28)
- 1953: First Douglas C-124C Globemaster delivered to MATS.
- 1956: First flight of the F-107.
- 1960: **Operation SKY SHIELD.** NORAD tested the defense readiness of American and Canadian radar and electronic systems. (24)
- 1964: Agreements between the Departments of Treasury, Defense, Interior, Commerce, the FAA, and NASA established the Joint Navigation Satellite Committee (JNSC). This committee evaluated requirements for a nonmilitary satellite system for air-sea navigation, traffic control, emergency and rescue operations, and related functions.
- 1965: The USAF launched the first Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) weather satellite, which enabled the Air Weather Service to gather global weather data. (2)
- 1969: Project Rulison occurred as the second in the Atomic Energy Commission's Operation Plowshare to explore peaceful uses of atomic energy. The first event, Cabriole, involved a cratering experiment that took place on 26 January 1968 at the Nevada Test Site.
- 1974: Last Minuteman I transferred from SAC inventory to be replaced by Minuteman III. This action completed a modernization program to replace Minuteman I after 11 years of service in SAC.
- 1980: **TYPHOON ORCHID.** The typhoon caused severe flooding along the eastern coast of South Korea. An HH-3E helicopter from Osan AB rescued 229 people from swirling waters southeast of Osan. (16) (26)
- 1988: Through 15 September, MAC wings flew 100 tons of relief supplies and a field hospital to help victims of a flood in Bangladesh. The flood covered 3/4s of the country and almost all of the capital city, Dhaka, killing 1,200 people and leaving 28 million inhabitants homeless. (26)
- 1993: Boeing rolled out its 1000<sup>th</sup> 747 (747-400 model) commercial jet at Seattle. (20)
- 2003: A B-2A successfully dropped 80 independently targeted JDAM GBU-38 "smart" munitions against 80 separate targets at the Utah Test and Training Range to test a new Smart Bomb Rack



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Assembly (SBRA). The SBRA allowed the B-2 to carry, target, release, and control up to 80 GPS-guided weapons rather than its normal load of 16 weapons. (3)

2005: The first-ever C-130 combat mission by an all-female crew was flown from a forward location in Southwest Asia with 151 Marines and their equipment. The crew included Capt Carol J. Mitchell, aircraft commander; 1st Lt Siobhan Couturier, pilot; Capt Anita T. Mack, navigator; SSgt Josie E. Harshe, flight engineer; and loadmasters TSgt Sigrid M. Carrero-Perez and SrA Ci Ci Alonzo. The six women were all assigned to the 43 AW at Pope AFB and were deployed to the 737th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron to fly troops and cargo in and out of Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa. (22)

### 11 September

1920: Three airships flew in a formation flight under radio direction at Langley Field. (24)

1941: At Baltimore, the Glenn L. Martin Company displayed a 70-ton, 4-engine flying boat with a 200-foot wing spread, said to be the largest in the world. (24)

1944: Eighth Air Force began the last “shuttle raid” as 139 aircraft attacked an arms factory at Chemnitz, Germany, and flew on to bases in Russia. (4)

1948: **FEAF SUPPORT FOR THE BERLIN AIRLIFT.** FEAF received orders to send an air echelon with 36 C-54 aircraft and a skeleton group headquarters to USAFE on indefinite duty. FEAF sent the 317 TCG (Heavy) with the 22 TCS, 39 TCS, and 41st TCS (Heavy). The group’s temporary transfer, coupled with the loss of 24 MATS C-54s from the theater to Germany for the airlift and a shipping strike on the West Coast, caused severe supply shortages throughout the Pacific.

1953: A Sidewinder N-7 (AIM-9) air-to-air missile made its first successful interception, sending a Grumman F6F-5K Hellcat drone down in flames at China Lake. (12) (20)

1955: Richard T. Whitcomb from NACA’s Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory announced the area rule concept for airplane design. The supersonic Grumman F11F and Convair F-102 used this 1953 concept to reduce drag. (8: Sep 90)

1964: The Air Force decided to retire two Atlas squadrons and 105 liquid-fueled missiles made obsolete by the Minuteman and Polaris. (5) (16)

1968: The Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories at Hanscom AFB launched the largest research balloon, a 28.7-million-cubic-foot polyethylene sphere, to 158,000 feet from White Sands Missile Range. The balloon carried instruments for atmospheric measurements near strato-pause, and the flight ended near Needles, Calif., after 18 hours. This balloon broke two previous size records: 13.5 millioncubic-feet for a polyethylene balloon and 26-million-cubic-feet held by five fiber-reinforced Mylar balloons flown in 1966 and 1967. (5) (16)

1970: President Nixon ordered Federal guards to fly on US overseas flights to end air piracy. Shotgun rides began one day later with 100 Treasury agents.

1972: US aircraft destroyed the Long Bien Bridge over the Red River in downtown Hanoi. This event involved one of the most spectacular uses of precision-guided weapons in the war. (16) (26)

1981: The Air Staff decided to add ALCMs to the B-52H. Before, only G-models were scheduled to receive ALCMs. (12)

2001: **ATTACK ON AMERICA/Operation NOBLE EAGLE.** Arab terrorists hijacked four U.S.

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

passenger airliners. They crashed two aircraft into the 110-story, twin tower World Trade Center in New York and one into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., killing more than 3,000 people. Passengers in the fourth aircraft rushed the hijackers, and it crashed in a Pennsylvania field rather than another high-value target. The FAA grounded all airliners in the US for several days. President George W. Bush initiated a war on terrorism and homeland-defense efforts with combat air patrols within the US under the NOBLE EAGLE operation. (21)

The ANG scrambled F-15s from Otis ANGB, Mass., and F-16s from Langley AFB to intercept hijacked commercial airliners bound for the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon, respectively, but arrived too late to thwart the terrorist attacks. (32)

Shortly after the airliner attacks, NORAD initiated combat air patrols with USAF fighters over more than 30 American cities, while Navy fighters flew sorties off the Atlantic coast near New York. Within a few hours, 34 ANG fighter units had generated aircraft to fly combat missions, and in the first 24 hours, 15 units accomplished 179 fighter missions. In addition, 18 ANG tanker wings had generated 78 aircraft to support the fighters. (32)

- 2002: **Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.** In the year after the terrorist attacks on American soil, AMC aircraft flew 4,864 airlift missions to deliver 223,487 passengers and 304,801 short tons of cargo in support of this operation. C-17s and C-5s flew 48 percent and 30 percent of the missions, respectively. Additionally, KC-135s accomplished 2,760 air refueling missions and KC-10s another 176 missions in the one-year period. (22)
- 2004: **Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM.** Since the 11 September 2001 terrorist attack on America, AMC completed 34,030 missions in support the two combat operations. AMC's organic and contracted commercial aircraft moved a total of 1,771,632 troops and 1,059,498 short tons of cargo, while KC-10 and KC-135 tankers performed 11,111 air refueling missions to refuel 15,396 aircraft. The three-year airlift into Afghanistan was the third largest airlift in history, with Operation VITTLES (Berlin Airlift) in 1948-1949 ranking first and Operations DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM (Gulf War) in 1990-1991 ranking second. (22)
- 2005: **CONTINUING SUPPORT TO THE WAR ON TERRORISM.** During the four years since the 2001 attack, AMC flew 53,530 missions. By mid-September 2005, AMC's organic aircraft and contracted commercial aircraft had moved 3,055,336 troops and 1,487,884 short tons of cargo. In late 2005, the support to Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM surpassed the 1990-1991 Persian Gulf War airlift effort to become history's second largest airlift, following the 1948-1949 Berlin Airlift. (22)
- 2007: Since 11 September 2001, the Air Mobility Command had completed 363,483 sorties to support Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. By mid-September 2007, the command's organic aircraft and contracted commercial aircraft had moved 5,854,158 troops and 2,551,432 short tons of cargo. Also, by September 2007, airlift operations to support the two operations constituted history's largest airlift in terms of total cargo transported. They surpassed the Berlin Airlift of 1948-1949 and Operation DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM of 1990-1991. The command's KC-10 and KC-135 tankers also performed 16,941 air refueling sorties to refuel more than 27,300 receiver aircraft. Since 11 September 2001, the command had transferred 1.1 billion gallons of fuel on its air refueling sorties around the world. (22)

### 12 September

- 1918: Through 15 September, Brig Gen William "Billy" Mitchell led 1,481 planes in the St. Mihiel offensive. This was the biggest air armada to date. (21)

Lt Frank Luke (17th Aero Squadron) shot down his first balloon. When he died 17 days later,

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with 18 balloons and airplanes to his credit, he became the first Army aviator to receive the Medal of Honor. (11)

1942: The 89th Attack Squadron, 3 BG, dropped the first parachute-retarded bomb in World War II on Buna Airstrip, New Guinea. (24)

The Army Air Forces activated the 4 FG at Bushey Hall, England, to escort Eighth Air Force heavy bomber missions over occupied Europe. Three RAF Eagle Squadrons, with American volunteers, then transferred from the RAF on 29 September to the VIII Fighter Command, to man the group. (4) (21)

1947: Boeing rolled out the XB-47 in its Seattle plant. (31)

1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Through 13 September, 25 B-29s attacked the generator building at the giant Sui-ho power plant. Before and during the attack, B-26s and US Navy planes dropped low-level fragmentation bombs to suppress enemy searchlights, rendering 8 of approximately 30 unserviceable. At the same time, four B-29s orbiting to the east jammed enemy radar. Enemy fighters shot down one medium bomber and flak damaged several others, but the B-29s dropped their bombs on target, again rendering the plant unserviceable. Far East Air Forces concluded that searchlight suppression and electronic countermeasures probably saved the B-29s from greater losses. (28)

1958: Gen Curtis E. LeMay flew a KC-135 Stratotanker from Yokota AB to Washington DC, flying the 7,000 miles in 12 hours 28 minutes for an unofficial record. (24)

1962: The first Titan II equipped with decoys launched successfully from Cape Canaveral. (6)

1966: **GEMINI XI.** Lt Cmdrs Charles Conrad, Jr., and Richard F. Gordon flew Gemini XI to a new altitude record of 851 miles. They also achieved the first rendezvous and space docking in one orbit of the earth. The mission ended on 15 September after 44 orbits. (9)

1969: Maj Jerauld R. Gentry, AFFTC pilot, won the Harmon International Aviator's Trophy for his 1968 flights in NASA's HL-10 Lifting Body. (3)

1970: The 20 TFW at RAF Upper Heyford received USAFE's first F-111Es. (4)

1971: Through 16 September, three USAF aircraft flew to Nicaragua to provide disaster relief after Hurricane Edith. The aircraft carried food, medical supplies, tents, and a USAF radio jeep to coordinate emergency operations and fuel for rescue helicopters. (16) (26)

1978: Northrop's YF-17 performed a flight demonstration at Langley AFB. (16)

1987: The ANG received its first C-12J turbo-prop transport from Beech Aircraft Corporation in ceremonies at the Beech facility in Wichita.

1988: C-5s, C-141s, and C-130s flew to Kingston, Jamaica, after Hurricane Gilbert devastated the island. MAC flew five more C-5 missions in October to provide humanitarian relief. (18)

1992: **TYPHOON INIKI.** The storm ran over Kauai, Hawaii, with 130-MPH winds and heavy rain. Through 18 October, AMC flew 259 C-5, C-141, C-130, and KC-135 missions, while the ANG operated another 354 C-130 missions to transport more than 8,600 passengers and 9,200 tons of cargo. (16) (18)

2000: The Boeing RS-68 rocket engine completed qualification testing for the Air Force Research Laboratory at Edwards AFB. The testing confirmed the engine's predicted performance. (3)

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- 2002: The CV-22 Osprey resumed flight testing, following a 21-month grounding. The tilt-rotor aircraft, one of two at the AFFTC, flew three sorties for over four flying hours and successfully transitioned into the airplane mode. (3)
- 2006: Northrop-Grumman rolled out the first RQ-4B Global Hawk "Block 20" UAV. The RQ-4B possessed 3,000-pound payload, compared with the earlier RQ-4A's (Block 10) 2,000-pound payload. Service entry with the 9 RW at Beale AFB was slated for early 2007. (USAF Aimpoints, "Supersized Global Hawk Revealed," 12 Sep 2006)

### 13 September

- 1916: The Signal Corps Aviation School at San Diego held its first aeronautics course for field officers. (24)
- 1917: The 1<sup>st</sup> Aero Squadron arrived in France. That arrival made it the first Army air unit to serve with the American Expeditionary Forces. (See 5 June 1917 for first Naval air unit) (21)
- 1923: Through 14 December, Lts John F. Whitely and H. D. Smith and crew flew a Martin MB-2, powered by two Liberty 400 engines, on an 8,000-mile round trip from Langley Field to San Diego in anticipation of a national airways. (9) (24)
- 1935: Howard Hughes flew his Hughes Special Airplane at Santa Ana, Calif., to a 352 MPH world speed record. (9) (24)
- 1943: The 52 TCW used more than 80 troop transports to drop 1,200 paratroopers from the 82d Airborne Division on Italy's Salerno Beach, with no losses of planes or men. This effort was one of the most successful allied airborne operations in the war. (21) (24)
- 1944: Eighth Air Force bombed Hungary's Diosgyoer Steel Works. (4)
- 1951: The USAF established its first pilotless bomber squadron at the Missile Test Center, Cocoa, Fla. (16) (26)
- 1960: The 4135 SW at Eglin AFB received the first production GAM-72A Quail missiles. (6)
- 1961: NASA used the worldwide Mercury tracking network for the first time to follow an unmanned Mercury vehicle in space. The results convinced NASA that man could be sent into space using an Atlas vehicle. A Mercury-Atlas booster lifted the vehicle into space. (16) (24)
- NASA studied atmospheric winds, temperature, and density by releasing sodium clouds at high altitudes from two four-stage Argo D-4 rockets launched from Wallops Island. (24)
- 1962: Lt Cmdrs Fred A. Franke flew an UF-1L Albatross amphibian to 27,380 feet with a 4,410-pound payload to set a new altitude record. Lt Cmdr Donald E. Moore flew the same aircraft to 29,460 feet with a 2,205-pound payload to set a second record. Both flights surpassed Soviet records set in 1940. (24)
- 1974: Capt Harold B. Adams (pilot) and Maj William C. Machorek (RSO) flew an SR-71 from London to Los Angeles in 3 hours 48 minutes at a new speed record of 1,435.59 MPH. (1)
- 1985: **CELESTIAL EAGLE.** Major Wilbert D. "Doug" Pearson, Jr., flying F-15A (Tail No. 77-0084) fired the first the Vought ASM-135A air-launched anti-satellite (ASAT) missile at a live target over Edwards AFB. The missile hit the orbiting Solwing scientific satellite that was traveling at 17,500 MPH nearly 290 miles above Earth. The 6512th Test Squadron F-15A stationed at Edwards AFB took off from Vandenberg AFB and zoom-climbed up to 80,000 feet and then

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launched the ASAT. Both the first and second stages fired successfully, and the miniature kinetic kill vehicle separated and homed in on the satellite, destroying it upon impact. (16) (21)

- 1992: **Operation IMPRESSIVE LIFT.** Through 29 September, AMC aircraft moved UN troops from Pakistan to Somalia to begin a peacekeeping mission. In the 94 flights, the aircraft carried 974 passengers and 1,168 tons of equipment and supplies. The troops tried to distribute food fairly for Operation PROVIDE RELIEF. (16) (21)
- 2001: **Operation NOBLE EAGLE.** The Air Staff cleared all training and operational USAF units to resume normal flying operations. (3)

### 14 September

- 1922: Maj H. A. Strauss commanded the first transcontinental airship flight in the nonrigid C-2 from Langley Field to Foss Field in Arcadia, Calif. (24)
- 1936: Harry Richman and Henry T. (Dick) Merrill started their return transatlantic round trip flight between London, England, and New York. (9)
- 1939: Igor Sikorsky made the first successful helicopter flight. The first flight was made while the VS-300 was tethered to the ground. (18)
- 1944: Col Floyd B. Wood, Maj Harry Wexler, and Lt Frank Recford made the first flight into a hurricane to collect scientific data in a Douglas A-20. (21)
- 1951: **MEDAL OF HONOR.** Capt John S. Walmsley, Jr., died while illuminating an enemy supply train with his searchlight-equipped B-26 Invader. After stopping the train with bombs, Walmsley repeated passed over the train to guide other aircraft to the target. For his actions, he earned the Medal of Honor. (21) (28)
- 1962: The 498<sup>th</sup> Tactical Missile Group on Okinawa, equipped with Mace missiles, reached full strength. (17)
- 1964: President Johnson gave Harmon International Trophies for 1963 to Astronaut L. Gordon Cooper for his Mercury flight in Faith 7; Betty Miller for a first eastward transpacific solo flight by a woman; and Lt Col Fitzhugh L. Fulton for flying a B-58 Hustler to 85,318 feet with an 11,000 pound plus payload. (5) (16)
- 1971: From Can Ranh Bay AB, Vietnam, 15 USAF C-7 Caribou aircraft began a 10-day, 8,000-mile return flight to McClellan AFB. While in SEA, the transport aircraft flew missions from unimproved airstrips to provide fresh food and supplies to inaccessible outposts. (16) (26)
- 1981: PACAF's first F-16 Fighting Falcons arrived at Kunsan AB, South Korea. (16) (26)
- 1987: SAC decommissioned its last ground control approach radar system (FPN-16) at Grissom AFB, Ind.
- 1995: Through 30 September, airlifters moved more than 30 tons of medical supplies from Charleston AFB to Hanoi, Vietnam, in the first humanitarian airlift to that country since the war ended in 1975. (16)
- 1997: **Exercise CENTRAZBAT 97.** Eight C-17 Globemaster IIIs airdropped 500 members of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg into Kazakhstan. This operation covered 7,897 miles, the longest distance ever in an airdrop, to support the two-phase US Atlantic Command exercise for US and Central Asian troops in the former Soviet Union. The C-17s were airborne for over 19

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hours as they crossed the Atlantic and southern Europe to the drop zone. KC-10 Extenders from the 60 AMW at Travis AFB and the 305 AMW at McGuire AFB, and KC-135 Stratotankers from the 22 AREFW at McConnell AFB and the 6 AREFW at MacDill AFB provided refueling support. (22)

1999: **HURRICANE FLOYD.** The storm hit the eastern US coast from the Carolinas to Maine, causing some 57 deaths and about \$6 billion dollars in damages. Through 18 September, the ANG joined their Army counterparts in relief operations. In North Carolina, the ANG flew 33,000 cases of food rations in three C-130s to flood victims. Additionally, New Jersey ANG members assisted Army Guardsmen in sand-bagging operations, reinforcing a flood-weakened dam, and delivering supplies to storm victims. (32)

2001: Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld requested and President George W. Bush approved an order to call as many as 50,000 reservists and guardsmen to active duty to provide port operations, medical support, engineering support, general civil support, and homeland defense. The USAF contributed 13,000 of the 50,000 people. (32)

Congress authorized use of the U.S. armed forces against the terrorists involved in the 11 September 2001 attacks and against any nation harboring them. (32)

2005: At Creech AFB (formerly Indian Springs), Nev., the USAF started operational testing on the latest upgrade to the MQ-1 Predator. The Multi-Aircraft Control (MAC) system allowed single pilots to control two-ship and four-ship Predator sorties. Testers performed two-ship sorties 12-13 September and four-ship sorties on 14-15 September. (AFNEWS Article, "Predators Fly First Four-Ship Sorties," 26 September 2005)

NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center on Edwards AFB completed Pathfinder Plus solar-powered research aircraft's final flight. The flying wing UAV flew a 2.5 hour sortie over Rogers Dry Lake to study the effects of turbulence on lightweight flexible wing structures. (3)

2006: The CSAF, Gen T. Michael Moseley, selected the name "Reaper" for the new MQ-9 hunter-killer UAV. The larger, more powerful version of the MQ-1 Predator was designed to go after time-sensitive targets with 500-pound bombs and Hellfire missiles. (AFNEWS Article, "Reaper Moniker Given to MQ-9 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle," 14 Sep 2006)

### 15 September

1924: With radio controls rather than a pilot, an N-9 seaplane flew for 40 minutes at the Naval Proving Grounds at Dahlgren, Va. Although the N-9 sank upon landing, the test proved the practicality of radio control.

1925: RS-1, the first great semi-rigid helium airship built in America, was completed at Scott Field. (24)

1938: The Army Air Corps earned the Collier Trophy for developing the XC-35 with a pressurized cabin. (24)

1939: Jacqueline Cochran flew a Seversky Monoplane at 305.9 MPH to set an international record for 1,000 kilometers.

1942: Using Fifth Air Force transports, the 126th Infantry Regiment became the first US infantry unit to reach Seven Mile Airdrome, near Ports Moresby, New Guinea. (21)

1944: **OPERATION INTERLUDE.** Southwest Pacific Area forces invaded the island of Morotai in the Moluccas Islands, Netherlands East Indies. FEAF units supported the operation with attacks

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against Japanese bases on nearby islands. The landings on Morotai were unopposed and construction of two airdromes began at once. The island was within fighter range of the southern Philippines. The 310th Bombardment Wing (Medium) disembarked on 18 September, and the ground echelons of several FEAF flying units followed. Wama Drome, the first to be finished, became operational on 4 October. The second, Pitoe Drome, had one runway done on 17 October and was ready for aircraft on 24 November with two 8,000-foot paved runways. (17)

- 1945: The production contract for the JB-2 rocket ended after 1,391 rockets were delivered to the US AAF. (6)
- 1948: Maj Richard L. Johnson set a 679-MPH world speed record over a 3-kilometer course in a North American F-86A Sabre at Muroc. (9)
- 1950: **Operation FOX ABLE THREE/MACKAY TROPHY.** The 27th Fighter-Escort Wing (FEW) flew 180 F-84E Thunderjets from Bergstrom AFB, Tex., to Furstenfeldbruck, Germany, in this two-phased ferry mission to earn the Mackay Trophy. In Phase I, 90 F-84s left Texas, but due to mechanical problems only 84 landed in Germany on 18 September after flying 5,858 miles in 16 hours 3 minutes of actual flying time (see 15 October for Phase II). (1)
- KOREAN WAR.** The USMC invaded Wolmi-do Island in Inchon Harbor at dawn. Later that afternoon, after a 45-minute naval and air bombardment, the main U.S. X Corps used the high tide to land at Inchon. USN and USMC aircraft from carriers covered the amphibious assault. At the same time, FEAF air raids in South Korea prepared the way for the Eighth Army to advance from the Pusan perimeter. (28)
- 1951: The DoD opened the Joint Parachute Test Facility with USN and USAF units under the Bureau of Aeronautics at NAS El Centro.
- 1952: The USAF added weather reconnaissance over areas of joint air-ground operations to TAC's mission. (11)
- 1954: A MATS four-engine plane averaged 341 MPH to set a transatlantic speed record of 11 hours 48 minutes for propeller-driven aircraft in a flight from Westover AFB to Germany. (24)
- 1956: The activation of the 701st Missile Wing made it the first missile wing in the USAF and USAFE. It would be equipped with Matador missiles. (4) (26)
- 1958: Through 15 December, SAC's 42 BMW at Loring AFB, conducted a B-52 airborne alert test, named Head Start I. (1)
- 1959: In a tethered test, a full-size model Minuteman missile completed its first attempted launch from an underground launching pad at Edwards AFB. (6)
- 1960: Capt William Habluetzel and Lt John Hargreaves completed a 30-day, 8-hour simulated moon journey in a 12-foot by 8-foot long box at Brooks AFB. (24)
- 1961: **CHECKMATE II.** Through 22 September, NATO's largest and most complex training exercise in Southern Europe involved thousands of American, Turkish, and Greek armed forces personnel in a maneuver in Turkish Thrace. (24)
- 1962: **HARMON INTERNATIONAL TROPHY.** Maj Fitzhugh Fulton flew a B-58 Hustler to a new altitude record with payload, 11,023 pounds to 85,360 feet, near Edwards AFB. For this flight, Fulton later received the Harmon International Trophy as the World's most outstanding aviator in 1962. (24)
- 1970: **TROPIC MOON.** The 13 BS deployed to Ubon RTAFB to use B-57Gs on night interdiction

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bombing missions. As part of the Tropic Moon III program, Martin modified 16 B-57B Night Intruders withdrawn from Vietnam service. Westinghouse Electric, Martin and AFSC combined to give the -G model a true night bombing capability by designing the bomber to independently detect, track, and bomb ground targets at night. (17)

- 1972: The 42 BMW at Loring AFB became the first B-52 unit with SRAMs to achieve operational status. (6)
- 1979: Through 22 September, 8 C-130s from AFRES and ANG units in California and Wyoming flew 254 sorties to drop 732,000 gallons of fire retardant on fires in southern California. This operation was one of the largest fire-fighting operations on record. (21)
- 1981: At Griffiss AFB, a 416 BMW B-52G crew conducted the first ALCM training flight. (1)
- The 9 SRW at Beale AFB received Lockheed's first TR-1A reconnaissance plane (No. 80-1066). It was an improved, bigger version of the U-2 that could fly at day and night in all weather above 70,000 feet. (1)
- 1982: **MACKAY TROPHY.** From the 19 BMW at Robins AFB, Capt Robert L. Cavendish and his crewmen were on a B-52 training mission from Robins AFB, when their B-52G lost both rudder elevator hydraulic systems. Cavendish considered the runway, weather, and crew experience and decided to land the crippled B-52. For saving the aircraft, Cavendish and his crew earned the Mackay Trophy. (1)
- 1987: The USAF redefined a base as "any installation that is a self-supporting center of operations." As a result, Arnold Air Force Station (AFS), Tenn., Los Angeles AFS and Onizuka AFB, Calif., became Air Force bases.
- 1989: McDonnell Douglas delivered the 500<sup>th</sup> AH-64 Apache helicopter to the Army. (20)
- 1991: The C-17A Globemaster III first flew in a trip from Long Beach to the AFFTC at Edwards AFB. (16) (26)
- The T-1 Jayhawk prototype specialized undergraduate pilot trainer flew at Edwards AFB. It resembled the Beechjet 400A corporate transport. (16) (26)
- 1993: Boeing converted the first B-52H for conventional warfare missions at Wichita. (20)
- 1995: **HURRICANE MARILYN.** Through 21 August USAF, Reserve, and ANG aircraft flew 996 tons of relief cargo to the Virgin Islands after the storm blasted the eastern Caribbean area. The C-17 made its first appearance in a disaster relief operation. (16)
- 1996: **Operation PACIFIC HAVEN.** USAF airlifters carried thousands of Kurdish refugees from Northern Iraq to Andersen AFB, where they were processed for resettlement in the U.S. (21)
- 2001: **Operation NOBLE EAGLE.** In the first five days after the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks, 35 ANG fighter units supplied 603 sorties, while the 18 ANG tanker wings flew 72 sorties to offload 3.2 million pounds of fuel. (32)

### 16 September

- 1914: In Groton, Conn., the non-recoil, 6-pounder Davis airplane gun shown at the New London Ship and Engine Company. (24)



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- 1919: Floods on the Texas border produced one of the earliest humanitarian uses of military aircraft. A relief detachment of four JN-4Ds and eight JN-4Hs left Kelly Field. After meeting at Corpus Christi, this detachment airdropped food to seven stranded victims. (18)
- 1940: A War Department announcement said the CAA would cooperate with the Army on the development of black aviation units. (21)
- 1944: Eighth Air Force sent seven fighter groups, four carrying bombs, to strafe Hannover, Bremen, Onasbruck and bomb Ahlhorn Airfield, Mannheim, and Kaiserslautern. (4)
- 1949: The first Air Force three-jet aircraft, the Martin XB-51, received its final checkout.
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force flew 110 B-26 sorties, the high figure for the month, mostly night armed reconnaissance and interdiction. Using the recently-developed roadblock tactics, the light bombers damaged or destroyed over 100 enemy vehicles. (28)
- 1958: A Regulus II missile, launched from a submarine off Point Mugu, flew 200 miles to Edwards AFB. (24)
- North American's T-39 Sabreliner made its first flight. (12)
- 1960: From Cape Canaveral, a 1.5-ton reentry nose cone on an Atlas missile flew on a 5,000-mile test flight. (24)
- 1978: Under a DoD-directed program, SAC transferred the 128th and last KC-135 (number 57-1438) from the 7 BMW at Carswell AFB to the 931 AREFG (AFRES) at Grissom AFB. (1)
- 1Lt Patricia M. Fornes, from the 381 SMW at McConnell AFB became SAC's first female officer to perform Titan II alert duty. (1) (6)
- 1983: MAC accepted the first of 11 Gulfstream III business jets, designated C-20A, into its inventory to replace C-140 special air mission aircraft. (18)
- 1995: **Operation CARIBBEAN EXPRESS.** After Hurricane Marilyn damaged or destroyed nearly 80 percent of the buildings on St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and other Caribbean islands, in missions through 10 October AMC dispatched C-5s, C-17s, C-141s, and contracted commercial aircraft, and ACC sent C-130s on 212 missions to deliver 2,348 passengers and 3,617 short tons of cargo. (18)
- 1999: NASA's NB-52B (tail no. 52-0008) launch aircraft, nicknamed "Balls Eight," completed its 1,000<sup>th</sup> flight. (3)
- 2005: Travis AFB placed the restored C-141A Starlifter (tail number 63-8088), nicknamed the *Golden Bear*, on permanent static display. It was the USAF's first operational C-141A, the first to carry wounded troops from Vietnam to the US, the first to fly into Saigon, and in 1973 it helped fly the 566 military and 25 civilian former prisoners of war from North Vietnam to the US. (22)

### 17 September

- 1908: Lt Thomas E. Selfridge, flying as a passenger with Orville Wright, died when the Wright Flyer crashed at Fort Myer. This event was the world's first fatal airplane accident. Wright also received serious injuries. (12)
- Two Navy observers, Lt George C. Sweet and Naval Constructor William McEntee, reviewed the Wright flying machine demonstrations at Fort Myer. (29)

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- 1909: Orville Wright flew his Wright Flyer to a FAI altitude record of 564 feet in Berlin, Germany. (9)
- 1911: Calbraith Perry Rodgers flew a Burgess-Wright Biplane, the *Vin Fiz*, on the first transcontinental flight. He flew 3,390 miles from Sheepshead Bay to Long Beach after 76 stops and 20 crashes, arriving on 11 December. He was attempting to win a \$50,000 prize from Willam Randolph Hearst for flying coast-to-coast in 30 days. The plane was named for Rodgers' sponsor, a grape soda. (20) (24)
- 1941: During Louisiana maneuvers, the Army dropped parachute troops for the first time in a tactical exercise. The Army acquired 13 DC-3s for the event. (21) (24)
- 1944: **Operation MARKET GARDEN.** 1,546 allied planes and 478 gliders carried 35,000 troops for an airborne assault between Eindhoven and Arnhem in Holland to secure the Rhine. (18) (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** The USMC captured Kimpo Airfield. To support the Eighth Army offensive, Fifth Air Force F-51s and F-80s flew napalm attacks, killing an estimated 1,200 enemy soldiers in Tabu-dong, Yongchon, and other strongholds near the Naktong River. FEAF began a week of dropping four million psychological warfare leaflets. (28)
- 1951: The 62 TCW's activation at McChord AFB made it the first TAC unit with C-124s assigned. (11)
- 1952: E. J. Smith flew a Bell helicopter (47D1) to a FAI nonstop distance record by flying 1,217 miles from Fort Worth to Niagara Falls.
- 1958: Capt Charles E. Gibbs flew a 92 AREFS KC-135 from Fairchild AFB to four closed-circuit FAI records: distance without refueling, 3,125.56 miles; speed for 2,000 kilometers, 589.3 MPH, with payloads of 2,204.6, 4,409.2, 11,023, and 22,046 pounds; speed for 5,000 kilometers, 587.1 MPH; and speed for 5,000 kilometers, 587.136 MPH, with the same payloads. (1)
- 1959: **KEY EVENT.** After being dropped from a B-52 near Edwards AFB, Scott Crossfield flew the X-15 to over 1,400 MPH and 50,000 feet in altitude in the plane's initial powered test. (3) (9)
- 1964: President Johnson announced that the US had an over-the-horizon radar that could see around the earth's curvature to detect missiles shortly after their launch. (5) (16)
- 1965: **Exercise NICE WAY.** Through 21 September, as war broke out between Pakistan and India, MATS directed 7 C-130s from Exercise Deep Furrow in Turkey to evacuate 650 Americans from Pakistan. In the exercise, C-130s carried about 375 nationals, who had fled to Afghanistan from Pakistan, back to Turkey. (2) (18)
- The Air Force Systems Command received the Gen Thomas D. White award for its outstanding contribution to the nation's aerospace progress in 1964. (16)
- 1970: Gunship developer, pilot, and program director, Maj Ronald W. Terry, received the 1969 Harold Brown Award for achievement in research and development. Major Terry worked for the Gunship program office at Aeronautical Systems Division, Wright-Patterson AFB. (16)
- 1976: The first Space Shuttle, the Enterprise, rolled out at Palmdale. (12)
- 1980: For the Glory Trip 77 operational missile test, Vandenberg AFB launched a Minuteman III on a 5,600-mile flight to near Kwajalein. This was the longest Minuteman flight to date.
- 1987: In a five-hour flight from Rockwell's Palmdale facility, Maj H. Brent Hedgpeth and Lt Col Robert A. Chamberlain flew the 70th production B-1B 2,700 miles to 18 world speed and payload

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records in the unlimited weight class.

- 2001: The Air Staff accelerated a program to field the Conventional Air-Launched Cruise Missile (CALCM) on the B-52H. Subsequently, the AFFTC at Edwards AFB trimmed the testing plan from five months to six weeks. After that first accelerated program, the AFFTC sped up several test programs for Operation Enduring Freedom. (3)
- 2002: The USAF changed the Raptor's official designation from F-22 to F/A-22 to highlight its ground attack capabilities. (3)
- The Air National Guard's last B-1B left the 116<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing (Georgia ANG) at Robins AFB to the "bone yard" at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. Later, the 116<sup>th</sup> merged with the USAF's 93<sup>d</sup> Air Control Wing (ACW) to form the 116<sup>th</sup> ACW, the USAF's first "blended wing," and fly the E-8C JSTARS. (32)

### **18 September**

- 1912: Lt Bernard L. Smith, the second Marine assigned for flight training, reported for instruction at the Naval Academy's Aviation Camp. Lt Alfred A. Cunningham provided his flight training. (10) (24)
- 1918: At Dayton, Maj Rudolph W. Schroeder flew a Bristol airplane to a 28,897-foot FAI altitude record. (9)
- 1919: Rolland Rohlf set a world altitude record of 32,450 feet in a Curtiss Triplane with a K12 engine (450 hp) at Garden City, N. Y. (9)
- 1943: A 3-carrier task force attacked Tarawa, Makin, and Abemama Atolls in the Gilbert Islands. (24)
- 1948: Convair test pilot Sam Shannon flew the XF-92 for the first time at Muroc Dry Lake. It was the first true jet-powered delta-wing aircraft. (21)
- 1950: The 92 BG and 98 BG dispatched 42 B-29s to drop 1,600 bombs on enemy troop concentrations near Waegwan, South Korea. The raid allowed the Eighth Army to advance rapidly from the Pusan perimeter toward Seoul. (21) (28)
- 1954: The USAF assigned the first F-100A to TAC's 479th Fighter-Bomber Wing at George AFB. It arrived on 27 September.
- 1959: Vanguard III, the last Navy Vanguard project satellite, launched into an orbit expected to last 30 to 40 years. (24)
- 1962: NASA launched TIROS VI, a weather satellite on a three-stage Delta booster from Cape Canaveral. It started filming the earth's cloud cover on its second orbit. This was the sixth consecutive successful launch with the Delta booster. (24)
- 1963: The United Technology Center at San Jose, Calif., fired the Titan III booster, a solid fueled rocket motor with 1,000,000 pounds of thrust.
- 1967: SECDEF Robert S. McNamara approved production of a "thin" Nike-X anti-ballistic missile to give regions in the US at least one battery of warhead interceptors.
- 1969: Atomic Energy Commission and NASA officials announced that end testing on the NERVA nuclear experimental rocket engine (XE) had ended at Jackass Flats, Nev. From March through 28 August, the engine accumulated 3 hours 48 minutes in operating time.

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

George A. Stokes used a Semco balloon to set FAI duration and distance records of 51 minutes and 9.6 miles for subclass AX-3 hot air balloons (400-600 cubic meters) at Richmond, Va. (9)

- 1970: TAC's C-130 aircrews from Langley AFB, Dyess AFB, Pope AFB, and Forbes AFB conducted humanitarian airlift operations to Jordan. (11)
- 1980: An explosion destroyed Titan II Launch Complex 374-7, assigned to the 308 SMW at Little Rock AFB. One maintenance technician died in the accident. The event led to the inactivation of the entire Titan II system.
- 1982: **Exercise DISPLAY DETERMINATION.** Through 30 September, USAFE augmented the weak air defenses of Southern Italy by integrating E-3A Sentry AWACS capabilities into the existing ground systems. (16)
- 1984: **FIRST SOLO ATLANTIC CROSSING BY BALLOON.** Col Joseph W. Kittinger, Jr., (USAF Retired) completed the first solo crossing of the Atlantic in a balloon. He lifted off from Caribou, Me., and flew to Savona, Italy, in 84 hours. His 3,550-mile flight set a balloon distance record. (21)
- 1986: Through 20 September, the 436 MAW sent two C-5s with 93 tons of medical supplies and food to Luzon, Philippines. President Aquino personally accepted the relief supplies at Andrews AFB. (16) (26)
- 1987: The Defense Acquisition Board approved six concepts for the Strategic Defense Initiative: a Ground Based Surveillance and Tracking System, Boost Surveillance and Tracking Systems, Space-based Surveillance and Tracking Systems, Battle Management/Command, Control and Communications System, Space-Based Interceptor, and Exoatmospheric Reentry-vehicle Interceptor.
- 1990: Through 28 September, the 436 MAW and 438 MAWs moved 107 pallets of tents, cots, and blankets as well as 360 passengers to Jordan. The supplies provided relief to 100,000 foreign workers from Kuwait, who fled to Jordan after Iraq's invasion. (16)
- 2000: At Edwards AFB, the Boeing X-32A Joint Strike Fighter concept demonstrator made its first flight. Boeing test pilot Fred Knox flew the aircraft on its 20-minute flight from Boeing's Plant 42 in Palmdale. (3)
- Maj Tom Currie flew the first CV-22 *Osprey*, the USAF's specialized version of the V-22, from the Bell Helicopter Flight Research Center at Arlington, Texas, to Edwards AFB to begin a two-year test program. (3) (21)
- 2001: **Operation NOBLE EAGLE.** NORAD maintained constant combat air patrols over Washington DC and New York City with ANG fighters. Furthermore, NORAD maintained a pair of ANG fighters on alert at 26 locations for a quick response to any new threats. (32)
- 2007: The first C-5 (Tail No. 87-0035) fitted with Northrop-Grumman's AN/AAQ-24 Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasure (LAIRCM) system made its inaugural flight. The countermeasures system protected large transports from missile attacks by detecting a missile launch, determining the validity of the threat, and activating a high-intensity system to track and defeat the threat. Lockheed Martin received the contract to install the kits on eight additional C-5Bs in February 2008. (22)

**19 September**

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1918: **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSSES.** Lts Arthur F. Seaver and John Y. Stokes, Jr., in a formation with five other bombers, went out on a mission from the 20th Aero Squadron. The other bombers turned back, but Seaver and Stokes went on to the target. Anti-aircraft fire hit their plane, but they still continued. Then their engine quit, but they glided over the target and dropped their bombs before turning back toward allied lines. They were attacked by an enemy fighter, but managed to crash in a forest inside allied lines. Both men later received the DSC. (4)
- 1928: The first diesel engine to power heavier-than-air craft flight-tested at Utica, Mich. Captain Lionel M. Woolson designed this engine in cooperation with Packard Motor Car Company, the builder. (24)
- 1937: Roscoe Turner, flying a Laird-Turner racer, set a US speed record of 289.908 MPH for 100 kilometers at Detroit. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** FEAF Combat Cargo Command began an airlift to Kimpo Airfield with 32 C-54s carrying equipment and supplies for ground troops to there. Supported by Fifth Air Force close air support missions, the 24th Infantry Division began crossing the Naktong River near Waegwan, and the 1st Cavalry Division broke through communist lines. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** In the first daylight medium bomber raid in 11 months, 32 B-29s with F-86 escorts attacked an enemy barracks and two supply areas southwest of Hamhung. An RB-45 preceded the B-29 formation, and an RB-29 orbited the area to provide weather information. (28)
- 1958: The RAF received its first Thor missile at Feltwell, England. (6)
- 1960: For the second time in four months, the USAF flew an Atlas ICBM over a 9,000-mile course from Cape Canaveral to a predetermined landing area in the Indian Ocean. (24)
- 1961: NASA announced that the future Manned Spacecraft Center would be located near Houston, Tex. (16) (24)
- The USAF SAGE Center at Gunter AFS, Ala., controlled the flight of a BOMARC-B missile from its launch at Eglin AFB to its interception of a Regulus II supersonic drone seven miles up and 250 miles away off the Florida coast. In the flight, the BOMARC successfully made a U-turn. (16) (24)
- 1969: An F-4E flying near Edwards AFB successfully air launched the first Maverick air-to-ground missile. (3)
- 1972: A Minuteman III completed its first operational test launch from a regular launch facility at Vandenberg AFB. (6)
- 1974: The 165th Military Airlift Group (MAG) at Savannah, Georgia, flew last C-124 (tail number 30044) in MAC's Reserve Forces to storage at Davis-Monthan AFB. (18)
- 1975: Maj George W. Larson of the 4200th Test and Evaluation Squadron at Edwards AFB became the first SAC pilot to fly the B-1 bomber. Charles C. Bock and Richard Abrams from Rockwell also handled the controls during the flight. (1)
- 1984: Through 21 September, a C-141 flew to Kinshasa, Zaire, to support of an Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) research project conducted by the US National Institute of Health. It carried three passengers and nine tons of medical supplies and equipment. (18)
- 1989: **HURRICANE HUGO.** Through 15 November, 128 aircraft from MAC and SAC provided

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

relief to Hugo's victims in the Lesser Antilles and South Carolina. The aircraft carried over 3,300 people and 8,200 tons of supplies. (16) (18)

**Operation HAWKEYE.** After Hugo struck the Virgin Islands, MAC transported military police to the island to recover prisoners who had escaped during the storm. (18)

2001: The USAF awarded a low-rate production contract for 10 F-22s to Lockheed-Martin. (21)

2005: At Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyo., the 90<sup>th</sup> Space Wing held a deactivation ceremony to signal the phase out of the Peacekeeper weapon system from the Air Force inventory. (Aimpoints, 90<sup>th</sup> Space Wing, "Peacekeeper Missile Mission Ends During Ceremony, 21 Sep 05)

**HURRICANE RITA.** Air National Guardsmen began flying disaster response air support missions to prepare for Hurricane Rita's expected landfall on the Texas coast. (32)

2006: A B-52H flew a sortie using a blend of synthetic kerosene and JP-8 fuel in two engines and the conventional JP-8 in the other six engines. The test fuel was a 50-50 mix of traditional crude-oil and synthetic kerosene derived from natural gas. Air Force Undersecretary Ronald Segal flew aboard the flight to highlight the importance of the new fuel, which promised to reduce costs and greatly enhance deployability throughout the USAF. The sortie ended early when the left wingtip landing gear failed to retract properly. (3)

A combined AFFTC and Boeing test team flew the first flight of a MC-130 modified with a "glass cockpit" under the Avionics Modernization Program (AMP) at the Kelly Field Annex, Texas. An AFFTC C-12 Huron flew safety chase for the sortie. (3)

### 20 September

1904: Wilbur Wright made the first circular flight in an airplane at Huffman Prairie, near Dayton. (21)

1950: The USAF announced that planes would be tested by remote control, with pilots viewing instrument panels from the ground by television. (24)

**KOREAN WAR.** By using night lighting equipment, FEAF Combat Cargo Command turned its Kimpo airlift into a 24-hour operation. To destroy potential enemy reinforcements, B-29s attacked three separate barracks areas in and near Pyongyang, N. Korea. (28)

1951: The USAF recovered animals from a rocket flight for the first time, when a monkey and 11 mice survived an Aerobee flight to an altitude of 236,000 feet. (16) (24)

1956: Cape Canaveral launched the first Jupiter C, a three-stage missile. It attained an altitude of 680 miles and traveled 3,300 miles. (16) (24)

**Exercise MOBILE BAKER.** In this exercise to deploy a Composite Air Strike Force (CASF) to Europe, the first aircraft left the US and were refueled on their way across the Atlantic by KB-29s and KB-50s. This force included 16 F-100Cs from the 450th Fighter-Day Wing, Foster AFB; 16 F-84Fs from the 366th Fighter-Bomber Wing, England AFB; four RF-84Fs from the 363d TRW, Shaw AFB; and four B-66s from the 17th BMW Tactical, Eglin AFB. After the units arrived in Europe, they participated in NATO Maneuver Whipsaw. The last aircraft returned to the US on 9 October.

1957: General Thomas D. White, the CSAF, announced that radar units could detect ICBMs at a distance of 3,000 miles. (16) (24)

From Cape Canaveral, Douglas Aircraft Company's Thor IRBM performed its first test launch

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

and flight. (6) (12)

- 1959: The Navy's prototype Polaris missile flew successfully over a 500-mile course.
- 1960: Miss Jerrie Cobb piloted an Aero Commander 680F to a world-class altitude record of 36,932 feet for light aircraft. (24)
- 1966: Lt Col Donald M. Sorlie became the first USAF pilot to fly the NASA's M2-F2 Lifting Body from the AFFTC at Edwards AFB. A B-52 launched the M2-F2 from 45,000 feet. It reached nearly 400 MPH in its 3 ½-minute flight. (3) (16)
- 1967: President Johnson asked the Transportation Department to develop a "long-range and comprehensive" program for improving the country's air traffic control system. The President further asked for a financial program that made "those who will benefit most" pay a fair share of the system costs.
- 1970: Luna 16 soft-landed on the moon.
- 1980: PACAF sent two F-15 Eagles and an E-3A Sentry to New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand to demonstrate those new aircraft. (26)
- 1982: On 20-21 September, the 320 BMW at Mather AFB tested Navy Harpoon missiles for compatibility with the B-52. These missiles were designed for an anti-shipping mission. (6)
- 1999: **UN Operation STABILISE.** C-130 airlifted U.S. troops from Australia to Dili, East Timor, after that nation declared its independence from Indonesia and a bloody war erupted. Eventually, 1 C-141, 21 C-130s, 3 KC-135s, and 2 C-17s took part in the operation to move peacekeeping troops into the area. (21)
- 2005: The USAF's last remaining active-duty C-9 Nightingale (Tail No. 876) left Ramstein AB, Germany for Andrews AFB, Md. The C-9 flew to its final resting place at the Andrews air museum. (AFNEWS Article, "Historic C-9 Heads to Andrews for Retirement," 24 September 2005)
- 2007: A hypersonic vehicle with five innovative payloads made a successful, six-minute flight. The Air Force Research Laboratory's Space Vehicles Directorate at Kirtland AFB, N. M., designed and developed the hypersonic vehicle. A Navy rocket launched the Re-Entry Structures Experiment (RESE), and it reached 95,000 feet and Mach 5 (3,800 MPH) before landing safely in the desert 21 miles from its launch point. The initial RESE mission included experiments on a new acoustic protection system, a reconfigurable hardware architecture, two thermal sensors, a novel high-temperature material, and a flexible circuitry system. (AFNEWS, "Hypersonic Vehicle Completes Inaugural Flight," 1 Oct 2007.)

### 21 September

- 1932: Aircrews from the 11 BMS at March Field, Calif., flew a Condor bomber to test the intensity of cosmic rays at various altitudes. (24)
- 1937: Jacqueline Cochran set a world and US speed record of 292.271 MPH for women at Detroit.
- 1938: Maj Gen Oscar Westover, the Chief of the Army Air Corps, died in an airplane crash at Lockheed Airport, Burbank. (24)
- 1939: The Lockheed L.18 Lodestar first flew.

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- 1942: The Boeing B-29 Superfortress made its first flight. (12)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** USAF forward air controllers in T-6 Mosquitoes spotted about 30 enemy tanks near the advancing 24th Infantry Division. They called in USAF aircraft and USA ground artillery, which destroyed 14 enemy tanks and forced the rest to flee. FEAF Combat Cargo Command C-54s began airlifting supplies, rations, and ammunition to Suwon Airfield south of Seoul. C-119s initiated airdrops of food and ammunition to front-line UN troops. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** F-86 Sabre pilot, Capt Robinson Risner, 336th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, destroyed two MiG-15s to become an ace when the enemy responded to an attack on the Puk-chong munitions plant by 41 F-84s. (28)
- 1956: Grumman test pilot Tom Attridge flew a Navy F11F-1 Tiger on a gun-check mission. When he fired his 20-millimeter cannons, Attridge ran into the bullets and successfully shot himself down. (16) (24)
- 1960: TAC formally accepted its first all-weather Republic F-105D at Nellis AFB; however, the aircraft did not officially enter service until Republic delivered the jet to Seymour Johnson AFB, N. C. It was the first fighter aircraft able to carry a nuclear weapon internally. (21)
- 1964: SECAF Eugene M. Zuckert presented the General Thomas D. White Space Trophy to astronaut Gordon L. Cooper for orbiting the earth in the Mercury spacecraft. (5) (16)
- North American Aviation test pilot Alvin S. White and Col Joseph F. Cotton flew the XB-70A Valkyrie for the first time in a flight from Palmdale to Edwards AFB. (3) (26)
- 1969: The first Boeing 747 jet transport arrived at Edwards AFB for FAA certification testing. (3)
- 1978: Through 30 September, following Israel's invasion of Lebanon, MAC aircrews supported UN peacekeeping forces by transporting 2,462 passengers and 3,280 tons of equipment and supplies. They also delivered 85 tons of relief supplies to Lebanon. (18)
- 1981: Through 22 September, ARRS helicopters based at Clark AB helped US Navy and Philippine authorities rescue 18 of 97 crewmen from the grounded Philippine destroyer, the *Datu Kalan-tiaw*. The event gave the ARRS its 20,000<sup>th</sup> save. (16) (18)
- 1982: A B-52G from the 416 BW at Griffiss AFB conducted the first ALCM operational test launch. (6)
- 1985: Through 30 September, MAC dispatched 4 C-5s, 1 C-141, and 5 C-130 missions to deliver 375 tons of cargo to Mexico City following massive earthquakes there. First Lady Nancy Reagan flew on an 89 MAW aircraft to Mexico City to deliver a \$1 million check for aid and to express America's concern for the victims. (16) (18) (21)
- 1998: **HURRICANE GEORGES.** After the storm devastated Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and the Virgin Islands, and made landfall on the Gulf Coast AMC, AFRC, and ANG units provided extensive relief support. Through 12 October, AMC flew more than 190 missions to move medical teams, generators, refrigerator units, construction equipment, and similar cargo to the disaster areas, along with 450 passengers and 8,500 short tons of cargo from numerous on-load places in the US. Members of the 156 AW (Puerto Rico ANG) flew tons of food, water, equipment and supplies to remote parts of the storm-stricken island. (21) (22) (32)
1999. **MACKAY TROPHY.** Gen Michael D. Ryan, the CSAF, presented five members of the 210th Rescue Squadron (Alaska ANG) with the 1999 MacKay Trophy for a daring 27 May 1998 mountaintop rescue of six people trapped in a crashed Cessna 207. Using their Pavehawk helicopter, the 210th took nearly seven hours to complete the rescue due to strong winds and thick



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swirling clouds at the 10,500-foot crash site on Mount Torbert, 70 miles east of Anchorage. The crew included Maj John Jacobs, pilot; ILt Thaddeus Stolar, copilot; MSgt Scott Hamilton, flight engineer; and MSgt Steve Daigle and TSgt Greg Hopkins, pararescuers. (32)

- 2001: AFMC accelerated the Global Hawk Dual Operations Test at Edwards AFB to gain the ability to direct two Global Hawk missions simultaneously for the RQ-4A Replace-On-Station (ROS) mission scenario. (3)

The F-22 task force at Edwards AFB achieved a major program milestone when an F-22 launched an AIM-120 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile that destroyed an unmanned BQM-74 target aircraft over the Pacific Missile Test Range. (3)

- 2005: **HURRICANE RITA.** With 165-mph winds and destructive power equal to Hurricane Katrina, Rita went through the Gulf of Mexico towards the Texas and Louisiana coasts. On 23 September, Air National Guard transports flew 27 sorties airlifting 257 passengers and 90 tons of cargo in relief operations. (32)

### 22 September

- 1943: Due to heavy losses in daylight raids, Eighth Air Force B-17s flew in a night raid on Germany with the RAF for the first time. (21)
- 1944: The last shuttle mission between UK and Soviet Union, with return through Italy, ended when 84 B-17s and 51 P-51s returned to the UK. (4)
- 1947: A USAF C-54 flew 2,400 miles from Stephenville, Newfoundland, to London on the first transatlantic robot-controlled flight. (24)
- 1949: Convair's T-29 Flying Schoolroom made its first flight. It provided navigator training at 14 stations. (12)
- 1950: **Operation FOX ABLE FOUR.** Col David C. Schilling completed the first nonstop flight of the Atlantic by jet when he landed his Republic F-84E Thunderjet at Limestone AFB. He flew 3,300 miles from England in 10 hours 1 minute. His wingman, Lt Col William Ritchie, bailed out over Newfoundland and was rescued. This operation tested probe and drogue refueling from a B-29 as a method to increase the range of fighters. (18) (21)
- KOREAN WAR.** With N. Korean resistance crumbling all along the Pusan perimeter, Lt George W. Nelson, a T-6 Mosquito pilot, dropped a note to 200 enemy troops near Kunsan demanding their surrender. They moved to a designated hill and were captured by nearby UN ground troops. B-29s dropped flares over rail lines, allowing B-26s to attack enemy trains at night. (28)
- 1980: **Exercise BUSY PRAIRIE.** Earlier in the year, SAC formed a Strategic Projection Force (SPF) with B-52H, KC-135, U-2, SR-71, RC-135, EC-135, and E-3A aircraft for the Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force. Through 25 September, SAC used the SPF for the first time in an exercise over a Nevada training range. (1)
- 1986: Two C-5s carried a record of 174,185 pounds of cargo to the Philippines. (16)
- 1987: A F-14 of Navy VF-74, based on the USS Saratoga, accidentally shot down an USAF RF-4C from the 26 TRW at Zweibrücken AB, Germany, during NATO exercise Display Determination over the Mediterranean. The Navy believed this was the first time that a Navy jet had shot down a friendly aircraft.

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- 1993: The first B-2 (#80329), called ACC-1 and later Spirit of Missouri, made its first flight from Palmdale. (15)
- 2005: From Vandenberg AFB, a Minotaur rocket carried a 920-pound DARPA military research satellite into a yearlong orbit to gather information about the Earth's environment in low orbit. The Minotaur rocket was made from decommissioned first and second stages of a Minuteman II missile. (AFNEWS Article, "Research Rocket Lights Up Sky," 23 September 2005)

### 23 September

- 1911: Earle L. Ovington, flying a Queen Monoplane, became the first airmail carrier to fly a set route from a US Post Office in a flight to Mineola from Nassau Boulevard, N.Y. The Postmaster General, Frank H. Hitchcock, then named Ovington Airmail Pilot No. 1. (21) (24)
- 1921: Day and night bombing tests began, resulting in the sinking of the battleship USS Alabama in the Chesapeake Bay by a 2,000-pound bomb. (24)
- 1944: Twenty-four B-25s from the 340 BG, Twelfth Air Force, bombed and sank the light cruiser Tarento in La Spezia Harbor, Italy. (4)
- 1949: Through air samples, an Air Weather Service RB-29 confirmed the first Soviet A-bomb explosion. (2)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** In the first recorded special operations mission of the war, SB-17 aircraft of the 3 ARS made a classified flight in Korea. (28)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Using the Shoran bombing technique, 8 B-29s from the 19 BG knocked out the center span of the Sunchon rail bridge despite 9/10ths cloud cover. (28)
- The 27 FEW at Bergstrom AFB received the first F-84G Thunderjet. It could be refueled in-flight. (1)
- 1952: A USN radar defense picket ship began 24-hour operations off the east coast as part of the US air defense system. (24)
- 1959: The DoD reorganized its space and missile programs to give the USAF responsibility over space transportation and ultimately all space booster rockets. (12)
- 1961: A Titan I completed its first attempted silo-lift launch at Vandenberg AFB. (6)
- 1963: A SAC crew launched its first Titan II from Vandenberg. (1)
- 1965: After 13 months in operation, the second-generation weather satellite Nimbus I, quit transmitting data.
- The Columbus Association of Genoa, Italy, selected Astronauts Charles Conrad, Jr. (USN) and L. Gordon Cooper, Jr. to receive the 1965 Columbus Prize.
- 1977: The Air Force announced that women would be recruited for Titan II combat crew duty. (6)
- 1987: A Gruman F-14 Tomcat fired the AIM-120A Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile for the first time at the Pacific Missile Test Center at Point Mugu.
- 1991: Through 30 September, MAC's 1467th Facility Checking Squadron transferred its C-29As and flight-checking mission to the FAA at Oklahoma City, Okla. (18)

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- 1994: The Spirit of California B-2 (#8-0330) delivered two inert 2,000-pound bombs at the Utah Test and Training Range. This was the B-2 first operational drop of weapons. (15)
- 2002: The AFFTC conducted a short-notice accelerated test of the Army's FIMN-92 Stinger surface-to-air missile against a Predator UAV. (3)
- 2004: **Operation PROVIDE HOPE.** A C-17 from McChord AFB delivered medicines and medical supplies worth \$15 million to Kishkek IAP in the Kyrgyz Republic. It was the largest humanitarian shipment to the republic since it became an independent state in 1991. (22)

### 24 September

- 1918: Lt (JG) David S. Ingalls shot down his fifth enemy plane to become the Navy's first ace. (24)
- 1919: Maj Rudolph W. Schroeder, flying a Lepere at McCook Field set a record of 30,900 feet for a plane carrying a passenger. (24)
- 1929: **KEY EVENT.** Lt James H. Doolittle made the first all-blind flight at Mitchel Field. Although a check pilot accompanied him, Doolittle took off in a Consolidated NY-2 airplane with a completely covered cockpit, flew a short distance, and landed. (18) (21)
- 1951: McDonnell won the Navy's "flying crane" helicopter competition with a design using a three-bladed rotor system, powered by small jet engines on the blade tips. (24)
- 1958: A BOMARC missile, launched from Cape Canaveral by a SAGE unit in Kingston, N.Y., destroyed a target flying 1,000-MPH at 48,000 feet over the Atlantic 75 miles away. (16) (24)
- A KC-135 from the 99 AREFS at Westover AFB lifted 78,089.5 pounds to 2,000 meters to break a 44,124-pound record set by a Soviet TU-104 transport earlier in the month. (1)
- 1962: A Saturn rocket's six-engine S-IV stage static-fired for 60 seconds at the Douglas Aircraft plant in Sacramento. (24)
- 1964: President Lyndon B. Johnson presented aviation's highest honor, the Robert J. Collier Trophy, to Clarence L. Johnson of Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, who designed and developed the A-11. Ten days earlier, Johnson also received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award. (5) (16)
- The RF-4C became operational at Shaw AFB. (12)
- A Minuteman II launched in its first attempt from Cape Kennedy. (6)
- 1968: An USAF Titan IIIC orbited four scientific satellites. (16)
- A KC-135 crash during an emergency landing at Wake Island produced the first tanker casualties in the Southeast Asian war. The crash claimed 11 ARC LIGHT support personnel redeploying from U-Tapao Air Base, Thailand. (18)
- 1970: A capsule, with lunar soil samples from Luna 16, returned to the earth.
- The US admitted using B-52s stationed at Kadena on missions against Vietnam. SAC subsequently moved the B-52s from Kadena to other locations by the end of September. (17)
- 1987: The Thunderbirds gave their first show ever in the People's Republic of China before some

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20,000 Chinese in Beijing. (16) (26)

- 1991: **Operation QUICK LIFT.** Through 28 September, MAC aircraft evacuated over 1,200 foreign nationals from and deployed some 500 French and Belgian troops to Zaire, following rioting there. Altogether, through 4 October MAC flew over 60 missions to move over 2,500 passengers and 600 tons of cargo. (18)
- 2004: The first of 13 C-17s for McGuire AFB arrived from the Boeing factory in Long Beach. The Globemaster III (tail number 03-3125) was the first C-17 modified with "Block 15" upgrades, including station-keeping equipment that allowed for all-weather formation flying with up to 100 aircraft. (22)

### 25 September

- 1918: **MEDAL OF HONOR.** While on a voluntary patrol, Lt Edward V. Rickenbacker attacked seven German aircraft near Billy, France. Despite the odds, he dived on them and shot one of the Fokkers out of control and then attacked one of the Halberstadts and also shot it down. For this action, he later received the Medal of Honor (see 6 November 1930). (4) (24)
- 1920: Harry E. Honeywell won the Birmingham National Balloon Race by landing at Chatham, Ontario, for a distance of 699 miles. (24)
- 1932: Through 27 September, Lt Cmdr Thomas G. W. Settle and Lt Wilfred Bushnell (USN) participated in an international balloon race. They set a FAI distance record of 963.124 miles for sub-class A-7, A-8, and A-9 balloons (1,600-2,200; 2,200-3,000; and 3,000-4,000 cubic meters) by flying their balloon traveled from Basle, Switzerland, to Dągieliski, Poland. (9) (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** FEAF flew flare missions over Seoul all night, which allowed USMC night fighters to attack N. Korean troops fleeing the city. FEAF Combat Cargo Command delivered a battalion of 187th Airborne Regiment paratroopers to Kimpo to protect the U.S. Army's X Corps' northern flank as it moved out from Inchon. (28)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Nearly 100 MiG-15s attacked 36 F-86s flying a fighter sweep mission over the Sinanju area. Sabre pilots destroyed five MiGs in aerial combat, the daily high for the month. (28)
- 1957: First TM-76A Mace missile flown from the Air Force Missile Development Center at Holloman AFB to Wendover AFB, Utah, by overland test corridor.
- 1958: Capt Ronald J. Layton flew an F-101 Voodoo 2,000 miles from Bermuda Island to Fort Worth in 3 hours 9 minutes to set a record for nonstop, nonrefueled flight in a supersonic jet. (24)
- The 703 SMW, the first Titan I unit, activated at Lowry AFB. (6)
- 1960: Cmdr John F. Davis (USN) flew an F4H-1 Phantom II to 1,390 MPH for 100 kilometers over a closed-circuit course. He beat the existing world record by more than 200 MPH.
- 1974: The Northrop F-5F two-place fighter made a 43-minute first flight at Edwards AFB, during which the aircraft reached Mach 0.8 and 43,000 feet.
- 1981: A B-52G, with the Offensive Avionics System, arrived at Edwards AFB for Integrated Weapons System testing. (3)
- 1997: The OC-135B treaty verification aircraft flew over Edwards AFB. The specialized aircraft, from Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, and manned by a joint USAF and Turkish crew, conducted

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the overflight sortie as part of a test run for the Open Skies program as part of the international Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). (3)

- 1997: Astronaut David A. Wolf, a former Indiana Air Guard flight surgeon, launched into orbit on the Space Shuttle *Atlantis* (STS-86). He then served as a long duration crewmember on the Russian MIR Space Station, returning to earth on the Space Shuttle Endeavour (STS-89) on 31 January 1998. It was his second space flight. (32)
- 2007: **FIRST MQ-9 REAPER MISSION.** The MQ-9 *Reaper* flew its first operational mission in Afghanistan for Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. The Reaper, a larger and heavily-armed brother of the MQ-1 Predator, provided intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities and an ability to attack time-sensitive targets quickly and precisely. Like the Predator, the Air Force launched, recovered, and maintained the Reaper at deployed locations, while the pilots and sensor operators at Creech AFB, Nev., remotely operated the aircraft. By this date, Reaper operators had not dropped weapons on enemy positions. (AFNEWS, "Reaper UAV Now Flying in Afghanistan," 11 Oct 2007).

### 26 September

- 1911: Lt Thomas DeWitt Milling flew a Burgess-Wright airplane to a world three-man duration record of 1 hour 54 minutes 42 seconds for flight with two passengers at Nassau Boulevard. He also won the Rodman Wanamaker Trophy for this flight. (24)
- 1918: Between this date and 1 October, Air Service pilots shot down 74 German aircraft and 15 balloons.
- 1931: The keel of the USS *Ranger*, the first aircraft carrier designed and built as such, laid at Newport News. (21)
- 1945: At NAS Anacostia, the Navy demonstrated the Ryan Fireball FR-1, the first partially jet-powered airplane designed for carriers. (24)
- The Army's WAC Corporal missile, built by Douglas Aircraft Company and Aerojet-General Corporation as the first liquid-propellant rocket, completed its first development flight at the White Sands Proving Grounds. It reached 43.5 miles in altitude. (6) (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** While U.S. military forces from Inchon and Pusan linked up near Osan, Fifth Air Force support allowed ROK troops to move northward along the east coast toward the 38th parallel. The 22 BG dispatched 20 B-29s to bomb a munitions factory at Haeju, destroying the power plant and five related buildings. Other 92 BG B-29s raided the Pujon hydroelectric plant near Hungnam. These attacks marked the end of the first strategic bombing campaign against N. Korea. (28)
- 1957: A Lockheed Super Starliner made the first nonstop flight from New York to Athens, covering the 5,000 miles in 14 hours 38 minutes.
- 1958: Following a course from Rapid City, S. Dak., over Douglas, Ariz., to Newberg, Oreg., two B-52 Stratofortresses from the 28 BWG at Ellsworth AFB set world speed records. Lt Col Victor L. Sandacz received credit for flying 10,000 kilometers in a closed circuit without payload at 560.7 MPH and 5,000 kilometers in a closed circuit without payload at 597.7 MPH. He also flew 6,233.98 miles for the longest nonrefueled jet bomber flight to date. (1) (9)
- 1959: **TYPHOON VERA.** After the typhoon devastated Nagoya, Japan, MATS C-124s delivered 200 tons of food, clothing, and other supplies to the area. (18)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1966: Pan American World Airway's fan-jet Falcon claimed a new speed record for business aircraft when it flew from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Lisbon, Portugal. It covered the 2,388 miles in 4 hours 38 minutes 28 seconds to break a 4-hour, 45-minute, 59.4-second record of 26 October 1963.
- 1971: **Project STORMFURY.** Air Weather Service WC-130s dropped silver iodide into Hurricane Ginger to decrease the storm's intensity. It was the service's first hurricane seeding attempt. (2)
- 1991: The USAF and MAC accepted the first C-27A Spartan, a militarized version of the Italian Alenia G222. The C-27As supported the United States Southern Command mission. (18)
- 1994: A B-52 Stratofortress, B-1 Lancer, and a KC-10 Extender landed at Poltava AB in the Ukraine. It was the first time that American bombers had landed there since World II. In World War II, Eighth Air Force B-17s used Poltava for shuttle bombing missions against Nazi targets in Germany and eastern Europe. (21)
- 2000: An F-15 team from Edwards AFB successfully used the Joint Helmet-Mounted Cueing System (JHMCS) to fire an AIM-9X *Sidewinder* air-to-air missile over the Navy's China Lake range. The missile destroyed an unmanned *Phantom II* drone. (3)
- 2001: Secretary of the Air Force James Roche announced the transition of the 116 BW (Georgia ANG) from B-1B to the E-8A JSTARS aircraft. The change would redesignate the unit as the 116<sup>th</sup> Air Control Wing. He also announced that the 184<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, Kansas ANG, would transition from B-1B bombers to KC-135 tankers and remain a unit equipped flying organization. (32)

### 27 September

- 1922: Dr. Albert Hoyt Taylor and Leo C. Young of the Naval Aircraft Radio Laboratory at Anacostia made the first radar observations in the US. (24)
- 1938: The CAA issued the first airplane instructor's license to Arthur J. Banks in Atlanta, Ga. (24)
- 1943: Eighth Air Force B-17s attacked targets in Emden with nearly 1,000 tons of bombs, the heaviest assault on a single target to date in World War II. A P-47 fighter escort with belly tanks also set a distance record by flying more than 600 miles on the mission. (4) (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR/Operation PELICAN.** A C-124 Globemaster II made its first flight from Japan to Korea, carrying 30,000 pounds of aircraft parts to Kimpo Airfield. The flight demonstrated the potential use of a very large transport for operations in a combat theater. (21) (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** At night, three B-26s flew in the central sector loudspeaker sorties totaling three and one-half hours, an unusually high amount of broadcast time. (28)
- 1956: Dropped by a B-50 bomber over the Mojave Desert, Capt Milburn G. Apt flew the rocket-powered Bell X-2 to a speed record of 2,094 MPH. The flight ended tragically when the X-2 crashed, killing Capt Apt. (3) (9)
- 1962: Construction on the last Minuteman I (Model A) facilities ended at Malmstrom AFB. (6)
- 1963: The last Thor missile from Britain reached the US. (6)
- 1970: **Operation FIG HILL.** Through 28 October, the USAF flew the Army's 32d Mobile Surgical Hospital from Germany and the USAF's 48<sup>th</sup> Air Transportable Hospital from England to war-torn Jordan. The 240 personnel and 186 tons of equipment supplied were carried to the area in 25 sorties flown in two days. (16) (21)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1978: **Exercise REFORGER.** During this exercise the MAC commander, General William G. Moore, landed a C-130 on an 8,000-foot stretch of unopened German autobahn. This was a first. (16)
- 1991: President George H. W. Bush terminated SAC's alert force operation, which started operating in October 1957. This action heralded in an end to the Cold War. (16) (26)
- When a mutiny of soldiers, joined by rebellious civilians in Kinshasha, Zaire, threatened the lives of foreigners, MAC units helped to evacuate more than 1,000 people. (26)
- 1999: SR-71A (tail no. 61-7980/NASA 844) made the next-to-last flight of the Mach 3 plane above Edwards AFB. NASA Dryden Flight Research Center crewmembers Rogers Smith and Marta Bohn-Meyer flew the Blackbird to Mach 2.70 and 64,000 feet with the dorsal flight test fixture from the Linear Aerospike SR-71 Experiment (LASRE) as its payload. (3)

### 28 September

- 1912: Cpl Frank S. Scott, chief mechanic for the Wright Scout, became the first enlisted fatality in Signal Corps aviation. He died when the aircraft piloted by Lt L. C. Rockwell crashed at College Park. (11)
- 1918: A pilot on one JN-4 maneuvered another JN-4 solely by radio over Langley Field. (24)
- 1Lt E. S. Brewer and Gunnery Sergeant H. B. Wersheiner scored the first Marine aerial victory over Belgium. (10)
- 1921: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Lt John A. Macready flew his Lepere Biplane to a 34,508-foot world record. He earned the Mackay Trophy for this flight. (9) (24)
- 1923: In the Schneider Cup seaplane race, Lt David Rittenhouse set a 169.9 MPH world speed record for seaplanes over a 200-kilometer closed course. (24)
- 1948: The Army Signal Corps released a balloon at Belmar, N.J., and it set a 140,000-foot altitude record. (24)
- NACA reported that a ramjet missile had exceeded 1,600 MPH on a flight. (16)
- 1950: At Holloman AFB, eight white mice survived a balloon flight to 97,000 feet. (16) (24)
- KOREAN WAR.** The 7 FBS, the first jet fighter squadron to operate from a base in Korea, moved from Itazuke to Taegu. Three RB-45 Tornados, the first jet reconnaissance aircraft in the USAF inventory, arrived in the Far East. (28)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** An F-80 flew a 14-hour, 15-minute combat mission with eight refuelings from KB-29M tankers. FEAF informed the Air Force in October of what may have been the longest flight on record for jet aircraft using in-flight refueling. (17) (28)
- 1954: The McDonnell YF-101A Voodoo first flew at Edwards AFB. The F-101 was the heaviest, fastest, single-seat US fighter of this period. A reconnaissance variant came out later, making the F-101 the first used for supersonic photo reconnaissance. (3) (12)
- 1961: Scientists fired two onboard spinup rockets to change the rate of rotation on TIROS II after 10 months in orbit. (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1962: General Dynamics/Astronautics fired a Centaur flight stage at 30,000 pounds thrust for the first time at Sycamore Canyon, Calif. (24)
- A SAC crew launched its first Minuteman I from Vandenberg AFB. (1)
- SAC's declaration of the 568 SMS at Larson AFB as operational ended the deployment of Titan I missiles. (6)
- 1964: The Navy launched the USS Daniel Webster, the first sub equipped with Polaris A-3 missiles, from Charleston. (5) (16)
- With eight KC-135s, the Yankee Team Tanker Task Force (also the Foreign Legion), started supporting PACAF fighter combat operations. (1)
- 1965: John B. McKay flew the X-15 on its 150th flight to an altitude of 295,000 feet and speed of 3,682 MPH.
- 1968: Bernie J. Dvorscak flew the XV-4B Hummingbird II VSTOL aircraft on a 28-minute maiden flight from Dobbins AFB. (5) (16)
- 1983: The USAF designated the new EF-111A tactical electronic jamming aircraft as the Raven. (16)
- 1995: At Yokota AB, a 32-year-old C-130 Hercules in the 36 AS flew its 25,000th flying hour. (16)

### 29 September

- 1918: **MEDAL OF HONOR.** After destroying a number of enemy aircraft within 17 days, 2Lt Frank Luke of the 27<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron volunteered to go on a patrol to shoot down German balloons. Despite an attack by enemy fighters, he shot down a balloon. Severely wounded, Luke dropped close to the ground, where ground fire brought him down. On the ground, the Germans asked him to surrender, but Luke drew a pistol and defended himself until the Germans killed him. He received the Medal of Honor posthumously. (4)
- 1945: **PROJECT PAPER CLIP.** Dr. Wernher von Braun and other rocket scientists from Germany arrived in the US. Shortly thereafter, they began translating documents from the Peenemunde Test Center. These engineers helped the US in its missile and space programs. (8: Sep 90)
- 1946: Through 1 October, Cmdr T. D. Davies, Cmdr E. P. Rankin, Cmdr W. S. Reid, and Lt Cmdr R. A. Tabeling flew the Truculent Turtle, a Lockheed P2V-1, to a nonstop flight record. The Navy crew flew 11,236 miles from Perth, Australia, to Columbus in 55 hours 15 minutes. This record remained intact until 1962 when a B-52 flight set a new record. (9) (24)
- 1950: Capt Richard V. Wheeler made a world-record parachute jump of 42,449 feet at Holloman AFB. (16) (26)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force fighter-bombers flew against enemy bunkers and gun positions 207 close air support sorties, the highest figure this month and well above the daily average. (28)
- 1956: The 405th Fighter-Bomber Wing at Langley AFB received TAC's first F-100D.
- 1961: SAC declared the first Atlas E unit, the 567 SMS at Fairchild AFB, operational. (6)
- SAC issued a requirement to develop an ultra high frequency emergency rocket communications system (ERCS). (6)



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1962: Canada became a satellite designer and builder, joining the US and USSR in that capability, when NASA launched its Alouette on a ThorAgena booster from Vandenberg AFB into a polar orbit. (24)
- 1964: LTV's XC-142A vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) aircraft made its first short-takeoff flight at Dallas, Tex.
- The first of 36 Minuteman II test launches occurred at Cape Kennedy. In this flight, the missile successfully delivered its payload nearly 5,000 miles downrange on target.
- The final Minuteman I launched from the Eastern Coast Range. In launches at Cape Kennedy, there were 38 successes, eight partial successes, and eight failures, while from Vandenberg there were 60 successes, four partials, and two failures.
- 1965: Aviatrix Jerrie Mock broke the speed record for conventional single-engine aircraft over a 500-kilometer course. She set an average speed of 203.858 MPH on her flight, which lasted 1 hour 31 minutes 27 seconds. A Czechoslovakian pilot, Lubos Stastny, set the former record of 178 MPH in 1956.
- SAC retired the first B-52 (B-model number 52-8711) it received to the Aerospace Museum at Offutt AFB. It had been assigned 22d BW at March. (1)
- 1968: Launched one year earlier from Christchurch, New Zealand, a 10-foot diameter plastic balloon named GHOST (Global Horizontal Sounding Technique) broke all balloon flight duration records.
- 1969: At Edwards AFB, the first C-7A Caribou arrived for testing. (3)
- 1971: SAC retired its last B-52C (No. 53-402) from the 22d Bomb Wing at March AFB to the Davis-Monthan AFB storage area. (1)
- 1974: At Edwards AFB, the F-5F completed its first flight. (3)
- 1988: **MANNED SPACE PROGRAM RESUMES.** The Space Shuttle Discovery launched to end the long stand-down of the space program after the Challenger disaster. (20)
- 1990: Lockheed pilot Dave Ferguson flew the YF-22A for the first time above Edwards AFB. (20)
- 1999: At Edwards AFB, an AFFTC team began test sorties of the LITENING II precision targeting pod to equip ANG and Reserve F-16s with a precision strike capability against sea and land-based targets. (3)
- 2001: The US used its Kodiak Launch Complex in Alaska to launch satellites for the first time. Previously, the US launched its spacecraft from launch complexes in Florida or California. (21)
- 2002: Global Hawk AV-3 landed at Edwards after a 23.8 hour flight Southwest Asia, where it flew 15 missions for Operation Enduring Freedom. This completed the Global Hawk system's first combat deployment. (3)
- 2004: AFFTC at Edwards AFB supported the flight of Scaled Composites' SpaceShipOne. The spacecraft flew to a 337,000 feet as the first of two flights above 100 kilometers to win a \$10 million X-Prize. AFFTC provided radar tracking, weather service, a ground station, and a communications loop. (3)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2005: A C-17 dropped a dummy air-launched rocket booster from 6,000 feet over the Edwards AFB Precision Impact Range Area. The AirLaunch Quick-Reach Booster was a full-scale mockup for DARPA's Falcon Small Launch Vehicle program competition. At some 67 feet long and 50,000 pounds, it was the largest object ever dropped from a C-17, and nearly the heaviest. (3)

### 30 September

- 1906: Lt Frank P. Lahm and Maj Henry B. Hersey won the first James Gordon Bennett balloon race, flying 402 miles from Paris to Scarborough, England. (24)
- 1911: After an Aero Club of America air meet at Nassau Boulevard, Lt Henry H. Arnold became the "stunt man" for the movie, *The Military Air Scout*. (24)
- 1944: **FIRST ATTACKS ON BALIKPAPAN.** Dutch-built refineries at Balikpapan, Borneo, provided the Japanese with their aviation gasoline and other petroleum products. On 30 September, 69 Thirteenth Air Force B-24s from Noemfoor Island, 1,030 nautical miles distant from the target, struck the oil refineries. Four more raids followed with the last raid occurring on 18 October. The raids caused considerable destruction but no permanent damage. They did, however, provide both Fifth and Thirteenth Air Forces much valuable long-range experience.
- 1949: **Operation VITTLES.** The last flight took place to end the Berlin Airlift. Results show 2,343,301.5 tons of supplies carried on 277,262 flights. US planes carried 1,783,826 tons. (4)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** The 315th Air Division flew daily airlift sorties, transporting cargo, medical evacuees, and troops. During September, C-54s airlifted more passengers and cargo tonnage than those carried by all other 315th aircraft combined. (28)
- 1952: Bell Aircraft's Rascal GAM-63 air-to-surface strategic missile completed its first powered flight at Holloman AFB. (6) (24)
- 1955: North American Aviation won the contract to build the X-15 high-altitude, high-speed research aircraft. (8: Sep 90)
- 1958: The DoD announced an agreement with Italy to build Jupiter missile bases on Italian soil. (6)
- 1961: The USAF transferred all of TAC's base rescue mission and corresponding aircraft to the MATS. (11)
- 1963: SAC declared the 66 SMS at Ellsworth AFB operational, making it the first Minuteman I (Model B) unit to reach that status. (6)
- 1964: The Titan II's acquisition phase ended when AFLC assumed engineering support responsibilities.  
  
At Edwards AFB, the YF-12 was unveiled.
- 1965: SECDEF McNamara directed USAF to develop and produce the C-5A transport. Early plans called for a gross weight of nearly 350 tons--twice that of existing largest plane to carry loads of 250,000 pounds for 3,200 miles or 100,000 pounds nonstop across the Pacific Ocean. (12)
- 1968: The world's largest commercial jet, the Boeing 747 rolled out of the factory at Everett, Wash., for the first time.

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**COMBAT SORTIE RECORD.** “Go Get Em,” a 13 TFS F-4D at Udorn AB flew 80 combat sorties over North Vietnam during September to break all existing records for the number of sorties in a month by an F-4. (17)

- 1969: Cannon AFB and the 27 TFW received the first F-111E. (11)
- 1975: **OPERATION HIGH NOON:** Through 2 October, Gen Russell E. Dougherty, the SAC Commander, decided not to hold an annual bombing competition. Instead, he exercised SAC's ability to carry out contingency operations with minimum preparation. The test included RAF Vulcan bombers and six TAC F-111s. It also involved two crews and aircraft from 21 bomb wings and 26 air refueling squadrons. The 92d BMW at Fairchild AFB won the outstanding SAC unit award for the competition. (1)
- 1977: The first C-141 transatlantic mission without a navigator aboard traveled from Charleston AFB to Rota NAS, Spain. The aircraft used the Delco inertial navigation system. (16) (26)
- 1981: In October 1981, President Reagan ordered the deactivation of the Titan II weapon system. The missile in Site 571-6 of the 390 SMW at Davis Monthan AFB became the first to be removed from alert for deactivation. (1)
- H. Ross Perot, Jr., and Jay Coburn flew a Bell 206L Longranger on the first helicopter flight around the world. They started and finished at Fort Worth.
- 1983: Boeing Aerospace Company received a contract to produce 330 ALCMs between 1 November 1984 and 31 October 1985. (12)
- 1984: The 37 TFW at George AFB achieved an initial operating capability (IOC) with the AGM-88 High Speed Antiradiation Missile. (11)
- 1986: The USAF bought the 120 Gates Learjet and Beech Aircraft aircraft it leased in 1984. (16)
- 1989: TAC declared an initial operating capability for the F-15E with the 336 TFS at Seymour-Johnson AFB. (30)
- 1990: MAC transferred its C-23A Sherpas to AFSC at Edwards AFB; the USA at Redstone Army Airfield, Alabama; and the United States Forest Service, Boise, Idaho. (18)
- 1995: The 93d Bomb Wing, the first B-52 wing in the Air Force, inactivated after 47 years of continuous service. Castle AFB closed at the same time. (16) (26)
- 2001: The AFFTC at Edwards AFB deployed the EC-135C “Big Crow” electronic combat research aircraft, along with personnel from two flight test squadron detachments and maintenance technicians, to support Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. This was the first AFMC unit deployment to the area of operations. (3)
- 2005: The final C-141 Starlifter mission into a combat zone ended when C-141C (tail no. 66-0132) returned from Balad AB, Iraq, with 24 litter patients, 23 ambulatory patients, and 3 attendants to Ramstein AB. The C-141, flown by Lt Col Timothy W. Baldwin, belonged to the 445 AW at Wright-Patterson AFB. (22)
- The 181<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing (Indiana ANG) deployed 350 members and 12 F-16s to Kadena AFB to fill in for an active duty USAF F-15 squadron that moved elsewhere to support the “Global War on Terrorism.” (32)
- 2007: **Operations ENDURING FREEDOM/IRAQI FREEDOM.** September was a record-breaking month for the air component mobility fleet as the aircraft transported more than 115,000 pas-

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

sengers and more than 20,000 short tons of cargo in, out and around the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. That effort included a record high for the C-17 Globemaster IIIs, which carried more than 52,000 passengers. (AFNEWS, "October 2 Airpower Summary," 3 Oct 2007.)

### 1 October

- 1907: At Mrs. Bell's suggestion, Dr. Alexander Graham Bell formed the Aerial Experiment Association at his summer home in Beinn Breagh, Baddeck, Nova Scotia. The association included Dr. Bell, Frederick W. "Casey" Baldwin, John A. "Douglas" McCurdy, Glenn Curtiss, and Thomas E. Selfridge. (24)
- 1942: **KEY EVENT.** Robert M. Stanley flew the Bell XP-59A, the first U.S. turbojet aircraft, for the first time at Muroc Field. (21)
- 1947: North American's prototype F-86 Sabre (XP-86) first flew at Muroc Dry Lake. (20) (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR/Operation SNOWBALL.** In an experiment, through 3 October C-119s from the 315 AD dropped 55-gallon drums filled with napalm behind enemy lines. (28)
- The USAF activated the 1st Pilotless Bomber Squadron at the Missile Test Center, Cocoa, Fla.
- 1952: **Operation FOX PETER TWO:** Through 14 October, in a second mass flight, 75 F-84Gs of the 27 FW, with Col Donald Blakeslee leading, extended air refueling over the western Pacific. The first refueling occurred between California and Hawaii and the second the 2,575 miles between Midway Island and Japan. The Fox Peter operations proved that fighters could be moved to the Orient quickly by air to avoid the corrosion potential of water transport. (18)
- 1955: The Navy started the super carrier age by commissioning the USS Forrestal, the first designed for jet aircraft. (7)
- 1957: USAF personnel launched their first intercontinental missile, the XSM-62 Snark, in a flight from Cape Canaveral. (16) (24)
- TAC received its first F-104C.
- General Thomas S. Power, the CINCSAC, decided to begin ground alert operations to counter the Soviet ICBM threat.
- Through 2 October, a Transworld Airlines Jetstream made the first nonstop flight over the Great Circle route from London to San Francisco.
- 1960: The Ballistic Missile Early Warning System radar post at Thule, Greenland, began operations. It was one of three planned warning sites against enemy attacks on North America. (16) (24)
- SAC activated the last Atlas E squadron, the 549 SMS, at Francis E. Warren AFB. (6)
- 1961: The last Atlas F squadron, the 556 SMS, activated at Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y. It was also the last unit activated for the Atlas program. (6)
- 1963: In a ski-equipped Lockheed C-130 Hercules aircraft, Rear Admiral James R. Reedy (USN) made the first transpolar, nonstop flight from Capetown, South Africa, to McMurdo Sound, Antarctica. This flight covered 4,700 miles in 14 hours 31 minutes and crossed the entire Antarctic continent. (5) (16)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1964: SAC phased out its Atlas-D program by taking the last missile off alert in the 549 SMS at Offutt AFB. (6)
- Exercise TROPIC LIGHTNING.** Through 16 December, the first Tropic Lightning exercise provided live close air support training to soldiers from the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on Hawaii. The 18 TFW at Kadena AB sent six F-105Ds to Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station to participate in the training. They were replaced in late October by six F-105Ds from the 560 TFG at McConnell AFB. (17)
- 1965: When the USAF Aeronautical Station inactivated at Yokota, a 30-year era of Morse code in the USAF came to an end. Begun in 1935 with the creation of the Aeronautical (Airways) Station - Network, expanded greatly thereafter, and gradually reduced after the close of World War II, the requirement for this type of long-range communication ended with the transfer of WB-50 weather reconnaissance aircraft from Japan.
- Mariner IV, after broadcasting from a record distance of 191,059,922 miles in space, had its telemetry transmission halted by a radio command from the Goldstone Space Communications Station.
- The 1502 ATW logged its 600,000<sup>th</sup> accident-free flying hour, a record in aviation history. (16)
- 1968: **REFORGER/CRESTED CAP.** MAC moved 33,043 passengers and 3,796 tons of cargo during a four-month airlift to support this exercise. The airlift moved military personnel, dependents, and equipment from Germany to the US. (16)
- 1969: The C-5A Galaxy, world's largest aircraft at the time, took off from Edwards AFB with a 410,000-pound payload, heaviest ever carried by any aircraft. This load was also 21,000 pounds heavier than the C-5A's designed lift capability, and 28,100 pounds heavier than the record it set on 15 June.
- 1970: TAC made the bare-base concept a reality by establishing the first operationally-ready "heavy bare" squadron, the 336 TFS at Seymour Johnson AFB, NC. (16)
- 1971: General John D. Ryan, the CSAF, presented the 1970 Cheney Award to Maj Travis Wofford for an act of heroism performed as a helicopter pilot in SEA. (16)
- 1972: The USAF inactivated the last BOMARC missile squadron. These squadrons started operating in 1969.
- 1977: **VOLANT OAK.** The Air Force began a quarterly rotation of AFRES and ANG C-130 aircraft and crews to Howard AFB, Panama Canal Zone. (21)
- 1980: **Operation ELF ONE.** Four E-3A AWACS deployed to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to protect Saudi airspace during the Iraq-Iran war. C-141s airlifted supplies and personnel for the operation, while two KC-135s based at the Riyadh Royal Saudi AB refueled the E-3s. (4) (18)
- 1981: ATC conducted the first Euro-NATO Jet Pilot Training class at Sheppard AFB. The program provided combined pilot training for candidates from NATO nations. (16)
- 1981: At Mather AFB, ATC began a special program to train German weapons systems officers for duty in the Tornado fighter-bomber. (16) (26)
- 1983: The Air Force retired the B-52D from its inventory of operational aircraft. This aircraft performed most of the ARC LIGHT bombing missions in SEA from 1966 through 1973. (See 4 October 1983) (1)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1984: Peacekeeper test missile-6 launched at Vandenberg AFB. (12)
- 1986: The B-1 achieved initial operating capability at Dyess AFB, Texas. (16)
- 1987: PACAF retired its last T-33 two seat training aircraft. The retirement of 7 T-33 T-Birds at Hickam and 7 more at Clark AB ended 32 years of operations in the command. (16)
- 1990: AFSC turned Patrick AFB and the space-launch mission to AFSPACE. (21)
- 1991: MAC C-5s and C-141s delivered two Patriot antimissile batteries to Saudi Arabia to counter a threat from Iraq. (18)
- 1992: PACAF and USAFE assumed control of intratheater aeromedical airlift forces based in their theaters of operation from AMC. (18)
- 1993: The AFRES activated its first B-52 unit, the 93d Bomb Squadron, at Barksdale AFB. (16) (26)  
  
ACC and AMC swapped aircraft assets. In this exchange, ACC received C-130 Hercules from AMC in return for KC-135 Stratotankers. (16)
- 1999: The USAF deployed Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) 1 to Southwest Asia. It was the first AEF to deploy under a new rotational system for 10 AEFs. The deployment integrated ANG and the Air Force Reserve with the active duty air forces. Prior to the deployment, the ANG had agreed to supply 10 percent of the planes and personnel for each AEF. (21) (32)  
  
The first ANG pilot with Detachment 1, Southeast Air Defense Sector, began flying with the active-duty 325th Fighter Wing at Tyndall AFB, Fla., under a new program to have ANG flight instructors train new active duty F-15 pilots.
- 2002: Gen John P. Jumper, USAF Chief of Staff (CSAF), ordered the deactivation of the Peacekeeper ICBM system. (21)
- 2007: The Air Force redesignated the 27<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing at Cannon AFB, N. Mex., as the 27th Special Operations Wing. Thus, the 27<sup>th</sup> became the second active-duty special operations wing in the Air Force Special Operations Command. The 73d Special Operations Squadron's MC-130W Combat Spear aircraft was the first plane to move from Hurlburt Field, Fla., to Cannon. The MC-130W handled infiltration, exfiltration, and the resupply of special operations forces, while providing refueling capability for special operations vertical-lift assets like the CV-22 Osprey. (AFNEWS, "New Chapter for Air Force Special Operations Begins," 4 Oct 2007.)

### 2 October

- 1912: George A. Gray flew a Burgess Wright plane on the first flight over the Adirondack Mountains, flying from Malone to Saranac Lake, N.Y., a distance of about 85 miles. (24)
- 1918: The Army's Kettering pilotless aircraft, "The Bug," with preset controls made successful flights at Dayton. "The Bug" has been often called a guided missile in later years. (21)
- 1944: 1Lt Valmore Beaudrault received credit for downing the first German jet destroyed by Ninth Air Force. (4)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** From the FEAF Bomber Command, 22 B-29s attacked a N. Korean military training area at Nanam, destroying 75 percent of the buildings. The 8th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron moved from Itazuke to Taegu to become the first USAF day reconnaissance squadron stationed in Korea. (28)

## **AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- 1956: For the first time, the USAF successfully recovered a full-scale flight-test version of the XSM62 (N69D series) Snark after a flight from Cape Canaveral. (16) (24)
- 1962: At Vandenberg AFB, an Atlas D completed a combat training launch (CTL). The CTLs preceded the current operational testing program. (6)
- 1963: The USAF issued a requirement for the Minuteman II missile with a new, larger second stage engine, improved guidance, more range and payload, and increased survivability. (6)
- 1968: The C-9A flew its first aeromedical mission. (18)
- 1970: The USAF Special Operations Force at Hurlburt Field took possession of the first Bell UH-1N "Twin Huey." (16) (26)
- 1981: President Reagan reversed several of President Carter's defense decisions to support force modernization. He planned to construct and deploy 100 B-1B aircraft, continue the ALCM and M-X program, and develop an advanced stealth bomber. He also cancelled the horizontal multiple shelter basing scheme for the M-X in favor of basing in superhard silos. (1) (6)
- Deputy SECDEF Frank P. Carlucci ordered the Titan II system inactivated. (6)
- 1991: In the second humanitarian mission to Mongolia, the 834th Airlift Division moved 15 pallets of medical supplies and 8 ambulances to Ulan Bator. (16) (26)
- 1993: Major earthquakes rolled through central India. Afterwards, C-5s airlifted 1,000 rolls of plastic sheeting, 950 tents, 18,550 five-gallon water containers, 22 pallets of blankets, and other relief supplies to Bombay through 4 October. (16)
- 2000: The NF-16D (Tail No. 86-0048) Variable In-Flight Simulator Test Aircraft (VISTA) arrived at Edwards AFB to join the AFFTC fleet. It could simulate the flying characteristics of several different aircraft and would be used primarily by the AF Test Pilot School. (3)
- 2006: ACC declared an initial operating capability for the GBU-39B Small Diameter Bomb, a low-cost and low-collateral damage 250-pound precision strike weapon for use by fighters, bombers and UAVs. (AFNEWS Article, "ACC Declares Small Diameter Bomb Initially Capable," 5 Oct 2006)
- 2007: The Commandant of Cadets, Brig Gen Susan Y. Desjardins, flew a new C-17 Globemaster III over the U.S. Air Force Academy cadet area in Colorado Springs, Colo. She formally accepted the aircraft for the Air Force at Boeing's facilities in Long Beach, Calif., and flew it to Dover AFB, Del., for duty with the 436th Airlift Wing. (AFNEWS, "Commandant of Cadets Flies New C-17 Globemaster III Home, 2 Oct 2007)
- At Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, Air Force Reserve officials activated the first F-22 Raptor unit, the 477th Fighter Group. The day also honored the 477<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group's and the 302<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Squadron's fabled heritage and their connection to the Tuskegee Airmen. (AFNEWS, Air Force Reserves Stands Up First F-22 Unit," 5 October 2007.)

### **3 October**

- 1918: In a flight refueling demonstration, Lt Godfrey L. Cabot (USN Reserves) lifted 155 pounds of weights into his Burgess-Dunne seaplane from a moving sea sled. (18) (24)
- 1920: Using a Huff-Daland HD-4 Bridget, Lt Godfrey L. Cabot and Lt Harold R. Harris in the rear cockpit picked up a 5-gallon can of gasoline from a float in the Potomac River near Washington

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DC. (24)

- 1931: Through 5 October, Clyde Pangborn and Hugh Herndon, Jr., made the first nonstop flight between Japan and America in their Bellanca with a Pratt & Whitney 420 HP engine. After 41 hours 13 minutes, they landed at Wenatchee, Wash. (9)
- 1945: As the initial attempt to establish an earth satellite program, the Bureau of Aeronautics set up a committee to evaluate the feasibility of space rocketry.
- 1952: The XB-52 Stratofortress made its first flight at the Boeing facility. (3)
- 1953: Lt Cmdr James Verdin (USN) flew a Douglas XF4D-1 Skyray jet fighter and set a world speed record of 752.94 MPH in four runs over a 3-kilometer (1.86 miles) course at Salton Sea, Calif. This event was the first time a carrier plane set a speed record. (9) (20)
- 1957: **Operation DEEP FREEZE.** A Douglas C-124 made the first delivery for the MATS to McMurdo Sound, Antarctica, to support the operation. (18)
- 1960: A TWA jet transport, under a MATS contract, carried 166 passengers in an inaugural flight from McGuire AFB to Frankfurt, Germany. This was the largest number of passengers to cross the North Atlantic in an airplane to date. (24)
- 1962: Cmdr Walter M. Schirra, Jr., (USN) became the fifth Mercury astronaut to circle the earth, when his Sigma 7 spacecraft completed five orbits. He landed in the Pacific near the end of his sixth orbit after 9 hours 14 minutes in space. This mission almost failed as NASA's controllers thought about separating Sigma 7 from the Atlas D launch vehicle when it developed a dangerously high roll rate. (7) (24)
- 1966: The last Minuteman I (Model A) follow-on operational test launch occurred at Vandenberg AFB. (6)
- 1967: Maj William J. Knight set a speed record for winged aircraft by flying the North American X-15A No.2 to 4,520 MPH (mach 6.72) and 99,000 feet over Edwards AFB. This flight broke his earlier 18 November 1966 record of 4,250 MPH. (9) (26)
- At Whiteman AFB, the 351 SMW became the first Minuteman I unit to transition to the Minuteman II missile under the Force Modernization Program. (6)
- 1972: At the White House, President Nixon and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko spoke about treaties to limit Anti-ballistic missile systems and the other strategic arms.
- 1985: Through October 7, the Atlantis flew its first mission (21st in Space Shuttle program), and the second space flight solely dedicated to the DoD. The crew (Col Karol Bobko, Lt Col Ron Grabe, Maj William Pailes, Marine Maj David Hilmers, and Army Lt Col Robert Stewart) deployed two Defense Satellite Communications System satellites. (8: Oct 90)
- 1989: Lockheed delivered the 37th and last U-2R/TR-1A high-altitude reconnaissance plane to the USAF. (16) (26)
- 1993: **AIR FORCE CROSS.** Through 4 October, pararescueman TSgt Timothy A. Wilkinson ran through enemy fire repeatedly, despite his own injuries, to save five wounded Army Rangers after enemy forces shot down their MH-60 Black Hawk helicopter at Mogadishu, Somalia. For that heroism, Wilkerson received the Air Force Cross. (21)



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1995: An AMC contracted DC-8 left Robins AFB for Hanoi with 28 tons of medical supplies for Viet-Due Hospital and Hue Center Hospital on the first humanitarian mission to Vietnam since the war. (18)
- 1997: A C-141 aircrew from the 305 AMW at McGuire AFB airlifted 35,000 pounds of excess DoD medical supplies to Sofia, Bulgaria. (22)
- 2004: The Lockheed-Martin plant at Marietta received the first C-5 for the Reliability and Enhancement and Re-engining Program (RERP) to extend the C-5's life to 2040. The modification added new engines and improved electrical, fuel, hydraulic, flight control, environment control systems, and structure and landing gear upgrades. The C-5B prototype aircraft (No. 86-0013) belonged to the 436 AW at Dover AFB. (22)

### 4 October

- 1909: Wilbur Wright flew from Governor's Island out past the Statue of Liberty, up the Hudson to Grant's Tomb, and back to the island during New York's Hudson-Fulton celebration. The original plans called for Wright to make a 10-mile or 1-hour long flight around the Statue of Liberty and Glenn Curtiss to make a 20-mile round-trip flight past Grant's Tomb. When Curtiss could not make the flight due to high winds, Wright added the flight past Grant Tomb. He also added a canoe to the Wright Flyer for an emergency water landing. (24)
- 1919: In a supercharged Lepere-Liberty 400, Maj Rudolph W. Schroeder and Lt G. A. Elfrey set a world two-man altitude record of 31,821 feet at Dayton. (9)
- 1945: **FIRST AROUND-THE-WORLD FLIGHT FOR A CARGO AIRCRAFT.** A Douglas C-54 Skymaster from the Army's ATC completed the first global flight for a cargo-type aircraft by flying 23,279 miles in 149 hours 44 minutes, including 33 hours 21 minutes on the ground by the time it landed in Washington DC. (9) (24)
- 1946: **PACUSAN DREAMBOAT.** Through 6 October, Col Clarence S. Irvine flew the B-29 "Pacusan Dreamboat" to a nonstop, unrefueled distance record of 9,500 miles by flying from Honolulu to Cairo, Egypt, in 39 hours 36 minutes. The flight took the plane over Arctic regions to test the crew through hazardous weather with complicated navigation and communication problems. (<http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=1847>)
- 1949: C-82s dropped an entire field artillery battery by parachute at Fort Bragg. (16) (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** FEAF gained operational control of all land-based aircraft in Korea, including USMC squadrons at Kimpo. Anticipating the acquisition of enemy air installations, FEAF stopped most attacks on airfields south of the 40th parallel. (28)
- 1957: The Soviets launched the first satellite, Sputnik I, into orbit. This event shocked America into creating its own space program. (12)
- 1959: The Air Force successfully fired Little Joe, carrying a Mercury capsule mockup, in an operational test of launch and destruction procedures. (24)
- 1962: The first F-4C to enter the USAFE inventory arrived at RAF Bentwaters. (4)
- 1967: SECDEF Robert McNamara refused to develop the WS-120A advanced ICBM; however, he directed an examination of hard rock silos for the Minuteman III. (6)
- 1974: A C-130H aircraft, with a composite reinforced center wing, flew its first flight. Lockheed delivered the plane to the USAF on 23 October 1974. (12)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1980: **PRINSENDAM FIRE/MACKAY TROPHY.** When the Dutch tourist ship caught fire 125 miles away from Yukataga, Alaska, the 71 ARRS at Elmendorf AFB coordinated an effort with USAF, US Coast Guard, and Canadian forces to rescue the 519 passengers. Capt John J. Walters and his crew flew their HH-3 Jolly Green Giant helicopter to rescue 61 passengers and crewmen from the burning liner. Walters airlifted the people from lifeboats to a nearby supertanker. For his rescue, Walters received the Mackay Trophy. (2) (18) (21)
- 1983: The 7 BMW at Carswell AFB sent B-52D (55-0674) to the aircraft storage center at Davis-Monthan AFB. It was the last B-52D to be stored; however, seven other bombers remained at Carswell and Andersen AFBs until February 1984 while display facilities were prepared. (1)
- Through 5 October, four CH-3 helicopters from the 302d Special Operations Squadron rescued 57 residents from flood waters around Maricopa, Ariz. (16)
- 1989: **Operation DEEP FREEZE.** A C-5B landed in Antarctica for the time to resupply the National Science Foundation's research station at McMurdo Sound. The 60 MAW aircraft brought 84 tons of cargo, including two Bell UH-1N helicopters and 72 passengers to the station. It also landed on a 76-inch thick ice runway without skis. A KC-10 refueled the C-5 to make the trip possible. (18) (20)
- MACKAY TROPHY.** A 96 BMW B-1B crew landed their aircraft successfully despite a retracted nose gear. No crewmen were injured and the aircraft only sustained minimal damage. For this achievement, the crew earned the 1989 Mackay Trophy. (21)
- 1995: Hurricane Opal damaged Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field with winds over 110 mph. Most aircraft escaped by flying to other bases. (26)
- 2001: AFFTC conducted a dual Global Hawk UAV ground test run for the accelerated Replace on Station (ROS) effort. The test demonstrated the ability of two UAVs to provide continuous round-the-clock airborne reconnaissance. The Global Hawks flew concurrently and sequentially to collect imagery under the control of one mission control element. (3)
- 2006: USAF officials announced proposed locations for the F-35A Lightning II: Eglin AFB for primary maintenance and flight training; Nellis AFB and Edwards AFB for flight-testing; and Hill AFB, Kadena AB, Shaw AFB and McEntire ANGB, S. C., for operational squadrons. The announcement initiated environmental studies. (SAF/PAO Press Release, "Air Force Proposes Initial Joint Strike Fighter Locations," 4 Oct 2006)

### 5 October

- 1905: At Dayton, Orville Wright flew the Wright III, the first practical airplane, to a world distance and duration record of 24.2 miles in 38 minutes 3 seconds. (21)
- 1918: On a very limited scale, aircraft airlifted materiel and performed other mobility functions during World War I. Planes from the 50th Aero Squadron dropped supplies and aided in determining the location of the "Lost Battalion," elements of the 77th Division cut off from the Allies and besieged by the Germans during the Argonne Forest offensive. This was the first sustained effort at aerial resupply of a ground unit. (18)
- 1922: Lts John A. Macready and Oakley G. Kelly flew a Fokker T2 with a Liberty 375 HP engine to a 35-hour, 18-minute, 30-second endurance record at Rockwell Field. (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force combined attacks with US Navy aircraft against barracks and supplies of the Chinese 67th Army at Loeyang. (28)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1957: SECDEF Charles E. Wilson approved the first ICBM initial operational capability (IOC) program for four Atlas and four Titan I squadrons. (6)
- 1961: Lts Melvin E. Pollard and Craig V. Miller completed a 17-day experiment in an 8-foot by 12-foot steel cabin in an atmosphere of almost pure oxygen. In this bioastronautic study of mental and physical reflexes and processes, the two men alternately operated a behavior simulator control panel. (24)
- 1962: At the Douglas Aircraft plant in Sacramento, Saturn's six-engine Stage-IV made its first full-duration firing (7 minutes). (24)
- 1965: The USAF launched its first orbiting satellite. (4)
- Donald L. Piccard flew his Piccard Balloon to an altitude record of 15,691 for class AX-6 balloons (1200 to 1600 cubic meters) at El Mirage, Calif. (9)
- 1966: Deke Sonnichsen flew a Quick Silver Libra II Piccard Balloon from Mountain View to Los Altos, Calif., to set a FAI duration record of 1 hour 55 minutes 10 seconds for class AX-4 (600-900 cubic meters) balloons. (9)
- 1968: The F-111B aircraft program ended.
- 1970: Mrs. Lois Elmstrom set a duration record of 2 hours 6 minutes at Lancaster, Calif., for class AX-5 (900-1,200 cubic meters) balloons in a Piccard Balloon. (9)
- 1973: Maj Michael V. Love flew the X-24B Lifting Body on its first glide flight. (3)
- 1984: **FIRST SPACEWALK BY AN AMERICAN WOMAN.** During the sixth Challenger Space Shuttle mission, astronauts recorded several firsts before returning to earth on 13 October: first seven-member crew; first walk in space by an American woman (Kathryn D. Sullivan, Mission Specialist); first flight by a Canadian Astronaut (Marc Garneau, Payload Specialist); and first time orbit took shuttle over Chicago during its landing reentry. Other crewmembers included Robert L. Crippen, Commander; Jon A. McBride, Pilot; Sally K. Ride, Mission Specialist; David C. Leestma, Mission Specialist; and Paul D. Scully-Power, Payload Specialist. It was also the first flight to include two women. (20)
- 1993: **Operation RESTORE HOPE II.** Through 13 October, 56 C-5 and C-141 missions moved 1,300 troops, 18 M1 Abrams tanks, 44 Bradley infantry fighting vehicles, and 3,000 tons of equipment from the US to Somalia. Additionally, tankers flew 169 refueling missions to offload 13.4 million pounds of fuel to support the airlift. This action happened after a 15-hour battle between US Army Rangers and forces of Mohamed Farah Aideed. (16) (26)
- 2001: At Edwards AFB, an Air Force Test Pilot School F-16B (tail no. 78-0088) passed 6,000 flying hours. Lockheed Martin said the F-16 had the most flying hours of any F-16 in the world. (3)
- 2006: The 494th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron used the GBU-39/B Small Diameter Bomb for the first time in combat. A two-ship F-15E Strike Eagle formation carried the new air-to-ground bomb on a close-air support mission in Iraq. (AFNEWS Article, "ACC Declares Small Diameter Bomb Initially Capable," 5 Oct 2006)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2007: A CV-22 Osprey assigned to the 58th Special Operations Wing at Kirtland AFB, N. Mex., participated in the aircraft's first search and recovery mission. It responded to the fatal crash of a medical aircraft in the mountains of southern Colorado. Besides the CV-22, the response team included a pair of HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters and a MC-130P Combat Shadow to provide aerial refueling and mission control for the operation. (AFNEWS, "CV-22 Flies First Search and Recovery Mission," 25 Oct 2007)

### 6 October

- 1912: Lt John H. Towers (USN), flying the Curtiss A-2, took off from the water at Annapolis on 6-hour, 10-minute, 35-second flight that set a new US endurance record for planes of any type. (24)
- 1913: Capt Charles DeForest Chandler and Lt Thomas DeWitt Milling, who qualified with Lt Henry H. Arnold as Military Aviators on 5 July 1912, received their badges. There were only two badges struck at that time. (24)
- 1918: **MEDALS OF HONOR.** Near Binarivelle, France, 1Lt Harold E. Goettler with the 50<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron and 2Lt Erwin P. Bleckley (Kansas National Guard), flying as an observer, tried to drop supplies to a surrounded US Army battalion in the Argonne Forest (the famous lost battalion). They flew as low as possible to deliver the supplies more precisely, but enemy ground fire brought their plane down. Lt Goettler died instantly. Both men received the Medal of Honor. (4) (21)
- 1923: Lt Al J. Williams (USN) flew a Curtiss Racer (R2C-1) at St Louis to world records of 243.8 MPH for 100 kilometers and 243.7 MPH for 200 kilometers. (24)
- 1928: Goodrich Zeppelin Corporation received Navy contracts for two 6,500,000 cubic-foot rigid airships, ZRS-4 and ZRS-5 that became the USS Akron and USS Macon. (24)
- 1945: Norway and the US signed a civil air transport pact that gave each nation the right to transit and nontraffic stops. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** FEAF dispatched 18 B-29s to attack an enemy arsenal at Kan-ni, N. Korea, while issuing a new interdiction plan to cancel attacks on bridges south of Pyongyang and Wonsan. The USAF took control of Kimpo Airfield from the USMC. (28)
- 1955: The DoD awarded a contract to the Glenn L. Martin Company, as primary contractor, to build a rocket for launching an earth satellite. General Electric Company subcontracted to build the rocket motor. (24)
- 1959: From Vandenberg AFB, an RAF crew completed the first combat training launch of a Thor IRBM successfully. (6)
- 1961: In a hardened, 165-foot deep ICBM silo near Denver, the 724 SMS of Lowry AFB received the Air Force's first Titan I missile. This silo was the first of its kind. (6)
- 1966: Lockheed-Georgia Company engineers, Dr. W. C. J. Garrard, George K. Williams, and William W. Williams, received the Wright Brothers Medal for the Society of Automotive Engineers for their report on soft- and rough-field landing gear.
- 1969: **B-57s DEPART SOUTHEAST ASIA.** With the inactivation of the 8th Tactical Bombing Squadron, its B-57s light bombers were ferried to the US for storage. The first aircraft left Phan Rang, South Vietnam, today. (17)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1975: **PROJECT COIN:** Through 2 December, C-130s delivered 7,597 tons of critical supplies and over 2 million gallons of petroleum products to Alaska at Point Barrow, Lonely, Okiktok, and Barter Island. Contract aircraft flew another 453.8 tons of oversize steel pipe from Elmendorf to Lonely and 2,981.5 tons of supplies from Lonely and Point Barrow. (18)
- 1983: The 42 BMW at Loring AFB reached a limited operational capability with B-52Gs and the AGM-84 Harpoon anti-shiping missile. The first flight tests with the Harpoon took place on 15-28 March on the Pacific Missile Test Range. (1)
- 1999: At Grand Forks AFB, contractors imploded the first of 450 Minuteman III ICBM silos to be destroyed under the START I. (21)
- 2004: The Navy version of the Global Hawk, designated N-1, flew for the first time. The Global Hawk Maritime Demonstration vehicle made a four-hour sortie from its production facility in Palm-dale to the AFFTC at Edwards AFB. (3)

### 7 October

- 1909: Glenn H. Curtiss became the first American to earn a FAI airplane certificate, Aero Club of France Certificate No. 2. (24)
- 1913: Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels formed the Chambers Board (named after Navy Capt W. Irving Chambers) to develop a naval air service organization. (10)
- 1916: Harry E. Honeywell won the National Balloon Race by flying 519 miles from Muskogee, Okla., to Cascade, Iowa. (24)
- 1918: 2Lt Samuel R. Keesler and pilot 1Lt H.R. Riley of the 24th Aero Squadron went on a special reconnaissance mission and were attacked in flight by four German fighters. Keesler tried to drive off the Germans with his machine gun, but the attackers shot then down behind enemy lines. Keesler died the next day from his wounds. Keesler AFB in Mississippi is named in his honor. (4)
- 1931: Navy and Army observers tested Carl J. Norden's bombsight. Later, the Navy provided the Army the Norden sights for use in World War II. (21)
- 1943: The 422 BS dispatched four aircraft on a leaflet-dropping mission over Paris to begin special operations from the UK. (21)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** The USAF dropped food to a group of 150 former POWs, who had escaped during the N. Korean retreat. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force fighter pilots and US Navy airmen attacked the Communist Chinese Force's 26th Army at Yongpyongni. (28)
- 1963: The FAA expanded its traffic control system over most ADC airborne interceptor operations made under instrument flight rules.
- 1964: SYNCOM III communications link from Tokyo to Point Mugu began transmitting to US television stations. (5) (16)
- 1965: The Society of Automotive Engineers gave the 1964 Wright Brothers Medal to NASA scientists Marion O. McKinney, Jr., Richard E. Kuhn, and John P. Reeder for writing "Aerodynamics and Flying Qualities of Jet/Vertical Takeoff-Landing and Short Take-Off Landing Airplanes."

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1966: The Air Force selected the University of Colorado to conduct independent investigations of Un-identified Flying Objects (UFOs). (26)
- 1986: SAC received the last production ALCM from the Boeing Military Airplane Company. (16)
- 1987: The DoD awarded three contracts, at \$25.5 million each, to McDonnell Douglas in St. Louis, General Dynamics in Fort Worth, and Rockwell's North American Aircraft in Los Angeles to build selected aircraft components for the hypersonic National Aerospace Plane. (12)
- 1996: At Whiteman AFB, two 509 BW pilots, Capt Tony Monetti and Maj Chris Inman, flew a 34-hour long-endurance flight in the B-2 simulator. (AFNEWS Article 970175, 18 Feb 97)
- 2001: **Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.** The US initiated airstrikes against terrorist and Taliban targets in Afghanistan. The 509 BW at Whiteman AFB launched six B-2 bombers on the longest bombing missions in aviation history. The B-2s flew from Whiteman AFB over the Pacific to drop bombs on targets in Afghanistan and recovered at Diego Garcia. The longest flight took 44 hours, the longest combat mission in history. ENDURING FREEDOM also involved B-1Bs, B-52Hs, F-15Es, KC-10s and KC-135 tankers, E-3 AWACS, EC-130s, AC-130 gunships, and MC-130 and MH-53 special operations aircraft. Naval involvement included F-14s, F/A-18s, and AV-8 aircraft from three carriers in the Indian Ocean. (21)
- 2002: NASA launched the Space Shuttle *Atlantis* on STS mission 112 to install the S1 Truss to the new International Space Station. On 18 October, the shuttle returned and landed at the Kennedy Space Center. The crew included Capt Jeffrey S. Ashby (USN), commander (3); Col Pamela Ann Melroy (USAF 3), pilot; and David A. Wolf (ANG 3), Sandra H. Magnus (1), Piers J. Sellers (1), and Fyodor Yurchikhin (1) as mission specialists. Ashby, Melroy, and Wolf made their third flights into space on this mission, while Magnus, Sellers, and Yurchikhin were making their first flights. (32) (<http://www.shuttlepresskit.com/STS-112/spk-112.pdf>)

### 8 October

- 1909: Pilot instructions with the Wright Flyer began at College Park. (18)
- 1912: The Bureau of Medicine and Surgery published the Navy's first physical examination for pilots. (24)
- 1914: Capt H. LeR. Muller used a Curtiss J with a Curtiss OX-5 90-HP engine to set a 16,789-foot official American one-man altitude record. (24)
- 1919: The Army conducted reliability and endurance testing from New York to San Francisco and back, with 44 planes making the westbound leg, 15 the eastbound, and 10 the complete round trip. Lt B. W. Maynard in a DH-4 had the best east-west and round-trip times, while Maj Carl A. Spaatz in a DH-4B had the fastest west-east flight. (9) (24)
- 1940: The Royal Air Force formed 71 (Eagle) Squadron, the first of three Fighter Command squadrons composed principally of volunteer US pilots flying with the RAF. On 29 September 1942, pilots in this unit formed the 334th Fighter Squadron, 4th Fighter Group. (8: Oct 90)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Two F-80s accidentally strafed a Soviet airfield near Vladivostok on the coast northeast of the Korean border. Razon bomb missions resumed after reliable radio-guided bombs arrived from the US. The 162 TRS moved from Itazuke to Taegu, becoming the first night reconnaissance squadron stationed in Korea. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** In support of the amphibious hoax, ten B-29s of the 98th Bombardment Wing conducted a rare daylight visual bombing mission on the supply area at Kowon in eastern

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Korea in coordination with USN fighter-bomber attacks. (28)

A Soviet MiG-15 fired warning shots at a C-47 MEDEVAC aircraft. The C-47 took evasive action into cloud cover and continued on to Berlin. (4)

- 1955: Maj Arthur Murray flew the Bell X-1B on its first powered flight above Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1956: Since 1948, MATS and DoD aircraft made over 100,000 ocean crossings to carry 400,000 passengers and 700,000 tons of mail and freight to overseas bases. (16) (24)
- 1969: Through 4 November, after severe flooding in Tunisia, the 58 ARRS from Wheelus AB, Libya, flew relief supplies to that country. Some 2,500 civilians were removed from flood-threatened areas. (2) (26)

General Bruce K. Holloway accepted SAC's first FB-111A (No. 67-7193) at Carswell AFB for the 340 BG. (1) (12)

- 1975: McDonnell Douglas Corporation received the contract to develop the navigation-guidance equipment for the ALCM. (6)
- 1993: **Operation PROVIDE PROMISE.** The effort to airlift relief supplies to Bosnia surpassed the Berlin Airlift in duration, but not in tonnage or missions. This made PROVIDE PROMISE the longest sustained relief operation in USAF history. (16) (26)
- 2001: **Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.** Two C-17s also airdropped about 35,000 humanitarian rations over eastern and northern Afghanistan. The two airdrops were the C-17's first combat missions, first combat airdrops, and first humanitarian airdrops of ENDURING FREEDOM. The C-17s flew from Ramstein AB more than 6,500 miles in a 22-hour round trip and were air refueled multiple times. (21) (22)

**Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.** Four EC-130E Commando Solo aircraft from the 193<sup>rd</sup> Special Operations Wing (Pennsylvania ANG) began broadcasting music and information to the Afghan people as part of the operation. (32)

- 2005: **Operation LIFELINE.** A 7.6 earthquake devastated parts of Pakistan, especially the Pakistani-controlled portion of Kashmir, leaving nearly 80,000 dead and many more injured in its wake. Airmen moved to Chakala AB, near Islamabad, Pakistan, to receive humanitarian relief supplies. Less than 48 hours later, the first C-17 from McChord AFB arrived with nearly 45 short tons of food, water, blankets, and medicine from Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. The 24th Air Expeditionary Group (AEG), with a 46-member team, deployed from McGuire AFB to provide operational support on two C-17s loaded with nearly 100 short tons of equipment. US Army CH-47 Chinook helicopters flew the cargo from Chaklala to the areas of greatest need. By late December 2005, AMC had initiated 169 missions and 510 sorties from and between US, Europe, and the US Central Command area of responsibility to transport 6,929 short tons of cargo and airlifted 2,427 passengers. (22)

### 9 October

- 1905: The Wright Brothers offered the War Department and the Army their airplane for purchase. The Board of Ordnance and Fortification misunderstood their offer as a request for money to conduct invention research and subsequently rejected the offer. (21)
- 1912: Lt Henry H. Arnold, the only contestant, won the first Mackay Trophy competition. Lt Thomas DeWitt Milling withdrew because of illness shortly after the competition started. (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1918: More than 250 bombers and 100 pursuit planes, the greatest massing of planes to date, dropped 32 tons of bombs in the cantonment district between La Waville and Damvillers. (24)
- 1934: Wiley Post received the FAI gold medal. (9)
- 1943: British Air Chief Marshal Portal declared the B-17 bombing of the Focke-Wulf plant at Marienburg the “most perfect example of accurate distribution of bombs.” (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Fighter-bombers attacked widely scattered communist communications centers from Huichon in N. Korea south to the bomb line. Fifth Air Force aircraft inflicted heavy casualties on a communist regiment, delaying its commitment to the enemy attack underway. (28)
- 1958: **PROJECT MAN HIGH III.** Lt Clifton McClure ascended to 98,000 feet in a balloon.  
  
The Boeing Airplane Company received the assembly and test contract for the Minuteman I. (6)
- 1961: Maj Robert White attained 4,093 MPH in the X-15 in a flight at Edwards AFB.  
  
Lt Raymond H. Vos, taking part in the T-38 test at Randolph AFB, became the first student to solo in a supersonic plane.
- 1964: TAC received its first RF-4C aircraft.
- 1972: Through 19 October, representatives from the US and Soviet Union met in Moscow to discuss the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project (ASTP), the joint rendezvous and docking mission scheduled for 15 July 1975.
- 1973: The Board on Geographic Names restored Cape Kennedy to its original name, Cape Canaveral. Later on 1 April 1974, the Air Force redesignated Cape Kennedy AFS as Cape Canaveral AFS.
- 1999: The final SR-71 Blackbird flight occurred during the Edwards AFB Open House and Air Show. NASA Dryden Flight Research Center pilot Rogers Smith and flight engineer Marta Bohn-Meyer flew the aircraft to Mach 3.21 at 80,100 feet. (3)
- 2001: **Operation EAGLE ASSIST.** NATO deployed AWACS aircraft from Europe to the US to help patrol American airspace after the 11 September terrorist attacks. This was the first time NATO deployed forces to the US for a real contingency. When the operation ended on 16 May 2002, seven NATO aircraft had flown 360 sorties. (21)

### 10 October

- 1910: Armstrong Drexel used a Bleriot airplane to set a FAI altitude record of 9,449 feet at Philadelphia. (9)
- 1911: Lt Thomas DeWitt Milling flew a Wright Airplane at College Park to test the Riley E. Scott bombsight and dropping device in its first military trial. (21)
- 1923: The first American rigid dirigible, the Shenandoah, was the first Zeppelin-type to use helium gas. (21) (24)
- 1928: Capt St. Clair Streett, pilot, and Capt Albert W. Stevens, observer and photographer, set an unofficial world altitude record of 37,854 feet for planes carrying more than one person in flight from Wright Field. (24)



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1943: Eighth Air Force sent 313 heavy bombers to attack Munster, Germany, where 33 aircraft were destroyed and 102 damaged. (4)
- 1946: Headquarters US AAF assigned SAC the additional mission of sea search and antisubmarine warfare. A few weeks later, the 509 BG deployed its B-29s to Rio Hato, Panama, to join Navy forces in Operation Nullus. (1)
- 1947: The US Patent Office issued a patent on the Norden bombsight. Inventor Carl L. Norden had applied for the patent in 1931. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** The USAF activated the first ANG units to support the Korean War. The US eventually mobilized 66 flying units and 45,000 guardsmen into federal service. An H-5 crew from the 3 ARS administered, for the first time while a helicopter was in flight, blood plasma to a rescued pilot. The crewmembers received Silver Stars for this action. (21) (28)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Far East Air Forces marked a significant date for the Chinese, the anniversary of the overthrow of the Manchu Dynasty, by dropping special leaflets and making radio broadcasts aimed at Chinese Communist Forces in Korea. (28)
- 1956: NACA, the forerunner of NASA, revealed that a four-stage, rocket-propelled research missile had attained speeds of mach 10.4, the equivalent of 6,864 MPH at high altitudes. (24)
- 1961: NASA, in a Wallops Station launching, lifted an Argo D-4 rocket to an altitude of 585 miles to study the density of electricity charged helium atoms in the upper atmosphere. (24)
- 1963: **COLLIER TROPHY.** The seven original Mercury astronauts received the trophy for their flights to orbit the earth. (16) (26)
- 1967: The 351 SMW at Whiteman AFB fielded the first Minuteman II Emergency Rocket Communication System (ERCS). It replaced the Blue Scout Junior ERCS system in Nebraska. (1) (6)
- 1972: Competitive flight tests between the A-9 and A-10 began. (3)
- 1981: McDonnell-Douglas' AV-8B Harrier shown at St. Louis. (12)
- 1982: Boeing's AGM-86B ALCM flew its last flight at Edwards. (3)
- 1983: The C-20A flew its first operational mission. (18)
- 1986: The USAF placed the Peacekeeper ICBM (LGM-118A) on alert. (21)
- 1994: **Operation VIGILANT WARRIOR.** When Iraqi troops massed on the Kuwaiti border, USAF airlifters started flying troops to the Persian Gulf. The number of planes also increased from 77 to 270 as the USAF sent more F-15E Eagles, F-16 Fighting Falcons, and A-10 Thunderbolt IIs to the region. (16) (18)
- 1998: After a year of testing, Lockheed-Martin test pilot Jon Beesley flew the F-22 *Raptor* beyond Mach 1.0 for the first time at Edwards AFB. In nonafterburning level flight at 29,000 feet, the first production F-22 (tail no. 4001) passed through Mach 1.1 seven times. (3)
- 2005: Sixty years of American military airlift operations officially ended at AMC's "Gateway to Europe," Rhein-Main AB. At the ceremony the AMC Vice Commander, Lt Gen Christopher Kelly, unveiled the *Spirit of Rhein-Main* C-17 Globemaster III. Earlier on 1 October 2005, AMC transferred Rhein-Main's airlift responsibility to Ramstein and Spangdahlem AB. (22)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2006: From a Twin Otter aircraft, AFFTC parachutists made 10 jumps at Edwards AFB to test a new F-35 Joint Strike Fighter parachute system. The IGQ type 6000, which incorporated the parachute and harness into the F-35 cockpit, was designed to inflate at various speeds. It resembled an aeroconical dome when extended. (3)
- 2007: The USAF launched a Wideband Global SATCOM satellite, the first of a next generation of military communications satellites, from Cape Canaveral AFS, Fla., aboard an Atlas V booster. The new satellite augmented and would eventually replace the aging Defense Satellite Communications System. (AFNEWS, "First Next-Generation Communications Satellite Launches," 11 Oct 2007.)

### 11 October

- 1910: Former President Theodore Roosevelt became the first President to fly in an aircraft, when he flew as a passenger with Archibald Hoxsey in a Wright biplane at St. Louis. (20) (21)
- 1927: While crossing the Atlantic, George Haldeman and Ruth Elder were forced to land in the ocean near a freighter. (9)
- 1945: The Army launched a US-made ballistic missile for the first time at White Sands Proving Ground. The Tiny Tim booster with a WAC Corporal rocket reached 43 miles in altitude. (21)
- 1947: The Boeing C-97 Stratofreighter, a transport variant of the B-29 Superfortress, began service in ATC. It could be configured to transport materiel, troops, or casualties. (18)
- 1949: Bob Woodhouse and Woody Jongeward set a new endurance record of 1,124 hours 14 minutes in an Aeronca at Yuma. (24)
- 1957: A Navy A3D Skywarrior set a new speed record from San Francisco to Honolulu in 4 hours 29 minutes 55 seconds. (9)
- A Thor missile launched from Cape Canaveral became the second to be tested successfully in the program. It exceeded the designed 1,500-mile range and landed in the Atlantic Ocean some 2,000 miles away from the Cape. (24)
- 1958: The USAF launched Pioneer I, a lunar probe vehicle, to 80,000 miles in height before it fell back to earth on 13 October. (24)
- 1961: Maj Robert White flew the X-15 to 215,000 feet at Edwards AFB.

**PROJECT FARM GATE.** President John F. Kennedy authorized a detachment from the 4400th Combat Crew Training Squadron, later part of the 1st Air Commando Group, with 151 officers and enlisted men and eight T-28, four SC-47, and four RB-26 aircraft to deploy to South Vietnam as Project Farm Gate. The unit arrived in Vietnam on 14 November and flew its first T-28 strike mission from Bien Hoa on 26 December. The Farm Gate aircraft carried Vietnamese Air Force markings. The aircraft were used until 1 April 1964. (17)

- 1966: Lockheed Missiles and Space Company engineer Deke Sonnichsen claimed six world records when he flew a Quick Silver Libra II Piccard hot-air balloon to 21,250 feet. He then traveled from Tracy to Salida, Calif., and claimed altitude records in the AX-4, AX-5, AX-6, AX-7, and AX-8 categories, while setting a distance record of 20.24 miles. (9)
- 1968: **APOLLO VII.** The first manned mission in the lunar landing program launched from Kennedy Space Center Complex 34 on a Saturn IB booster. The crew, which included Maj Don F. Eisele, splashed down on 22 October after completing 163 revolutions of the earth. (16) (26)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1970: The USAF's first undergraduate helicopter pilot student entered training at Fort Wolters, Texas. The Army program was geared to train 225 Air Force pilots a year. (16) (26)
- 1972: In ceremonies at Littleton, Colo., Martin Marietta delivered the X-24B experimental lifting body to the USAF and NASA.
- 1984: MAC flew US Secret Service vehicles to Puerto Rico to protect Pope John Paul II during his visit to San Juan. (26)
- 1985: A 438 MAW C-141 Starlifter flew 11 American survivors from the hijacked Italian cruise ship, Achille Lauro, from Cairo, Egypt to Newark Liberty International Airport, N. J. (16) (26)
- 1986: Through 16 October, the Air Force flew medicine and other supplies to El Salvador's capital city after an earthquake destroyed 96 percent of its buildings. (16) (26)
- 1990: Rockwell pilot Ken Dyson flew the X-31A Enhanced Fighter Maneuverability demonstrator for the first time above Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale. (20)
- 1995: The F-111 Aardvark began flying to the aircraft graveyard at Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz., after a decision to retire all F-111s from service. (16)
- 1998: **Operation PHOENIX DUKE.** The violent repression of Albanians in Kosovo by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia threatened to spark a war between Yugoslavia and the NATO states. AMC, ANG, and AFRC airlifters and tankers moved into position under this operation. Yugoslavia averted conflict by agreeing to cease operations against the Kosovar Albanians. Most of the command's assets returned to home station in early November. (22)
- 2001: The KC-135 manager at Wright-Patterson's Aeronautical Systems Center asked the AFFTC at Edwards AFB to accelerate testing of the C/KC-135 Multi-Point Refueling System (MPRS) to give the tankers a probe-and-drogue capability to refuel U.S. Navy and NATO aircraft. (3)
- 2007: **Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.** Two C-17 Globemaster III crews completed one of the largest single airdrops in Afghanistan since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom. The 817th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron from Manas AB, Kyrgyzstan, dropped more than 85,000 pounds in 62 bundles over the Paktika province in southeastern Afghanistan to provide personnel on the ground supplies to operate with through the winter. Two C-17s replaced four C-130 Hercules aircraft on the mission. (AFNEWS, "C-17 Crews Make Record Airdrop," 16 Oct 2007.)

### 12 October

- 1916: Tony Jannus died in Russia while demonstrating a Curtiss flying boat. (24)
- 1918: America's 185th Pursuit Squadron flew the first U. S. night air pursuit operations in France. (21)
- 1925: Lt Cyrus Bettis, Air Service, set a world speed record of 249.3 MPH in the National Air Races at Mitchel Field using a Curtiss R3C-1. (24)
- 1937: The Air Corps transferred its last airship to the Navy, which left one airship in the inventory as a motorized training balloon.
- 1939: Harry B. Chapman used an Aeronca seaplane to set a world distance record for light seaplanes by flying 1,164 miles from Jamaica Bay, N. Y., to New Orleans. (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1944: Lt Chuck Yeager shot down five of his 12 1/2 aircraft victories in a single engagement. (4)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Far East Air Forces Combat Cargo Command began to airlift ROK military supplies to Wonsan and 600 tons of bridge sections to Kimpo airfield. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** An SA-16 pilot, 3d Air Rescue Squadron, participated in two rescues within thirty minutes and over 100 miles apart. After directing a helicopter pickup of a downed F-86 Sabrejet pilot, the SA-16 pilot landed in the Haeju harbor and, while overhead fighters suppressed ground fire from the shore, picked up from a dinghy a 69th Fighter-Bomber Squadron pilot who had parachuted from his burning F-84. (28)
- KOREAN WAR.** Through 14 October, the 315th Air Division conducted paratroop-drop exercises with the US Army's 187th Regimental Combat Team as part of the Kojo deception. Additionally, on 12-13 October 26 B-29s from all three medium bombardment units struck 9 separate troop concentrations on Haeju Peninsula. (28)
- 1954: At Wichita, Ks., the Cessna XT-37 flew for the first time. (20)
- 1963: Joseph A. Walker, NASA's senior X-15 pilot and holder of world altitude and speed records for research aircraft, received the Christopher Columbus International Prize for Communications.
- 1964: The XB-70A achieved supersonic flight for the first time above Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1967: The FAA certified the all-weather landing system for the C-141 Starlifter.
- 1973: Pilot Einar K. Enevoldson guided the first flight of a new remotely piloted research vehicle from a ground cockpit and TV screen. After the 3/8ths scale-model F-15 dropped from a B-52, he led it to a safe landing.
- 1977: The USAF's first class of five women navigators graduated. Three of the five women were assigned to MAC aircrews. (18)
- 1980: Two earthquakes struck El Asnam, Algeria, only hours apart on 10 October, killing at least 6,000 people and leaving about 200,000 homeless. From 12-26 October, 1 C-130, 2 C-5, and 14 C-141 missions airlifted some 400 tons of relief supplies to Algeria. The aircraft came from the 436, 437, and 438 MAWs, and the 435 TAW. (18) (26)
- 1997: The SECDEF deployed US military assets to support of fire-fighting efforts in Indonesia as part of a technical assistance package to the most seriously affected countries in that region. Military support included 60 crew and support personnel for three C-130 aircraft, two equipped with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems, and one flying in support. The crew and aircraft came from the 153 AW, Wyoming ANG. PACAF directed the operation to drop 685,000 gallons of water and fire retardant in Java and Sumatra. The operation ended in December after 215 sorties and 316.5 flying hours. (21) (32)
- 1998: The 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, 403rd Wing (AFRC), at Keesler AFB received the USAF's first WC-130J Hercules aircraft. The WC-130J, outfitted as a special weather reconnaissance version of Lockheed-Martin's C-130J cargo plane, had a mission to fly into the eye of hurricanes to retrieve critical information about active storms. (AFNEWS Article 991900, 14 Oct 99)
- 2006: The 14 FTW at Columbus AFB received its first T-6 Texan. The two-seat, single-engine aircraft would replace the T-37 Tweet in the pilot primary training mission. (AFNEWS Article, "14<sup>th</sup> FTW Welcomes New Training Aircraft," 13 Oct 2006)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 13 October

- 1905: The Aero Club of America (later National Aeronautic Association) formed by the men who set up the Automobile Club of America. The Federation Aeronautique Internationale, an international body for certifying air records, formed in Paris a day earlier. (8: Oct 90)
- 1915: William B. Thompson, Harry Payne Whitney, and T. Frank Manville purchased the Wright Company from Orville Wright. (24)
- 1922: Lt T. J. Koenig won the Liberty Engine Builder's Trophy Race in a Lepere-Liberty 400 with a speed of 128.8 MPH over a 257.7-mile course at the National Airplane races at Selfridge Field. (24)
- 1939: Evelyn Pinckert Kilgore of San Bernardino, Calif., became the first woman to receive an airplane instructor's license under the Civil Air Authority. (20) (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** In preparation for the Kojo amphibious demonstration, Far East Air Forces and US Navy aircraft hit enemy positions around Kojo, and US Navy surface craft shelled the beach area. After a respite of almost a year, the enemy, using small fabric-covered biplanes, hassled Cho-do and the Seoul area with "Bedcheck Charlie" raids. (28)
- SAC submitted a requirement for an air-launched decoy missile to defeat an enemy's radar defenses. This action led to the development of the GAM-72A Quail missile. (6)
- 1959: Explorer VII, a US Army satellite launched by a Juno II rocket from Cape Canaveral, entered an orbit expected to give it a life of 20 years. (24)
- A B-47 shot the last of 12 Bold Orion air launched ballistic missiles 1,000 miles down the Atlantic Missile Range. This ended the demonstration program for the system that became the Skybolt. (6)
- 1960: Near Ascension Island, three black mice (Sally, Amy, and Moe) were recovered in good condition after surviving a 5,000-mile flight in a nosecone of an Atlas booster launched from Cape Canaveral. They reached 650 miles in altitude and 17,000 MPH. (24)
- 1961: Discoverer XXXII, a satellite to study space radiation, launched from Vandenberg AFB into a polar orbit. The Air Force successfully recovered its capsule in the air on 14 October after the eleventh orbit. The Thor booster fired successfully for the 100th time in this launching. (24)
- 1967: President Johnson presented the Harmon International Aviation Trophy to Astronauts James A. Lovell, Jr. (USN), Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr. and Alvin S. White, former NAA test pilot. Lovell and Aldrin received the award for the successful Gemini XII mission on 11-15 November 1965 during which Aldrin spent 5 hours 28 minutes outside the spacecraft. White received his award for a Mach 3 flight in the XB-70. (5) (16)
- 1968: The last HU-16B Albatross amphibians in PACAF left Naha AB, leaving search and rescue units with no long-range capability. Replacement HH-3E rescue helicopters arrived at Naha in December. (17)
- 1970: Training started for 203 airmen to serve as air marshals on US commercial aircraft. (16)
- 1972: **MACKAY TROPHY.** An F-4 weapon system officer, Capt Jeffrey S. Feinstein, shot down his fifth MiG-21 to become the third and final ace of the Vietnam War. For this feat, Feinstein shared the 1972 Mackay Trophy with Captains Richard S. "Steve" Ritchie and Charles B. DeBellevue. (21) (26)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1984: President Reagan signed an executive order that created a National Commission on Space to prepare a 20-year agenda for a civilian space program. (AFNEWS, 19 Sep 97)
- 1999: The USAF terminated its Enhanced Flying Screening Program for new pilots and ended its use of the T-3A Firefly. At this time, there were 110 T-3As in the USAF inventory. (AFNEWS Article 991881, 13 Oct 99).
- The X-43A, a Hypersonic Flight Research Vehicle and the world's first hypersonic air-breathing free-flight vehicle, arrived at Edwards AFB for testing by NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center. The X-43 involved Supersonic Combustible Ramjet, or "Scramjet," technology. A successful flight in 2001 would make it the first vehicle with a non-rocket engine to fly at hypersonic speeds. NASA planned three test flights, two at Mach 7 and one at Mach 10, over the Western Test Range off the coast of southern California. Micro Craft, Inc., of Tullahoma, Tenn., built the 12-foot-long, unpowered vehicle for NASA's Hyper-X program. (AFNEWS Article 992034, 5 Nov 99)
- 2000: **ATTACK ON THE USS COLE.** On 12 October, a bomb-laden terrorist boat exploded against the port side of the destroyer USS Cole in the port of Aden, Yemen, killing 17 sailors. On 13 October, a C-17 aircrew from the 315 AW (Associate), Charleston AFB flew the remains of 5 sailors from Aden to Ramstein AB and then to the DoD's port mortuary at Dover AFB. On 14 October, another C-17 aircrew from Charleston took the remains of eight more sailors to Dover, while a C-141 brought the final four remains there on 22 October. (22)
- The F-22 No. 1 completed its final test flight at Edwards AFB. On 1 November, the USAF transferred it to Wright-Patterson AFB to become a live-fire testbed aircraft. (3)
- 2006: After graduating its last class of F-117A Nighthawk pilots, the 49 FW closed its formal training school at Holloman AFB. The action signaled the beginning of the F-117's phaseout from the active USAF aircraft inventory. (USAF Aimpoints, "F-117 Pilot School Closes," 26 Oct 2006)

### 14 October

- 1918: Brig Gen William "Billy" Mitchell designated as Chief of Air Service Army Group; however, the General Staff disapproved and abolished this designation.
- 1920: The Navy began tests to determine the effectiveness of aerial bombs against ships. Aircraft dropped sand-filled dummy bombs on the old battleship Indiana in Tangier Sound, Chesapeake Bay, until 4 November. (21)
- 1922: Lt Russell L. Maughan used a Curtiss R-6 racing biplane, powered by a D-12 Curtiss Conqueror engine, to set a world speed record of 205.31 MPH over a 100-kilometer course in the Pulitzer Trophy Air Race near Mount Clemens, (Detroit) Mich. He set a record of 205.94 for 200 kilometers too. (5)
- 1938: Curtiss test pilot Edward Elliot flew the Curtiss XP-40 for the first time above Buffalo, NY. (20)
- 1940: Off Virginia's coast, Maj Reuben Moffat, the 33d Pursuit Group Commander, became the first Army Air Corps pilot to fly an aircraft off a carrier. He flew his Curtiss P-40 off the USS Wasp along with 24 other P-40s and 9 North American O-47s to test deployment procedures. (8: Oct 90)
- 1943: Eighth Air Force struck the heart of the German ball bearing industry at Schweinfurt, Germany, for the second time, but 67 of 291 B-17s were lost. This mission caused the Eighth to suspend daylight bombing missions to targets deep inside Germany. (4) (21)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1947: **KEY EVENT--MACKAY TROPHY.** At Muroc Field, Capt Chuck E. Yeager flew faster-than-sound for the first time (Mach 1.01) in a rocket-powered Bell XS-1 after being dropped from a B-29. For this most meritorious flight of the year, Yeager received the Mackay Trophy. (3) (9)
- SECDEF James V. Forrestal approved the Air Force's control over all surface-to-surface "pilot-less aircraft" and strategic missiles. The Army gained control over all tactical missiles. (6)
- 1949: Chase Aircraft Company's XC-123, an assault transport aircraft that was later known as the Provider, completed its first flight test at West Trenton, N. J. (12)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Two communist aircraft, probably from Sinuiju on the Chinese border, raided Inchon harbor and Kimpo airfield, while Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) troops began entering N. Korea from Manchuria. (28)
- 1953: The X-10 prototype of the North American B-64 Navaho, a ramjet-propelled surface-to-surface guided missile, made its first flight. (21) (26)
- 1957: SAC retired its first B-47-type aircraft, an RB-47E (No. 51-5272) to the aircraft storage facility at Davis-Monthan AFB. This retirement started the B-47 phaseout program. (1)
- 1959: A US Army Nike-Zeus antimissile completed its first flight. (16) (24)
- 1961: **Operation SKY SHIELD II.** NORAD conducted this operation for two days. The largest air defense exercise in the Western hemisphere to date involved thousands of NORAD and SAC airplanes and sorties, and it grounded all commercial aircraft for 12 hours. (16) (24)
- 1962: **CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS.** While flying his U-2 over Cuba, Maj Richard S. Heyser took photos of Russian intermediate missiles. His discovery led to the 22 October quarantine of Cuba, the Missile Crisis, and a Soviet promise to remove the missiles on 20 November. A combined TAC and MATS airlift force of C-123s, C-124s, and C-130s delivered 10,500 passengers and 7,500 tons of cargo to Marine, Army, and USAF bases in the southern US. (1) (2)
- 1965: Company pilot Alvin S. White and Col Joseph F. Cotton flew the North American XB-70A Valkyrie to its designed Mach 3 speed of 2,000 MPH at 70,000 feet in a 1-hour, 47-minute test flight over Edwards AFB. (26)
- 1969: A C-5A Galaxy lifted off the Edwards AFB runway with a gross weight of 798,200 pounds to set a world record. (3)
- 1970: John Manke flew the X-24A Lifting Body on its first supersonic flight by attaining 759 MPH at 66,000 feet. (3) (26)
- Typhoon Joan swept over the central Philippines, killing over 500 people. PACAF airlift forces moved 751,200 pounds of cargo and 453 passengers in 80 sorties. (17)
- 1972: The first F-111F wing became operationally ready.
- For their long-distance nonstop flight at Mach 3 in an SR-71, Lt Col Thomas B. Estes and Lt Col Dewain C. Vick received the Harmon International Aviation Trophy.
- 1973: **YOM KIPPUR WAR/Operation NICKEL GRASS.** Through 14 November, MAC delivered 22,395 tons of materiel from 20 locations in the US to Israel in the 1973 war. MAC completed this airlift, with a one-way distance of 6,450 miles, in 567 C-5 and C-141 missions. By comparison, the Soviets supplied 15,000 tons to the Arabs in 40 days flying over a route of 1,700 miles in 935 missions. (2) (26)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1977: Retired Brig Gen Charles E. Yeager flew an F-104 faster than sound to repeat his historical event of 1947. (16)
- A C-141 airlifted 20 large and 150 small tents from Ramstein AB to the African port of Djibouti for war refugees in the country of Afars and the Issas (formerly French Somaliland). (18)
- 1981: TAC deployed two E-3A Sentry AWACS aircraft to Egypt to help preserve calm after the assassination of President Anwar Sadat. (16) (18)
- 1982: Retired Brig Gen Charles E. Yeager flew an F-5G (later F-20) above Edwards AFB faster than sound to commemorate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his 1947 flight. (16)
- 1983: Second Peacekeeper test flight missile launched from Vandenberg AFB. (12)
- 1994: Through 16 October, two C-17 Globemaster IIIs flew equipment and supplies from Langley AFB to Saudi Arabia in the aircraft's first operational mission. The first C-17 airlifted a "rolling command post," five vehicles, and assorted supplies of the US Army's 7th Transportation Group, Fort Eustis, Va. En route to the Persian Gulf, the C-17 received fuel from KC-135s twice. A second C-17 mission to the Gulf region left Charleston AFB on 15 October after unloading cargo at Langley. This C-17 also received two refuelings on a 14.7-hour nonstop flight. After a four-hour layover, the C-17 returned to Charleston on 16 October. Two aerial refuelings allowed the C-17 to make a 17.2-hour flight, the longest mission to date. (16) (18)
- 1997: Retired Brig. Gen. Charles "Chuck" Yeager broke the sound barrier again in front of a crowd of more than 5,000 people at Edwards AFB to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his historic supersonic flight. Yeager flew an F-15 Eagle while his first supersonic flight chase pilot and long-time friend, Bob Hoover, and AFFTC Vice Commander James Doolittle III flew chase an F-16 Fighting Falcon for chase. (AFNEWS, 16 Oct 97)
- 1998: The 89 AW at Andrews AFB received the first C-37A, the military version of the Gulfstream V business jet. (AFNEWS Article 981676, 4 Nov 98)
- 2005: The 436 AW at Dover AFB transferred the last AMC-owned C-5A (tail number 70-0461) to the 445 AW, an AFRC unit at Wright-Patterson AFB. After the transfer, AMC's active-duty wings only had "B" and "C" model C-5s assigned in their inventories. There were only two C-5Cs (tail numbers 68-0213 and 68-0216) in AMC, both A-models modified in late 1988 and early 1989 support outsized space shuttle cargoes for NASA. (22)

### 15 October

- 1924: ZR-3 (renamed the Los Angeles) arrived at Lakehurst, N. J. It was the first dirigible sent to the US Navy from Germany under a World War I reparation agreement. (20)
- 1937: Test pilot Eddie Allen flew the Boeing XB-15 on its first flight at Boeing Field, Seattle. (20)
- 1950: **MACKAY TROPHY.** In Phase II of Fox Able Three, 91 F-84E Thunderjets from the 27 FEW left Bergstrom AFB for Furstenfeldbruck, Germany, following the same route as the 90-aircraft in Phase I (see 15 September). Bad weather, however, delayed the F-84s at several stops. As a result, the jets did not arrive in Germany until the 28th. General Hoyt S. Vandenberg gave the Mackay Trophy on 11 December 1951 to Col Raymond F. Rudell, the Wing Commander, for this operation. (1)
- KOREAN WAR.** Communist Chinese Forces antiaircraft artillery shot down an F-51 for the first time over the Yalu River near Sinuiju. Headquarters Fifth Air Force in Korea opened in



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Seoul. (28)

- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** For the amphibious Kojo hoax, assault troops climbed down to assault landing craft, which made a pass at the shore then returned to the ship. In addition, 32 C-119s from the 403d Troop Carrier Wing flew to Chorwon, let down to paratroop altitude of 800 feet, then returned to Taegu AB, S. Korea. (28)
- 1954: The 92 BMW deployed its B-36s from Fairchild AFB to Andersen AFB for 90 days. This was the first time a complete B-36 wing had deployed overseas. (1)
- 1958: North American Aviation's X-15A-1 rocket research plane rolled out at Inglewood. (3)
- 1959: The Air Force Ballistic Missile Committee approved Davis-Monthan AFB as the first Titan II base. (6)
- 1964: General Dynamics unveiled its TFX Fighter in at Fort Worth. The USAF version became the F-111A.
- 1969: In New Mexico's Sacramento Mountains, the USAF Cambridge Research Laboratory dedicated a 365-foot long, \$3.3 million solar vacuum telescope. At 9,200 feet, the telescope viewed solar centers of activity (sunspots, magnetic fields, and solar flares). It was also part of the Global Flare Patrol Network supporting Apollo XII. (5) (16)
- 1970: **TROPIC MOON.** From Ubon RTAFB, the 13 BS flew its first night interdiction combat mission in Vietnam with the B-57G. (17)
- 1985: The T-46 Next Generation Training made its first flight at Edwards AFB. (16) (26)
- 1999: A 62 AW C-17 from McChord AFB landed a Globemaster III on an airstrip of frozen seawater at McMurdo NAS in Antarctica. The first flight of a C-17 to there delivered a cargo of mail, fresh fruit, vegetables, and a telescope for the National Science Foundation scientists to use at the South Pole to study black holes in the Milky Way galaxy. (22)
- 2000: **MACKAY TROPHY/ATTACK ON THE USS COLE.** Crews from the 75 AS and 86 AES earned the trophy for evacuating 28 survivors of a 12 October terrorist attack on the USS Cole in Aden, Yemen. Trophy recipients included: Lt Col Kirk Nailling; Majs Kathryn Drake, Lola Casby and Thomas Jenkins; Capts Donna Fournier, Karey Dufour, Karin Peterson, and Natalie Sykes; and SSgts Brad Atherton, Juan Garza, Alan Woodridge, Anna Duffner, Chad Shusko, Ed Franceschina and Heather Robinson. (AFNEWS Article 1655, 20 Nov 2001) (21)

### 16 October

- 1917: Final tests of the Army's airplane radiotelephone at Langley Field achieved a 25-mile record for plane-to-plane communications and a 45-mile for plane-to-ground.
  - 1943: Lockheed received a contract to produce the XP-80 Shooting Star, the first true American jet-propelled fighter. (12)
- The Remington Arms Company announced a new type of incendiary ammunition that could pierce self-sealing fuel tanks and cause explosions. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force F-86 Sabre pilots destroyed nine MiG-15s in aerial combat, a record daily high. Additionally, through 17 October B-29s flew 31 day and night sorties, the high for the month, to attack rail bridges, marshaling yards, and the Samchang airfield. The bombers also dropped leaflets and reconnaissance sorties. (28)

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- 1953: Test pilot Robert O. Rahn flew the XF4D-1 Skyray at Edwards AFB to a world speed record of 728.11 MPH over a 100-kilometer (62 miles) closed course. (24)
- 1955: Boeing's prototype 707 set unofficial cross country records for transports by crossing the US twice in a day at 592 MPH from Seattle to Washington DC and 567 MPH back to Seattle. (24)
- 1957: The USAF launched artificial meteors that exceeded 33,000 MPH, some 8,000 MPH faster than the velocity needed to escape earth. Carried by an Aerobee rocket to a height of 35 miles, the nose cone then rose to 54 miles where shaped charges blasted the pellets into space. (21)
- 1958: North American Aviation Inc. at Downey, Calif., received a contract to build the Hound Dog air-to-surface missile. (12)
- The 1st Missile Division at Vandenberg AFB accepted the first Atlas ICBM launcher. (6)
- 1963: **PROJECT VELA HOTEL/PROJECT 823.** The USAF set up a nuclear detection system by launching twin satellites from Cape Canaveral into circular 57,000-mile-high orbits on opposing sides of the earth. The 47-pound, 20-sided satellites, known as Project Vela Hotel or Project 823, could detect nuclear explosions from 186,000,000 miles away. (5)(16)
- Operation GREASED LIGHTNING.** Maj Sidney J. Kubesch flew a Convair B-58 Hustler (normally assigned to the 305 BMW at Bunker Hill AFB, Ind.) on the longest supersonic flight to date. He flew 8,028 miles from Tokyo to London in 8 hours 35 minutes. The B-58 used five inflight refuelings and flew at an average speed of 938 MPH. Kubesch set two other records: speed from Tokyo to Anchorage, 3 hours 9 minutes 42 seconds at 1,093.4 MPH; and speed from Anchorage to London, 5 hours 24 minutes 54 seconds at 826.9 MPH. (1) (9)
- 1967: The F-111A supersonic tactical fighter became operational with TAC, when it flew from Fort Worth, Texas, using its terrain following radar guidance to Nellis AFB. (12) (16)
- 1972: The USAF flew its A-7D Corsair II in combat for the first time. A-7s assigned to the 354 TFW deployed from Myrtle Beach AFB to Korat AB, Thailand, six days earlier. (They redeployed to Myrtle Beach in May 1974) (26)
- 1975: The Air Force Rocket Propulsion Laboratory at Edwards AFB fired the Super Hippo reusable solid propellant rocket motor for the first time. (3)
- 1978: The first production F-15C for testing arrived at Edwards AFB from the St. Louis factory. (3)
- 1985: Two H-3 Jolly Green Giant helicopters, with support from two refueling capable HC-130 Hercules, rescued 33 survivors from the shipwrecked Philippine ship, Marcos Faberes. (16)
- 1995: Through 17 October, the 53d Weather Reconnaissance Squadron monitored the strength and movement of Hurricane Roxanne in the Gulf of Mexico. The unit also searched for survivors of a pipe-laying barge sunk by the hurricane. One crew found a survivor in a raft and radioed his position to the Coast Guard, which then rescued 23 of the 236 survivors. (26)
- 2001: An AFFTC pilot flew two Global Hawks concurrently for the accelerated Replace-On-Station program at Edwards AFB. The test showed that one pilot could control two UAVs with a little additional effort. Sensor functions were marginal in the test. (3)

### 17 October

- 1907: Capt Charles DeForest Chandler and James C. McCoy in Signal Corps Balloon No. 10 became

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

the first winners of the Lahm Cup. Leaving St. Louis, their flight ended 20 hours 15 minutes later at Walton, W.Va., after covering 473.56 miles. (24)

- 1918: Brig Gen William "Billy" Mitchell briefed General John J. Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces, on a plan to airdrop elements of 1st American Infantry Division behind German lines. General Pershing tentatively approved this concept, but World War I ended before the plan could be developed. (18)
- 1922: Lt Virgil C. Griffin in a Vought VE-7SF made the first takeoff from a US Navy carrier, the USS Langley (a converted coal collier) at anchor in the York River, Va. (20)
- 1949: Boeing delivered the first C-97A to MATS. (24)
- 1954: Flying a Sikorsky XH-39 at Bridgeport, Warrant Officer Billy I. Webster (USA) established a world helicopter altitude record of 24,500 feet. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** FEAF Combat Cargo Command began airlifting fuel and rations to Sinmak, less than 50 miles southeast of Pyongyang, N. Korea, to sustain a UN offensive toward the North Korean capital. The command also began aeromedical evacuations from Sinmak to Kimpo. (28)
- 1955: At Edwards AFB, Lt Gordon Gray (USN) flew a Douglas A4D-1 Skyhawk to a 695.127 MPH world record for a 500-kilometer (310 miles) closed course. (24)
- 1963: A 341 SMW crew from Malmstrom AFB launched the first Minuteman I (Model A) missile from Vandenberg AFB in an operational test that was only partially successful. (6)
- 1967: The USAF accomplished the final balloon launch in a series to test the feasibility of using parachutes with the Voyager capsule for a soft landing on Mars.
- Maj William J. Knight flew the X-15 to 277,000 feet to qualify for his astronaut wings. (3)
- 1989: Through 24 October, MAC aircraft delivered more than 250 tons of relief equipment and 100 passengers to the San Francisco Bay area after a 7.1 earthquake. (16)
- 2001: **Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.** Elements of the 186<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing (Mississippi ANG) and the 117<sup>th</sup> ARW (Alabama ANG) formed a composite unit at Incirlik AB, Turkey, to support this operation. The wings switched lead unit status every 90 days. (32)
- 2005: AMC sent a C-5B (Tail No. 87-0035) from the 436 AW at Dover AFB to the 439 AW, an AFRC wing at Westover AFB. This transfer marked the first time an active-duty "B" model C-5 was assigned to an AFRC unit. (22)
- 2006: AMC declared an initial operating capability for the C-130J. The command equipped a combat delivery squadron to its full Primary Aircraft Authorized (PAA) limit and manned that unit with trained aircrews and maintenance members to support the mission to reach that capability. (USAF Aimpoints, "AMC Declares C-130J Operational," 17 Oct 2006)

### 18 October

- 1911: Capt George W. McKay, Michigan National Guard, was the first National Guardsman to qualify as a pilot. He received FAI pilot certificate number 67. (5) (21)
- 1918: Maj Charles Biddle, the 13th Pursuit Squadron's Commander, downed his eighth German fighter in a fierce dogfight over Verdun. (4)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1922: Brig Gen William "Billy" Mitchell used Lt Russell L. Maughan's Curtiss R-6 racing biplane, powered by a D-12 Curtiss Conqueror engine, to set a world speed record of 222.97 MPH over a one-kilometer course near Mount Clemens. (9)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** An RB-29 crew spotted more than 75 fighters at Antung Airfield, China, just across the Yalu River from N. Korea. That intelligence suggested that Communist China might intervene in the war. (28)
- 1961: NASA fired a Scout rocket to an altitude of 4,261 miles in a study of the ionosphere. (24)
- The USAF announced that its H-43B Huskie rescue helicopter had ascended to 32,840 feet to set a world altitude record for light (Class E-1d) helicopters. (24)
- 1962: NASA launched Ranger V, a lunar probe, from Cape Canaveral aboard an Atlas-Agena B booster. A failure of the spacecraft's power system, however, made the planned television transmission of moon pictures impossible. The probe vehicle passed within 450 miles of the moon and entered a solar orbit. (24)
- CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS.** The Air Force Reserves mobilized eight troop carrier wings and six aerial port squadrons for the Cuban Missile Crisis. (21)
- 1965: The 107 TFG, New York ANG, became the first tactical ANG unit to deploy to the Pacific for a joint-service exercise in peacetime. (16) (26)
- 1967: OSO IV, the 3,000th man-made sent into space, returned data on solar effects on communications.
- 1977: A Program Management Directive redesignated the F-15A and F-15B as the F-15C and F-15D, respectively. (30)
- 1984: First B-1B flight completed at Palmdale. (12)
- Through 20 October, the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center arranged search and rescue missions for 47 people during heavy snows, high winds, and low temperatures in Colorado and New Mexico. (16) (26)
- 1985: First flight of an F-111 aircraft with the Mission Adaptive Wing took place at Edwards AFB. The wing had no flaps, slats, ailerons, or spoilers, but used internal hydraulic actuators to change its camber in flight. The wing also had a flexible composite covering to maintain a smooth surface. According to the Boeing Military Airplane Company, the wing produced a 25 to 30 percent increase in range and maneuverability to give the F-111 tighter sustained maneuvers for evasive action and survivability, increased fatigue life, better handling, and a more stable weapons platform.
- 1995: Lockheed rolled out its first C-130J (Tail No. 5408).

### 19 October

- 1928: A six-man machine gun team parachuted from a six-aircraft formation over Brooks Field in a parachute demonstration. (24)
- 1935: Capt Earl E. Gimmeler (Army Air Corps) won the Mitchell Trophy Race at Selfridge Field by flying 212.96 MPH.

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- 1938: The Curtiss XP-40 Tomahawk first flew.
- 1948: The Navy announced the launching of rockets with internal cameras. These flights produced pictures of earth taken between 60 and 70 miles up. (16)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force fighters provided crucial air support to U.S. 1st Cavalry Division troops for the Battle of Hukkyori, some 10 miles south of Pyongyang. Afterwards, UN forces entered the N. Korean capital. (28)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** After the U.S. Army opened a 1000-bed hospital at Camp Drew, north of Tachikawa AB, Japan, forth, C-54s flew medical evacuees from Korea to Tachikawa, then C-47s shuttled them to Camp Drew, thereby reducing transit time. (28)
- 1955: The FCC authorized the American Telephone and Telegraph Company to start work on the SAGE radar warning system. (24)
- 1964: MATS received its first C-141A Starlifter, when Lockheed Aircraft Corporation in Marietta, delivered tail number 38078 to the 1707 ATW at Tinker AFB. (18)
- 1966: North American's XB-70A bomber exceeded its design speed of Mach 3 for the first time in a flight from Edwards AFB. (12)
- PROJECT LONG LIFE II:** SAC unsuccessfully tried the first short-range launch of a modified Minuteman II from Grand Forks AFB. Attempts on 28 October 1966 (Long Life) and 14 August 1968 (Project Giant Boost) also failed. (6)
- 1967: Mariner V made a closeup (2,480-mile) flyby of Venus, some four months after its launch. This 540-pound satellite, built by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, transmitted atmospheric and magnetic field data before continuing on into a solar orbit.
- 1968: Maj William J. Knight won the Harmon International Aviator's Trophy for 1968 as the world's outstanding pilot for flying X-15 No. 2 to 4,520 MPH (Mach 6.72).
- 1971: The 354 TFW became the first A-7D wing to achieve operationally ready status.
- 1973: The ANG received its first A-7D.
- 1979: Through 21 October, 2 C-141s flew 38 severely burned US marines from Yokota AB to Kelly AFB after a fire swept through an enlisted men's barracks at Mount Fuji, Japan. (16) (18)
- 1999: Through 20 October, Northrop-Grumman's RQ-4A Global Hawk flew a 24.8-hour mission from Edwards AFB to Alaska. The extended-range sortie included its first mission over water and its first flight beyond the CONUS. During the flight, the Global Hawk collected and relayed 193 ground images to ground stations. (3)
- 2005: After five decades of service, the USAF and the Lockheed Martin launched the last Titan IV B rocket from Vandenberg AFB, Calif. The heavy-lift rocket's 200<sup>th</sup> launch carried a critical national security payload for the National Reconnaissance Office into space. (AFNEWS Article, "Vandenberg Launches Final Titan IV," 20 October 2005)
- 2007: At Edwards AFB, Calif., an Air Force crew successfully flew a C-17 with the Fischer-Tropsch/JP-8 blend in one tank to validate engine performance. (AFNEWS, "C-17 Flight Uses Synthetic Fuel Blend," 25 Oct 2007.)

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### 20 October

- 1911: The Army's first Wright plane arrived at the Smithsonian Institution. (24)
- 1944: **RETURN TO THE PHILIPPINES.** Southwest Pacific Area forces landed unopposed at two points on the east coast of Leyte, at Tacloban, the provincial capital and 20 miles to the south near Dulag. General Hqs Southwest Pacific Area opened an advanced echelon on Leyte at noon. Gen Douglas MacArthur, accompanied by President Sergio Osmena, landed in the 24th Infantry Division area early in the afternoon and delivered his "I have returned" liberation speech. Ground elements of the 308<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing (Heavy) were the first major FEAF units in country. Headquarters elements of Fifth Air Force landed on 22 October, while ground echelons of the 49 FG and 475 FG landed on the 24th. (17)
- 1945: Lt Gen Nathan F. Twining led three B-29s in developing a new route from Guam to Washington via India and Germany. They completed the 13,167-mile trip in 59 hours 30 minutes. (9) (24)
- 1948: The XF-88, predecessor of the F-101, first flew. (3)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR/FIRST AIRBORNE OPERATION.** Through 23 October, the FEAF Combat Cargo Command dispatched more than 100 C-119s and C-47s to drop 4,000 troops and 60 tons of material for the Army's 187<sup>th</sup> Airborne Regimental Combat Team at Sukchon and Sunchon, 30 miles north of Pyongyang. The command also began airlifting Eighth Army supplies to Pyongyang. (21) (28)
- 1952: The Douglas X-3 research plane made its first flight at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1955: SAC phased its last B-50D (number 49-330) out of its force from its assignment with the 97 BMW at Biggs AFB. (1)
- 1960: The DoD set up an Army-Navy-Air Force program under the Navy to develop a prototype vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) aircraft to test its suitability for air transport service.
- The Jupiter IRBM made its first test launch from a tactical-type launcher. It flew 962 miles from Cape Canaveral down the Atlantic Missile Range to the target area. This launch ended Army responsibilities for the program. (6)
- 1961: **PROJECT PIPE STEM.** The 15 TRS deployed four RF-101s to Tan Son Nhut AB. They flew 67 reconnaissance sorties over South Vietnam and Laos, developing their photographs by a photo-processing unit they brought with them. These aircraft were the first PACAF aircraft deployed to South Vietnam. (17) (16)
- 1969: To assist the development of the Safeguard anti-ballistic missile system, SECDEF Melvin R. Laird approved the use of Titan II as test targets. (6)
- 1973: As a result of the Arab-Israeli War, the Arab nations imposed an oil embargo, which disrupted USAF flight training. (16) (26)
- 1976: General Dynamics conducted its rollout ceremony for the F-16A at its plant in Fort Worth. (12)
- 1980: Through 23 October, units assigned to the USAF's Southern Air Division flew 40 tons of food, medical supplies, and accessories to northwestern Nicaragua for flood victims. (16) (26)
- 1989: Indonesia received its first F-16A in ceremonies at the General Dynamics plant in Fort Worth, Texas. (8: Jan 90)

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- 1998: The AFFTC flew its first sortie at Edwards AFB to test the Joint Helmet-Mounted Cueing System (JHMCS). The helmet would allow an F-15 pilot to track a target and aim his missiles by movements of his head. (3)
- 2007: A C-17 Globemaster III took off from Edwards AFB, Calif., on a flight using a blend of synthetic and JP-8 fuel in all four fuel tanks. It was the first time a C-17 carried the Fischer-Tropsch/JP-8 blend as the only fuel on board. The four-hour flight assessed how well the aircraft performed with the synthetic fuel as part of a certification test. (AFNEWS, "C-17 Flight Uses Synthetic Fuel Blend," 25 Oct 2007.)

### 21 October

- 1917: First flight test of the 12-cylinder Liberty engine in a Curtiss HS-1 Flying Boat completed at Buffalo. Later, both the engine and aircraft were adopted as standard service types.
- 1929: Colonial Flying Service and Scully Walton Ambulance Company, New York, organized an Air Ambulance Service. (24)
- 1936: Pan American Airways initiated regular weekly 6-day passenger service between San Francisco and Manila. (24)
- 1942: The India Air Task Force sent B-24s to bomb mines near Kuyeh in the first offensive mission north of the Yellow River. (24)
- The VIII Bomber Command sent 15 B-17s on the first raid on the U-boat pens at Lorient-Keroman. Eight bombers also hit the airfield at Cherbourg/Maupertus. The command lost three bombers in the missions. (4)
- 1947: The Northrop YB-49 Flying Wing made its first flight in a trip from the Hawthorne plant to Muroc AFB. (3)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** In the first use of a helicopter in support of an airborne operation, the 3d Air Rescue Squadron sent H-5s to evacuate some 35 paratroopers and rescue 7 American POWs from the Sukchon and Sunchon area. A C-47 used loudspeakers to persuade some 500 enemy troops hiding in houses near Kunmori to surrender. Combat Cargo Command began aeromedical evacuations from Pyongyang. (28)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Through 30 October, the enemy flew sorties over N. Korea daily for the first time in the war. MiGs in numbers over one hundred, consistently outnumbered the F-86 formations, downing three at a cost of five enemy fighters lost to Sabres. (28)
- 1960: A Mace-B tactical missile, designed to carry a nuclear bomb 1,800 miles, launched from Cape Canaveral. (24)
- 1961: The USAF launched MIDAS IV, a heat-sensing satellite that could detect missile launches, from Point Arguello into a 2,100-mile circular orbit. Under Project West Force, the Midas IV then ejected millions of copper wires to form a reflecting belt in space to aid radio communications. The wires failed to disperse as planned.
- 1965: Gen Curtis E. LeMay, former CSAF, received the 1965 Collier Trophy, American aviation's highest honor.
- 1981: **EURO-NATO JOINT JET PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM.** Sheppard AFB started training pilots from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Turkey, and the UK under this program. (16) (26)

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- 1987: The Japanese Defense Agency selected a modified F-16 (designated the SX-3) as its new close support/sea patrol aircraft to replace its Mitsubishi F-1s and F-4EJs.
- The AFLC ferried the first four F-16D Fighting Falcons to Murted AB, Turkey. (16)
- 1999: The USAF awarded the GATM equipment contract for the entire KC-135 fleet to Rockwell Collins. The \$600 million contract covered 544 KC-135s, 20 flight simulators, and 43 other C-135-derived aircraft. (22)
- 2003: Through 4 November, six ANG C-130s and two AFRC C-130s, equipped with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems (MAFFS), flew 48 missions to drop 129,600 gallons of fire retardant on fires in Southern California's Simi Valley. Ten wild fires in Southern California consumed more than 745,000 acres and destroyed over 3,400 homes in this period. (32)

### 22 October

- 1910: **THE BELMONT PARK INTERNATIONAL.** The largest aerial meet held in America prior to World War I began at Belmont Park, Long Island, N. Y. (24)
- 1943: Maj R. C. Heffner earned a DFC for establishing air routes across Africa and the Middle East. (24)
- 1944: **FIRST NAPALM USE IN SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA.** P-38s of the 12th Fighter Squadron flew the first tactical napalm mission in the Southwest Pacific Area, dropping 75-gallon belly tanks of napalm on oil storage tanks at Boela, Ceram, Netherlands East Indies. The squadron, assigned to the 18 FG, XIII Fighter Command, was operating from Sansapor, Dutch New Guinea. (17)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Two 3 ARS SA-16s rescued a 12-man crew of a downed B-29, the highest number rescued by SA-16s on any day in the war. (28)
- 1955: The Republic YF-105A Thunderchief exceeded the speed of sound on its first flight at Edwards AFB. (3) (12)
- 1957: At Cape Canaveral, a prototype Jupiter IRBM, with an all-inertial guidance system, flew its first flight test. (6)
- Operation FAR SIDE.** The four-stage, 10-engine rocket, fired from a balloon at 100,000 feet above Eniwetok, penetrated at least 2,700 miles into outer space. It carried a scientific research capsule. (21)
- FIRST CASUALTIES FROM VIETNAM.** Eight US servicemen injured in an explosion in Saigon were evacuated to Clark Air Base for treatment at the 6208<sup>th</sup> USAF Hospital. (17)
- 1962: **CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS.** Defense Condition (DEFCON) 3 declared worldwide for the October missile crisis in Cuba. On 24 October, PACAF deployed six F-100s to Osan AB to beef up forces in Korea. (17)
- 1963: **Exercise BIGLIFT.** Through 24 October, the exercise illustrated our capability to rapidly reinforce NATO's defenses as the MATS deployed nearly 15,000 troops from the Second Armored Division and its supporting units at Fort Hood, Tex., and 120 tons of equipment to USAFE airfields in Germany and France. (4)
- 1970: From Vandenberg AFB, the USAF completed its first attempted salvo launch (simultaneous) of



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two Minuteman IIs successfully. (6)

- 1985: TAC launched its first missile from Vandenberg AFB. The Tomahawk GLCM was also the first of its kind flown from this base. (1)
- 1987: Under the Canister Assembly Launch Test Program (CALTP), the Ballistic Missile Office carried out the first cold launch of a Small ICBM at Vandenberg AFB. The missile simulator (53 feet tall and 46 inches in diameter, weighing roughly 37,000 pounds) traveled more than 300 feet in the air before impacting in an area within 100 feet of the launchpad.

### 23 October

- 1909: Wilbur Wright gave Lt Benjamin D. Foulois his first flying lesson at College Park. (24)
- 1922: The American Propeller Company demonstrated the reversible or adjustable pitch propeller at Bolling Field. Tests continued until 1927. (24)
- 1944: **BATTLE OF LEYTE GULF.** Through the 26th, the battle raged. It featured carrier air as well as surface action and introduced Kamikaze attacks. FEAF bombers from Noemfoor and Biak belatedly entered the fray on 26 October and sank the damaged Japanese cruiser Abukuma southwest of Negros Island as the beaten enemy fleet retired on the 26th. They lost three battleships, one heavy carrier, three light carriers, six heavy and four light cruisers, and eleven destroyers in the battle. The US fleet lost one light carrier, two escort carriers, two destroyers, and one destroyer escort. (17) (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** During one of the bloodiest air battles of the war, the 307 BW's raid on Namsi Airfield, MiG-15s destroyed three B-29s and one F-84, and damaged five other bombers. Fighter pilots and B-29 gunners shot down five MiGs. (28)
- Col Michael N. McCoy, the 306 BMW Commander, flew SAC's first operational Boeing B-47 (No. 50-008) to his wing at MacDill AFB. In a 19 November ceremony, the B-47 received a name, "The Real McCoy." (1) (12)
- 1957: A BOMARC missile, in two minutes from beginning its alert, successfully intercepted and knocked down a B-17 drone 100 miles away over the Atlantic Ocean. (24)
- 1961: A Polaris A-2 R&D missile, launched from the submerged submarine USS Ethan Allen, marked the first underwater launching of this model missile from a submarine. (See 20 July 1960) (16) (24)
- 1962: Navy F8U-1Ps and USAF RF-101s flew low-level reconnaissance missions over Cuba. (24)
- PACAF's first F-105D landed at Hickam AFB en route to Kadena AB. (17)
- 1963: SAC asked for a large payload missile to follow the Minuteman. (6)
- 1965: The 4503d Tactical Fighter Squadron (Provisional) arrived in Vietnam with 12 F-5A Freedom Fighters for a combat evaluation test. (16) (26)
- 1972: **Operation LINEBACKER I.** President Nixon halted bombing operations north of the 20<sup>th</sup> parallel to end this operation. (16) (17)
- PROJECT ENHANCE PLUS.** Begun in September, the project attempted to build up the Vietnamese Air Force to a level adequate to conduct operations after a cease-fire or withdrawal of US forces. The first cargo aircraft arrived at Tan Son Nhut AB today, while the last shipment

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arrived at Newport, near Saigon, on 12 December. Altogether, the 288 additional aircraft transferred to the Republic of Vietnam under this project included 116 F-5A/Bs, 90 A-37s, 28 A-1s, 22 AC-119Gs, and 32 C-130As. (17)

- 1978: Two UH-1N Iroquois helicopters and one O-2A aircraft from the 24<sup>th</sup> Composite Wing provided flood assistance in Costa Rica. (16)
- 1983: Through 16 November, MAC flew 78 Americans injured in the terrorist bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut from Lebanon to medical facilities in the US and Europe on 8 C-141 and 12 C-9A aeromedical airlift missions. (2)
- 1984: An H-3 Jolly Green Giant from the 31 ARRS rescued 9 people trapped on the roof of the Pines Hotel in Baguio, Philippines. A C-130 from the 374 TAW, Thirteenth Air Force, carried 48 people to Clark AB for treatment. (16) (26)
- 1991: MAC units moved 146 tons of medical supplies and relief cargo to Kiev, Ukraine, after the collapse of the Soviet Union. (16) (26)
- 1992: Through 25 October, two C-130 Hercules evacuated 96 Americans from war-torn, Monrovia, Liberia. (16)
- 1998: Two Marine Corps V-22 Ospreys landed at Eglin AFB for a week of pre-operational testing. The V-22 would eventually be transformed into the CV-22 and delivered to the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) in 2004. A total buy of 50 CV-22s would replace most of the command's existing rotary and fixed-wing fleet. (AFNEWS Article 981677, 5 Nov 98)
- 2002: The first KC-135 with the Roll-on-Beyond Line of Sight Enhancement (ROBE) relayed a large quantity of tactical communications data from several F-15 fighters and an E-8C (Joint Stars) aircraft to an operations center at Hanscom AFB. The ROBE, carried on pallets aboard a KC-135 from the 319 ARW at Grand Forks AFB, and flying a test mission from Eglin AFB successfully demonstrated the ROBE's ability to serve as the relay platform of a war-fighting communications network. (22)

### 24 October

- 1928: Capt Charles B. D. Collyer and Harry Tucker flew a Lockheed Vega, the *Yankee Doodle*, on a transcontinental flight from New York to Los Angeles in 24 hours 51 minutes. (9)
- 1941: Arthur J. Starnes set a new record for free fall near Chicago by dropping from 30,800 feet to 1,500 feet in 116 seconds before opening his parachute. (24)
- 1944: Eighth Air Force sent 415 P-47s and P-51s to carry out fighter-bomber raids in the Hannover-Kassel area of Germany. Nine fighters were destroyed. (4)  
  
Capt David McCampbell (USN) shot down nine Japanese fighters in a single day. No other pilot in World War II equaled this accomplishment. McCampbell ended the war as the Navy's leading ace with 34 aerial victories. (21)
- 1945: After a 14 hour, 5 minute flight, An American Airlines plane arrived at Hurn Airfield, England, from New York. It was the first commercial land plane to make a flight from North America to Europe. (21) (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force and Eighth Army completed a successful 30-day test in IX Corps area of a new flak-suppression technique that allowed friendly artillery to continue firing while close support strikes were in progress. (28)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1953: Convair's YF-102 Delta Dagger first flew at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1956: The last production Boeing B-47E (53-6244) went to the 40th BMW at Schilling AFB. (1)
- 1960: **Operation SOUTHWIND.** In this joint exercise, TAC and MATS employed 100 airplanes to transport 10,000 Strategic Army Command troops. (24)
- 1962: SAC accepted the first flight of 10 Minuteman I missiles (Model A) at the 10 SMS, 341 SMW, Malmstrom AFB. (6)
- 1964: When ground fire destroyed a C-123 in Vietnam, 1Lt Valmore W. Bourque, the pilot, became the first USAF Academy graduate to die in action.
- 1967: Combined USAF, USN, and USMC warplanes attacked North Vietnam's largest airbase, Phue Yen, for the first time. During the attack, the Air Force downed its 69<sup>th</sup> MiG. (16) (26)
- 1968: William H. Dana flew X-15 No.1 from Edwards AFB and reached 255,000 feet and 3,682 MPH (Mach 5.04) in the program's 199th and final flight. (9)
- The Air Force redesignated the F-X as the ZF-15A. (30)
- 1974: The Space and Missile Systems Organization (SAMSO) proved the ability to launch an ICBM in the air by dropping a Minuteman I from a C-5A Galaxy. The aircraft dropped the 86,000-pound missile at 20,000 feet over the Pacific Ocean, and the missile descended to 8,000 feet before its rocket engine fired. The 10-second engine burn carried the missile to 20,000 feet again before it dropped into the ocean. (6) (18)
- 1986: The 16th Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile test marked the beginning of its initial operational test and evaluation program. (12)
- 1993: Through 30 October, three 60 AW C-5s from Travis AFB carried 350 Nepalese soldiers and 250 tons of equipment from Katmandu, Nepal, to Mogadishu, Somalia, to join the UN peacekeeping force. (18)
- 2000: The Space Shuttle *Discovery*'s successful landing on the Edwards AFB main runway, its 46th, ended the system's 100th mission. The 13-day mission prepared the International Space Station for its first full-time residents. Mission Commander Col Brian Duffy and Pilot Lt Col Pamela Melroy both graduated from the Air Force Test Pilot School. (3)
- Lockheed pilot Tom Morgenfeld flew the Lockheed-Martin X-35A Joint Strike Fighter concept demonstrator on its first flight from Palmdale to Edwards AFB. Lockheed-Martin developed the X-35A to compete with Boeing's X-32A. (3)
- An F-22 successfully fired the first unarmed Raytheon AIM-120C Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile in its initial separation test the China Lake test range. The AIM-120C, with clipped wings and fins, would be the *Raptor*'s primary weapon. (3)
- 2002: A C-5 and aircrew from Travis AFB flew from Andrews AFB to Tashkent IAP, Uzbekistan, with 40 volunteer physicians from Physicians With Heart, an affiliate of Heart-to-Heart International, and medicines, pharmaceuticals, and medical supplies worth nearly \$10 million. The 24 October mission commemorated the tenth anniversary of this joint State Department and Physicians With Heart program to assist the people of Uzbekistan. (22)
- 2005: A civilian team brought their *North American Eagle* jet car to Edwards AFB for a four-day test on Rogers Dry Lake. The wingless F-104A *Starfighter* (tail no. 56-0763), with 52,000 horse-

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

power, would try for 800 mph to break the existing 763 mph land speed record. Previously, the F-104 flew for the AFFTC as a high speed chase plane for the X-15, XB-70, and SR-71.

- 2007: Officials at Hill AFB, Utah, rolled out the first of 11 newly configured F-16 *Fighting Falcons* for the Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team. Each aircraft eventually received a Block 52 upgrade, which included the Falcon Structural Augmentation Roadmap (Falcon STAR) program to replace or repair known life-limited structures. (AFNEWS, "Thunderbirds Receive First Upgraded F-16," 5 Nov 2007.)

### 25 October

- 1911: Lts Theodore G. Ellyson and John H. Towers (USN) set an unofficial nonstop seaplane record of 138.2 miles from Annapolis to Buckroe Beach, Va., in 2 hours 27 minutes. (24)
- 1923: Lt Harold R. Harris and crew flew a Barling Bomber to several records: weight of 3,000 kilograms (6,600 pounds) in 1 hour 19 minutes 11.8 seconds, and altitude of 5,344 feet. (24)
- In the first aerial-refueled flight between two points, Lts. L. H. Smith and J. P. Richter flew an Army Air Service DH-4B nonstop from Camas, Wash., to Tijuana, Mexico. Tankers positioned at Eugene, Oregon, and Sacramento, Calif., provided the three air-to-air refuelings required during the 1,280-mile mission. (18)
- 1924: Navy fliers at Bayshore Park, Md., set 17 world records for Class C seaplanes. (24)
- 1925: The court-martial of Brigadier General William "Billy" Mitchell for insubordination began. He was found guilty on 17 December and sentenced to five years' suspension from active duty without pay or allowances. After reviewing the sentence, President Coolidge made it five years' suspension at half pay. On 1 February 1926, Mitchell resigned his commission. During the trial Mitchell succeeded in championing the cause of air power as a separate entity. (18)
- 1930: Transcontinental Air and Western Air, Inc., opened the first cross-country through air service simultaneously from New York City and Los Angeles. (24)
- 1942: American bombers raided Hong Kong and damaged the Kowloon Docks in the first raid on the former British colony since the Japanese occupation. (24)
- 1950: Mr. Kaufman Keller, President of Chrysler Corp., became the first Director of Guided Missiles for the US Armed Forces. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Due to the lack of B-29 targets in Korea, FEAF Bomber Command temporarily ended combat missions. FEAF removed restrictions on close air support missions near the Yalu River, which allowed fighter operations all the way to the Chinese border. FEAF's Combat Cargo Command set a new daily record by airlifting 1,767 tons of equipment within Korea. (28)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** In an effective close air support strike, F-51 Mustangs inflicted nearly 200 casualties on enemy troops in the I Corps sector. Enemy small arms fire hit an H-5 rescue helicopter picking up a downed UN pilot. The H-5 made a forced landing in enemy territory. The next day, two other H-5s hoisted all four men to safety from the mountainside where they had hidden from communist troops during the night. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force B-26s and fighter-bombers attacked the Kumgang Political School, starting fires and almost completely destroying the installation. (28)
- 1961: William Wesson (Class 62-B) was the last aviation cadet pilot to graduate from a program that

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

began in World War II.

- 1969: C-5A No.2 set a record by landing at Edwards AFB with a gross weight of 712,000 pounds.
- 1973: For the first time since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, the DoD imposed DEFCON 3 worldwide in response to Soviet reactions to the Mideast war between Israel and Egypt. On 27 October, the DoD resumed DEFCON 4, the peacetime condition. (17)
- 1983: **Operation URGENT FURY.** Through 2 November, MAC airlifted 15,374 tons of cargo and 35,911 passengers on 52 C-5, 653 C-141, and 286 C-130 missions to support an effort to rescue Americans in Grenada. MAC flew 709 civilians from Grenada to the US on 16 C-141s, 1 C-5, and 2 C-130s, and 164 wounded soldiers to US hospitals on 17 C-130s, 5 C-141s, and 5 C-9s. Several KC-135s and KC-10s provided refueling support throughout the operation. During the redeployment phase from 4 November into December, 292 airlift missions transported 12,098 passengers and 4,859 tons of cargo. (2) (18)
- MACKAY TROPHY.** In Urgent Fury, while flying a 1st Special Operations Wing MC-130, Lt Col James L. Hobson, Jr., conducted the first drop of combat paratroopers from an altitude of 500 feet over Point Salines, Grenada. Flying through a hail of anti-aircraft fire, Hobson then dove his aircraft to 100 feet above ground level to leave the area. For that event, he earned the 1984 Mackay Trophy. (18)
- 1984: F-4E Phantoms assigned to the 86 TFW took part in USAFE's first joint live fire missile exercise with the US Navy at the Salto Di Quirra Range, off the east coast of Sardinia. (16)
- 1985: The USAF accepted its 80th and last C-21A from Gates Learjet Corporation at Scott AFB. This delivery completed the transition to the C-12F and C-21A for operational support airlift. (18)
- 1988: The 31 ARRS used two HH-3 Jolly Green Giant helicopters to rescue 27 residents of Marikina, Republic of Philippines, following a flood caused by Typhoon Ruby. The four-flight mission took 8 hours to accomplish. (26)
- 1992: A C-141 evacuated Americans and other foreign nationals from Tajikistan after civil disturbances erupted in the former Soviet republic. (16) (26)
- 2003: Through 26 October, an AFFTC B-1B set official world records in 50 categories during an Open House at Edwards AFB. The bomber flew speed dashes over 100-kilometer, 500-kilometer, and 1,000-kilometer closed-circuit courses, and a 15-kilometer speed dash in eight cargo categories per speed record. Altogether, the B-1 set 45 new FAI world records and broke five previously-existing records. (3)
- 2004: AFFTC dropped chaff and flares in CV-22 countermeasures safe separation test flights over Edwards AFB. The tests cleared the CV-22s for operational use by the AF Special Operations Command. (3)

### 26 October

- 1909: At College Park, Lt Frederick E. Humphreys became the first Army officer to solo the Army's first aircraft. Minutes later, Lt Frank P. Lahm became the second. They soloed after three hours of instruction by Wilbur Wright. (4)
- 1922: Lt Cmdr G. Chevalier used an Aeromarine aircraft to make the first landing on the carrier USS Langley, while underway off Cape Henry. (24)
- 1925: Lt James H. Doolittle won the Schneider Cup Race at Baltimore in a Curtiss R3C-2 floatplane racer. He averaged 232.6 MPH. (8: Oct 90)

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- 1940: North American pilot Vance Breese flew the NA-73 (P-51 Mustang prototype) for the first time at Mines Field near Los Angeles. Following British specifications, the company designed and built the prototype in 117 days. (8: Oct 90)
- 1945: The Curtiss-Wright Research Laboratory announced that supersonic flying devices built for the government had reached 1,400 MPH. The new devices did not depend on propellers or atomic energy for power. (24) (Note: May have been Tiny Tim rockets)
- 1949: A Pan Am airplane, a Boeing Stratocruiser, claimed a 9-hour, 41-minute commercial speed record for a flight from New York to London. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** FEAF Combat Cargo Command C-119s delivered 28.5 tons of ammunition, fuel, and oil to friendly ground troops near Unsan, some 50 miles south of Chosan. (28)
- 1953: The Convair XF-102, a delta-wing supersonic interceptor made its first test flight from Edwards AFB.
- 1956: A TAC C-124 Globemaster became the first USAF aircraft to fly over the South Pole, when it flew a support mission for Operation Deep Freeze at Antarctica. During the flight, Maj Gen Chester E. McCarty, the pilot, radioed a report to Gen Otto P. Weyland, Commander of Eighteenth Air Force. (11)
- The Air Force received its first Thor missile from the Douglas Aircraft Company. (6)
- Bell pilot Floyd Carlson flew the XH-40 helicopter for the first time at Fort Worth. Later, the XH-40 became the UH-1 Iroquois, or Huey, one of the most useful helicopters in the Vietnam war. (21)
- 1962: SAC received its last B-52H Stratofortress (no. 61-040) and last three B-58 Hustlers (61-2078, 61-2079, and 61-2080) from the production lines. (1)
- 1963: A North American Aviation Sabreliner set a speed record of 4 hours 45 minutes 59.4 seconds for the 2,388-mile flight from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Lisbon, Portugal.
- 1966: The US Communications Satellite Corporation launched the Lani Bird satellite to handle communications between the Pacific region and the US.
- 1974: Rockwell rolled out the first B-1 at Palmdale. (12)
- 1976: Vandenberg AFB launched the 500th Minuteman missile. (12)
- 1979: McDonnell Douglas terminated the F/RF-4 Phantom production line. (16) (26)
- 1987: The USAF launched a Titan 34-D from Vandenberg AFB after an 18-month hiatus. A launch failure in April 1985 and in April 1986 caused this lapse in the US space program.
- 2001: The DoD announced its decision to go ahead with \$19 Billion contract to produce Lockheed-Martin's Joint Strike Fighter, the F-35, for the USAF, Navy, and Marines. The announcement officially ended the concept demonstration phase for the new Joint Strike Fighter. (3) (21)
- 2004: AFFTC and Navy evaluators measured the ability of a Navy N-1, a RQ-4A Global Hawk, to detect and track small aircraft in flight under a congressionally-mandated Global Hawk Maritime Demonstration. Navy contractor operators flew the 12.3-hour sortie from Edwards AFB over the Navy Pacific Ocean test range. (3)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 27 October

- 1909: Mrs. Ralph H. Van Deman became the first woman airplane passenger in America in a 4-minute flight at College Park with Wilbur Wright. (24)
- 1925: Lt James H. Doolittle flew a Curtiss R3C-2 floatplane racer to an FAI record of 245.7 MPH for 3 kilometers and 234.4 MPH for 200 kilometers at Bay Shore, near Baltimore. (8: Oct 90)
- 1944: The first US Army aircraft to be stationed in the Philippines since 1942 landed on the Tacloban airstrip. The 34 P-38s of the 9th Fighter Squadron refueled at once, and before the end of the day shot down four enemy aircraft. (17)
- Between 27 October and 31 December, the Japanese flew almost 1,050 sorties over Leyte. Pilots from the V Fighter Command shot down 314 confirmed aircraft and received credit for 45 probables, yet suffered only 16 losses. On 29 October, the 49 FG scored its 500th victory. (17)
- 1946: Through 3 November the Navy airship XM-1, with Lt H. R. Walton in command, left Lakehurst flew down the Atlantic coast to Savannah, Ga., the Bahamas, Florida, Cuba, over the Gulf of Mexico and landed at NAF Glynco, Ga. The flight set a world duration record of 170.3 hours for self-sufficient flight in any type aircraft. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** The 452 BG (AFRES) flew its first B-26 combat mission, less than a month after it was called to active duty in the US. (28)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** On a last medium bomber daylight raid, B-29 gunners downed six MiG-15s, the highest number of enemy aircraft downed on any day of the war. A 3 ARS H-5, with fighter escort, rescued a downed UN fighter pilot despite intense fire from enemy ground troops. (28)
- 1954: Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., became the USAF's first black general officer. (21)
- 1955: The Glenn L. Martin Aircraft Company received an USAF research and development contract for the Titan ICBM. (6)
- 1961: The Saturn launched for the first time. It flew a suborbital route 215 miles down the Atlantic Missile Range.
- 1962: The first 10 Minuteman I (Model A) missiles went on alert with the 10 SMS, 341 SMW, at Malmstrom AFB. (6)
- CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS/FIRST AIR FORCE CROSS.** The Cubans shot down a 4080 SW U-2 flown by Maj Rudolf Anderson, Jr., over Cuba. Major Anderson received the first Air Force Cross posthumously. (21)
- 1972: AFSC launched a 47.8 million-cubic-foot research balloon, the world's largest, from Chico, Calif. The USAF's Cambridge Research Laboratory developed the balloon in 1969.
- 1976: The DoD announced plans to send an F-15 wing to Germany and an F-111 wing to England. (4)
- 1983: **Exercises ETERNAL TRIANGLE and CRISEX.** Three B-52Gs deployed from the 42d BWB at Loring AFB to Moron AB, Spain, for exercises. This marked the first such use of a Spanish base for the Air Force. On 27-28 October, the B-52s participated in Eternal Triangle, a NATO exercise, and from 31 October through 8 November in Crisex, a joint US/Spanish exercise. In both, the B-52s flew high and low altitude bombing, sea search, electronic countermeasures, and fighter-intercept exercises. (1)
- 1998: **HURRICANE MITCH/OPERATION AMIGO.** The hurricane ravaged Central America,

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

leaving more than 10,000 people dead and a million people homeless in Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador. In response, the Air National Guard deployed crews and C-130s from Arkansas, California, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, West Virginia, Oklahoma, and Rhode Island for several months to deliver relief supplies to the region. By the time the operation ended on 19 March 1999, the aircrews had flown more than 200 missions. (21) (32)

- 1999: Developmental testing on the C-141 *Starlifter* came to an end when the last test aircraft left the AFFTC at Edwards AFB for March ARB. (3)
- 2006: The 49 FW flew 25 F-117 Nighthawks in formation over Holloman AFB for the largest flyover in its history to commemorate the aircraft's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. (USAF Aimpoints, "F-117 Celebrates 25 Years with Historical Flyover," 31 Oct 2006)
- The USAF rolled out the 747-400F Airborne Laser aircraft in a ceremony at Boeing's Integrated Defense Systems facility in Wichita. (USAF Aimpoints, "USAF Debuts Laser Weapon Aircraft, 31 Oct 2006)
- 2007: **FIRST MQ-9 REAPER COMBAT MISSION.** The MQ-9 Reaper conducted its first precision combat strike sortie against enemy combatants in Deh Rawod, Afghanistan, with a Hellfire missile. (AFNEWS, Oct. 27 Airpower Summary: Reaper Conducts First Strike," 28 Oct 2007.)

### 28 October

- 1907: The first International Aeronautical Congress held at the Automobile Club of New York. (24)
- 1924: At 13,000 feet above Bolling Field DC, Army airplanes dropped electrified sand to break up cloud formations. (20)
- 1927: First international air-passenger station opened at Meacham Field, Key West. Pan American World Airways made the first flight from there to Havana, Cuba. Aeromarine Airways had started an international passenger service from Key West to Havana in late 1920. (See discussion on 1 November 1920).
- 1952: First flight of the Douglas XA3D-1 Skywarrior.
- 1959: From Wallops Island, NASA launched a 100-foot diameter inflatable aluminum-coated sphere to a height of 250 miles, where it inflated and was visible for hundreds of miles. (24)
- MACKAY TROPHY.** Through 19 December, the 4520<sup>th</sup> Aerial Demonstration Team, better known as the Thunderbirds, toured the Far East, earning the trophy in the process. (26)
- 1973: First production-model T-43 arrived at Mather AFB. (16) (26)
- 1981: The US Senate agreed to sell five E-3As to Saudi Arabia. The E-3As assumed air defense surveillance from Elf One. (4)
- 1985: The first six female officers started initial qualification training for Minuteman crew duty. All six women previously worked with the Titan II system. They finished the class on 7 February 1986. (16)
- 1995: **Operation VIGILANT SENTINEL.** Through 18 December, the USAF tested its air expeditionary force concept by deploying F-16s from the 20 FW and 347<sup>th</sup> Wing to Bahrain. (21)



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2002: **Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.** A C-141 arrived at Guantanamo Bay with the last group of Taliban and Al Qaeda detainees from Afghanistan for 2002. From 10 January to 28 October 2002, C-141s and C-17s flew 23 missions to carry 620 detainees from Kandahar to Guantanamo. (22)

2006: Through 29 October, NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards AFB flew the General Atomics *Altair* UAV to photograph and map the 62-square-mile Esperanza fire near Palm Springs. The Altair the flew at 43,000 feet above the fire area, where it sent 100 images and more than 20 data files in 16 hours by a real-time satellite link to the fire management team. (3)

### 29 October

1917: Civilian test pilot, Howard Rinehart, flew the first American DH-4 completed at Dayton. (21)

1928: Mrs. Clara Adams of Tannersville, Pa., became the first paying woman passenger on a Zeppelin. She left Lakehurst in the Graf Zeppelin on the eastward return flight to Germany. (24)

1950: **KOREAN WAR.** C-47s made aeromedical flights from Sinanju Airfield, N. Korea, the northernmost Korean airfield ever used by FEAF aircraft, some 40 miles north of Pyongyang. (28)

1953: In the first flight of the YF-100A Super Sabre at Edwards AFB, Lt Col Frank K. Everest set a speed record of 755.149 MPH over a 15-kilometer (9.3 miles) course. (9) (12)

1955: The first official flight of the Douglas RB-66B occurred. (31)

1956: Lockheed Missile Systems Division received a contract to start the Agena program. (12)

1963: General Curtis E. LeMay, CSAF, congratulated the 18 TFW at Kadena AB for its record conversion from F-100 to F-105 aircraft under combat status conditions and for passing the subsequent operational readiness inspection. The 18 TFW was the first USAF F-105 unit to accomplish this feat. (17)

1965: Test pilots Col Robert L. Stephens and Lt Col Daniel Andre received the Thompson Trophy for their 1 May 1965 flight of the YF-12, which set nine world performance records.

C-130s began carrying fuel, ammunition, and supplies to Pleiku for the defense of Plei Me camp from North Vietnamese attacks. For the next 29 days, the C-130s moved 186 tons a day to support the 1st Cavalry Division. (18)

1969: SAC announced the phaseout of all B-58 Hustler strategic bombers from its inventory. (16) (26)

1975: Nellis AFB received the first F-5E Tiger II in the USAF aircraft inventory. (16) (26)

1986: TAC won the first Reconnaissance Air Meet at Bergstrom AFB. (16)

SAC selected rail garrison as the preferred basing mode for the second deployment of Peacekeeper missiles. This basing mode would have placed another 50 missiles on continuous alert in railroad cars garrisoned on SAC bases for dispersal over the commercial rail network on short notice. (16)

1994: The Air Force's fourth B-2 (#8-0332), the Spirit of Washington, joined the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman. (15)

1998: John H. Glenn, Jr., a former US Senator and the first astronaut to orbit earth, returned to space on the Space Shuttle Discovery. At 76, Glenn became the oldest person to enter space. He par-

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participated in a test to determine the effects of microgravity on the elderly. (21)

2004: NASA's KC-135A aerospace vehicle trainer, the "Vomit Comet," flew its final sortie. NASA used the "Comet" at Edwards AFB to provide zero gravity training to students at the Aerospace Vehicle Test Course. The KC-135A performed its famed roller-coaster maneuver some 35,000 times. (3)

2007: **WILDFIRE SUPPORT.** Air Forces Northern tasked various specialized aircraft to provide firefighting commanders and civil authorities with photos and video of wildfires in Southern California. The aircraft included the RQ-4 Global Hawk and U-2 Dragon Lady from Beale AFB, Calif., and a Navy P-3 Orion from Naval Air Station North Island, Calif. This event was the first time a Global Hawk provided domestic support civil authorities. (AFNEWS, "Global Hawk, U-2 Capture Essential Wildfires Images," 29 Oct 2007.)

**Operation IRAQI FREEDOM/DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.** An A-10 pilot from the 510th Fighter Squadron received this award for supporting friendly forces near An Najaf, Iraq. After a local training mission over the Dolomite Mountains, Capt George Collings received his award at Aviano AB, Italy, from his father Maj Gen Michael Collings, the senior U.S. defense representative to Egypt. The junior Collings distinguished himself during a close-air-support mission for friendly forces trying to reach a downed AH-64 Apache helicopter. When small-arms fire from anti-Iraqi forces pinned the rescue forces down, Collings delivered a 500-pound laser-guided bomb inside a canal to kill six anti-Iraqi forces and incapacitate 30 others. His attack allowed the rescue party to recover the bodies of the American fallen warriors. (AFNEWS, "Father Pins Distinguished Flying Cross on Son," 30 Oct 2007.)

2007: **OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM/MACKAY TROPHY.** Captain Scott Markle received the trophy for his actions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Captain Markle, an A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot from the 81st Fighter Squadron at Spangdahlem AB, Germany, engaged Taliban fighters on 16 June 2006, who were fighting an American special forces team on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. When he arrived just before dawn, visibility made it difficult to find the team's location. Unable to employ weapons due to the enemy's close proximity to the team, he flew a dangerously low pass over the area and released self-protection flares. A ground controller then asked Markle to make a few more close passes to give the U. S. team the time to create more distance from the Taliban forces. Afterwards, he strafed the enemy with more than 1,000 30-millimeter rounds, allowing the special forces team to escape with no casualties. In his effort, Markle destroyed three machine gun nests and killed 40 enemy combatants. (AFNEWS, "A-10 Pilot Awarded Mackay Trophy," 30 Oct 2007.)

### 30 October

1918: Capt Edward V. Rickenbacker shot down his 26<sup>th</sup> and final enemy aircraft of World War I. (21)

1919: Reversible pitch propeller tested at McCook Field. It allowed aircraft to slow down and stop quickly on short runways. (18) (21)

1940: The 71st Squadron RAF (1st Eagle Squadron with American volunteers) became operational.

1941: Maj Alva L. Harvey made a record global trip in a B-24, covering 24,700 miles in 48 days. In this flight, he also completed a 3,150-mile nonstop flight from Great Britain to carry members of the Harriman Mission to Moscow. (9) (24)

1949: Lt G. A. Rullo and M. D. Kembro (Civil Air Patrol) flew a Sikorsky helicopter to an unofficial record of 755 miles in 10 hours 50 minutes. (24)

1961: **Operation STAIR STEP.** The first of 216 ANG fighters from units mobilized on 1 October

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

deployed across the Atlantic to European bases in response to the Berlin Wall crisis. (21)

- 1962: The first off-range launch of a GAM-77A Hound Dog missile began near Del Rio, Tex., and ended on the Western Missile Range about 400 miles away.
- 1964: NASA pilot Joseph A. Walker flew the Lunar Landing Research Vehicle's first flight. Total free-flight time was less than a minute, and the vehicle rose 10 feet. (5) (16)
- 1968: MAC pararescueman Sgt Duane D. Hackney received the Cheney Award for gallantry in action in Vietnam. (16)
- 1980: A C-5 received fuel from a KC-10A for the first time. (18)
- 1994: A C-141 flew 20 tons of medical supplies and other relief items from Kadena AB to Vladivostok, Russia, for victims of a Siberian flood. (16)
- 2003: An AFFTC B-1B aircrew dropped the first guided Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile Separation Test Vehicle (STV) at the China Lake Naval Test Station. The STV collected data to certify the new weapon for further testing. (3)
- 2006: An LC-130 from the 109 AW, New York ANG, touched down at the South Pole to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of first landing there on 31 October 1956. (AFNEWS Article, "109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Commemorates First South Pole Landing," 3 Nov 2006)

### 31 October

- 1910: Ralph Johnstone flew his Wright Biplane to a new world altitude record of 9,714 feet at the Belmont Park International Meet (See 22 October). (9) (24)
- 1942: After 10 days of bombing operations against German submarine pens in France, Gen Carl Spaatz informed Gen H.H. Arnold that the operations were too costly for the results obtained because the pens were too well protected from normal high-altitude bombing. General Spaatz planned to operate as low as 4,000 feet and accept the high casualty rates. (4)
- 1943: Near New Georgia, Solomon Islands, a Chance Vought F4U-2 Corsair pilot completed the Navy's first successful radar-guided interception. (20)
- For the first time from the Mediterranean Theater, 38 B-17s from Twelfth Air Force bombed France, striking Antheor Viaduct near Cannes. (24)
- 1948: The USAF revealed that ramjet engines were used for the first time on piloted aircraft, a modified F-80. (12)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** A service-test C-124A departed for the US, after successfully completing its test in the Far East. The results convinced the 315<sup>th</sup> Air Division of the need for a Globemaster squadron. Additionally, the 315th Air Division transported 3,200 passengers, including over 1,500 troops on "rest and recuperation" leave. Intelligence representatives from the Fifth Air Force, U.S. Eighth Army, and U.S. Navy decided to expand intelligence activities on the island of Cho-do, a prime location for infiltration/exfiltration of UN agents and refugee interrogation. (28)
- 1953: Mr. Trevor Gardner, Special Assistant to the SECAF for R&D, formed the Strategic Missiles Evaluation Committee to review and evaluate Air Force missile programs. (6)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1956: Lt Cmdr Gus Shinn landed a ski-equipped R4D-5 (a Navy version of the DC-3), named “Que Sera Sera,” at the South Pole. Shinn kept the engines running while RAdm George Dufek stepped out of the plane to stand at the Pole. Dufek and six other Navy crewmen became the first to stand on the spot since January 1912. (AFNEWS Article, “109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Commemorates First South Pole Landing,” 3 Nov 2006)
- 1957: A Snark missile launched at Cape Canaveral completed its first full range flight test. It flew 5,000 miles to the target area near Ascension Island. (6)
- 1959: The first Atlas equipped with a nuclear warhead went on alert at Vandenberg AFB. (6)
- 1962: The first US geodetic survey satellite, Anna, launched from Cape Canaveral.
- 1965: SAC accepted the first flight of 10 Minuteman IIs at the 447 SMS, Grand Forks AFB. (6)
- 1966: The USAF selected Boeing Company to produce the AGM-069A SRAM for FB-111s and late model B-52s. (6) (12)
- 1972: The USAF inactivated the last BOMARC surface-to-air missile squadron, the 22d Air Defense Missile Squadron, at Langley AFB. (16) (21)
- 1976: The first USAF E-3A AWACS aircraft, with its full complement of surveillance and command and control avionics, made its first test flight.
- 1985: The Challenger’s ninth mission carried Spacelab D-1. West Germany bought the entire seven-day mission that returned to earth on 5 November.
- 1994: Through 1 November, two B-1 Lancers from Ellsworth AFB flew a nonstop mission to a bombing range in Kuwait and back. The 25-hour mission was the first time for the B-1s in the Gulf Region. (16)
- 1997: In the Linear Aerospike SR-71 Experiment (LASRE) project, NASA’s Dryden Flight Research Center flew the X-33’s linear aerospike engine mounted on an SR-71 from Edwards AFB. The sortie determined the unfueled engine’s aerodynamic characteristics. Ultimately, the engine was not ignited in flight. (3)
- 2000: Mission Commander Bill Shepherd and two Russian cosmonauts launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan into space to become the first residents of the International Space Station. (21)
- 2001: **Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.** A pair of C-17s flew over Afghanistan to deliver some 35,000 humanitarian rations. The loadmaster aboard one C-17 tossed out a single plastic-enclosed meal to symbolically represent the millionth meal airdropped. That act occurred on the 61st C-17 humanitarian flight to help feed Afghan refugees. (22)

### 1 November

- 1920: Aeromarine West Indies Airways started US international passenger service between Key West and Havana, Cuba. (21) (24)
- 1944: A Boeing F-13, a photoreconnaissance version of the B-29, became the first US plane to fly over Tokyo since April 1942. (20) (24)

The nation’s first R&D center for rocket propulsion systems, founded at Cal Tech in 1936, reorganized and became the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. (6)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** During the UN forces' retreat from the Yalu back toward the 38th parallel, Soviet-made MiG-15s entered the conflict for the first time, when six MiG-15 jets appeared for the first time in the war and fired on a T-6 and an F-51 Mustang flight in the Yalu River area. This action set the stage for the air-to-air combat that would take place the rest of the war principally between the MiG-15 and the USAF F-86 Sabre. (17)
- KOREAN WAR.** Three Yak fighters attacked USAF aircraft over northwestern N. Korea. A B-26 crew claimed a Yak, while two F-51 pilots shot down the other two enemy aircraft for the first aerial victories since July. At Sinuiju airfield, F-80s destroyed several Yak fighters on the ground. Antiaircraft artillery located across the Yalu River shot down a FEAF jet. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force fighter-bombers attacked three railroad bridges at Yongmido. The 61st Troop Carrier Group began to phase its C-54s out of the airlift to prepare for its return to the US. (28)
- 1954: The USAF retired its last B-29 Superfortress from service. The aircraft had less than 12 years in the active inventory. (16) (21)
- 1955: The USS Boston, the world's first guided missile cruiser, commissioned and equipped with Terrier missiles. (16) (24)
- 1957: The GAM-63 Rascal air-to-surface missile officially became operational in SAC.
- 1960: San Vito Dei Normanni Air Station, Italy, activated and assigned to Seventeenth Air Force.
- 1964: SAC activated the first wing for Minuteman II, the 321 SMW at Grand Forks AFB. (6)
- During the early morning hours, the Viet Cong attacked Bien Hoa AB with mortars. The Viet Cong killed four and wounded 30 Americans. Additionally, they destroyed 7 and damaged 18 USAF and Vietnamese Air Force aircraft. (17)
- 1967: AFLC began jet service on its logistic airlift (LOGAIR) contract service.
- 1968: President Johnson halted all bombing of North Vietnam. (16) (26)
- 1970: The 336 TFS began the first USAF tests of new bare base mobility equipment in a field exercise at North Field, S.C. The exercise demonstrated the unit's ability to deploy and operate from a bare base site using specially designed air transportable, expendable shelters and work facilities. The buildings included dormitories, workshops, hangars, control tower, medical facilities, and water systems. (16)
- 1975: The USAF transferred the 1st Airborne Command and Control Squadron (ACCS) to SAC with three E-4 modified Boeing 747s. These planes, with EC-135-type communications equipment, served as the National Emergency Airborne Command Post. (1)
- 1978: The 97 BMW at Blytheville AFB demilitarized and removed the last GAM-72A Quail missiles from the SAC inventory. (6)
- 1983: Production of 440 ALCMs from the FY1982 buy began. (12)
- Following a 30 October earthquake in northeastern Turkey, MAC transported 234 tons of relief supplies to the disaster site on 4 C-141 and 13 C-130 missions flown through 5 November. (2)
- 1985: The Dutch government approved the deployment of USAFE GLCMs to Woensdrecht, Netherlands. (16)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1989: McDonnell-Douglas delivered the Navy's first production-model F/A-18C Hornet with night attack capabilities at the Naval Air Test Station, NAS Patuxent River. (8: Feb 90)
- 1991: After a Canadian C-130 Hercules crashed in Greenland, a C-5 Galaxy from Elmendorf AFB carried a 36-man search and rescue team from the Alaskan National Guard and two MH-60G Pavehawk helicopters to Thule, Greenland. The team located the crash site some 300 miles from the North Pole and rescued 13 of 18 Canadian crewmen. (16) (26)
- 1995: Wright-Patterson AFB hosted the Presidents of Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia for peace talks to end war (DELIBERATE FORCE) in the former Yugoslavia. (26)
- 1998: The FAA waiver allowed the pilotless Global Hawk UAV to fly within the National Airspace System, or outside of dedicated military airspace, during its remaining test program. (3)
- 2001: A B-1B successfully launched its first live Wind-Corrected Munitions Dispenser (WCMD). (3)
- Lt Col Linda K. McTague became the 201st Airlift Squadron commander (DC ANG). She was the first woman to command an Air Guard flying squadron. (32)
- 2007: **Operation MAGGY MIGRATION.** A C-17 Globemaster III flew Maggie, a 25-year-old African elephant from the Alaska Zoo to the Performing Animals Welfare Society (PAWS) sanctuary in California. Air Force members loaded Maggie onto the C-17 at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, and flew her to Travis AFB, Calif. (AFNEWS, "Air Force to Fly Elephant From Alaska to California," 26 Oct 2007.)

### 2 November

- 1916: Glenn Muffly requested a Chicago-New York commercial night airmail line. Sponsored by New York Times, Victor Carlstrom flew a mail demonstration flight on 2-3 November over the route. (24)
- 1923: Lt H. J. Brow (USN) set an FAI speed record for piston-engine land planes by flying a Curtiss 500 airplane 259 MPH at Minneola. (9)
- 1936: John H. Shobe set a new speed record from New York City to Boston by flying his Beechcraft 190 miles in 50 minutes 30 seconds to average 227.5 MPH. (24)
- 1943: **FIRST FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE MISSION.** 74 B-17s and 38 B-24s flew 1,600 round-trip miles to bomb aircraft factories near Wiener Neustadt, Austria. (4) (24)
- 1944: **MEDAL OF HONOR.** While on a mission over Merseberg, Germany, a bomber sustained three hits from anti-aircraft shells. A severely wounded navigator, Lt Robert E. Femoyer, refused morphine to keep his head clear so he could direct his plane out of danger. For 2 1/2 hours, he navigated his lone bomber away from flak. Only when he reached the English Channel did he agree to take a sedative. He died after the plane landed in England. For his sacrifice, Femoyer received the Medal of Honor. (4)
- 1947: The Howard Hughes H-4 Hercules, "The Spruce Goose," made its first and only flight in the Los Angeles Harbor. It traveled about a mile. (20)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** FEAF flew the first RB-45 Tornado jet reconnaissance mission. (28)
- 1954: At San Diego, test pilot James F. "Skeets" Coleman, flying the Convair XYF-1, took off in vertical flight, then shifted to horizontal, and finally changed back to vertical for the landing. (16)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(24)

- 1962: **Operation LONG SKIP.** After Communist Chinese forces invaded India's Assam Valley and Ladakh District in October, India asked the US for help. Through 14 November, MATS dispatched 48 C-135 missions to deliver nearly 1,035 tons of equipment, small arms, and ammunition to Calcutta. The timely response led the Chinese to withdraw. (2)
- Through 16 November, after Typhoon Karen MATS aircrews airlifted 1,180 tons of emergency supplies to Guam and evacuated some 650 people. (18)
- 1971: First two advanced communications satellites for the Defense Satellite Communication System Phase II (DSCS II) placed in orbit. (12)
- 1995: Lt Col Greg Feest, the 9 FS Commander at Holloman AFB, became the first F-117A Nighthawk pilot with 1,000 hours in the cockpit. He flew in DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM with the 37 TFW. (16)
- 2000: The AFFTC flew the last EC-135E Advanced Range Instrumentation Aircraft (ARIA) to the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB. In the 1960s, NASA modified eight C-135s, called Apollo Range Instrumentation Aircraft, to track lunar missions, unmanned orbital missions, and ballistic re-entry programs. The AFFTC decided the ARIA's unique mission capabilities were no longer necessary. (3)
- The Dryden Flight Research Center's NB-52B launched the X-38 Crew Return Vehicle (CRV), an 80 percent scale version, on its first free flight over Edwards AFB. The X-38 used its 7,500 square foot nylon parasail for the first time too. (3)
- 2001: **Operation ENDURING FREEDOM/MACKAY TROPHY.** A 20th Special Operations Squadron MH-53 Pave Low helicopter crew earned the trophy by rescuing the crew of another MH-53 that had crashed on a rescue mission in the mountains of Afghanistan. (21)

### 3 November

- 1908: The Aeronautical Society held its first aerial exhibition and tournament at its airfield at Morris Park Race Track, Bronx, NY.
- 1909: Lt George S. Sweet (USN) flew as a passenger with Lt Frank P. Lahm in the Army's first Wright plane. He thus became the first Navy officer to fly in an airplane. (20) (24)
- 1921: A Curtiss-Navy CR-1 racer, powered by a 400-HP Curtiss C-12 engine, on loan to the builder and piloted by Bert Acosta, won the Pulitzer Race at Omaha, Nebr., with a world record speed of 176.7 MPH. (24)
- 1931: The Navy dirigible Akron carried 207 people aloft to set a new record for the largest number of individuals taken up by a single aircraft. (24)
- 1943: Eighth Air Force sent 500 bombers on a daylight raid that devastated Wilhelmshafen Harbor in Germany. (4)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Enemy ground fire damaged a 3 ARS SA-16 engaged in a failed rescue attempt; however, the aircrew, in spite of 6 to 8 foot seas, successfully landed in Korea Bay, off the west coast of North Korea, and rescued another downed pilot. (28)
- 1959: The Air Force successfully transported an ICBM by air for the first time by flying an Atlas D on a C-133B from San Diego to Francis E. Warren AFB. (6)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1960: Explorer VIII, an ionospheric measuring satellite, launched from Cape Canaveral into a 20-50 year orbit by a four-stage Juno II rocket combination. (24)
- 1961: Through 14 November, a C-124 Globemaster carried communications personnel and equipment to Belize following Hurricane Hattie to restore operations at Stanley Field, the airport of Belize's capital city. C-124s also flew in fuel for helicopter rescue operations. (18)
- 1963: Four airmen at the Brooks AFB School of Aerospace Medicine began the longest known experiment of exposing humans to 100 percent oxygen. The test lasted for 30 days at a simulated 27,500-foot altitude.
- 1965: A B-52 successfully fired an air-to-surface Hound Dog missile over Green River, Utah, to White Sands Missile Range.
- Maj Robert A. Rushworth flew a modified X-15A-2 rocket research plane on its first flight. North American Aviation placed two large external fuel tanks on it for Mach 8 flights. (3)
- 1966: An USAF Titan IIIC, launched from Cape Kennedy, carried MOL components and four satellites into orbit. The missile lifted the Gemini capsule from the January 1965 unmanned Gemini II mission into a ballistic reentry trajectory, while the Titan's third stage placed a Titan II propellant tank and three satellites into a 160-mile orbit. (16)
- 1969: The USAF asked airframe and engine manufacturers to submit proposals on the full scale engineering development of an Advanced Manned Strategic Aircraft, or B-1. (1) (12)
- 1987: The Navy attacked four land targets with a BGM-109 Tomahawk SLCM launched from a submerged sub near southern California's coast. The SLCM dropped 24 packages with BLU-97 combined effects munitions on aircraft in a revetment, a missile site, and a defense site. This was the first test using live BLU-97 munitions and the sixth to qualify the Tomahawk as a submunitions dispenser.
- Northrop's Tacit Rainbow, a loitering antiradar missile, completed its first flight test.
- 1989: McDonnell-Douglas delivered the last of 470 F-15C/Ds (no. 86-0166) to the Air Force. Col Rick Parsons, 33 TFW Commander, flew the aircraft from St Louis to its new home at Eglin AFB, Fla. (8: Jan 90)
- Two Bell-Boeing V-22 Osprey prototypes flew their first formation flight. (8: Jan 90)
- The Air Force conducted the eighth test launch of Tacit Rainbow, the loitering antiradiation missile. A B-52 launched the missile from a low altitude; after which, it climbed to altitude, made a diving attack, and hit in the target area at the Naval Weapons Center Test Range near China Lake. (8: Feb 90)
- 1995: The DoD announced the purchase of 80 more C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, giving the USAF 120 in its inventory. (16)
- 1999: The 169 FW (South Carolina Air National Guard) qualified most of its pilots to use the High Speed Anti-Radiation Missile (HARM) Targeting System to hunt and disable enemy surface-to-air missile sites. That made the 169<sup>th</sup> the only ANG fighter unit able to perform the Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses (SEAD) mission with HARMs. (32)
- 2007: **TROPICAL STORM NOEL.** The U.S. Southern Command had a C-130 Hercules deliver 27 crates of potable water to San Isidro AB, Dominican Republic, for victims of this storm. The Puerto Rico Air National Guard relief sortie originated from the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station at



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Borinquen, Puerto Rico. Two guard UH-60 Blackhawks also deployed to San Isidro to conduct search and rescue missions in the area. By 12 November, American and British aircrews had delivered more than 241,000 pounds of provisions to the Dominican Republic in this combined, joint, and international relief effort. (AFNEWS, "U.S. Southern Command Delivers Supplies to Victims of Noel," 6 Nov 2007.)

### 4 November

- 1909: The first sportsman airplane owner in the U. S., Arthur P. Warner of Warner Instrument Company, began teaching himself to fly a Curtiss airplane. (24)
- 1911: The transatlantic airship Akron, designed by Melvin Vanniman, made its first flight at Atlantic City, N. J. (24)
- 1920: Using the old battleship USS Indiana, the Army completed the third in a series of tests to determine the effectiveness of aerial bombs against ships. The tests began on 14 October at Tangier Sound in Chesapeake Bay.
- 1923: Lt Al J. Williams (USN) flew a Curtiss 500 R2C-1 to a Federation Aeronautique Internationale record of 266.59 MPH at Mitchel Field in Mineola, N. Y. (9) (24)
- 1927: Capt Hawthorne C. Gray, an early stratospheric explorer, died in his third attempt to break the balloon record of 40,820 feet. While descending from 42,470 feet, he died from oxygen starvation. This tragedy showed a need to use pressure suits and oxygen systems above 40,000 feet.
- 1936: The Hawaiian Clipper arrived at Alameda, after its first passenger trip to Manila, Philippines, and back. (21)
- 1944: Over 1,100 American B-17s and B-24s attacked Germany during the day, hitting targets near Hamburg, Hannover, and Saarbruecken. (4)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** B-26s provided close support for the Eighth Army near Chongju, killing an estimated 500 enemy soldiers to relieve the hard-pressed U.S. troops. (28)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** 34 F-86s met nearly 60 MiG-15s in the Sinamju area. The F-86 pilots destroyed two and damaged three others. (28)
- 1954: The Strategic Air Command retired its last B-29 bomber (number 42-94032) to the aircraft storage facility at Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz. (1)
- 1959: Construction of the first Atlas F silo-lift launcher began at Vandenberg AFB, Calif. (6)
- 1960: The USAF revealed the use of a converted C-97 tanker as an airborne tactical command post and communications center. (24)
- 1966: The US and Soviet Union signed an agreement permitting direct commercial flights between New York and Moscow.
- 1970: Nine Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units received A-37s, F-100s, F-105s, and C-130s to begin a modernization program. (16)
- 1972: **Operation COMMANDO DOMINO.** Through 8 November, after the US transferred 48 F-5s to the Vietnamese Air Force from the Republic of China Air Force, Pacific Air Forces moved two F-4C squadrons from the 18<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing at Kadena AB, Japan, to Ching Chuan Kang AB, Taiwan, to supply air defense for the Republic of China. The Vietnamese Air Force

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received another 36 F-5s from other sources. To provide the Republic of Korea Air Force with an air defense capability, Pacific Air Forces released 18 F-4Ds from the 3d Tactical Fighter Wing at Kunsan AB, S. Korea, to the Republic of Korea. The 405<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing at Clark AB, Philippines, then transferred 18 F-4Ds to the 3d Tactical Fighter Wing in return for 7 F-4Ds from other Pacific Air Forces resources. (17)

- 1983: **URGENT FURY.** As part of the Grenada operation, the Military Airlift Command transported 755 Cubans on 20 C-130 missions from Grenada to Cuban authorities in Barbados. (2)
- 1985: The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center saved 47 people during flood relief operations in the Shenandoah Valley, Va. (16)
- 1987: The Air Force awarded a \$1.2 million contract to McDonnell Douglas Corporation to become a second-source for the Advanced Cruise Missile, the AGM-129.
- 1992: Through 11 November, four C-5s and one C-141 moved 236 tons of flour to Armenia to relieve food shortages after the Soviet Union's collapse. (16) (26)
- 2003: Travis AFB, Calif., sent the first C-5A Galaxy (No. 70-0458) to the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. (22)
- NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards AFB began Block 2 testing on two Boeing X-45A Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles. This program added communications links for flight coordination from other locations, and the ability to release inert small "smart" bombs. (3)

### 5 November

- 1908: At a dinner in his honor in France, Wilbur Wright received the Grand Gold Medal of the Aero Club of France, a medal from the Academy of Sports, and 5,000 francs, which he had won on 30 September 1908 in an air show. (24)
- 1912: Through 13 November, the Army used aircraft to make artillery adjustments for the first time at Fort Riley, Kans. In this demonstration, Capt Frederick B. Hennessy, Lt Henry H. Arnold, and Lt Thomas DeWitt Milling signaled the ground with radiotelegraphy, drop cards, and smoke signals. (21)
- 1943: The 56 FG (P-47s) became the first Eighth Air Force fighter group credited with 100 enemy aircraft destroyed. (4)
- 1944: B-29s attacked Singapore in its first bombing since the Japanese captured it in February 1942.
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** FEAF dispatched 21 B-29s of the 19 BG to begin incendiary bomb attacks on North Korean cities and towns. They dropped 170 tons of fire bombs on Kanggye, near the Chinese border, and destroyed 65 percent of the town's center. (28)
- 1958: The Air Force and Army signed an interservice agreement that gave the Air Force responsibility for the employment of the Jupiter missile. (6)
- 1971: Through 3 December, Elgen Long set an international speed record over both poles, flying from and returning to San Francisco. He covered the 38,896 miles in 28 days 43 minutes.
- 1981: The 388 ECS at Mountain Home AFB received the first EF-111A defense suppression aircraft. It replaced the EB-66 and EB-57 in the suppression role. (16) (26)

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- 1984: TAC received its first F-16C/D Fighting Falcon at Luke AFB. (16)
- 2002: An F/A-22 Raptor from the AFFTC at Edwards AFB conducted its first supersonic guided missile launch by firing an AIM-20 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile against a high altitude, high Mach target over the Pacific Missile Test Range. The An F-4 launched the target missile at 51,000 feet, and it was traveling above Mach 2. (3)
- 2005: The Air Force rolled out the TH-1H helicopter at Randolph AFB, home of AETC's pilot instructor training. The TH-1H, the latest version of the UH-1H Huey, received extensive refurbishment with upgraded components, a new avionics suite, and a glass cockpit. (AFNEWS Article, "Air Force Introduces a New Helicopter for Pilot Training," 31 October 2005)

### 6 November

- 1909: The French government awarded Wilbur and Orville the Legion of Honor Cross at its New York consulate. (24)
- 1913: Experimental radio and fire control flights began at Fort Mills, Philippines, in cooperation with coastal defenses. (24)
- 1915: Lt Cmdr Henry C. Mustin (USN) launched the first airplane by catapult from a moving vessel, the USS North Carolina, at Pensacola Bay. (21) (24)
- 1923: Lt Al J. Williams (USN) flying an R2C-1 set a record by climbing to 5,000 feet in one minute at Mitchel Field.
- 1930: **MEDAL OF HONOR.** Edward V. Rickenbacker received the Medal of Honor for his service in World War I. As a pilot with the 94th Aero Squadron, Capt Rickenbacker became the leading American ace of the war with 24.33 aerial victories. (8: Nov 90)
- 1944: Allied Supreme Headquarters in France announced the formation of the First Tactical Air Force (Provisional) with American and French aircraft. (24)
- 1945: Ensign Jake C. West made the first jet-propelled landing on an aircraft carrier in a Ryan FR-1 Fireball, with a turbojet and conventional reciprocating engine. When the fighter's piston engine failed, West relied on the turbojet for his landing on the USS Wake Island. (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** After photographic surveillance on 4 November showed the three railroad bridges at Yongmi-dong again in serviceable condition and two by-pass bridges nearing completion, 100 fighter-bombers returned to bomb the railroad bridges. The fighters also discovered new antiaircraft artillery positions and work to build a fifth bypass bridge. (28)
- 1953: A B-47 Stratojet flew from Limestone, Me., to Brize Norton, England, in 4 hours 43 minutes to set a new speed record for a transatlantic flight. (20)  
  
The X-1E made its last flight over Edwards. This flight concluded the X-1 flight test program.
- 1964: The USAF achieved the first completely overland flight of a fully instrumented four-stage Athena reentry research vehicle. Launched from Green River, the vehicle traveled about 417 miles and impacted nearly on target within the White Sands Missile Range.
- 1969: A 34,000-cubic foot balloon, twice as tall as the Washington Monument and the largest balloon ever launched, lifted a 13,800-pound payload over Holloman AFB. (5) (16)
- 1986: MAC's inventory of C-5Bs increased to eight. (12)

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- 1994: Through 8 November, two C-141s moved 37 tons of relief supplies to Egypt after flash floods covered as many as 70 villages. (16) (26)
- 1995: The second MILSTAR military communications satellite went into orbit aboard a Titan IV Centaur launched from Cape Canaveral. (16)

### 7 November

- 1907: The War Department's Board of Ordnance and Fortification gave the Signal Corps \$25,000 to procure an airplane. (4)
- 1910: Phillip O. Parmalee delivered a bolt of silk from Dayton to Columbus, Ohio, to complete the world's first air cargo mission. (20)
- 1917: Eugene J. Bullard, an American pilot in French service, shot down an enemy fighter. Thus, he became the first black fighter pilot to claim an aerial victory in World War I. (21)
- 1918: Dr. Robert H. Goddard demonstrated tube-launched solid-propellant rockets at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. This device evolved into the anti-tank bazooka used in World War II. (20)
- 1939: **MACKAY TROPHY.** The Secretary of War announced the 1938 trophy would be awarded to the 2 BG for a 10,000-mile flight from Miami to Buenos Aires, Argentina, and return to Langley Field. The group used new Y1B-17 prototypes (Y1 was the service test code) for the trip. (24)
- 1941: First flight of the GB-1 guided glide bomb containing preset guidance. (24)
- 1945: Bell Aircraft Corporation successfully tested a jet-propelled P-59 by remote control using a television to read the instruments. (24)
- 1954: The USAF announced plans to build a \$15.5 million atomic aircraft engine research facility, under Pratt & Whitney management, in Connecticut. (20)
- 1957: President Eisenhower announced that the US had solved the missile reentry problem and showed the TV audience a nose cone recovered from a Jupiter missile fired in August at Cape Canaveral. (24)
- 1959: The Discoverer VII satellite launched from the Pacific Missile Range into a polar orbit with an expected life span of two weeks. An electrical systems failure prevented release of its reentry capsule. (24)
- 1961: The USAF completed the overseas deployment of the largest group of tactical fighters since World War II with the landing in Europe of over 200 aircraft flown by ANG pilots mobilized under legislation of 1 August 1961. (24)
- 1967: The last Atlas D in the Air Force inventory launched from Vandenberg AFB. (6)
- 1969: James R. Bede set a light plane distance record on a closed-circuit course, flying 14,441.26 kilometers (8,974 miles) in a BD-2.
- 1975: Boeing delivered the first ALCM flight test missile to the USAF during a roll-out ceremony. (6)
- 2000: The X-35A completed its first aerial refueling. In an earlier test flight at 23,000 feet, the X-35 verified its compatibility with a KC-135's flow-field wake and refueling boom. (3)

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2003: Through 11 November, four KC-135s from the 92 AREFW at Fairchild AFB and one KC-135 from the 22 AREFW at McConnell AFB flew the India Company, 3d Marine Battalion, from Camp Lejeune, N. C. to Djibouti to join the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa in the fight against trans-national terrorists. The Marines provided security at Djibouti IAP. The five KC-135s airlifted 169 Marines and 9 short tons of cargo. (22)

After a 21-hour transatlantic flight, Global Hawk (AV-1) landed at the AFFTC at Edwards AFB to end a three-week deployment to Nordholz, Germany, where it flew six sorties to check out a German ground station and a new German/Northrop Grumman electronic intelligence sensor. (3)

2007: **Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.** The MQ-9A Reaper demonstrated its unique precision strike capability by dropping its first precision-guided bomb. While operating over the Sangin region of Afghanistan, the Reaper received a request to attack enemy combatants fighting with friendly forces. The pilot and sensor operator back at Creech AFB, Nev., released two GBU-12 500-pound laser-guided bombs and successfully eliminated the enemy fighters. (AFNEWS, "Reaper Drops First Precision Guided Bomb, Protects Forces," 8 Nov 2007.)

### 8 November

1934: Capt Edward V. Rickenbacker, Capt Charles W. France, and Silas Morehouse flew from Los Angeles to Newark in 12 hours 3 minutes 50 seconds. In doing so, they set a new record for passenger transport. (9)

1942: **MEDAL OF HONOR.** Through 11 November, Army and carrier-based airplanes supported the invasion of North Africa, and American troops landed on French-held territory. Colonel Demas T. Craw of XII Tactical Air Command volunteered to negotiate an armistice between the US and French. On the way to the negotiations, he was killed by machine gun fire. Maj Pierpont M. Hamilton, who accompanied Colonel Craw, was captured but completed the mission. For their actions, both men were awarded the Medal of Honor. (4)

**OPERATION TORCH.** The invasion of North Africa began with amphibious landings in Morocco and Algeria. Twelfth Air Force used C-47s from the 60 TCG to carry troops and Spitfire fighters from the 31 FG to support the operation. (21)

1950: **KOREAN WAR.** The first jet versus jet aerial combat in history took place between a USAF F-80C Shooting Star and MiG-15. Lt Russell J. Brown from the 16 FS shot down the MiG near the Yalu River in N. Korea. [This claim is now under dispute. After the fall of the Soviet Union, historians received access to Soviet Korean War Records. Research says the Soviet MiG survived the encounter. See 9 November 1950 for more details.] (21)

70 B-29 Superfortresses dropped 580 tons of firebombs on Sinuiju in the largest incendiary raid in the Korean War. (21) (28)

The USAF directed the 27 FEW to deploy to the Far East. In the next few weeks, Navy aircraft carriers moved its 75 F-84E Thunderjets from NAS San Diego to Yokasuka, Japan. From there, Col Ashley B. Packard, the 27 FEW commander, moved to Taegu airfield, where his fighters performed reconnaissance and close support missions. (1)

1951: **KOREAN WAR.** F-86s and F-80s encountered over 100 MiG-15s, but only a small number chose to fight. USAF pilots destroyed one MiG and damaged another, while losing one F-86. (28)

1955: SECDEF Charles E. Wilson set up the Ballistic Missile Committee to review all ballistic missile

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requirements. He assigned the Thor IRBM to the USAF and approved a joint Army-Navy program for the Jupiter IRBM for shipboard and land-based operations. The Army developed the Jupiter at the Redstone Arsenal for adaptation to a fleet ballistic missile. Thus, ballistic missiles became the most highly centralized weapon system project in the Air Force. (6) (12)

- 1956: **HARMON TROPHY.** Cmdr M. L. Lewis (USN) and Malcolm D. Ross established a world altitude record for manned balloons by ascending to 76,000 feet. They took off near Rapid City, S. Dak., and landed 175 miles away near Kennedy, Nebr. For this feat, they were awarded the 1957 Harmon Trophy for aeronauts. (24)
- 1963: SECDEF McNamara approved the Minuteman Force Modernization Program to replace all Minuteman I (A and B Models) with Minuteman II missiles. (6)
- 1968: TAC received the first AC-119K, the latest in a series of multi-weapon attack aircraft. (16)
- 1972: SECAF Dr. Robert C. Seamans, Jr., announced the designation of two new lightweight, fighter prototype aircraft, the YF-16 and YF-17.
- 1989: Col John Small and Northrop test pilot Bruce Hinds flew the B-2A Stealth bomber on its first aerial refueling sortie during a 6 hour 5 minute test flight from Edwards AFB. KC-10s from March AFB provided the fuel. (8: Jan 90)
- A 96th BMW aircrew flew the B-1B on its first low-level night sortie while relying on fully automatic terrain-following equipment. The crew flew the bomber over flat terrain. A second sortie on 14 November took place over varied terrain. (8: Feb 90)
- 1996: At Cannon AFB, Capt Michael Hake, an Electronic Warfare Officer (EWO) instructor with the 429<sup>th</sup> Electronic Combat Squadron, became the first EWO in the Air Force to pass the 2,000-hour mark in the EF-111A Raven. (AFNEWS, 11 Dec 96)
- 2000: Boeing's first X-45A (No. 1) Unmanned Combat Air Vehicle (UCAV), called "Blue," arrived at Edwards AFB aboard a C-17 transport, where the Dryden Flight Research Center would test the X-45 for the SEAD (Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses) mission. The X-45 was a joint Air Force/DARPA/Boeing project. (3)

### 9 November

- 1918: The 155th Night BMS became the last American unit assigned to the armies before the end of World War I. (24)
- 1930: Capt Roy W. Ammel of Chicago, flying a Lockheed Sirius, the "Blue Flash," powered by a Pratt & Whitney Wasp radial engine, began the first solo nonstop flight from New York to the Panama Canal Zone. On the flight, Ammel flew 2,700 miles in 24 hours 35 minutes. (21)
- 1935: The US Navy flew the first mass seaplane flight from Honolulu to French Frigate Shoal, flying 759 miles nonstop in 6 hours 10 minutes. (24)
- 1944: **MEDAL OF HONOR.** 1Lt Donald J. Gott and 2Lt William E. Metzger's B-17 received several bad flak hits while flying in a group formation. With only one engine operable, the pilots jettisoned the bombs and made for Allied territory. The rest of the crew parachuted, leaving the pilots and the radio operator, who was too injured to jump, to try a crash landing. As Gott banked into a final landing approach at about 100 feet, the fire from three engines reached the fuel tank and the bomber exploded and crashed, killing all three occupants. Gott and Metzger received Medals of Honor for their action. (4)

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- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** In the Navy's first encounter with MiGs in the Korean War, Lt Cmdr W. T. Amen became the first Navy pilot in history to shoot down a jet aircraft. [After the breakup of the Soviet Union, historians found evidence that this event may also be the first jet-to-jet aerial victory. See 8 November 1950.] (16) (24)
- A 91 SRS gunner, Sgt Harry J. Levene, scored the first B-29 jet victory in the war by destroying an attacking MiG-15. The RB-29 limped back to Japan, where five crewmen died in the crash landing. (28)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** A C-47 landed on the beach of Paengnyong-do Island off the southwest coast of North Korea and rescued 11 crewmen of a downed B-29. The 19 BG attacked marshalling yards at Hwang-ju, Kowon, and Yangdok; the Saamcham Airfield; and a barracks area. In other night attacks, 98 BW B-29s bombed Taechon Airfield, flew five close support sorties and a leaflet sortie, and struck Hungnam. (28)
- 1956: **SUEZ CRISIS:** Through December, C-121s, C-124s, and other aircraft moved over 1,500 members of the UN peacekeeping force and some 170 tons of cargo to the Middle East. (18)
- 1959: The USAF awarded Dyna Soar development contracts to Boeing and Martin. (12)
- 1960: The US Post Office demonstrated a new use for the ECHO I satellite. It sent a "speed mail" letter from Washington DC to Newark by bouncing a microwave beam off the satellite. (24)
- 1961: Maj Robert M. White attained 4,093 MPH (Mach 6.04) in the X-15A-2 while flying at full throttle at 101,600 feet in altitude above Edwards AFB. (3) (9)
- 1962: At NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, in the first full-duration, full-thrust, static firing test of a Saturn C-1 stage I, the booster produced 1.5 million pounds of thrust. (24)
- 1964: Vandenberg AFB launched the last Minuteman I (Model A) operational test missile. (6)
- 1966: A F-111A fighter-bomber achieved a first for American aircraft by flying faster than the speed of sound for 15 minutes at a constant ground clearance of less than 1,000 feet. (16)
- 1967: Saturn V completed its first test by launching Apollo IV. The 36-story high rocket performed without a flaw.
- MEDAL OF HONOR.** An ARRS member, Capt Gerald O. Young, earned the Medal of Honor as an HH-3 pilot in a combat rescue mission near Khe Sanh, Vietnam. Despite intense ground fire that damaged one HH-3, Captain Young and his crew (Capt Ralph Bower, SSgt Eugene L Clay, and Sgt Larry W. Maysey) tried to rescue the remaining reconnaissance team. Wounded with second and third degree burns over one-fourth of his body, Young prevented the capture of the survivors. Some 17 hours after the crash and six miles from the crash site, Young finally escaped the North Vietnamese and signaled for a pick up. Clay and Maysey received an Air Force Cross posthumously, while Young received the Medal of Honor. (18) (21)
- MEDAL OF HONOR.** Ejecting from his F-4C Phantom over North Vietnam, Capt Lance P. Sijan successfully evaded capture for more than six weeks. Enemy forces captured him, but the severely weakened and injured Sijan managed to escape. After his recapture and torture, he contracted pneumonia and died. He received the Medal of Honor posthumously. (21)
- 1988: A 709 MAS C-5 flew a mobile dental clinic and two ambulances to Niamey, Niger, on a humanitarian mission. (26)
- 1989: Over Edwards AFB, the NB-52D carried Pegasus, an air-launched space booster, on its first captive-carry flight. The flight examined the vehicle's guidance, navigation, control, and tele-

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metry systems. (8: Jan 90)

- 2006: SECEP Michael W. Wynne announced the selection of Boeing to provide 141 HH-47 helicopters as the new Combat Search and Rescue Replacement Vehicle (CSAR-X). The Air Force planned to replace HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters with the HH-47s. (Pentagon Press Release, "Air Force Selects Developer for Combat Search and Rescue Replacement Vehicle," 9 Nov 2006)

The Air Force activated the first MQ-9 Reaper unit, the 42d Attack Squadron, at Creech AFB. The single-engine, propeller-driven Reaper (formerly the Predator B) could carry 3,000 pounds of bombs and missiles, while remaining airborne for 24 hours. The smaller MQ-1 Predator carried 500 pounds of weaponry. (USAF Aimponts, "First Reaper Squadron Stands Up," 9 Nov 2006)

### 10 November

- 1918: The 3d Pursuit Group flew the last combat patrol of the US Air Service in World War I. (4)
- Dr. Robert H. Goddard demonstrated rocket devices to members of the Signal Corps, Air Service, Army Ordnance, and others at the Aberdeen Proving Ground. His devices included an intermittent-firing, long-range rocket, and a bazooka-type rocket. (24)
- 1925: Maj Thomas G. Lanphier, Air Service, flew 550 miles from Selfridge Field to New York in 3 hours 20 minutes. (24)
- 1942: Through 13 November, the 33 FG flew 100 P-40s from the carriers USS Chenango and HMS Archer to land at Port Lyautey airfield, Morocco. (21)
- 1944: Thirty-six B-25s from Fifth Air Force attacked a Japanese convoy near Ormoc Bay, Leyte, and sank three ships. (24)
- 1948: The School of Aviation Medicine held the first symposium on space medicine. (16)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** MiG-15s shot down their first B-29 near the Yalu River. The 307 BG crew parachuted behind enemy lines to become POWs. About 36 hours after arriving in Japan, the 437 TCW began airlifting cargo on C-46s to Korea. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** The 315th Air Division air evacuated the 250,000th patient from Korea to Japan. (28)
- At Santa Susana, the Navaho's complete liquid-rocket engine assembly fired for the first time. (16) (24)
- 1954: The Rocket Engine Test Laboratory at Edwards AFB hot fired an Atlas single stage test vehicle for the first time. (3)
- 1960: The SECDEF put the Navy Space Surveillance System and the USAF Space Track System under control of the North American ADC for military functions.
- 1965: SAC took its last KC-97 from ground alert with the 9th AREFS at Mountain Home AFB. (1)
- 1972: Boeing and McDonnell Douglas received contracts to build prototype, advanced medium STOL transports, the YC-14 and YC-15.
- 1981: Through 12 November, Ben Abruzzo, Larry Newman, Ron Clark, and Rocky Aoki of Japan,



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flew the Double Eagle V balloon on the first manned Pacific crossing. They flew 5,768 miles from Nagashima, Japan to the Mendicino National Forest near Covelo, Calif., in 85 hours. (<http://www.todayinsci.com>)

- 1988: The Pentagon announced the existence of the Lockheed F-117A Stealth Fighter. (20)
- KC-135R tanker crews belonging to the 19 AREFW from Robins AFB, the 340 AREFW from Altus AFB, the 319 BW from Grand Forks, and 384 BW from McConnell AFB set 16 time-to-climb records in flights from Robins. (20)
- 1998: AeroVironment's *Centurion* solar-powered technology demonstrator UAV made its first flight, a low altitude check flight under battery power, above Edwards AFB. Part of NASA Dryden's ERAST program, the UAV had solar power arrays across its 206 feet wingspan. The program tried to develop an aircraft to perform long duration environmental and telecommunications missions at altitudes up to 100,000 feet. (3)
- A B-52H carried a CALCM on its first captive-carry sortie test above Edwards AFB in an effort to expand the B-52's capabilities. (3)
- 2001: **Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.** Global Hawk AV- 5 (Aerial Vehicle) deployed from Edwards AFB to Southwest Asia to support this operation. The deployment included 85 military and contractor personnel, and 140 tons of equipment. Global Hawk AV-3 deployed to the theater of war in late November. (3)

### 11 November

- 1918: Armistice ending World War I declared. During the conflict, the Army Air Service dropped 138 tons of bombs and had verified credits for 765 aircraft and 76 balloons. Marine Corps aviation also grew to 36 aircraft by this time. (10) (12)
- 1935: Cpts Albert W. Stevens and Orville A. Anderson flew a 3.7-million-cubic-foot helium balloon, Explorer II, from Rapid City to a record of 72,395 feet, where they gathered scientific data on the upper atmosphere. They also earned the National Geographic Society's Hubbard Gold Medal. (9) (24)
- 1943: The Fifth and Thirteenth Air Forces made their first joint attack on Rabaul along with Navy carrier planes. (24)
- 1956: Convair's B-58 Hustler, the first supersonic bomber and delta-winged aircraft capable of 1,000 MPH speeds, completed its first flight at Fort Worth. (3) (12)
- 1957: **Operation LONG LEGS.** For Argentina's Aeronautics Week, Gen Curtis E. LeMay, the Vice Chief of Staff (VCSAF), flew a KC-135 6,350 miles from Westover AFB to Buenos Aires in 13 hours 3 minutes to set a FAI record for nonstop, unrefueled jet flight. In a 13 November return flight, he averaged 471.451 MPH to set a record of 11 hours 3 minutes 58 seconds for the 6,322 miles between Buenos Aires and Washington DC. (See 17 November 1957) (1) (9)
- 1966: Gemini XII (the last Gemini mission): Cmdr James A. Lovell (USN) and Maj Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., completed 94 hours 34 minutes in space. This made Lovell the individual with the most spacetime: 425 hours and 11 minutes. (12)
- Through 12 November, MAC aircraft moved nearly 205 tons of emergency supplies and 93 Dutch Army troops from Ypenberg, Netherlands, to Pisa, Italy to provide flood relief. (18)
- 1982: Vance Brand, Robert Overmyer, Joe Allen, and William Lenoir launched in the Space Shuttle

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Columbia. This was the first time four astronauts were aloft at the same time.

- 1989: The Navy commissioned the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln in ceremonies at Norfolk, Va. It was the fifth Nimitz-class carrier and will be based in San Francisco. (8: Feb 90)
- 1996: Two 509 BW pilots, Captains Scott Vander Hamm and Scott Hughes, flew the second B-2A long-endurance simulator flight. The test at Whiteman AFB, which lasted 38 hours, broke the previous 34-hour record of 7 October 1996. (AFNEWS Article 970175, 18 Feb 97)
- 2004: AFFTC's *Speckled Trout* C-135C interrupted its mission to bring an Airman on emergency leave back to the US. At the time, the aircraft was at Incirlik AB to carry SECAF Dr. James Roche and CSAF Gen John Jumper back to the US from Iraq. (3)

### 12 November

- 1909: Wanamaker's Department Store in Philadelphia advertised "Flying Machines for Sale." The ad offered a Bleriot plane, a duplicate of the one that flew the English Channel, for \$5,000 in connection with an exhibit of the Bleriot. (24)
- 1912: Lt Theodore G. Ellyson made the second and successful catapult launching in a Curtiss seaplane from a float at the Washington Navy Yard. (21)
- 1921: **FIRST AIR-TO-AIR REFUELING.** Wesley May, with a 5-gallon can of gasoline strapped to his back, stepped from the wing of a Lincoln Standard to the wing skid of a JN-4 and climbed to the engine to pour gas into the tank. Frank Hawks flew the Lincoln and Earl S. Daugherty the JN-4. (18) (24)
- 1941: First launching of an experimental GB-8 Glide Bomb with radio controls. (24)
- 1942: Under the leadership of Lt Gen Lewis H. Brereton, Ninth Air Force started combat operations in Egypt to support British efforts in North Africa. (21) (24)
- 1944: The largest air and ground cooperative effort to date occurred as over 4,000 Allied planes dropped more than 10,000 tons of bombs on enemy targets.
- 1950: Pan American World Airways finished a global radiotelephone communications system. The system had 19,687 miles of voice radio link and 32 high frequency radio ground stations on 16 islands and continents. (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Through 13 November, six B-29s from the 98<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing knocked four spans out of Pyongyang's restored railway bridges. (28)
- 1956: A USMC twin-engine Sikorsky S-56 helicopter set a 162.7 MPH speed record at Stratford. (24)
- 1960: To launch the Discoverer XVII into polar orbit from Vandenberg AFB, the USAF used a restartable Agena B in combination with a Thor rocket. This marked the first successful flight of a restartable rocket. (24)
- 1965: Last QF-80 drone in the USAF shot down at Holloman AFB.
- The USAF picked eight aerospace research pilots for assignment to the Manned Orbiting Laboratory Program. (16)
- 1970: At Edwards AFB, a Boeing 747-B set a world record with a gross takeoff weight of 820,700 pounds to better the C-5A's 14 October 1969 unofficial record of 798,000 pounds. (3)

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- 1980: **Exercise BRIGHT STAR.** Through 25 November, elements of the new Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force participated in its first joint overseas exercise. Eight A-7s from the 150 TFG at Kirtland AFB deployed to Cairo West, Egypt. (4) (26)
- For the first time, USAFE tasked an entire wing, the 50 TFW at Hahn AB, Germany, to exercise its full wartime mission in a chemical environment for a sustained period. (26)
- 1997: The Boeing Phantom Works (formerly McDonnell-Douglas in St. Louis) X-36 Tailless Fighter Agility Research Aircraft successfully completed its flight research program for NASA at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1998: **Operation PHOENIX SCORPION III.** After Saddam Hussein expelled UN weapons inspectors from Iraq, the DoD ordered more US forces to Southwest Asia using AMC airlifters through 15 November. The Clinton administration accepted Iraq's peace overtures on 14 November to end the deployment. During the four-day effort, AMC completed 257 airlift and tanker missions to move more than 3,000 passengers and 2,700 short tons of cargo. Tankers refueled 90 aircraft, offloading 9.3 million pounds of fuel. (22)

### 13 November

- 1908: Wilbur Wright set an FAI altitude record of 82 feet in a Wright Biplane at Auvours, France. (9)
- 1943: Allied planes carried out the heaviest raid against New Guinea when 57 B-24s and 62 B-25s bombed Alexishafen and Madang airdromes. (21)
- 1946: Vincent Joseph Schaefer, General Electric Corp., produced the first artificial snow from a natural cloud. He dropped dry-ice pellets from a plane into a cloud over Greylock Mountain, Mass. (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Through 14 November, five B-29s from the 307th Bombardment Wing in an experimental attack used incendiary clusters against the Sopo supply area but obtained poor results. (28)
- The US Atomic Energy Commission exploded the first hydrogen bomb in the Pacific. (4)
- 1961: At Malmstrom AFB, a Site Activation Task Force accepted the first Minuteman I (Model A) operational silo. (6)
- 1964: The solid propellant rocket for Titan II Space Booster's first stage fired at the United Technology Center in Sunnyvale, Calif. It had more than a million pounds of thrust.
- 1968: NASA test pilot John A. Manke flew the HL-10 Lifting Body on its first powered flight at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1971: Mariner IX, launched on 30 May 1971, went into an elliptical orbit around Mars, and its first photographs were broadcast live by national television.
- 1989: The Navy's fourth test of the McDonnell-Douglas AGM-84E Standoff Land-Attack Missile (SLAM)--a variation of the Harpoon antiship missile--was successful. In this test, an A-6 crew launched the missile, but an A-7 pilot guided it to the target. (8: Feb 90)

### 14 November

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- 1910: Eugene Ely, a Curtiss test pilot, made the first takeoff from a navy vessel. He took off from a platform built on the deck of the USS Birmingham, while anchored off Hampton Roads, and flew to Willoughby Spit on the opposite shore. The plane dropped and touched the water before Ely regained control. (10) (24)
- 1932: Roscoe Turner used a Wedell-Williams plane to set a cross-country, East-West record from Floyd Bennett Field to Burbank in 12 hours 33 minutes. He stopped twice enroute. (9)
- 1938: In a meeting with his military leaders, President Roosevelt called for an Air Corps with 20,000 airplanes. (21)
- 1941: ACFC's military air transport service linked Washington DC with Cairo, Egypt, when Col Caleb V. Haynes and Maj Curtis E. LeMay flew Maj Gen George H. Brett, Chief of the Air Corps, in a B-24 on the first 26,000-mile round trip to Basra, Iraq. (2)
- 1943: Ninety B-25s from Twelfth Air Force carried out the first US AAF raid on Bulgaria. The aircraft dropped 135 tons of bombs on Sofia. (24)
- 1946: Majs D. H. Jensen and W. C. Dodds in a Sikorsky R-5A helicopter set FAI duration, distance, and speed records of 9 hours 57 minutes over 621.369 miles at 66.642 MPH without a payload.
- 1949: The USAF made its first quantity procurement of production Boeing B-47s. (12)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** 15 MiG-15s attacked and damaged two of 18 B-29s bombing the bridges at Sinuiju. (28)
- 1955: SECAF Donald A. Quarles established the Air Force Ballistic Missile Committee as the major decision-making body for the Air Force ballistic missile program. (6)
- 1966: The first jet landing on Antarctica took place as a MAC C-141 successfully completed a 2,140-mile flight from Christchurch, New Zealand, to McMurdo Station, with Capt Howard Geddes from the 86 MAS at Travis AFB at the controls. (5) (16)
- 1969: **APOLLO XII:** The second manned lunar landing mission, started when Charles (Pete) Conrad, Jr., Richard F. Gordon, Jr., and Alan L. Bean, launched from Kennedy Space Center on a Saturn V. Bean and Conrad flew their lunar landing module on 19 November to the surface and landed at the Ocean of Storms about 600 feet from Surveyor III. They lifted off on 20 November after both men walked on the moon. The Apollo landed in mid-pacific on 24 November. The 244-hour, 36-minute trip set a duration record. (9) (26)
- 1973: The US ended its airlift support to Israel. In the 32-day operation during the Yom Kippur War, MAC airlifted 22,318 tons of supplies.
- 1974: McDonnell-Douglas delivered the first F-15 to TAC. President Gerald R. Ford accepted it at Luke AFB for the 58th Tactical Fighter Training Wing (TFTW). (12)
- 1981: After its second mission, Astronauts Joe Engle and Richard Truly landed the Space Shuttle Columbia at Edwards AFB. (3)
- Exercise BRIGHT STAR.** MAC conducted the longest nonstop parachute assault mission ever. Using 24 aircraft, MAC airdropped 858 Egyptian and American troops and 172 tons of cargo in the desert southwest of Cairo. After a 13-hour flight for the aircraft, the drop took place within six seconds of the scheduled time. (2)
- 1982: Through 19 November, the 527 TFTS Aggressor Squadron deployed three of its F-5 Tigers to Eskisehir AB, Turkey, for the first dissimilar air combat tactics training with Turkey's Air

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Force. (16) (26)

- 1989: McDonnell-Douglas delivered the first F/A-18D Hornet, a two-seat operational trainer, to the Navy at the Naval Air Test Station, NAS Patuxent River. (8: Feb 90)
- 1991: A C-5 from the 436 MAW carried 50 tons of medical and relief supplies to Freetown, Sierra Leone. (16)
- 1997: On the east side of Rogers Dry Lake at Edwards AFB, construction began on a launch pad for the Lockheed Martin X-33 VentureStar subscale technology demonstrator. The facility would raise the X-33 to a vertical position for launch; after which, it would reach 60 miles in altitude and Mach 13 in speed by using liquid hydrogen and oxygen powered engines. (3)

### 15 November

- 1921: Capt Dale Mabry commanded the flight of the largest semirigid airship in existence to date, the airship Roma, during its initial flight at Langley Field. (24)
- 1939: The first night nonstop airmail pickups in history were made on the Pittsburg-Philadelphia route.
- 1940: The US Navy began air operations from Bermuda as an outgrowth of an earlier destroyer-bases deal between the US and Britain (See 2 September). (24)
- 1942: Lts Harold Comstock and Roger Dyar set a new speed record for planes when their P-47s power-dived at 725 MPH from 35,000 feet over an east coast base. (24)
- First women entered US AAF flight training. The Army designated the Women's Flying Training Detachment at the Houston Municipal Airport as the 319<sup>th</sup> Army Air Force Flying Training Detachment.
- 1946: **OPERATIONS MOUNTAIN GOAT AND ALISO CANYON.** TAC used P-80 jets for the first time to provide close air support to ground forces in joint Army-Navy-Air Force exercises at Camp Pendleton, Calif. Six tactical groups flew 3,337 sorties, while troop carrier groups moved 1,052 people and 245,370 pounds of cargo to and from the maneuver area. (24)
- 1949: The Ryan Aeronautical Company released data on the first air-to-air missile, the XAAM-A-1 Firebird, a 10-foot, rocket-powered projectile. (24)
- 1955: **Exercise SAGEBRUSH.** The largest joint exercise since World War II to date, started to test USAF and Army capabilities to perform combat missions. (16) (24)
- 1960: The first submarine equipped with Polaris missiles, the USS George Washington, left Charleston for stations within some 1,200 miles of Soviet targets. It carried 16 missiles. (24)
- NASA pilot Scott Crossfield flew the North American X-15 research aircraft with the XLR-99 "Big Engine" for the first time at Edwards AFB. He reached Mach 2.51 and an altitude of 81,200 feet at a 50 percent power setting. (24)
- 1961: The USAF activated 2d Advanced Echelon, Thirteenth Air Force, in Saigon, Vietnam. This event signaled the official entry of the USAF into the Vietnam War. (21)
- 1965: Through 17 November, Jack L. Martin and four others flew a Boeing 707/320C around the world from Honolulu, Hawaii. They returned in 62 hours 27 minutes and average 420.75 MPH for the flight. (9)

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- 1966: The USAF selected Hughes Aircraft Company and North American Aviation Corporation to start contract definition phase of the Maverick (AGM-65A) air-to-surface missile program. (12)
- 1967: Maj Michael J. Adams died in an X-15 crash. He was the first fatality in the program since its inception in 1959. (16) (26)
- 1968: **COMMANDO HUNT.** The USAF launched Commando Hunt, an extensive interdiction campaign in Laos, to partially offset the bombing halt imposed on the 1 November. Concentrated in the “Barrel Roll” and “Steel Tiger” areas, Commando Hunt drastically increased the sorties flown in Southeast Asia from 4,764 tactical and 273 B-52 sorties in October to 12,821 tactical and 661 B-52 sorties in November. (17)
- 1973: Arab nations friendly to Egypt cut off the supply of oil to the nations supporting Israel in the October War. The action significantly affected PACAF, which received almost 90 percent of its fuel from the Mideast. PACAF imposed restrictions on JP-4 fueled aircraft and ceased all sorties except combat missions, Medevacs, and other essential missions. (17)
- 1974: Vandenberg AFB launched a Delta rocket with three satellites on board: a US weather satellite, the amateur radio operator's satellite OSCAR 7, and Spain's first satellite, INTASAT 1. (7)
- 1976: First high-speed anti-radiation missile successfully fired from a manned aircraft. (12)
- 1985: Through 18 November, MAC C-130s airlifted 50 tons of relief supplies and 32 tons of fuel for US Army search and rescue helicopters to Colombia after a volcano erupted there. (16) (18)
- 2000: At Edwards AFB, the X-32A began field carrier landing practice to demonstrate its flying and handling qualities for low-speed aircraft carrier approaches. Cmdr Philip “Rowdy” Yates, the lead test pilot for the Boeing JSF program, flew the first approaches to a simulated aircraft carrier deck outlined on a runway and equipped with a shipboard-type Fresnel lens. (3)
- 2002: An AFFTC team flew a NKC-135E Stratotanker, with NASA researchers, and 42 astrobiologists from seven countries on board, from Edwards AFB to Spain to collect data on the Leonid meteor shower. The NKC-135E had special instrumentation and 11 quartz-crystal windows to facilitate the observations. NASA’s DC-8 Airborne Laboratory aircraft also flew missions with the NKC-135E. (3)
- Dana Purifoy flew NASA Dryden Flight Research Center’s Active Aeroelastic Wing F/A-18 made its first checkout flight at Edwards AFB. The Navy fighter had lightweight flexible wings to study improved aircraft roll control by means of aerodynamically induced wing twist. In other words, the F/A-18 used a high-tech version of the Wright Brothers’ wing-warping principle. NASA, the Air Force Research Laboratory at Edwards, and Boeing sponsored Aeroelastic Wing program. (3)

### 16 November

- 1913: John Domenjoz, a Swiss aviator, looped his Bleriot over the Battery and Statue of Liberty in what was presumed to be the first loop. Lt Petr Nikolaevich Nesteov of the Imperial Russian Army claimed an earlier first loop in his 27 August 1913 flight over Kiev in a Nieuport Type IV. (8) (24)
- 1927: The Navy commissioned its second aircraft carrier, the USS Saratoga. The US destroyed it in a 1946 atomic bomb test. (20)
- 1944: In the largest air and ground cooperation to date, over 4,000 allied planes, with 750 fighter es-

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corts, dropped over 10,000 tons of bombs in front of the 1st and 9th Armies to prepare for a ground attack. (4) (24)

- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force fighter-bombers made over one-hundred rail cuts between Sinanju and Sukchon and between Kunu-ri and Sunchon. They also damaged bridges, knocked out gun positions, destroyed supply buildings, fired fuel dumps, and took a toll of enemy rail cars. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** USMC aircraft attached to Fifth Air Force attacked hydroelectric facilities at Kongosan. (28)
- 1956: The 98 AREFS at Lincoln AFB, Nebr., received the last production KC-97, a G-model (number 53-3816). (1)
- SECDEF Charles E. Wilson transferred the northern part of Camp Cooke, Calif., from the Army to the USAF to set up a training site for Thor, Atlas, and Titan missiles. (6)
- 1959: At the White Sands Missile Range, Capt Joseph W. Kittinger, Jr., set three unofficial records by taking an open-gondola balloon to 76,400 feet. From there, he parachuted back to earth. This jump included a 64,000-foot free fall, the longest to date, that lasted 2 minutes 58 seconds. (9)
- 1966: Maj William J. Knight set an unofficial X-15 speed record of 4,159 MPH at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1973: **FIRST SKYLAB MISSION:** In Skylab 4, the astronauts set a 7-hour, 1-minute space walk record in a 2,017-hour mission. They returned on 8 February 1974 after 34,523,000 miles and 84 days 1 hour 15 minutes 32 seconds in space.
- 1982: The Space Shuttle Columbia ended its first operational mission (fifth overall) by landing at Edwards AFB. It was the first craft to take more than three people into space. (3)
- 1987: **Operation BUSY TIGER.** MAC participated in the initial test to check KC-135 capabilities for short-notice deployments. Aircraft, personnel, and equipment from Grissom AFB and Beale AFB were used in the test. (16) (18)
- 1988: Through 30 November, MAC aircraft flew 442 tons of insecticide and supplies to Dakar, Senegal, to battle a destructive influx of locusts. (26)
- 2004: In its final flight, NASA's B-52 #008 launch vehicle, the oldest plane in the USAF inventory, carried the X-43A mounted on a Pegasus booster into the air. The X-43A then broke its 4,780 MPH record of 27 March 2004. After separating from a Pegasus booster rocket at 110,000 feet, the scramjet engine accelerated the X-43 to 7,000 mph (Mach 9.8). With this flight, the Dryden Flight Research Center validated the operation of the supersonic-combustion ramjet, powered by liquid hydrogen and atmospheric oxygen. The Guinness Book of World Records added the X-43's flight as a new world speed record for jet powered aircraft. (3)
- 2006: The Air Force Special Operations Command received its first CV-22 Osprey at Hurlburt Field. United States Special Operations Command commander, Gen Doug Brown, flew the Osprey to the arrival ceremony at Hurlburt. (USAF Aimpoints, "Hurlburt Gets First Osprey," 17 Nov 2006)

**DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.** An F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot, Capt David Anderson from the 35th Fighter Squadron at Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea, received the award for his actions in Operation Iraqi Freedom. While assigned to the 524th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron at Balad Air Base in Iraq, Captain Anderson and Capt Nick Sweeney flew a routine combat mission to Kirkuk. During their 16 November mission, they engaged enemy forces in contact with a US platoon near Baghdad. A joint terminal attack controller on the ground tasked the

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fighters to search for a vehicle near the platoon's position. When an enemy attack pinned down the ground troops, the controller immediately directed the F-16 pilots to the location. After a third low pass, Captain Sweeney had to disengage to get fuel. As the enemy fire intensified, the controller then ordered a strafe pass with the F-16's 20mm cannon. As Anderson executed a fourth low pass of the target area he identified his target and opened fire. In three successive strafe passes, he fired all 510 rounds to silence the enemy position. His attack killed enemy fighters, including one insurgent who was setting up a 60 mm mortar. (AFNEWS, "Kunsan Pilot Receives Distinguished Flying Cross," 12 September 2007)

### 17 November

- 1934: Capt Fred C. Nelson, Air Corps, won the Mitchell Trophy Race with an average speed of 216.832 MPH at Selfridge Field. (24)
- 1941: The USS Archer was the first escort carrier transferred from the US to the UK in World War II. (24)
- 1944: Land-based US fighters flew over Manila, Bataan, and Corregidor for the first time since early 1942. (24)
- 1948: Boeing received a contract to build two prototype B-52 bombers. (12)
- 1949: **TYPHOON ALLYN.** Typhoon winds of 110 knots caused considerable damage at Harmon Field, Guam, particularly to the larger hangars, warehouses, and the airfreight terminal. There was also widespread damage to the power and telephone cable system. (17)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** USAF fighter-bombers attacked hydroelectric facilities at Kongosan. Additionally, Col Royal N. Baker, Commander of the 4th Fighter-Interceptor Group, flying in MiG Alley with the 335<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, scored his fifth MiG kill to become an ace. (28)
- 1954: Through 19 November, a B-47 Stratojet broke all jet endurance records by flying nonstop between England and North Africa for 47 hours 35 minutes, or 21,163 miles. In the flight, Col David A. Burchinal, 43 BMW Commander, left Sidi Slimane, French Morocco, for RAF Fairford, but bad weather prevented his landing. He returned to Sidi Slimane, where bad weather again forced a return to RAF Fairford. Nine inflight refuelings made the flight possible. (1) (24)
- 1957: **OPERATION LONG LEGS.** On 16-17 November, Brig Gen William K. Martin led six B-52s on a 10,425-mile nonstop flight from Homestead AFB to Argentina and back to Plattsburg AFB in Phase II of this operation. (1) (24)
- 1961: The USAF launched the first Minuteman missile from an underground silo at Cape Canaveral on a 3,000-mile flight down the Atlantic Missile Range. (6)
- SECDEF Robert S. McNamara approved USAF plans to name SAC as the single manager for KC-135 air refueling operations. (18)
- 1964: **MACKAY TROPHY/Dragon Rouge Rescue Mission.** C-130s from the 464 TCW on rotation to France flew the famous Dragon Rouge rescue mission to free hostages in the Congo. In that mission, the C-130 crews airlifted Belgian paratroopers to Africa from Belgium, then airdropped and airdropped them on the Sabenas Airport at Stanleyville on 24 November 1964. Two days later, on Thanksgiving Day, the Dragon Noir operation freed hostages held in the town of Paulis. For their part in the mission, the Pope crews received the Mackay Trophy for the most meritorious flight of the year by USAF aircraft. (18) (21)



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- 1967: **Operation EAGLE THRUST.** Through 29 December, MAC used 413 C-141 and C-130 sorties to complete the longest distance airlift of combat troops from the US to a war zone to date. The planes moved 10,356 men of the 101st Airborne Division and nearly 5,118 tons of equipment, including 32 helicopters, between Fort Campbell and Bien Hoa, Vietnam. (2)
- 1968: The USAF deployed its new F-4E with an internal gun to SEA. The 40 TFS sent 20 F-4Es to Korat RTAFB, where the squadron became the 469 TFS. The 40 TFS designator returned to the US. (17)
- 1970: A Lockheed L-1011 trijet flew 297 MPH at 20,000 feet during its 2-hour, 25-minute first flight at Palmdale.
- 1999: A KC-10 from the 60 AMW at Travis AFB refueled a F-22 Raptor for the first time. Operating from Edwards AFB over a four-day period, the KC-10 flew four sorties, each lasting nearly three hours. During the test, the KC-10 made more than 250 boom connections with the F-22 and offloaded 35,000 pounds of fuel. (22)
- 2003: A Global Hawk sortie flown from Edwards AFB verified a German intelligence sensor's ability to detect radar emissions at China Lake NAWC and transmit them to a German Ground Support Station. This project facilitated development of a German-owned and operated Global Hawk derivative called the EuroHawk. (3)
- 2006: The second Lockheed-Martin C-5M test aircraft made its first flight at Dobbins ARB. (USAF Aimpoints, "Second C-5M Takes Flight," 21 Nov 2006)

The 45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing successfully launched a Delta II booster from Cape Canaveral to place the third modernized NAVSTAR Global Positioning System satellite in orbit. It will eventually become part of a 24-satellite system that will provide continuous and precise navigation and timing information to military and civilian users worldwide. (AFNEWS Article, "Air Force Launches Delta II/GPS Mission," 17 Nov 2006)

An Air Force Operational and Test Evaluation Center detachment at Edwards AFB completed a 15-month Operational Test and Evaluation (OT&E) of the RQ-4A Block 10 Global Hawk. That phase began in August 2005 to prepare for the first production aircraft's deployment in April 2006. The OT&E involved testing of the launch, recovery, and mission control elements as well as the air vehicles themselves, in the Global War on Terror. (3)

### 18 November

- 1915: The 1<sup>st</sup> Aero Squadron started the first squadron cross-country flight for the Army Air Service by flying 6 Curtiss JN-3s 439 miles from Fort Sill, Okla., to Fort Sam Houston, Tex. (24)
- 1916: Seven JN-4s of the 1st Aero Company, New York National Guard, under the command of Capt Raynal Cawthorne Bolling, completed the first National Guard cross-country formation flight from Mineola to Princeton, New Jersey. They completed the return flight on the 20th. (24)
- 1917: With Tellier seaplanes, the Navy began US aerial coastal patrols in European waters flying from LeCroisic, France, at the mouth of the Loire River.
- 1923: The first aerial refueling-related fatality occurred during an air show at Kelly Field, when the fuel hose became entangled in the right wings of the refueler and the receiver aircraft. The Army Air Service pilot of the refueler, Lt P. T. Wagner, died in the ensuing crash. (18)
- 1944: Fifteenth Air Force sent 680 heavy bombers to oil refineries in Austria and Italian airfields at Aviano, Villafranca di Verona, Udine, and Vicenza, with 186 P-51s providing air cover over

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Italy. (4)

- 1949: An Air Force C-74 Globemaster, "The Champ," flew from Mobile, Ala., across the Atlantic in 23 hours and landed at Marham, England, with a record of 103 passengers. It was the first aircraft to carry 100 passengers across the Atlantic. (20) (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** A USAF fighter group moved to N. Korea for the first time. The 35 FIG, the first fighter group based in S. Korea, settled at Yonpo Airfield, near Hungnam. (28)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** F-86 aircraft strafed eight MiG fighters on the ground at Uiju, destroyed four, and damaged the rest. MiG-15s forced three flights of F-84 fighter-bombers to jettison their bombs and abort prebriefed rail-cutting missions near Sinanju. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** When USN Task Force 77 attacked the N. Korean border town of Hoeryong in the far northeast, unmarked but obviously Russian MiG-15s flying from Vladivostok attacked the fleet. Carrier-based F9F aircraft engaged several MiGs and downed one of them. In MiG Alley, a 334th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron pilot, Capt Leonard W. Lilley, scored his fifth MiG kill to become an ace. (28)
- KOREAN WAR.** Through 19 November, six 98th Bombardment Wing B-29s attacked the supply center at Sonchon, 35 miles from the Manchurian border. In clear weather over the target area, enemy interceptors used new tactics to shot down one B-29. They dropped flares so that searchlights could lock on the bomber, and four fighter passes riddled it, which forced its crew to abandon ship over Cho-do. (28)
- 1954: The first flight test of an inertial guidance system for actual missile use (Navaho X-10) conducted at Downey. (24)
- 1955: Lt Col Frank K. Everest, Jr., flew the X-2 rocket plane on its first powered flight above Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1966: Maj William J. Knight flew X-15A-2 to a new speed record for X-15 aircraft by reaching 4,223 MPH.
- Lockheed delivered the first HC-130P to the ARRS. The HC-130P included a drogue system to permit aerial refueling from HH-3 helicopters. (18)
- 1967: Flight testing of laser guided bombs started at Eglin AFB.
- 1970: Through 16 December, MAC C-141s and C-130s delivered more than 140 tons of supplies and equipment from the US and from US bases in the Far East to East Pakistan after a cyclone flooded the country. (21)
- 1989: Northrop's B-2A bomber completed its seventh test flight. During the 7-hour 17-minute flight, the pilot shut down and restarted each engine. (8: Feb 90)
- 1994: A C-17 Globemaster III landed at North Field near Charleston AFB with a 161,000-pound payload on 2,100 feet of runway to set a new record and meet a critical program requirement to land fully loaded on a runway no longer than 3,000 feet. (16) (18)
- 1997: **Operation PHOENIX SCORPION.** The ANG's Northeast Tanker Task Force (TTF) in Bangor, Maine began 24-hour operations to support the movement of USAF aircraft to the Persian Gulf after Saddam Hussein refused to allow U.N. inspections of suspected weapons of mass destruction facilities. The TTF, with 4 USAF and 10 ANG KC-135s, delivered over 1 million pounds of jet fuel to USAF aircraft during the week-long operation. (32)

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### 19 November

- 1915: First squadron cross-country flight of the Army's Aviation Section of the Signal Corps undertaken by six Curtiss JN-3s of the 1st Aero Squadron. They flew 439 miles from Fort Sill to Fort Sam Houston.
- 1932: National monument to Wilbur and Orville Wright dedicated near Kitty Hawk. (24)
- 1945: **PACUSAN DREAMBOAT.** Through 20 November, Col Clarence S. Irvine and Lt Col G. R. Stanley flew the Pacusan Dreamboat B-29 to a nonstop, nonrefueled distance record of 7,916 miles by flying from Guam to Washington DC in 35 hours 5 minutes. (9) (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** In the first massed light bomber attack, 50 B-26s from Japan dropped incendiary bombs on Musan, N. Korea, on the Tumen River border with China. The attack destroyed 75 percent of the town's barracks area. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** The 49th and 58th Fighter-Bomber Wings, using 179 aircraft in two separate strikes, attacked a troop and supply concentration at Kanggye. (28)
- Capt James Slade Nash, flying a North American F-86D Sabre, set a FAI speed record of 698.505 MPH at Salton Sea. (9) (24)
- 1957: Maj Gen Donald Keirn selected to lead the ANP (aircraft nuclear powered) project, an integrated Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and DoD atomic project. (24)
- 1961: Through 20 November, Mrs. Constance Wolf in her 363.99-mile flight from Texas to near Boley, Okla., set 15 world records for women balloonists, including an endurance record of 40 hours 13 minutes and an altitude record of 13,000 feet. (24)
- 1964: SECDEF Robert McNamara announced that all first generation missiles would be phased out by June 1965 under Project Added Effort. (1)
- 1969: **APOLLO XII/SECOND MOON LANDING.** Astronauts Charles (Pete) Conrad, Jr., and Alan L. Bean, flew the module to the surface and landed at the Ocean of Storms about 600 feet from Surveyor III. (26) (See 14 November for full details).
- 1978: **JONESTOWN SUICIDES.** After murdering Cong. Leo J. Ryan and four others, members of Jim Jones' Peoples Temple Church committed mass suicide in Jonestown, Guyana. Answering a State Department request, on 28 November MAC sent a C-130 and two C-141s with graves registration teams, medics, and cargo to Georgetown, Guyana. Three ARRS HH-53s then flew 911 bodies on 30 sorties from Jonestown to Georgetown, where 9 C-141s flew the bodies to a mortuary at Dover AFB. Altogether, MAC flew 59 C-141 and C-130 support missions through 22 December in response to this tragedy. (2) (21)
- 1980: USAFE completed the conversion of its tactical fighter squadrons to F-15C/D models. (16)
- 1984: Two MAC C-141s delivered six motor vehicles and small arms ammunition to the US Embassy in Bogota, Colombia, after drug dealers threatened the safety of American personnel in Colombia. (16)
- 1997: **Operation PHOENIX SCORPION I.** To augment Operation SOUTHERN WATCH, the US deployed additional forces to Southwest Asia and the Indian Ocean to answer Iraq's continued intransigence over UN inspections of weapons of mass destruction sites. Over the Pacific, AMC established an air bridge and airlift support to deploy B-52s and KC-10s to Diego Garcia. Over the Atlantic, AMC provided airlift and refueling support to deliver an Air Expeditionary

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Force with F-15s, F-16s, B-1s, and KC-135s to Shaikh Isa, Bahrain, a partial Patriot battery to Shaikh Isa, and F-117s to Al Jabar, Kuwait. Iraq's apparent willingness to resume the inspection program ended the deployment on 24 November and within days most forces had returned home. To close the deployment, AMC flew 51 airlift and 208 tanker missions, delivering over 3,000 short tons of cargo and 7.4 million pounds of fuel. Reserve C-5, C-141, and KC-10 units and personnel supported the Phoenix Scorpion buildup by flying 82 sorties and 529.6 hours. The reserve units also provided backfill support to active duty forces, flying an additional 130 sorties and 530.7 hours. (22) (33)

- 1998: NASA Dryden test pilot James L. Barrilleaux flew a Lockheed Martin ER-2 (looks like a modified U-2) to an altitude of 20,479 meters (90,096 ft) above Edwards AFB, establishing a new official world altitude record for medium weight aircraft in horizontal flight without payload. (3)
- 2007: **WAR ON TERRORISM.** Air Mobility Command passed a major milestone when one of its aircraft flew the command's one millionth sortie since 11 September 2001. A C-17 mission flown from McChord AFB, Wash., to Manas AB, Kyrgyzstan, flew the landmark flight. (AMC Historical Highlights, 2007)

### 20 November

- 1916: Representative-elect O. C. Bleakley of Franklin became the first Congressman to fly to Washington DC as a passenger. He flew from Philadelphia in a plane piloted by Sgt William C. Ocker. (24)
- 1933: Lt Cmdr Thomas G. W. Settle (USN) and Maj C. L. Fordney (USMC) set a FAI altitude record of 61,236 feet for subclass A-10 balloons (over 4,000 cubic meters) over Akron, Ohio. They landed near Bay Shore, N.J. (9)
- 1934: Lt Cmdr E. F. Stone, US Coast Guard, set an international amphibian speed record of 191.734 MPH at Hampton Roads. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** FEAF Combat Cargo Command airdropped rations and gasoline at Kapsan, some 20 miles south of the Yalu River, to supply the 7th Infantry Division, which advanced the farthest north in the war. (28)
- 1953: After dropping from a Navy P2B (B-29) at 32,000 feet, the Douglas D-558-2 Skyrocket set a 1,327-MPH speed record at Edwards AFB. Test pilot Scott Crossfield became the first man to exceed Mach 2. (9) (20)
- 1959: The USAF launched Discoverer VIII into a polar orbit from the Pacific Missile Range. (24)
- 1961: At Francis E. Warren AFB, SAC accepted its last Atlas E squadron to end this deployment. (1)
- 1962: **CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS.** President John F. Kennedy announced the end of the Cuban Missile Crisis after the Soviets removed all IRBMs from Cuba. (21)
- 1963: The USAF accepted the first two F-4C fighters. They went to 4453rd Combat Crew Training Wing at MacDill AFB. (12)
- The DoD transferred the Navy's Point Arguello missile facility and space-tracking stations to the Air Force. (5) (16)
- 1964: Gen Creighton W. Abrams, Jr. (USA), gave Distinguished Flying Crosses to Capt William A. Welter, Jr., Capt Michael N. Antoniou, CWO Emery E. Nelson, and CWO Joseph C. Watts for

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setting 10 world helicopter records for speed, distance, and time-to-climb for Class E-1, E-1D, and E-1E helicopters in a Bell UH-1D.

1970: The USAF selected Northrop Corporation at Hawthorne to build an international fighter, the F-5 Freedom Fighter. (12)

US Southern Command aircraft and personnel assisted Columbia after severe floods. (26)

1980: The first Pave Tack F-111 arrived at Lakenheath AFB for duty with the 48 TFW. Pave Tack gave the aircraft a 24-hour, high and low altitude delivery capability. (16)

2001: A 46th Test Wing F-16 launched a JASSM at the White Sands Missile Range. The successful test allowed the Air Force to request initial production. (AFNEWS Article 1671, 22 Nov 2001)

### 21 November

1917: The Navy's R-9 robot bomber, a flying bomb, demonstrated to Army, Navy, and civilian aviation experts at Amityville, N.Y.

1957: The DoD announced that the first ICBM base would be built at Francis E. Warren AFB. (6)

1961: The USAF launched Midas IV, a heat-sensing satellite designed to detect missile launchings, from Point Arguello into a 2,100-mile circular orbit. As a part of the controversial Project West Force, the satellite ejected a package of several million copper wires to form a reflecting belt in space to aid radio communications. These wires failed to disperse as planned.

USAF crewmembers fired their first Titan when the 6555<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Test Wing launched a test missile on a 5,000-mile flight from Cape Canaveral. (16) (24)

1962: **Operation LONG SKIP.** After an initial airlift effort from 2-14 November, USAFE dispatched C-130s to India to assist MATS in this operation. LONG SKIP continued through August 1963. The airlifters carried 20,000 passengers and troops, along with 25,000 tons of supplies and equipment to the area. The timely response led the Chinese to withdraw. (2)

1969: A Thor-Delta rocket pushed a Skynet communications satellite for the UK into orbit. The Air Force's Space and Missile Systems Organization developed the satellite for the British government. (16)

1970: **SON TAY RAID.** A special USAF and Army task force volunteers tried to rescue American servicemen from the Son Tay prisoner-of-war camp 20 miles west of Hanoi. Brig Gen Leroy J. Manor commanded the operation, while Col Arthur D. Simons (Army) led the search-and-rescue team. Unfortunately, the prisoners had been moved elsewhere. (2) (21)

1980: As a fire swept through the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, the 20 SOS, 302 SOS, and Det 1 of the 57<sup>th</sup> Fighter Weapons Wing flew their helicopters to rescue 310 people. The fire killed 84 people and injured another 679. (26)

1994: Air Force and NATO aircraft bombed Serb targets to retaliate for a Serbian attack on Bihac. The raid was the largest NATO operation to date. (16) (26)

**Project SAPPHIRE.** Through 23 November, three C-5s from the 436 AW carried nuclear technicians, equipment, and 1,300 pounds of highly enriched uranium from Kazakhstan to Dover AFB to protect the nuclear material from terrorists, smugglers, and unfriendly governments. The US convoyed the material to Oak Ridge, Tenn., for conversion into commercial nuclear fuel. (16) (18)

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### 22 November

- 1909: The Wright Company incorporated with \$1,000,000 in capital stock to make flying machines. (12)
- 1935: A Pan Am Airways pilot, Capt Edwin C. Musick, began the first transpacific airmail flight in a Martin 130 China Clipper. He flew from San Francisco to Manila, via Honolulu, Midway Island, Wake Island, and Guam. (21)
- 1944: **RAID ON MOROTAI.** Japanese aircraft staged through bases on Halmahera Island and attacked FEAF installations on Morotai. The raid resulted in 2 killed and 15 injured with 15 aircraft destroyed and 8 damaged. This attack was one of 82 conducted against the Morotai bases between 15 September and 1 February 1945. (17)
- 1949: The USN announced that the Douglas D-558-2 Skyrocket had surpassed the speed of sound at Muroc. (9) (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR/MEDAL OF HONOR.** While leading a flight of four F-80s against enemy gun positions in Korea, Maj Charles J. Loring deliberately crashed his damaged aircraft into enemy gun emplacements. For that sacrifice, he earned the Medal of Honor. (26) (28)
- KOREAN WAR.** A 16th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron pilot, 1Lt Cecil G. Foster, scored his fifth MiG kill in MiG Alley to add his name to the list of aces. (28)
- 1961: Lt Col Robert B. Robinson (USMC) set a world record in a McDonnell F4H-1 Phantom II, by flying 1,605 MPH over a 15- and 35-kilometer course at Edwards AFB. (9)
- 1966: The 321 SMW at Grand Forks became the first complete Minuteman II wing, when it received its last flight of missiles. (6)
- 1972: The first B-52 Stratofortress to be lost to enemy action fell prey to a surface-to-air missile over North Vietnam. The aircraft made it back to Thailand, where the crew ejected safely. (16)
- 1976: The USAF accepted its last F-111F at the General Dynamics plant in Fort Worth. (12)
- 1978: A C-141 flew six medical specialists from Boston, Mass., to Algiers, Algeria, to aid the critically ill President of Algeria. (16)
- 1982: President Reagan decided to deploy the M-X in the "Dense Pack" closely spaced basing mode at Francis E. Warren AFB. (1) (6)
- Davis-Monthan AFB placed Titan II site 570-9, the first to be inactivated, in caretaker status. (6)
- 1988: At Palmdale, Northrop unveiled the B-2 Stealth Bomber. (20)
- 1989: The Space Shuttle Discovery launched at night (the fourth time in our space program's history) to place a satellite (probably a signals intelligence) in orbit. This flight, the fifth dedicated to the DoD, ended at Edwards AFB after 5 days six minutes and 46 seconds in space. (8: Feb 90)
- In a 5-hour, 48-minute test flight, Northrop's B-2A bomber continued its flight control and systems checkout. (8: Feb 90)
- 2000: Lockheed Martin's X-35A completed its concept demonstrator flight test program. Company test pilot Tom Morgenfeld flew the aircraft back to Lockheed's facility at Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale. The aircraft flew 27 sorties for 27.4 flight hours at Edwards. (3)

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The AFFTC at Edwards AFB began flight testing the Bell Textron CV-22 tilt-rotor air vehicle. It was the Air Force version of the MV-22 Osprey.

- 2002: The second X-45A UCAV, nicknamed Red, successfully achieved all objectives in its first flight, a 30-minute sortie above Edwards AFB. (3)

### 23 November

- 1935: Through 5 December, Lincoln Ellsworth and pilot Herbert Hollich-Kenyon flew nearly 2,100 miles from Dundee Island, Weddell Sea, Antarctica, to within 25 miles of Little America, Bay of Whales, Ross Sea. (9) (24)
- 1947: The XC-99, world's largest land plane at that time, made its first flight at San Diego. (24)
- 1957: The DoD authorized Cooke AFB to launch ballistic missiles during peacetime. (6)
- 1960: TIROS II, NASA's second meteorological satellite, launched from Cape Canaveral into a 200-to 500-year orbit. (24)
- 1963: SAC established a requirement for the SRAM. (6)
- 1981: **EXERCISE BRIGHT STAR 82.** SAC sent eight B-52s of its Strategic Projection Force on the longest nonstop bombing mission in history to date. After a 31-hour, 15,000-mile flight, the B-52s from the 319 BMW at Grand Forks AFB and the 5 BMW at Minot AFB dropped bombs on a simulated runway in Egypt. The bombers relied on three air refuelings. (1) (26)
- 1983: The West German Parliament approved GLCM and Pershing II missile deployments in West Germany. (4)
- 2002: The F/A-22 Raptor (No. 4007) accomplished its first guided AIM-9M Sidewinder launch at 24,000 feet over the White Sands Missile Range at Mach 1.4. The AIM-9 passed within lethal range of a QF-4 drone flying at Mach 1.0. (3)

### 24 November

- 1930: Ruth Nichols left Mineola in a Lockheed Vega airplane and flew to California. Mechanical troubles, however, grounded her plane several times and kept her from reaching Burbank until 1 December. Still, her 16-hour, 59-minute, 30-second flight time set a new east-west, cross county record for women. (24)
- 1944: From the Marianas, 88 B-29s flew the first very heavy bomb strike from the Marianas Islands on Tokyo and the Japanese home islands. The XXI Bomber Command, under the leadership of Brig Gen Haywood S. Hansell, Jr., conducted this attack as its first mission. (21)
- 1947: White Sands Proving Ground launched the first live Aerobee rocket to 190,000 feet. (12) (26)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** B-29s attacked N. Korean communications, supply centers, and bridges over the Yalu River, while Fifth Air Force fighters intensified its close air support missions. FEAF Combat Cargo Command aircraft dropped ammunition to front-line troops. (28)
- 1951: In night operations, the 98 BW bombed Taechon airfield, the marshalling yard at Tongchon and flew five close support sorties; 307 BW bombed marshalling yard at Hambusong-ji; and 19 BG bombed Namsi airfield, the Hoeyang highway bridge, and the marshalling yards at Munchon

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

and Hambusong-ji. (28)

- 1956: **Operation QUICK KICK.** For 2 days, 4 B-52s from the 93 BMW at Castle AFB and 4 B-52s from the 42 BMW at Limestone AFB flew a nonstop flight around the North American perimeter. One 93 BMW bomber, flown by Lt Col Marcus L. Hill, Jr., covered the 13,500 miles from Castle to Baltimore in 31 hours 30 minutes with four KC-97 inflight refuelings. (1)
- 1959: The X-18 tiltwing airplane, a C-122 modified by Hiller Aircraft Corporation to investigate VTOL operations for cargo aircraft, completed its first flight at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1969: The USAF announced that the Arnold Engineering and Development Center had completed testing on the TF-39, 41,000-pound thrust turbofan engine, destined for the C-5A Galaxy.
- 1970: North American Rockwell pilot Edward A. Gillespie flew a modified T-2C with a supercritical wing configuration at Columbus. The wing promised to delay transonic separation, buffeting, and other undesirable aerodynamic phenomena to give aircraft greater flexibility at supersonic speeds.
- 1974: President Gerald R. Ford and General Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev signed the Strategic Arms Limitation accord. This agreement limited the deployment of strategic delivery vehicles and Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicles (MIRVs). (6)
- 1975: **Operation DEEP FREEZE.** A C-141 crew from Travis AFB airlifted 100 penguins from McMurdo Station, Antarctica, to Miramar, Calif. (18)
- 1981: Boeing Aerospace Company held a rollout ceremony for its first full-scale production ALCM in Seattle. (12)
- 1987: A B-1B successfully launched an ALCM for the first time. (16) (26)
- 2004: The AFFTC supported Burt Rutan's Virgin Atlantic *Global Flyer*, a unique aircraft built by Scaled Composites in Mojave, Calif., to make the first solo nonstop, non-refueled flight around the world. AFFTC provided personnel, airspace and runway use. The overloaded jet needed the entire length of the Edwards runway for a safe takeoff. (3)

### 25 November

- 1918: The NC-1 flying boat set a world record by taking off from NAS Rockaway Beach, New York, with 51 persons. (24)
- 1920: Lt Corliss C. Moseley flew a Verville-Packard 600 132 miles at 156.54 MPH to win the first Pulitzer Race at Mitchel Field. Moseley later founded Western Air Express (later Western Airlines) to carry airmail. (24)
- 1940: NACA announced plans to build an \$8.4 million engine research laboratory at the Cleveland Municipal Airport in Ohio. It became the Lewis Research Center. (8: Nov 90)
- First flight of the Martin B-26 Marauder.
- 1943: P-47 Thunderbolts from VIII Fighter Command inaugurated bombing in an attack on Saint-Omer Airfield, France. (4)
- From bases in China, B-25s, P-38s, and P-51s completed the first Fourteenth Air Force mission against Formosa. (24)



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1945: Through 30 November, Col Joseph Holzapple flew a Douglas A-26 Invader around the world in 96 hours 50 minutes of flying time. His crew included Lt Col Charles R. Meyers (co-pilot), Lt Otto H. Schumacher (navigator), and Cpl Howard J Walden (radio operator). They headed westward from Savannah, Ga. Four days and 24,859 miles later, they returned to Washington DC after successfully circumnavigating the earth, thus demonstrating the ability of US light bombers to reach any point in the world quickly. (5) (<http://www.wingnet.org/rtw/rtw013.htm>)
- 1956: TSgt Richard J. Patton made the first successful polar parachute jump when he bailed out of a C-124 Globemaster from 1,500 feet at the South Pole. (24)
- 1957: SAC phased out its KB-29 tankers by transferrring the last two KB-29s from the 27 AREFW at Bergstrom AFB to the aircraft storage area at Davis-Monthan AFB. (1)
- 1970: Bill Dana flew the M2-F3 Lifting Body on its first powered flight at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1980: Through 29 November, MAC units delivered 1,305 tons of fire retardant chemicals to battle 11 major fires in four counties east of Los Angeles. (16) (26)
- The 26<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Training Aggressor Squadron flew its final T-38 Talon sortie. The ATC replaced the squadron's four Talons with F-5E and F-5F aircraft. (26)

### 26 November

- 1943: **DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.** When a B-17 suffered an engine failure on the way to the target in Germany, enemy fighters repeatedly attacked the aircraft. TSgt Maurice V. Henry manned his guns, destroying one and damaging another. Then an incendiary shell hit the aircraft, and Henry put out the fire. Later, when the B-17 crashed in the English Channel, Henry helped the other crewmen from the sinking craft with utter disregard for his own safety. When he was last seen, he was still grasping the emergency radio, calling for rescue. For his courage, Henry received the DFC posthumously. (4)
- 1945: A TWA Lockheed Constellation set a west-east transatlantic commercial record by flying 2,000 miles from Gander, Newfoundland, to Rineanna, Ireland, in 6 hours 45 minutes. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** B-26s flew their first close air support night missions under Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) direction. The 3 BG flew 67 B-26 missions along the Eighth Army's bomb line in 5 hours. Nevertheless, Chinese forces pushed the Eighth Army and the X Corps southward. (28)
- 1952: A Northrop B-62 Snark, a turbojet-powered subsonic missile with 5,500 nautical-mile range, launched from Cape Canaveral for the first time on a zero-length launcher. (6) (24)
- 1955: An N-69D-configured Snark flew its first flight test at Cape Canaveral. It was the first to use a stellar inertial guidance system. (6)
- 1956: SECDEF Charles E. Wilson issued a "Roles and Mission" memo to the Armed Forces Policy Council to fix jurisdiction over missile development. This gave the USAF control of surface-to-surface missiles with ranges over 200 miles and surface-to-air missiles with ranges over 100 miles, while the Army controlled missiles with ranges less than 200 and 100 miles, respectively. (1) (6)
- 1958: From Cape Canaveral, an operational Thor missile completed its first successful launch. (6)
- 1959: At El Paso, Max Conrad completed a 6,911-mile nonstop flight from Casablanca, Morocco, in a Piper Comanche airplane. (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1964: Four college students completed an experiment in which they lived for 28 days in a space-craft-type capsule and for 14 days in a hospital isolation ward on a diet designed for consumption by astronauts during space flight.
- 1968: **MEDAL OF HONOR.** While flying a UH-1F helicopter, 1Lt James P. Fleming twice exposed his aircraft to intense hostile fire while rescuing a special forces reconnaissance patrol near Due Co, Vietnam. He later received the Medal of Honor for his heroic action. (21)
- 1975: The X-24B research craft flew its last flight at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1976: Through 29 November, after an earthquake in Turkey, MAC launched one C-5, 14 C-141s, and 15 C-130s with 486 tons of supplies and equipment from Ramstein AB and Rhein-Main AB; RAF Mildenhall; Pisa AB, Italy; and Cigli AB, Turkey. C-130s also moved nearly 520 tons of supplies and airlift control element members from Incirlik to Van Air Field, Turkey. (18)
- 1980: Through 2 December, MAC C-130s flew 18 missions to airlift 1,000 tents from Germany to Naples to help people made homeless by an earthquake in Italy. Commercial aircraft under MAC contract also moved relief supplies from the US to the disaster area, while USAFE provided blankets, tents, and C-rations. Air Force communications personnel from Monte Vergine gave intensive aid to local communities. (2) (4)
- 1985: Through December 3, the Space Shuttle Atlantis conducted its second space mission. Following the shuttle's liftoff from the Kennedy Space Center, Lt Col Brewster Shaw led a seven-man crew through the deployment of three satellites and rehearsals of space station construction techniques. (8: Nov 90)
- 1986: The Navy launched its first Tomahawk SLCM in a capsule launch from a submerged submarine. In the test, the attack sub Pittsburgh launched an anti-ship SLCM over the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility Sea Test Range. The SLCM passed within lethal distance of its target before recovery.

### 27 November

- 1912: The Signal Corps accepted its first flying boat (No. 15), a Curtiss Model F with a 75-HP, Curtiss "O" engine from the Curtiss factory. As a bonus, the Corps received its first pair of water wings. (20)
- 1929: Through 29 November, in their effort to establish a flying endurance record, Bobbi Trout and Elinor Smith became the first women pilots to fly an aircraft and be refueled in the air. Engine trouble on the refueling aircraft brought an early end to the mission. (18)
- 1933: The Army accepted Martin's first production-model B-10 bomber. It was the first all-metal monoplane bomber with an internal bomb bay, retractable gear, rotating gun turret, and enclosed cockpit. It flew faster than pursuit aircraft of the day. (21)
- 1954: A Pan American Airways Super-Stratocruiser set a speed record for commercial planes when it flew from New York to Paris in 9 hours 42 minutes, averaging 371 MPH. (24)
- 1957: SECDEF Neil H. McElroy decided to place the Air Force's Thor and the Army's Jupiter into production for operational deployment by December 1958. (6)

Using McDonnell RF-101 Voodoos, four pilots set various FAI records. Capt Robert M. Sweet flew his jet at 721.85 MPH to set a round-trip transcontinental record of 6 hours 46 minutes 36 seconds from Los Angeles to New York. Returning to New York, he also set an east-west

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

record of 677.73 MPH in 3 hours 36 minutes 32.4 seconds. Capt Robert J. Kilpatrick and Lt Gustave B. Klatt both broke Sweet's West-East record by flying to New York at 765.7 MPH and 781.7 MPH. Klatt also claimed the time record of 3 hours 7 minutes 43.6 seconds. These officers broke records set by Capt Ray W. Schrecengost, Jr., who set speed marks from Los Angeles to New York at 749.95 MPH, New York to Los Angeles at 607.8 MPH, and for the round-trip at 721.85 MPH. (9)

- 1962: Davis-Monthan AFB received the first Titan II ICBM. (6)
- 1963: NASA launched the first liquid-hydrogen-powered vehicle, the Atlas-Centaur, from Cape Canaveral into a 300- to 900-mile orbit. The empty Centaur stage, at 10,200 pounds, became the heaviest object put into orbit by a US rocket to date.
- 1964: SECDEF McNamara approved Project Long Life to launch three modified Minuteman I (Model B) missiles in a realistic operational environment on short-range flights from Ellsworth AFB. Each missile had sufficient fuel in the first stage for a seven-second flight, and all other stages were inert. Two of the three shots were failures. (6)
- 1972: The US Geological Survey completed a map of Mars--the first detailed map of another planet--from 1,500 of 7,000 photos taken by Mariner IX. It was launched on 30 May 1971.
- 2001: An AFFTC aircrew from Edwards AFB flew a Boeing C-17A to 13 official FAI world payload and altitude records during three sorties, giving the plane 33 world records in various categories. The C-17 carried various payloads, as much as 88,200 pounds to altitudes above 43,800 feet to set 11 records. Other records included maximum altitude in horizontal flight without a payload and greatest payload to a height of 2,000 meters. (3)

### 28 November

- 1908: John A. "Douglas" McCurdy started the first trials of the seaplane Loon (the June Bug with floats) on Lake Keuka in Hammondsport. This trial was the first attempted water takeoff in America. Although the Loon did not rise off the water, it reached 72 MPH. (24)
- 1929: Bernt Balchen piloted The Floyd Bennett, a Ford C-4 Trimotor, in the first flight over the South Pole with three crewmen: Cmdr Richard E. Byrd, flight commander and navigator; Harold June, copilot and radioman; and Capt Ashley McKinley (USA), photographer. The aircraft left Little America on McMurdo Sound at 2229 hours on 28 November, reached the Pole at 0855 hours on 29 November, and returned to Little America with a refueling stop in almost 19 hours. (9) (24)
- 1942: The 7 BG sent nine B-24s on a 2,760-mile round trip from Gaya, India, to bomb Bangkok in the first US AAF attack on Japanese-held Thailand. (21) (24)
- 1947: The Air Force added strategic aerial mining to SAC's list of mission responsibilities. (1)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** The Combat Cargo Command (Provisional) flew its first relief flight to deliver supplies to the 1st Marine Division at the Chosin Reservoir. On this occasion, 16 C-47s dropped 25 tons of ammunition. In all, through 10 December, C-47s and C-119s evacuated over 4,600 wounded and delivered around 2,000 tons of supplies to the Marines. (18) (26)

**KOREAN WAR.** From Yonpo, N. Korea, the 35 FIG flew close air support missions for encircled US forces. For the first time, B-26s bombed within 1,000 yards of the front line. A small communist aircraft bombed Pyongyang Airfield and badly damaged 11 P-51 Mustangs on the ground. (28)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** At 45-minute intervals, all three medium bomber units hit at Sinuiju and Uiju targets that were defended by nearly 116 heavy guns, 94 of which were radar-controlled, 40 searchlights, and enemy interceptors. Before the attacks, five B-26s flew flak suppression missions. Then 14 B-29s bombed Sinuiju Airfield, 6 struck the Sinuiju locomotive repair facility, 10 hit the Uiju Airfield, and 4 attacked the Uiju communications center. By using electronic countermeasures equipment and chaff, the B-29s executed a generally successful mission. (28)
- 1958: An Atlas B ICBM completed a full-range flight test for the first time in a 6,000-mile flight from Cape Canaveral down the Atlantic Missile Range to the Ascension Island area. (6)
- 1964: Mariner IV successfully launched from Cape Kennedy on its 324-million mile fly-by trip to Mars.
- 1966: Mariner IV continued to operate properly after two years in space. It had flown 1,025,082,830 miles by this date.
- 1979: **CREEK SENTRY.** USAFE conducted its first mission to provide AWACS training for US and Allied personnel in Central Europe. (16)
- 2001: **Operation SWIFT FREEDOM.** C-17s landed in Afghanistan on an airstrip about 80 miles south of Kandahar to deliver Navy Seabees. The operation introduced U.S. ground forces into Afghanistan. (21)
- 2006: The ANG established its first MQ-1 Predator unit at March ARB, Calif., by redesignating the 163<sup>rd</sup> Air Refueling Wing as the 163<sup>rd</sup> Reconnaissance Wing. (32)

### 29 November

- 1922: Navy Lts Ben H. Wyatt and George T. Owen piloted DH-4Bs on a transcontinental round-trip from San Diego. On 14 October, the planes started, flying through Tucson, New Orleans, and Pensacola to Washington DC and back through Dayton, Omaha, Salt Lake City, and San Francisco. The two men completed the 7,000-mile trip in about 90 hours of flight; mechanical difficulties, bad gasoline, weather, and a lack of navigating equipment accounted for most lost time.
- 1942: Forty-Four C-47s of the 62 TCG and 64 TCG from Twelfth Air Force dropped 530 British paratroopers near Tunis in an attempt to capture Oudna Airbase. The attempt failed due to German counterattacks. (4)
- 1943: Twelfth Air Force sent 25 B-25s to bomb military installations and rail facilities in the first American raid on Sarajevo, Yugoslavia. (24)
- 1949: Jacqueline Cochran set an international speed record of 436.995 mph for 310.685 miles without a payload in an F-51 at the Desert Center, Mount Wilson Course, Calif.
- Piasecki Helicopter Company displayed the Navy HRP-2 tandem-rotored helicopter. It carried 16 passengers. (24)
- 1951: The USAF announced the production of the first all-jet heavy bomber, the Boeing XB-52. (12)
- 1957: Gen Thomas D. White disclosed the development of an anti-missile missile called the Wizard, the assignment of ICBM and IRBM programs to SAC, and a transfer of the 1st Missile Division to SAC. At the same time, he said the San Bernardino Air Force Depot would assume support for long-range ballistic missile programs. (6)

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- 1958: The USAF cancelled the Rascal air-to-surface missile designed for the B-47, but kept the Hound Dog and GAM-72A Quail programs. (6)
- 1961: Enos, a chimp trained at Holloman AFB, became the first US spaceman when he launched from Cape Canaveral in a Project Mercury capsule into orbit twice around earth. (5) (16)
- 1962: The first Thor IRBM came off alert in the UK for the missile's phaseout program. (6)
- 1975: **FIRST RED FLAG.** The first annual exercise occurred at Nellis AFB to provide realistic training for combat aircrews. (21)
- 1989: The Air Force released a list of bases that would receive the Peacekeeper Rail Garrison System: Barksdale AFB, Grand Forks AFB, Fairchild AFB, Dyess AFB, Little Rock AFB, Wurtsmith AFB, and Francis E. Warren AFB. (8: Feb 90)

The YA-7F made its first flight from the LTV facility in Dallas, Tex. It would transfer later to Edwards AFB for further testing. (8: Feb 90)

### 30 November

- 1907: At Hammondsport, the Curtiss Motor Vehicle Company became the first airplane company formed in the US. (12)
- 1913: **FIRST KNOWN AERIAL COMBAT.** The action occurred between Phil Rader, flying for Gen Victoriano Huerta, and Dean Ivan Lamb, flying for Venustiano Carranza, over Naco, Mexico. An exact date of this action involving a dozen or so pistol shots is not known, but it happened in late November or early December. (21)
- 1943: The Martin JRM Mars flew from Patuxent River to Natal, Brazil, for its first operational mission. It made the 4,375-mile nonstop flight in 28 hours 25 minutes while carrying 13,000 pounds of cargo. Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox disclosed the feat on 10 December. The Mars set a record for cargo at 35,000 pounds for the 8,972-mile round trip. (24)
- 1948: Curtiss-Wright demonstrated new reversible pitch propellers, which enabled a C-54 to descend from 15,000 to 1,000 feet in 1 minute 22 seconds. (16) (26)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** In one of the largest aerial battles of the war, F-86 pilots from the 4 FIG engaged 44 enemy aircraft over the island of Taehwa-do. The Sabre pilots destroyed 12 and damaged 3 others. Maj George A. Davis Jr., 334 FIS, achieved Korean War ace status by downing a TU-2 and a MiG-15. That achievement made him the first ace in two wars, since he had been an ace in World War II as well. Maj Winton W. Marshal, 335 FIS, also became an ace by destroying an LA-9 and a TU-2. Enemy forces attacked Taehwa-do, north of Cho-do, forcing friendly forces to retreat to Cho-do. Fifth Air Force aircraft dislodged the enemy, enabling friendly forces to retake the island. (21) (28)

The 315th AD airlifted troops, supplies, and ammunition between Japan and Korea, flying 4,818 sorties that carried 70,664 passengers, 6,328 medical patients, and 8,406 tons of cargo. Airdrops to UN troops fighting in the mountains parachuted 120 tons of fuel, rations, and other supplies. Search and rescue units flew 324 sorties and helicopters evacuated 242 critically wounded patients and rescued six people trapped behind enemy lines. The Boat Section, 6160th ABG, saved twenty lives. UN reconnaissance aircraft flew more than 1,000 sorties to secure intelligence information on enemy ground dispositions, air targets, vehicle movements, airfield status, and weather. FEAF medium bombers dropped approximately 28,025,000 leaflets over rear area

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troops and civilians in North Korea, while C-47 cargo aircraft dropped approximately 58,814,000 over front-line areas. (28)

- 1956: The Martin TM-61 Matador, a jet-propelled missile, made its final test flight. It became the USAF's first "completely" tactical missile. (12) (24)
- The Air Force received its first F-86L Sabre.
- 1959: A B-47 bomber set a nonstop distance record and an airborne endurance record for jets by criss-crossing the US for 39,200 miles (equal to 1.6 times around the world) in 80 hours 36 minutes. The B-47 started from and returned to Wright-Patterson AFB. (24)
- 1962: NASA initiated a five-nation study with Argentina, Australia, Canada, and France to examine the upper atmosphere by launching Nike-Cajun and Nike-Apache rockets from Wallops Station. (24)
- Lockheed's XV-4A Hummingbird VTOL airplane made its first tethered hovering flight.
- 1978: The USAF received its last LGM-30G Minuteman III at Hill AFB. (6)
- 1983: The USAF used its FY1984 option to buy four more C-5Bs. (12)
- In the Titan II deactivation program, a contractor destroyed the first headworks of a launch site, 570-7, at Davis-Monthan AFB. (1)
- 1988: Civil strife, natural disasters, and territorial threats result in humanitarian airlifts by MAC with an ambulance to Douala, capital of Cameroon, and 31 pallets of medical equipment to N'Djamena, capital of Chad. Altogether, MAC airlifted 70 tons to both countries. (26)
- 1989: SAC opened its U-2 and TR-1 pilot training program to women.

### 1 December

- 1914: Through 16 December, Lts Herbert A. Dargue and Joseph O. Mauborgne first demonstrated two-way radiotelegraphy between the air and ground to the Army, while flying a Burgess-Wright plane in the Philippines. (20) (24)
- 1921: The U. S. Navy dirigible C-7, the first airship to use helium rather than hydrogen, made its first flight. Lt Cmdr R. F. Wood flew it from Hampton Roads, Va., to Washington, DC, and back. (21)
- 1935: A mass flight of 29 bombers from the 7<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group left Hamilton Field, Calif., and reached Vero Beach, Fla., in 21 hours 50 minutes. (24)
- 1939: Ensign A. L. Terwilliger became a Master Horizontal Bomber, the first Naval Aviator in a fleet squadron to do so. (24)
- 1942: **BEGINNING OF THE "HUMP" AIRLIFT.** Air Transport Command activated its India-China Division to provide airlift support to the Chungking government and American airmen fighting in China. The airlift from bases in India over an air route through the Himalayan Mountains, called the "Hump," became the greatest sustained an intensive use of air transport to that date. (18)
- 1944: **Project ORDCIT.** Through 16 December, the Jet Propulsion Lab at Camp Irwin, Calif.,

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- launched 24 Private "A" rockets. This activity occurred 11 months after the project started. (6)
- 1949: The Navy dedicated its supersonic wind tunnel at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It could produce 3,000-MPH speeds. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** The USS Cape Esperance arrived in Japan with 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Interceptor Wing F-86s. In the war's first prolonged fighter attack, six MiG-15s battled with three B-29s for six minutes, damaging them considerably despite the F-80 escorts. Far East Air Forces Combat Cargo Command evacuated some 1,500 United Nations casualties from Pyongyang. (28)
- 1955: President Dwight D. Eisenhower assigned the highest national priority to Thor and Jupiter missile development, and thus placed the intermediate range ballistic missile program on an equal rank with the intercontinental ballistic missile program. (6)
- 1958: An Army Nike-Hercules missile destroyed a XQ-5 drone flying at 63,000 feet at 1,500 MPH. (24)
- 1960: The Strategic Air Command activated the 4602d Strategic Wing at Hill AFB, Utah, for the rail mobile Minuteman program. (1) (6)
- 1961: Capt Bruce K. Lloyd and Cmdr E. H. Roulstone (U. S. Navy) flew a HSS-2 Seaking helicopter to 182.8, 179.5, and 175.3 MPH average speeds for courses of 62, 310, and 620 miles along Long Island Sound, N. Y. (24)
- The Strategic Air Command activated the first Minuteman I squadron, the 10<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron, at Malmstrom AFB, Mont. (1) (6)
- 1964: Four F-4C Phantom II jets landed at MacDill AFB, Fla., after an 18-hour flight of 10,000 miles and many KC-135 refuelings. The flight set an unofficial endurance record for fighters, while evaluating the F-4C's abilities in a sustained, long-range flight. It also examined the physiological and psychological effects on crews under those conditions.
- At Dyess AFB, Tex., the first Atlas F missile came off alert with the 578<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron. (6)
- 1965: **CUBAN REFUGEE AIRLIFT:** Through 30 June 1966, Military Air Transport Service airlifters moved 26,745 Cuban refugees in 291 flights. (18)
- 1967: The Strategic Air Command inactivated the Blue Scout Emergency Rocket Communication System (ERCS) sites in Nebraska. (6)
- 1971: First Minuteman III missile wing equipped with Multiple Independently-Targetable Reentry Vehicles became operational at Minot AFB, N. Dak.
- 1974: The USAF consolidated the airlift resources of the Tactical Air Command and Military Airlift Command to implement the 1974 decision to have a single airlift manager. (2) (18)
- 1978: The Strategic Air Command received the last Minuteman from Air Force Plant 77 at Ogden, Utah. (12)
- 1983: At Edwards AFB, Calif., the YA-10B completed its last test flight in a single-seat night attack evaluation program. On 16 December 1983, the Air Force placed this aircraft in storage, and it subsequently went on display in the Edwards AFB aircraft museum. (3) (16)
- The USAF ended training programs for Titan II missile crews. (16) (26)

## **AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- 1984: The C-5A entered service with the Air Force Reserves at Kelly AFB, Tex. (16) (26)
- 1989: In the ninth test flight, a B-52 launched a Tacit Rainbow loitering anti-radiation missile from a high altitude. It traveled to the Naval Weapons Center Test Range at China Lake, Calif., where it loitered, and made a partially successful diving attack. (8: Feb 90)
- Through 9 December, the 3d Tactical Fighter Wing flew patrols over the Philippines Islands in response to an attempted coup against President Corazon Aquino. (16)
- 1990: Two MH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters of the 38<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron at Osan Air Base, S. Korea, rescued 22 shipwrecked sailors from a grounded Panamanian vessel near Kunsan. (16) (26)
- 2003: Colonel Linda K. McTeague assumed command of the 113<sup>th</sup> Wing (DC Air National Guard). She became the first woman to command an Air National Guard wing. (32)
- 2004: The Air Force announced that the 192d Fighter Wing (Virginia Air National Guard) would partner with the 1<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing at Langley AFB, Va., to train on the F/A-22 *Raptor*. (32)
- 2005: At Edwards AFB, Calif., an Air Force Flight Test Center F/A-22 pilot successfully launched a Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) with an active guidance system at high supersonic speed on a test range. The supersonic munition allowed the Raptor to deliver a precision weapon from a much greater distance than any other aircraft. (3)
- 2006: The F-15 Eagle East Coast Demonstration Team, one of seven single-ship demonstration teams in to Air Combat Command, concluded 27 years of performance history. The 20-man F-15 team stood down to stand up an F-22 Raptor team. The Command subsequently selected Maj Paul Moga as the F-22 team's first pilot. (AFNEWS, "F-15 Demo Team Transitions to F-22," 8 Dec 2006)

### **2 December**

- 1908: Rear Admiral William S. Cowles, Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Equipment, submitted Lt George C. Sweet's report on aviation to the Secretary of the Navy with its recommendations for airplanes capable of operating from naval vessels on scouting and observation missions. Sweet also asked the Navy to buy aircraft to develop aviation for naval uses. (29)
- 1930: Ruth Nichols flew from Los Angeles, Calif., to New York, N. Y., to set a new women's cross county speed record of 13 hours 22 minutes. She made only one stop during the flight. (24)
- 1936: Boeing's YB-17 Flying Fortress made its maiden flight. (12)
- 1941: The Pacific Clipper of Pan American Airways made the first commercial world flight. It left San Francisco, Calif., and landed in New York City on 6 January 1942, after covering 31,500 miles in 209 hours 30 minutes flying time. (24)
- 1943: The Combined Chiefs of Staff asked the Allied Expeditionary Air Force to attack "Ski Sites" in the Pas de Calais and Cherbourg Peninsula areas. These areas were identified as V-1 missile launching sites. (4)
- The Navy accepted the world's largest flying boat, the 70-ton Martin JRM Mars. (24)
- 1949: First USAF Aerobee missile launched at Holloman AFB, N. Mex.
- Through 7 December, Thomas G. Lanphier set an around-the-world commercial transport record of 119 hours 47 minutes by flying 22,180 miles from La Guardia Field, N. Y., eastward.



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(9)

- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Through 7 December, the Far East Air Forces Bomber Command increased from one to three the number of B-29s allocated for radar-directed bombing in front of IX Corps during the battle for Sniper Ridge north of Kumhwa. (28)
- 1954: The Air Force issued a requirement for the Thor intermediate range ballistic missile. (6)
- 1965: Dr. Hugh L. Dryden, the first Deputy Administrator of the National Air and Space Administration, died at the age of 67. He was an internationally renowned scientist-engineer, whose career began with the airplane. He was regarded as the man who guided the US into the space age.
- 1976: Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld authorized the USAF to begin B-1 production. Congress had restricted funding for the program to \$87 million a month earlier in September. (1)
- 1979: **TYPHOON ABBEY.** The storm hit Majuro Atoll in the Marshall Islands, causing extensive damage. Over the next three weeks through 21 December, the Military Airlift Command flew 35 C-141 and 5 C-130 missions to airlift 250 relief workers and 650 tons of supplies, communications, and power systems to Majuro Atoll. The flights took off from Hickam AFB, Hawaii, Andersen AFB, Guam, and several bases in the US. (2)
- 1983: The 571<sup>st</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., became the first Titan II unit to inactivate under a deactivation program. (1)
- 1993: Through 13 December, the Space Shuttle Endeavour flew a mission to repair the \$2 billion Hubble Space Telescope. Colonel Richard O. Covey (USAF) piloted the shuttle. (16) (26)

### 3 December

- 1915: Lt Richard C. Saufley reached 11,975 feet over Pensacola, Fla., in a Curtiss AH-14 to set an American altitude record for hydro-airplanes. (24)
- 1937: Maj Alexander P. de Seversky flew from New York, N. Y., to Havana, Cuba, and set a new record of 5 hours 3 minutes 5 seconds. (24)
- Jacqueline Cochran flew from New York, N. Y., to Miami, Fla., in 4 hours 12 minutes to set another record.
- 1945: The 412<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group became US Army Air Force's first jet fighter unit when it received the first operational P-80 at March Field, Calif. This aircraft, however, was the group's second jet as the Lockheed delivered the XP-80 on 14 November 1944. (4)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Enemy jets made their first air-ground attack of the war, bombing and strafing United Nations ground positions near Chorwon, almost sixty miles northeast of Seoul. (28)
- First B-36's to visit North Africa arrived at Sidi Slimane, Morocco. The six bombers from the 11<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing at Carswell AFB, Tex., made the flight nonstop. (1)
- 1952: The USAF accepted its first two Republic F-84F *Thunderstreaks*. (12)
- 1956: The U. S. Navy commissioned the USS Gyatt, the world's first known guided-missile-launching destroyer, in Boston, Mass., with Terrier missiles as its principal weapon. (24)
- 1957: Col Archie Blood led 16 F-100D Super Sabres on a 3,850-mile flight from Tokyo, Japan, to

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Honolulu, Hawaii, in 6 hours 21 minutes to set an unofficial record. (24)

- 1959: **PROJECTs BOOMTOWN and SLIDE RULE.** To enhance the reconnaissance abilities of the Nationalist Chinese Air Force, Pacific Air Forces delivered four RF-101A Voodoo aircraft to them under the auspices of BOOMTOWN. Under SLIDE RULE, the 15<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron conducted and completed the training of the pilots and maintenance personnel by 11December. (17)
- 1960: The 567<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron at Fairchild AFB, Wash., received the first Atlas E missile. (6)
- 1963: President Lyndon B. Johnson designated National Air and Space Administration and other facilities at Cape Canaveral as the John F. Kennedy Space Center.
- 1965: Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara directed the Air Force and General Dynamics to develop a F-111 for reconnaissance, the RF-111A. (5) (16)
- 1968: Maj William J. Knight received the 1968 Harmon International Aviator's Trophy for flights in the X-15A-2. (16)
- 1973: Pioneer 10 became the first space vehicle to fly near Jupiter. (21)
- 1987: The last three remaining O-2As in the Air Force inventory made their last flight from Edwards AFB, Calif., to Kelly AFB, Tex., for retirement.
- 1988: After a one-year trial program, the Air Force decided to continue its policy of assigning mixed male/female crews to 24-hour missile duty. (NY Times, 5 Dec 88, p B8).
- 1989: The Solar Maximum Mission Spacecraft reentered the atmosphere over Sri Lanka. Astronauts of the April 1984 Challenger Space Shuttle mission had captured, repaired, and relaunched this satellite. (8: Feb 90)
- 1998: The Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB, Calif., completed the final flight test sortie for the B-1B Offensive Radar System program. (3)
- 1999: The 412th Test Wing at Edwards AFB, Calif., decided to end a mission that used three EC-18B Advanced Range Instrumentation Aircraft (ARIA). (3)
- 2001: Lockheed Martin delivered the USAF's first C-130J-30 to the 143d Airlift Wing (Air National Guard) at Quonset State Airport, R. I. The C-130s with the "J-30" suffix had a longer fuselage than the standard "J" model. It could carry 128 combat troops and 8 standard 463L pallets rather than 92 troops and 6 pallets. (22)
- Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.** The EC-135C *Big Crow* and deployed support personnel returned to Edwards AFB, Calif. The aircraft flew 15 electronic combat missions from Thumrait, Oman, to disrupt Taliban/al Qaeda communications and perform psychological operations. (3)
- 2004: After a two-year hiatus to install the laser weapon's beam control system, the YAL-1A Airborne Laser aircraft made its first flight above Edwards AFB, Calif., as part of a series to recertify the jet's airworthiness. A cabin pressure leak terminated the sortie ahead of schedule. (3)
- 2005: Dick Rutan, an XCOR Aerospace test pilot, completed the world's first point-to-point flight by a rocket-powered aircraft. The 10-mile flight, from Mojave to California City Airport, was flown in the company's EZRocket, a kit-built LongEZ sport aircraft powered by two of its 400

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pound thrust reusable liquid rocket engines that can be shut down and reignited in flight. The unique aircraft also carried a load of regular US Postal Service mail. (3)

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### 4 December

- 1918: Through 22 December, Maj Albert D. Smith led four Curtiss JN-4s on the Army's first trans-continental trip from San Diego, Calif., to Jacksonville, Fla. Smith's plane was the only one to complete the trip. (9) (20)
- 1942: Ninth Air Force sent 24 B-24s to attack ships at the Naples docks in the first US Army Air Forces air strike against mainland Italy in World War II. (4)
- 1945: A Transworld Airlines Lockheed Constellation set a 12-hour, 57-minute record in its first flight from Washington DC to Paris, France. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** MiG-15s shot down one of the three USAF RB-45 Tornado reconnaissance aircraft in the theater. This event was the first successful jet bomber interception in airpower history. (28)
- 1957: The USAF announced that BOMARC missile sites would be built at Dow AFB, Maine, Otis AFB, Mass., Suffolk AFB, N. Y., and McGuire AFB, N. J. (24)
- 1959: The National Air and Space Administration tested the Mercury capsule's escape system by sending a Rhesus monkey from Wallops Island, Va., on a 55-mile, 13-minute flight into space and returning it alive. (24)
- 1961: The USAF launched a Blue Scout rocket from Point Arguello, Calif., to 27,600 miles in altitude to measure low-energy protons emitted by the sun. (24)
- 1965: **GEMINI VI and VII.** Through 18 December, Frank Borman (USAF) and James A. Lovell, Jr. (US Navy) orbited earth on a 330-hour, 35-minute flight. Launched from Cape Kennedy, Fla., the astronauts set records for longest space flight, longest flight for a two-man vehicle, most orbits (206), most time in space, and greatest distance on one flight (5,129,000 miles). The hook-up with Gemini VI astronauts Walter Schirra, Jr. (US Navy) and Thomas P. Stafford (USAF) gave us the first US space rendezvous and the first space-to-space voice communications, making it one of the most successful missions to date. Gemini VI returned on 16 December to end its 26-hour, 1-minute flight. (7) (9)
- 1972: The last EB-66 Destroyer left USAFE for Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. (16)
- 1975: Vandenberg AFB, Calif., launched the last Titan II in support of ballistic missile defense tests. (6)
- 1979: Lockheed-Georgia delivered the first stretched C-141B from Marietta to the Military Airlift Command's 443d Military Airlift Wing at Altus AFB, Okla. This program lengthened all 270 C-141As by 23.3 feet and modified them for air refueling. (2) (12)
- 1986: The Air Force Council approved the Tactical Air Command's suggestion to expand the A-10 Thunderbolt II's role from close air support missions to forward air control functions. (16)
- 1989: The Navy successfully launched the fourth Trident II (D5) test missile from the USS Tennessee off the coast of Cape Canaveral, Fla. (8: Feb 90)
- 1996: An F-16 Fighting Falcon soared into history above Hill AFB, Utah, by logging its five millionth hour of flying time. To commemorate the event, the 388<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (the first wing to get the F-16) flew an aerial performance flight. Captain Kurt Gallegos of the West Coast F-16 Demonstration Team flew the Falcon. (AFNEWS Article 961255, 11 Dec 96) Major Mike Brill, a 419<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing pilot, also received an award at that ceremony for having more F-16 hours (3,700) than any pilot in the world. (AFNEWS Article 961256, 11 Dec 96)

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- 1998: Through 15 December, astronauts on the Space Shuttle Endeavour completed the first International Space Station assembly mission. They attached the Unity, the first US module, to the Russia's Zarya module. The crew also launched MightySat I, a USAF experiment to evaluate composite materials, advanced solar cells, and other technology. (21)
- 2000: At Edwards AFB, Calif., the Boeing X-32A Joint Strike Fighter concept demonstrator successfully completed low-speed approach aircraft carrier variant tests, one of three main goals for the JSF flight test program. (AFNEWS Article 001795, 5 Dec 00)

### 5 December

- 1907: Wilbur Wright offered the Army's Board of Ordnance and Fortification an airplane that could carry two people for \$25,000. The board asked the Signal Corps to submit its specifications for an airplane. (12)
- 1911: Bell aileron patent issued to the Aerial Experiment Association (Alexander Graham Bell and others). Glenn Curtiss later bought this patent. (24)
- 1929: Cmdr Richard E. Byrd made a 400-mile aerial mapping flight along the coast of Antarctica. (24)
- 1943: Ninth Air Force pilots from the 354<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group flew P-51s into combat for the first time. They escorted Eighth Air Force bombers 490 miles to targets in northern Germany. The presence of escort fighters reduced bomber losses significantly. (21)
- 1944: Eighth Air Force B-17s and B-24s, escorted by P-51s, P-47s, and P-38s from Eighth and Ninth Air Force, hammered German targets in Kassel, Mainz, Giessen, Soest, and Bebra. (4)
- 1949: The USAF diverted \$50 million from other projects to build a radar screen in Alaska and certain US areas after detecting a Soviet Atomic explosion in August 1949. (16) (24)
- 1950: McChord AFB, Wash., received the first two Douglas C-124 Globemaster II aircraft. The Globemaster soon became the mainstay of the strategic airlift fleet. (18)

**KOREAN WAR.** Far East Air Forces Combat Cargo Command evacuated 3,925 patients from Korea in 131 flights, with most of these flying from a frozen airstrip at Hagaru-ri. This effort was the most aeromedical airlift in one day during the Korean War. Greek C-47s joined the Combat Cargo Command airlift to supply UN troops surrounded in northeastern Korea. Additionally, the USAF suspended attacks on the Yalu River bridges, because enemy forces were crossing the frozen river on the ice. (21) (26) (28)

- 1958: At Cape Canaveral, Fla., a Goose research missile completed the program's last test flight. (6)
- 1960: The Snark missile research and development effort ended when Cape Canaveral, Fla., launched the eleventh test missile. (6)
- A ship carrying F-102 Delta Daggers for the Hawaii Air National Guard arrived in Pearl Harbor. The delivery was part of an USAF conversion program from F-86 aircraft. (17)
- 1961: Cmdr George W. Ellis (US Navy) flew an F4H Phantom II at a speed of 1,400 MPH at a sustained altitude of 66,443.8 feet. (24)
- 1962: The USAF ended the Atlas flight test program with an "F" model launch from Cape Canaveral, Fla., on a 5,000-mile flight. Since 11 June 1957, 108 of 151 missiles launches were successful. (16) (24)

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- 1963: Maj Robert A. Rushworth flew the X-15A-1 to Mach 6.06 over Edwards AFB, Calif. (3)
- 1970: The 954<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Group (AF Reserves) from Hill AFB, Utah, assisted in a domestic action program to provide 40,000 pounds of food and clothing to Navajo Indians on reservations spanning the corners of four states. (16)
- 1974: Sikorsky Aircraft delivered the last HH-53 Super Jolly Green Giant helicopter to the USAF. (18)
- 1978: The Defense Systems Acquisition Review Council II recommended full-scale development of the M-X (Peacekeeper) missile in vertical multiple protective shelter basing. The council also wanted an airmobile basing mode for the missile investigated. (6)
- 1987: Following Typhoon Nina, six C-130 Hercules aircraft belonging to the 374<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing flew 34 tons of relief supplies to the island of Luzon, Philippines. (16)
- 1994: The START I Treaty went into force, bringing about reductions in nuclear-capable bombers and missiles. (16)
- 2001: The USAF awarded a \$1.1 billion contract to Lockheed Martin to develop and demonstrate a Reliability Enhancement and Reengining Program for the C-5. The program included hydraulic upgrades, structural improvements to ensure the life of the C-5 to 2040, and environmental control system improvements related to the C-5's Avionics Modernization Program. In the program, four C-5Bs would be equipped with the higher-thrust General Electric CF6 engines used on Boeing's 747 and 767 as well as the Airbus A300. (22)

**Operation NOBLE EAGLE.** The 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (Florida Air National Guard) sent its F-15s to patrol the skies over the Kennedy Space Center for the Space Shuttle Endeavour launch. It was the first shuttle launch since the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks on the U.S. (32)

### 6 December

- 1907: Lt Thomas E. Selfridge flew Alexander Graham Bell's kite, Cygnet I. It was towed by a motorboat tug and stayed aloft for 7 minutes over Bras d'Or Lake, Nova Scotia. (24)
- 1944: In New York, Roy W. Howard, President of Scripps-Howard Newspapers, received the Frank M. Hawks Memorial Award from the American Legion's Air Service Post 501 for outstanding aid and cooperation in developing aviation. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** The 27 FEW, a SAC unit from Bergstrom AFB, launched the first F-84E Thunderjet mission in the war from Taegu airfield. (1) (28)
- 1954: The Curtiss-Wright Corporation revealed the existence of what was believed to be the first rocket engine with throttle control. This control made extended flight range in supersonic airplanes possible. (24)
- 1957: The Vanguard vehicle failed in its attempt to launch the first US satellite. It exploded on its launch platform. (21)
- 1959: At Edwards AFB, Cmdr Lawrence E. Flint (USN) flew McDonnell's F4H Phantom II to 98,560 feet to set a FAI record. (9) (24)

Capt Walter J. Hodgson flew an H-43B helicopter at Bloomfield, Ct., to a 29,846-foot altitude record for Class E1D helicopters. (3)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

First Martin Titan II, a large two-stage ICBM, launched. (12)

- 1961: In a joint Navy-Air Force ceremony, new wings were pinned on American astronauts, Cmdr Alan B. Shepard (USN) and Capt Virgil I Grissom. The new design displayed a shooting star superimposed on the traditional aviator wings of the respective services.
- 1963: Maj Robert W. Smith piloted the NF-104A Aerospace Trainer, with its ballistic controls (attitude control nozzles on the wing tips, nose, and tail) and a 6,000-pound thrust rocket engine, to 120,800 feet above Edwards AFB. (3)
- 1966: The first of five Applications Technology Satellites (ATS-1), carrying 15 communications, technology, and scientific experiments, launched at Cape Kennedy. On 9 December, ATS-1 took the world's first high-quality photos of the earth from synchronous orbit altitudes.
- 1983: The United States and Germany signed the cooperative Patriot/Roland air defense agreement. (4)
- The National Transonic Tunnel, a wind tunnel to test ultra-fast aircraft, dedicated at Langley AFB. (26)
- 1985: The Air Force accepted the 18th and last C-23A Sherpa. On 7 December, the C-23 joined the 10 MAS at Zweibrücken AB, Germany, with a mission to deliver engines and spares throughout the theater. (8: Dec 90)
- At Barksdale AFB, La., SAC's KC-10 Extender squadron, the 32 AREFS, reached full operational capability. (16) (26)
- 1989: Boeing rolled the prototype MH-47E helicopter at Ridley Township, Pa. It had oversized composite fuel pods, an air-to-air refueling system, an internal cargo handling system, and a rescue hoist and Fastrope rappelling system among its new features. The Army expected the first of 50 such helicopters to be delivered in 1992. (8: Feb 90)
- 1991: Following Cyclone Zelda, the 834th Airlift Division sent six C-130 Hercules with supplies to provide relief to people at Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands. (16) (26)
- 1992: Through 20 December, six C-5 missions moved 415 tons of engineering vehicles and equipment to Islamabad, Pakistan, to help with flood damage. (16)
- 1995: **Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.** USAF airlifters started moving troops and equipment to Bosnia to support this NATO operation to implement peace between Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia. (16) (26)
- 2002: The AFFTC at Edwards AFB had the X-45A UCAV and a Global Hawk airborne on test missions at the same time. This marked the first time that two unmanned aircraft from two different programs were airborne simultaneously. (3)
- 2005: During a ten-second ground test at Edwards AFB, the Airborne Laser's megawatt-class chemical laser released enough energy to destroy a ballistic missile in its boost phase. The test met a major program milestone. (3)

### 7 December

- 1926: The Aeronautics Branch, Department of Commerce, erected an airways beacon on the Chicago-Dallas route. (24)

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- 1934: As Wiley Post flew his Lockheed Vega, the “Winnie Mae,” west over Oklahoma, he encountered 200 MPH headwinds at 50,000 feet. This reduced his ground speed to 50 MPH and convinced Post that planes could travel at great air speeds above 30,000 feet by getting into the prevailing wind channel. Weathermen later named this wind the jet stream. (7)
- 1941: The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and brought America into World War II. Two waves of Japanese fighters sank four U.S. battleships and damaged nine others. Overall, the surprise attack killed 2,390 personnel, including 193 airmen at Hickam, Wheeler, and Bellows Fields. They also destroyed 64 Hawaiian Air Force planes. Six AAF pilots shot down 10 enemy planes with 2Lt George S. Welch garnering four kills. (21)
- By the time of the surprise Pearl Harbor attack, the ACFC had delivered 1,350 planes from the factories to AAF airfields, but on the east coast. (2)
- 1944: The US Navy commissioned the USS Chouree as the first aviation repair ship. (24)
- Northrop Aircraft started flight-testing the JB-1 missile. (6)
- ORMOC BAY LANDINGS.** By coincidence, both the US and Japanese forces conducted amphibious landings on Leyte’s West Coast at the same time. The US 77th Infantry Division put ashore at Deposito just south of the town of Ormoc in Ormoc Bay, while the Japanese 68<sup>th</sup> Independent Brigade landed some 20 miles north of Ormoc in San Isidro Bay. FEAF P-38s from Tacloban provided combat air patrol over the US fleet and received credit for 53 enemy aircraft. Meanwhile, P-47s, P-40s, and F-4Us attacked the enemy landing fleet and sank four freighters and an amphibious ship, but not before they landed some 4,000 troops. Kamikazes sank three and damaged several US vessels despite the best efforts of the P-38 pilots. (17)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** FEAF B-29s bombed N. Korean towns near Changjin Reservoir to help U.S. Marine and Army units trying to break out from Hagaru-Ri and Koto-Ri. Troops in those two places linked and built crude airstrips, which allowed FEAF Combat Cargo Command airplanes to land with supplies and to evacuate casualties. Eight C-119s dropped bridge spans, which let the surrounded U.S. troops cross a 1,500-foot-deep gorge to break the enemy encirclement. This was the first air-dropped bridge in history of warfare. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** F-86 pilots engaged enemy swept-wing jets in strength in the Pyongyang area for the first time since August 9. This effort produced the largest F-86 claim for a day: 7 out of 32 enemy fighters destroyed, 1 damaged and 1 probably destroyed. (17)
- 1954: Using a fully automatic approach and landing system at Edwards AFB, the USAF recovered a missile, the Navaho X-10, for the first time. (3) (26)
- 1956: The DoD placed all air transport operations under a single service manager and named MATS as its operating agency. Later implemented on 1 July 1957, this directive required the Navy to transfer its transport aircraft, except for 30 four-engine land transports belonging to the Fleet Logistic Air Wings, to the Air Force. (2)
- 1957: A Thor missile, equipped with an all-inertial guidance system, completed its first fully successful test in a launch from Cape Canaveral. (6)
- 1960: A new Thor-Agena B boosted Discoverer XVIII from Vandenberg AFB into a polar orbit. Its 300-pound reentry capsule carried albumin, algae, films, gold foil, gamma globulin, and human tissue. On 10 December, after 48 orbits, the capsule ejected; Capt Gene W. Jones flew a C-119 below and caught the returning capsule in the air. (24)
- 1961: SECDEF Robert S. McNamara terminated the Mobile Minuteman program. (1) (6)



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1962: The USAF successfully launched a Minuteman missile with a Mark 11 reentry vehicle on the first attempt. It flew on a 3,500-mile flight from Cape Canaveral. (6)
- 1965: The USAF announced that a SAC crew had launched the first operationally configured Minuteman II from an operational silo at Vandenberg AFB. (16) (26)
- 1966: The first completed Minuteman II wing, the 150-missile Wing VI complex, turned over to the USAF at Grand Forks AFB.
- 1972: **APOLLO XVII.** Eugene A. Cernan, Ronald E. Evans, and Harrison H. Schmitt, flew the sixth and last NASA manned lunar landing mission. The "Challenger" lunar module touched down at Taurus-Littrow site on 11 December and left on 14 December. It hooked up with the "America" command module and splashed down in mid-pacific on 19 December. Cernan set a FAI record for time outside a spacecraft on the lunar surface at 21 hours 32 minutes 35 seconds in three lunar rover rides. Evans set a record of 147 hours 41 minutes for time in lunar orbit, while Cernan and Schmitt set a record for distance traveled on the moon. This was the last Apollo and last manned space operation to land on the moon. (9) (21)
- 1974: First E-4A Advanced Airborne Command Post aircraft delivered to the National Emergency Airborne Command Post. (12)
- 1977: SECDEF Harold Brown announced a cutback in the ALCM and SLCM programs as part of the SALT II treaty. (6)
- 1986: A WC-130 Hercules flew 7 tons of food, clothing, and other emergency supplies to Saipan in the Marianas Islands after Typhoon Kim devastated the Island. (16)
- 1993: The last F-111E Aardvark in USAFE left England for the US to be stationed with the 27 FW at Cannon AFB. (16)
- The 917<sup>th</sup> Wing at Barksdale AFB received the Air Force Reserve's first B-52 bombers. (21)
- 2002: **Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.** The 111<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (Pennsylvania ANG) deployed six A-10s to Bagram AB, Afghanistan, for nearly five weeks. The 175<sup>th</sup> Wing (Maryland ANG) deployed elements as well. (32)
- 2006: **Operation UNITY KNIGHT.** Through 13 December, after weeks of rain in Eastern Kenya, an Air Force C-130 Hercules from the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing in Southwest Asia delivered food and supplies to 160,000 Somali refugees in the Dadaab region, about 290 miles northeast of Nairobi. The Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa sent a 20-man advance team to Kenya to prepare for operations. The team loaded and dropped 240,000 pounds of relief supplies in five days. (AFNEWS, "Air Force Delivers Much Needed Supplies to Kenya," 11 Dec 2006.)

### 8 December

- 1903: Charles P. Manly flew the full-scale Langley plane on its second and last trial flight. It crashed upon launch from a houseboat on the Potomac River. (24)
- 1914: **ROBERT J. COLLIER TROPHY.** Lawrence B. Sperry showed his gyrostabilizer to the Aero Club of America. For his invention, he received the Collier Trophy. (24)
- 1941: **WORLD WAR II.** Congress declared war on Japan. At the time, America had to face certain facts: US surface forces were unable to help the Allies, at Pearl Harbor the Japanese had severely mauled the Navy's Pacific battle fleet, and the Army could not conduct large-scale land

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operations. As a result, airpower—the Army’s air forces and Navy’s air arm with their inherent mobility—remained the only force capable of early action against the enemy.

Following Pearl Harbor, the Japanese attacked American bases in the Philippines. Japanese fighters destroyed more than 100 US combat aircraft on the ground, including 17 B-17s and 55 P-40s, while killing 80 airmen and wounding another 150. Five US pilots shot down seven Japanese planes. (21)

- 1945: Flying a Douglas XB-42, Lt Col H. F. Warden and Capt Glenn W. Edwards set a Federation Aeronautique Internationale record of 5 hours 17 minutes 55 seconds for a transcontinental flight between Los Angeles, Calif., and Washington DC. They averaged 433.6 MPH in the flight. (9)
- 1948: A B-36 completed a 9,400-mile nonstop, round-trip between Fort Worth, Tex., and Hawaii without refueling. (9)
- 1958: Hiller unveiled its X-18 Propelloplane, a 16 1/2-ton tilt-wing aircraft capable of conventional and vertical takeoffs and landings, at Moffett Field, Calif. (24)
- 1962: A silo at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., received the first Titan II. (6)
- 1964: A United Air Lines Caravelle jet landed at Dulles International Airport in DC for the first time by a computer alone.
- The Air Force accepted the first of 54 HC-130Hs the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service.
- 1965: Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara announced that all B-58, B-52C, D, E, and F-models would be phased out of the USAF inventory by late 1971. (1)
- The Air Force distributed F-X study proposals to prospective bidders. (30)
- 1976: The full-scale development version of the F-16A Fighting Falcon made its maiden flight at Fort Worth, Tex. (16) (26)
- 1978: USAFE began actively supporting the withdrawal of Americans from Iran. The Military Airlift Command airlifted 900 passengers from Tehran to bases in the US and Germany in 11 C-141 and C-5 missions. Another 5,700 American and third country nationals left Iran on the command’ regularly scheduled missions until February 1979, when Iran’s revolutionary government closed the airport. (2) (4) (21)
- 1987: The US and Soviet Union signed the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty to remove all intermediate range nuclear missiles (620 to 3,415 miles) from Europe. Following the agreement, the USAF inactivated six Ground Launched Cruise Missile wings. (21)
- 1993: The USAF destroyed the first of 450 Minuteman II silos scheduled for demolition under the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START). (16) (26)
- 1995: **Operation PROVIDE PROMISE.** The first C-17 to land in Bosnia flew into Sarajevo with 154,000 pounds of heaters and pressed wood. The C-17 from Rhein-Main AB, Germany, took only 32 minutes to unload its cargo. (18)
- 2000: The National Air and Space Administration’s Dryden Flight Research Center conducted the X-40A’s first captive-carry flight above Edwards AFB, Calif. A CH-47 Chinook helicopter carried the 22-foot-long unmanned vehicle to nearly 15,000 feet in a rehearsal for an upcoming free flight. The X-40A, originally developed for the USAF’s Space Maneuver Vehicle program, was an 85 percent-scale version of Boeing’s X-37. (3)

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- 2003: A safety review board cleared the Airborne Laser to begin initial laser testing activities. That decision allowed the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB, Calif., to examine laser hardware and software for installation into a modified Boeing 747 for aerial tests. (3)
- 2005: Lockheed Martin received a \$149-million contract to build a prototype unmanned near-space vehicle that would hover at 60,000 feet in altitude. The High-Altitude Airship would be about 17 times bigger than a Goodyear blimp, be untethered, be able to remain in place for a month, and be able to carry 500 pounds of sensors to detect enemy ballistic missiles. (AIMPOINTS, "Lockheed in US Airship Deal," 9 December 2005)

### 9 December

- 1945: Westinghouse Electric & the Glenn L. Martin Company made the first Stratovision flight tests at Middle River, Md. William Smith flew the plane in the stratosphere for the broadcasts. (24)
- 1946: Chalmers "Slick" Goodlin, a Bell test pilot, flew the X-1 in its first powered test flight to 550 MPH. (9) (24)
- 1948: **MACKAY TROPHY.** An arctic storm forced a C-47 Skytrain to land on the Greenland ice cap, stranding the crew of seven. In a rescue attempt using a B-17 and a towed glider, five more crewmembers became stranded. On 28 December, Lt Col Emil Beaudry landed his ski-equipped C-47 on the ice cap to rescue all 12 men and earn the trophy for most meritorious flight of the year. (21)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** A C-47 completed the first successful night drop of agents behind enemy lines in Korea. (21)
- 1952: Republic's XF-91 rocket augmented jet became the first combat aircraft to fly a supersonic flight at Edwards AFB, Calif. (3)
- 1955: The AF Ballistic Missile Division received the responsibility to develop the Thor intermediate range ballistic missile. (16)
- 1956: The 463d Troop Carrier Wing at Ardmore AFB, Okla., received the first operational Lockheed C-130 propjet transport, named the "City of Ardmore." (21)
- 1959: At Brookfield, Conn., Maj William J. Davis and Capt Walter J. Hodgson flew an H-43 Huskie helicopter to a record altitude of 21,952 feet. (24)
- 1964: Three airmen spent a 38 days in a simulated spaceship to test a helium mixture of atmosphere.
- 1972: The competitive fly-off between the A-9 and A-10 ended. (3)
- 1978: With the rise of political tensions and disturbances in Iran, the Military Airlift Command sent a C-5 and a C-141 to move about 900 dependents from Teheran to Europe and the US. (26)
- 1988: Sierra Research/de Havilland Canada delivered the first E-9A Airborne Telemetry Data Relay Aircraft to Tyndall AFB, Fla. (20)
- 1992: **Operation RESTORE HOPE I.** Through 4 May 1993, Air Mobility Command aircraft moved 51,431 passengers and 41,243 tons of cargo in more than 1,000 missions to support UN peace-keeping efforts in Somalia. The 28,000 deployed troops protected the food, supplies, and aid workers from armed factions in the country. Additionally, Air Force Reserve crews flew 190 sorties to deliver 1,500 tons of supplies, while refuelers completed 1,170 missions to deliver

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82.4 million pounds of fuel. (16) (18)

1998: **Operation PHOENIX SCORPION IV/Exercise NOBLE SHIRLEY.** Iraq's threat to the Middle East led to another PHOENIX SCORPION deployment and Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise Noble Shirley to deploy Patriot missiles to Israel. Through 21 December, C-17s airlifted the Patriots from Ramstein AB, Germany, to Nevatim AB, Israel. For this effort, USAFE assumed tactical control of the C-17s and the Air Mobility Command's Tanker Airlift Control Element at Nevatim. This event was the first time that tactical control of strategic airlift assets had passed from US Transportation Command and the Air Mobility Command to another command. (See 16 December) (22)

President William J. Clinton presented an honorary fourth star to Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., the first black USAF general and the leader of the "Tuskegee Airmen" in World War II. (21)

2002: **TYPHOON PONGSONA.** After the typhoon devastated Guam with sustained 150 MPH winds, the Air Mobility Command began airlifting supplies and equipment to the island. In the next 10 days, 58 C-5 missions delivered 1,200 tons of humanitarian relief cargo to Andersen AFB. (21)

2003: **DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.** TSgt Eric M. Olson, a loadmaster from the 313<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, helped his aircrew safely land a C-17 hit by enemy fire while leaving Baghdad International Airport. Olson executed his emergency checklists, tended to a wounded passenger, and calmly readied the other passengers for an emergency landing. For his actions, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross on 11 January 2005. (22)

2004: The X-45A Joint Unmanned Combat Aerial System completed its first beyond-line-of-sight test. In the 46-minute sortie, a Dryden Flight Research Center operator at Edwards AFB, Calif., passed the X-45's control to a mission control operator at Boeing's Seattle facility, who changed the vehicle's speed and altitude several times before returning control to Dryden. (3)

### 10 December

1941: Aircraft from the USS Enterprise sank a Japanese sub north of Hawaii. It was the first Japanese combat ship sunk by the US in World War II. (24)

Five B-17s from the 93 BMS carried out the first heavy bombardment mission of World War II. They attacked a Japanese convoy as they landed troops on the northern coast of Luzon, Philippines. (21)

In its first foreign operation, the ACFC ferried four B-24 bombers to the Middle East. (2)

1947: The National Aeronautic Association awarded the Collier Trophy for 1946 to Lewis A. Rodert for developing thermal ice-prevention systems.

Lt Col John P. Stapp took his first rocket propelled sled ride. (24)

1950: **KOREAN WAR.** FEAF Combat Cargo Command finished a two-week airlift for surrounded U.S. troops in N. Korea by delivering 1,580 tons of supplies and equipment and moving almost 5,000 sick and wounded troops. Participating airlift units conducted 350 C-119 and C-47 flights. (28)

1954: On a rocket-propelled sled run, Lt Col John P. Stapp attained 632 MPH (equal to Mach 1.7 at 35,000 feet) and decelerated to zero in 1.4 seconds. He experienced the greatest G-force ever endured by man (40 Gs) in recorded tests. The test proved that humans could survive ejection from an aircraft at supersonic speeds. (16) (21)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1955: Ryan's X-13 Vertijet flew its first flight. (3)
- 1958: National Airlines began the first jet domestic passenger service in the US with a Boeing 707 flight between New York and Miami. (21)
- 1962: The Army successfully fired its Pershing rocket, a solid-fuel replacement for the Redstone, from Cape Canaveral and guided it through a series of zigzag maneuvers designed to test its guidance system. (16) (24)
- 1963: SECDEF Robert S. McNamara cancelled the X-20A Dyna-Soar Program and placed the near-earth MOL project under USAF direction. (3)
- 1965: SECDEF 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. (1) (12)
- 1967: MSgt H. B. Whitmore, wearing a passive pressure suit developed by the School of Aviation Medicine, set a new high altitude record during tests in a chamber simulating 112,000 feet in altitude.
- 1980: **Operation CREEK SENTRY:** In response to the Polish crisis, four E-3A AWACS aircraft deployed to Ramstein AB in an expanded Creek Sentry deployment. (4)
- 1986: An HC-130, a UH-60 Black Hawk, a CH-3 Jolly Green Giant, and a MH-53 helicopter rescued 19 survivors from the Norwegian ship Greco Alpha, a 300-foot seismographic research vessel that caught fire 30 miles from Destin, Fla. The survivors were flown to Eglin AFB to medical treatment. (16)
- 2000: In its Palmdale plant, Boeing completed structural mode tests on its X-32B Joint Strike Fighter concept demonstrator. The X-32B would be used to validate Boeing's direct-lift approach to short take-off vertical landing flights. (AFNEWS Article 001827, 13 Dec 2000)
- 2001: **Operation DEEP FREEZE.** Through 20 January 2002, a 50 AS aircrew from Little Rock AFB, assigned to the 50th Air Expeditionary Squadron, flew the first wheeled C-130 mission from the Pegasus glacial runway in Antarctica to provide more airlift for the National Science Foundation. The 3 deployed wheeled C-130s flew 11 resupply missions between Antarctica and Christchurch IAP, New Zealand, in that period. (22)
- 2004: From Quonset State Airport, the 143 AW (Rhode Island ANG) deployed the first C-130J "Super Hercules" for Southwest Asian combat operations. Through 8 March 2005, two C-130Js and four crews from the 143d flew 625 sorties and logged 1,371 hours moving 7,031 passengers and 1,151 cargo pallets to locations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa. (22) (32)

### 11 December

- 1914: For the first time, an Army plane received and transmitted radio messages at distances of four and 10 miles, respectively. Using a Burgess-Wright airplane, Lt Herbert A. Dargue, the pilot, and Lt Joseph O. Mauborgne, who designed the radio set, conducted the experiment in the Philippines. (21) (24)
- 1915: Four Portuguese Army Officers became the first officers to become flying students in the US when they reported to the Signal Corps Aviation School at San Diego. (24)
- 1941: Germany and Italy declared war on the United States; Congress responded in kind with a similar declaration against Germany and Italy.

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1945: Col Clarence S. Irvine and his crew flew his Pacusan Dreamboat B-29 to a 5-hour, 27-minute, 8-second record for a 2,464-mile flight from Burbank to New York. He averaged 450.38 MPH for the trip in setting a FAI record for multi-engined military aircraft. (9) (24)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** A fully loaded B-26 of the 3d Bombardment Wing caught fire at Kunsan Airfield and exploded. The accident soon destroyed three other B-26s and caused major damage to six F-84s of the co-located 474th Fighter-Bomber Wing. (28)
- 1956: **Operation SAFE HAVEN.** After a revolt against Soviet rule in Hungary expelled Russian occupation forces, the Soviets sent in reinforcements to restore order. But before the Soviet-backed Hungarian government closed the borders, some 200,000 refugees fled. MATS, Navy, and commercial aircraft flew 15,570 refugees from Germany to the US to 3 January 1957. (4)
- 1959: Piloting an F-105 Thunderchief, Brig Gen Joseph H. Moore set a world speed record of 1,216.48 MPH over a closed course at Edwards AFB. (24)
- The US and UK certified the Thor missile's operational capability. (6)
- 1961: First direct US aid to Vietnam came when the Army assigned two helicopter companies with 32 H-21Cs.
- 1962: The first two flights of Minuteman I missiles were declared operational at Malmstrom AFB. (6)
- 1969: The Air Force's YF-12A supersonic aircraft made its first flight from Edwards AFB under joint USAF-NASA sponsorship. This opened a program to advance American knowledge of aerial defense tactics and the future of commercial aviation.
- 1984: Two C-141 Starlifters flew survivors and two casualties of a Kuwaiti Airlines hijacking to either Rhein-Main AB or to the US. (16) (26)
- 1986: The F-15E dual-role fighter made its first flight at St. Louis. (30)
- 1988: Two C-141s with humanitarian relief supplies arrived in Yerevan, Armenia, after a massive earthquake on 7 December killed more than 40,000 people and left another 500,000 homeless. A C-5 also carried supplies to Incirlik AB. In the ensuing 20 missions to Soviet Armenia through December 1989, MAC delivered 572 tons of rescue equipment, blankets, tents, and medical supplies. For the first time, US aircraft flew directly to the Soviet Union with out Soviet personnel on board as observers. (18) (21)

### 12 December

- 1929: Cmdr Richard E. Byrd for his flights over the poles and Charles M. Manly (posthumously) for pioneer developments in airplane engines received Langley Medals. (24)
- 1935: Lt Hugh F. McCaffery (USA) and crew of five set an amphibian distance record of 1,033.2 miles from San Juan, Puerto Rico, to Chapman Field, Miami, Fla. (24)
- 1941: Maj Gen Herbert A. Dargue, a pioneer aviator, died when his plane crashed into a Sierra Nevada mountain side near Bishop, Calif. (24)
- 1944: **MEDAL OF HONOR:** Maj Richard I. Bong, 49<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, 9th Fighter Squadron, with 38 aerial victories, received the medal from General MacArthur in ceremonies at Tacloban in the Philippines. (17)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1953: In the rocket-powered Bell X-1A, which a B-29 bomber dropped over Edwards AFB, Calif., Maj Charles E. Yeager attained a speed of 1,650 MPH (Mach 2.44). (3) (9)
- 1957: In an F-101A Voodoo fighter-bomber, Maj Adrian E. Drew set a world speed record of 1,207.6 MPH at Edwards AFB, Calif. (20)
- 1958: The USAF ended the Goose missile program, which simulated a B-52 or B-47 on radar, in favor of the Snark missile. (6)
- 1968: Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units called to active duty in January and May 1968 started to inactivate. (16)
- 1970: Congress did not fund the Subsonic Cruise Aircraft Decoy (SCAD) program for FY1971. (6)
- X-RAY SKY SURVEY.** A Scout rocket carried the first US satellite launched by another country into orbit. The rocket took Explorer 42 into an equatorial orbit from Italy's San Marco launch platform in the Indian Ocean, near the Kenyan coast, to conduct this special survey. (7)
- 1975: The E-3A Airborne Warning and Control System arrived at Edwards AFB, Calif., for testing. (3)
- 1979: North Atlantic Treaty Organization ministers voted to deploy Ground Launched Cruise Missiles and Pershing II missiles in Europe during a meeting in Brussels, Belgium. (4)
- 1985: Through 20 January 1986, the Military Airlift Command supported recovery operations after an Arrow Air DC-8 crashed on takeoff from Gander International Airport, Newfoundland. The accident claimed the lives of 248 101st Airborne Division paratroopers and eight civilians. Nine C-141s returned the remains to the U.S, while an additional 17 airlift missions moved 770 passengers and nearly 125 tons of cargo. (18)
- 1988: The 33d Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron saved 11 passengers off of a life raft from the sunken ship, Selina, in the Pacific between the Philippines and Japan. The were flown to Clark AB, Philippines, for examination and treatment. (26)
- 1996: The USAF and the Boeing Aircraft Company successfully demonstrated that an AGM-86C Conventional Air Launched Cruise Missile, guided only by a Global Positioning System, could deliver precision strike accuracy. During the test flight, a B-52H launched the modified missile on a 4-hour 30-minute flight. The missile hit the target area with the accuracy required for a precision strike. The demonstration featured a steep-terminal-dive to deliver a penetrator warhead on target--a first for a this cruise missile. (AFNEWS Article 961299)
- 1998: At Beale AFB, Calif., a 1st Reconnaissance Squadron pilot, Maj Alan Zwick, shattered a world record by flying his U-2 and payload to an altitude more than 12 ½ miles above the Earth. Zwick broke the previous record of Rudolf Fiam, a Czechoslovakian pilot, who flew a Yakovlev 40 on 24 February 1979 to an altitude of 28,513 feet with a payload of 4,400 pounds. Zwick surpassed that record 12 minutes into his flight, and he continued to climb to over 66,800 feet, or 38,287 feet higher than the Czechoslovakian record. (AFNEWS Article 981999, 24 Dec 98)
- A KC-135R, modified with Pacer CRAG, flew its first overseas mission from Grand Forks AFB. The 905 AREFS aircraft transferred 95,000 pounds of fuel to a B-52 in Alaskan airspace during the mission. (22)
- 2000: Following the fatal crash of a Marine Corps Osprey during a training sortie in North Carolina, the U. S. Marine Corps suspended all MV-22 flight testing. The USAF also halted all CV-22 developmental testing by the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB, Calif. (3)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2001: **Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.** A B-1B on a bombing mission to Afghanistan crashed in the Indian Ocean, 10 miles north of Diego Garcia. It was the USAF's first aircraft loss in the operation and the first B-1 lost in combat. The crew survived. (21)
- 2005: From Charleston AFB, S.C., 17 C-17s from the 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing and the 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing--the largest formation of C-17 Globemaster IIIs to take off from a single base--launched into the morning skies to demonstrate the USAF's strategic airdrop capability. The previous record was 15 C-17s from McChord AFB, Wash. The training formation left the base to locations around the southeast to perform required quarterly, semiannual and end-of-year training. (AFNEWS Article, "Charleston AFB Breaks C-17 Flying Record," 12 Dec 05)

### 13 December

- 1924: The NM-1, an all-metal airplane, flew at the Naval Aircraft Factory. It was designed and built to develop metal construction for naval airplanes and was intended for Marine Corps expeditionary use.
- 1927: Col Charles A. Lindbergh began a goodwill flight to Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies. (24)
- 1933: President Franklin D. Roosevelt presented the first Air Mail Flyer's Medal of Honor to Maj Bryan Freeburg. (24)
- 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. (18)
- 1943: Under perfect conditions for radar bombing (interpreted as ugly weather), 710 bombers from Eighth Air Force attacked Kiel, Germany. (4)
- 1948: Col Edward P. Eagan flew 20,559 miles around the world from New York and back, in a record 147 hours 15 minutes. (9)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** 29 F-86s encountered 75 MiG-15s over Sinanju. In a wild melee, the F-86 pilots shot down 9 MiGs, giving USAF pilots a total of 14 aerial victories for the day. (28)
- 1956: Maj Arnold I. Beck soared to a simulated altitude of 198,770 feet, the highest on record, in an Air Research and Development Command altitude chamber at Dayton. (16) (24)
- 1958: Gordo, a one-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. (24)
- 1960: Cmdr Leroy Heath (USN) piloted an A3J-1 Vigilante to a world weight and height record, when he ascended to 91,450.8 feet with a 1,000 kilogram (2,200 pounds) payload. (24)
- 1962: In a joint US and Canadian test, two Canadian Black Brant III sounding rockets, fired from Wallops Station, lifted 100-pound payloads to a height of 61 miles. (24)
- Project STARGAZER.** For two days, Capt Joseph A. Kittinger, Jr., and William C. White, a Navy civilian astronomer, flew the USAF's Stargazer balloon to 82,000 feet in an 18-hour, 30-minute flight above southwestern New Mexico. A telescope on top of the gondola provided White one of the clearest celestial views ever seen by an astronomer. (9)



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1965: Four USAF officers completed the longest space cabin test yet, spending 68 days in a simulator. This included 56 days at altitude in a 30-foot long, 9-foot in diameter cabin, breathing an atmosphere of 70 percent oxygen and 30 percent helium.
- 1966: A Minuteman II launched from Vandenberg AFB carried the first Minuteman Emergency Rocket Communications System into space for testing and evaluation. (6)
- 1971: Vandenberg AFB conducted the 95th and final Minuteman I operational test (Phase II) launch.
- 1973: General Dynamics rolled out the YF-16 at its plant in Fort Worth. (3)
- 1982: MAC aircraft airlifted tents, blankets, medical supplies, and generators into the Yemen Arab Republic after a major earthquake. (16)
- 2001: President George W. Bush informed Russia that the US would withdraw from the 1972 Antiballistic Missile Treaty to develop and implement a missile defense system. (21)
- 2005: An F/A-22 Raptor, flying at supersonic speed over the range at Edwards AFB, dropped its first 1,000-pound guided JDAM. (AIMPOINTS, "Supersonic Raptor Drops First Guided Bomb," 13 December 2005)

### 14 December

- 1903: Wilbur Wright made a first powered airplane flight at Kill Devil Hills, Kitty Hawk. Although he flew 105 feet in 3.5 seconds, the plane crashed; therefore, this effort was not recognized as the first sustained or controlled flight. (20)
- 1924: At Bremerton, Wash., the battleship USS Mississippi launched a Martin MO-1 plane from its forward turret by powder catapult. (24)
- 1925: The Lampert Committee, set up on 24 March 1924 by the House to examine US Air Service operations, made its report. The committee wanted a DoD, more aviation representation in higher military councils, and more money for aviators. (24)
- 1927: The USN commissioned the USS Lexington aircraft carrier. (24)
- 1944: Through 16 December, aircraft from six escort carriers in USN Task Unit 77.12.1 flew cover for landings at Mindoro in the Philippines. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Due to advancing Chinese troops, through 17 December the Combat Cargo Command moved 228 patients, 3,891 passengers, and 20,088 tons of cargo from Yonpo Airfield. The airlift support helped to evacuate the Army's X Corps from the Hamhung-Hungnam area in Northeastern Korea. A FEAF airplane dropped the first six-ton Tarzon on a tunnel near Huichon with limited effectiveness. (21) (26) (28)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** In the night, 19th Bombardment Group B-29s inflicted severe damage on marshalling yards at Maengjung-Dong.
- 1959: Capt Joe B. Jordan set a FAI altitude record of 103,395.9 feet at Edwards AFB in a Lockheed F-104C Starfighter. (3) (9)
- 1960: In a nonstop, nonrefueled flight, Lt Col T. R. Grissom and crew flew their B-52G over a record 10,079-mile closed course. They flew from Edwards AFB over Texas, Washington DC, Newfoundland, Alaska, Montana, and back to Edwards. They had fuel for 1,000 more miles after the 19-hour, 44-minute flight. (1) (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1961: The Army's Nike-Zeus intercepted a Nike-Hercules missile in flight. The interception was a first for Nike-Zeus.
- 1962: Mariner II, launched on 27 August 1962, scanned the atmosphere and surface of Venus with instruments for 42 minutes as it passed 21,600 miles above the surface. This probe then began a 345.9-day solar orbit. (16) (24)
- 1964: Donald Segner flew Lockheed's XH-51A, a helicopter with wings and rotor blades, at 242 MPH. The Army called this "the fastest known speed for any rotor craft in the world."
- FIRST BARREL ROLL MISSION.** The first armed reconnaissance mission flown in Laos. Code-named Barrel Roll, this mission initiated tactical fighter operations in Southeast Asia on a continuous basis. (17)
- 1965: The USAF accepted the final Minuteman flight in Wing VI.
- 1966: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Col Albert R. Howarth demonstrated exemplary courage and airman-ship under the most hazardous conditions of darkness and intense enemy fire while participating in a SEA combat mission. He received the Mackay Trophy for his flight. (26)
- 1970: Byran Graham set a 3-kilometer helicopter speed record by flying a Sikorsky S-67 to 216.839 MPH.
- The final Minuteman III research and development, and the last ICBM launch, from Cape Kennedy succeeded. (6)
- 1972: Robert Sparks used a Semco Challenger balloon at Lafayette, Ind., to set a duration record of 11 hours 14 minutes for subclasses AX-7 (1,600 to 2,200 cubic meters) through AX-10 (over 4,000 cubic meters) balloons. (9)
- 1984: Grumman pilot Chuck Sewell flew the X-29 forward-swept wing aircraft on its first flight at Edwards AFB. (16)
- 1986: Chuck Yeager left Edwards AFB on a record-setting flight to Kitty Hawk.
- Through 23 December, Richard Rutan and Jeana Yeager completed the first nonstop, unrefueled flight around the world in the experimental aircraft, the Voyager. The flight started and stopped 24,986.7 miles later at Mojave, Calif. (20) (21)
- 1988: W. Stuart Symington, the first SECAF, died at his home in New Canaan, Conn.
- 1989: MAC allowed female aircrew members to serve on C-130 and C-141 airdrop missions for the first time. (16) (26)

### 15 December

- 1942: Nine B-24s from the 376<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group bombed Sfax to open Ninth Air Force's campaign against Tunisian ports. (24)
- 1944: **MINDORO INVADED.** US Army forces landed on the island of Mindoro against very light opposition. Far East Air Forces aircraft from Leyte provided fighter cover for the invasion, but enemy aircraft destroyed two Landing Ship-Tanks (LSTs)--a Kamikaze hit and sank LST 738 with most of the equipment of the 8<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group and the 418th Night Fighter Squadron. The forces quickly constructed an airfield (Hill Field) by 20 December, which allowed the 8<sup>th</sup> FG

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

and the 418th Night Fighter Squadron to fly into the base. The 8th's pilots, flying new P-38Ls, shot down six enemy aircraft prior to landing. Within a few days, a second base at Elmore Hill opened and all three P-47 squadrons of the 58<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group moved to Hill Field.

A Noorduy C-64 Norseman carrying famed bandleader, Maj Glenn Miller, disappeared over the English Channel. Miller, pilot John Morgan, and Lt Col Norman Baessell were flying to Paris, France, from Twinwood Farm airfield in England.

1946: National Airlines set a commercial record of 6 hours 15 minutes for a flight from Newark, N. J., to Havana, Cuba. (24)

1950: **KOREAN WAR.** The 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Interceptor Group inaugurated F-86 Sabrejet operations in Korea. Far East Air Forces Bomber Command launched its first mission in a new zone interdiction plan. (28)

1951: The USAF directed the Military Air Transport Service to develop the Civil Reserve Air Fleet program. (18)

1957: The 556<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron activated at Patrick AFB, Fla., to train missile crews and conduct test launches. It was the Strategic Air Command's first operational SM-62 Snark squadron and first missile squadron. (6)

1959: Capt Joseph W. Rogers flew a F-106 Delta Dart to 1,520.9-MPH speed record on an 11-mile straight course at Edwards AFB, Calif. (9)

1961: The first class of five military space pilots graduated from an 8-month-long Aerospace Research Pilots School. (16) (24)

North American Air Defense Command's Semi-automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) air defense system became fully operational with the completion of its 21st and last control center at Sioux City, Iowa. (16) (24)

1962: In a joint American-Danish-Norwegian test, a Nike-Cajun sounding rocket traveled to a height of 68 miles to secure data on the ionosphere and the Northern Lights. (24)

1964: The Strategic Air Command inactivated the last Atlas D missile squadron, the 549<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron, at Offutt AFB, Nebr. (6)

In a FC-47, Capt Jack Harvey and his crew flew the first gunship mission in the Vietnam War. The FC-47 later became the AC-47. It was equipped with Gatling guns in its cargo bay. (21)

1969: The US agreed to withdraw from Wheelus AB, Libya.

1989: The Navy launched the fifth Trident II missile successfully. Its inert warheads landed 4,000 nautical miles away near the Ascension Islands about 35 minutes after launch. (8: Feb 90)

2005: ACC Commander General Ronald E. Keys declared an initial operating capability for the 27th Fighter Squadron and the F-22A Raptor with the 1<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing at Langley AFB, Va. At this time, the USAF also changed the aircraft's designation from F/A-22 back to F-22A. (3)

At Vandenberg AFB, Calif., the 30th Space Wing activated the Western Range Operations Control Center to command and control all Vandenberg launches and to oversee the Western Range, an area that encompasses the west coast of the US and extends more than 4,200 miles across the Pacific Ocean. (AFNEWS Article, "Vandenberg Activates Area Control Center," 23 Dec 05)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2006: Testing of the synthetic Fischer-Tropsch fuel met a critical goal when an Air Force Flight Test Center B-52H flew a successful 6.1-hour sortie from Edwards AFB, Calif., using the alternative fuel in all eight engines. The aircraft performed exactly as it would with a standard petroleum-derived JP-8 fuel. Major General Curtis Bedke, the Test Center Commander, flew the aircraft. (3)

Air Force officials released a new draft Request for Proposal for the KC-X, a tanker to replace the KC-135 Stratotanker. (AFNEWS, "Air Force Releases KC-X Draft Request for Proposal," 16 Dec 2006.)

An F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter took off for its first flight as part of system development testing in Fort Worth, Tex. (AFNEWS, "Engineers Contribute to F-35 Initial Flight Success," 16 Dec 2006)

### 16 December

1907: The Chief Signal Officer called for bids on a lighter-than-air "airship." (24)

1958: Launching operations began down the Pacific Missile Range with a successful Thor missile shot from Vandenberg AFB, Calif. This was the first ballistic missile flight over the Pacific Ocean. (6)

At Dover AFB, Del., Brig Gen Robert J. Goewey flew a C-133 Cargomaster with the heaviest load in aviation history to date. The aircraft carried 117,000 pounds to 10,000 feet. (24)

1960: From Vandenberg AFB, Calif., the Strategic Air Command fired the first Atlas-D equipped with a Mark-3 nose cone over a 4,384-mile course to Eniwetok Island. (24)

The Semi-automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) facility at Gunter AFS, Ala., controlled two BOMARC-B missiles launched from Eglin AFB, Fla., and directed their interception of a B-47 drone flying at 500 MPH at 30,000 feet. (24)

1963: A 13-man Air Force and Army team set a 41,000-foot free-fall parachute record.

1970: The 509th Bombardment Wing at Pease AFB, N. H., received the Strategic Air Command's first combat-capable FB-111A. (12)

1976: First F-16A delivered to Edwards AFB, Calif., for testing. (12)

1982: The 416th Bombardment Wing at Griffiss AFB, N.Y., became the first Strategic Air Command unit to be operationally equipped with Air Launched Cruise Missiles. (6) (12)

1985: Pioneer 6 becomes the longest running spacecraft in history. When launched in 1965, the solar-orbiting satellite had a six-month life expectancy. (8: Dec 90)

1992: **MACKAY TROPHY.** At night, a B-52 from the 668th Bomb Squadron lost two engines in flight when one exploded and damaged another. Two other engines on the same side of the aircraft flamed out, forcing the crew into frantic maneuvers to save the aircraft. The pilot managed to restart the two flamed-out engines and land the plane safely. For that feat, the crew received the trophy. (16) (26)

1996: At Seymour Johnson AFB, N. C., Gen Richard E. Hawley, Air Combat Command Commander, and Congressman Walter B. Jones Jr. of North Carolina, named the thirteenth B-2 the "Spirit of Kitty Hawk" to honor the Wright Brothers first flight. (AFNEWS Article 961250, Dec 96)  
General Hawley also announced that the 509th Bombardment Wing had achieved a limited op-

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

erational capability with B-2 and conventional weapons at Whiteman AFB, Mo. (AFNEWS Article 961330, Dec 96)

Lockheed Martin celebrated a major milestone in C-130 history, when the company assembled its last “H” model to end a 32-year production run. The C-130H was first introduced in 1964 and has been in steady production since. (AFNEWS Article 961271, 16 Dec 96)

1998: **Operation DESERT FOX/PHOENIX SCORPION IV.** The US and Great Britain initiated the operation against Iraq after Iraq prevented UN weapons inspectors from continuing their work. In the 4-day operation, cruise missiles and aircraft strikes hit about 100 Iraqi weapons-production facilities. It was the largest air campaign against the Iraqis since DESERT STORM in 1991, and it featured the first use of the B-1B in combat. Under PHOENIX SCORPION IV, the Air Mobility Command deployed forces that were placed on alert a month earlier as a CONUS Crisis Response Force. In the 4-day deployment, Air Mobility Command aircraft flew 159 missions to airlift 2,462 passengers and 1,940 short tons of cargo. Air National Guardsmen and Air Force Reservists from five different units, plus several active duty units assigned to the Northeast Tanker Task Force in Maine, refueled Air Force aircraft deploying to the Persian Gulf. (21) (22) (32)

A 33d Fighter Wing F-15D from Eglin AFB, Fla., became the first in the Air Force inventory to log 6,000 flying hours. (30)

2000: Lockheed Martin’s X-35C Joint Strike Fighter concept demonstrator for the Navy made its first flight, a 27-minute trip, from Palmdale to Edwards AFB in California to begin flight testing. It resembled the USAF’s X-35A, but had larger wing and control surfaces, ailerons, and a special structure for high-impact landings for carrier operations. (3)

### 17 December

1903: Orville Wright made the first sustained, controlled power airplane flight in the Kill Devil Hills, near Kitty Hawk. In the fourth, and longest flight of the day, the Wright Flyer flew 852 feet in 59 seconds. (20)

1911: While flying in a Wright plane with Robert G. Fowler from Beaumont, Tex., to New York, N.Y., cameraman E. R. Shaw made the first aerial reconnaissance motion picture in America over Beaumont. (24)

1935: Carl Cover, Fred Stineman, and Frank Collbohm fly the Douglas Sleeper Transport on its first flight over Santa Monica. This aircraft preceded the famous DC-3 and the C-47 Gooneybird, the military variant. (21)

1943: **THE ROBERT J. COLLIER TROPHY.** Orville Wright presented the 1942 trophy to his former pupil, Gen Henry H. Arnold, Commanding General, US Army Air Forces, for outstanding achievement in aviation in 1942. (24)

1944: Major Richard Bong, 9<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, shot down his 40th enemy plane in the Pacific. (21)

1945: **THE ROBERT J. COLLIER TROPHY.** President Harry S. Truman presented the 1944 award to Gen Carl Spaatz for “demonstrating the air power concept” in the European War. (24)

1946: At Holloman AFB, N. Mex., the National Institute of Health started a space biological research program. (24)

1947: A Boeing test pilot, Bob Robbins, flew the XB-47 Stratojet prototype for the first time at Boeing Field in Seattle, Wash. (12) (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1948: The Smithsonian Institution celebrated the return of the Wright's Kitty Hawk Flyer to the U. S. on the 45th anniversary of heavier-than-air flight. The London Science Museum kept the aircraft for more than 20 years before returning it on 22 November to Washington DC. (16) (26)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Far East Air Forces F-86 Sabres met North Korean MiG-15s for the first time in combat. Lt Col Bruce H. Hinton achieved the first F-86 aerial victory over a MiG-15. (21) (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Two F-86 Sabre pilots claimed the first sighting of the enemy's IL-28 twin-jet bombers, one having crossed the Yalu River a few miles south of the Sui-ho Reservoir, escorted by two MiG-15s, while the other remained over Manchuria. (28)
- 1957: From Cape Canaveral, Fla., the Convair HGM-16 (Atlas A) ICBM made its first fully successful flight test landing in a target area some 500 miles away. The A-model had boosters, but no sustainer engines, and could not achieve stage separation in flight. (6) (24)
- 1963: Company pilots Leo Sullivan and Hank Dees flew the Lockheed C-141A Starlifter jet cargo transport for the first time in a 55-minute flight at Dobbins AFB, Ga. (12)
- 1967: The RF-111A prototype reconnaissance plane made its first flight at Fort Worth.
- 1969: **PROJECT BLUE BOOK.** Secretary of the Air Force Robert C. Seamans, Jr., announced that the Air Force had ended its investigation of UFOs. (16) (26)
- The Military Airlift Command and the 443d Military Airlift Wing at Altus AFB, Okla., received the first C-5A aircraft. (12) (18)
- 1979: Stan Barrett, a Hollywood stuntman, drove a rocket car faster than sound (739.66 MPH) for the first time at Rogers Dry Lake on Edwards AFB, Calif., on the 76th anniversary of the Wright's first flight. (3)
- 1980: The A-7K Prototype arrived at Edwards AFB, Calif., for testing. (3)
- 1990: A pilot flew the Lockheed/Boeing/General Dynamics YF-22 at an unprecedented 60-degree angle-of-attack attitude in a test flight over Edwards AFB, Calif. (20)
- 1991: Through 22 December, the 436th, 438th, and 439<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Wings flew 238 tons of food and relief supplies to Moscow and Saint Petersburg in Russia, Minsk in Byelorussia; and Yerevan in Armenia.
- 1993: The USAF received its first B-2A bomber (Tail No. 80329), the Spirit of Missouri. General John M Loh, the Air Combat Commander, and Lt Col John Bellanger, flew the aircraft from Palmdale, Calif., to Whiteman AFB, Mo., for its assignment with the 509th Bomb Wing. (15) (26)
- 1994: Through 21 December, a C-130 crew from the 94<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing moved pallets of clothing, furniture, books, beds, and a refrigerator to Albania for orphan shelters. (16) (26)
- 2001: **Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.** C-17 Globemaster III airplanes began airlifting French troops from Istres AB, France, to Afghanistan. (21)
- 2003: In a ceremony in Long Beach, Boeing delivered the first of eight C-17 Globemaster IIIs to the 172<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Wing at Allen C. Thompson Field, Jackson, Miss. The aircraft (Tail No. 02-1112) was also the first C-17 delivered to an Air National Guard unit. The Mississippi Air National Guard named it *The Spirit of Mississippi Minutemen* to honor those Mississippians who, histori-

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cally, had remained vigilant to defend America and the Magnolia State. The delivery occurred on the 100th anniversary of the Wright brothers' historic flight at Kitty Hawk. (22) (32)

- 2004: At Edwards AFB, Calif., the National Air and Space Administration (NASA) retired its B-52B "mothership" (Tail No. 52-0008). The air-launch aircraft dropped advanced research vehicles for test flights for nearly 50 years. At its retirement, 52-0008 was the oldest aircraft in the USAF and the oldest flyable B-52, but it had the lowest number of flying hours of any operational B-52. The aircraft first flew in June 1955, was modified to support the X-15 research program in 1959, and first carried the X-15 aloft in 1960. On 16 November 2004, 52-0008 flew its last mission to launch the X-43A hypersonic research aircraft on its record Mach 9.8 flight over the Pacific Ocean. It logged 1,051 sorties, including 405 test drops of rocket planes, manned lifting bodies, space vehicles, and parachute test fixtures. (3)
- 2007: The USAF marked the 104th anniversary of powered flight by flying a C-17 Globemaster III on the first transcontinental flight using a blend of regular aviation and synthetic fuel. The C-17 took off shortly before dawn from McChord AFB, Wash., and arrived at McGuire AFB, N.J., where Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and a number of other officials greeted the plane. (AFNEWS, "C-17 Uses Synthetic Fuel Blend on Transcontinental Flight," 18 Dec 2007.)

### 18 December

- 1908: Wilbur Wright won France's Aero Club de la Sarthe 100-meter height prize in a flight to 110 meters (361 feet). He also set records for duration and distance of 99.8 kilometers (62 miles) in 1 hour 55 minutes. (9) (24)
- 1912: Lt John H. Towers (U.S. Navy) ended series of tests, begun on 26 October, to determine if subs could be spotted from the air. (24)
- 1913: Lt Henry B. Post set a new Army solo record of 10,600 feet in Signal Corps airplane No. 23.
- 1923: The US Government settled the Christmas aileron patent claim by buying the rights for \$100,000. (24)
- 1931: In Hawaii, Lt William A. Cooke set a glider duration record of 21 hours 34 minutes 15 seconds.
- 1941: Lt "Buzz" Wagner became the first American ace of World War II, when he shot down his fifth Japanese plane over the Philippines in four days. He flew with the 17<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron. (4)
- 1950: Patrol Squadron 892, the first all-Reserve Navy squadron to operate in the Korean War Zone, began flights from Iwakuni, Japan. (24)
- 1958: At Point Mugu, Calif., 1Lt Einar N. Enevoldson and William T. Smith flew F-104 Starfighters to seven time-to-climb records, including 9,842 feet in 42 seconds and 82,021 feet in 4 minutes 26 seconds. (24)

**PROJECT SCORE.** First Atlas satellite, a 4-ton communications relay, placed in orbit. President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivered a Christmas message on 19 December, the first time a human voice had been heard from space. (12)

- 1961: B-52Gs from the 4241st Strategic Wing at Seymour-Johnson AFB, N. C., conducted the first combat evaluation launches of the GAM-72A Quail missile at Eglin AFB, Fla. (6)
- 1969: The Air Force Missile Development Center completed the first guided launch of an AGM-65 Maverick air-to-surface television-guided missile. (12) (26)

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- 1972: **Operation LINEBACKER II:** President Nixon ordered this 11-day all-out bombing campaign against targets in Hanoi and Haiphong. To 29 December, US aircraft dropped 20,370 tons of bombs, including 15,000 tons from B-52s, in strikes against one of the most heavily defended areas of the world. Altogether, the USAF completed 714 B-52 and 830 tactical fighter sorties, while the Navy and Marine Corps flew another 386 sorties in the 11 days. KC-135s flew more than 1,300 sorties to refuel various aircraft. North Vietnam managed to shoot down 15 B-52s, 2 F-4s, and 2 F-111s in this operation. (1) (16) (17)
- During his Linebacker II mission, SSgt Samuel O. Turner became the first B-52 tail gunner to shoot down an enemy airplane, a MiG-21. (21)
- 1974: President Ford signed a law to permit non-flyers to command flying units. (26)
- 1975: First F-15 Eagle, a two-seat trainer, delivered to the 1<sup>st</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing at Langley AFB, Va. (12)
- 1985: Two H-3 Jolly Green Giant helicopters from the 31<sup>st</sup> Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron saved 13 people from the Asuncion Cinco in the South China Sea, 95 miles southwest of Manila in the Philippine Islands. The helicopters carried the survivor to Cubi Point Air Station for medical treatment. (16) (26)
- 1997: **SUPER-TYPHOON PAKA.** Through 14 January 1998, C-5s, C-141s, KC-10s and KC-135s flown by active duty, guard and reserve air crews delivered relief supplies and equipment to Guam after Super-Typhoon Paka with winds up to 236 MPH hit the island on 15 December. Despite flight restrictions and limited navigational aids, C-5s from the 436<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Dover AFB, Del., KC-10s and C-141s from the 60<sup>th</sup> and the 349th Air Mobility Wings at Travis AFB, Calif., and C-141s from the 62<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Wing at McChord AFB, Wash., transported more than 200 emergency workers and critical provisions to Andersen AFB. (22)
- 2006: In a brief ceremony, the 167<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing (West Virginia Air National Guard) unveiled its first C-5 *Galaxy* aircraft. The wing was transitioning from the C-130 Hercules. (32)
- 2007: **Operation DEEP FREEZE.** In Antarctica, where winter temperatures can dip as low as minus 100 F to paralyze an aircraft's hydraulic systems, crystallize its fuel, and solidify its lubricants, the USAF validated the C-17 Globemaster III's polar airdrop capability by delivering 22,372 pounds of supplies to the South Pole. The C-17 delivered 20 containerized delivery system bundles in two passes of from 10,700 feet above sea level. (AFNEWS, "C-17 Polar Airdrop Capability Successful," 21 Dec 2007, <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123080372>.)
- 2007: A weapons team loaded a 20-foot mock bomb into the bomb bay of a simulated B-2 aircraft at Whiteman AFB, Mo. The replica of the 30,000 pound Massive Ordnance Penetrator was 20.5 feet long with a 31.5-inch diameter. When built, the new weapon would be able to penetrate up to 200 feet underground before exploding. (AFNEWS, "30,000 Pound Bomb Reaches Milestone," 27 Dec 2007, <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123080622>.)

### 19 December

- 1912: President William H. Taft appointed a commission to report to Congress on a national aerodynamic laboratory, but Congress did not pass the bill for the commission. (24)
- 1928: Harold F. Pitcairn made the first autogiro flight in the US at Pitcairn Field, Willow Grove, Pa. (24)
- 1931: Maj Gen Benjamin D. Foulois became Chief of Air Corps.



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1933: Charles Lindbergh and his wife Anne returned to New York in their Lockheed Sirius after a six-month, 29,000-mile survey flight for Pan American Airways. They flew through Newfoundland, Greenland, Iceland, Moscow, Africa, and South America. His wife was the radio operator. (7)
- 1936: Maj Alexander P. de Seversky set a 209.40 MPH speed record for amphibians over 100 kilometers (62 miles) at Miami, Fla. (24)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** The 307th Bombardment Wing sent 10 B-29s to bomb marshalling yards at Chongju.
- 1954: Convair's F-102 Delta Dagger made its first flight. (12)
- 1957: In the fourth successful launch, a Thor Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile flew its first fully guided flight using an all-inertial guidance system. (16) (24)
- 1960: In an unmanned test, the National Air and Space Administration used a Redstone rocket to launch a Mercury space capsule from Cape Canaveral, Fla. It attained some 4,200 MPH, a height of 135 miles, and a distance of 235 miles before landing safely by parachute 32 minutes later. (16) (24)
- 1973: The USAF approved the procurement of 52 A-10 Thunderbolt production aircraft, associated engines, and GAU-8A 30 mm gun systems. This followed a successful flight evaluation fly-off of the A-10 with the A-7D Corsair. (16) (26)
- 1974: Deputy Secretary of Defense William P. Clements, Jr., authorized the production of A-10s. (12)
- 1977: After stopping the Advanced Tanker/Cargo Aircraft program on 19 February, President James E. Carter, Jr., changed his mind and approved a buy of 12-20 aircraft in July. On 19 December, the Department of Defense picked McDonnell-Douglas to build 20 DC-10s for the USAF. (1)
- 1979: Through 27 December, the Military Airlift Command flew airlift control elements, aircrews, and communications equipment to airports at Cairo, Egypt; Salisbury, Zimbabwe; and Mombasa, Kenya, to support British troop efforts to monitor a ceasefire and elections in Zimbabwe. Using 2 C-5s and 10 C-141s from RAF Brize-Norton, United Kingdom, the command flew 335 people and 428 tons of cargo to Salisbury in 23 missions. The 360 Military Airlift Command personnel at Brize-Norton directed troop movements for the monitoring force. Three months later two C-5 missions returned 120 British troops and 100 tons of equipment to Brize-Norton. (2) (18)
- 1993: A KC-135 Stratotanker flew from Kadena AB, Japan, to McGuire AFB, N. J., to set a new world record for nonrefueled, nonstop flight. (16)
- 2000: The Navy version of the Joint Strike Fighter, the Boeing X-32A, completed its first aerial refueling at 20,000 feet by meeting a drogue- and probe-equipped KC-10 Extender from the 6<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron at Travis AFB, Calif. (3)
- 2002: The YAL-1A Airborne Laser arrived at Edwards AFB, Calif. There, the Airborne Laser Systems Integration Laboratory installed the six COIL laser generators, sensors, tracking optics, and a megawatt-class chemical laser in the aircraft. (3)
- 2006: **Operation DEEP FREEZE.** A C-17 achieved an airpower milestone by completing the first C-17 airdrop mission over the South Pole. The crew delivered nearly 70,000 pounds of supplies in the flight. (AFNEWS, "Operation Deep Freeze Ends Record-Setting Year," 7 Mar 2007.)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 20 December

- 1928: In a British expedition, Sir Hubert Wilkins and Lt Carl B. Eielson (US Air Service) made the first long flight over the Antarctic. They took 10 hours in the air. (9) (24)
- 1941: Claire Chennault's American Volunteer Group, the Flying Tigers, entered combat for the first time over Kunming, China. They flew P-40 Warhawks in the service of Chinese Premier Chiang Kai-shek. (20) (21)
- 1943: **MEDAL OF HONOR.** On a mission to Bremen, Germany, radio operator TSgt Forest Vosler showed unusual courage, when his B-17 sustained flak damage and hits from enemy aircraft. He received wounds in his legs, but still fired his gun at the attackers. Then another shell exploded near him, lodging splinters in his chest, head, and both eyes. He refused first aid and, between lapses of consciousness, repaired a damaged radio by touch. When the plane ditched in water, Vosler scrambled out on the wing unaided and held another badly wounded man until others could help them into a dingy. He received the Medal of Honor. (4)
- 1946: Lt Cmdr M. W. Davenport used a Navy F8F Grumman Bearcat and took off in 115 feet from a standing start and climbed to 10,000 feet within 94 seconds. (24)
- 1948: The XB-47 Stratojet averaged 500 MPH for a 1,000-mile flight from Moses Lake, Wash., to Albuquerque, N. Mex. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR/Operation CHRISTMAS KIDLIFT.** The 61 TCG airlifted more than 800 endangered South Korean orphans on 12 C-54s to Kimpo to Cheju-do, an island off the South Korean coast. (21) (28)
- 1958: First attempted Titan I launch from Cape Canaveral failed. (6)
- 1960: The USAF used a Thor-Agena A to launch Discoverer XIX from Cape Canaveral into a polar orbit, where infrared scanners tested future Midas equipment.
- The Glenn L. Martin Company delivered its last aircraft, a P5M-2 Marlin seaplane, to the Navy. This ended 48 years of manufacturing that produced more than 12,000 aircraft. The company later became involved in missile and space programs. (8: Dec 90)
- 1962: When SAC declared the Atlas F missiles of the 556 SMS at Plattsburgh AFB to be operational, the Atlas deployment program ended. (6)
- 1963: SAC's responsibility for the Thor missile in the UK ended when the RAF phased out the missile. (1) (6)
- 1968: NASA terminated the X-15 program. The X-15's 200th flight, scheduled for today, was cancelled for bad weather. (3)
- 1971: The NF-104 rocket-powered aerospace training aircraft completed its last flight. Students at Edwards AFB used the NF-104 for steep zoom climb flights to reach the fringes of space. (3)
- 1972: The M2-F3 lifting body completed its 27th and final flight after an air launch from a B-52. It reached 1,066 MPH and 17,500 feet.
- 1984: Two C-130 Hercules aircraft moved 23.8 tons of emergency rescue equipment and vehicles to help in the unsuccessful rescue of 27 miners trapped over a mile below the earth's surface near Huntington, Utah. (16)
- 1989: **Operation JUST CAUSE.** US forces restored democracy in Panama. MAC played a signifi-

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cant role in the operation as 24 active and 9 reserve units completed 84 airdrops, and 22 C-130s, 77 C-141s, and 12 C-5s flew employment missions. Another 40 C-141 and 13 C-5s airlifted follow-on security forces. Meanwhile, SAC KC-135s and KC-10s flew more than 160 missions to deliver 10 million pounds of fuel. From TAC, the F-117A Stealth Fighter made its combat debut by dropping 2,000 pound bombs to “disorient, stun, and confuse” Panamanian Defense Force troops near Rio Hato. The Army’s AH-64 Apache helicopter from the 82d Airborne Division’s Aviation Brigade saw action for the first time, launching AGM-114 Hellfire missiles against enemy targets. In aeromedical evacuations from 20 December 1989 to 5 January 1990, 8 C-141s and 1 C-130 flew 257 wounded soldiers from Panama to the US. During the 27 December 1989 to 3 January 1990 humanitarian airlift, airlifters carried 3 tons of medical supplies, 10,000 blankets, sheets, and food to Panama. For the 1 January through 14 February redeployment, nearly 18,000 troops returned to the US. From 17 December 1989 to 4 January 1990, over 100 KC-10s and KC-135s delivered more than 12 million pounds of fuel to airlifters and other aircraft in 256 sorties. (18) (26)

**MACKAY TROPHY.** A 16th Special Operations Squadron AC-130 crew, under the command of Captain Greg McMillian, received the 1990 Mackay Trophy for leading the attack on the Panamanian Commandancia in JUST CAUSE. (18) (26)

AFRES crews contributed to the success of JUST CAUSE. Reserve airlifters carried more than 5,900 passengers and 3,700 tons of cargo, while refuelers supports active and reserve aircraft. Reserve gunships flew 29 sorties and expended over 7,000 rounds of ammunition. (26)

ANG fighter, special operations, and airlift units participated in JUST CAUSE too. Participants included the 114 TFG, 180 TFG, 193d Special Operations Group, and the 105, 136, 139, 146, 166, and 172 TAGs. (26)

- 1997: A C-141A towed a modified QF-106 *Delta Dart* into the air for the first Eclipse Project flight. Dryden Research Center pilot Mark Stucky flew the Eclipse experimental Demonstrator-1 (EXD-01) to 10,000 feet above Edwards AFB. Eclipse was a joint USAF/NASA/Kelly Space & Technology Inc. concept demonstrator for a future reusable space vehicle. (3)
- 1999: Torrential rains in mid-December caused massive landslides down Mount Avila near Caracas, Venezuela. The landslides destroyed most shantytowns around Caracas and killed as many as 30,000 people, while leaving another 400,000 homeless. A 105 AW C-5 from the New York ANG arrived at Roosevelt Roads NAS in Puerto Rico on 23 December with water purification equipment. From Roosevelt Roads, C-130 aircrews from the Puerto Rico ANG airlifted the C-5’s cargo to Simon Bolivar IAP near Caracas. Through 28 December, the USAF dispatched 6 C-130s, 1 C-5, and 2 MH-60 helicopters to Caracas, Venezuela, to provide humanitarian relief. (21) (22)
- 2004: The USAF inactivated its last operational F-4 Phantom II squadron at Holloman AFB. The 20th Fighter Squadron’s inactivation also ended a 33-year German-American joint fighter training program in F-4E and F aircraft. The last F-4s from Holloman were transferred to the Aircraft Maintenance and Regeneration Center at Davis-Monthan AFB by 7 January 2005. (AFNEWS Article, “Silver Lobos Fly into Retirement,” 22 December 2004)
- 2006: **Operation DEEP FREEZE.** Airmen from McChord AFB flew the first C-17 Globemaster III (tail no. 02-1106) airdrop mission to the South Pole by dropping 70,000 pounds of supplies to the National Science Foundation team at Antarctica’s South Pole Station. The airdrop showed that one C-17 could deliver up to four times the tonnage of a ski-equipped LC-130 Hercules, when bad weather interfered with the resupply mission. The LC-130s belonged to the 109 AW at Stratton ANGB in Scotia, N. Y. (22)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 21 December

- 1926: **MACKAY TROPHY/DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSSES.** Maj Herbert A. Dargue led a Pan Am goodwill flight from San Antonio around South America, to Washington DC. For the 22,065-mile flight, Major Dargue used five Loening Amphibians with 420-horsepower Liberty engines. On 2 May 1927, 4 aircraft and 8 of 10 aviators (including Capt Ira C. Eaker and 1Lt Muir S. Fairchild) completed the flight. They received the Mackay Trophy and DFCs for their effort. The other plane crashed in Argentina, killing the crewmen. (24)
- 1944: Gen Henry H. Arnold became General of the Army (5 stars) and the first airman to hold this rank. (4) (24)
- 1948: The Navy announced that the development of a stallproof automatic pilot that could land planes by radar in the “most unfavorable” weather. (24)
- 1950: Boeing delivered the first KC-97A Stratofreighter to the USAF. The company unveiled the first C-97 model converted to a tanker-transport earlier in the month. The KC-97A, a propeller-driven, four-engine aircraft, had a flying boom and four added fuselage tanks with a 14,990-gallon capacity. (18)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Fifth Air Force units flew 530 sorties, making 30 cuts in the main rail line between Sinanju and Sukchon and attacking a supply complex near Kunu-ri. (28)
- 1959: General Thomas S. Power accepted the first production-model Hound Dog guided air-to-surface missile at North American Aviation's plant in Downey for the Air Force. (6)
- 1962: President Kennedy cancelled the Skybolt air-to-surface missile program. (6)
- 1964: General Dynamics pilots Richard Johnson and Val Prahlflew the F-111A, a variable swept-wing fighter, for the first time at Carswell AFB. It was formerly known as the TFX. (12)
- 1965: The USAF phased out its last two active-duty KC-97s, when one from the 100 AREFS at Pease AFB, and another from the 384 AREFS at Westover AFB, flew to the aircraft storage area at Davis Monthan AFB. At one time, the USAF had 36 KC-97 squadrons with 780 aircraft. (1)
- 1966: An Atlas launched the first SV-5D Precision Recovery Including Maneuvering Entry (PRIME) vehicle into space from Vandenberg AFB. The PRIME vehicle explored and advanced the development of possible manned and unmanned lifting body vehicles capable of operating like spacecraft in orbit and maneuvering like aircraft in the atmosphere. (16)
- 1968: **APOLLO VIII.** Through 27 December, Astronauts Col Frank Borman (USAF), Capt James A. Lovell, Jr. (USN), and Col William Anders (USAF) flew the Apollo VIII mission, the first to use the Saturn V booster. They set FAI records for maximum altitude and greatest mass lifted, 234,672.5 miles and 282,197 pounds, respectively. They also achieved man's first circumlunar space travel by orbiting the moon. (9) (16)
- 1970: A Gruman pilot, Robert Smyth, flew the F-14A Tomcat on a 10-minute first flight at its Calverton plant at Long Island, N. Y.
- 1980: NASA's AD-1 oblique-wing research aircraft flown for the first time. Its wing could be pivoted 60 degrees from a perpendicular position to reduce drag and permit higher speeds and longer range without increasing fuel usage.
- 1984: The B-52G reached its initial operating capability with the Harpoon missile. (16)
- 1991: Rockwell's AC-130U Spectre gunship made its first flight. (16)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2000: At Edwards AFB, Boeing's X-32A Joint Strike Fighter concept plane made its first supersonic flight, when Lt Col Edward Cabrera, the USAF's lead X-32 test pilot, took the jet to 30,000 feet and exceeded Mach 1 (660 mph). (3).
- 2001: NASA's X-38 Crew Return Vehicle (CRV) completed its highest, fastest and longest flight to date. A B-52 from the Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards AFB dropped the lifting-body-shaped craft at 45,000 feet. It descended three miles at transonic speeds before its drogue parachute deployed for the landing. (3)
- 2002: The first C-5 Galaxy (No. 85-0004) with Avionics Modernization Program equipment made its maiden flight, two months ahead of schedule. Departing and recovering at Dobbins AFB, the 5.2-hour C-5 mission demonstrated the basic flying qualities of the new avionics and navigational system. (22)
- 2005: After nearly five years, the AFFTC completed its C-130J operational testing and evaluation at Edwards AFB. (3)
- 2006: The YAL-1A Airborne Laser returned to the AFFTC at Edwards AFB after Boeing installed solid-state beam control and fire control laser illuminators, and strengthened its fuselage and chemical-fuel tanks. Plans called for the YAL-1 to test-fire its lasers against an instrumented target board on the side of the NC-135E *Big Crow* aircraft. (3)
- 2007: Air Force technicians successfully launched a United Launch Alliance Delta II booster, with the fifth modernized NAVSTAR Global Positioning System satellite, from Cape Canaveral AFS, Fla., into space. It joined a constellation of on-orbit satellites that provided global coverage and global positioning services to users around the world. (AFNEWS, "Delta II with GPS Payload Successfully Launches," 21 Dec 2007, <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123080414>.)

### 22 December

- 1942: The 307<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group sent 26 B-24s on the first full-scale air attack against an enemy base in the Central Pacific. They staged through Midway to bomb Wake Island. (24)
- 1944: IX Tactical Air Command transferred three fighter groups to XIX Tactical Air Command to concentrate airpower for cooperation with the US Third Army. The Third Army relieved the American troops caught in the Battle of the Bulge. (4)
- 1946: The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics announced the Tiamat's development. This winged rocket missile could fly more than 600 miles per hour. Flown at Langley Field, Va., it was the first guided missile to successfully fly through a predetermined program of maneuvers. (24)
- 1949: The YF-86D Sabre made its maiden flight at Edwards AFB, Calif.
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** One U. S. Navy and five USAF pilots shot down six MiG-15s, the highest number of daily aerial victory credits for Far East Air Force for the month and the highest since June. A MiG-15 shot down an F-86 for the first time. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** A SA-16 crew landed in an inlet near Haeju, a N. Korean port just north of the 38th parallel on the Yellow Sea, and rescued a downed HMS Glory Seafury pilot in his dinghy. The first and only fatal aeromedical evacuation accident of the war happened when a Royal Hellenic Air Force C-47 transporting patients collided with an F-80 at Suwon AB, S. Korea. (28)

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- 1960: The Department of Defense cut back the Skybolt missile program due to a lack of funds. (6)
- 1962: A US Army Nike-Zeus antimissile missile fired from Kwajalein Island intercepted an Atlas launched 4,800 miles from Vandenberg AFB. It may have been the first time a Nike-Zeus had discriminated between an intended target and its decoys. (16) (24)
- A B-52G launched the sixth (last) Skybolt missile down the Atlantic Missile Range; however, President Kennedy had cancelled the program a day earlier. (6)
- 1963: To 24 December, the Air Rescue Service used HC-54 aircraft, operating from Laje AB, Azores, to drop rafts and blankets to fire victims from the Greek Liner Lakonia. An HC-54 at the scene, 170 miles north of the Madeira Islands, directed the rescue, while vessels below rescued 896 survivors. (2)
- 1964: President Johnson funded the development of the CX-HLS (the C-5A). It could carry 500-700 troops or 250,000 pounds of cargo for 7,000 miles without refueling at 550 MPH. (16) (26)
- The USAF announced the construction of the T-27 space flight simulator for \$5,500,000 under contract with the Link Group of General Precision, Incorporated. The T-27 trained astronauts at the Aerospace Research Pilot School on Edwards AFB, Calif.
- The Lockheed SR-71 strategic reconnaissance plane exceeded an altitude of 45,000 feet and a speed of 1,000 MPH in its maiden flight at Palmdale, Calif. (12) (26)
- Operation BIGLIFT.** Through 22 January 1965, the USAF used its cargo aircraft to deliver 1,500 tons of food, clothing, bedding, fuel, hay, grain, vehicles, pipe, and medical supplies to victims of flooding in California and Oregon. (21)
- 1965: Gen Thomas D. White, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force from 1957-1961, died.
- 1966: In California, Vandenberg AFB successfully completed its first attempted salvo launch of two Minuteman I (Model B) missiles. (6)
- 1969: Twenty-Second Air Force phased-out the last active duty C-124 military airlift squadrons to make way for C-141 operations. To retain a heavy airlift capability in Southeast Asia, Pacific Air Forces reassigned four C-124s to the 20<sup>th</sup> Operations Squadron at Clark AB, Philippines. (17) (18)
- 1970: The USAF selected the Fairchild Hitler Corporation, Republic Division, at Farmindale, N.Y., and Northrop Corporation at Hawthorne, Calif., to competitively develop the A-X specialized close air support aircraft program. The A-X was supposed to be a rugged, twin-engine, single-place aircraft with short takeoff and landing capabilities and excellent maneuverability. (16)
- 1973: Deputy Secretary of Defense David Packard approved the NAVSTAR Global Positioning System program. (12)
- 1984: Through 8 March, eight C-141 Starlifters carried over 212 tons of food, tents, and water tanks, and medical supplies from Italy to Kassala, Sudan. This relief helped over 100,000 Ethiopian refugees fleeing from famine in Niger and Mali in Africa. (16) (26)
- 1986: The Peacekeeper Intercontinental Ballistic Missile reached its initial operating capability with the 90<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Wing at Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyo. (16) (26)
- 1997: **LAST MINUTEMAN II MISSILE.** A Cold War icon became obsolete when the simultaneous turning of seven keys destroyed the last Minuteman II missile silo. The 31 July 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) required the destruction of all Minuteman II silo. The

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

site, commonly known as Hotel-11, was located north of Dederick, Mo., more than 90 miles southwest of Whiteman AFB, Mo. (AFNEWS, 22 Dec 97)

- 2006: The 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing and the 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve Associate) at Charleston AFB, S. C., flew a 20-ship formation of C-17 Globemaster IIIs, the largest C-17 formation to date ever from one base. The C-17s flew to North Field in Orangeburg County, S. C., where each dropped a 2,000-pound, parachute-equipped pallet to demonstrate the C-17's strategic air-drop capability, before returning to Charleston. (22)

### 23 December

- 1907: The Army's Chief Signal Officer, Brig Gen James Allen, sought bids for the first heavier-than-air military flying machine. The specifications called for an aircraft that could carry two people, fly at 40 miles per hour for 125 miles without stopping, with controllable flight in any direction, and able to land at its takeoff point without damage. (12) (21)
- 1914: **MACKAY TROPHY.** Capt Townsend F. Dodd and Lt Shepler W. Fitzgerald won the trophy for reconnaissance competitions. For the third time, the winners were the only competitors as accidents and mishaps removed all other aircraft from the event. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** Using fighter cover, three H-5 helicopter crews rescued 11 American and 24 Republic of Korea soldiers from a field eight miles behind enemy lines. (28)
- 1958: Cape Canaveral, Fla., launched the first Atlas C intercontinental ballistic missile on a 4,300-mile flight down the Atlantic Missile Range. It used General Electric's Mod III radio inertial guidance system for the first time. (6)
- 1959: The Air Force Ballistic Missile Committee selected Malmstrom AFB, Mont., to be the first base for Minuteman I missiles. (6)
- The 4135<sup>th</sup> Strategic Wing at Eglin AFB, Fla., received the Strategic Air Command's first Hound Dog missile. (1)
- 1964: **TYPHOON OPAL.** A C-54 from the 405<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing at Clark AB, Philippines, delivered 4,000 items of canned food to the victims of Typhoon Opal in Surigao del Norte Province, Mindanao. (17)
- 1965: **Operation BLUE LIGHT.** Through 23 January, the Military Airlift Command transported the 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, from Hawaii to Pleiku, South Vietnam, to offset communist forces in the area. The movement included 231 C-141 sorties to move 3,000 troops and 4,700 tons of equipment. At the time, it was the largest airlift of troops and equipment into a combat zone. (2) (21)
- 1969: McDonnell Douglas of St. Louis, Mo., received the prime contract for the F-15 Eagle air superiority fighter. (12) (30)
- 1970: A Sprint terminal-defense interceptor missile launched from Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific Ocean intercepted a Minuteman I reentry vehicle launched from Vandenberg AFB, Calif. (6)
- 1974: Charles C. Bock, Rockwell's chief test pilot, flew the prototype B-1 on its first flight from Palmdale to Edwards AFB in California. (1) (3)
- 1983: The 390<sup>th</sup> Electronic Combat Squadron attained an initial operating capability with the EF-111A Raven. (16) (26)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 24 December

- 1943: Eighth Air Force sent 670 B-17s and B-24s to make the first major assault on German V-weapon sites at Pas de Calais. (4) (2)
- 1944: **MEDAL OF HONOR.** Brig Gen Frederick W. Castle led some 2,000 heavy bombers against German airfields. On the way, an engine failed and his unescorted B-17 became a target to enemy fighters. After his bomber sustained serious damage, he ordered the crew to bail out while he remained at the controls. Another enemy attack caused the right wing gas tanks to explode, and the bomber crashed with the General still inside. For this sacrifice, Castle received the Medal of Honor. (4)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** While X Corps evacuated Hungnam by sea, USAF B-26s and U.S. Navy gunfire held the enemy at bay during the night as the last ships departed. The 3d Air Rescue Squadron flew 35 liberated prisoners of war from enemy territory. (28)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** In a typical nighttime mission, B-29s from the 98th Bomb Wing cratered the runway at Taechon Airfield and bombed the railroad bridge at Sinanju. (28)
- 1972: Military Airlift Command aircraft began airlifting relief supplies into Managua, Nicaragua, after an earthquake virtually destroyed the city on 23 December. In the first two days, C-5 and C-141 aircraft unloaded more than 2,000,000 pounds of food, water, medical supplies, and emergency heavy equipment.
- The USAF ordered the M-X missile program to start in FY1977 with an emphasis on air and ground mobile basing. (6)
- 1982: Through 30 December, the Military Airlift Command moved 87 tons of supplies to aid earthquake victims in the Yemen Arab Republic. (2)
- 1995: A 16<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron aircrew from Charleston AFB, S. C., became the first to land a C-141 at Tuzla Airfield in Bosnia late on Christmas Eve to deliver two pallets, three vehicles, and 29 passengers, including 20 people from the 823d Red Horse Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla. (18)

### 25 December

- 1949: The USAF revealed the development of stupalith, a ceramic that contracted when heated and expanded when cooled. It also withstood up to 2,000 degrees and would be used on jet and rocket engines. (24)

### 26 December

- 1910: Archibald Hoxsey used a Wright Biplane at Los Angeles, Calif., to set a Federation Aeronautique Internationale altitude record of 10,474 feet. (9)
- 1913: Lt Joseph E. Carberry and his passenger, Lt Walter R. Taliaferro, set an Army altitude record of 7,800 feet for two people in a Curtiss tractor (Signal Corps No. 22) at San Diego. (24)
- 1943: The preinvasion bombing of Cape Gloucester, New Britain, destroyed enemy defenses. Afterwards, Fifth Air Force described the complete destruction of a target as "Gloucesterizing." (24)
- 1944: Maj Thomas B. McGuire, Jr., reached 38 aerial victories by shooting down four enemy planes today. That total made him the second leading ace in World War II. He died in combat 12 days



## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

later. (21)

- 1956: The Convair F-106 Delta Dart's first flight occurred at Edwards AFB, Calif. (3)
- Two F-100 aircraft achieved the Buddy System of air refueling (fighter to fighter).
- 2001: The Pentagon approved the low-rate initial production of the JASSM. (21)
- 2004: **UNIFIED ASSISTANCE TSUNAMI RELIEF.** A 9.0 earthquake in the Indian Ocean triggered an enormous tsunami with 30-foot-high waves that slammed into the coasts of 13 nations and killed at least 300,000 people. The quake's epicenter was approximately 65 miles south of the Indonesian island of Sumatra. The death toll was greatest in Indonesia where at least 100,000 people perished. The tsunami killed more than 29,000 people in Sri Lanka, 10,000 in India, and 4,600 in Thailand. Another three to five million people in South Asia and Southeast Asia were left without clean water, food, shelter, and sanitation. By the 23 February 2005 end of the operation, Air Mobility Command aircraft had flown 106 missions to airlift 2,768 passengers and 3,370 short tons of cargo to Bandaranaike International Airport in Colombo, Sri Lanka, U-Tapao AB, Thailand, and Banda Aceh and Jakarta International Airports in Indonesia. An Air National Guard C-5A from the 105<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing from Stewart Air National Guard Base, N.Y., took part in the airlift. (22) (32)

### 27 December

- 1925: Daniel Guggenheim set up a \$2.5million fund to promote aeronautics and speed the development of American aviation. (8: Dec 90)
- 1935: The 5<sup>th</sup> Group (Composite) dropped bombs to redirect the Mauna Loa lava flow away from the waterworks at Hilo, Hawaii. (21) (24)
- 1942: Flying his P-38 Lightning against the Japanese in the Pacific, 2Lt Richard I. Bong scored his first two aerial victories. He later became the top ace in the war. (21)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** Far East Air Forces aircraft flew 900 sorties, the largest number of the month, to damage or destroy locomotives, railcars, buildings, vehicles, and gun positions. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Through 31 December, the 581st Air Resupply and Communications Wing flight of four H-19 helicopters at Seoul flew several experimental agent insertion sorties into enemy territory for covert and clandestine intelligence activities. (28)
- 1955: Douglas Aircraft Company received a contract for the Thor intermediate-range ballistic missile's airframe. (6)
- 1970: The 374<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing flew the last C-130A mission in South Vietnam. The mission recovered at Naha AB, Japan on the 28 December. Thereafter, the Military Assistance Command's (Vietnam) airlift structure no longer included C-130As. (17)
- 1989: **Operation JUST CAUSE.** The Military Airlift Command began flying humanitarian assistance missions to Panama. (8: Mar 90)
- 1992: **Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.** Two F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 363<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing at Shaw AFB, N. C., intercepted two MiG-25s in the "no-fly" zone in Southern Iraq. The 33<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Squadron Commander, Lt Col Gary North, fired an AIM-120A missile and shot down a MiG-25. The event featured several firsts: the first combat use of the AIM-120A, the first beyond visual range kill, and the first USAF F-16 air-to-air victory. (16) (20)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2003: On 26 December, a 6.7 earthquake hit in Iran's southeastern Kerman Province near the historic city of Bam. From 27 to 29 December, the Air Mobility Command flew several humanitarian airlift missions to help the earthquake victims. A single C-5 flew from Travis AFB, Calif., to Kuwait City International Airport, where passengers and cargo transferred to C-130s for an airlift to Kerman AB, Iran. Nine C-130 missions and two C-17 missions eventually carried 338,000 pounds of cargo to Kerman. On 28 December, a 137<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing (Oklahoma Air Guard) C-130H became the first USAF asset to land in Iran in over 20 years. (22)

### 28 December

- 1942: Capt Robert O. D. Sullivan, first aviator to fly 100 times across the Atlantic Ocean, completed his 100th trip by flying from New York to Portugal. He made his first flight on 28-29 January 1938 from New York to Marseilles, France. (24)
- 1943: VIII Bomber Command formed a "Radio Countermeasure Unit," with 24 specially-equipped heavy bombers to support bombing missions. (4)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** An SA-16 crew of the 3d Air Rescue Squadron picked up a downed pilot in the Yellow Sea north of Cho-do. He was in the water less than three minutes. (28)
- 1957: Capt James E. Bowman (U. S. Army) set a 30,335-foot world altitude record for helicopters in a Cessna YH41 Seneca at Wichita. (24)

### 29 December

- 1913: **MACKAY TROPHY.** At San Diego, Calif., Lts Joseph E. Carberry and Fred Seydel won the second trophy for reconnaissance. As in 1912, only one aircraft competed effectively following an accident involving Lts Walter R. Taliaferro and H. LeR. Muller. (24)
- 1921: Edward Stinson and Lloyd Bertaud set a new world endurance record of 26 hours 18 minutes 35 seconds at Roosevelt Field, N. Y., in a Larsen Junker-BMW 185. (24)
- 1939: Consolidated's XB-24 Liberator made its first flight, a 17-minute trip from Lindbergh Field, San Diego, Calif., with Consolidated pilot Bill Wheatley at the controls. (12) (20)
- 1942: **COLLIER TROPHY.** The US Army Air Forces and America's private airlines jointly received this award. (24)
- 1948: Secretary of Defense Forrestal announced work on an "Earth satellite vehicle program" to study the operation of guided rockets beyond the earth's pull of gravity. (16)
- 1949: Jacqueline Cochran set a 436.995 mile per hour international speed record for 500 kilometers (310.685 miles) in an F-51 without payload at the Mount Wilson Course in California. (24)
- 1950: **KOREAN WAR.** From Taegu, RF-51 aircraft began flying tactical reconnaissance missions in Korea for the first time. They had longer ranges than their RF-80 predecessors. (28)
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR.** Eleven B-29s of the 307th Bombardment Wing attacked the Teagam-ni headquarters area destroying 146 buildings. (28)
- 1966: The National Hall of Fame in Dayton, Ohio, inducted (all deceased): aircraft designers Glenn L. Martin and William F. Boeing; Adm John H. Towers (first attempt for a trans-atlantic flight); Lincoln Beachey, famous stunt flyer; Brig Gen William "Billy" Mitchell, advocate of bombing; and Robert H. Goddard, the world's first rocket scientist.

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The USAF selected Cessna Aircraft Company to produce the O-2 for forward air controller, liaison, and observation functions. (16)

- 1967: The last B-47 aircraft, an RB-47H, left the active inventory for storage at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. (1)
- 1970: The 741<sup>st</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron at Minot AFB, N. Dak., achieved operational status as the Strategic Air Command's first unit equipped with Minuteman III ICBMs. (6)
- 1988: The Air Force received its first operational McDonnell-Douglas F-15E dual role (air superiority and deep interdiction) fighter. (20)
- 1989: Through 31 December, the 37<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Squadron, 435<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing, sent two C-130 Hercules with 31 tons of medical supplies to Bucharest, Rumania, to treat civilians wounded in a violent anti-communist revolution that executed President Nicolas Ceaucescu. (16) (26)
- 1990: **Operation DESERT SHIELD.** The 169<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group was the first Air National Guard Guard unit to deploy to the Persian Gulf region. (21)
- 1994: Two 56<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron helicopter crews from Keflavik AB saved eight Dutch mariners from a sinking vessel near the coast of Iceland. (16)

### 30 December

- 1914: The Signal Corps accepted the first Burgess-Dunne inherently stable armored airplane (No. 36). (24)
- 1918: Lt T. C. Rodman, piloting an H-16 flying boat at Pensacola, scored the Navy's first win in the Curtiss Marine Trophy Race, an annual competition set up by Glenn H. Curtiss in 1915 to encourage seaplane development. (24)
- 1945: Republic Aviation revealed its four-engine XF-12 Rainbow. This flying photo laboratory could carry five crewmen at 425 miles per hour. The Air Technical Service Command later cancelled its order for six aircraft. (24)
- 1950: William F. Ivans, Jr., set a world altitude record for gliders by reaching 42,100 feet.
- 1952: **KOREAN WAR/Project SPOTLIGHT.** After an RB-26 located five locomotives in one marshaling yard, two B-26 light bombers destroyed four and damaged the fifth. To 31 December, the 19<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group bombed the Choak-tong ore processing plant near the Yalu. Aided by a full moon and a signaling aircraft, enemy interceptors downed one B-29 and damaged two others so badly that they were forced to land at Suwon AB. (28)
- 1959: First fleet ballistic missile submarine, the nuclear-powered USS George Washington, commissioned at Groton, Conn. It was launched on 9 June 1959. (16) (24)
- 1964: The USAF accepted the last of 732 KC-135 aircraft produced at Boeing in Seattle, Wash.
- 1972: **Operation LINEBACKER II.** President Nixon halted the bombing of North Vietnam north of the 20<sup>th</sup> parallel. Peace talks resumed in Paris, France, on 8 January 1973. (16) (17)
- 1981: Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger ordered the Air Force to deploy 40 M-X (Peace-keeper) missiles in existing Minuteman silos by 1986 and to study other basing modes. (6)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1994: The Air Force's fifth B-2 (#8-0331), the Spirit of South Carolina, joined the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman, Mo. (15)
- 1997: Crews from five Air National Guard C-130s airdropped 50,000 pounds of hay to cattle stranded by blizzards in southeastern New Mexico. The 137<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing from Will Rogers World Airport, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the 136<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing from Naval Air Station Dallas, Texas, and the 153<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing from Cheyenne Municipal Airport/Air Guard Station, Wyoming, provided the aircraft. (22) (32)

### 31 December

- 1908: Wilbur Wright flew 77 miles in 2 hours 20 minutes 23 seconds at LeMans, France, to set a record for duration and distance. He also won the Michelin Trophy and \$4,000. (9)
- 1910: Whipple Hall, a promoter from the Curtiss Aircraft Company, came to Hawaii with J. C. "Bud" Mars. Mars then became the first person to fly a fixed-wing aircraft in Hawaii. He took off from Moanalua Gardens in a Curtiss P-18, circled the field four times and landed safely. (<http://www.pacific aerospace.org/history.html>)
- 1913: **COLLIER TROPHY.** Orville Wright demonstrated his automatic stabilizer at Dayton. He received the trophy for this event. (24)
- 1934: Helen Richey, first woman aviator to pilot an airmail transport on regular schedule, flew from Washington DC to Detroit, Mich., in a trimotored Ford 12 passenger transport. Central Airlines, Incorporated, appointed her as copilot. (24)
- 1938: Boeing's Model 307 Stratoliner, the first passenger aircraft with a pressurized cabin, completed its first flight. (20)
- 1944: **WORLD WAR II.** Far East Air Forces launched a total of 163,397 sorties during 1944, of which 145,640 were considered effective. Fighters conducted the most sorties, with 100,998 sorties airborne and 90,240 effective. The command dropped 92,134 tons of bombs, expended 39,481,000 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition, and destroyed 2,518 enemy aircraft. The command suffered a total of 3,732 casualties 1,360 dead, 1,206 wounded, and 1,166 either missing, captured, or interned. Aircraft losses totaled 2,584 aircraft of all types. (17)
- 1948: Allied aircraft logged the 100,000<sup>th</sup> flight of the Berlin Airlift. (26)
- 1951: **KOREAN WAR.** The 315th Air Division airlifted 85,713 troops, 10,379 tons of cargo, and 6,249 evacuees in 6,032 sorties during the month. Search and rescue units flew 410 sorties on search, orbit, evacuation, and rescue missions. Helicopters flew 175 critically wounded patients and rescued 5 people from behind enemy lines. The 3d Air Rescue Squadron helicopters also flew from enemy territory 37 prisoners of war who had escaped. United Nations reconnaissance aircraft secured intelligence information on enemy ground dispositions, air targets, vehicle movements, airfield status, and weather.
- 1957: The USAF accepted the first BOMARC area defense missile.
- 1958: McDonnell Aircraft Company received a contract for the GAM-72A Quail decoy missile. It had a General Electric J-85 engine. (6)
- 1962: The Navy ended its long history of lighter-than-air flight by disposing of its last airship, spare parts, and equipment. (16) (24)

## AMERICAN AEROSPACE EVENTS FIRSTS, LASTS, AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1963: The Strategic Air Command declared the 374<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron, the last of six Titan II squadrons, operational at Little Rock AFB, Ark., to complete the Titan II deployment program. (6)
- President Johnson approved the U-2 flights over SEA. The first Strategic Air Command U-2s arrived in the Far East in early February 1964. (1)
- 1967: The Air Force launched a TIROS satellite from Vandenberg AFB, Calif. This was the 700<sup>th</sup> major launch from that base since 1959. (16)
- 1969: The 498<sup>th</sup> Tactical Missile Group inactivated on Okinawa to end the deployment of CGM-13B Mace tactical missiles there. (17)
- 1971: **SOUTHEAST ASIA COMBAT OPERATIONS.** Pacific Air Forces tactical forces flew 450,031 combat sorties to drop 642.9 thousand tons of munitions in Southeast Asia in 1971, while losing 87 aircraft (70 to combat). Sorties totaled 87,052 attack sorties and 12,554 B-52 sorties, while KC-135s performed over 62,500 refuelings. Tactical airlift operations within the Republic of Vietnam moved 2,282,883 passengers and 283,556 tons of cargo. (17)
- 1972: **SOUTHEAST ASIA COMBAT OPERATIONS.** Pacific Air Forces tactical forces flew 254,895 combat sorties to drop 899.5 thousand tons of munitions in Southeast Asia in 1972, while suffering the loss of 194 aircraft. The sorties included 115,298 attack sorties and 28,383 B-52 Arc Light sorties. KC-135s accomplished 111,770 aerial refuelings. (17)
- 1981: USAFE's first operational F-16s arrived at Hahn AB for duty with the 50<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing. (16) (26)
- 1989: Martin Marietta launched its first commercial Tital III booster from Cape Canaveral. The two-stage rocket placed Skynet 4A (a British Communications satellite) and JCSAT 2 (a Japanese TV relay satellite) in orbit. (8: Mar 90)
- 2001: **Operation ENDURNG FREEDOM/NOBLE EAGLE SUMMARY.** From 11 September through the end of 2001, Air Mobility Command aircraft flew 1,757 airlift missions in support America's war against terrorism outside the US with C-17s and C-5s flying 45 percent and 29 percent of the missions, respectively. Tanker aircraft played a critical role by performing 953 air refueling missions—838 for KC-135s and 115 for KC-10s. For the NOBLE EAGLE homeland defense mission in the continental U. S., Air Mobility Command completed 228 airlift missions with C-130s conducting 53 percent of the flights. (22)
- 2006: The first group of 10 F-117s officially retired at Holloman AFB, N. Mex., to make way for new incoming F-22A Raptors. (Aimpoints: Almgordo Daily News, "Holloman Replacing F-117 with F-22s," 3 Jan 07)

## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

### 1907

1 Aug: The Army established the Aeronautical Division, under the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, to handle matters pertaining to military ballooning, air machines, and kindred subjects. Captain Charles deForest Chandler, the first division chief, had two enlisted men and no aircraft assigned for operations. (12)

### 1908

11 Apr: Lt Frank P. Lahm took charge of the Aeronautical Division, Office of the Chief Signal Officer. (24)

### 1911

3 Jul: The Army Signal Corps designated its field at College Park, Md., the Signal Corps Aviation School with Cap Charles deForest Chandler as the school's commander. (21)

28 Nov: The Signal Corps Army Aviation School moved from College Park to Augusta, Ga., because the winter climate was better. (21)

### 1912

1 Apr: The Army Aviation School transferred from Augusta, Ga., to College Park. (24)

8 Dec: Signal Corps Aviation School established at North Island, San Diego, Ca. (21)

### 1913

5 Mar: Army Field Order No. 1 officially organized Headquarters 1st Aero Squadron (Provisional) in a field near Texas City, Tex. It was the unit was the first unit created to conduct aircraft operations. (4) (24)

### 1914

7 Jan: The Navy's Office of Aeronautics, under Capt Mark L. Bristol, transferred from the Bureau of Navigation to the Division of Operations in the Office of the Secretary of the Navy. (24)

20 Jan: Lt John H. Towers led the Navy's aviation unit from Annapolis to Pensacola, Fla., where he set up the first US Naval Air Station. (24)

18 Jul: Congress created the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps with Lt Col Samuel Reber, head of the Aeronautical Division since 10 September 1913, in charge. He had 60 officers and students, and 260 enlisted men authorized. (12)

### 1915

3 Mar: Congress appropriated \$5,000 to set up the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (forerunner of NASA) to supervise and direct scientific studies of flight problems. (12)

1 Nov: Capt Raynal Cawthorne Bolling formed the National Guard's First Aero Company as Aviation Detachment, First Battalion, Signal Corps (later 1<sup>st</sup> Aero Company), National Guard of New York. (21)

## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

### 1916

- 17 Mar: The Army published change 39 to the Army Regulations of 1913 to authorize a guidon for Aero Squadrons for the first time.
- 2 Apr: Col William A. Glassford assumed command of the Signal Corps Aviation School at San Diego. (24)
- 3 Apr: Capt William “Billy” Mitchell reported to the Chief Signal Officer to take over the Aeronautics Division. (24)
- 20 May: Lt Col George O. Squier assigned as officer-in-charge of Aviation Section, Signal Corps. He replaced Lt Col Samuel Reber. (21)
- 3 Jun: The National Defense Act authorized the Reserve Corps. (5)
- 29 Aug: First US Coast Guard Aviation Division authorized (but no appropriations were provided until 1926). (24)
- 21 Sep: Earlier, President Wilson asked the National Academy of Science to set up the National Research Council. This new council had its first meeting today.
- 20 Dec: The Army established the US Army Balloon School at Fort Omaha, Nebr.

### 1917

- 19 Feb: Lt Col John B. Bennet became the Signal Corps Aviation Section Chief, replacing Lt Col George O. Squier, who became the Chief Signal Officer. (21)
- 28 Apr: Air Medical Department of the Signal Corps organized under Maj Theodore C. Lyster, Chief Surgeon. (18)
- 16 May: President Wilson created the Aircraft Production Board to supervise the aircraft manufacturing process. (21) (24)
- 26 May: Maj Townsend F. Dodd (Air Service, Signal Corps) appointed aviation officer on Maj Gen John J. Pershing’s staff, American Expeditionary Forces (AEF), thus beginning the organization of the Air Service, AEF. (18) (24)
- 2 Jun: The Aviation Section became the Airplane Division, Signal Corps. (12)
- 23 Jul: Maj Benjamin D. Foulois assigned as officer-in-charge of the Airplane Division. (24)
- 3 Sep: Brig Gen William L. Kenly, Field Artillery, became the first Chief of Air Service, American Expeditionary Forces, to provide a single leader for all air activities. (24)
- 1 Oct: The Aircraft Board superseded the Aircraft Production Board. (5)
- 18 Oct: McCook Field established as the Signal Corps’ experimental laboratory to test aviation technology. (21)
- The Signal Corps created the Aviation Medical Research Board. (24)
- 27 Nov: Brig Gen Benjamin D. Foulois, Signal Corps, became the Chief of Air Service, American Expeditionary Force, replacing Brig Gen William L. Kenly. (20)

## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

### 1918

- 19 Jan: Air Service Medical Research Laboratory activated at Hazelhurst Field, Mineola, N.Y. Facilities included a pioneer decompression chamber. Later the lab became the School of Aviation Medicine. (24)
- 20 Jan: Headquarters I Army Corps, Air Service, organized at Neufchateau, France, with Col William “Billy” Mitchell, Signal Corps, Chief of Air Service, I Army Corps. (24)
- 7 Mar: Under the Chief of Naval Operations, the Navy established an Office of the Director of Naval Aviation. The Aviation Section also became a division. (24)
- 27 Apr: Brig Gen William L. Kenly placed in charge of the Air Service Division (formerly the Air Division). (24)
- 19 May: The US dissolved the Aircraft Board. (5)
- 20 May: The Army took aeronautics out of the Signal Corps by creating two air departments, the Division of Military Aeronautics and Bureau of Aircraft Production. These two departments formed the Air Service. (12)
- 21 May: Maj Gen William L. Kenly became Director of Military Aeronautics. (24)
- 24 May: The War Department recognized the Division of Military Aeronautics and Bureau of Aircraft Production as constituents of the Army Air Service. (21)
- 29 May: Brig Gen Mason M. Patrick appointed Chief of Air Service, succeeding Brig Gen Benjamin D. Foulois. (21)
- John D. Ryan became Director of Aircraft Production. (24)
- 28 Aug: John D. Ryan became an Assistant Secretary of War and first Director of the Army Air Service. That promotion gave him control over the Bureau of Aircraft Production and Division of Military Aeronautics. (21)
- 5 Sep: W. C. Potter appointed Director of Aircraft Production, succeeding John D. Ryan.
- 15 Oct: Brig Gen William “Billy” Mitchell appointed Chief of Air Service, Army Group. The General Staff, however, disapproved and abolished that designation. (24)
- 14 Nov: Brig Gen William “Billy” Mitchell appointed Chief of Air Service, Third Army. (24)
- 13 Dec: Col James. A. Mars replaced W. C. Potter as Director of Aircraft Production. (24)
- 23 Dec: Maj Gen Charles T. Menoher appointed Director of Air Service. He assumed his duties on 2 January 1919.

### 1919

- 19 Jan: Maj William H. Wilmer initiated U.S. School of Aviation Medicine operations at Hazelhurst Field, Mineola, N. Y., to train medical doctors and nurses to treat military aviators. (21)



## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

- 10 Mar: Brig Gen William Mitchell replaced Maj Gen William L. Kenly as Director of Military Aeronautics under the Director of the Air Service. (24)
- 19 May: Aircraft Board dissolved. (5)
- 27 Oct: Maj Gen Charles T. Menoher, Air Service Director, in a board report rejected congressional proposals from to form an Air Force department separate from the Army and Navy. (21)

### 1920

- 25 Feb: The Air Service School established. In July 1926, it became the Air Corps Tactical School.
- 4 Jun: Congress approved an Army reorganization bill to establish the Air Service with 1,514 officers and 16,000 enlisted men as a combatant arm of the Army, making it equal to infantry, cavalry, and artillery. (12)
- 1 Nov: Maj Thomas DeWitt Milling opened a Field Officers School at Langley AFB, Va. It later became the Air Service Tactical School and then Air Corps Tactical School to teach students about the tactical employment of aviation. It became the most important source of Army air doctrine between the two world wars. (21)

### 1921

- 12 Jul: Congress created the Bureau of Aeronautics to handle matters pertaining to naval aeronautics.
- 10 Aug: The Navy established its Bureau of Aeronautics and placed Rear Admiral William A. Moffett in charge. (24)
- 5 Oct: Maj Gen Mason M. Patrick became the Chief of Air Service, replacing Maj Gen Charles T. Menoher. (21)

### 1922

- 8 Nov: At Mitchel Field, the Air Service Medical Research Laboratory and School for Flight Surgeons were renamed the School of Aviation Medicine. (24)
- The airfield at Montgomery, Ala., became Maxwell Field. (24)

### 1923

- 27 Mar: Maj Gen William Lassiter led a War Department Board. It recommended legislation to reorganize and expand the Air Service. Another suggestion called for the assignment of aviation forces to a general headquarters that could accomplish strategic missions independent of surface forces. (21)

### 1925

- 12 Sep: President Coolidge appointed the Morrow Board to develop US military air policy. (24)
- 30 Nov: The Morrow Board recommended a conservative reorganization of the Air Service into an Air Corps, rather than support the establishment of an independent air force coequal to the Army and Navy. (21)

## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

### 1926

- 24 May: The War Department recognized the Division of Military Aeronautics and Bureau of Aircraft Production as constituting the Air Service.
- 2 Jul: Congress passed the Air Corps Act to redesignate the Air Service as the US Army Air Corps. This act also created an Assistant Secretary of War for Air and a five-year expansion program to increase the personnel strength to 1,517 officers and 16,000 enlisted men. (12)
- 10 Jul: Edward P. Warner took the oath of office as the first Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Aeronautics. (24)
- 16 Jul: F. Trubee Davison became the first Assistant Secretary of War for Air. (24)
- 1 Aug: The Air Corps School of Medicine moved from Mitchel Field, N. Y., to Brooks Field, Tex. (24)

### 1927

- 12 Oct: Wright Field at Dayton, Ohio, formally dedicated. (24)
- 14 Dec: Maj Gen James E. Fechet succeeded Maj Gen Mason M. Patrick as the Chief of the Air Corps. (21)

### 1930

- 21 Jul: The Army dedicated Randolph Field at San Antonio, Tex. (24)

### 1931

- 9 Jan: Gen Douglas MacArthur, the Army Chief of Staff, and Adm William V. Pratt, the Chief of Naval Operations, agreed that the USAAC should have responsibility for coastal defense. (5) (21)
- 15 Jul: The Air Corps Tactical School moved from Langley Field, Va., to Maxwell Field, Ala., where it produced Air Corps doctrine during the 1930s. (21)
- 30 Oct: The Air Corps School of Medicine moved from Brooks Field to Randolph Field, Tex. (24)
- 22 Dec: Maj Gen Benjamin D. Foulois took the oath of office as Chief of the Air Corps. (24)

### 1933

- 11 Oct: The Secretary of War, George H. Dern, approved the Drum Board report. Under the leadership of Maj Gen Hugh A. Drum, the board recommended GHQ Air Force with 2,320 aircraft rather than the Air Corps's ceiling of 1,800 aircraft. (21)

### 1934

- 18 Jul: The Baker Board, headed by Newton D. Baker, a former Secretary of War, recommended that military aviation remain under the Army, opposing a separate Air Corps and Army. It also recommended the formation of centrally controlled aerial strike force. (21)

## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

### 1935

- 1 Mar: **KEY EVENT.** General Headquarters Air Force (GHQ) organized and activated with Maj Gen Frank M. Andrews as the commanding general. This reorganization placed all tactical units under GHQ and all observation unit stations under Army Corps area commanders to implement recommendations from the Baker Board. It also centralized command over a combat air force, outfitted with longer-range and heavier bombers. (12)
- 31 May: Hickham Field, near Fort Kamehameha, dedicated. (5)
- 22 Dec: Major General Oscar Westover appointed Chief of Air Corps. (21)

### 1937

- 1 Jul: Weather Service transferred from the Signal Corps to the Army Air Corps. (24)

### 1938

- 29 Sep: Maj Gen Henry H. Arnold became Chief of Air Corps. He became the “Acting” Chief on 22 September after Maj Gen Oscar Westover died in an airplane crash on 21 September. (20)

### 1939

- 16 Dec: Maj Gen Delos C. Emmons replaced Maj Gen Frank Andrews as commander of General Headquarters Air Force. (21) (24)

### 1940

- 8 Jul: The Air Corps established training centers at Randolph Field, Maxwell Field, and Moffett Field. (21) (24)
- 1 Nov: The Army activated the Hawaiian Air Force (later Seventh Air Force) at Fort Shafter, Hawaii. (21)
- 10 Nov: General Headquarters (GHQ) Air Force removed from jurisdiction of the Chief of Air Corps. This reorganization made the GHQ an element of the field forces with the status of a field army and placed it under the command of the general commanding the field forces. (24)

### 1941

- 17 Mar: The city of Milwaukee changed the name of its airport to General Mitchel Field. (24)
- 26 Mar: The US AAC redesignated its air districts as air forces: Northeast as First, Northwest as Second, Southeast as Third, and Southwest as Fourth Air Force. (24)
- 22 May: The US AAC activated its first black unit, the 99th Pursuit Squadron. (21)
- 29 May: The Secretary of War, on instructions from President Roosevelt, set up the Air Corps Ferrying Command (ACFC) headquarters in Washington DC. With Col Robert Olds in command, ACFC ferried American-built British lend-lease planes overseas from Canada and the US. The ACFC also maintained an air ferry service to meet War Department needs. Later, this ferry mission grew into a regular air transport service, named the Air

## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

Transport Command, with a worldwide responsibility to move cargo and people. (2) (18)

- 31 May: Maj Gen George H. Brett appointed as the Chief of the Air Corps. (24)
- 20 Jun: **KEY EVENT.** The General Staff established the Army Air Forces, which comprised the Office of the Chief of the Air Corps and the Air Force Combat Command (formerly General HQ Air Force). Maj Gen Henry H. Arnold became its first commander. (12) (18)
- 18 Jul: The Joint Board gained an aviation presence with the addition of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Air and the Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics. (24)
- 20 Sep: The Army Air Forces activated the Philippine Department Air Force at Nichols Field, Luzon, Philippines. It later became Far East Air Force and then Fifth Air Force. (21)
- 1 Dec: An Executive Order established the Civil Air Patrol. (20)
- 12 Dec: The Navy established its Naval Air Transport Service under the Chief of Naval Operations to move cargo overseas. (2)

### 1942

- 15 Jan: The Air Force activated the Alaskan Air Force at Elmendorf Field, Alaska. (5)
- 28 Jan: The Army Air Forces activated Eighth Air Force at Savannah Army Air Base, Ga., with Col Asa N. Duncan as commanding officer. (5)
- 12 Feb: The Army Air Forces activated Tenth Air Force at Patterson Field, Oh. (21)
- 23 Feb: The US Army established its first air headquarters in Europe, the VIII Bomber Command, at Daws Hill, England. Maj Gen Ira C. Eaker assumed command. (4)
- 9 Mar: The War Department reorganized into three autonomous forces: The Ground Forces, Services of Supply, and the US AAF with the latter under Gen Henry H. Arnold as Commander. In this reorganization, the US AAC and US AAF Combat Command were discontinued. (4) (24)
- 20 Jun: The ACFC redesignated as Air Transport Command (ATC) with a small change in mission (see 29 May 1941) and a large increase in operations. Notably, the command became the War Department's agent for strategic airlift with centralized control over air service without interference from theater commanders, except in emergencies. (2)
- 4 Jul: The US AAF activated the Chinese Air Task Force under Maj Gen Claire Chennault to replace the American Volunteer Group. (21)
- 20 Aug: The US AAF activated Twelfth Air Force at Bolling Field, DC. (21)
- 5 Sep: General Henry H. Arnold approved the organization of a Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. Women then started serving at Aircraft Warning Stations. The USAAF then activated the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron at New Castle, Del., with Nancy Harkness Love in command, and the Women's Flying Training Detachment in the Flying Training Command under Jacqueline Cochran. (18)
- 2 Nov: The Navy established Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, to test experimental planes, equipment, and materials. (20)

## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

9 Dec: The Army reorganized into three autonomous forces: Army Air Forces, Ground Forces, and Services of Supply (20)

### 1943

5 Jan: General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Operation TORCH Commander, activated Allied Air Force under Maj Gen Carl A. Spaatz in the Northwest African theater. (21)

13 Jan: The USAAF activated Thirteenth Air Force in New Caledonia to conduct fighter and bomber operations against the Japanese. (21)

17 Feb: The Mediterranean Air Command activated with three subordinate commands under Air Chief Marshal Arthur Tedder: Northwest African Air Forces under Maj Gen Carl Spaatz, Middle East Air Command under Air Chief Marshal Sir Sholto Douglas, and RAF Malta Air Command under Air Vice Marshal Sir Keith Park. (24)

10 Mar: Fourteenth Air Force activated under the command of Maj Gen Claire Chennault. (24)

15 Jun: The Army Air Forces activated the 58<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, its first B-29 unit, at Marietta, Ga. (20)

5 Aug: The Women's Flying Training Detachment and the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS) merged into one organization, the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) under Jacqueline Cochran's leadership. Nancy Harkness Love, the WAFS Commander, became the WASP executive for ATC's Ferrying Division. By December 1944, female pilots flew nearly 9,230,000 to deliver nearly 12,700 aircraft. (18) (21)

18 Aug: Secretary of the Navy established the Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air) with Vice Admiral J.S. McCain as the first deputy. (24)

16 Oct: Ninth Air Force moved to Britain as the US Army's tactical air arm for the invasion of northern Europe; Maj Gen Lewis H. Brereton assumed command. (21)

1 Nov: Fifteenth Air Force activated at Tunis, Tunisia, to conduct heavy bomber missions against Germany from North Africa. Maj Gen James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle was its first commander. (21)

27 Nov: XX Bomber Command activated at Smoky Hill Army Airfield at Salina, Kans. (24)

20 Dec: The Navy organized the Naval Air Training Command at Pensacola under the Chief of Naval Operations to coordinate and direct all navy aviation training. (24)

Maj Gen Benjamin D. Foulois succeeded Maj Gen James E. Fechet as Chief of the Air Corps. (21)

### 1944

22 Feb: The Army redesignated Eighth Air Force as United States Strategic Air Forces in Europe and the VIII Bomber Command as Eighth Air Force. (21)

4 Apr: The USAAF activated Twentieth Air Force in Washington DC to conduct B-29 Superfortress operations against Japan from India and China, and later from the Marianas Islands in the Pacific. (21)

## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

- 15 Jun: The Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, established Far East Air Forces (Provisional) at Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, as the single air headquarters in the Southwest Pacific Area (SWPA). It became Far East Air Forces (FEAF) on 20 June when the new command received War Department approval of its designation, and was formally activated on 3 August. FEAF was a subordinate command of US Army Forces Far East (USAFPE) and, when necessary, would serve as the headquarters of Allied Air Forces Southwest Pacific Area. General George C. Kenney commanded both units. (17)
- 17 Dec: The 509<sup>th</sup> Composite Group activated at Wendover, Utah, to carry out atomic operations. (20)

### 1945

- 16 Jul: The US Strategic Air Force in the Pacific opened under the command of General Carl Spaatz. (24)
- Maj Gen Curtis E. LeMay assumed command of Twentieth Air Force. (24)
- 7 Aug: The War Department dropped "Strategic" from United States Strategic Air Forces (USSTAF) to make USAFE. (4)
- 29 Nov: The Army Air Forces School (formerly of Applied Tactics) moved from Orlando, Fla., to Maxwell Field, Al., under the Army Air Forces as a major command. It eventually became Air University. (21)
- 6 Dec: FEAF redesignated as Pacific Air Command. (17)

### 1946

- 21 Jan: In his State of the Union report, President Harry S. Truman asked for unification of the armed services. (5)
- 1 Mar: General Carl A. Spaatz replaced General of the Army Henry H. Arnold as the Commanding General, Army Air Forces. (21)
- 12 Mar: The Army redesignated the Army Air Forces School at Maxwell Field as Air University. It received jurisdiction over Air Command and Staff School, Air War College, and four bases. (21) (24)
- 13 Mar: Headquarters AAF redesignated the AAF Weather Service as the Air Weather Service, the Army Airways Communications System as the Air Communications Service, and established the Flight Safety Service, Flight Services, Air Rescue Service, and Aeronautical Chart Service. Those units were also assigned to Air Transport Command. (18)
- 21 Mar: Headquarters Tactical Air Command activated at Tampa, Fla., with Maj Gen Elwood Quesada as the commander. Air Defense Command established, while Continental Air Forces redesignated as Strategic Air Command. (1) (11)
- 2 Aug: The Smithsonian Institute established the National Air Museum. (24)

## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

### 1947

- 1 Jan: Pacific Air Command redesignated as Far East Air Forces. (5)
- 18 Jul: President Truman created a five-man Air Policy Committee, with Thomas K. Finletter as chairman, to submit a broad plan by 1 January 1948 to give the US the “greatest possible benefits from aviation.” Finletter later became the second Secretary of the Air Force. (24)
- 26 Jul: President Truman signed the National Security Act, which created the Air Force as a separate service. (12)
- 21 Aug: W. Stuart Symington named to become the first Secretary of the Air Force. (4)
- 18 Sep: **KEY EVENT.** W. Stuart Symington and became the first Secretary of the Air Force. This effectively transferred air activities from the Army to the new Air Force. (1) (21)
- 25 Sep: President Harry Truman named Gen Carl A. Spaatz as the first Air Force Chief of Staff (CSAF). (21)
- 26 Sep: Secretary of Defense James W. Forrestal ordered the Army to transfer personnel, bases, and materiel to the USAF. (4)
- Maj Gen William E. Kepner selected to lead the USAF’s new Atomic Energy Division. (24)
- 30 Dec: The National Military Establishment (later the Department of Defense) made the Air Force responsible for the Joint Long Range Proving Ground, which included Cape Canaveral, Fla., and down-range sites. (21)

### 1948

- 4 Feb: The Experimental Test Pilot School moved from Wright Field to Edwards AFB. (5)
- 1 Mar: The Congressional Aviation Policy Board recommended 70 groups for the USAF. (16)
- 26 Apr: The Air Force initiated planning for racial integration. (21)
- 30 Apr: Gen Hoyt S. Vandenberg selected to succeed Gen Carl Spaatz as USAF Chief of Staff. (16) (24)
- 1 Jun: Following Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal’s 3 March 1948 directive to consolidate strategic airlift resources, the Air Force established the MATS. The new command included the Air Transport Command, four Naval Air Transport Service squadrons, the Air Weather Service, the Air Rescue Service, and the Airways and Air Communications Service. This change, however, excluded large numbers of transports operated by overseas Air Force commands, TAC, and the US Navy. (2) (24)
- 12 Jun: Women in the Air Force (WAF) established when President Truman signed the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act. (18)
- 16 Jun: Colonel Geraldine Pratt May became the first WAF director. In World War II, she was the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) Staff Director for ATC. (18)
- 1 Dec: The Air Force activated the Continental Air Command. (24)

## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

### 1949

- 25 Jan: The USAF adopted blue uniforms.
- 9 Feb: The Department of Space Medicine established at the School of Aviation Medicine, Randolph AFB, Tex., with Dr. Hubertus Strughold as its first Chief. (16) (24)
- 15 Mar: MATS established Global Weather Central at Offutt AFB to provide weather support to SAC. (2)
- 4 Apr: Twelve nations signed the North Atlantic Treaty to set up NATO. (4)
- 1 Jul: The USAF established the USAF Medical Service under Maj Gen Malcolm C. Grow, the first Air Force Surgeon General. (21)
- 10 Aug: President Truman signed National Security Act amendments to revise the 1947 act and convert the national military establishments into the DOD. (16) (24)

### 1950

- 23 Jan: The Air Force established the Air Research and Development Command. (16) (24)
- 16 Apr: The USAF received the responsibility to develop and operate the Joint Long Range Proving Ground. It became the Long Range Proving Ground Division with the status of a major command. (16) (24)
- 24 Apr: Thomas K. Finletter became the second SECAF.
- 1 Jun: The USAF authorized to organize the Ground Observer Corps. (16) (24)
- 10 Sep: The USAF assigned Maj Gen William H. Tunner, then the MATS deputy commander, to organize a Combat Cargo Command (Provisional) for Far East Air Forces to perform theater airlift operations. (18)
- 15 Sep: Pope AFB, N.C., opened an Air-Ground Operations School. (16)

### 1951

- 1 Jan: The Air Force reestablished the Air Defense Command (ADC), with Lt Gen Ennis C. Whitehead in command. (24)
- 1 Mar: The Air Force established Thule Air Base, Greenland. Its location 690 miles north of the Arctic Circle made it the northernmost operational base. (21)
- 2 Apr: Air Research and Development Command established as a major command with Maj Gen David M. Schlatter in command. (16) (24)
- Gen Dwight Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe issued General Order (GO-1) to activate Allied Command Europe (ACE) and Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE). (4)
- Lt Gen Lauris Norstad assumed command of Allied Air Force Europe. (24)



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- 9 Jun: Maj Gen Archie J. Old, Jr., assumed command of all USAF units and organizations in French Morocco. (24)
- 30 Jun: The Long Range Proving Ground Division, under ARDC jurisdiction since 14 May 1951, became the Air Force Missile Test Center. (24)
- 29 Nov: Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron HS-1, the first of its kind in the Navy, commissioned at Key West. (16)

### 1952

- 7 Jan: The USAF announced its intention to increase its effective combat strength 50 percent, with personnel increasing by 20 percent, to a full 143-wing, 1,273,200-man Air Force. (24)
- 16 Apr: Originally established in 1951, the USAF redesignated the Air Pictorial Service as the Air Photographic and Charting Service (APCS). The unit remained in the MATS. (18)
- 11 May: The USAF transferred its Aeronautical Chart and Information Service from the Air Materiel Command to MATS. (18)
- 17 May: Dedication of the James Forrestal Research Center at Princeton University. (24)
- 18 Sep: The US and Denmark revealed the building of a huge strategic air base at Thule, Greenland, 930 miles from the North Pole. (16)
- 16 Dec: TAC activated the USAF's first helicopter unit, the 644th Troop Carrier Squadron, Assault. (24)

### 1953

- 4 Feb: Harold E. Talbott became Secretary of Air Force. (24)
- 30 Jun: Gen Nathan F. Twining replaced Gen Hoyt S. Vandenberg as the CSAF. (24)
- 1 Oct: The USAF activated its first airborne early warning and control squadron, the 4701<sup>st</sup>, at McClellan AFB, Ca., under ADC. The unit flew RC-121 aircraft. (21)

### 1954

- 1 Apr: President Eisenhower signed a bill to create the Air Force Academy. (18)
- 8 Apr: The USAF established the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Guided Missiles. (24)
- 24 Jun: SECEAF Harold E. Talbott announced that the permanent location of the Air Force Academy would be on a 15,000-acre tract of land six miles north of Colorado Springs, Col. (26)
- 1 Jul: The USAF established the Western Development Division at Inglewood, Calif., under Brig Gen Bernard A. Schriever, to direct the ballistic missile development program. The Western Development Division later became the Air Force Ballistic Systems Division. (16) (24)
- 26 Jul: Lt Gen Hubert R. Harmon became the first Air Force Academy superintendent. (21)

## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

1 Sep: The US established the Continental Air Defense Command, a joint Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marine Corps command, at Colorado Springs, Co. (24)

### 1955

11 Jul: The Air Force Academy admitted its first class. The 306 cadets attended classes at the temporary location on Lowry AFB until Academy could move to Colorado Springs. (21)

15 Aug: Donald A. Quarles became the Secretary of the Air Force. (24)

### 1956

20 Nov: Gen Lauris Norstad succeeded Gen Alfred M. Gruenther (USA) as Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. (24)

### 1957

1 Jul: Gen Thomas D. White became the fourth CSAF, succeeding Gen Nathan F. Twining. (24)

30 Apr: The Navy commissioned the Naval Aviation Medical Center at Pensacola. (24)

1 May: James H. Douglas, Jr., became the fifth Secretary of the Air Force, succeeding Donald A. Quarles. (24)

1 Aug: The US and Canada informally established the North American Defense Command (NORAD) with an air defense mission. An agreement signed on 12 May 1958 formalized this organization. (21)

15 Aug: Gen Nathan F. Twining became Chairman of the JCS, the first USAF officer to serve in this position. (16) (24)

10 Dec: The USAF Deputy Chief of Staff for Development announced the establishment of a Directorate of Astronautics. (24)

### 1958

7 Feb: The DoD named Roy W. Johnson to head the Advanced Research Projects Agency, an organization set up that day to develop outer space weapons, rockets, and other space vehicles. (24)

29 Mar: The Air Force Academy established a Department of Astronautics. (24)

1 Jul: MATS redesignated its Atlantic Division as the Eastern Transport Air Force (EASTAF) and consolidated its Pacific and Continental Divisions into the Western Transport Air Force (WESTAF). In 1966, EASTAF and WESTAF were redesignated Twenty-First and Twenty-Second Air Force, respectively. (18)

30 Sep: The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) issued its final annual report, and ceased to exist. NASA absorbed its facilities and personnel a day later. (16) (24)

1 Oct: NASA, a civilian agency, became operational and assumed control over nonmilitary scientific space projects. (12)

## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

1 Oct: Lt Gen Elwood Quesada (USAF Ret) appointed by President Eisenhower as Administrator for the newly formed Federation Aviation Administration (FAA), which absorbed the CAA, the Civil Aeronautics Board, and the Airways Modernization Board. (24)

### 1959

3 Jun: USAF Academy graduated its first class with 207 officers; 205 received commissions as regular officers. (4) (24)

1 Oct: The USAF activated the Aerospace Medical Center at Brooks AFB, Tex., to absorb the former School of Aviation Medicine, the USAF Hospital at Lackland AFB, and other facilities. (24)

### 1960

9 Feb: The Air Force dedicated the National Space Surveillance Control Center at Bedford, Mass. (24)

### 1961

23 Jan: Eugene M. Zukert succeeded Dudley C. Sharp as Secretary of the Air Force. (5)

1 Feb: The DoD directed the Air Rescue Service to assume responsibility for coordinating search and rescue missions within the contiguous US. (2)

6 Mar: The Secretary of Defense outlined policies and responsibilities for development of satellites, anti-satellites, space probes, and supporting systems. Each military department received permission to conduct research on new ways of using space technology to perform its assigned function." Research, development, test, and engineering of DoD space development programs and projects became an Air Force responsibility.

14 Apr: The USAF activated the 4400<sup>th</sup> Combat Crew Training Squadron at Hurlburt Field. It was the first special operations unit to be activated since the Korean War. (21)

30 Jun: Gen Curtis E. LeMay replaced Gen Thomas D. White as CSAF. (24)

1 Jul: The USAF created from MATS Airways and Air Communications Service (AACS) a new major air command--Air Force Communications Service (AFCS). (18)

### 1962

27 Apr: The Air Force established the Special Air Warfare Center at Eglin AFB under TAC to increase counterinsurgency tactical air capability. (24)

25 Jun: The Air Force Office of Aerospace Research established a basic research laboratory at the Air Force Academy to provide an in-house research capability for teaching faculty and students. (24)

### 1963

29 Nov: A week after President John F. Kennedy's assassination, President Lyndon B. Johnson changed the name of Cape Canaveral to Cape Kennedy and renamed the space facilities there as the John F. Kennedy Space Center. (21)

## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

### 1965

- 31 Jan: Gen Curtis E. LeMay retired as CSAF, and Gen John P. McConnell succeeded him, effective 1 February. (5)
- 1 Mar: The aviation cadet program, oldest of all flying training programs, ended with the graduation of undergraduate navigator class 65-15 at James Connally AFB, Tex. The program dated back to World War I.
- 20 Sep: Dr. Robert G. Loewy, Associate Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Sciences, University of Rochester, succeeded Dr. Winston R. Markey as Chief Scientist, USAF.
- 1 Oct: Harold Brown became the Secretary of the Air Force, succeeding Eugene M. Zukert. (5)(16)
- The USAF constituted its first heavy-repair civil engineering squadrons, ancestors of the Rapid Engineer Deployable, Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer (Red Horse) units. (21)
- 1 Nov: Col Jeanne M. Holm became Director of Women of the Air Force. (21)

### 1966

- 1 Jan: The Air Force redesignated the Military Air Transport Service (MATS) as the Military Airlift Command (MAC). The Eastern and Western Air Transport Forces became 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Forces, respectively. Other actions renamed the Air Rescue Service as the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service (ARRS), and the Air Photographic and Charting Service became the Aerospace Audio-Visual Service (AAVS). (16)
- 27 Jan: The North American Air Defense Command (NORAD), nerve center of North American air defense, took formal possession of a new combat operations center built 1,200 to 1,400 feet into solid granite at Cheyenne Mountain, Col.
- 7 Mar: General Charles deGaulle decided to end France's participation in Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe and Allied Forces Central Europe. (4)
- 21 Sep: Dr. Robert H. Cannon, Jr., succeeded Dr. Robert H. Lowey as the Air Force's chief scientist.

### 1967

- 6 Feb: The NORAD combat operation center, nerve center for aerospace defense, inside Cheyenne Mountain became fully operational. (26)
- 3 Apr: CMSgt Paul W. Airey became the first Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. (21)
- 1 Jul: AFSC's Ballistic System Division and Space Systems Division combined to form Space and Missile Systems Organization (SAMSO) with its headquarters in Los Angeles. (5) (16)

### 1968

- 1 Jan: The Reserve Forces Bill of Rights and Vitalization Act became law. The Air Force established the Office of Air Force Reserve to serve as a policy planning center for reserve operations. (26)

## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

- 15 Jan: The Air Force redesignated the Air Defense Command as the Aerospace Defense Command. (16)
- 29 Feb: Colonels Jeanne M. Holm, the Director of the Women in the Air Force, and Helen O'Day, in the Office of the CSAF, were the first women promoted to the permanent rank of colonel in the Air Force. A public law removed restrictions on promoting women to higher ranks in all armed services. (21)
- 25 Mar: The 944<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Group activated at Norton AFB, Ca., to become the first reserve group to function under the new associate-unit concept. (21)
- 20 Jun: MAC moved Headquarters Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service (ARRS) from Orlando AFB, Fla., to Scott AFB, Ill. (18)
- 1 Aug: The USAF discontinued CONAC and established Headquarters AFRES at Robins AFB to manage reserve resources. At the same time, the Air Force established the Air Reserve Personnel Center as a separate operating agency at Denver, Col. (16) 21)

### 1969

- 15 Feb: Dr. Robert C. Seamans, Jr., became the Secretary of the Air Force, replacing Dr. Harold Brown.
- 1 Aug: Gen John D. Ryan became the CSAF, following Gen John P. McConnell's retirement. (5) (16)

### 1970

- 5 May: The Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps expanded its admissions to include women after successful test programs at Ohio State, Drake, East Carolina, and Auburn Universities. (21)

### 1971

- 16 Jul: Brig Gen Jeanne M. Holm became the first woman to become a general officer in the USAF. (20)

### 1972

- 1 Apr: Air Training Command activated the Community College of the Air Force at Randolph AFB, Texas. (26)

### 1973

- 18 Jul: John L. McLucas became Secretary of the Air Force, replacing Robert C. Seamans, Jr., who left the post on 14 May 1973.
- 1 Aug: Gen George S. Brown replaced Gen John D. Ryan as the CSAF.
- 30 Sep: ATC inactivated Laredo AFB, Texas. (26)

### 1974

## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

- 15 Jun: The Air Rescue and Recovery Service set up the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Scott AFB. (2)
- 1 Jul: Gen David C. Jones, became CSAF, replacing Gen George C. Brown, who became Chairman of the JCS. (16)

### 1975

- 1 Sep: MAC transferred the Air Weather Service mission and its resources, including 27 aircraft, to the ARRS. (2)
- Gen Daniel “Chappie” James, Jr., became the first black four-star general. (21)

### 1976

- 2 Jan: Thomas C. Reed became the Secretary of the Air Force (SECAF). (14)
- 31 Jan: Udorn Royal Thai AB reverted to Thai control. The USAF operated the base since October 1964. (26)
- 29 Feb: The USAF terminated operations at Korat Royal Thai AB. (26)
- 1 Mar: Taipei AS on Taiwan closed after 20 years of operations. (26)
- 28 Jun: Joan Olsen became the first woman cadet to enter the Air Force Academy, and the first to enter any DoD service academies. (21)
- 4 Dec: MAC’s Airlift Center became operational at Pope AFB. This organization centralized expertise in doctrine, concepts, tactics, employment, operational testing and evaluation of weapon systems, equipment, and technical studies on airlift.

### 1977

- 1 Feb: The DoD designated MAC as a specified command, giving the MAC Commander the title of Commander-in-Chief, and during periods of crisis or war, making him directly responsible to the Chairman of the JCS for airlift operations. (16)
- 6 Apr: John C. Stetson became the Secretary of the Air Force, replacing Thomas C. Reed. (16)
- 30 Nov: The Air Force returned control of Tachikawa AB to the government of Japan. (26)

### 1978

- 15 May: Air University lost its status as a major command. It was assigned to Air Training Command. (16)
- 1 Jul: Air Training Command assumed responsibility for all cryptologic training in the Air Force. (16)

### 1979

- 26 Jul: Hans Mark became the Secretary of the Air Force.

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1 Oct: All atmospheric defense assets and missions of the Aerospace Defense Command transferred to TAC. (16)

The Aerospace Audio-Visual Service became the Air Force single manager for combat audiovisual documentation. At the same time, the DoD formed the Defense Audiovisual Agency at Norton AFB, Ca. (18)

### 1980

31 Mar: The USAF returned the facilities at Naha AB, Okinawa, to Japan. (26)

17 Oct: The SECDEF directed the U. S. Army to take over Wheeler AFB operations in Hawaii, although PACAF continued to own the base. Since Wheeler reactivated in 1952, the Army was the principal flying user of the base. (26)

### 1981

9 Feb: Verne Orr became the Secretary of the Air Force. (5)

12 Mar: ADC selected Peterson AFB, Colo., as the site for a backup facility for the NORAD Cheyenne Mountain Complex. The facility would be able to assume command and control functions if the NORAD complex failed. (26)

### 1982

23 Sep: The Air Force activated Space Command as a major command. (16) (26)

### 1983

1 Jan: U.S. Central Command activated at MacDill AFB, Fla., as a unified command. (16) (26)

1 Mar: MAC activated the Twenty-Third Air Force at Scott AFB with a mission to conduct combat rescue, special operations, weather reconnaissance and aerial sampling, security support for ICBM sites, helicopter and HC-130 aircrew training, and pararescue training. (2)

The Air Force reassigned the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Squadron from TAC to MAC. Additionally, the Air Force reassigned Hurlburt Field, Fla., from TAC to MAC. (26)

1 Apr: Through 1 May, the Air Force transferred 31 SAC units and four bases to Space Command, which assumed control over missile warning and space surveillance systems. (16)

1 May: The Air Force Reserve changed from a direct reporting unit to a separate operating agency. (16)

1 Jul: Air University regained major command status after five years under ATC. (16)

### 1984

30 Jun: Hancock Field, N. Y., closed after 32 years of continuous operation. (26)

20 Nov: President Ronald Reagan approved the formation of a new Unified Command, United States Space Command. (16) (26)

### 1985

## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

23 Sep: U.S. Space Command activated at Colorado Springs, Colorado (16)

15 Nov: Space Command redesignated Air Force Space Command. (16)

### 1986

1 Oct: The Goldwater-Nichols Act reorganized the DoD's chain of command to give theater commanders more control over forces provided by various armed services. (21)

16 Oct: The President signed legislation to create the U.S. Special Operations Command, a unified command, at Hurlburt Field, Fla. (16)

8 Dec: The JCS named Twelfth Air Force the air component command for USSOUTHCOM. (16)

### 1987

16 Feb: The Joint Military Medical Command activated at San Antonio, Texas, and was staff by Air Force and Army personnel. (26)

14 Aug: US Space Command announced the full activation of its Space Command Center at Peterson AFB, Col. (16)

1 Oct: The U.S. European Command established Special Operations Command Europe to command and control special operations in Europe. (16)

Headquarters United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) was activated with the Military Airlift Command as the air component. (18)

The USAF transferred Onizuka AFS in California and the Air Force Satellite Control Network, a set of worldwide remote tracking stations, to Air Force Space Command. (21)

### 1989

1 Oct: Gen Hansford T. Johnson became the first Air Force Academy graduate to become a four-star general. (26)

### 1990

22 May: The Air Force redesignated Twenty-Third Air Force at Hurlburt Field, Fla., as Air Force Special Operations Command. (16)

9 Aug: The USAF redesignated the Alaskan Air Command as Eleventh Air Force with assignment to Pacific Air Forces. (16) (26)

17 Sep: Secretary of Defense Richard B. Cheney removed General Michael J. Dugan as Air Force Chief of staff for making unauthorized comments to the media in Saudi Arabia during Operation DESERT SHIELD. (26)

### 1991

10 Jan: SAF Donald B. Rice directed Air Force Systems Command (AFSC) and Air Force Logistics Command (AFLC) to merge into a new organization, the Air Force Materiel Command. (16)



## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

1 Jun: The USAF transferred weather reconnaissance from MAC to the Air Force Reserve by inactivating the 53d Weather Reconnaissance Squadron at Keesler AFB, Mississippi. (18)

26 Nov: Clark AB, Philippines, the largest USAF base in the world, closed. (26)

### 1992

30 Jan: The 50th Space Wing activated at Falcon AFB, Colo., to provide command and control over DoD satellites and operation and manage the Air Force Satellite Control Network. (16)

1 Apr: MAC C-130s units overseas transferred to theater commands, and with that reorganization the 322d and 834th Airlift Divisions in Europe and the Pacific inactivated. (16)

The Tanker Airlift Control Center activated at Scott AFB to assume control over U.S. airlift from Twenty-Second Air Force. (16)

1 Jun: The USAF inactivated SAC, TAC, and MAC in a major reorganization. The USAF then activated the Air Combat Command and Air Mobility Command to take control of the SAC, TAC, and MAC forces. (16) (26)

The DoD activated United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) to assume the responsibility for U.S. nuclear forces and their long-range delivery systems. The last SAC commander, Gen George L. Butler, became the first USSTRATCOM commander. (21)

1 Jul: In another reorganization, the USAF inactivated the AFLC and the AFSC, replacing them with the Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC). (16) (26)

1 Aug: AMC's Tanker Airlift Control Center assumed control of tanker operations from Fifteenth Air Force. (16)

1 Oct: ATC inactivated seven flying training squadrons at four bases. This action left on T-37 and one T-38 Talon squadron at each undergraduate pilot training wing. (16)

The 97th Air Mobility Wing, the first composite wing in AMC, activated at Altus AFB, Okla. The wing had C-5s, C-141s, and KC-135 aircraft assigned. (16)

15 Dec: The USAF closed England AFB, La., Eaker AFB, Ark., and George AFB, Calif. (26)

### 1993

1 Jan: The Air Force Reserves activated the 7<sup>th</sup> Space Operations Squadron at Falcon AFB, Col.. It was the first space unit in the reserves. (21)

1 Feb: The Air Rescue Service transferred from AMC to ACC. Overseas rescue units transferred to theater major commands. (16)

31 Mar: Myrtle Beach AFB, S. C., closed. (26)

28 May: The Air Force Communications Command, which inactivated in 1991, activated again as the Air Force Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Agency. (16)

1 Jun: With the reduction of forces in Germany, USAFE closed Wueschheim and Lindsey Air Stations. (26)

## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

- 30 Jun: Wurtsmith AFB closed after being an active military installation since 1924. (26)
- 1 Jul: In a redesignation, Air Training Command (ATC) became the Air Education and Training Command (AETC). Air University lost its status as a major command in an action assigning it to AETC. The reorganization reassigned Altus AFB to AETC too. (16) (26)
- AETC activated the 392d Space and Missile Training Squadron at Vandenberg AFB to combine missile and space training. This training was conducted by ACC and ATC at separate bases. At this time, Vandenberg transferred from ACC to Air Force Space Command (AFSC), and Space Command activated Fourteenth Air Force there to handle the missile warning, space surveillance, launch, and satellite control functions. (16) (26)
- Twentieth Air Force transferred from ACC to AFSC. The NAF handled the daily operations of the ICBM force. (16)
- 2 Jul: AMC integrated its tanker and airlift forces by reorganizing from two airlift and one air refueling numbered air forces into two air mobility numbered air forces. Twenty-Second Air Force at Travis AFB, Ca., inactivated, and Fifteenth Air Force moved to Travis from March AFB, Ca. AMC tanker and airlift units were realigned under Fifteenth and Twenty-First Air Forces. (16)
- 6 Aug: Dr. Sheila E. Widnall became the Secretary of the Air Force. She was the first female secretary in any military service. (16)
- 20 Aug: USAFE turned over RAF Woodbridge to the British. (26)
- 30 Sep: The Air Force closed Chanute AFB, Ill., Mather AFB, Calif., Williams AFB, Ariz., Bergstrom and Carswell AFBs, Texas. Additionally, USAFE turned over RAF Bentwaters to the British. (26)
- 1 Oct: Air Force Intelligence Command redesignated as Air Intelligence Agency. This action ended its status as a major command (16)
- Officer Training School moved from Lackland to Maxwell AFB.(16)
- The CSAF, Gen Merrill McPeak, realigned the USAF to keep the most illustrious units alive through a period of downsizing. (16)
- 1 Nov: AF Space Command activated the Space Warfare Center at Falcon AFB, Col., to provide space support to combat commanders. (16)
- 1994
- 1 Jan: McConnell AFB transferred from ACC to AMC. The 22d AREFW moved to McConnell AFB with the closure of March AFB. (16)
- The 931st Air Refueling Group activated as AMC's first KC-135 associate unit in the Air Force Reserve. (16)
- 30 Jan: The Air Force closed Ankara AS, Turkey. (26)
- 18 Mar: The Air Force closed Norton AFB, Calif. (26)

## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

- 30 Jun: USAFE ended its presence in Berlin with the inactivation of Det 1, 435<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. (26)
- 4 Aug: Brig Gen Susan L. Pamerleau became the first woman commander of the Air Force Reserve Officer Corps. (26)
- 29 Sep: With the end of the Cold War, under force reductions the USAF vacated Soesterberg AB, the Netherlands, and RAF Upper Heyford, U. K. (26)
- 30 Sep: The Air Mobility Warfare Center (AMWC) officially stood up during ceremonies at Fort Dix, New Jersey. The AMWC would serve as the command's premier institution for training future air mobility leaders and testing air mobility systems. (18)
- The Air Force closed Grissom AFB, Ind., Loring AFB, Me., Lowry AFB, Col., Richards-Gebaur AFB, Mo., and Rickenbacker ANG Base, Ohio. (26)
- 1 Oct: Headquarters Air Combat Camera Service and the Air Force Media Center were inactivated. (18)

### 1995

- 22 Sep: Griffiss AFB closed. (26)
- 1 Oct: The first ANG space unit, the 137th Space Warning Squadron, activated at Greeley, Colo. (16)

### 1996

- 28 Jun: The Center for Low Intensity Conflict, an organization specializing for a decade in Army and Air Force low intensity conflict and military operations other than war, closed shop at Langley AFB, Va. Created by the USAF and USA chiefs of staff in Mar 1986, the center originally worked to enhance the understanding of and preparation for low intensity conflict. Since then, with the refinement of theories, the center's mission expanded to include military operations other than war (MOOTW). A recent decision to incorporate MOOTW analysis and planning into service operations brought about the center's inactivation; however, a low intensity conflict cell with seven people will remain at Langley's Air Force Doctrine Center (AFNEWS)
- 30 Sep: Seventeenth Air Force inactivated after more than 43 years of service with USAFE. (26)

### 1997

- 31 Jan: The Air Force activated its first air expeditionary unit, the 31<sup>st</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing. (21)
- 17 Feb: The Air Force Reserve became a major command, the Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC). The reorganization reflected the growing integration of active and reserve forces as well as the increasing role of reserve forces in USAF operations. (21)
- 1 Apr: AFRC activated its first AETC associate training units, the 5th Flying Training Flight at Vance AFB, Okla., and the 43rd Flying Training Flight at Columbus AFB, Miss. (33)

## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

- 1 Apr: The gaining major command for all Air Force Reserve Command C-130 units changed from Air Combat Command to Air Mobility Command. The C-130 wings were reassigned from Tenth Air Force to Twenty-Second Air Force. Air Force Reserve tanker units previously assigned to Twenty-Second Air Force were reassigned to Fourth Air Force. (33)
- 15 Apr: The AFRC activated the 920th Rescue Group and its flying squadrons, the 39th Rescue Squadron and the 303rd Rescue Squadron, at Patrick AFB, Fla. (33)
- 1 Jul: The AFRC redesignated Security Police units as Security Forces units. (33)
- 2 Aug: Col Walter “Buster” Burns formally assumed command of the 103d Fighter Wing (Connecticut ANG) at Bradley ANG Base. Under a 1996 National Guard Bureau staff integration plan, Burns became the first known active duty Air Force officer to command an Air Guard wing that had not been called into federal service. (32)
- 1 Sep: AFRC expanded its involvement in the space mission by activating the 310th Space Group and the 8th Space Operations Squadron at Falcon AFB, Colo. (33)

### 1998

- 4 Aug: Lt Gen Russell C. Davis succeeded Lt Gen Edward Baca (US Army) as the Chief, National Guard Bureau. General Davis, a District of Columbia Air Guardsman, was the first African-American and the third Air Guardsman to hold that assignment on a regular basis. (32)
- 4 Aug: The USAF unveiled plans to reorganize more than 2,000 aircraft into 10 Air Expeditionary Forces (AEFs) to ease the strain of increased operations overseas. The AEFs would use Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve as well as active duty USAF assets. (32)

### 1999

- 5 Mar: After Hurricane Mitch, to perform humanitarian missions AMC created five mobility Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) lead wings: the 22 AREFW at McConnell AFB, Kansas; the 43d Airlift Wing (AW) at Pope AFB; 60 AMW at Travis AFB; 92 AREFW at Fairchild AFB; and 319 AREFW at Grand Forks AFB. The five mobility wings complemented ten combat AEF lead wings and two on-call AEFs used to respond to immediate crises. (22)
- 23 Oct: The 126 AREFW (Illinois ANG) raised the American flag over its new home at Scott AFB, Ill. It moved there from O'Hare IAP/ARS to Scott according to a Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendation. (32)

### 2000

- 18 Jan: A new KC-135 Combat Employment School officially opened at Fairchild AFB. The school's courses were designed to provide advanced combat and contingency training to KC-135 pilots and navigators. (22)
- 1 Oct: The California ANG established the 148<sup>th</sup> Space Operations Squadron to help run the Air Force's MILSTAR Operations Center at Vandenberg AFB. The unit was formerly the 148<sup>th</sup> Combat Communications Squadron. (32)

## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

1 Oct: Buckley Air National Guard Base in Colorado became Buckley AFB. Responsibility for the installation shifted from the 140<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Colorado ANG, to Air Force Space Command's 821<sup>st</sup> Space Group. (32)

### 2001

1 Apr: The Air Force activated the Presidential Airlift Group at Andrews AFB as the selectively manned unit responsible for flying, maintaining, and supporting the President of the United States and the First Family on specially configured VC-25A (Boeing 747) aircraft. The group's subordinate units included the Presidential Airlift Squadron and Presidential Logistics Squadron. After moving from Washington DC's National Airport to Andrews in late 1961, the presidential airlift unit remained an operating location of the 89th Airlift Wing and became known as the Presidential Aircrew. The Air Force changed this name to the Presidential Pilot's Office in the early 1980s. (22)

1 Oct: The USAF reassigned the Space and Missile Systems Center from Air Materiel Command to Air Force Space Command. This action gave Space Command a "cradle-to-grave" oversight of space systems. (21)

Gen Richard B. Myers became the Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff, the highest position in the military. An Air Force general had not held that post for 19 years. (21)

### 2002

22 Apr: The USAF announced a new wing structure with four groups—operations, maintenance, mission support, and medical. (21)

14 May: The U.S. Senate confirmed Maj Gen Daniel James III, the Adjutant General of Texas, as the new Air National Guard Director. He was the first African-American and the first three-star general in that position. He was promoted to lieutenant general on 3 June 2002. (32)

3 Aug: Lt Gen Russell C. Davis (DC ANG) retired as Chief of the National Guard Bureau. He was the first African American and only the third Air Guardsman to hold that position.

1 Oct: U.S. Northern Command activated as a new unified command under Gen Ralph Eberhart, who remained commander of the NORAD. The new command assumed responsibility for the military protection of North America.

### 2003

7 Apr: The 775th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (EAES), the first of its kind in the CONUS, activated at Scott AFB to return injured service members to their home bases in the US for further medical treatment. The EAES included Reserve and Guard flight nurses, aeromedical technicians, critical care specialists, radio operators, medical equipment repair personnel, and administrative specialists from throughout the US. They were stationed at Andrews AFB, Md., as well as at Scott AFB. (22)

1 Oct: At Scott AFB, AMC activated Eighteenth Air Force, with responsibility for every AMC group and wing in the US, to task and execute global missions. Simultaneously, the command redesignated Fifteenth Air Force at Travis AFB and Twenty-First Air Force at McGuire AFB, N. J. as Expeditionary Mobility Task Forces (EMTFs). The two EMTFs then became AMC's lead agencies for conducting worldwide mobility operations, including airlift, air refueling, aeromedical evacuation, and base openings. (22)

### 2004

## ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHRONOLOGY

- 21 May: The Alaska ANG took over the Clear AFS operation and its early warning radar from the USAF during a ceremony attended by Gen Lance Lord, Air Force Space Command Commander, and Lt Gen Daniel James III, ANG Director. (32)
- 24 Nov: The SECAF and the CSAF signed a letter that directed MAJCOM commanders to provide plans no later than 17 January 2005 to test key initiatives for more closely integrating Guard and Reserve assets into active duty units and operations. (32)
- 30 Nov: The USAF approved an Air Guard request to establish the 170<sup>th</sup> Operational Support Squadron (Nebraska ANG) as an associate unit of the Air Force's 55<sup>th</sup> Wing. The 55<sup>th</sup> conducted various global reconnaissance, intelligence, information operations, command and control, presidential support, treaty verification, training, and airlift missions from Offutt AFB, Neb.

### 2005

- 9 Dec: Brig Gen Susan Y. Desjardins became the Air Force Academy's commandant. She was one of the academy's first female graduates, and her appointment made her the first woman to be the commandant. (Colorado Springs Gazette, "Commandant Wants Cadets Ready for War," 9 December 2005)

### 2006

- 20 May: Maj. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, a Florida Air Guardsman, was promoted to lieutenant general and assumed the post of ANG Director on this date. (32)

## **ACES**

Adams, Maj Donald E.: 3/5/52;  
Allen, W.H.: 5/9/44;  
Baker, Col Royal N.: 17/11/52;  
Becker, Capt Richard S.: 9/9/51;  
Blesse, Maj Frederick C.: 4/9/52;  
Bolt, John F.: 11/7/53;  
Bong, Richard I.: 27/12/42; 12/12/44; 17/12/44;  
Cunningham, Lt (Navy) Randall: 10/5/72;  
Davis, Jr., Maj George A.: 30/11/51; 10/2/52;  
Driscoll, Lt (JG) Willie: 10/5/72;  
DeBellevue, Capt Charles D.: 28/8/72; 9/9/72; 3/5/73;  
Dunn, William R.: 27/8/41;  
Feinstein, Capt Jeffrey S.: 13/10/72; 3/5/73;  
Foster, 1Lt Cecil G.: 22/11/52;  
Gabreski, Col Francis S.: 1/4/52;  
Gibson, Capt Ralph D.: 9/9/51;  
Ingalls, Lt (JG) David S.: 24/9/18;  
Jabara, James: 20/5/51;  
Jolley, Capt Clifford D.: 7/8/52;  
Kasler, 1Lt James H.: 15/5/52;  
Kincheloe, Capt Iven C.: 6/4/52;  
Latshaw, Capt Robert T., Jr.: 3/5/52;  
Lilley, Capt Leonard W.: 18/11/52;  
Love, Capt Robert J.: 21/4/52;  
Low, 2Lt James F.: 15/6/52;  
Luke, Lt Frank: 29/9/18;  
Marshal, Maj Winton W.: 30/11/51;  
McC Campbell, (USN) Capt David: 24/10/44;  
McConnell, Jr., Capt Joseph C.: 18/5/53;  
McGuire, Jr., Maj Thomas B.: 26/12/44;  
Moore, Capt Robert H.: 3/4/52;  
Olds, Col Robin: 2/1/67;  
Rickenbacker, Edward V.: 29/4/18; 25/9/18; 30/10/18; 6/11/30;  
Risner, Capt Robinson: 21/9/52;  
Ritchie, Richard S.: 28/8/72; 3/5/73;

Thyng, Col Harrison R.: 20/5/52;  
Wagner, Buzz: 18/12/41;  
Welch, George S.: 7/12/41;  
Wescott, Maj William H.: 26/4/52;  
Whisner, Jr., Maj William T.: 23/2/52;  
Yeager, Lt Chuck: 12/10/44; 14/10/47;

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS BY WOMEN:**

11/8/06; 27/10/09; 2/9/10; 2/8/11; 16/4/12; 21/6/13; 17/6/28; 29/10/28; 10/2/29; 24/4/29; 27/11/29;  
3/5/30; 15/5/30; 24/11/30; 2/12/30; 23/6/31; 31/8/31; 14/2/32; 20/5/32; 25/8/32; 19/12/33;  
31/12/34; 11/1/35; 19/4/35; 4/9/36; 21/5/37; 26/7/37; 18/2/38; 24/3/39; 13/10/39; 15/11/42;  
18/2/43; 26/3/43; 24/4/43; 24/5/48; 12/6/48; 29/12/49; 3/1/50; 6/7/50; 4/1/51; 24/8/61; 19/11/61;  
17/4/64; 20/4/51; 18/5/53; 14/6/57; 17/5/61; 22/4/62; 12/5/64; 3/9/65; 1/11/65; 20/1/66; 29/2/68;  
5/5/70; 2/5/71; 12/8/72; 24/4/75; 28/6/76; 26/8/76; 10/3/77; 18/3/77; 2/5/77; 23/9/77; 12/10/77;  
23/3/78; 27/4/78; 18/8/78; 16/9/78; 28/5/80; 8/6/80; 10/6/82; 9/5/83; 18/6/83; 5/10/84; 4/1/85;  
4/2/85; 25/3/85; 28/10/85; 25/3/86; 1/1/88; 10/6/89; 14/12/89; 9/1/90; 12/1/90; 13/1/93; 22/5/93;  
17/6/93; 6/8/93; 10/2/94; 6/5/94; 1/6/94; 4/8/94; 3/2/95; 21/4/95; 5/5/96; 31/5/96; 24/6/96; 20/2/97;  
21/3/97; 1/11/2001; 10/7/98; 3/9/99; 27/9/99; 13/1/2000; 24/10/2000; 1/12/2003; 7/5/2004;  
10/9/2005; 9/12/2005; 2/10/2007;

**AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY/FILMING:** 24/4/09; 17/12/11; 12/2/12; 31/8/32; 10/7/65;

**AGREEMENTS:** 28/2/11; 12/3/17; 9/1/31; 1/4/41; 9/4/41; 18/8/41; 13/1/42; 18/5/42; 14/1/43;  
6/10/45; 17/8/49; 15/3/50; 4/2/66; 6/4/66; 13/2/81; 24/3/92; 3/1/93; 29/6/93; 8/12/93; 5/12/94;

Anti-ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty: 26/5/72; 13/12/2001;

Casablanca Conference: 14/1/43;

Collins-Vandenberg Agreement: 1/8/50;

Geneva Convention: 17/8/49;

Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty: 8/12/87; 1/7/88; 11/4/90; 31/5/91;

Key West: 21/4/48;

National Security Act: 10/8/49;

Nuclear Forces Initiative: 30/6/92;

Open Skies Treaty: 24/3/92; 29/6/93; 25/8/94; 25/9/97; 7/6/2004;

Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty: 26/5/72; 24/11/74;

Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START): 3/1/93; 17/8/93; 8/12/93; 5/12/94; 5/3/95;  
22/12/97; 6/10/99; 24/8/2001;

#### **AIRPLANES**

707 Stratoliner: 15/7/54; 16/10/55; 3/7/58; 10/12/58; 25/1/59; 12/6/59; 23/7/59; 3/1/60; 9/6/61;  
9/2/62;

707-320: 19/5/63; 15/11/65; 1/2/72;



727: 9/2/63; 5/1/85;  
737-200: 27/5/71; 10/4/73;  
737-400: 26/1/88;  
737-700:  
747: 9/2/69; 21/9/69; 13/1/70; 20/1/70; 21/1/70; 12/11/70; 1/11/75; 18/2/77; 27/3/77; 1/9/83;  
26/1/88; 24/4/90; 23/8/90; 10/9/93; 5/5/99; 8/6/2001;  
747-200: 23/8/90;  
747-400: 26/1/88; 10/9/93;  
747-400F Airborne Laser Aircraft: 22/1/2000; 8/6/2001; 18/7/2002; 19/12/2002; 8/12/2003;  
6/12/2005; 27/10/2006;  
757-200: 11/2/98; 19/6/98;  
767: 11/1/2002; 23/5/2003; 18/6/2003;  
777-300ER: 20/5/2003;  
AB-2 Flying Boat: 16/4/15;  
AD-1 Skyraider: 18/3/45;  
AD-2: 23/5/52;  
AD-17A Beachcraft Biplane: 9/3/40;  
Aero Commander 680: 14/6/57; 20/9/60;  
ALE-50 Towed Decoy: 6/3/97;  
A-1 Skyraider: 10/3/66; 5/5/66; 1/9/68; 23/10/72;  
A3J-1 Vigilante (North American): 13/12/60;  
A3D Skywarrior (Douglas): 21/3/57; 22/3/57; 21/8/57; 11/10/57;  
A4D (A-4) (Douglas) Skyhawk: 22/6/54; 17/10/55;  
A-4M: 5/3/86;  
A-6 Intruder: 14/4/86; 13/11/89; 31/1/92;  
A-7: 14/4/86;  
A-7D Corsair II: 8/1/70; 14/3/70; 23/3/70; 21/8/70; 2/3/71; 15/7/73; 19/12/73; 9/4/74; 15/4/74;  
20/6/74; 7/2/75; 24/11/80; 17/12/80; 12/1/81; 13/11/89; 15/5/93;  
A-9: 30/5/72; 23/6/72; 10/10/72; 9/12/72;  
A-10 Thunderbolt II: 10/5/72; 30/5/72; 13/6/72; 10/10/72; 9/12/72; 9/1/73; 1/3/73; 19/12/73;  
26/2/74; 9/4/74; 15/4/74; 20/6/74; 1/8/74; 19/12/74; 15/2/75; 9/3/77; 24/8/78; 4/5/79; 3/3/82;  
3/8/82; 20/3/84; 4/12/86; 8/1/88; 17/1/91; 21/1/91; 6/2/91; 5/8/94; 10/10/94; 27/3/99; 21/6/99;  
24/6/99; 3/9/99; 1/3/2002; 27/7/2007; 7/8/2007; 21/8/2007; 29/10/2007;  
A-11: 29/2/64; 23/4/64; 24/9/64;  
A-20: 4/7/42; 14/9/44; 14/7/45;  
A-26: 3/5/45; 25/11/45; 12/4/47;  
A-29: 7/7/42;  
A-37B: 28/5/68; 25/4/70; 4/11/70;

AC-47: 15/12/64; 24/2/69;

AC-119 Shadow: 8/11/68; 1/1/69; 8/5/70; 10/9/71; 23/10/72;

AC-130 Spectre Gunships: 22/2/68; 2/7/87; 20/12/89; 21/12/91; 7/6/93; 11/6/93; 7/1/95; 9/4/96; 7/10/2001; 1/3/2002; 8/1/2007;

Advanced Manned Strategic Aircraft (AMSA) (Later, B-1): 14/3/66; 19/3/69; 3/11/69;

Advanced Tanker/Cargo Aircraft: 19/2/77; 19/12/77;

Advanced Tactical Fighter: 23/6/90;

Advanced Technology Tactical Transport (AT3): 20/1/88;

Aerial Mapping: 31/3/13; 26/8/43;

Aerial Mining: 7/3/83;

Aerial Reforesting: 2/7/26;

Aeromarine Flying Boat: 14/8/19;

Aeronca: 11/10/49;

Aeronca Seaplane: 12/10/39;

Aeronca Sedan: 26/4/49;

AGM-81A fbolt: 31/1/84;

AGM-109: 17/7/79;

AH-64 Apache Helicopter: 15/9/89; 20/12/89; 29/10/2007;

Air Ambulance: 23/7/18; 21/10/29;

Airborne Alert: 15/9/58; 18/1/61;

Airborne Command Post: 1/7/60; 4/11/60; 3/2/61; 2/2/65; 11/2/77;

Airborne Laser Laboratory: 2/5/81; 8/6/2001; 18/7/2002; 27/10/2006;

Airborne Operations: 10/7/43; 15/8/44;

Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS): 26/1/51; 5/7/70; 1/2/72; 9/2/72; 3/2/73; 10/4/73; 7/12/74; 10/1/75; 1/11/75; 12/12/75; 11/2/77; 24/3/77; 15/1/79; 29/1/79; 2/5/79; 28/11/79; 4/3/80; 22/9/80; 1/10/80; 10/12/80; 28/10/81; 24/2/82; 4/5/82; 30/1/85; 9/10/2001;

Aircraft Sales/Advertising: 22/6/09; 27/6/09; 12/11/09;

Aircraft Dispersal: 9/6/60;

Aircraft Nuclear Powered: 19/11/57;

Aircraft Specifications: 8/2/12; 25/7/12; 7/2/18;

Aircraft Storage: 16/1/70;

Air Defense Systems: 15/3/64;

Air Force One (Presidential Aircraft): 19/5/63; 17/2/72; 24/1/73; 18/1/81; 23/8/90; 19/6/98; 8/9/2001;

Air Traffic Control: 3/8/81;

All-weather: 11/1/50; 14/1/57;

Antoinette Airplane: 7/2/11;

AN-124: 20/4/2007;

AT-6 Harvard/Texan: 6/2/40;

Atomic Aircraft: 8/8/45; 5/9/51;

Automatic Controls: 24/2/15; 3/2/46; 21/12/48; 7/2/75;

Automatic Collision Avoidance System (ACAS): 17/8/2003;

Autonomous Landing Guidance System: 12/2/99;

Avionics Modernization Program: 22/1/99; 30/7/2001; 5/12/2001; 21/12/2002; 19/9/2006;

Avionics Risk Reduction Program: 15/3/2005;

AV-8 Harrier: 10/10/81; 7/10/2001;

Aviation Regulations: 15/1/14; 28/2/18; 15/1/23; 16/1/29;

Aviation Fuels: 6/6/36; 19/9/2006; 15/12/2006; 17/1/2007; 30/1/2007; 8/8/2007; 19/10/2007; 22/10/2007; 17/12/2007;

A-X: 22/12/70;

B-1B Lancer: 14/3/66; 19/3/69; 3/11/69; 5/6/70; 12/1/71; 26/10/74; 23/12/74; 8/2/75; 11/2/75; 10/4/75; 21/4/75; 19/9/75; 19/4/76; 2/12/76; 30/6/77; 28/6/78; 30/3/79; 2/10/81; 30/4/81; 2/10/81; 20/1/82; 2/9/82; 31/1/83; 23/3/83; 22/6/83; 25/8/83; 30/7/84; 29/8/84; 4/9/84; 18/10/84; 7/7/85; 1/10/86; 16/1/87; 4/7/87; 24/11/87; 20/1/88; 2/5/88; 8/11/89; 28/2/92; 11/8/93; 1/7/94; 26/9/94; 31/10/94; 2/6/95; 9/6/97; 19/11/97; 8/2/98; 11/2/98; 3/12/98; 16/12/98; 25/1/2000; 26/6/2001; 26/9/2001; 7/10/2001; 1/11/2001; 12/12/2001; 1/3/2002; 2/5/2002; 6/6/2002; 10/6/2002; 22/6/2002; 4/8/2002; 17/9/2002; 17/6/2003; 25/10/2003; 30/10/2003; 26/3/2004; 9/4/2004; 24/2/2005; 25/7/2005; 18/8/2005; 7/2/2007; 13/2/2007;

B-2: 13/7/21;

B-2A (Spirit): 22/11/88; 17/7/89; 8/11/89; 18/11/89; 22/11/89; 27/4/90; 3/5/90; 17/5/90; 22/9/93; 17/12/93; 17/8/94; 31/8/94; 23/9/94; 29/10/94; 30/12/94; 7/2/95; 13/5/95; 9/6/95; 13/6/95; 30/4/96; 15/5/96; 24/5/96; 27/5/96; 3/7/96; 27/7/96; 7/10/96; 11/11/96; 16/12/96; 1/2/97; 19/3/97; 1/4/97; 23/5/97; 29/5/97; 23/2/98; 24/3/99; 25/3/99; 15/7/2000; 28/7/2001; 31/7/2001; 7/10/2001; 18/4/2003; 6/8/2003; 14/8/2003; 10/9/2003; 3/2/2007; 18/12/2007;

B-10: 27/11/33; 19/7/34;

B-12A: 24/8/35;

B-15: 15/10/37; 6/2/39; 30/7/39;

B-17 Flying Fortress: 18/6/34; 28/6/34; 28/7/35; 20/8/35; 17/1/36; 2/12/36; 1/3/37; 11/1/37; 17/2/38; 12/5/38; 26/8/39; 7/11/39; 14/5/41; 8/7/41; 12/9/41; 8/12/41; 10/12/41; 12/4/42; 23/6/42; 3/8/42; 17/8/42; 6/9/42; 21/10/42; 17/1/43; 27/1/43; 16/2/43; 27/2/43; 31/3/43; 25/6/43; 17/7/43; 28/7/43; 6/9/43; 27/9/43; 9/10/43; 31/10/43; 2/11/43; 24/12/43; 3/2/44; 15/2/44; 4/3/44; 6/3/44; 3/4/44; 5/4/44; 9/4/44; 11/4/44; 9/5/44; 2/6/44; 22/6/44; 23/6/44; 22/9/44; 4/11/44; 9/11/44; 5/12/44; 24/12/44; 14/2/45; 8/5/45; 6/8/46; 9/12/48; 23/10/57;

B-18: 19/8/38; 8/4/40;

B-24 Liberator: 29/12/39; 16/6/41; 1/7/41; 10/12/41; 12/6/42; 15/6/42; 21/10/42; 28/11/42; 15/12/42; 22/12/42; 16/2/43; 27/2/43; 20/4/43; 17/7/43; 1/8/43; 2/11/43; 13/11/43; 14/11/43; 20/12/43; 24/12/43; 3/2/44; 6/3/44; 16/3/44; 3/4/44; 5/4/44; 25/4/44; 9/5/44; 5/6/44; 9/7/44; 5/8/44; 1/9/44; 30/9/44; 4/11/44; 5/12/44; 8/5/45; 31/5/45; 30/8/45; 16/1/97;

B-25 Mitchell Bomber: 19/8/40; 12/4/42; 2/3/43; 13/11/43; 14/11/43; 25/11/43; 29/11/43; 15/2/44; 22/3/44; 26/3/44; 23/9/44; 10/11/44; 8/5/45; 21/5/60;

B-26 Marauder/Invader: 8/4/44; 9/8/44; 27/6/50; 28/6/50; 29/6/50; 30/6/50; 10/7/50; 12/7/50; 22/9/50; 27/10/50; 1/11/50; 4/11/50; 19/11/50; 25/11/50; 28/11/50; 24/12/50; 2/1/51; 12/1/51;

4/2/51; 6/2/51; 8/2/51; 12/2/51; 14/3/51; 7/6/51; 14/7/51; 24/8/51; 14/9/51; 23/5/52; 24/6/52;  
8/8/52; 12/9/52; 16/9/52; 27/9/52; 25/10/52; 28/11/52; 11/12/52; 30/12/52; 19/4/61; 3/1/63;  
11/2/64;

B-29 Superfortress: 24/8/40; 21/9/42; 15/6/43; 4/4/44; 10/5/44; 5/6/44; 15/6/44; 1/11/44; 24/11/44;  
6/1/45; 14/1/45; 17/1/45; 19/2/45; 25/2/45; 9/3/45; 17/3/45; 27/3/45; 30/3/45; 7/4/45; 8/5/45;  
11/6/45; 26/6/45; 1/8/45; 6/8/45; 9/8/45; 14/8/45; 27/8/45; 20/10/45; 19/11/45; 11/12/45; 1/7/46;  
1/8/46; 10/10/46; 1/3/47; 16/5/47; 11/10/47; 14/10/47; 20/2/48; 10/3/48; 28/3/48; 5/5/48; 15/5/48;  
25/5/48; 26/6/48; 17/7/48; 22/7/48; 3/7/49; 22/3/50; 28/6/50; 3/7/50; 6/7/50; 12/7/50; 13/7/50;  
18/7/50; 30/7/50; 1/8/50; 4/8/50; 7/8/50; 8/8/50; 10/8/50; 12/8/50; 16/8/50; 19/8/50; 27/8/50;  
30/8/50; 31/8/50; 1/9/50; 7/9/50; 18/9/50; 20/9/50; 22/9/50; 26/9/50; 2/10/50; 6/10/50; 25/10/50;  
5/11/50; 8/11/50; 9/11/50; 10/11/50; 14/11/50; 24/11/50; 1/12/50; 7/12/50; 3/1/51; 5/1/51; 8/1/51;  
12/1/51; 23/1/51; 8/2/51; 1/3/51; 20/3/51; 23/3/51; 29/3/51; 17/5/51; 1/6/51; 7/6/51; 23/9/51;  
11/3/52; 31/3/52; 12/4/51; 16/4/51; 26/4/51; 25/8/51; 16/10/51; 22/10/51; 23/10/51; 27/10/51;  
9/11/51; 14/12/51; 19/12/51; 24/12/51; 12/1/52; 31/1/52; 26/2/52; 26/5/52; 10/6/52; 19/6/52;  
23/6/52; 24/6/52; 11/7/52; 13/7/52; 30/7/52; 20/8/52; 3/9/52; 12/9/52; 19/9/52; 8/10/52; 12/10/52;  
12/11/52; 18/11/52; 28/11/52; 2/12/52; 29/12/52; 30/12/52; 10/5/53; 21/5/53; 27/7/53; 21/8/53;  
20/11/53; 25/8/54; 1/11/54; 4/11/54; 4/8/55; 8/8/55;

B-36 Peacemaker: 8/8/46; 16/8/47; 26/6/48; 23/10/48; 8/12/48; 12/3/49; 26/3/49; 2/6/50; 16/1/51;  
3/12/51; 25/8/53; 15/10/54; 8/3/55; 6/4/55; 12/2/59;

B-42: 8/12/45;

B-45 Tornado: 17/3/47; 30/7/48;

B-47 Stratojet: 1/2/45; 12/9/47; 17/12/47; 20/12/48; 8/2/49; 14/11/49; 1/3/50; 18/4/50; 25/6/50;  
15/3/51; 23/10/51; 22/1/53; 6/4/53; 4/6/53; 28/7/53; 1/9/53; 21/6/54; 6/11/53; 7/8/54; 17/11/54;  
25/2/55; 10/5/55; 24/10/56; 25/1/57; 14/10/57; 28/4/58; 12/12/58; 13/10/59; 30/11/59; 22/4/60;  
9/6/60; 16/12/60; 28/3/61; 17/8/61; 11/2/66; 31/3/66; 31/12/67;

B-50 Superfortress: 25/6/47; 20/2/48; 26/2/49; 23/8/51; 20/10/55; 27/9/56; 9/9/58;

B-51: 25/3/56;

B-52 Stratofortress: 17/11/48; 29/11/51; 15/4/52; 13/8/52; 3/10/52; 18/3/54; 5/8/54; 10/5/55;  
29/6/55; 18/1/56; 9/3/56; 21/5/56; 18/1/57; 17/11/57; 15/8/58; 15/9/58; 26/9/58; 12/12/58; 22/1/59;  
13/2/59; 10/3/59; 23/4/59; 8/6/59; 17/9/59; 12/4/60; 14/12/60; 18/1/61; 7/3/61; 9/5/61; 25/8/61;  
18/12/61; 9/1/62; 11/1/62; 17/1/62; 6/6/62; 26/10/62; 22/12/62; 12/2/65; 8/3/65; 18/6/65; 8/12/65;  
10/12/65; 17/1/66; 12/4/66; 18/6/66; 12/7/66; 20/9/66; 31/10/66; 10/4/67; 6/5/67; 15/4/68; 18/6/68;  
17/4/69; 29/7/69; 19/3/70; 4/5/70; 2/6/70; 12/1/71; 29/9/71; 4/3/72; 10/4/72; 15/6/72; 15/9/72;  
22/11/72; 18/12/72; 31/12/72; 9/1/73; 28/1/73; 22/2/73; 30/4/74; 6/6/75; 25/6/75; 5/3/76; 19/5/77;  
23/4/79; 9/5/79; 12/3/80; 3/9/80; 22/9/80; 5/5/81; 25/7/81; 15/8/81; 11/8/81; 15/9/81; 25/9/81;  
23/11/81; 27/1/82; 15/9/82; 20/9/82; 7/3/83; 1/10/83; 4/10/83; 6/10/83; 27/10/83; 6/3/84; 4/9/84;  
21/12/84; 19/2/85; 20/4/85; 29/6/85; 1/7/85; 23/8/86; 3/11/89; 9/11/89; 1/12/89; 16/1/91; 1/3/92;  
16/12/92; 24/6/93; 17/8/93; 15/9/93; 1/10/93; 7/12/93; 3/5/94; 27/7/94; 3/8/94; 26/9/94; 7/8/95;  
30/9/95; 24/6/96; 12/12/96; 31/1/97; 30/7/97; 19/11/97; 8/2/98; 12/2/98; 12/3/98; 10/11/98;  
12/12/98; 19/4/99; 28/4/99; 16/9/99; 25/4/2001; 28/4/2001; 31/5/2001; 30/7/2001; 17/9/2001;  
7/10/2001; 21/12/2001; 1/3/2002; 26/1/2004; 18/9/2004; 16/11/2004; 7/12/2004; 19/9/2006;  
15/12/2006; 17/1/2007; 30/1/2007; 2/3/2007; 8/8/2007;

B-57 Canberra: 20/7/53; 30/8/58; 5/1/61; 18/6/64; 5/8/64; 18/2/65; 19/2/65; 6/10/69; 15/9/70;  
15/10/70; 12/4/72;

B-58 Hustler: 10/5/55; 11/11/56; 1/8/60; 12/1/61; 14/1/61; 10/5/61; 26/5/61; 28/2/62; 5/3/62;  
21/3/62; 8/6/62; 18/9/62; 26/10/62; 16/10/63; 28/3/64; 16/9/64; 29/10/69; 16/1/70;

B-747: 15/3/77;

Barling Bomber: 22/8/23; 25/10/23;

Beechcraft: 4/9/36; 2/11/36; 26/7/37;  
Beechcraft Twin Wasp: 24/3/39;  
Beechcraft Bonanza: 13/1/49; 8/3/49; 1/8/58;  
Beechjet 400A: 15/9/91;  
Beech Mk II Trainer: 22/6/95;  
Bell 206L Longranger: 30/9/82;  
Bellanca-15: 12/4/27; 4/6/27;  
Bellanca Monoplane: 24/4/29; 28/7/31; 3/10/31;  
Bellanca Packard: 25/5/31;  
Bellanca YIC-14: 11/1/32;  
Bendix Trophy Race: 4/9/36; 30/8/46;  
Benoist Flying Boat: 1/1/14;  
Benoist Pusher: 1/3/12;  
Berliner-Joyce OJ-2: 1/5/34;  
Bleriot Airplane: 12/11/09; 11/8/10; 10/10/10; 2/2/11;  
Blind Flying: 24/9/29; 21/7/30; 1/5/34; 22/7/35; 30/7/35; 7/6/36; 10/7/61;  
Boeing Model 80A: 15/5/30;  
Boeing Model 95: 27/8/29;  
Boeing Model 299 (B-17 Prototype): 18/6/34; 28/7/35; 20/8/35;  
Boeing Model 307 Stratoliner: 31/12/38; 8/7/40;  
Boeing Stratocruiser: 26/10/49;  
Bristol Airplane: 18/9/18;  
Burgess-Wright Biplane: 17/9/11; 26/9/11; 2/10/12; 1/12/14;  
Burgess D-1 Flying Boat: 16/2/14;  
Burgess-Dunne Armored Plane: 30/12/14;  
Burgess-Dunne AH-10 Flying Boat: 23/4/15;  
Burgess-Rennault: 12/3/15;  
Burgess Tractor: 15/4/12; 1/5/13; 14/2/14;  
C-2 Transport: 9/1/29;  
C-4 Trimotor: 28/11/29;  
C-5 Galaxy: 21/12/64; 30/9/65; 11/5/66; 24/2/68; 2/3/68; 30/6/68; 15/6/69; 25/8/69; 29/8/69;  
14/10/69; 17/12/69; 6/6/70; 14/7/70; 14/8/71; 6/5/72; 6/5/73; 1/5/74; 9/8/74; 30/8/74; 14/10/74;  
24/10/74; 4/4/75; 6/4/75; 4/2/76; 22/5/76; 19/8/76; 26/11/76; 31/1/77; 19/6/77; 8/2/78; 16/5/78;  
31/5/78; 9/12/78; 31/3/79; 19/12/79; 14/8/80; 12/10/80; 30/10/80; 26/1/82; 24/1/83; 9/2/83; 9/6/83;  
3/9/83; 25/10/83; 30/11/83; 19/3/84; 7/8/84; 28/8/84; 1/12/84; 19/1/85; 15/3/85; 12/8/85; 8/1/86;  
18/9/86; 6/11/86; 7/7/87; 22/7/87; 25/1/88; 5/4/88; 17/4/88; 1/7/88; 15/8/88; 22/8/88; 12/9/88;  
9/11/88; 10/12/88; 5/3/89; 27/3/89; 17/4/89; 11/5/89; 7/6/89; 4/10/89; 20/12/89; 11/4/90; 1/3/91;  
28/2/91; 11/5/91; 1/10/91; 1/11/91; 14/11/91; 20/1/92; 10/2/92; 15/3/92; 3/7/92; 15/8/93; 12/9/92;  
1/10/92; 4/11/92; 6/12/92; 17/5/93; 11/7/93; 11/8/93; 2/10/93; 24/10/93; 17/1/94; 25/3/94; 10/4/94;

22/6/94; 26/6/94; 24/7/94; 21/11/94; 1/2/95; 10/5/95; 30/6/95; 23/7/95; 13/8/95; 20/8/95; 7/9/95; 16/9/95; 27/6/96; 17/3/97; 17/6/97; 22/8/97; 18/12/97; 15/1/98; 10/6/98; 24/6/98; 2/7/98; 13/8/98; 22/1/99; 4/4/99; 18/8/99; 20/12/99; 4/1/2000; 17/1/2000; 1/3/2000; 31/1/2001; 17/3/2001; 16/5/2001; 5/12/2001; 31/12/2001; 10/7/2002; 20/7/2002; 11/9/2002; 24/10/2002; 21/12/2002; 4/11/2003; 27/12/2003; 2/5/2004; 3/10/2004; 26/12/2004; 5/8/2005; 29/8/2005; 14/10/2005; 17/10/2005; 19/6/2006; 17/11/2006; 18/12/2006; 10/3/2007; 10/4/2007; 20/4/2007; 18/9/2007;

C-7 Caribou: 6/4/66; 29/9/69; 14/9/71;

C-8 Buffalo: 6/4/66;

C-9 Nightingale Aeromedical Evacuation Aircraft: 31/8/67; 17/6/68; 10/8/68; 2/10/68; 12/2/73; 8/6/80; 18/1/81; 23/10/83; 25/10/83; 1/1/84; 25/2/87; 27/7/86; 25/2/87; 28/2/91; 3/7/92; 13/8/98; 22/1/2000; 11/8/2003; 23/7/2004; 29/8/2005; 20/9/2005 (last one retired); 26/2/2007;

C-12 Huron (Beech Aircraft, later Raytheon): 14/5/84; 25/10/85; 6/3/97; 19/9/2006;

C-17 Globemaster III: 8/9/81; 20/1/88; 15/9/91; 13/4/92; 18/5/92; 14/6/93; 5/2/94; 24/5/94; 14/10/94; 18/11/94; 17/1/95; 4/3/95; 28/5/95; 25/8/95; 15/9/95; 3/11/95; 8/12/95; 9/1/96; 2/2/96; 5/4/96; 18/4/96; 31/5/96; 17/3/97; 6/9/97; 14/9/97; 10/1/98; 15/1/98; 16/1/98; 28/1/98; 13/8/98; 9/9/98; 9/12/98; 4/4/99; 20/9/99; 15/10/99; 4/1/2000; 1/3/2000; 9/9/2000; 13/10/2000; 8/11/2000; 4/1/2001; 31/1/2001; 16/5/2001; 23/5/2001; 30/5/2001; 10/6/2001; 8/10/2001; 31/10/2001; 28/11/2001; 17/12/2001; 31/12/2001; 5/1/2002; 10/1/2002; 23/1/2002; 14/5/2002; 15/7/2002; 15/8/2002; 11/9/2002; 26/3/2003; 19/4/2003; 17/6/2003; 9/12/2003; 17/12/2003; 27/12/2003; 13/8/2004; 23/9/2004; 24/9/2004; 4/2/2005; 1/6/2005; 18/6/2005; 6/7/2005; 5/8/2005; 9/8/2005; 29/8/2005; 30/8/2005; 29/9/2005; 8/10/2005; 10/10/2005; 8/2/2006; 28/2/2006; 16/3/2006; 20/3/2006; 29/4/2006; 18/7/2006; 26/7/2006; 20/12/2006; 22/12/2006; 7/3/2007; 10/3/2007; 21/3/2007; 20/4/2007; 24/5/2007; 25/5/2007; 20/8/2007; 2/10/2007; 11/10/2007; 19/10/2007; 19/10/2007; 1/11/2007; 19/11/2007; 17/12/2007; 18/12/2007;

C-20: 16/9/83; 10/10/83;

C-21A: 6/4/84; 25/10/85; 28/2/91; 1/4/97; 10/1/2007; 2/7/2007;

C-23A Sherpa: 8/8/84; 6/12/85; 30/9/90;

C-27 Spartan: 26/9/91; 12/1/99; 13/6/2007;

C-29A Combat Flight Inspection Aircraft: 24/4/90; 23/9/91;

C-32A: 11/2/98; 19/6/98;

C-37A: 14/10/98; 25/7/2001;

C-38A Courier: 17/4/98;

C-40: 23/7/2004; 26/2/2007;

C-45: 9/7/59;

C-46 Commando: 11/4/42; 12/7/42; 27/6/50; 3/7/50; 10/11/50; 23/3/51; 24/3/51; 16/5/52; 6/8/53; 22/6/56;

C-47 Skytrain (Gooney Bird): 17/12/35; 8/11/42; 29/11/42; 2/7/44; 8/7/44; 16/2/45; 8/5/45; 26/6/48; 9/12/48; 12/5/49; 3/5/50; 26/6/50; 27/6/50; 28/6/50; 3/7/50; 20/10/50; 21/10/50; 29/10/50; 5/12/50; 9/12/50; 2/1/51; 6/1/51; 9/11/51; 4/2/51; 6/2/51; 12/2/51; 13/2/51; 27/5/51; 1/6/51; 19/10/51; 30/11/51; 31/1/52; 15/4/52; 3/7/52; 6/8/52; 22/8/52; 8/10/52; 22/12/52; 3/2/53; 27/7/53; 6/8/53; 29/6/62; 3/1/63; 20/7/63; 7/7/71; 11/7/71; 30/6/75;

C-47 Chinook Helicopter: 14/8/71; 8/12/2000; 14/3/2001; 19/5/2001;

C-54 Skymaster: 20/3/42; 26/3/42; 30/8/45; 3/9/45; 22/9/47; 30/11/48; 12/5/49; 25/6/50; 26/6/50; 27/6/50; 28/6/50; 3/7/50; 19/9/50; 21/9/50; 30/1/51; 6/2/51; 30/9/51; 19/10/51; 16/5/52; 26/5/52; 25/8/52; 1/11/52; 27/7/53; 6/8/53; 23/12/64;

C-69 Constellation: 9/1/43;

C-74 Globemaster I: 18/11/49;

C-82: 10/9/44; 23/1/49; 16/3/49; 4/10/49; 3/2/53;

C-87: 17/8/43;

C-97 Stratofreighter: 11/10/47; 28/1/49; 17/10/49; 21/12/50; 27/2/51; 27/7/53; 4/11/60; 28/3/64; 2/5/65;

C-99: 30/3/53;

C-118 Liftmaster: 1/7/47; 30/8/58; 29/2/60; 21/6/60; 1/9/62; 2/4/76 (last aircraft to storage).

C-119 Flying Boxcar: 5/4/49; 11/8/50; 21/9/50; 20/10/50; 26/10/50; 7/12/50; 17/1/51; 24/1/51; 6/2/51; 4/3/51; 23/3/51; 24/3/51; 31/3/51; 3/6/51; 1/10/51; 16/5/52; 30/6/52; 27/7/53; 22/6/56; 21/6/60; 7/12/60;

C-121 Super Constellation: 9/1/43; 9/11/56; 30/8/58;

C-122: 24/11/59;

C-123 Provider: 14/10/49; 2/1/62; 13/1/62; 2/2/62; 29/6/62; 14/10/62; 28/3/64; 25/4/67; 21/1/68; 12/5/68; 19/3/71; 27/6/72; 13/5/85; 17/6/86;

C-124 Globemaster II: 5/12/50; 17/9/51; 27/9/51; 31/10/51; 26/5/52; 3/7/52; 7/5/53; 27/7/53; 6/8/53; 26/10/56; 9/11/56; 25/11/56; 3/10/57; 30/8/58; 26/9/59; 31/3/60; 25/5/60; 1/8/61; 3/11/61; 1/9/62; 14/10/62; 28/3/64; 4/4/64; 22/5/64; 29/5/65; 21/2/71; 19/9/74;

C-130 Hercules: 4/9/52; 20/2/53; 23/8/54; 7/4/55; 9/12/56; 1/7/57; 3/6/58; 30/8/58; 8/1/59; 29/1/59; 25/8/59; 20/1/60; 12/5/60; 11/8/62; 14/10/62; 1/10/63; 28/3/64; 26/6/64; 29/5/65; 17/9/65; 29/10/65; 5/4/66; 22/2/67; 7/4/67; 9/4/67; 17/11/67; 4/1/68; 21/1/68; 28/4/68; 12/5/68; 28/5/68; 28/1/70; 2/6/70; 18/9/70; 4/11/70; 16/6/71; 14/4/72; 27/4/72; 21/7/72; 23/10/72; 6/2/73; 21/3/73; 10/4/74; 11/4/73; 8/10/74; 19/4/75; 29/4/75; 8/8/75; 6/10/75; 4/2/76; 9/3/76; 22/5/76; 21/7/76; 26/11/76; 31/1/77; 7/3/77; 13/3/77; 15/3/77; 27/3/77; 15/8/77; 1/10/77; 29/1/78; 8/2/78; 27/9/78; 19/11/78; 31/3/79; 15/4/79; 15/9/79; 2/12/79; 18/5/80; 7/8/80; 12/10/80; 26/11/80; 16/1/81; 6/7/82; 24/1/83; 1/4/83; 26/6/83; 3/9/83; 25/10/83; 1/11/83; 4/11/83; 15/6/84; 7/8/84; 23/10/84; 20/12/84; 25/3/85; 5/4/85; 4/7/85; 21/9/85; 15/11/85; 18/2/86; 19/7/86; 27/8/86; 13/2/87; 31/8/87; 5/12/87; 22/8/88; 12/9/88; 7/1/89; 5/3/89; 14/12/89; 20/12/89; 29/12/89; 12/1/90; 17/1/90; 27/6/90; 17/1/91; 1/3/91; 24/2/91; 11/3/91; 11/5/91; 14/6/91; 1/11/91; 6/2/92; 15/3/92; 24/4/92; 3/5/92; 3/7/92; 12/8/92; 12/9/92; 1/10/93; 5/2/94; 27/6/94; 24/8/94; 21/12/94; 19/1/95; 1/2/95; 8/4/95; 16/9/95; 28/9/95; 9/1/96; 9/4/96; 4/6/96; 5/9/96; 16/12/96; 18/2/97; 1/4/97; 18/12/97; 30/12/97; 28/1/98; 12/10/98; 27/10/98; 12/2/99; 17/2/99; 4/4/99; 2/5/99; 16/7/99; 1/9/99; 14/9/99; 20/9/99; 20/12/99; 22/1/2000; 1/3/2000; 25/7/2000; 18/6/2001; 30/7/2001; 3/12/2001; 10/12/2001; 31/12/2001; 27/12/2003; 19/3/2004; 5/5/2004; 23/8/2004; 10/12/2004; 28/1/2005; 10/2/2005; 11/4/2005; 22/4/2005; 29/8/2005; 10/9/2005; 21/12/2005; 17/10/2006; 7/12/2006; 18/12/2006; 3/1/2007; 13/2/2007; 6/3/2007; 13/3/2007; 21/3/2007; 3/11/2007;

C-131 Samaritan: 8/8/69;

C-133 Cargomaster: 23/4/56; 28/8/57; 23/8/57; 16/12/58; 3/11/59; 1/9/62; 1/5/63; 22/5/64; 27/8/66; 30/7/71 (Retired).

C-135 Big Crow: 30/9/2001; 3/12/2001; 15/3/2003; 21/12/2006; 15/3/2007;

C-135 Speckled Trout: 11/11/2004; 13/1/2006;

C-135 Stratolifter: 9/6/61; 28/2/62; 17/4/62; 2/11/62; 6/4/66;

C-140 Jetstar: 4/9/57; 16/9/83; 24/4/90;

C-141 Starlifter: 7/7/60; 17/12/63; 19/10/64; 29/1/65; 1/2/66; 6/2/65; 23/4/65; 23/12/65; 6/4/66; 12/4/66; 14/4/66; 14/11/66; 17/1/67; 8/4/67; 8/8/67; 17/11/67; 28/2/68; 28/5/68; 14/5/69; 8/7/69;

17/1/70; 14/4/70; 29/7/70; 18/11/70; 29/4/72; 12/2/73; 9/8/74; 19/8/74; 26/8/74; 14/10/74; 21/3/75; 6/4/75; 19/4/75; 29/4/75; 15/5/75; 7/8/75; 24/11/75; 4/2/76; 22/5/76; 21/7/76; 19/8/76; 26/11/76; 31/1/77; 8/1/77; 25/3/77; 27/3/77; 27/4/77; 30/9/77; 14/10/77; 29/1/78; 8/2/78; 25/2/78; 16/5/78; 31/5/78; 14/8/78; 22/11/78; 19/11/78; 9/12/78; 15/1/79; 31/3/79; 3/4/79; 13/4/79; 15/4/79; 10/8/79; 19/10/79; 2/12/79; 4/12/79; 19/12/79; 2/1/80; 6/4/80; 18/5/80; 22/6/80; 7/8/80; 12/10/80; 30/7/81; 21/6/82; 29/6/82; 6/8/82; 24/1/83; 5/4/83; 9/5/83; 25/7/83; 15/8/83; 3/9/83; 23/10/83; 25/10/83; 1/11/83; 24/2/84; 19/3/84; 16/5/84; 25/5/84; 21/6/84; 7/8/84; 19/8/84; 19/9/84; 19/11/84; 11/12/84; 22/12/84; 5/1/85; 19/1/85; 19/1/85; 3/2/85; 5/4/85; 1/7/85; 4/7/85; 21/9/85; 12/12/85; 25/2/87; 5/4/86; 19/7/86; 5/9/86; 11/10/86; 13/2/87; 25/2/87; 22/7/87; 31/8/87; 19/2/88; 5/4/88; 1/7/88; 22/8/88; 25/8/88; 28/8/88; 12/9/88; 10/12/88; 5/3/89; 27/3/89; 11/5/89; 14/12/89; 20/12/89; 12/1/90; 17/5/90; 8/8/90; 28/2/91; 1/3/91; 11/5/91; 14/6/91; 21/7/91; 10/2/92; 27/4/91; 21/7/91; 22/7/91; 1/10/91; 18/4/92; 3/5/92; 4/6/92; 3/7/92; 31/8/92; 12/9/92; 1/10/92; 25/10/92; 4/11/92; 17/5/93; 11/7/93; 17/1/94; 7/2/94; 10/4/94; 9/5/94; 11/5/94; 22/6/94; 24/7/94; 24/8/94; 30/8/94; 30/10/94; 6/11/94; 1/2/95; 3/2/95; 10/5/95; 30/6/95; 16/9/95; 9/1/96; 5/3/96; 17/8/96; 4/9/96; 16/1/97; 19/1/97; 2/3/97; 17/3/97; 2/4/97; 5/8/97; 9/8/97; 3/10/97; 18/12/97; 20/12/97; 28/1/98; 12/3/98; 10/6/98; 2/7/98; 30/7/98; 9/8/98; 11/7/99; 20/9/99; 28/10/99; 22/1/2000; 5/8/2000; 13/10/2000; 16/5/2001; 18/6/2001; 30/7/2001; 10/1/2002; 28/10/2002; 14/5/2003; 2/5/2004; 4/2/2005; 9/8/2005; 29/8/2005; 16/9/2005; 30/9/2005; 6/5/2006;

CH-21B: 12/7/71;

CH-53E Super Stallion: 10/4/2007;

C-X: 28/8/81; 8/9/81;

Catalinas: 18/1/44;

Catapult: 31/7/12; 6/3/18; 14/12/24;

Cessna 172: 7/2/59;

Cessna 180: 17/4/64;

Cessna 210: 3/4/69;

Cessna 310 (Administrative Liaison and Cargo): 2/1/57;

Cessna L-19B: 16/7/53;

CH-3: 1/7/76; 4/10/83; 10/12/86;

CH-47 Chinook: 4/9/70; 8/10/2005;

China Clipper: 29/11/35;

Civil Air Defense: 1/2/50;

Civil Reserve Fleet: 15/12/51; 17/8/90; 8/2/2003; 18/6/2003;

Combat Search and Rescue Replacement (CSAR-X): 9/11/2006;

Compass Cope: 28/7/73; 14/4/2000;

Compass Radar and Global Positioning System (CRAG): 13/8/98;

Condor: 24/4/90;

Condor Bomber: 21/9/32;

Constellation Clipper: 1/3/46;

Convair 880: 12/2/60;

Crop Dusters: 16/4/26;

Cruise Missile Carrier Aircraft: 5/4/78;



Curtiss Airplanes: 21/5/08; 21/6/08; 4/7/08; 28/11/08; 22/1/09; 26/6/09; 23/8/09; 4/11/09; 4/8/10; 20/8/10; 2/9/10; 18/1/11; 26/1/11; 27/1/11; 30/1/11; 17/2/11; 23/2/11; 17/3/11; 27/4/11; 8/5/11; 10/5/11; 13/7/11; 20/8/11; 7/9/11; 6/10/12; 12/11/12; 27/11/12; 24/1/13; 6/3/13; 13/4/13; 13/6/13; 8/7/13; 8/8/13; 26/12/13; 5/1/14; 16/2/14; 24/2/14; 25/2/14; 25/4/14; 6/5/14; 24/6/14; 8/10/14; 5/1/15; 20/5/15; 18/11/15; 3/12/15; 16/3/16; 2/4/16; 12/10/16; 18/11/16; 13/2/17; 9/1/18; 23/7/18; 28/9/18; 4/12/18; 7/3/19; 16/9/19; 18/9/19; 12/11/21; 14/10/22; 18/10/22; 29/3/23; 6/10/23; 2/11/23; 4/11/23; 15/7/25; 26/10/25; 27/10/25; 25/8/26; 31/5/30; 12/2/31; 18/7/38;

Curtiss F9C Sparrowhawk: 12/2/31;

Curtiss JN-2: 20/5/15;

Curtiss JN-4: 23/7/18; 28/9/18; 4/12/18; 1/6/19; 16/9/19; 12/11/21;

Curtiss JN-6: 1/6/19;

Curtiss Robin: 18/7/38;

Curtiss Seagull: 15/7/25;

Curtiss Triplane: 18/9/19;

Curtiss C-3 (F-Model Flying Boat): 6/3/13; 5/1/14;

Curtiss N-9: 13/2/17; 7/3/19;

Curtiss R2C-1 Floatplane Racer: 6/10/23;

Curtiss R3C-1: 12/10/25;

Curtiss R3C-2 Floatplane Racer: 26/10/25; 27/10/25;

Curtiss R-6: 9/1/18; 14/10/22; 18/10/22;

CT-39 (T-39) Sabreliner: 16/9/58; 11/2/62; 6/4/84; 14/5/84; 24/4/90;

CT-43: 3/4/96; 25/7/2001;

CV-2 Caribou: 6/4/66; 1/1/67;

CV-7 Buffalo: 6/4/66;

Cygnets I: 6/12/07;

D-558-2 Skyrocket: 22/11/49; 7/8/51; 15/8/51; 21/8/53; 20/11/53; 27/3/2004;

D-588-1: 20/8/47; 25/8/47;

D9A: 8/6/21;

DC-3: 17/12/35; 17/9/41; 24/4/46;

DC-6: 1/7/47; 13/2/51;

DC-7: 28/3/54; 26/5/56;

DC-8 (Douglas): 3/1/60; 21/8/61; 29/3/73; 15/3/77; 12/12/85; 27/6/2003;

DC-8 Airborne Laboratory (NASA): 15/11/2002;

DC-9: 25/2/65;

DC-10: 29/8/70; 9/4/71; 19/12/77; 31/8/81;

DC-130: 1/7/76;

Davis Airplane Gun: 16/9/14;

De Havilland Queen Bee: 5/1/35;

De Havilland DH-4: 6/4/17; 27/7/17; 29/10/17; 18/2/18; 2/5/18; 11/5/18; 2/8/18; 19/4/19; 1/9/19; 15/7/20; 4/9/22; 29/3/23; 17/4/23; 20/4/23; 26/5/23; 27/6/23; 25/10/23; 4/3/24; 7/3/24; 11/1/32;

De Havilland DH-9: 28/4/19;

Designations: 11/6/48;

Dive Bombing: 17/7/27;

Douglas Biplane: 6/4/24;

Douglas DT: 17/4/23;

Douglas Sleeper Transport: 17/12/35;

Douglas YOA5-2 Amphibian: 29/6/36;

Drones: 24/8/38; 4/8/44; 23/10/57; 1/7/76; 30/7/85; 4/5/90; 29/7/95;

DT-2 Torpedo Plane: 6/6/23; 7/6/23;

Dupont Bowlus Glider: 25/6/34;

EA-6B Prowler: 6/6/96; 1/7/96;

E-3A Sentry (AWACS): 10/1/75; 12/12/75; 24/3/77; 15/1/79; 29/1/79; 9/3/79; 2/5/79; 28/11/79; 23/4/80; 14/8/80; 20/9/80; 22/9/80; 1/10/80; 10/12/80; 28/10/81; 14/10/81; 14/2/83; 24/2/82; 4/5/82; 18/9/82; 19/3/84; 3/6/84; 19/7/84; 22/7/87; 18/6/2001; 7/10/2001; 7/2/2007; 13/2/2007; 29/6/2007;

E-4A: 3/2/73; 7/12/74; 1/11/75; 11/2/77; 30/1/85;

E-4B: 4/3/80; 30/1/85;

E-8 JSTARS: 28/2/90; 17/8/95; 11/6/96; 14/2/96; 6/8/2001; 24/8/2001; 26/9/2001; 22/6/2002; 17/9/2002; 23/10/2002; 23/3/2005; 7/2/2007; 7/4/2007;

E-9A: 9/12/88;

EB-66 Destroyer: 16/2/68; 4/12/72;

EC-18B Advanced Range Instrumentation Aircraft (ARIA): 3/12/99; 2/11/2000; 24/8/2001;

EC-121: 15/4/69;

EC-130 Commando Solo: 27/3/98; 8/10/2001;

EC-130 Compass Call: 6/5/87; 7/10/2001;

EC-135: 1/11/75; 22/9/80; 24/7/90; 30/9/2001;

EC-135 Advanced Range Instrumentation Aircraft (ARIA): 2/11/2000;

EC-137: 9/2/72; 25/7/2001;

EF-111A Raven: 5/11/81; 28/9/83; 23/12/83; 3/2/84; 7/5/85; 14/4/86; 6/6/96; 1/7/96; 8/11/96; 24/6/97;

Ejection Seats: 17/8/46;

Electra: 7/1/60;

Engines: 1/2/28; 28/2/28; 19/9/28; 5/7/43; 17/3/47; 8/8/47; 25/12/49; 6/3/53; 20/7/55; 8/6/71; 3/2/84; 5/12/2001; 25/4/2003; 20/5/2003;

Emergency Escapes: 9/8/49; 26/2/55; 28/2/62; 21/3/62; 8/6/62; 2/1/68;

Ercoupe: 12/8/41;

F2H-1 Banshee: 9/8/49;

F2Y-1 Sea Dart: 21/7/53; 3/8/54;

F3H-IN Demon: 31/2/55;

F4H-1 Phantom: 5/9/60; 28/8/61; 5/12/61; 24/1/62; 6/3/62; 12/4/62;

F-4 Phantom II: 10/5/55; 27/5/58; 6/12/59; 24/5/61; 28/8/61; 22/11/61; 4/10/62; 27/5/63; 20/11/63; 10/7/65; 9/1/66; 10/3/66; 28/3/66; 26/4/66; 2/1/67; 22/2/67; 10/3/67; 31/5/67; 9/11/67; 23/5/68; 30/9/68; 17/11/68; 12/1/69; 4/4/69; 4/6/69; 29/8/69; 19/9/69; 6/8/70; 10/5/72; 9/9/72; 13/10/72; 4/11/72; 18/12/72; 8/1/73; 13/4/73; 4/2/74; 25/2/75; 19/8/76; 20/5/78; 28/3/79; 26/10/79; 10/7/80; 28/7/80; 18/3/81; 30/6/83; 5/9/83; 3/2/84; 25/10/84; 4/6/91; 18/1/93; 18/2/94; 26/9/2000; 5/11/2002; 20/12/2004;

F4U Corsair: 13/2/43; 31/10/43; 26/3/44; 7/12/44; 26/1/53;

F-5 Freedom Fighter: 14/8/63; 23/10/65; 1/6/67; 17/4/67; 20/11/70; 23/10/72; 4/11/72; 3/8/73; 14/8/74; 29/9/74; 25/11/80; 30/8/82;

F-5E Tiger II: 29/10/75; 14/10/82; 14/11/82; 27/8/2003;

F-5L Seaplane: 14/10/20; 6/6/23; 7/6/23;

F-6C-3 Curtiss Fighter: 31/5/30;

F6F Hellcat (Grumman): 31/8/43; 11/9/53;

F7U-3M Cutlass: 12/3/56;

F8: 25/3/55; 31/5/67; 9/3/71;

F8F Bearcat: 20/12/46; 16/8/69;

F8U Crusader: 21/8/56; 16/7/57; 17/1/62; 23/10/62;

F9F: 18/11/52; 1/4/54;

F11F: 11/9/55; 21/9/56;

F11-1F: 18/4/58;

F-13 (Photo Reconnaissance B-29): 1/11/44;

F-14 Tomcat: 27/2/70; 19/3/78; 4/1/89; 7/10/2001;

F-15 Eagle (F-X): 29/4/65; 16/6/65; 22/6/65; 8/12/65; 24/10/68; 23/12/69; 27/2/70; 27/8/70; 8/6/71; 26/6/72; 27/7/72; 3/8/72; 12/8/72; 16/8/72; 1/3/73; 7/7/73; 5/7/74; 16/1/75; 18/12/75; 27/10/76; 27/4/77; 18/10/77; 24/1/78; 19/3/78; 16/10/78; 1/6/79; 25/2/80; 14/8/80; 13/9/80; 20/9/80; 19/11/80; 18/3/81; 28/1/82; 15/5/83; 21/1/84; 3/2/84; 24/2/84; 21/6/85; 11/3/86; 11/12/86; 2/3/87; 31/3/87; 29/12/88; 30/9/89; 3/11/89; 4/5/90; 14/2/91; 28/2/91; 21/4/91; 12/8/91; 19/3/92; 13/1/94; 1/7/94; 10/10/94; 25/5/96; 19/11/97; 24/3/98; 20/10/98; 16/12/98; 24/3/99; 26/3/99; 19/6/99; 26/9/2000; 11/9/2001; 7/10/2001; 5/12/2001; 1/3/2002; 5/3/2002; 14/5/2002; 23/10/2002; 30/9/2005; 10/8/2006; 1/12/2006; 3/2/2007; 4/2/2007; 7/2/2007; 20/4/2007;

F-16 Fighting Falcon: 13/12/73; 20/1/74; 2/2/74; 5/2/74; 11/3/74; 29/4/74; 13/1/75; 10/6/75; 20/10/76; 8/12/76; 16/12/76; 18/8/77; 17/8/78; 6/9/78; 6/1/79; 26/1/79; 6/6/79; 14/9/81; 26/1/82; 28/1/82; 22/6/82; 1/7/82; 2/2/83; 29/4/83; 26/5/83; 28/1/84; 24/2/84; 5/11/84; 28/2/85; 8/3/85; 7/3/86; 21/3/89; 1/3/89; 20/10/89; 7/8/90; 25/2/91; 27/12/92; 17/1/93; 18/1/93; 15/1/94; 10/2/94; 28/2/94; 31/3/94; 10/4/94; 6/5/94; 1/6/94; 21/7/94; 10/10/94; 2/6/95; 28/10/95; 4/12/96; 30/7/97; 19/11/97; 8/2/98; 21/8/98; 9/1/99; 2/5/99; 4/5/99; 29/9/99; 13/1/2000; 12/3/2001; 23/8/2001; 9/9/2000; 11/9/2001; 5/10/2001; 20/11/2001; 12/7/2002; 10/2/2003; 25/4/2003; 17/8/2003; 27/2/2004; 9/4/2004; 16/7/2004; 11/8/2004; 22/7/2005; 30/9/2005; 24/1/2006; 15/11/2006; 3/2/2007; 10/1/2007; 7/2/2007; 13/2/2007; 20/6/2007; 15/6/2007; 19/6/2007; 2/7/2007; 24/10/2007;

F-16E/XL: 4/7/82; 20/7/82; 15/5/83; 24/2/84;

F/A-18 Hornet: 13/1/75; 2/5/75; 4/9/87; 1/11/89; 14/11/89; 11/5/90; 24/1/99; 7/10/2001; 15/11/2002; 27/6/2003; 24/1/2005; 30/8/2006; 7/2/2007;

F-20: 30/8/82;

F-22 (F/A-22) Raptor: 23/4/91; 27/6/95; 9/4/97; 7/9/97; 17/5/98; 10/10/98; 4/6/99; 25/8/99; 17/11/99; 25/7/2000; 13/10/2000; 24/10/2000; 30/1/2001; 5/1/2001; 5/2/2001; 19/9/2001; 21/9/2001; 24/1/2002; 21/8/2002; 25/8/2002; 17/9/2002; 5/11/2002; 23/11/2002; 29/8/2003; 30/4/2004; 1/12/2004; 7/1/2005; 18/4/2005; 14/7/2005; 12/8/2005; 1/12/2005; 15/12/2005; 14/4/2006; 1/12/2006; 19/1/2007; 20/6/2007; 3/2/2007; 7/2/2007; 27/4/2007; 11/6/2007; 8/8/2007; 29/8/2007; 2/10/2007;

F-35 Lightning II: 4/10/2006; 10/10/2006; 15/12/2006;

F-80 Shooting Star: 14/7/48; 31/10/48; 27/6/50; 28/6/50; 3/7/50; 9/7/50; 10/7/50; 19/7/50; 20/7/50; 17/9/50; 8/10/50; 1/11/50; 8/11/50; 9/11/50; 1/12/50; 21/1/51; 23/1/51; 1/3/51; 10/7/51; 10/9/51; 28/9/51; 8/11/51; 22/12/52;

F-82 Twin Mustang: 26/6/50; 27/6/50; 10/7/50; 2/1/51;

F-84 Thunderjet/Thunderstreak: 15/9/50; 22/9/50; 15/10/50; 8/11/50; 6/12/50; 20/1/51; 21/1/51; 23/1/51; 14/2/51; 24/7/51; 23/9/51; 23/10/51; 12/1/52; 25/1/52; 26/1/52; 17/3/52; 18/5/52; 28/5/52; 7/6/52; 4/7/52; 4/9/52; 9/9/52; 21/9/52; 1/10/52; 12/10/52; 3/12/52; 11/12/52; 16/3/53; 20/8/53; 25/8/53; 12/5/54; 8/3/55; 9/3/55; 18/5/55; 17/8/55; 30/8/55; 10/1/58;

F-86 Sabrejet: 15/9/48; 1/11/50; 1/12/50; 15/12/50; 17/12/50; 22/12/50; 2/1/51; 17/1/51; 6/3/51; 23/3/51; 23/4/51; 20/5/51; 1/6/51; 17/8/51; 9/9/51; 25/9/51; 16/10/51; 21/10/51; 4/11/51; 8/11/51; 18/11/51; 13/12/51; 25/1/52; 10/2/52; 20/3/52; 28/3/52; 3/5/52; 4/5/52; 8/5/52; 13/5/52; 6/6/52; 3/7/52; 6/8/52; 29/8/52; 4/9/52; 9/9/52; 19/9/52; 21/9/52; 12/10/52; 19/11/52; 7/12/52; 17/12/52; 10/5/53; 18/5/53; 11/7/53; 16/7/53; 2/9/53; 2/1/54; 5/1/54; 3/9/54; 21/5/55; 30/8/58; 5/12/60; 21/1/61; 8/3/61;

F-89 Scorpion: 16/8/48; 19/7/57;

F-94 Starfire: 1/7/49; 11/1/50; 20/3/51; 2/7/52;

F-100 Super Sabre: 25/5/53; 29/10/53; 18/9/54; 26/2/55; 20/8/55; 12/3/56; 13/5/57; 28/5/58; 21/6/57; 3/12/57; 30/8/58; 4/9/58; 7/8/59; 26/2/60; 6/6/60; 13/2/61; 22/10/62; 29/10/63; 9/6/64; 5/8/64; 8/2/65; 18/2/65; 2/3/65; 9/1/66; 26/8/67; 4/11/70; 15/4/72;

F-101 Voodoo: 20/10/48; 28/9/54; 2/5/57; 27/11/57; 16/5/58; 10/8/58; 30/8/58; 25/9/58; 5/3/71;

F-102 Delta Dagger: 24/10/53; 19/12/54; 11/9/55; 14/1/57; 9/3/59; 25/5/59; 5/12/60; 21/1/61; 8/3/61; 7/3/67; 14/6/75;

F-104 Starfighter: 7/2/54; 28/2/54; 10/5/55; 17/2/56; 26/1/58; 7/5/58; 16/5/58; 26/7/58; 30/8/58; 18/12/58; 14/12/59; 4/9/61; 10/5/62; 8/6/66; 14/10/77; 24/10/2005;

F-105 Thunderchief: 22/10/55; 26/5/56; 27/5/58; 22/1/59; 11/12/59; 21/9/60; 10/7/61; 10/8/61; 23/10/62; 29/10/63; 1/10/64; 5/8/64; 14/8/64; 9/1/66; 26/4/66; 2/1/67; 22/2/67; 10/3/67; 6/4/67; 19/4/67; 24/4/67; 4/11/70; 4/6/83;

F-106 Delta Dart: 26/12/56; 25/5/59; 15/12/59; 8/1/64; 15/4/69; 1/8/88; 20/12/97;

F-110A Spectre: 24/1/62;

F-111 Aardvark: 21/12/64; 6/1/65; 10/5/65; 3/12/65; 10/12/65; 4/2/66; 25/2/66; 22/3/66; 25/3/66; 9/7/66; 12/7/66; 9/11/66; 12/2/67; 16/10/67; 2/1/68; 30/9/69; 27/2/70; 12/9/70; 18/12/72; 15/6/75; 27/10/76; 22/11/76; 1/3/77; 20/11/80; 14/4/86; 21/3/89; 22/1/91; 27/1/91; 7/12/93; 11/10/95; 29/7/96; 3/2/2007;

FB-111: 10/12/65; 19/3/69; 8/10/69; 31/10/66; 20/5/70; 16/12/70; 12/1/71; 30/6/71; 1/1/73; 19/8/76; 30/9/75; 1/6/90;

FB-111A Raven: 2/8/85;

FC-47: 15/12/64;

F-117A Nighthawk Stealth Fighter: 18/6/81; 20/12/89; 27/2/90; 12/7/90; 17/1/91; 28/2/91; 2/11/95; 22/1/97; 19/11/97; 8/2/98; 27/3/99; 25/5/99; 4/8/2000; 14/3/2003; 19/3/2003; 21/1/2004; 13/10/2006; 27/10/2006; 3/2/2007;

FH-1 Phantom: 5/5/48;

Falcon Structural Augmentation Roadmap (Falcon STAR) program: 24/10/2007;

Fighter Launched Advanced Materials Experiment (FLAME): 4/2/74;

Flying Competitions: 10/1/10; 19/1/10; 15/1/11; 18/1/11; 29/10/86;

Flying Infrared Signature Technology Aircraft (FISTA): 8/9/2004;

Flying Platform: 21/1/55;

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Fokker T2: 5/10/22; 16/4/23; 2/5/23;

Fokker F-7: 30/5/28;

Fokker F-8: 8/5/26;

Ford Trimotor: 28/11/29; 31/12/34;

Foreign Military Sales: 22/3/66;

Foreign Training: 13/4/73;

FR-1 Fireball (Ryan): 26/9/45; 6/11/45;

Fuel Tanks: 5/3/23;

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Gallaudet CO-1: 20/6/23;

GAX/GA-1 Triplane: 26/5/20;

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Global Flyer: 24/11/2004;

Golden Eagle Monoplane: 10/2/29;

Gordon Bennett Race: 22/8/09;

Gossamer Albatross: 2/5/79;

Gossamer Condor: 23/8/77;

Granville Gee Bee: 3/9/32;

Ground Alert: 1/7/60; 28/3/61; 21/4/64; 10/11/65;

Gulfstream V: 14/10/98;

H-1: 1/5/83;

H-1 Racer: 19/1/37;

H-3: 21/7/72; 31/3/79;

H-5 Helicopter: 22/7/50; 4/9/50; 10/10/50; 21/10/50; 23/12/50; 15/2/51; 13/2/51; 25/3/51; 18/4/51; 24/4/51; 30/4/51; 5/5/51; 8/5/51; 19/5/51; 25/10/51; 27/10/51; 30/7/52;

H-16 Flying Boat: 20/12/18;

H-19 (Sikorsky) Helicopter: 24/3/51; 31/3/51; 17/4/51; 2/1/52; 8/1/52; 28/4/52; 23/5/52; 4/6/52; 9/6/52; 30/7/52; 31/7/52; 4/9/52; 27/12/52; 3/2/53; 2/4/54;

H-43: 6/12/59; 19/7/61; 18/10/61; 13/6/62; 5/7/62; 21/7/72;

HC-54: 22/12/63;

HC-130: 28/2/65; 3/5/66; 18/11/66; 18/7/67; 15/4/69; 15/8/70; 21/11/70; 20/2/72; 14/6/75; 24/4/80; 1/3/83; 1/9/83; 29/6/84; 16/10/85; 10/12/86; 10/7/2002;

HH-3 Jolly Green Giant: 18/11/66; 1/6/67; 18/7/67; 13/10/68; 21/11/70; 19/8/72; 14/6/75; 23/10/84; 28/1/85; 18/10/85; 18/2/86; 25/2/87; 5/4/86; 25/10/88;

HH-43 Huskie: 9/12/59; 11/4/66; 19/8/72;

HH-47: 9/11/2006;

HH-53 (Sikorsky) Super Jolly Green Giant: 15/3/67; 9/11/67; 15/8/70; 21/11/70; 5/12/74; 29/4/75; 15/5/75; 19/11/78; 18/2/86;

HH-60 Pave Hawk: 4/2/84; 8/6/84; 29/6/84; 7/8/84; 10/1/94; 13/1/94; 16/3/95; 21/9/99; 9/5/2001; 10/7/2002; 9/11/2006; 20/4/2007; 5/10/2007;

HL-10 Lifting Body: 15/3/68; 13/11/68; 12/9/69; 2/8/69; 28/2/70;

HRP-2 Helicopter: 29/11/49;

HSS-2 Sea King Helicopter: 17/5/61; 1/12/61; 5/2/62;

HU-1 Iroquois Helicopter: 23/2/55;

HU-16 Albatross Amphibian (Grumman) (aka UF-1L or SA-16): 28/7/50; 3/8/50; 5/8/50; 21/4/51; 14/4/52; 13/9/62; 13/10/68;

HUS-1: 3/6/60;

Hammond-Sperry Aerial Torpedo: 6/3/18;

Hawaiian Clipper: 4/11/36;

Henri Farman Airplane: 12/1/10; 19/1/10;

Helicopters: 25/4/22; 19/12/28; 12/2/31; 8/4/31; 24/9/51; 16/12/52; 2/9/53; 20/7/56; 2/9/56; 3/6/60; 19/7/61; 18/10/61; 5/7/62; 23/1/81; 9/11/2006;

Helicopter Training: 28/3/62; 31/1/79;

Heliports: 18/5/49;

Howard-Wright Biplane: 5/2/11;

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Instruments: 7/2/18; 24/9/29;

Jet Assisted Takeoff (JATO): 12/7/97;

JC-130: 28/3/66;

JH-1: 24/8/38;

Jet Commander: 4/6/66;

Jet Stream: 7/12/34;

Joint Cargo Aircraft: 10/1/2007; 13/6/2007;

Joint Helmet-Mounted Cueing System (JHMCS): 20/10/98; 26/9/2000;

Joint Primary Aircraft Training System: 15/7/98;

JR-1 Trimotor: 9/3/27;

Junior Military Aviator Test: 10/4/15.

KB-29: 5/5/48; 26/2/49; 1/9/50; 22/9/50; 14/7/51; 28/5/52; 7/6/52; 20/8/53; 6/7/51; 4/7/52; 29/7/52; 25/11/57;

KB-47: 1/9/53;

KB-50: 9/6/64; 17/2/65;

KC-10 Extender: 16/4/80; 12/7/80; 30/10/80; 17/3/81; 5/6/81; 21/6/82; 14/2/83; 25/10/83; 19/3/84; 21/6/84; 4/9/84; 6/12/85; 5/3/86; 14/4/86; 22/7/87; 17/4/88; 15/8/88; 4/10/89; 8/11/89; 20/12/89; 4/4/90; 27/4/90; 28/2/91; 1/3/91; 4/4/91; 15/8/93; 24/7/94; 26/9/94; 28/5/95; 2/6/95; 2/2/96; 14/9/97; 19/11/97; 8/2/98; 9/9/98; 24/3/99; 18/8/99; 17/11/99; 19/12/2000; 31/1/2001; 18/6/2001; 28/7/2001; 7/10/2001; 31/12/2001; 23/1/2002; 11/9/2002; 14/3/2003; 5/8/2005; 11/9/2007;

KC-97 Stratofreighter/Stratotanker: 21/12/50; 15/3/51; 14/7/51; 29/5/53; 20/8/53; 21/6/54; 7/8/54; 16/11/56; 24/11/56; 18/1/57; 14/8/57; 1/7/64; 10/11/65; 21/12/65; 1/5/67; 21/8/70; 28/4/77; 12/7/78;

KC-135 Stratotanker: 15/7/54; 31/8/56; 18/6/57; 28/6/57; 11/11/57; 27/3/58; 7/4/58; 12/6/58; 27/6/58; 11/7/58; 12/9/58; 17/9/58; 24/9/58; 20/1/60; 3/5/60; 1/7/60; 18/1/61; 9/6/61; 17/11/61; 9/6/64; 5/8/64; 28/9/64; 12/1/65; 12/2/65; 17/1/66; 20/3/66; 31/5/67; 24/9/68; 18/12/72; 31/12/72; 18/4/75; 1/5/74; 21/4/75; 23/3/78; 16/9/78; 1/6/79; 22/9/80; 1/10/80; 2/5/81; 10/6/82; 22/6/82; 4/8/82; 1/9/83; 5/9/83; 25/10/83; 19/3/84; 20/6/84; 4/9/84; 21/1/85; 14/4/86; 22/7/87; 16/11/87; 15/8/88; 10/11/88; 20/12/89; 25/4/90; 28/2/91; 1/3/91; 1/4/92; 13/4/92; 1/10/92; 1/10/93; 19/12/93; 1/1/94; 18/2/94; 24/7/94; 1/1/95; 7/1/95; 2/6/95; 2/2/96; 9/4/96; 30/6/96; 17/3/97; 14/9/97; 19/11/97; 18/12/97; 12/2/98; 2/6/98; 10/6/98; 13/8/98; 9/9/98; 12/12/98; 17/2/99; 24/3/99; 28/3/99; 1/6/99; 13/6/99; 24/6/99; 11/7/99; 1/9/99; 20/9/99; 21/10/99; 18/1/2000; 9/9/2000; 7/11/2000; 31/1/2001; 28/7/2001; 26/9/2001; 7/10/2001; 11/10/2001; 31/12/2001; 11/9/2002; 23/10/2002; 19/4/2003; 21/4/2003; 18/6/2003; 7/11/2003; 29/10/2004; 21/4/2005; 9/6/2005; 5/8/2005; 15/12/2006; 30/1/2007; 7/2/2007; 21/3/2007; 20/4/2007; 11/9/2007;

KC-767A: 23/5/2003; 18/6/2003;

KC-X: 15/12/2006; 30/1/2007;

Keystone Bomber: 21/5/29;

L-4: 12/7/50;

L-5G Liaison Airplane: 9/7/50;

L-17 Liaison Airplane: 9/7/50;

L-19 Bird Dog: 16/2/51;

L-39 Albatross: 21/8/2003;

L-1011: 13/4/71; 30/6/99;

LC-130: 10/1/88; 18/2/99; 28/2/2006; 30/10/2006; 20/12/2006; 7/3/2007;

Laird-Turner Racer: 19/9/37;

Landing Gear: 16/3/49;

Langley Plane: 25/3/1898; 8/8/03; 8/12/03; 28/5/14;

Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasure (LAIRCM) System (AN/AAQ-24): 18/9/2007;  
Lear Jet: 23/5/66;  
Lepere Biplane: 6/9/19; 24/9/19; 4/10/19; 28/9/21; 13/10/22;  
Litening II Precision Targeting Pod: 29/9/99; 10/2/2003;  
Lincoln Standard: 12/11/21;  
Lockheed Constellation: 20/1/46; 18/1/49; 5/2/49;  
Lockheed Electra: 9/5/37;  
Lockheed Hudson: 1/3/42;  
Lockheed Jet Star: 22/4/62;  
Lockheed Model 14 Super Electra: 10/7/38;  
Lockheed Orion-Explorer: 15/8/35;  
Lockheed Sirius: 10/11/30; 29/7/31; 19/12/33;  
Lockheed YC121F Superconstellation: 25/1/57;  
Lockheed Vega: 15/4/28; 19/8/28; 18/2/30; 24/11/30; 14/2/32; 20/5/32; 7/12/34; 11/1/35; 7/7/42;  
Lockheed VZ-10 VTOL: 10/8/62;  
Loening Amphibian: 4/8/25; 21/12/26; 1/3/28;  
Loening-Hispano 300: 18/1/19;  
Long-Range Combat Aircraft: 22/1/81; 30/3/81;  
Loop: 3/7/15; 13/2/17; 24/1/19; 25/5/27; 12/2/28; 3/5/30;  
Low Altitude Navigation and Targeting Infrared for Night (LANTIRN): 31/3/87; 26/2/90;  
M-2: 20/9/66;  
M2-F2: 12/7/66;  
M2-F3: 2/6/70; 25/11/70;  
Macy Automatic Pilot: 24/2/15.  
MC-130 Combat Talon: 25/10/83; 14/3/88; 9/4/96; 17/3/97; 10/6/97; 7/10/2001; 15/3/2005;  
19/9/2006;  
MC-130 Combat Shadow: 5/10/2007;  
Me-262: 28/8/44;  
Markings: 31/3/09; 8/2/18; 17/5/19;  
Martin Bomber: 17/8/18; 9/11/19; 12/6/22; 4/3/24; 11/1/32; 27/11/33;  
Martin 2 Liberty 400: 13/9/23;  
Martin AM-1 Mauler: 31/1/49;  
Martin JRM-1 Flying Boat (Marshall Mars): 19/5/49;  
Martin JRM-2 Flying Boat (Caroline Mars): 28/8/48; 5/9/48; 25/2/49; 4/3/49;  
Martin Mars: 30/11/43; 2/12/43;  
Martin MO-1: 14/12/24;  
Martin S-Hall Scott 125: 9/2/16;



Martin T Tractor Biplane: 17/8/14; 15/1/15;  
Martin 130: 29/11/35;  
MB3A: 5/3/23;  
MD520N Helicopter: 2/7/91;  
Mechanics: 12/2/15; 12/7/15; 2/6/17;  
Meyers 200: 22/8/59;  
MH-47E: 6/12/89;  
MH-53 Pave Low Helicopter: 10/12/86; 17/7/87; 21/1/91; 9/4/96; 18/4/96; 17/3/97; 17/4/98;  
1/3/2000; 7/10/2001; 2/11/2001;  
MH-60 Pave Hawk Helicopter: 14/3/90; 1/12/90; 1/11/91; 3/10/93; 2/5/99; 20/12/99; 1/3/2000;  
MiG-15: 1/11/50; 8/11/50; 9/11/50; 10/11/50; 14/11/50; 1/12/50; 4/12/50; 17/12/50; 22/12/50;  
20/1/51; 21/1/51; 23/1/51; 20/5/51; 1/6/51; 25/9/51; 16/10/51; 21/10/51; 23/10/51; 4/11/51;  
8/11/51; 18/11/51; 13/12/51; 25/1/52; 10/2/52; 19/2/52; 3/5/52; 13/5/52; 6/6/52; 3/7/52; 6/8/52;  
4/9/52; 9/9/52; 21/9/52; 8/10/52; 17/12/52; 27/7/53;  
MiG-17: 30/8/58; 10/7/65; 19/4/67;  
MiG-21: 26/4/66; 2/1/67;  
MiG-25: 27/12/92;  
MiG-29: 25/5/96; 24/3/99; 26/3/99; 4/5/99;  
Miniature Air-Launched Decoy (MALD): 9/1/99;  
Mitchell Trophy Race: 17/11/34; 19/10/35;  
Mission Adaptive Wing: 21/3/89;  
Model 47 Helicopter: 8/3/46;  
Model 49 Constellation: 9/1/43;  
Montgomery Glider: 29/4/04;  
Mooney Mite: 9/8/52;  
Morane Land Monoplane: 17/5/13;  
Movies: 12/2/12; 9/3/56;  
Multi-national Aircraft Program: 28/2/85;  
Multi-Point Refueling System (MPRS): 11/10/2001;  
MX-324 Rocket-Powered Plane: 5/7/44;  
Navigator Training: 27/5/71; 5/3/75; 15/7/76; 10/3/77; 15/4/96;  
National Aerospace Plane: 27/8/87; 7/10/87;  
N-1 (Naval Global Hawk): 6/10/2004; 26/10/2004; 27/3/2006;  
N-9 Robot Bomber: 21/11/17;  
N-156F: 30/7/59;  
NA-40: 10/2/39;  
NA-83 Mustang II: 13/2/42;  
NB-36H: 20/7/55;

NB-45: 10/5/55;  
NB-52: 5/4/90; 2/11/2000;  
NC-1: 25/11/18;  
NC-4: 16/5/19;  
NF-15B STOL/Maneuvering Technology Demonstrator (MTD): 2/4/90; 22/5/90; 12/8/91;  
NF-16A/AFTI: 4/8/82;  
NF-16 Variable In-Flight Simulator Test Aircraft (VISTA): 9/4/92; 30/7/93; 2/10/2000;  
NF-33: 9/4/92;  
NF-104: 6/12/63; 27/6/68; 4/6/70; 20/12/71;  
NKC-135 Stratotanker: 15/11/2002; 8/9/2004;  
National Airplane Races: 13/10/22; 31/8/31;  
Night Flying: 18/4/10; 4/9/11; 2/11/16; 12/10/18; 16/6/22; 16/1/29; 22/9/43; 17/2/44; 6/8/50;  
8/10/50; 15/9/70; 15/10/70; 12/4/72;  
O-1 Bird Dog: 24/2/67;  
O-2A: 29/12/66; 9/6/67; 2/2/68; 23/10/78; 2/5/81; 1/9/86; 3/3/86;  
O-38: 7/6/32;  
O-47: 14/10/40;  
OA-37 Dragonfly: 23/10/72; 2/5/81;  
OC-135B: 29/6/93; 25/9/97;  
OT-38 Talon: 3/3/86;  
OV-10A Bronco: 7/7/65; 16/7/65; 26/2/68; 31/7/68; 25/8/68; 10/6/69; 29/6/72; 29/8/84;  
Offensive Avionics System: 3/9/80; 25/7/81; 15/8/81; 25/9/81;  
Offensive Radar System (B-1B): 3/12/98;  
OH-13E "Bubbletop" Helicopter: 2/9/56; 15/2/65;  
Pan Am Clipper: 16/4/35; 28/4/37; 30/8/39; 12/7/40; 2/12/41;  
PBY: 1/1/43; 1/2/43; 25/4/44;  
PBY-1: 25/6/37;  
PB2Y-1: 23/7/36;  
PB4Y Liberator: 14/7/44;  
PB4Y-2 Privateer: 13/2/43; 23/4/45;  
PBY-5A: 3/7/42;  
P2V-1: 29/9/46;  
P2V-3C Neptune: 8/2/50; 21/4/50;  
P2Y-1 Flying Boat: 7/9/33; 10/1/34;  
P-3C Orion: 22/1/71; 27/1/71; 4/2/71; 8/2/71; 22/5/93; 29/10/2007;  
P5M-2 Marlin Seaplane: 20/12/60;  
P-12: 12/4/30;

P-26 Peashooter: 20/3/32;

P-35 (Seversky): 16/6/36; 28/7/38;

P-38 Lightning: 23/6/42; 9/7/42; 14/8/42; 27/12/42; 18/4/43; 25/8/43; 25/11/43; 9/7/44; 17/7/44; 22/7/44; 27/10/44; 5/12/44; 7/12/44; 15/12/44; 8/5/45;

P-40 Warhawk: 14/10/38; 14/10/40; 8/12/41; 20/12/41; 10/5/42; 10/11/42; 7/12/44; 8/5/45;

P-47 Thunderbolt: 6/5/41; 15/11/42; 8/4/43; 28/7/43; 6/9/43; 27/9/43; 5/11/43; 8/4/44; 24/10/44; 5/12/44; 15/12/44; 21/2/45; 10/3/45;

P-51 (F-51) Mustang: 26/10/40; 3/2/43; 25/11/43; 5/12/43; 11/1/44; 3/2/44; 27/6/44; 22/9/44; 24/10/44; 18/11/44; 5/12/44; 18/3/45; 27/3/45; 8/5/45; 30/8/46; 3/9/47; 29/3/49; 22/1/50; 15/7/50; 22/7/50; 13/8/50; 27/8/50; 17/9/50; 15/10/50; 1/11/50; 31/1/51; 5/2/51; 19/5/51; 29/5/51; 25/10/51; 13/2/54; 31/3/54;

P-61 Black Widow: 26/5/42; 17/8/46;

P-80 Shooting Star: 16/10/43; 3/12/45; 26/1/46; 3/6/46; 22/6/46; 15/11/46; 2/1/48;

P-82 Twin Mustang: 6/7/45; 28/2/47;

P-84 Thunderjet: 4/1/45; 28/2/46;

P-86 Sabre: 1/10/47; 20/5/48;

Pacer CRAG: 2/6/98; 13/8/98; 12/12/98; 13/6/99; 21/4/2003;

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Perseus B: 30/4/98;

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Piper Comanche: 4/6/59; 26/11/59; 4/7/60;

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PW-8: 14/5/23; 23/6/24;

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QF-100 (Drone): 4/5/90;

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R3Y-1 Tradewind: 24/2/55;  
R4D Skytrain: 29/1/47; 31/10/56;  
R-5A (Sikorsky) Helicopter: 10/2/47;  
R-5 Helicopter: 10/1/46;  
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RB-26: 30/12/52; 11/10/61;  
RB-29: 23/9/49; 13/7/50; 22/8/50; 18/10/50; 9/11/50; 19/9/52; 21/6/60;  
RB-36: 2/6/50; 17/1/51;  
RB-45 Tornado: 26/8/50; 28/9/50; 2/11/50; 4/12/50; 14/7/51; 29/7/52; 19/9/52;  
RB-47: 25/4/53; 14/10/57; 22/4/60; 31/12/67;  
RB-50: 12/7/50; 16/4/51;  
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RB-66: 28/6/54; 29/10/55; 31/1/56; 20/1/59;  
RB-69: 20/1/60;  
RC-26B: 30/8/2005;  
RC-121: 1/10/53;  
RC-135: 22/9/80; 11/1/2007;  
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29/10/86;  
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Remote Controlled: 20/9/50;  
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RF-80A: 28/6/50; 29/12/50;  
RF-101: 6/5/56; 27/11/57; 28/8/58; 3/12/59; 20/10/61; 23/10/62; 9/6/64; 4/2/67;  
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Rice, Dr. A. Hamilton (Amazon Expedition): 1/5/25;  
Robot-controlled: 22/9/47;  
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Ryan Monoplane: 21/5/27;  
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S-3A Viking: 21/1/72;

S-39 (Sikorsky): 29/1/35;  
S-42 Seaplane (Sikorsky): 17/5/34; 30/3/37;  
S-52-1 (Sikorsky): 27/4/49; 21/5/49;  
S-56 (Sikorsky): 12/11/56;  
S-70 (Sikorsky): 5/1/85;  
SA-16 Albatross Amphibian (Grumman) (aka HU-16 or UF-1L): 28/7/50; 3/8/50; 5/8/50; 21/4/51; 22/10/51; 3/11/51; 14/4/52; 16/5/52; 12/10/52; 22/12/52; 28/12/52; 3/2/53; 13/9/62;  
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SB-24 Snooper: 27/8/43;  
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Schwiezer 1-23-E Sailplane: 25/2/61;  
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Spad: 11/4/18;  
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Sperry Gyroscopic Stabilizer: 8/12/14;  
SR-71 Blackbird (YF-12A): 7/8/63; 22/1/64; 29/2/64; 23/4/64; 24/7/64; 22/12/64; 1/1/65; 1/5/65; 7/1/66; 20/3/66; 23/7/66; 18/7/66; 26/4/71; 1/9/74; 13/9/74; 27/7/76; 28/7/76; 22/9/80; 31/3/82; 25/1/90; 6/3/90; 9/3/93; 1/9/95; 1/1/97; 4/3/97; 31/10/97; 6/3/98; 27/9/99; 9/10/99; 24/10/2005;  
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Supersonic Transport: 6/1/64;  
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T-3A Firefly Enhanced Flight Screener: 8/7/93; 13/10/99; 28/1/2002; 9/2/2002;  
T-6 Mosquito: 10/7/50; 15/7/50; 1/8/50; 21/9/50; 22/9/50; 1/11/50; 24/1/51; 26/1/51;  
T-6A Texan II: 15/7/98; 2/3/2000; 11/5/2001; 12/10/2006; 6/4/2007;  
T-28 Talon: 16/6/53; 11/10/61; 3/1/63; 11/2/64; 17/5/64;  
T-29: 22/9/49; 5/3/75;  
T-33 Shooting Star (T-Bird): 22/3/48; 1/8/55; 10/4/59; 4/8/77; 1/10/87; 16/4/97; 7/5/2004;

T-34: 2/3/2000;

T-37 Tweet Primary Jet Trainer (Cessna): 2/1/53; 21/1/57; 21/1/58; 4/2/70; 18/3/77; 17/2/78; 22/6/95; 2/3/2000; 12/10/2006; 6/4/2007;

T-38 Talon: 10/4/59; 17/3/61; 24/8/61; 19/2/62; 10/4/59; 31/1/72; 20/7/74; 18/3/77; 2/5/77; 17/2/78; 25/11/80; 16/2/89; 8/7/98; 31/7/99; 31/3/2005; 31/8/2007;

T-39B Trainer: 15/2/61; 21/8/2003;

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TR-1A: 15/7/81; 15/9/81;

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TT-1 Pinto: 13/3/59;

TU-95 Bear Bomber: 19/3/92;

U-1 Helicopter: 10/2/81;

U-2: 11/6/57; 1/5/60; 14/10/62; 27/10/62; 31/12/63; 22/3/76; 22/9/80; 15/9/81; 17/4/89; 3/10/89; 12/12/98; 29/10/2007;

UC-123: 31/8/63; 14/5/69; 11/7/71; 17/6/86;

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UH-1 (YHU-1D) Iroquois Helicopter: 23/2/55; 26/10/56; 13/4/62; 14/4/62; 1/5/67; 31/7/68; 21/8/68; 26/11/68; 1/8/76; 23/10/78; 24/7/83;

UH-1H Huey Helicopter: 5/11/2005;

UH-1N Twin Huey Helicopter: 2/10/70; 4/10/89;

UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter: 10/12/86; 25/2/91; 3/11/2007;

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V-22 or CV-22 Osprey: 23/5/88; 19/3/89; 3/11/89; 23/10/98; 25/6/99; 18/9/2000; 22/11/2000; 12/12/2000; 11/9/2002; 4/4/2003; 9/3/2004; 19/4/2004; 25/10/2004; 16/11/2006; 5/10/2007;

VC-121 Super Constellation: 20/4/66;

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WC-135: 15/1/79;  
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Waco Glider: 24/4/46;  
Wedell-Williams Airplane: 14/11/32; 4/9/33;  
White Knight: 7/4/2006;  
White Wing: 19/5/08;  
Wright Apache: 27/7/27; 4/6/30;  
Wright B: 27/2/11; 3/3/11; 27/4/11; 19/7/11; 21/3/12; 29/7/12; 13/1/13;  
Wright B2 Seaplane: 30/6/13;  
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Wright Biplane: 14/12/03; 17/12/03; 23/3/03; 23/6/05; 5/10/05; 9/10/05; 5/12/07; 6/5/08; 14/5/08;  
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4/10/09; 23/10/09; 27/10/09; 3/11/09; 14/6/10; 10/7/10; 21/7/10; 8/8/10; 18/8/10; 11/10/10;  
20/10/11; 31/10/10; 26/12/10; 15/1/11; 16/1/11; 21/1/11; 4/5/11; 10/10/11; 17/12/11; 25/1/12;  
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Wright Hydroplane: 20/8/12;  
Wright Scout: 28/9/12;  
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12/12/53; 4/6/54; 25/8/54; 8/8/55; 8/10/55; 5/1/59; 27/3/2004;  
X-2: 27/6/52; 18/11/55; 23/7/56; 7/9/56; 27/9/56; 12/8/60; 27/3/2004;  
X-3: 20/10/52;  
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X-10: 14/10/53;  
X-13: 10/12/55; 11/4/57;  
X-15: 30/9/55; 15/10/58; 10/3/59; 8/6/59; 17/9/59; 12/8/60; 15/11/60; 7/3/61; 30/3/61; 21/4/61;  
22/6/61; 9/11/61; 30/4/62; 27/6/62; 17/7/62; 20/7/62; 20/8/62; 17/1/63; 27/6/63; 19/7/63; 22/8/63;  
5/12/63; 16/1/65; 29/6/65; 3/11/65; 8/6/66; 16/11/66; 21/8/67; 3/10/67; 17/10/67; 15/11/67;  
19/1/68; 24/10/68; 3/12/68; 20/12/68; 5/5/69; 30/6/99; 27/3/2004; 17/12/2004;  
X-18: 8/12/58; 24/11/59;  
X-20A: 10/12/63;  
X-21A: 18/4/63;  
X-22A V/STOL: 17/3/66;  
X-24 Lifting Body: 11/7/67; 4/4/69; 17/4/69; 19/3/70; 1/4/70; 14/10/70; 29/7/71; 5/10/73; 30/4/74;  
26/11/75; 12/3/98;  
X-29A: 14/12/84;

X-31A Enhanced Fighter Maneuverability Demonstrator: 1/3/90; 11/10/90; 29/4/93;

X-32 Joint Strike Fighter (Boeing): 18/9/2000; 24/10/2000; 15/11/2000; 4/12/2000; 10/12/2000; 19/12/2000; 21/12/2000; 8/1/2001; 3/2/2001; 29/3/2001; 5/5/2001; 24/6/2001; 8/7/2001; 6/8/2001;

X-35A Joint Strike Fighter (Lockheed Martin): 24/10/2000; 22/11/2000; 16/12/2000; 31/1/2001; 26/10/2001; 10/2/2001; 24/6/2001; 6/8/2001;

X-35B STOVL Joint Strike Fighter (Lockheed Martin): 24/6/2001; 9/7/2001; 19/7/2001;

X-36 Tailless Fighter Agility Research Vehicle: 17/5/97; 12/11/97;

X-38 Atmospheric Test Vehicle: 30/7/97; 30/3/2000; 2/11/2000;

X-43A Hypersonic Flight Research Vehicle: 13/10/99; 27/3/2004; 28/4/2001; 2/6/2001; 16/11/2004; 26/1/2004; 16/11/2004; 17/12/2004;

XB-45 Tornado: 17/3/47;

XB-70A Valkyrie: 28/3/61; 6/3/64; 11/5/64; 21/9/64; 12/10/64; 24/3/65; 14/10/65; 8/12/65; 10/12/65; 3/1/66; 26/4/66; 30/4/66; 8/6/66; 19/10/66; 7/1/69; 13/1/69; 4/2/69; 24/10/2005;

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XC-142A VSTOL: 13/1/65; 4/2/65; 9/7/65; 18/5/66;

XF4D-1 Skyray (Douglas): 30/1/51; 3/10/53; 16/10/53; 28/2/55;

XF-12 Rainbow: 30/12/45; 7/2/46;

XF-85: 23/10/48;

XF-87: 15/2/48;

XF-88: 20/10/48;

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XFH-1 Phantom: 21/7/46;

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XP-26: 20/3/32;

XP-59A: 1/10/42;

XP-80 Shooting Star: 8/1/44; 3/12/45; 19/6/47;

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XV-3: 21/5/59;

XV-4B Hummingbird (VTOL): 4/6/68; 28/9/68;



XV-5A: 25/5/64;  
XV-8A: 7/6/65;  
XYF-1: 2/6/54; 2/11/54;  
YA-7F: 29/11/89;  
YAL-1A Airborne Laser: 22/1/2000; 18/7/2002; 19/12/2002; 3/12/2004; 7/2/2005; 27/10/2006;  
21/12/2006; 15/3/2007;  
YA-10: 1/12/82;  
YAK-9: 4/5/52;  
YAT-28E: 15/2/63;  
YB-49: 21/10/47; 15/3/50;  
YC-14: 10/8/76;  
YC-15: 26/8/75;  
YF-17: 4/4/74; 29/4/74; 9/6/74; 10/6/74; 18/6/74; 13/1/75; 12/9/78;  
YF-22: 29/8/90; 29/9/90; 17/12/90;  
YF-23: 23/6/90; 27/8/90;  
YH-21 (Piasecki) Workhorse Helicopter: 2/9/53; 5/9/53; 23/8/56;  
YH41 (Cessna) Seneca: 28/12/57;  
YR-4 (Sikorsky) Helicopter: 25/4/44;  
Zero-length Launch: 28/5/58;

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Albrook AFB: 2/6/70; 2/6/70;  
Altus AFB: 17/12/69; 4/9/75; 4/12/79; 8/1/86; 10/11/88; 25/4/90; 1/4/92; 1/10/92; 1/7/93; 13/8/98;  
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Al Udeid AB, Qatar: 28/4/2003;  
Andersen AFB: 15/10/54; 14/8/57; 12/2/65; 18/6/65; 14/7/70; 4/4/75; 21/7/76; 2/12/79; 4/10/83;  
29/6/85; 15/9/96; 5/8/97; 18/12/97; 23/2/98; 31/1/2001; 9/12/2002;  
Andrews AFB: 25/1/57; 20/1/59; 20/4/66; 6/8/70; 17/2/72; 11/2/77; 25/5/84; 17/5/90; 23/8/90;  
1/4/97; 2/4/97; 17/6/97; 5/8/97; 22/8/97; 9/3/98; 17/4/98; 19/6/98; 13/8/98; 14/10/98; 12/4/99;  
1/4/2001; 30/5/2001; 25/7/01; 8/9/2001; 11/1/2002; 24/10/2002; 7/4/2003; 23/7/2004; 20/9/2005;  
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Ashiya AB, Japan: 27/6/50; 28/6/50; 2/8/50; 7/8/50; 14/4/52;  
Aviano AB, Italy: 25/8/92; 31/3/94; 29/10/2007;  
Bainbridge AB: 21/1/57;  
Bagram AB, Afghanistan: 7/12/2002; 21/3/2007;  
Balad AB, Iraq: 30/9/2005; 15/11/2006;  
Bangor AFB: 2/2/96;

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Barksdale AFB: 23/5/40; 12/7/50; 26/8/50; 21/4/75; 15/3/77; 6/12/85; 29/11/89; 17/1/91; 1/10/93; 7/12/93; 7/8/95; 25/8/95; 12/2/98;

Base Realignment and Closure Commission: 23/10/99;

Beale AFB: 25/8/61; 9/1/62; 1/1/65; 4/1/65; 7/1/66; 26/4/71; 6/4/80; 15/9/81; 16/11/87; 25/1/90; 1/1/97; 12/12/98; 19/1/2001; 9/9/2003; 15/6/2006; 29/10/2007;

Bellows Field, Hawaii: 7/12/41;

Bergstrom AFB: 15/9/50; 15/10/50; 23/9/51; 25/11/57; 29/10/86; 30/9/93 (Closed).

Bermuda: 15/11/40;

Bien Hoa AB, Vietnam: 5/8/64; 1/11/64; 17/4/67; 31/7/68;

Biggs AFB: 1/9/50; 20/10/55; 12/2/59; 8/3/65;

Bitburg AB: 12/3/56; 27/4/77;

Blytheville AFB: 7/7/71; 1/11/78; 21/1/85;

Bolling Field (later AFB): 16/6/22; 13/10/22; 28/10/24; 12/5/28; 19/7/34; 1/7/41; 22/4/60;

Bradley ANGB: 2/8/97;

Brooks Field (later AFB): 1/8/26; 30/10/26; 19/10/28; 1/10/59; 3/2/64;

Brize-Norton (RAF): 23/5/2001;

Buckley ANGB (later AFB): 1/10/2001; 4/1/2001;

Bunker Hill AFB (renamed Grissom AFB): 16/10/63; 12/5/68; 16/1/70; 16/9/78; 16/11/87; 14/7/93 (transferred to Reserves); 30/9/94 (Closed).

Camp Irwin: 1/12/44;

Cannon AFB: 13/5/62; 30/9/69; 7/12/93; 29/7/96; 8/11/96; 24/6/97;

Can Ranh Bay AB, Vietnam: 14/9/71;

Cape Canaveral: 11/5/49; 24/7/50; 26/11/52; 6/8/53; 20/8/53; 13/10/60; 26/11/55; 14/3/56; 20/9/56; 2/10/56; 11/6/57; 19/4/57; 20/9/57; 1/10/57; 22/10/57; 31/10/57; 7/12/57; 17/12/57; 31/1/58; 17/3/58; 26/3/58; 5/4/58; 18/5/58; 4/6/58; 27/6/58; 9/7/58; 2/8/58; 28/8/58; 24/9/58; 26/11/58; 28/11/58; 5/12/58; 10/12/58; 20/12/58; 23/12/58; 21/1/59; 6/2/59; 3/3/59; 10/3/59; 6/4/59; 23/4/59; 6/5/59; 21/5/59; 28/5/59; 28/7/59; 13/10/59; 4/2/60; 24/2/60; 29/2/60; 8/3/60; 11/3/60; 1/4/60; 20/5/60; 20/7/60; 22/7/60; 10/8/60; 16/9/60; 19/9/60; 13/10/60; 20/10/60; 21/10/60; 3/11/60; 23/11/60; 5/12/60; 19/12/60; 23/1/61; 31/1/61; 1/2/61; 24/2/61; 2/3/61; 25/3/61; 22/4/61; 5/5/61; 29/6/61; 6/7/61; 20/7/61; 21/7/61; 25/7/61; 8/8/61; 21/11/61; 29/11/61; 29/1/62; 1/3/62; 7/3/62; 16/3/62; 22/3/62; 18/4/62; 26/4/62; 29/6/62; 10/7/62; 11/7/62; 18/7/62; 12/9/62; 18/9/62; 18/10/62; 5/12/62; 7/12/62; 10/12/62; 22/1/63; 6/2/63; 7/2/63; 1/3/63; 11/4/63; 28/5/63; 26/6/63; 16/10/63; 29/11/63; 29/1/64; 30/1/64; 20/3/64; 11/2/74; 15/7/75; 20/8/75; 9/2/78; 23/3/79; 18/3/87; 26/1/89; 14/2/89; 14/6/89; 4/12/89; 31/12/89; 11/3/90; 6/11/95; 7/2/99; 4/1/2001; 27/2/2001; 5/3/2001; 21/8/2002; 17/11/2006; 17/2/2007; 8/3/2007; 4/8/2007; 10/10/2007; 21/12/2007;

Cape Kennedy: 29/11/63; 9/4/64; 28/7/64; 24/9/64; 24/1/65; 23/2/65; 21/3/58; 19/1/66; 8/7/66; 3/11/66; 18/1/67; 27/1/67; 13/6/68; 16/8/68; 11/10/68; 23/5/69; 14/12/70; 2/2/71;

Carney Field, Guadalcanal: 27/8/43;

Carswell AFB: 26/6/48; 26/2/49; 16/1/51; 3/12/51; 3/12/51; 1/8/60; 12/1/61; 14/1/61; 10/5/61; 26/5/61; 28/3/64; 21/12/64; 30/6/71; 16/9/78; 3/7/82; 4/10/83; 1/7/85; 30/9/93 (Closed).

Castle AFB: 29/6/55; 24/11/56; 18/1/57; 28/6/57; 27/3/58; 7/4/58; 15/4/68; 10/6/82; 30/9/95;

Cat Bi Airfield, Haiphong, North Vietnam: 6/2/73;

Chakala AB, Pakistan: 8/10/2005;

Channel Islands ANG Station: 5/8/2000;

Chanute Field (later AFB): 7/9/18; 24/8/18; 23/3/21; 8/3/65; 30/9/93 (Closed).

Charleston AFB: 11/8/62; 17/1/70; 27/1/70; 6/6/70; 30/9/77; 1/4/92; 4/6/92; 14/6/93; 8/5/94; 14/10/94; 17/1/95; 24/12/95; 5/3/96; 6/9/97; 14/9/97; 10/1/98; 13/8/98; 9/9/98; 17/4/2000; 9/9/2000; 13/10/2000; 4/1/2001; 30/5/2001; 5/1/2002; 11/1/2002; 14/5/2002; 26/3/2003; 19/4/2003; 17/6/2003; 1/6/2005; 18/6/2005; 22/12/2006;

Charters: 28/2/11;

Chengtu Project: 10/5/44;

China Lake: 3/11/89; 1/12/89; 13/6/95; 29/5/97; 11/2/98; 29/8/98; 25/7/2000; 26/9/2000; 24/10/2000; 31/7/2001; 30/10/2003; 17/11/2003; 9/3/2004; 18/4/2004;

Ching Chuan AB, Taiwan: 4/11/72;

Chitose AB, Japan: 24/7/51;

Chu Lai, Vietnam: 9/4/67;

Cigli AB, Turkey: 26/11/76;

Clark Field (later Air Base), Philippines: 12/9/41; 8/3/61; 13/1/62; 13/5/62; 11/2/64; 5/8/64; 23/12/64; 14/7/70; 4/11/72; 16/2/79 (Command turned over to Philippine Government); 25/2/80; 22/4/80; 28/7/80; 21/9/81; 23/10/84; 25/2/87; 1/10/87; 17/7/90; 4/6/91; 26/11/91 (closed).

Clear AFS, Alaska: 21/5/2004;

Clinton-Sherman AFB: 31/5/67;

College Park, Md: 25/8/09; 8/10/08; 11/4/11; 7/6/11; 3/7/11; 28/11/11; 29/7/12; 25/4/22;

Columbus AFB, Miss.: 10/7/98; 31/7/99; 12/10/2006;

Comiso Air Station, Sicily: 24/3/82;

Cooke AFB: 1/4/58; 16/11/56; 1/7/57; 23/11/57; 1/1/58; 31/7/58;

Craig AFB: 4/2/70;

Creech AFB (formerly Indian Springs), Nev.: 14/9/2005; 29/8/2006; 9/11/2006; 13/3/2007; 1/5/2007; 22/6/2007;

Cubi Point, Philippines: 6/2/73;

Da Nang AB, Vietnam: 5/8/64;

Davis-Monthan AFB: 20/2/48; 19/7/48; 22/7/48; 4/11/54; 14/10/57; 25/11/57; 15/10/59; 1/1/62; 8/12/62; 30/3/63; 8/6/63; 20/3/66; 31/12/67; 16/1/70; 31/3/70; 30/7/71; 29/9/71; 4/12/72; 1/7/76; 2/4/76; 4/8/77; 12/7/78; 2/5/81; 2/7/82; 30/9/82; 22/11/82; 30/11/83; 2/12/83; 21/5/84; 31/7/84; 1/9/86; 4/6/91; 24/6/93; 17/8/93; 3/5/94; 11/10/95; 29/7/96; 30/7/98; 12/1/99; 17/9/2002; 4/11/2003; 20/12/2004; 15/6/2007;

Diego Garcia: 12/2/98; 7/10/2001;

Dobbins AFB: 25/8/59; 17/12/63; 14/8/80; 4/6/96; 7/9/97; 21/12/2002; 17/11/2006;

Dover AFB: 28/8/57; 16/12/58; 30/8/74; 15/3/77; 19/11/78; 7/9/95; 27/6/96; 17/6/97; 22/8/97; 13/8/98; 18/8/99; 13/10/2000; 10/7/2002; 20/7/2002; 3/10/2004; 14/10/2005; 17/10/2005; 10/3/2007; 2/10/2007;

Dow AFB: 4/12/57; 5/1/61; 17/1/62;

Dyess AFB: 28/4/58; 1/12/64; 18/9/70; 9/5/79; 31/1/83; 7/7/85; 1/10/86; 29/11/89; 9/6/97;  
25/1/2000; 25/7/2005; 7/2/2007;

Eaker AFB: 15/12/92 (Closed).

Edinburgh, Australia (Royal Australian AFB): 22/4/2001;

Edwards AFB: 1/10/42; 8/1/44; 28/2/46; 15/4/46; 14/10/47; 21/10/47; 16/8/48; 15/9/48; 23/10/48;  
15/3/50; 12/5/50; 14/2/51; 23/8/51; 27/6/52; 20/10/52; 9/12/52; 3/3/53; 18/5/53; 25/5/53; 21/8/53;  
24/10/53; 29/10/53; 20/11/53; 12/12/53; 25/8/54; 28/9/54; 10/11/54; 7/12/54; 28/3/55; 29/3/55;  
8/8/55; 20/8/55; 8/10/55; 17/10/55; 22/10/55; 18/11/55; 17/2/56; 23/7/56; 27/8/56; 7/9/56; 27/9/56;  
26/12/56; 11/4/57; 16/9/58; 18/4/58; 7/5/58; 16/5/58; 28/5/58; 26/7/58; 17/2/59; 10/4/59; 8/6/59;  
30/7/59; 15/9/59; 24/11/59; 6/12/59; 11/12/59; 14/12/59; 15/12/59; 6/5/60; 15/11/60; 14/12/60;  
12/1/61; 25/2/61; 24/8/61; 9/11/61; 22/11/61; 19/2/62; 28/2/62; 18/6/62; 17/7/62; 18/9/62; 18/4/63;  
14/8/63; 22/8/63; 5/12/63; 6/12/63; 28/1/64; 29/2/64; 25/5/64; 21/9/64; 12/10/64; 6/2/65; 15/2/65;  
25/2/65; 28/2/65; 8/3/65; 1/5/65; 10/5/65; 9/7/65; 14/10/65; 3/11/65; 3/1/66; 1/2/66; 4/2/66;  
25/2/66; 3/5/66; 7/6/66; 8/6/66; 23/7/66; 20/9/66; 19/10/66; 16/11/66; 21/8/67; 3/10/67; 2/1/68;  
27/6/68; 24/10/68; 13/11/68; 16/8/69; 19/9/69; 21/9/69; 29/9/69; 14/10/69; 8/1/70; 27/2/70;  
14/3/70; 29/8/70; 4/9/70; 12/11/70; 25/11/70; 20/12/71; 24/1/72; 13/6/72; 23/6/72; 27/7/72; 3/8/72;  
6/5/73; 3/8/73; 20/1/74; 2/2/74; 26/2/74; 11/3/74; 9/4/74; 9/6/74; 10/6/74; 18/6/74; 29/9/74;  
23/12/74; 11/2/75; 15/2/75; 25/2/75; 10/4/75; 26/8/75; 19/9/75; 16/10/75; 26/11/75; 12/12/75;  
27/7/76; 28/7/76; 16/12/76; 4/8/77; 12/8/77; 6/9/78; 16/10/78; 8/3/79; 23/3/79; 23/4/79; 4/5/79;  
17/12/79; 17/12/80; 12/4/81; 5/6/81; 31/8/81; 25/9/81; 14/11/81; 26/1/82; 22/3/82; 20/4/82;  
20/7/82; 3/8/82; 30/8/82; 2/9/82; 10/10/82; 14/10/82; 16/11/82; 1/12/82; 23/3/83; 9/4/83; 15/5/83;  
18/6/83; 5/9/83; 30/7/84; 5/9/84; 14/12/84; 13/9/85; 15/10/85; 18/1/86; 16/1/87; 2/3/87; 21/3/89;  
10/6/89; 8/11/89; 9/11/89; 22/11/89; 29/11/89; 9/1/90; 28/2/90; 2/4/90; 27/4/90; 3/5/90; 22/5/90;  
17/5/90; 22/6/90; 27/8/90; 29/9/90; 17/12/90; 12/8/91; 15/9/91; 18/5/92; 9/3/93; 30/7/93; 25/8/95;  
29/3/96; 1/1/97; 31/1/97; 1/2/97; 4/3/97; 6/3/97; 16/4/97; 29/5/97; 12/7/97; 25/9/97; 31/10/97;  
12/11/97; 14/11/97; 20/12/97; 30/7/98; 28/2/98; 12/3/98; 24/3/98; 23/4/98; 30/4/98; 17/5/98;  
30/5/98; 27/6/98; 29/6/98; 7/8/98; 8/8/98; 29/8/98; 10/10/98; 20/10/98; 10/11/98; 19/11/98;  
3/12/98; 9/1/99; 14/1/99; 22/1/99; 12/2/99; 24/2/99; 23/3/99; 25/3/99; 7/4/99; 19/4/99; 30/4/99;  
2/5/99; 25/5/99; 19/6/99; 30/6/99; 29/7/99; 25/8/99; 8/9/99; 16/9/99; 27/9/99; 29/9/99; 9/10/99;  
13/10/99; 19/10/99; 28/10/99; 17/11/99; 3/12/99; 19/3/2000; 14/5/2000; 4/8/2000; 12/9/2000;  
18/9/2000; 2/10/2000; 13/10/2000; 24/10/2000; 2/11/2000; 8/11/2000; 15/11/2000; 22/11/2000;  
4/12/2000; 8/12/2000; 12/12/2000; 16/12/2000; 21/12/2000; 30/1/2001; 31/1/2001; 3/2/2001;  
10/2/2001; 20/2/2001; 14/3/2001; 29/3/2001; 22/4/2001; 28/4/2001; 1/5/2001; 5/5/2001; 9/5/2001;  
11/5/2001; 14/5/2001; 19/5/2001; 31/5/2001; 8/6/2001; 9/7/2001; 19/7/2001; 23/8/2001; 24/8/2001;  
17/9/2001; 21/9/2001; 30/9/2001; 5/10/2001; 11/10/2001; 16/10/2001; 10/11/2001; 27/11/2001;  
3/12/2001; 25/1/2002; 28/1/2002; 9/2/2002; 5/3/2002; 25/3/2002; 2/5/2002; 22/5/2002; 6/6/2002;  
7/6/2002; 10/6/2002; 25/8/2002; 11/9/2002; 29/9/2002; 15/11/2002; 22/11/2002; 6/12/2002;  
19/12/2002; 24/1/2003; 28/1/2003; 10/2/2003; 14/2/2003; 28/2/2003; 3/3/2003; 4/4/2003;  
18/4/2003; 5/5/2003; 9/6/2003; 17/8/2003; 21/8/2003; 9/9/2003; 25/10/2003; 4/11/2003; 7/11/2003;  
17/11/2003; 21/1/2004; 26/1/2004; 9/3/2004; 20/3/2004; 30/3/2004; 9/4/2004; 18/4/2004;  
21/6/2004; 1/7/2004; 16/7/2004; 11/8/2004; 13/8/2004; 29/9/2004; 6/10/2004; 25/10/2004;  
26/10/2004; 29/10/2004; 16/11/2004; 24/11/2004; 3/12/2004; 9/12/2004; 21/1/2005; 4/2/2005;  
7/2/2005; 1/4/2005; 22/4/2005; 10/6/2005; 22/7/2005; 26/7/2005; 14/9/2005; 29/9/2005;  
24/10/2005; 1/12/2005; 6/12/2005; 21/12/2005; 13/1/2006; 27/1/2006; 20/2/2006; 27/3/2006;  
7/4/2006; 14/4/2006; 2/5/2006; 19/6/2006; 26/7/2006; 10/8/2006; 4/10/2006; 10/10/2006;  
17/11/2006; 15/12/2006; 15/3/2007; 8/8/2007; 19/10/2007; 19/10/2007;

Eglin AFB: 25/3/56; 22/1/59; 23/4/59; 23/12/59; 14/1/60; 27/2/60; 29/2/60; 12/4/60; 21/5/60;  
8/6/60; 13/9/60; 16/12/60; 23/2/61; 19/9/61; 18/12/61; 10/5/62; 3/1/63; 23/3/64; 4/2/66; 9/1/67;  
15/8/70; 21/11/70; 30/4/72; 13/7/72; 24/7/73; 19/8/76; 3/11/89; 4/5/90; 17/5/90; 4/10/95; 23/10/98;  
16/12/98; 8/5/2000; 23/10/2002; 4/10/2006;

Eielson AFB: 22/1/59; 27/7/96; 5/8/2005;

El Centro: 4/1/68;

Ellington Field: 26/5/23; 10/6/2001;

Ellsworth AFB: 26/9/58; 21/8/61; 1/1/62; 1/7/62; 24/6/63; 30/9/63; 27/11/64; 4/1/65; 1/3/65; 11/8/93; 31/10/94; 19/1/97; 9/6/97;

Elmendorf AFB: 15/1/42; 29/7/52; 4/10/80; 1/11/91; 27/7/96; 18/6/2005; 8/8/2007; 29/8/2007; 2/10/2007; 1/11/2007;

El Toro MCAS: 11/5/90;

England AFB: 11/7/71; 20/3/84; 15/12/92 (Closed).

Fairchild AFB: 15/10/54; 17/9/58; 4/1/60; 3/12/60; 29/7/61; 28/9/61; 31/3/65; 16/2/75; 30/9/75; 29/11/89; 5/8/97; 5/3/99; 18/1/2000; 18/6/2003; 7/11/2003; 22/4/2004; 21/4/2005; 9/6/2005;

Fairford AB, United Kingdom: 1/6/79; 14/4/86; 9/6/97;

Falcon Station ( later AFB): 25/6/86; 20/1/92; 1/1/93; 1/11/93;

Florennes AB, Belgium: 28/8/84;

Floyd Bennett Field, N. Y.: 14/2/32; 24/8/35; 4/9/36;

Forbes AFB: 4/1/65; 18/9/70; 12/4/72;

Fort Fisher AFS: 15/1/69;

Fort Knox: 28/3/62;

Fort Lewis: 2/3/62;

Fort McKinley, Philippines: 11/3/12;

Fort Mills, Philippines: 6/11/13;

Fort Myer, Virginia: 12/8/08; 17/9/08; 13/5/08; 4/8/08; 3/9/08; 12/8/08; 17/9/08; 30/7/09; 2/8/09;

Fort Riley, Kansas: 5/11/12; 2/3/62;

Fort Sam Houston, Texas: 2/3/10; 18/11/15;

Fort Shafter, Hawaii: 1/11/40;

Fort Sill, Oklahoma: 18/11/15;

Fort Wolter, Texas: 11/10/70;

Fortuna AFS: 5/1/70;

France Field (Canal Zone): 12/5/28; 9/1/29;

Francis E. Warren AFB: 21/11/57; 1/2/58; 7/6/58; 3/11/59; 9/8/60; 1/10/60; 20/11/61; 26/6/62; 19/7/62; 9/8/62; 1/7/64; 1/9/64; 4/1/65; 15/6/65; 30/6/65; 20/6/73; 3/9/74; 26/1/75; 29/11/89; 22/1/2000;

Galena Airport, Alaska: 12/4/91;

General Mitchel Field, Wis.: 17/3/41;

George AFB: 18/9/54; 2/3/62; 29/8/84; 30/9/84; 15/12/92 (Closed); 18/6/96;

Gerstner Field, La.: 23/7/18;

Grand Forks AFB: 28/2/64; 5/3/64; 1/2/65; 5/8/65; 25/4/66; 19/10/66; 22/11/66; 16/8/68; 16/1/75; 15/3/75; 23/3/77; 23/11/81; 19/2/85; 10/11/88; 29/11/89; 30/6/96; 18/4/97; 12/12/98; 5/3/99; 13/6/99; 6/10/99; 24/8/2001; 23/10/2002;

Great Falls, Mont: 2/1/52;

Griffiss AFB: 11/1/81; 23/4/81; 15/8/81; 15/9/81; 21/9/82; 16/12/82; 22/9/95 (Closed).

Gunter AFS: 16/12/60; 19/9/61;  
Hahn AB, Germany: 12/11/80; 31/12/81;  
Hamilton Field (later AFB): 1/12/35; 19/8/38; 23/1/40; 14/5/41; 26/1/58;  
Hancock Field, N. Y.: 30/6/84 (Closed).  
Hanscom Field: 21/1/65; 12/2/65; 11/9/65; 20/7/70; 18/4/2002; 23/10/2002;  
Harmon Field, Guam: 17/11/49;  
Hector Airport, North Dakota (ANG): 10/1/2007;  
Henderson Field, Guadalcanal: 17/1/43; 18/4/43;  
Hickam AFB: 31/5/35; 14/5/41; 7/12/41; 28/2/47; 25/8/59; 23/10/62; 14/7/70; 15/1/79; 2/12/79; 25/2/87; 1/10/87; 27/5/96; 25/7/01; 8/2/2006; 18/7/2006; 7/2/2007;  
Hill AFB: 20/6/60; 27/8/60; 1/12/60; 5/7/62; 14/4/70; 30/11/78; 6/1/79; 4/6/83; 28/1/84; 4/12/96; 21/8/98; 5/8/2000; 4/10/2006; 24/10/2007;  
Holloman AFB: 17/12/46; 28/9/50; 29/9/50; 16/4/51; 18/4/51; 30/9/52; 21/3/58; 15/7/58; 25/2/59; 1/3/60; 28/8/61; 18/7/66; 4/4/69; 6/11/69; 6/8/70; 6/5/72; 9/1/73; 2/11/95; 22/1/97; 20/12/2004; 13/10/2006; 27/10/2006;  
Homestead AFB: 17/11/57; 6/6/62; 14/3/70; 30/4/72; 25/8/92 (Destroyed by Hurricane Andrew); 31/3/94 (reopened as a Air Reserve Base); 4/2/2007;  
Howard AB, Panama: 2/6/70; 1/10/77; 15/1/79; 15/4/79; 7/8/80; 3/2/85; 12/1/99; 17/2/99; (31/10/99 turned over to Panamanian Govt).  
Hunter AFB: 7/8/54; 25/2/55;  
Hurlburt Field or AFB: 14/4/61; 2/10/70; 11/7/71; 1/3/83; 1/5/83; 22/5/90; 4/10/95; 17/4/98; 29/8/2006; 16/11/2006;  
Incirlik AB, Turkey: 26/11/76; 15/8/88; 10/12/88; 18/1/91; 7/9/95; 13/1/2000; 17/10/2001; 10/1/2002; 23/1/2002; 1/5/2003; 11/11/2004; 1/6/2005;  
Itazuke AB, Japan: 28/6/50; 6/6/60; 28/9/50; 2/10/50; 16/2/68;  
Johnson AB, Japan: 2/1/51;  
Kadena AB, Japan: 23/10/62; 29/10/63; 1/10/64; 4/2/67; 14/7/70; 4/11/72; 19/8/76; 22/4/80; 1/9/83; 19/12/93; 16/1/98; 24/1/2005; 30/9/2005; 4/10/2006; 7/2/2007;  
Kaneohe MCAS, Hawaii: 1/10/64;  
Karshi-Khanabad AB, Uzbekistan: 29/7/2005;  
Keesler AFB: 31/7/70; 12/10/98; 17/2/99; 20/5/2005; 29/8/2005;  
Keflavik AB: 10/1/94; 13/1/94; 29/12/94; 16/3/95; 19/6/99;  
Kelly Field (later AFB): 16/9/19; 18/11/23; 19/10/79; 1/12/84; 9/8/97; 11/1/2002; 19/9/2006;  
Kimpo Airfield, South Korea: 25/6/50; 19/9/50; 20/9/50; 25/9/50; 4/10/50; 6/10/50; 12/10/50; 14/10/50; 17/10/50; 2/1/51; 3/1/51; 4/1/51; 8/1/51; 27/9/51; 10/2/51;  
Kincheloe AFB: 26/7/58; 1/6/61;  
Kinross AFB (later Kincheloe AFB), Mich.: 26/7/58;  
K.I. Sawyer AFB: 12/3/80; 5/5/81;  
Kindley AFB, Bermuda: 21/6/57; 19/6/62;  
Kirkuk AB, Iraq: 27/2/2004;

Kirtland AFB: 24/11/80; 15/3/2003; 6/8/2007;

Korat RTAFB, Thailand: 5/8/64; 14/8/64; 4/3/68; 17/11/68; 29/2/76 (USAF operations ended); 24/1/2005;

Kunsan AB, South Korea: 10/7/52; 4/11/72; 19/8/76; 14/9/81; 28/1/85; 15/11/2006; 19/6/2007;

Ladd AFB: 2/1/52;

Lackland AFB: 1/10/59; 1/10/93;

Langley Field (later AFB): 28/6/17; 16/10/17; 14/6/19; 11/9/20; 3/11/21; 16/6/22; 10/4/31; 27/5/31; 15/7/31; 11/8/31; 24/8/35; 29/6/36; 1/3/37; 17/2/38; 3/8/38; 1/3/39; 12/5/54; 24/1/62; 18/9/70; 11/7/71; 31/10/72; 24/1/78; 12/9/78; 6/12/83; 7/8/90; 14/10/94; 1/4/97; 11/9/2001; 1/12/2004; 7/1/2005; 1/3/2005; 15/12/2005; 19/1/2007; 20/6/2007; 3/2/2007; 7/2/2007;

Laredo AFB: 21/6/68; (ATC inactivated the base on 30/9/73).

Larson AFB: 28/9/62; 4/1/65;

Laughlin AFB: 11/6/57; 22/4/60;

Limestone AFB: 22/9/50; 28/7/53; 6/11/53; 24/11/56;

Lincoln AFB: 16/11/56; 4/1/61; 12/4/65;

Lindbergh Field, San Diego: 29/12/39;

Lindsey Air Station, Germany: 1/6/93 (Closed).

Little Rock AFB: 1/9/62; 31/12/63; 16/1/70; 9/3/76; 18/9/80; 5/5/87; 29/11/89; 10/12/2001; 19/3/2004; 13/3/2007;

Lockbourne AFB: 25/4/53; 2/6/70;

Long Beach Municipal Airport: 25/2/65;

Los Angeles AFB: 8/3/2007;

Los Angeles Airport: 1/1/29;

Loring AFB: 15/9/58; 4/3/72; 15/6/72; 15/9/72; 15/6/78; 5/9/83; 6/10/83; 27/10/83; 30/9/94 (Closed).

Lowry AFB: 16/7/40; 11/7/55; 13/3/58; 25/9/58; 1/5/59; 1/2/60; 19/5/61; 6/10/61; 18/4/62; 20/4/62; 4/5/62; 15/4/65; 30/9/94 (Closed).

Luke Bombing and Gunnery Range: 20/2/78;

Luke AFB: 8/6/53; 23/3/70; 5/7/74; 14/11/74; 11/8/77; 2/2/83; 16/3/83; 5/11/84; 30/7/97;

Malmstrom AFB: 23/12/59; 16/3/61; 15/7/61; 1/12/61; 1/5/62; 27/7/62; 27/9/62; 24/10/62; 27/10/62; 11/12/62; 28/2/63; 17/10/63; 29/2/64; 1/4/66; 21/4/67; 1/3/68; 12/2/69; 20/1/75; 11/7/75; 6/2/79; 5/3/95; 12/7/2007;

March Field (later AFB) (later ARB): 21/9/32; 3/12/45; 21/6/54; 25/2/55; 18/1/57; 8/3/65; 29/9/65; 29/9/71; 21/4/75; 27/4/78; 21/6/84; 8/11/89; 1/1/94 (closed); 28/10/99; 5/8/2000; 24/2/2001; 4/2/2005; 9/8/2005; 28/11/2006;

Mather AFB: 12/4/30; 31/7/73; 28/10/73; 24/7/74; 5/3/75; 20/8/75; 15/7/76; 10/3/77; 23/3/78; 1/10/81; 20/9/82; 30/9/93 (Closed).

MacDill AFB: 26/6/48; 14/7/51; 23/10/51; 22/1/53; 6/4/53; 4/6/53; 20/11/63; 25/8/92 14/9/97; 25/7/2001;

Maxwell Field (later AFB): 19/3/10; 8/11/22; 15/7/31; 11/8/31; 8/7/40; 29/11/45; 12/3/46; 1/10/93;

McChord AFB: 5/12/50; 4/4/64; 8/7/69; 18/5/80; 16/1/97; 2/3/97; 5/8/97; 9/8/97; 11/7/99; 15/10/99;

5/8/2000; 31/1/2001; 11/1/2002; 15/7/2002; 26/3/2003; 19/4/2003; 23/9/2004; 4/2/2005; 18/6/2005; 8/10/2005; 28/2/2006; 16/3/2006; 26/7/2006; 20/12/2006; 7/3/2007; 19/11/2007; 17/12/2007;

McClellan AFB: 1/10/53; 14/9/71; 29/4/86;

McConnell AFB: 1/10/64; 15/4/74; 18/8/78; 16/9/78; 7/4/72; 20/6/84; 2/5/88; 10/11/88; 1/1/94; 13/5/95; 14/9/97; 2/6/98; 5/3/99; 18/7/2002; 18/7/2002; 7/11/2003;

McCook Field: 18/10/17; 24/9/19; 30/10/19; 26/5/20; 12/6/22; 2/8/22; 16/8/22; 7/3/24;

McEntire ANGB, S. C.: 13/1/2000; 4/10/2006;

McGuire AFB: 4/12/57; 9/6/61; 8/8/67; 15/4/79; 9/5/83; 17/5/90; 19/12/93; 11/5/94; 4/9/96; 5/8/97; 14/9/97; 3/10/97; 9/8/98; 9/9/98; 5/5/99; 18/8/99; 18/6/2001; 23/1/2002; 14/5/2003; 24/9/2004; 6/7/2005; 8/10/2005; 17/12/2007;

Minot AFB: 14/4/70; 17/4/70; 19/6/70; 19/8/70; 29/12/70; 8/1/71; 24/3/71; 27/2/76; 23/11/81; 17/6/93; 24/6/96; 30/7/2001; 17/1/2007; 30/1/2007;

Misawa AB, Japan: 24/7/51; 28/5/52; 7/6/52; 10/7/52; 18/6/96;

Mildenhall AB, England: 26/11/76; 31/3/82; 14/4/86; 2/2/96; 25/5/96; 23/5/97;

Mitchel Field, N. Y.: 15/7/20; 25/11/20; 7/3/24; 1/8/26; 24/9/29; 19/8/38; 26/2/40;

Model Airways: 13/2/21; 5/8/22;

Mojave Airport, California: 1/2/97;

Moody AFB: 10/7/80; 7/8/2007; 21/8/2007;

Moron AB, Spain: 7/1/95;

Morris Park Airfield, N. Y.: 10/6/08; 3/11/08; 26/6/09;

Mountain Home AFB: 1/6/61; 1/4/65; 10/11/65; 11/2/66; 5/11/81;

Muniz ANG Base, Puerto Rico: 12/1/81;

Muroc Field: 1/10/42; 8/1/44; 15/4/46; 6/8/46; 18/9/48; 19/6/47; 14/10/47; 21/10/47; 12/1/48; 10/3/48; 9/5/49; 22/11/49;

Murted AB, Turkey: 21/10/87;

Myrtle Beach AFB: 2/3/71; 9/3/77; 31/3/93 (Closed).

Naha AB, Japan: 9/3/59; 21/6/60; 17/8/63; 13/10/68; 31/3/80 (all facilities released to Japan).

Nakon Panom RTAFB: 28/2/68;

Nellis AFB: 21/9/60; 15/2/61; 9/1/66; 10/3/66; 16/10/67; 29/10/75; 29/11/75; 19/1/76; 18/2/94; 29/7/95; 3/9/96; 21/2/2001; 4/10/2006; 3/2/2007;

Nevada Test Site: 28/1/68;

Nichols Field, Luzon, Philippines: 20/9/41;

Norton AFB: 1/10/79; 18/5/80; 4/9/81; 25/3/68; 18/3/94 (Closed).

Offutt AFB: 15/3/49; 15/8/59; 1/7/60; 28/3/61; 1/10/64; 15/12/64; 12/3/80; 30/1/85; 24/7/90; 11/1/2007;

O'Hare ARS: 23/10/99;

Orlando AFB: 20/6/68;

Osan AB, Korea: 26/2/60; 22/10/62; 15/4/69; 19/8/76; 24/1/78; 10/9/80; 5/4/86;

Otis AFB (later ANGB): 4/12/57; 11/9/2001;



Patrick AFB: 15/12/57; 27/6/58; 1/1/74; 10/1/90; 2/7/98; 4/8/2007;  
Pease AFB (later ANGB): 21/12/65; 11/2/66; 16/12/70; 1/1/73; 19/4/2003;  
Peterson AFB, Colorado: 12/3/81; 5/8/2000;  
Phan Rang, South Vietnam: 8/6/68; 6/10/69;  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia: 11/1/75;  
Pinecastle AFB: 17/2/58;  
Pisa AB, Italy: 26/11/76;  
Pitcairn Field, Willow Grove, Pa.: 19/12/28; 8/4/31;  
Pittsburg International Airport Air Reserve Station: 22/1/2000;  
Plattsburgh AFB: 17/11/57; 1/10/61; 20/12/62; 12/1/65;  
Pleiku Airfield, Vietnam: 29/10/65; 23/12/65;  
Pohang Airfield, South Korea: 14/7/50;  
Point Arguello: 20/11/63;  
Point Mugu: 29/1/58; 16/9/58; 18/12/58; 12/4/62; 7/10/64; 4/9/87; 24/1/2002;  
Pope AFB: 15/9/50; 17/11/64; 29/5/65; 1/9/66; 18/9/70; 16/6/71; 31/1/77; 29/1/78; 13/8/78; 5/4/96;  
15/1/98; 5/3/99; 9/9/2000; 23/8/2004; 10/9/2005; 29/8/2005; 27/7/2007;  
Presque Isle AFB: 21/3/57; 27/5/59; 18/3/60; 28/2/61; 25/6/61;  
Prince Sultan AB, Saudi Arabia: 28/4/2003; 7/4/2007;  
Puerto Rico: 21/3/39;  
Pyongyang Airfield, N. Korea: 28/11/50;  
Quonset State Airport: 3/12/2001;  
RAF Bentwaters, United Kingdom: 30/9/93;  
RAF Greenham Common, United Kingdom: 1/7/82; 31/5/91;  
RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom: 1/3/77; 20/11/80; 14/4/86; 25/5/96;  
RAF Woodbridge, United Kingdom: 20/8/93 (returned to the British)  
Ramstein AB, Germany: 7/8/75; 26/11/76; 14/10/77; 23/4/80; 31/3/94; 21/7/94; 9/8/98; 9/12/98;  
1/2/2001; 8/10/2001; 31/10/2001; 19/4/2003; 14/5/2003; 30/5/2003; 20/9/2005; 30/9/2005;  
10/10/2005; 21/3/2007;  
Randolph Field (later AFB): 30/10/26; 20/6/30; 8/7/40; 10/2/58; 17/3/61; 15/4/96; 31/5/96; 12/3/98;  
2/3/2000; 5/11/2005; 6/4/2007; 31/8/2007;  
Rapid City AFB: 26/6/48; 2/6/50;  
RAF Marham, England: 4/5/70;  
Reese AFB: 17/2/78; 9/3/79; 30/9/97 (closed)  
Rhein-Main AB, Germany: 28/4/67; 26/11/76; 1/7/85; 27/7/86; 8/12/95; 10/10/2005;  
Richards-Gebaur AFB: 30/9/94 (Closed).  
Rickenbacker AFB: 18/4/75; 17/6/86; 30/9/94 (Closed).  
Robins AFB, Ga.: 11/2/77; 15/9/82; 19/4/84; 10/11/88; 3/10/95; 6/8/2001; 17/9/2002; 23/3/2005;  
7/2/2007;

Rockwell Field, San Diego, Calif.: 1/6/19; 5/10/22; 20/4/23;

Rogers Dry Lake: 12/4/81; 22/3/82; 9/1/90; 14/11/97; 30/3/2000; 19/5/2001; 13/8/2004; 14/9/2005; 26/7/2006;

Roosevelt Field, N. Y.: 29/12/21;

Roswell AFB, N. Mex.: 19/7/48;

San Isidro Air Station, Dominican Republic: 3/11/2007;

Savannah Army Air Base: 28/1/42;

Schilling AFB: 24/10/56; 4/1/61; 24/7/61; 9/9/62;

Scott Field (later AFB): 15/9/25; 30/3/31; 11/2/62; 20/6/68; 10/8/68; 20/2/72; 15/6/74; 18/5/80; 8/6/80; 1/1/83; 1/3/83; 1/1/84; 25/10/85; 1/4/92; 1/4/97; 2/4/97; 13/8/98; 23/10/99; 11/1/2002; 7/4/2003; 11/8/2003; 23/7/2004; 26/2/2007;

Selfridge Field (later AFB): 21/1/11; 13/10/22; 7/2/23; 5/3/23; 19/10/35; 14/7/48; 1/7/71;

Sembach AB, Germany: 29/8/84; 6/5/87;

Seven-Mile Airdrome, New Guinea: 15/9/42;

Seymour-Johnson AFB: 21/9/60; 18/12/61; 6/6/62; 1/10/70; 7/4/72; 30/9/89; 14/2/91; 16/12/96; 7/2/2007;

Shaw AFB: 31/1/56; 6/5/56; 24/9/64; 8/3/85; 3/3/86; 1/9/86; 4/10/2006; 7/2/2007;

Sheppard AFB: 25/8/66; 1/10/80; 21/10/81; 7/8/82;

Spangdahlem AB, Germany: 4/4/69; 6/8/70; 28/3/79; 29/4/85; 10/10/2005; 29/10/2007;

Signal Corps Aviation Station, Mineola, N. Y.: 6/9/16;

Sinuiju Airfield, N. Korea: 27/8/50; 14/10/50; 15/10/50; 1/11/50; 23/1/51; 9/5/51; 4/5/52; 13/5/52;

Smoky Hill Army Airfield (later AFB): 27/11/43;

Sperry Flying Field: 6/3/18;

Soesterberg AB: 13/1/94 (Returned to the Netherlands 29/9/94).

Souda Bay, Crete: 15/3/2003;

Stewart ANGB: 26/12/2004;

Suffolk AFB: 4/12/57;

Suwon AB, South Korea: 5/1/51; 30/1/51; 12/2/51; 3/6/51; 22/12/52; 30/12/52;

Taegu AB, South Korea: 14/7/50; 15/7/50; 1/8/50; 7/8/50; 11/8/50; 28/9/50; 2/10/50; 29/12/50; 23/1/51; 6/2/51; 13/2/51; 29/8/69; 19/8/76;

Tachikawa AB, Japan: 28/6/50; 11/8/50; 6/2/51; 15/4/69; (returned to Japan, 30/11/77).

Takhli RTAFB, Thailand: 13/5/62; 10/3/67; (returned to Thailand 12/9/74).

Tan Son Nhut AB, Vietnam: 20/10/61; 2/1/62; 25/4/67; 14/8/71; 10/9/71; 29/4/72; 23/10/72;

Tay Ninh, Vietnam: 9/4/67;

Tazar AB, Hungary: 26/5/99;

Tengah AB, Singapore: 28/7/80;

Tinker AFB: 19/10/64; 28/2/68; 19/7/84; 7/2/2007; 29/6/2007;

Thule AB, Greenland: 1/3/51; 18/9/52; 1/10/60;

Thumrait AB, Oman: 3/12/2001;

Tonopah Test Range, Nevada: 18/6/81; 16/1/87;

Trapani AB, Sicily: 17/5/99; 21/6/99;

Travis AFB: 13/2/59; 28/2/62; 23/4/65; 1/2/66; 12/4/66; 27/8/66; 14/11/66; 17/1/67; 30/7/71; 24/11/75; 27/4/78; 25/5/84; 24/10/93; 24/10/93; 26/6/94; 2/2/96; 19/1/97; 2/3/97; 14/9/97; 9/9/98; 5/3/99; 17/11/99; 19/12/2000; 31/1/2001; 11/1/2002; 20/7/2002; 24/10/2002; 4/11/2003; 7/6/2004; 5/8/2005; 16/9/2005; 1/11/2007;

Tsuiki AB, Japan: 13/8/50;

Turner AFB: 4/7/52; 20/8/53; 31/5/56;

Tuy Hoa AB, Vietnam: 10/6/67;

Twenthe AB, Netherlands: 29/4/76;

Tyndall AFB: 17/7/67; 24/3/70; 9/12/88;

Ubon RTAFB, Thailand: 10/7/65; 22/2/68; 15/9/70; 15/10/70; 12/4/72;

Udorn RTAFB, Thailand: 17/5/64; 30/9/68; 5/7/74; 31/1/76 (reverted to Thai control).

Upper Heyford: 3/2/84; 14/4/86; 29/9/94 (Returned to England).

Utah Test and Training Range: 16/5/80; 27/1/82; 19/5/82; 23/9/94; 28/4/99; 29/7/99; 18/4/2003; 14/8/2003; 10/9/2003; 26/3/2004;

U-Tapao AB, Thailand: 10/4/67; 24/9/68; 11/4/73;

Vandenberg AFB: 1/1/58; 1/4/58; 16/10/58; 16/12/58; 18/2/59; 28/2/59; 13/4/59; 16/4/59; 1/7/59; 23/7/59; 1/9/59; 9/9/59; 6/10/59; 31/10/59; 4/11/59; 28/5/60; 22/6/60; 1/7/60; 12/11/60; 7/12/60; 16/12/60; 3/5/61; 19/6/61; 23/9/61; 13/10/61; 20/1/62; 28/2/62; 1/6/62; 18/6/62; 26/6/62; 19/7/62; 1/8/62; 9/8/62; 28/9/62; 22/12/62; 11/4/63; 28/4/63; 24/5/63; 23/9/63; 17/10/63; 23/1/64; 25/2/64; 29/2/64; 1/5/64; 27/8/64; 18/1/65; 21/1/65; 5/3/65; 12/3/65; 24/3/65; 18/8/65; 24/8/65; 7/12/65; 24/2/66; 1/4/66; 20/4/66; 3/10/66; 13/12/66; 21/12/66; 22/12/66; 7/11/67; 8/2/67; 17/4/67; 6/7/67; 12/31/67; 18/3/69; 11/4/69; 16/4/69; 4/1/70; 4/8/70; 29/8/70; 22/10/70; 23/12/70; 24/3/71; 6/8/71; 13/4/72; 19/9/72; 16/3/74; 15/11/74; 15/3/75; 4/12/75; 9/1/76; 27/1/76; 27/2/76; 27/6/76; 26/8/76; 26/10/76; 6/1/78; 22/2/78; 15/2/79; 24/2/79; 10/7/79; 14/7/80; 17/9/80; 4/9/81; 15/7/82; 17/6/83; 14/10/83; 15/6/84; 1/10/84; 4/2/85; 30/6/85; 23/8/85; 7/3/86; 31/8/86; 22/10/85; 11/4/90; 3/8/91; 18/4/91; 13/3/94; 24/3/95; 1/10/2001; 30/5/2001; 14/7/2001; 20/5/2005; 26/8/2005; 22/9/2005; 19/10/2005; 15/12/2005;

Van Air Field, Turkey: 26/11/76;

Wendover AFB: 11/6/45;

Westover AFB or Field: 31/7/52; 26/6/54; 15/9/54; 11/11/57; 27/6/58; 24/9/58; 21/12/65; 17/10/2005;

Wheeler Field (later AFB), Hawaii: 7/12/41; 17/10/80;

Wheeler-Sack: 8/1/52;

Wheelus AB, Libya: 8/10/69;

Whiteman AFB: 7/5/66; 3/4/67; 3/10/67; 10/10/67; 22/1/80; 4/2/85; 5/3/86; 17/12/93; 17/8/94; 31/8/94; 29/10/94; 30/12/94; 9/6/95; 15/5/96; 3/7/96; 7/10/96; 11/11/96; 1/2/97; 19/3/97; 1/4/97; 23/5/97; 29/5/97; 22/12/97; 23/2/98; 15/7/2000; 28/7/2001; 7/10/2001; 18/12/2007;

White Sands: 20/2/45; 26/9/45; 11/10/45; 22/5/46; 24/11/47; 6/2/48; 13/5/48; 26/5/48; 16/11/59; 29/7/69; 22/7/71; 15/6/72; 5/3/76; 28/6/78; 22/3/82; 31/1/97; 31/5/2001;

Weisbaden AB, Germany: 14/1/76 (USAF operations ended).

Williams AFB: 6/8/66; 26/8/76; 2/9/77; 30/9/93 (Closed).

Woensdrecht, Netherlands: 1/11/85;

Wright-Patterson AFB (Wright Field): 12/10/27; 3/2/28; 16/6/28; 10/10/28; 9/1/29; 23/8/37; 30/7/39; 12/8/41; 30/1/46; 8/8/47; 30/11/59; 17/2/65; 20/4/66; 4/2/69; 17/9/70; 30/6/75; 29/6/93; 1/11/95; 16/4/97; 25/9/97; 12/3/98; 8/7/98; 5/8/2000; 13/10/2000; 2/11/2000; 11/10/2001; 10/1/2002; 30/9/2005; 14/10/2005; 6/5/2006;

Wueschheim Air Station, Germany: 8/12/87; 1/6/93 (Closed).

Wurtsmith AFB: 9/5/61; 29/11/89; 30/6/93 (Closed).

Yokota AB, Japan: 4/7/52; 18/5/55; 12/9/58; 5/8/64; 19/10/79; 19/1/95; 4/3/95; 28/9/95;

Yonpo Airfield, N. Korea: 18/11/50;

Yonil AB, S. Korea: 13/8/50;

Youngstown Air Reserve Station: 30/5/2003;

Zweibrücken AB, Germany: 6/12/85;

## **AIRLIFT OPERATIONS**

Airlift Support: 7/11/10; 7/9/18; 5/10/18; 16/9/19; 31/3/31; 11/1/32; 17/1/32; 10/2/33; 23/1/40; 29/5/41; 28/8/42; 15/9/42; 1/12/42; 17/8/43; 11/3/44; 10/9/44; 17/9/44; 7/5/45; 30/8/45; 26/6/48; 31/12/48; 16/4/49; 12/5/49; 18/8/49; 30/9/49; 2/8/50; 11/8/50; 26/8/50; 12/10/50; 17/10/50; 20/10/50; 25/10/50; 20/11/50; 5/12/50; 7/12/50; 10/12/50; 20/12/50; 6/1/51; 17/1/51; 24/1/51; 30/1/51; 12/2/51; 13/2/51; 3/4/51; 23/3/51; 27/9/51; 30/9/51; 31/10/51; 30/11/51; 31/12/51; 31/1/52; 28/2/52; 31/3/52; 17/5/52; 10/7/52; 25/8/52; 21/4/53; 27/7/53; 6/8/53; 12/5/54; 26/6/54; 2/7/55; 22/6/56; 8/10/56; 26/10/56; 9/11/56; 7/12/56; 4/1/57; 26/9/59; 31/3/60; 23/5/60; 21/6/60; 8/7/60; 13/8/60; 4/9/61; 3/11/61; 1/9/62; 14/10/62; 2/11/62; 22/12/63; 28/3/64; 4/4/64; 30/4/65; 22/5/64; 26/6/64; 22/12/64; 2/5/65; 29/5/65; 17/9/65; 29/10/65; 1/12/65; 23/12/65; 1/2/66; 5/4/66; 12/4/66; 14/4/66; 30/6/66; 27/8/66; 11/11/66; 9/4/67; 6/6/67; 9/6/67; 10/6/67; 21/1/68; 22/1/68; 27/1/68; 28/1/68; 13/2/68; 28/4/68; 12/5/68; 18/5/68; 31/7/68; 1/8/68; 21/8/68; 1/10/68; 12/1/69; 1/2/69; 14/5/69; 17/8/69; 8/10/69; 17/1/70; 4/8/70; 18/9/70; 27/9/70; 18/11/70; 5/12/70; 18/11/70; 20/11/70; 27/2/71; 12/5/72; 16/6/71; 30/7/71; 14/8/71; 12/9/71; 14/9/71; 14/4/72; 7/4/72; 29/4/72; 6/5/72; 21/7/72; 29/3/73; 11/4/73; 15/5/73; 15/7/73; 20/8/73; 14/10/73; 14/10/73; 29/7/74; 9/8/74; 19/8/74; 26/8/74; 19/9/74; 1/12/74; 11/1/75; 25/3/75; 29/3/75; 6/4/75; 19/4/75; 29/4/75; 15/5/75; 7/8/75; 7/9/75; 6/10/75; 24/11/75; 9/3/76; 22/5/76; 21/7/76; 19/8/76; 26/11/76; 31/1/77; 7/3/77; 15/3/77; 27/4/77; 19/6/77; 14/10/77; 29/1/78; 8/2/78; 25/2/78; 16/5/78; 31/5/78; 13/8/78; 14/8/78; 21/9/78; 22/11/78; 19/11/78; 9/12/78; 31/3/79; 3/4/79; 13/4/79; 15/4/79; 19/4/79; 10/8/79; 30/8/79; 19/10/79; 2/12/79; 19/12/79; 2/1/80; 18/5/80; 8/6/80; 22/6/80; 29/7/80; 7/8/80; 12/10/80; 20/10/80; 25/11/80; 26/11/80; 16/1/81; 18/1/81; 30/7/81; 6/7/82; 6/8/82; 14/11/81; 13/12/82; 24/12/82; 1/4/83; 5/4/83; 26/6/83; 25/7/83; 5/8/83; 15/8/83; 3/9/83; 23/10/83; 25/10/83; 1/11/83; 4/11/83; 24/2/84; 19/3/84; 16/5/84; 25/5/84; 15/6/84; 7/8/84; 19/8/84; 19/9/84; 11/10/84; 23/10/84; 19/11/84; 11/12/84; 20/12/84; 22/12/84; 5/1/85; 18/1/85; 19/1/85; 3/2/85; 5/3/85; 1/7/85; 4/7/85; 12/8/85; 21/9/85; 15/11/85; 12/12/85; 1/3/86; 5/3/86; 5/4/86; 19/7/86; 27/8/86; 5/9/86; 18/9/86; 22/9/86; 11/10/86; 7/12/86; 13/2/87; 25/2/87; 24/6/87; 31/8/87; 5/12/87; 25/1/88; 19/2/88; 17/3/88; 5/4/88; 1/7/88; 10/8/88; 15/8/88; 22/8/88; 25/8/88; 10/9/88; 12/9/88; 25/10/88; 9/11/88; 16/11/88; 30/11/88; 10/12/88; 27/12/89; 7/1/89; 5/3/89; 27/3/89; 11/5/89; 16/5/89; 9/6/89; 19/9/89; 4/10/89; 17/10/89; 29/12/89; 23/2/90; 27/6/90; 17/7/90; 8/8/90; 21/2/91; 28/2/91; 1/3/91; 11/3/91; 5/4/91; 27/4/91; 11/5/91; 14/6/91; 25/6/91; 7/7/91; 21/7/91; 22/7/91; 6/8/91; 24/9/91; 27/9/91; 1/10/91; 2/10/91; 23/10/91; 6/12/91; 17/12/91; 20/1/92; 6/2/92; 10/2/92; 29/2/92; 15/3/92; 1/4/92; 18/4/92; 3/5/92; 4/6/92; 30/6/92; 3/7/92; 2/8/92; 12/8/92; 18/8/92; 14/8/92; 25/8/92; 31/8/92; 1/9/92; 12/9/92; 13/9/92; 23/10/92; 25/10/92; 4/11/92; 6/12/92; 9/12/92; 13/1/93; 2/2/93; 13/2/93; 28/2/93; 17/5/93; 2/7/93; 5/7/93; 11/7/93; 11/8/93; 15/8/93; 2/10/93; 5/10/93; 8/10/93; 24/10/93; 4/1/94; 17/1/94; 5/2/94; 25/3/94; 6/4/94; 10/4/94; 7/5/94; 9/5/94; 11/5/94; 22/6/94; 26/6/94; 24/7/94;

23/8/94; 24/8/94; 30/8/94; 31/8/94; 8/9/94; 10/10/94; 14/10/94; 30/10/94; 6/11/94; 21/11/94;  
21/12/94; 7/1/95; 19/1/95; 1/2/95; 3/2/95; 8/4/95; 19/4/95; 10/5/95; 30/6/95; 23/7/95; 13/8/95;  
17/8/95; 20/8/95; 25/8/95; 6/9/95; 14/9/95; 15/9/95; 16/9/95; 3/10/95; 6/12/95; 8/12/95; 24/12/95;  
9/1/96; 31/1/96; 2/2/96; 5/3/96; 17/8/96; 4/9/96; 5/9/96; 15/9/96; 19/1/97; 18/2/97; 17/3/97; 2/4/97;  
18/4/97; 17/6/97; 5/8/97; 22/8/97; 3/10/97; 18/12/97; 30/12/97; 10/1/98; 15/1/98; 16/1/98; 8/2/98;  
9/3/98; 12/3/98; 10/6/98; 2/7/98; 8/7/98; 9/8/98; 13/8/98; 9/9/98; 21/9/98; 11/10/98; 12/11/98;  
9/12/98; 16/12/98; 24/3/99; 4/4/99; 5/5/99; 10/6/99; 11/7/99; 18/8/99; 20/9/99; 15/10/99; 20/12/99;  
4/1/2000; 1/3/2000; 17/4/2000; 25/7/2000; 9/9/2000; 13/10/2000; 31/1/2001; 17/3/2001; 16/5/2001;  
10/6/2001; 31/10/2001; 10/12/2001; 5/1/2002; 10/1/2002; 16/1/2002; 23/1/2002; 9/12/2002;  
10/7/2002; 20/7/2002; 11/9/2002; 24/10/2002; 28/10/2002; 30/5/2003; 17/6/2003; 21/10/2003;  
7/11/2003; 27/12/2003; 11/9/2004; 23/9/2004; 4/2/2005; 26/12/2004; 11/4/2005; 1/6/2005;  
18/6/2005; 29/7/2005; 29/8/2005; 11/9/2005; 8/10/2005; 10/10/2005; 28/2/2006; 29/4/2006;  
7/12/2006; 20/12/2006; 16/2/2007; 7/3/2007; 24/5/2007; 25/5/2007; 20/8/2007; 11/9/2007;  
1/11/2007; 3/11/2007;

Aeromedical Evacuations: 10/10/50; 17/10/50; 21/10/50; 1/12/50; 5/12/50; 29/10/50;  
6/2/51; 13/2/51; 15/2/51; 23/3/51; 19/10/51; 10/7/52; 6/11/52; 22/12/52; 6/4/66; 1/7/66;  
8/8/69; 12/2/73; 18/1/81; 11/10/86; 28/2/91; 1/10/92; 2/2/93; 5/4/96; 11/7/99; 22/1/2000;  
20/11/2001; 11/1/2002; 11/8/2003; 20/3/2006; 29/4/2006; 21/3/2007;

African Relief: 8/7/60; 18/5/68; 17/1/70; 15/5/73; 7/9/75; 15/3/77; 27/4/77; 14/10/77;  
16/5/78; 31/5/78; 22/11/78; 10/8/79; 19/12/79; 13/4/79; 12/10/80; 30/7/81; 6/7/82;  
25/7/83; 15/8/83; 19/3/84; 19/9/84; 22/12/84; 19/1/85; 5/3/85; 12/8/85; 27/8/86; 10/8/88;  
25/8/88; 28/8/88; 9/11/88; 16/11/88; 30/11/88; 5/3/89; 23/2/90; 21/2/91; 25/6/91; 7/7/91;  
24/9/91; 14/11/91; 27/9/91; 3/5/92; 12/8/92; 14/8/92; 13/9/92; 23/10/92; 9/12/92; 25/8/93;  
5/10/93; 24/10/93; 25/3/94; 6/4/94; 10/4/94; 7/5/94; 11/5/94; 22/6/94; 24/7/94; 7/1/95;  
10/5/95; 4/9/96; 18/2/97; 17/3/97; 9/8/98; 13/8/98; 1/3/2000; 16/5/2001; 30/5/2003;  
7/11/2003; 7/12/2006;

Antarctica: 26/10/56; 1/4/92; 26/3/98; 11/7/99; 18/2/99; 15/10/99; 10/12/2001; 4/2/2005;  
28/2/2006; 20/12/2006; 7/3/2007; 20/8/2007; 18/12/2007;

Asian Relief: 3/6/58; 26/9/59; 16/6/71; 11/4/73; 20/8/73; 19/8/74; 26/8/74; 6/4/75; 19/8/76;  
22/6/80; 16/5/84; 1/3/86; 5/9/86; 10/9/88; 22/7/91; 6/8/91; 2/10/91; 23/10/91; 17/12/91;  
20/1/92; 6/12/92; 13/2/93; 17/5/93; 11/8/93; 2/10/93; 14/9/95; 17/6/97; 16/1/98; 3/2/2001;  
24/10/2002; 23/9/2004; 26/12/2004; 11/4/2005; 8/10/2005;

Berlin Airlift (Vittles): 26/6/48; 23/7/48; 31/12/48; 16/4/49; 12/5/49; 18/8/49; 30/9/49;  
26/8/50; 11/9/2004; 11/9/2005; 11/9/2007;

Caribbean Relief: 2/5/65; 29/5/65; 1/12/65; 8/9/94; 3/2/95; 16/9/95; 31/1/96; 21/9/98;  
3/11/2007;

Central American Relief: 31/7/68; 1/8/68; 19/7/69; 20/11/70; 5/4/88; 11/5/89; 16/5/89;

Cyclone/Hurricane/Typhoon Relief: 14/9/44; 17/11/49; 26/9/59; 3/11/61; 2/11/62;  
23/12/64; 17/8/69; 17/1/70; 4/8/70; 21/2/71; 12/9/71; 26/9/71; 13/5/76; 22/5/76; 28/3/79;  
30/8/79; 2/12/79; 2/1/80; 7/8/80; 10/9/80; 19/8/84; 19/1/85; 7/12/86; 13/2/87; 5/12/87;  
19/2/88; 12/9/88; 19/9/89; 11/5/91; 6/12/91; 25/8/92; 1/9/92; 12/9/92; 24/8/94; 15/9/95;  
4/10/95; 16/10/95; 5/9/96; 18/12/97; 21/9/98; 27/10/98; 14/9/99; 9/12/2002; 29/8/2005;  
30/8/2005; 2/9/2005; 4/9/2005; 19/9/2005; 21/9/2005;

Drought Relief: 28/4/68; 19/7/86;

Earthquake Relief: 31/3/31; 6/2/39; 29/2/60; 23/5/60; 1/9/62; 28/3/64; 4/4/64; 16/1/68;  
30/3/70; 2/6/70; 4/2/76; 26/11/76; 7/3/77; 15/4/79; 19/4/79; 2/1/80; 12/10/80; 26/11/80;

13/12/82; 24/12/82; 1/11/83; 1/4/83; 3/2/85; 21/9/85; 11/10/86; 10/12/88; 17/10/89;  
17/7/90; 15/3/92; 2/10/93; 17/1/94; 19/1/95; 16/1/98; 11/10/98; 18/8/99; 31/1/2001;  
30/5/2003; 27/12/2003; 8/10/2005;

European Relief: 1/11/83; 10/12/88; 1/3/91; 21/7/91; 6/2/92; 10/2/92; 29/2/92; 18/4/92;  
3/7/92; 31/8/92; 25/10/92; 4/11/92; 28/2/93; 5/7/93; 8/10/93; 4/1/94; 5/2/94; 8/5/94;  
26/6/94; 17/12/94; 8/4/95; 23/7/95; 13/8/95; 20/8/95; 6/9/95; 8/12/95; 24/12/95; 9/1/96;  
2/2/96; 3/10/97; 4/4/99; 17/4/2000;

Fire Relief: 22/6/15; 1/6/19; 22/12/63; 15/8/77; 15/9/79; 29/7/80; 4/10/80; 25/11/80;  
23/10/84; 5/4/85; 4/7/85; 8/8/75; 21/11/80; 5/4/86; 31/8/87; 22/8/88; 31/7/89; 27/6/90;  
1/3/91; 27/6/94; 2/7/98; 25/7/2000; 21/10/2003; 5/5/2004; 28/10/2006; 29/10/2007;

Flood Relief: 16/9/19; 3/2/53; 2/4/54; 31/3/60; 26/6/64; 22/12/64; 11/11/66; 13/8/67;  
29/2/68; 16/5/68; 18/5/68; 21/8/68; 8/10/69; 11/4/70; 18/11/70; 20/11/70; 21/7/72;  
19/8/72; 20/8/73; 16/1/74; 19/8/74; 26/8/74; 30/8/74; 17/6/75; 7/8/75; 1/8/76; 14/8/78;  
23/10/78; 20/10/80; 5/4/83; 26/6/83; 24/7/83; 4/10/83; 15/6/84; 2/9/84; 18/2/86; 10/9/88;  
11/5/91; 6/12/92; 11/7/93; 11/8/93; 30/10/94; 6/11/94; 8/5/95; 18/4/97; 20/12/99;  
4/1/2000; 1/3/2000; 10/6/2001; 26/12/2004;

Middle East Relief: 25/8/52; 9/11/56; 6/6/67; 10/6/67; 27/9/70; 18/11/70; 14/10/73;  
21/9/78; 9/12/78; 6/8/82; 7/8/84; 11/12/84; 27/7/86; 27/4/91; 5/3/96; 15/9/96; 27/12/2003;

Mediterranean Relief: 9/8/74;

Pacific Relief: 21/7/72; 18/9/86; 22/9/86; 25/2/87; 25/10/88; 5/8/97; 16/1/2002;

Snow Relief: 23/1/49; 27/2/71; 31/1/77; 29/1/78; 8/2/78; 10/1/98; 15/1/98;

South American Relief: 14/5/69; 12/9/71; 1/4/83; 19/11/84; 3/2/85; 15/3/85; 21/9/85;  
15/11/85; 11/10/86; 17/3/88; 2/4/97; 20/12/99; 17/3/2001;

Southeast Asian Relief: 22/1/68; 3/10/95; 20/9/99;

Volcano Relief: 27/12/35; 20/3/44; 22/5/64; 31/7/68; 1/8/68; 19/3/71; 18/5/80; 15/11/85;  
14/6/91;

**Improved Container Delivery System (I-CDS):** 16/2/2007; 24/5/2007;

**Joint Precision Airdrop System (JPADS):** 16/2/2007; 24/5/2007;

**AVIATION CADET:** 3/6/41;

**COMMERCIAL AIRLINES:** 1/1/14; 28/8/19; 1/11/20; 12/2/21; 14/7/22; 13/4/25; 1/9/27; 7/7/29;  
21/10/29; 25/10/30; 19/12/33; 15/1/35; 21/10/36; 4/11/36; 22/4/38; 26/3/39; 26/3/40; 8/7/40;  
13/12/41; 24/10/45; 26/11/45; 3/12/45; 20/1/46; 1/3/46; 8/3/46; 15/12/46; 8/4/47; 9/4/47; 5/2/49;  
26/10/49; 13/2/51; 15/2/53; 7/3/54; 13/5/58; 25/1/59; 23/7/59; 3/1/60; 7/1/60; 12/2/60; 9/2/62;  
13/1/70; 13/10/70;

Aeromarine West Indies Airlines: 1/11/20;

Aeromarine Airways: 1/7/22;

Air Freight Services: 21/8/43;

American: 15/1/35; 24/10/45; 8/4/47; 25/1/59; 3/1/60; 7/1/60;

Central Airlines: 31/12/34;

Colonial Flying Service: 21/10/29;

Delta: 12/2/60;

Eastern: 22/4/38; 3/1/60; 18/1/91 (Out of Business).

Lawson Air Line: 28/8/19;

National Airlines: 15/12/46; 10/12/58;

North American Aviation: 22/4/38; 30/7/48; 14/10/53;

Northwest: 15/2/53;

Northwest Orient: 7/3/54;

Pan American: 19/12/33; 16/4/35; 29/11/35; 21/10/36; 4/11/36; 30/3/37; 26/3/39; 20/5/39; 30/8/39; 12/7/40; 1/9/40; 18/8/41; 2/12/41; 20/1/46; 1/3/46; 9/4/47; 18/1/49; 26/10/49; 12/11/50; 13/2/51; 27/11/54; 26/5/56; 13/1/70;

Quantas: 7/3/65;

Tower Air: 5/5/99;

Transcontinental Air Transport, Incorporated: 7/7/29; 25/10/30;

Trans World Airlines: 26/11/45; 3/12/45; 13/5/58; 3/1/60; 3/10/60; 1/7/85;

Virgin Atlantic: 24/11/2004;

Western Air, Incorporated: 25/10/30;

Winged Cargo, Incorporated: 24/4/46;

**AIRSHOWS:** 8/6/07; 3/11/08; 5/11/08; 26/6/09; 22/8/09; 28/8/09; 10/1/10; 19/8/10; 22/10/10; 2/2/11; 18/8/11; 25/5/96;

Air Fete: 25/5/96;

Boston Air Meet: 4/9/11;

Chicago Air Meet: 18/8/11; 20/8/11;

Indianapolis Air Meet: 13/6/10;

Le Grande Semaine d'Aviation de Champagne Flying Meet: 22/8/09;

Los Angeles Flying Meet: 10/1/10; 12/1/10;

Moisant International Aviators: 2/2/11;

National Aircraft Show: 2/9/56;

**ARCTIC:** 4/8/25; 9/1/56;

**ANTARCTIC:** 3/1/35; 29/1/47; 9/1/56; 31/10/56; 20/11/56; 25/11/56; 1/10/63; 14/11/66; 21/6/82; 21/6/84; 10/1/88; 4/10/89; 1/4/92; 7/2/94;

## **ASTRONAUTS**

Aldrin, Jr., Col Edwin E.: 11/11/66; 13/10/67; 16/7/69; 20/7/69; 29/4/70; 6/5/70; 19/5/70;

Anders, Lt Col William A.: 21/12/68; 12/3/70;

Anderson, Michael P.: 16/1/2003;

Armstrong, Neil A.: 16/3/66; 16/7/69; 20/7/69; 29/4/70; 6/5/70; 19/5/70;  
Ashby, Capt Jeffrey S.: 7/10/2002;  
Bean, Alan L.: 14/11/69;  
Bobko, Karol: 3/10/87;  
Borman, Col Frank: 4/12/65; 16/2/66; 6/8/66; 21/12/68; 12/3/70;  
Brand, Vance: 3/2/84;  
Brown, David M.: 16/1/2003;  
Carpenter, Lt Cmdr M. Scott: 24/5/62;  
Cernan, Lt Cmdr Eugene A.: 3/6/66; 7/12/72;  
Chaffee, Lt Cmdr Roger B.: 27/1/67;  
Chawla, Kalpana: 16/1/2003;  
Clark, Laura B.: 16/1/2003;  
Collins, Eileen: 3/2/95; 23/7/99; 26/7/2005;  
Collins, Col Michael (retired as Maj Gen): 18/7/66; 16/7/69; 29/4/70; 6/5/70; 19/5/70; 26/1/82;  
Conrad, Jr., Charles: 21/8/65; 12/9/66; 14/11/69;  
Cooper, L. Gordon: 15/5/63; 16/9/64; 21/9/64; 21/8/65; 16/2/66;  
Covey, Richard O.: 2/12/93;  
Crippen, Robert: 12/4/81;  
Duke, Charles M.: 20/4/72;  
Dunbar, Bonnie: 9/1/90;  
Duffy, Col Brian: 24/10/2000;  
Eisele, Don F.: 11/10/68;  
Engle, Joseph H.: 29/6/65; 14/11/81;  
Evans, Ronald E.: 7/12/72;  
Fullerton, Gordon: 22/3/82; 5/4/90;  
Garriott, Owen K.: 6/8/66;  
Glenn, John H.: 16/7/57; 21/2/61; 20/2/62; 22/3/63; 29/10/98;  
Gibson, Edward G.: 6/8/66;  
Gibson, Robert: 3/2/84;  
Gordon, Richard F.: 12/9/66; 14/11/69;  
Grabe, Ron: 3/10/87;  
Grissom, Lt Col Virgil I (Gus): 21/2/61; 21/7/61; 23/3/65; 27/1/67;  
Haise, Jr., Fred W.: 11/4/70;  
Hawley, Steven: 24/4/90;  
Hilmer, David: 3/10/87;  
Husband, Rick D.: 16/1/2003;



Irvin, Leslie L.: 28/4/19;  
Irvins, Marsha: 9/1/90;  
Irwin, James B.: 26/7/71;  
Jarvis, Gregory: 28/1/86;  
Knight, William J.: 16/11/66; 21/8/67; 3/10/67; 19/1/68; 26/3/68; 3/12/68; 27/3/2004;  
Lee, Maj Mark: 4/5/89;  
Lousma, Jack: 22/3/82;  
Lovell, (USN) Capt James A. Jr.: 4/12/65; 6/8/66; 11/11/66; 13/10/67; 21/12/68; 12/3/70; 11/4/70;  
Magnus, Sandra H.: 7/10/2002;  
Mattingly, Thomas: 11/4/70;  
McAuliffe, Christa: 28/1/86;  
McCool, William C.: 16/1/2003;  
McDivitt, James A.: 3/6/65; 3/3/69;  
McNair, Ronald E.: 28/1/86;  
Melroy, Col Pamela: 24/10/2000; 7/10/2002;  
Melvill, Michael: 21/6/2004;  
Onizuka, Lt Col Ellison S.: 28/1/86;  
Pailes, William: 3/10/87;  
Ramon, Ilan: 16/1/2003;  
Resnik, Judith: 28/1/86;  
Ride, Salley K.: 18/6/83;  
Rushworth, Maj Robert A.: 8/8/62; 27/6/63; 5/12/63;  
Schirra, Walter K. Jr.: 4/12/65; 6/8/66;  
Schmitt, Harrison H.: 6/8/66; 7/12/72;  
Schweickart, Russell L.: 3/3/69;  
Scobee, Francis R.: 28/1/86;  
Scott, David R.: 16/3/66; 3/3/69; 26/7/71;  
Sellers, Piers J.: 7/10/2002;  
Shaw, Lt Col Brewster: 26/11/85;  
Shepard, Cmdr Alan B.: 21/2/61; 5/5/61; 5/2/71;  
Shepherd, Bill: 31/10/2000;  
Slayton, Donald: 15/7/75;  
Smith, James F.: 28/4/19;  
Smith, Cmdr Michael J.: 28/1/86;  
Stafford, Lt Col Thomas P.: 4/12/65; 16/2/66; 3/6/66; 6/8/66; 15/7/75  
Stewart, Robert: 3/10/87;

Swigert, John L.: 11/4/70;  
Truly, Richard: 14/11/81;  
Walker, Joseph A: 17/1/63; 30/10/64;  
White, Lt Col Edward H.: 3/6/65; 7/1/66; 1/7/66; 27/1/67;  
White, Robert M.: 12/8/60; 17/7/62; 19/7/62;  
Wolf, Dr. David A.: 25/9/97; 7/10/2002;  
Worden, Alfred M.: 26/7/71;  
Young, Cmdr John W.: 23/3/65; 18/7/66; 20/4/72; 12/4/81;

**AVIATION ACTS:** 17/7/08; 3/3/11; 19/12/12; 2/3/13; 21/4/13; 4/3/15; 3/6/16; 5/6/20; 2/2/25;  
14/2/31; 23/6/38; 22/8/38; 15/8/58; 1/1/68; 18/12/74; 5/3/86; 1/10/86;

## **AVIATORS**

Abrams, Richard: 19/9/75;  
Abruzzo, Ben: 10/11/81;  
Acosta, Bert B.: 3/11/21; 12/4/27; 29/6/27;  
Adams, Harold B.: 13/9/74;  
Adams, Michael J.: 15/11/67 (Died in X-15 crash)  
Akers, Lt Frank (USN): 1/5/34; 30/7/35;  
Alden, Henry W.: 28/1/08;  
Allen, Bryan: 23/8/77; 2/5/79;  
Allen, Eddie: 15/10/37;  
Allen, Howard: 2/9/38;  
Allen, W. H.: 5/9/44;  
Allison, Ernest M.: 22/2/21;  
Allison, Edgar L., Jr.: 20/2/72;  
Amen, W. T.: 9/11/50;  
Ammel, Capt Roy W.: 10/11/30;  
Anderegg, Col Clarence D.: 4/6/91;  
Anderson, Capt Orville A.: 28/7/34; 11/11/35;  
Anderson, Lt Cmdr W. D.: 1/7/41;  
Andre, Daniel: 1/5/65;  
Apt, Milburn G.: 27/9/56 [Died in aircraft crash, same day].  
Archbald, Richard: 25/6/37;  
Armstrong, Col Frank A.: 17/8/42;  
Armstrong, Maj J. L.: 3/9/54;  
Arnold, Eugene (FAA Pilot): 20/5/2003;

Arnold, Henry H.: 21/4/11; 13/5/11; 25/1/12; 5/7/12; 9/10/12; 6/10/13; 9/1/17; 20/4/23; 19/7/34; 29/9/38; 1/7/41; 9/3/42; 31/10/42; 19/3/43; 17/12/43; 21/12/44; 1/3/46; 2/6/49; 15/1/50 [Died of heart ailment].

Arnold, Lt Leslie P.: 6/4/24;

Ascani, Col Fred J.: 17/8/51;

Atwood, Harry N.: 14/8/11;

Attridge, Tom: 21/9/56;

Axtator, Karl S.: 15/6/28; 21/3/39;

Bacon, Cathy: 10/6/82;

Baer, Paul: 11/3/18;

Balchen, Bernt: 29/6/27; 28/11/29;

Baldwin, Frederick W. "Casey" (Canadian): 1/10/07; 12/3/08;

Baldwin, Thomas S.: 3/8/04; 5/2/05; 15/2/08; 24/2/08; 23/7/08; 4/8/08; 28/8/08;

Baldwin, Lt Col Timothy W.: 30/9/2005;

Balsley, H. Clyde: 18/6/16;

Balzer, Dick: 19/3/89;

Bakke, Capt Dan: 14/2/91;

Banks, Arthur J.: 27/9/38;

Barber, 1Lt Rex T.: 18/4/43;

Barksdale, Eugene Hoy: 7/3/24;

Barnes, Lt Col William F.: 16/7/53;

Barnett, Lt (USN) Ralph S.: 22/3/57;

Barrilleaux, James L. (Lockheed Martin test pilot): 19/11/98;

Barris, Bill: 26/4/49;

Bayley, Caro: 4/1/51;

Beachey, Lincoln: 5/8/11; 20/8/11; [died in aircraft accident 14/3/15].

Beaird, Henry G.: 23/5/66;

Beaudrault, Valmore: 2/10/44;

Beck, Arnold I.: 13/12/56;

Beck, Paul W.: 19/1/10; 15/1/11; 21/1/11; 24/5/12;

Beeseley, Jon (test pilot): 10/10/98;

Bell, Alexander Graham: 1/10/07; 6/12/07; 19/5/08; 21/6/08; 5/12/11;

Bellanger, John: 17/12/93;

Bellinger, Lt (JG) Patrick N. L.: 13/6/13; 25/4/14; 6/5/14; 16/4/15; 23/4/15;

Beltz, Stanley: 23/8/54;

Benefield, T.D.: 29/8/84;

Bennett, Floyd: 8/5/26;

Bennett, Capt Tim: 14/2/91;  
Berliner, Henry Adler: 25/4/22;  
Berry, Albert: 1/3/12;  
Bertaud, Lloyd: 29/12/21;  
Bertram, Lt Col William E.: 21/1/51;  
Bettis, Lt Cyrus: 12/10/25;  
Biddle, Charles: 18/10/18;  
Billingsley, Ensign William D.: 20/6/13;  
Birk, Frank: 17/5/90;  
Bissell, Clayton: 16/6/22; 5/8/22;  
Blakeslee, Col Donald: 1/10/52;  
Blair, Jr., Charles F.: 31/1/51; 29/5/51;  
Bledsoe, Adolphus H.: 27/7/76;  
Blessley, R. C. W.: 25/3/66;  
Blood, Col Archie: 3/12/57;  
Boardman, Russell N.: 28/7/31;  
Bock, Paul: 9/1/29;  
Bock, Charles C.: 23/12/74; 19/9/75;  
Bohn-Meyer, Flight Engineer Marta (NASA): 27/9/99; 9/10/99;  
Bolling, Capt Raynal Cawthorne: 1/11/15; 13/7/16; 18/11/16; 17/6/17;  
Bong, Richard I. (Medal of Honor): 27/12/42; 12/12/44;  
Bottriell, MSgt Ralph: 19/5/19;  
Boushey, Jr., Capt Homer: 12/8/41;  
Boyd, Col Albert: 19/6/47;  
Brabham, Lowery: 6/5/41;  
Brady, Francis X.: 1/4/54;  
Branger, Mrs. Ana Louisa: 20/4/51;  
Breese, Vance: 26/10/40; 26/5/42;  
Brestel, Capt Mac C.: 10/3/67;  
Brix, Lt Earl B.: 7/6/23;  
Bridgeman, Bill: 7/8/51; 15/8/51;  
Brill, Mike: 4/12/96;  
Brindley, Maj Oscar: 2/5/18;  
Broadwick, Charles: 23/2/14;  
Broadwick, Georgia (Tiny): 21/6/13;  
Brookins, Walter: 18/4/10; 14/6/10; 10/7/10; 16/1/11;

Brooks, Allison: 3/5/66;  
Brossi, Frederick A.: 25/5/31;  
Brow, H.J.: 2/11/23;  
Brown, C.V.: 13/2/55;  
Brown, Russell J.: 8/11/50;  
Bryant, Milton J.: 19/7/13;  
Buckner, Capt Boyce B. (USA): 13/4/62;  
Bullard, Eugene J.: 7/11/17;  
Burcham, Milo: 8/1/44;  
Burchinal, David A.: 17/11/54;  
Burge, Vernon L.: 11/3/12; 14/6/12;  
Burrows, Irving L.: 27/7/72;  
Bushong, 2Lt Karl E. (Ohio National Guard): 7/6/32;  
Byrd, Richard E.: 4/8/25; 8/5/26; 29/6/27; 28/11/29; 5/12/29;  
Cabot, Godfrey L.: 17/7/18; 3/10/18; 3/10/20;  
Cain, G.E.: 3/9/45;  
Caldwell, Turner F.: 20/8/47;  
Campbell, Douglas: 14/4/18;  
Canon, Dorman: 19/3/89;  
Carberry, Lt Joseph E.: 26/12/13; 29/12/13; 16/2/14; 5/1/15;  
Carl, Marion E.: 25/8/47; 21/8/53;  
Carlson, Floyd: 26/10/56;  
Carlstrom, Victor: 25/8/16; 2/11/16;  
Carrington, Louis H.: 29/7/52;  
Carroll, Philip A.: 5/4/16;  
Cassell, Maj E. M.: 10/2/47;  
Casteel, Maj John H.: 31/5/67;  
Castle, Frederick W. (Medal of Honor): 24/12/44;  
Cavendish, Robert L.: 15/9/82;  
Chamberlin, Clarence D.: 12/4/27; 4/6/27;  
Chambers, Cap Reed M.: 23/4/19;  
Chambers, Capt W. Irving. (USN): 13/3/11; 31/7/12; 7/10/13;  
Champion, C.C.: 27/7/27;  
Chandler, Charles DeForest: 1/8/07; 17/10/07; 22/4/08; 7/6/12; 5/7/12; 6/10/13;  
Chapman, Harry B.: 12/10/39;  
Cherrey, Capt John A.: 27/3/99;

Chevalier, Lt Cmdr G. D.: 6/3/13; 26/10/22;  
Christie, Arthur R.: 5/1/15;  
Chouteau, Henry "Hank" E.: 9/6/74;  
Coan, Capt Richard H.: 13/6/62;  
Cobb, Jerrie: 14/5/57; 20/9/60;  
Coburn, Jay: 30/9/82;  
Cochran, Jacquelin: 26/7/37; 18/2/38; 24/3/39; 5/9/42; 5/8/43; 24/5/48; 29/12/49; 3/1/50; 6/7/50;  
18/5/53; 24/8/61; 22/4/62;  
Cochran, Col Philip: 3/2/44;  
Coffyn, Frank: 12/2/12;  
Cole, Frank E.: 25/8/59;  
Coleman, James F.: 2/6/54; 2/11/54;  
Collbohm, Frank: 17/12/35;  
Collins, Capt Harold E.: 2/9/53;  
Collyer, C.B.D.: 29/6/28;  
Comstock, Lt Harold: 15/11/42;  
Coney, William D.: 21/2/21;  
Conrad, Max: 14/5/51; 30/4/52; 4/6/59; 26/11/59; 4/7/60; 27/2/61;  
Conroy, John M.: 21/5/55;  
Cook, E. R.: 13/3/59;  
Cook, John: 7/2/59;  
Cooney, James: 1/5/65;  
Corrigan, Douglas (Wrong Way): 18/7/38;  
Cotton, Joseph F.: 21/9/64; 14/10/65; 26/4/66; 30/4/66;  
Couch, Lt Col Richard: 17/7/89;  
Councill, William H.: 26/1/46;  
Cover, Carl: 17/12/35;  
Cowdin, Sgt Maj Elliot: 20/4/16;  
Cox, Dale W.: 21/3/57;  
Cox, Fred (Boeing Test Pilot): 18/9/2000;  
Craw, D.J. (Medal of Honor): 8/11/42.  
Crichlow, David: 21/5/56;  
Crissy, Myron S.: 15/1/11;  
Crocker, Lt H. G.: 26/5/23;  
Crosby, Harry: 5/7/44;  
Cross, Carl S.: [died on 8/6/66 when his F-104 chase plane collided with the XB-70].  
Crossfield, Scott: 20/11/53; 8/6/59; 17/9/59; 15/11/60;

Crow, Maj David W.: 17/4/62;  
Croy, Lt Manford O.: 28/8/44;  
Culver, Clarence C.: 2/9/16;  
Cummings, Maj Charles M.: 26/8/39;  
Cunningham, Alfred A.: 22/5/12; 20/8/12; 18/9/12; 26/2/17; 11/3/18; [Died at home on 27/5/39].  
Currie, Maj Tom: 18/9/2000;  
Curry, John F: 9/1/17; 11/8/31;  
Curtiss, Glenn H.: 1/10/07; 30/11/07; 21/6/08; 4/7/08; 4/8/08; 22/1/09; 31/1/09; 26/6/09; 3/8/09;  
22/8/09; 28/8/09; 7/10/09; 19/8/10; 20/8/10; 31/8/10; 17/2/11; 23/2/11; 27/2/11; 17/3/11; 13/7/11;  
5/12/11; 28/5/14; 20/12/18;  
Dallas, Burnie R.: 1/3/28;  
Damm, Lt Col Henry J.: 2/5/18;  
Dana, William A: 24/10/68; 28/2/70; 2/6/70; 25/11/70;  
Daniel, Walter F.: 19/2/62; 1/5/65;  
Dargue, Herbert A.: 1/12/14; 11/12/14; 7/4/16; 2/9/16; 21/12/26; 12/12/41 (Died in crash).  
Davenport, Burl B.: 27/6/58;  
Davidson, Lt Cmdr James: 21/7/46;  
Davies, T.D.: 29/9/46;  
Davis, Jr., Maj George A. (Medal of Honor): 30/11/51; 10/2/52;  
Davis, W. V.: 16/8/27;  
Davis, Maj William J.: 9/12/59;  
Day, Maj George E. (Medal of Honor): 26/8/67;  
Dean, Thomas: 10/5/13;  
DeBona, Joe: 29/3/49; 13/2/54; 31/3/54;  
de Seversky, Maj Alexander P.: 19/12/36; 3/12/37; 28/7/38; 29/8/38;  
DeEsch, Earl H.: 28/8/61;  
Dethelfsen, Maj Merlyn H. (Medal of Honor): 10/3/67;  
Deutschendorf, Jr., Henry J.: 12/1/61;  
Dexter, Julian S.: 12/5/28;  
Dobyns, Capt Russell M.: 2/9/53; 5/9/53;  
Dodd, Maj Townsend F.: 14/2/14; 23/12/14; 16/3/16; 30/6/17;  
Dolecek, Ensign Edward E.: 7/6/23;  
Doll, Ronald L.: 3/5/66;  
Doolittle, James H. (Medal of Honor) (Presidential Medal of Freedom: 4/9/22; 26/10/25; 27/10/25;  
25/5/27; 24/9/29; 3/9/32; 15/1/35; 1/11/43; 6/7/50; 20/2/52; 6/7/89; 27/9/93 (died at age 96)  
Douglas, Lt R. W.: 12/5/28;  
Drexel, Armstrong: 11/8/10; 10/10/10;

Dupont, Richard C.: 25/6/34;  
Durham, John M.: 12/3/80;  
Dyar, Lt Roger: 15/11/42;  
Dyson, Ken: 11/10/90;  
Eaker, Lt Gen Ira C.: 1/1/29; 27/8/29; 7/6/36; 22/2/42; 14/1/43; 2/6/44;  
Eagan, Edward P.F.: 13/12/48;  
Earhart, Amelia: 17/6/28; 8/4/31; 20/5/32; 25/8/32; 11/1/35; 19/4/35; 21/5/37; 12/5/64;  
Eastham, James (Lockheed Test Pilot): 7/8/63;  
Edmunson, James V.: 14/8/57;  
Edwards, Glenn W.: 8/12/45;  
Eielson, Carl B.: 21/2/24; 15/4/28; 20/12/28;  
Elfrey, Lt G. E.: 4/10/19; 6/9/19;  
Ellington, Lt Eric L.: 1/5/13;  
Elliot, Edward: 14/10/38;  
Elliot, Lang A.: 28/7/76;  
Ellis, Cmdr George W.: 5/12/61;  
Ellsworth, Lincoln: 12/5/26; 3/1/35; 23/11/35;  
Ellyson, Theodore G.: 27/1/11; 27/2/11; 13/7/11; 7/9/11; 25/10/11; 31/7/12; 12/11/12; 27/2/28 [died in a crash].  
Elmendorf, Capt Hugh M.: 12/4/30;  
Ely, Eugene: 14/11/10; 18/1/11;  
Enevoldson, 1Lt Einar N.: 18/12/58;  
England, J.L.: 1/8/46;  
Engle, Joe H.: 16/1/65; 29/6/65; 14/11/81;  
Estes, Thomas B.: 26/4/71;  
Eubank, Jr., William E.: 7/4/58;  
Evans, Capt Francis T. (USMC): 13/2/17; 9/1/18;  
Evely, Clyde P.: 11/1/62;  
Everest, Frank K.: 29/10/53; 18/11/55; 23/7/56;  
Eversole, Carroll C.: 18/2/21;  
Fairchild, Lt Muir S.: 8/6/21; 22/8/23;  
Faris, Bob: 9/8/52;  
Farley, Hal: 18/6/81;  
Femoyer, Robert E. (Medal of Honor): 2/11/44.  
Ferguson, Dave: 29/9/90;  
Ferry, Robert C.: 21/5/59;  
Filburn, Ralph B.: 21/1/85;



Fisher, Bernard F. (Medal of Honor): 10/3/66; 10/8/67;  
Fitzgerald, Lt S. W.: 23/12/14;  
Fleming, Capt James P. (Medal of Honor): 26/11/68;  
Flint, Lawrence E.: 6/12/59;  
Fodor, Louis: 3/8/63;  
Fortner, Larry D.: 23/6/72;  
Foulois, Benjamin D.: 12/8/08; 23/10/09; 2/3/10; 2/2/11; 27/2/11; 3/3/11; 29/7/12; 10/8/12; 26/7/15;  
15/3/16; 16/3/16; 7/4/16; 23/7/17; 27/11/17; 21/5/31; 22/12/31; 10/2/33; 25/4/67 (Died).  
Fowler, Robert G.: 17/12/11; 17/2/12; 27/4/13;  
Fuller, Jr., Frank W.: 25/5/38;  
Fuller, Lt Robert L.: 7/6/23;  
France, Charles W.: 8/11/34;  
Franke, Lt Cmdr Fred A. W.: 13/9/62;  
Frost, Douglas H.: 8/1/70;  
Fuller, John T.: 27/7/76;  
Fullerton, Gordon: 22/3/82; 5/4/90;  
Fulton, Fitzhugh L.: 18/9/62; 16/9/64; 26/4/66;  
Furnas, Charles: 14/5/08;  
Gaddis, Capt H. D.: 21/5/49;  
Gallagher, James: 26/2/49;  
Gallegos, Kurt: 4/12/96;  
Gatty, Harold: 23/6/31;  
Gay, Dewey: 30/7/97;  
Geddes, Capt Howard: 14/11/66;  
Geiger, Lt Harold: 8/8/13;  
Gentry, Jerauld R.: 15/3/68; 4/4/69; 17/4/69; 5/9/69; 12/9/69; 12/3/70; 19/3/70; 1/4/70;  
Gibb, Charles E.: 17/9/58;  
Gilmore, Maj Paul J.: 26/4/66;  
Gimmmler, Karl E.: 19/10/35;  
Glenn, John H.: 16/7/57;  
Gluckmann, Peter: 22/8/59;  
Goebel, Arthur C.: 16/8/27; 19/8/28;  
Goettler, Harold E. (Medal of Honor): 6/10/18;  
Goodier, Jr., Capt Lewis E.: 17/8/14;  
Goodlin, Chalmers: 9/12/46;  
Goodman, Robert J.: 5/9/83;  
Gordon, Lou: 17/6/28;

Gordon, Richard F. Jr.: 24/5/61;  
Gott, D. (Medal of Honor): 9/11/44;  
Gray, George A.: 2/10/12;  
Gray, Gordon: 17/10/55;  
Green, Lt George D.: 18/3/45;  
Greenamyre, Darryl: 16/8/69;  
Griffin, Lt Virgil C.: 17/10/22;  
Grissom, T.R.: 14/12/60;  
Grubaugh, B.L.: 1/8/46;  
Hake, Michael: 8/11/96;  
Hale, Carl T.: 12/3/15;  
Hall, Lt Charles: 2/7/43;  
Hall, Lt Col Melvin A.: 23/4/19;  
Halland, Lt Herman E.: 7/6/23;  
Halverson, Harry: 1/1/29; 4/6/42;  
Hamilton, A. G.: 23/3/21;  
Hamilton, Charles K.: 13/6/10;  
Hamilton, Kelly S. C.: 10/6/82;  
Hamilton, P. M. (Medal of Honor): 8/11/42.  
Hanes, Horace A.: 20/8/55;  
Harbluetzel, Capt William: 15/9/61;  
Hardisty, Huntington: 28/8/61;  
Harding, Lt John: 6/4/24;  
Hargreaves, Lt John: 15/9/61;  
Harkness, Harry S.: 7/2/11;  
Harmon, Millard F.: 26/2/45;  
Harper, Lt Cecil F.: 7/6/23;  
Harris, Edgar S.: 17/3/81;  
Harris, Harold R.: 2/6/21; 29/3/23; 17/4/23; 25/10/23;  
Harris, Lt Ross: 22/8/23;  
Harris, Lt Col Stayce D.: 24/2/2001;  
Hartstein, Fred C.: 21/4/75;  
Harts, Rutherford S.: 24/7/19;  
Harvey, SSgt Alva L.: 6/4/24;  
Havens, Beckwith: 8/7/13; 1/3/28;  
Hawks, Capt Frank: 27/6/29; 6/4/30; 12/8/30; [Died in plane crash, 23 Aug 38]

Haynes, Caleb V.: 6/2/39; 30/7/39; 1/7/41; 14/11/41;  
Heath, Cmdr Leroy: 13/12/60;  
Heflin, Lt Col Clifford: 8/7/44;  
Hegenberger, Capt Albert F.: 28/6/27; 9/5/32; 22/7/35;  
Helt, Robert C.: 28/7/76;  
Herndon, Jr., Hugh: 3/10/31;  
Heyser, Richard S.: 14/10/62;  
Hill, Jr., Marcus L.: 24/11/56;  
Hinds, Bruce: 17/7/89; 8/11/89;  
Hine, Lt Virgil: 27/6/23;  
Hinton, Lt Col Bruce H.: 17/12/50;  
Hinton, Lt Walter: 15/7/25;  
Hire, Lt Cmdr Kathryn P: 22/5/93;  
Hodgson, Walter J.: 6/12/59; 9/12/59;  
Holland, Lt Cmdr H. E.: 7/9/33;  
Hollick-Kenyon, Herbert: 3/1/35; 23/11/35;  
Holloman, George V.: 23/8/37;  
Holman, Charles: 12/2/28;  
Holtoner, Brig Gen Stanley: 2/9/53;  
Holzapple, Joseph: 25/11/45;  
Hooe, MSgt Roy W.: 1/1/29;  
Houser, Robert H.: 12/3/15;  
Howman, Capt Paul D.: 8/1/73;  
Hoyt, Jerry: 17/4/89;  
Howard, Charles H.: 17/1/32;  
Howard, James H. (Medal of Honor): 11/1/44;  
Howell, William H.: 12/6/58;  
Hoxsey, Archibald: 11/10/10; 26/12/10;  
Hudson, Capt Julie: 3/9/99;  
Hudson, William G.: 27/6/50;  
Hughes, Howard: 13/9/35; 19/1/37; 28/2/37; 10/7/38;  
Humphreys, Frederick E.: 26/10/09;  
Hunt, Cmdr J. R.: 15/3/57;  
Hunter, John: 11/6/30;  
Hunter, Kenneth: 11/6/30;  
Ingalls, Laura: 3/5/30;

Irwin, Walter W.: 16/5/58;  
Irvine, Clarence S.: 19/11/45; 11/12/45;  
Irving, Lt Rutledge: 17/4/23;  
Jabara, James: 20/5/51;  
Jackson, Lt Col Joe M. (Medal of Honor): 12/5/68;  
Jannus, Tony: 1/1/14; 10/8/14; 12/10/16 (died in aircraft accident)  
Jenschke, Maj Erwin (Bud): 2/4/90; 22/5/90;  
Jerwan, Shakir S.: 8/3/13;  
Jerstad, John L. (Medal of Honor): 1/8/43;  
Joersz, Eldon W.: 28/7/76;  
Johnson, F. M.: 7/3/19;  
Johnson, Lt Henry A.: 3/6/46;  
Johnson, Howard C: 7/5/58;  
Johnson, Leon W. (Medal of Honor): 1/8/43;  
Johnson, Richard L.: 15/9/48;  
Johnstone, Ralph: 31/10/10;  
Jones, Bradley: 3/7/15; 7/3/24;  
Jones, Byron Q.: 15/1/15; 12/3/15;  
Jones, Capt Gene W.: 7/12/60;  
Jones, Harry M.: 13/1/13;  
Jones III, Col William A. (Medal of Honor): 1/9/68;  
Jongeward, Woody: 11/10/49;  
Jordan, Joe B.: 14/12/59;  
Joyce, 1Lt Temple M.: 24/1/19;  
June, Harold: 28/11/29;  
Junkin, Sam F.: 19/8/42;  
Kane, Lt Harry J.: 7/7/42;  
Kane, John R. (Medal of Honor): 1/8/43;  
Keesler, S.R.: 7/10/18;  
Kelly, George E. M.: 16/1/11; 10/5/11;  
Kelly, Lt Oakley G.: 5/10/22; 16/4/23; 2/5/23;  
Kenney, George C: 9/10/18; 21/3/39; 15/6/44;  
Ketchen, Gavin L.: 3/7/96;  
Kilgore, Evelyn Pinchert: 13/10/39;  
Kilpatrick, Robert J.: 27/11/57;  
Kincheloe, Ivan C.: 6/4/52; 7/9/56; 26/7/58; 12/8/60; [Died when F-104 crashed at Edwards AFB on 26 Jul 58].

Kingsford-Smith, Charles E.: 30/5/28; 22/4/2001;  
Kingsley, David R. (Medal of Honor): 1/8/43;  
Kirtland, Lt Roy C.: 1/5/13;  
Klatt, Gustave B.: 27/11/57;  
Kline, R.W.: 22/7/48;  
Knight, Jack: 22/2/21;  
Knight, Raymond L. (Medal of Honor): 24/4/45;  
Knight, William J.: 16/11/66; 3/10/67; 17/10/67; 19/1/68;  
Koch, Elizabeth A.: 27/4/78;  
Koenig, Lt T. J.: 13/10/22;  
Kubesch, Sidney J.: 16/10/63;  
Kullman, 1Lt Lawrence W.: 8/1/73;  
Lahm, Lt Frank P.: 30/9/06; 28/1/08; 11/4/08; 9/9/08; 12/8/08; 27/7/09; 26/10/09; 3/11/09; 5/7/11;  
11/3/12; 21/3/12;  
Lamb, Dean Ivan: 30/11/13;  
Lambe, John S.: 9/5/37;  
Lambert, Sgt Lawrence: 17/8/46;  
Langham, Sgt Roy: 2/8/22;  
Langley, Samuel P.: 25/3/1898; 29/4/1898;  
Lanni, Col Joseph: 7/1/2005;  
Lanphier, Thomas G.: 10/11/25; 18/4/43; 2/12/49;  
Lansdowne, Zachary: 3/9/25;  
Larson, George W.: 19/9/75;  
Larson, Westside T. (Mackay Trophy): 22/5/34;  
Lattimer, Lt Col Kelly (test pilot): 7/5/2004;  
LaVier, Tony: 28/2/54;  
Lawley, William R. (Medal of Honor): 20/2/44;  
Layton, Cap Ronald J.: 25/9/58;  
Lear, John O.: 23/5/66;  
LeBeau, Tom: 3/5/90;  
Lees, Walter E.: 25/5/31;  
LeMay, Gen Curtis E.: 14/11/41; 16/7/45; 30/1/46; 24/2/58; 12/9/58; 3/5/60; 30/6/61; 29/10/63;  
31/1/65;  
Leslie, Ralph I.: 6/2/65;  
Lessig, C.P.: 25/3/42;  
Levine, Charles A.: 4/6/27;  
Lewis, Cmdr M. L.: 8/11/56;

Lindbergh, Anne Morrow: 19/12/33;  
Lindbergh, Charles: 21/5/27; 13/12/27; 29/7/31; 19/12/33; 9/7/44;  
Lindsey, Darrell R. (Medal of Honor): 9/8/44;  
Lilienthal, Donald H.: 22/1/71; 27/1/71; 8/2/71;  
Lloyd, Capt Bruce K. (USN): 1/12/61;  
Lockhart, Hayden J.: 2/3/65;  
Lockwood, Ralph: 29/3/23;  
Loh, John M.: 17/12/93;  
Longfellow, Lt Newton: 27/8/29;  
Loring, Maj Charles J.: 22/11/52;  
Love, Mike: 5/10/73; 30/4/74;  
Love, Moss L.: 11/3/12;  
Love, Nancy Harkness: 5/9/42; 5/8/43;  
Lovelace, Lt Col William R.: 24/6/43;  
Lowe, Thaddeus S.C.: 18/6/1861; 16/1/13 [deceased].  
Lufbery, Raoul G.: 19/5/18;  
Lynch, Buzz: 13/6/72;  
Lyvere, Gerald T.: 3/5/66;  
Mabry, Capt Dale: 3/11/21;  
Machorek, Jr., William C.: 13/9/74;  
Macaulay, Theodore C.: 25/2/14;  
Macready, John A.: 28/9/21; 5/10/22; 16/4/23; 2/5/23; 29/1/26;  
Mahurin, Col Walker M.: 13/5/52;  
Maitland, Lester J.: 28/6/27;  
Malony, Daniel: 29/4/04;  
Mamer, Nicholas B.: 15/8/29;  
Manke, John A.: 13/11/68; 2/8/69; 14/10/70;  
Manly, Charles M.: 8/12/03;  
Mantz, Paul: 30/8/46; 3/9/47; 22/1/50; 10/7/65 (Died in aircraft crash in Buttercup Valley, Ariz., filming "Flight of the Phoenix")  
Mauborgne, Lt Joseph O.: 1/12/14; 11/12/14;  
Marcus, Herbert: 14/2/14;  
Marks, Alvin: 3/4/69;  
Mars, J. C. "Bud:" 31/12/10.  
Martin, Maj Fredrick L.: 6/4/24;  
Martin, Jack L.: 15/11/65;  
Martin, Linda: 10/6/82;

Mason, Didier: 10/5/13;  
Mathies, Archibald (Medal of Honor): 20/2/44.  
Maughan, Lt Russell L.: 14/10/22; 23/6/24;  
May, Wesley: 12/11/21;  
McAllister, Lt C. D.: 31/8/32;  
McCaffery, Lt Hugh F.: 12/12/35;  
McCampbell, (USN) Capt David: 24/10/44;  
McClelland, Col Harold M.: 18/5/55;  
McConnell, Jr., Capt Joseph C.: 18/5/53;  
McCoy, Michael N. W.: 23/10/51; 6/4/53;  
McCurdy, John A. "Douglas" (Canadian): 1/10/07; 28/11/08; 23/2/09; 30/1/11; 7/3/11;  
McDonnell, Lt E. O.: 14/8/17;  
McGinnis, K: 10/1/34;  
McGuire, Jr., Maj Thomas B.: 26/12/44;  
McIlvain, William M.: 5/1/14;  
McKay, Capt George W.: 18/10/11;  
McKennon, Maj Pierce W.: 18/3/45;  
McLeary, S. H.: 13/4/13;  
McMurtry, Thomas C.: 9/3/71;  
McNamara, John F.: 25/3/18;  
McNarney, Joseph T.: 21/3/39;  
McTeague, Lt Col Linda K.: 1/11/2001; 1/12/2003;  
Mears, John H.: 29/6/28;  
Meloy, Maj Vincent J.: 3/8/38;  
Meredith, Russell A: 7/2/23;  
Merriam, Joan: 12/5/64 [Deceased, 17/2/65, aircraft crash].  
Merrill, Henry T.: 14/9/36; 9/5/37;  
Metz, Paul: 27/8/90; 7/9/97;  
Metzger, W. (Medal of Honor): 9/11/44.  
Michael, Edward: 11/4/44;  
Miller, Betty: 16/9/64;  
Miller, Sam: 3/8/63;  
Millikan, Willard W.: 2/1/54; 5/1/54;  
Milling, Thomas DeWitt: 21/4/11; 13/5/11; 4/9/11; 26/9/11; 10/10/11; 7/6/12; 5/7/12; 10/8/12; 9/10/12; 5/11/12; 28/3/13; 31/3/13; 1/5/13; 28/5/13; 6/10/13;  
Mitchell, Capt Carol: 10/9/2005;  
Mitchell, Brig Gen William C.: 3/4/16; 30/4/17; 30/6/17; 20/1/18; 12/9/18; 15/10/18; 17/10/18;

14/11/18; 10/3/19; 23/4/19; 13/7/21; 29/7/21; 18/10/22; 3/9/25; 25/10/25; [19/2/36 deceased]

Mock, Jerrie: 17/4/64;

Moeller, C. A.: 10/1/46;

Moffat, Reuben: 14/10/40;

Moffett, R. C.: 18/1/32;

Moisant International Aviators: 2/2/11; 8/3/13;

Moore, Lt Cmdr Donald E.: 13/9/62;

Morehouse, Silas: 8/11/34;

Morgan, George T.: 28/7/76;

Morgan, John C.: 28/7/43;

Morgenfeld, Tom (Lockheed test pilot): 24/10/2000;

Morris, Percy G. B.: 7/3/11;

Morris, Les: 17/5/42;

Morris, Raymond V.: 24/2/15;

Morrow, Lt Joseph C. Jr.: 5/2/14;

Moseley, Lt Corliss C.: 25/11/20;

Muffly, Glenn: 2/11/16;

Muller, Capt H. LeR: 29/12/13; 8/10/14;

Murphy, Elmer E.: 10/5/61;

Murray, Arthur: 4/6/54; 25/8/54; 8/10/55;

Murray, Lt (JG) J. McC. (Died in 16/2/14 aircraft crash)

Mustin, Lt Cmdr Henry C.: 6/11/15;

Myers, Maj Joseph: 28/8/44;

Nash, James S.: 19/11/52;

Neal, A.M.: 22/7/48;

Neely, Lt Harold L.: 28/7/38;

Nelson, Lt Erik H.: 6/4/24;

Nelson, Capt Fred C.: 17/11/34;

Nichols, Ruth: 24/11/30; 2/12/30; 23/6/31; 14/2/32;

Noonan, Fred: 21/5/37;

Nordberg, Lt Cmdr Del W.: 12/4/62;

Norden, Carl (inventor of bombsight): 7/10/31; 10/10/47; 14/6/65 [died at home].

Noville, Lt George O.: 29/6/27;

Noyes, Blanche W.: 4/9/36; 20/1/66;

Obermeier, J. G.: 28/1/08;

Ocker, Sgt William C.: 20/11/16; 23/7/18;



Odom, Capt William P.: 125/4/47; 7/8/47; 13/1/49; 8/3/49;  
O'Donoghue, Dennis (Boeing Test Pilot): 29/3/2001; 24/6/2001;  
Oestricher, Phil: 20/1/74;  
Ogden, SSgt Henry H.: 6/4/24;  
O'Grady, Capt Scott: 2/6/95;  
Old, Capt W. D.: 30/7/39;  
Olds, Robert D: 17/2/38; 29/5/41;  
Olds, Col Robin: 2/1/67;  
Omlie, Mrs. Phoebe: 31/8/31;  
Oswald, Diane: 10/6/82;  
Ovington, Earle L.: 4/9/11;  
Page, Capt Arthur H. (USMC): 31/5/30;  
Pangborn, Clyde: 3/10/31;  
Parker, Lt J. E.: 12/5/28;  
Parmalee, Phillip O.: 7/11/10; 15/1/11; 21/1/11; 27/2/11; 3/3/11; 18/8/11;  
Paulhan, Louis: 18/7/09; 25/8/09; 12/1/10; 19/1/10;  
Paul, Lt Wilfred J.: 10/4/31;  
Payne, William R.: 14/1/61; 26/5/61;  
Pearson. A: 29/3/23;  
Perot, Jr., H. Ross: 30/9/82;  
Petra, T.A.: 9/3/40;  
Phoenix, Merrill: 2/9/38;  
Pickerill, Elmo N.: 4/8/10;  
Pitcairn, Harold F.: 19/12/28;  
Pitz, Hugo E.: 21/3/39;  
Polando, John: 28/7/31;  
Post, Lt Henry B.: 9/2/14 (Died in accident after setting altitude record);  
Post, Wiley: 23/6/31; 15/7/33; 7/12/34, 9/10/34; [died in aircraft crash, 15/8/35]  
Potter, Stephan: 19/3/18;  
Powers, Francis G.: 1/5/60;  
Praeger, Otto: [Founder of Airmail died 4/2/48]  
Preston, Joseph J.: 25/4/53;  
Pruitt, James M.: 21/8/57;  
Puckett, Donald D.: 9/7/44;  
Purifoy, Dana (NASA Test Pilot): 15/11/2002;  
Quesada, Elwood: 1/1/29; 21/3/46;

Quick, Raymond B.: 17/5/34;  
Quimby, Harriet: 2/8/11; 16/4/12;  
Rader, Phil: 30/11/13;  
Rahn, Robert O.: 16/10/53;  
Rainey, Lt Col Stephen M.: 17/5/98;  
Rankin, E.P.: 29/9/46;  
Recford, Lt Frank: 14/9/44;  
Reed, Albert C.: 16/5/19;  
Reedy, James R.: 1/10/63;  
Regele, Susan R.: 8/6/80;  
Reid, W.S.: 29/9/46;  
Reinhart, Howard: 29/10/17;  
Reidel, Dick: 26/4/49;  
Reynolds, Lt Col John W.: 23/4/19;  
Richman, Harry: 29/1/35; 14/9/36;  
Rickenbacker, Edward V. (Medal of Honor): 29/4/18; 25/9/18; 6/11/30; 8/11/34; 22/4/38;  
Richey, Helen: 31/12/34;  
Richter, Lt John: 27/6/23;  
Rider, James G.: 5/2/74; 18/6/74;  
Riley, Maj Hugh: 4/6/91;  
Riley, H. R.: 7/10/18;  
Rintoul, Norman: 5/3/39;  
Ritchie, William: 22/9/50;  
Rittenhouse, Lt David (USN): 28/9/23;  
Robbins, Bob: 17/12/47;  
Robertson, John: 19/7/47;  
Robinson, Robert W.: 22/11/61;  
Robertson, Capt W. A.: 2/9/16; 12/5/17;  
Rockwell, L.C.: 28/9/12;  
Rodgers, Cmdr John: 18/4/11; 31/8/25 27/8/26; [died in air crash].  
Rodman, Lt T. C.: 20/12/18;  
Rogers, Calbraith P.: 17/9/11;  
Rogers, Capt Joseph W.: 15/12/59;  
Rohlf, Rolland: 18/9/19;  
Rosendahl, Charles E: 6/7/50;  
Rosillo, Domingo: 17/5/13;

Ross, Malcolm D.: 8/11/56;  
Roulstone, Cmdr E. H. (USN): 1/12/61;  
Rowell, Maj Ross E.: 17/7/27;  
Roybal, Ramona L.S.: 27/4/78;  
Rushworth, Maj Robert A.: 8/8/62; 20/8/62; 27/6/63; 5/12/63; 28/1/64; 3/11/65;  
Rutan, Elbert (Bert): 20/1/88; 24/11/2004;  
Rutan, Richard: 14/12/86; 3/12/2005;  
Sandacz, Victor L.: 26/9/58;  
Santoni, Frank (Boeing Test Pilot): 20/5/2003;  
Saufley, Lt Richard C.: 6/5/14; 3/12/15; 2/4/16; 9/6/16 (died in a crash near Pensacola).  
Schaefer, Lyle: 4/6/96;  
Schilling, David S.: 22/9/50; 4/7/52;  
Schmid, E. A.: 9/1/56;  
Schneider, Edward C.: 8/3/18;  
Schoenhair, L. F.: 18/2/30;  
Schrecengost, Jr., Ray W.: 27/11/57;  
Schroeder, Leroy: 17/5/90;  
Schroeder, Rudolph W.: 18/9/18; 18/1/19; 6/9/19; 24/9/19; 4/10/19; 27/2/20;  
Schultz, Lt Col Robert F.: 16/5/78;  
Schur, Lt Mainrad A.: 6/6/23;  
Scoles, Richard J.: 20/1/59;  
Scott, Blanche: 2/9/10;  
Scott, Eugene D.: 16/2/75;  
Scott, Cpl Frank S.: 28/9/12;  
Scott, Robert R.: 9/3/55;  
Scott, Sandra M.: 23/3/78;  
Seavers, Lt: 19/9/18;  
Selfridge, Lt Thomas E.: 1/10/07; 6/12/07; 19/5/08; 12/3/08; 12/8/08; 17/9/08; 10/5/11;  
Separd, Van: 24/3/65;  
Sergievsy, Boris: 26/4/34; 17/5/34; 14/4/36;  
Sewell, Chuck: 14/12/84;  
Seydel, Lt Fred: 29/12/13;  
Shahn, Elza: 14/8/42;  
Shannon, Sam: 18/9/48;  
Shinn, Cmdr Conrad: 20/11/56;  
Shobe, John H.: 2/11/36;

Sherman, William C.: 28/3/13; 31/3/13; 1/5/13; 28/5/13;  
Shinn, Cmdr Conrad: 31/10/56;  
Shook, Maj Frederick W.: 29/7/52;  
Short, Col Vere: 29/7/70;  
Showalter, Roy: 12/3/49;  
Siefert, Lt Frank: 27/6/23;  
Sizoo, Lt Col Michael: 9/2/2002;  
Sijan, Capt Lance P. (Medal of Honor): 9/11/67;  
Sikorsky, Igor I.: 15/4/41; 17/5/42;  
Sinclair, Frank: 4/1/37;  
Small, John: 8/11/89; 3/5/90;  
Smith, Albert D.: 9/2/16; 2/9/16; 4/12/18;  
Smith, Bernard L.: 18/9/12; 5/1/14;  
Smith, Elinor: 24/4/29;  
Smith George: 26/2/55;  
Smith, H.D.: 13/9/23;  
Smith, Lowell H.: 27/6/23; 6/4/24;  
Smith, Robert W.: 14/8/63; 6/12/63;  
Smith, Rogers (NASA): 27/9/99; 9/10/99;  
Smith, Maj Roger J.: 16/1/75;  
Smith, William: 9/12/45;  
Smith, 1Lt William T.: 18/12/58; 26/4/66; **(Probably two different people)**  
Sorlie, Donald M.: 20/9/66;  
Soucek, Apollo: 4/6/30;  
Sowers, Robert G.: 5/3/62;  
Spaatz, Gen Carl: 23/4/19; 1/1/29; 5/1/43; 17/2/43; 31/10/42; 6/1/44; 27/3/45; 16/7/45; 17/12/45;  
25/9/47; 30/4/48; 21/8/48; 4/5/68;  
Sperry, Lawrence: 17/2/13; 8/12/14; 16/8/22;  
Springer, Thomas Eric: 17/8/18;  
Stapp, Lt Col John P.: 10/11/47;  
Stanley, G. R.: 19/11/45; 11/12/45;  
Stanley, Lt Henry T.: 6/6/23;  
Stanley, Robert: 1/10/42;  
Stanley, Robert M. (USN): 4/7/39;  
Starkey, R. C.: 21/4/50;  
Stevens, Capt Albert W.: 12/6/22; 2/8/22; 10/10/28; 31/8/32;  
Stevens, Robert L.: 1/5/65;

Stevenson, William: 6/6/62;  
Stewart, Lt John S.: 22/4/43;  
Stineman, Fred: 17/12/35;  
Stinson, Edward: 29/12/21; 25/4/22;  
Stokes, Lt: 19/9/18;  
Stone, Lt Cmdr E. F. (USCG): 20/11/34;  
Strauss, Maj H. A.: 14/9/22;  
Street, Capt St Clair: 15/7/20; 10/10/28; 27/8/29;  
Stucky, Mark (test pilot): 20/12/97;  
Stultz, Wilmer: 17/6/28;  
Sullivan, James B.: 1/9/74;  
Sullivan, Leo J.: 30/6/68;  
Sullivan, Cmdr Patrick L.: 17/5/61;  
Sullivan, Capt Robert O. D.: 28/1/38; 28/12/42;  
Sutton, L.A.: 3/2/28;  
Swan, William G.: 4/6/31;  
Swancutt, Woodrow P.: 1/7/46;  
Sweeney, Charles W.: 9/8/45; 16/7/2004 (died)  
Sweeney, Jr., Walter C.: 21/6/54;  
Sweet, Lt George S.: 17/9/08; 2/12/08; 3/11/09;  
Sweet, Robert M.: 27/11/57;  
Swindal, James B.: 19/5/63;  
Tabeling, R. A.: 29/9/46;  
Taliaferro, Lt Walter R.: 26/12/13; 29/12/13; 16/2/14; (died on 14/2/15 in aircraft crash).  
Tepuni, William: 1/3/42;  
Terwilliger, Ensign A. L.: 1/12/39;  
Thacker, Robert E.: 28/2/47;  
Thaden, Louise: 4/9/36;  
Thompson, Lt Bernard: 27/8/29;  
Thompson, Harold E.: 27/4/49;  
Thompson, Milt: 12/7/66;  
Thompson, Lt Stephan W.: 5/2/18;  
Thompson, William: 16/7/53;  
Thorsness, Maj Leo K. (Medal of Honor): 19/4/67;  
Thurston, William H.: 12/3/80;  
Tibbets, Paul W.: 6/8/45;

Timm, Robert: 7/2/59;  
Titus, Robert F.: 28/5/58;  
Tolley, George: 17/1/62;  
Tomsett, Capt Warren P.: 20/7/63;  
Tower, Leslie R. (Boeing Test Pilot): 28/7/35; 20/8/35;  
Towers, Admiral John H.: 27/6/11; 25/10/11; 6/10/12; 18/12/12; 6/3/13; 20/1/14; 30/4/55 (Died).  
Trout, Evelyn: 10/2/29;  
Truemper, William R. (Medal of Honor): 20/2/44;  
Tucker, Harry: 19/8/28;  
Turner, Roscoe: 14/11/32; 19/9/37;  
Turner, SSgt Samuel O.: 18/12/72;  
Twining, Nathan F.: 1/2/43; 20/10/45; 1/7/57; 15/8/57;  
Upson, Ralph H.: 30/5/17; 23/5/21;  
Umstead, Maj Stanley: 26/8/39;  
Vance, Leon R.: 5/6/44;  
Vanderburgh, Richard: 3/7/96;  
Verdin, James: 3/10/53;  
Vilas, Jack: 22/6/15;  
Viner, D. D.: 10/1/46;  
Vosler, Forest (Medal of Honor): 20/12/43;  
Wade, Lt Leigh: 2/8/22; 6/4/24;  
Wagner, Buzz: 18/12/41;  
Wagner, Lt P.T.: 18/11/23;  
Walker, Arthur: 15/8/29;  
Walker, Joseph A.: 8/8/55; 30/3/61; 30/4/62; 27/6/62; 17/1/63; 19/7/63; 22/8/63 [died on 8/6/66 when his F-104 chase plane collided with the XB-70].  
Walker, Larry: 22/5/90;  
Wallace, Charles S.: 10/2/08;  
Walmsley, Jr., Capt John S. (Medal of Honor): 14/9/51;  
Warden, H.F.: 8/12/45;  
Warner, Arthur P.: 4/11/09;  
Watkins, George C.: 18/4/58;  
Webster, CWO Billy I.: 29/8/54; 17/10/54;  
Wedell, James R.: 4/9/33;  
West, Jake C.: 11/6/45;  
Welch, George S.: 7/12/41; 25/5/53;  
Wellman, Lt (JG) H. N.: 27/6/56;

Wexler, Maj Harry: 14/9/44;  
Wheeler, Richard V.: 29/9/50;  
White, Alvin S.: 21/9/64; 24/3/65; 14/10/65; 30/4/66; 8/6/66; 13/10/67;  
White, Capt E. F.: 19/4/19;  
White, Lt Edward H.: 15/6/28;  
White, Robert M.: 12/8/60; 7/3/61; 21/4/61; 22/6/61; 9/11/61; 17/7/62; 19/7/62;  
White, William B.: 22/1/59;  
Whitely, Maj John F.: 13/9/23; 29/6/36;  
Whitney, J. L.: 8/3/18;  
Wilbanks, Capt Hilliard A. (Medal of Honor): 24/2/67;  
Willard, Charles F.: 28/8/09;  
Williams Lt A. J. (USN): 6/10/23;  
Williams, Lt John H. Wilson: 8/6/20;  
Williams, Ron: 17/4/89;  
Wimmer, Roy: 23/8/54;  
Winslow, Alan F.: 14/4/18;  
Winslow, Cmdr Robert W.: 21/8/56;  
Widdifield, Noel F.: 1/9/74;  
Wilhelm, Lt Col Leland F. (USA): 14/4/62;  
Wilkins, G. H.: 15/4/28;  
Williams, Al J.: 4/11/23;  
Williford, J.R.: 6/3/65;  
Winder, Lt Col Charles B.: 23/4/12;  
Witherspoon, Lt (USN) Beverly W.: 17/5/61;  
Wofford, Maj Travis: 1/10/71;  
Wood, Col Floyd B.: 14/9/44;  
Wood, James W.: 10/5/65;  
Woodhouse, Bob: 11/10/49;  
Wright Exhibition Team: 13/6/10;  
Wright, Orville: 17/12/03; 5/10/05; 9/10/05; 14/5/08; 27/7/09; 8/8/08; 3/9/08; 9/9/08; 17/9/08;  
10/6/09; 17/6/09; 29/6/09; 27/7/09; 17/9/09; 6/11/09; 19/3/10; 25/5/10; 21/7/10; 10/5/11; 19/7/11;  
31/12/13; 13/10/15; 19/11/32; 2/1/33; 3/7/36; 17/12/43; [died in Dayton on 30/1/48]  
Wright, Wilbur: 14/12/03; 20/9/04; 9/10/05; 5/12/07; 14/5/08; 5/11/08; 13/11/08; 18/12/08;  
31/12/08; 24/4/09; 10/6/09; 17/6/09; 6/11/09; 4/10/09; 23/10/09; 26/10/09; 27/10/09; 25/5/10;  
30/5/12 (Died of Typhoid Fever); 19/11/32.  
Yancey, Capt Wallace D.: 29/7/52;  
Yates, Cmdr Philip "Rowdy" (test pilot): 15/11/2000;  
Yeager, Capt (later Brig Gen) Charles E.: 12/10/44; 14/10/47; 10/7/48; 5/1/49; 12/5/50; 12/12/53;

25/2/75; 14/10/77; 14/10/82;  
Yeager, Jeana: 14/12/86;  
Yesulantes, Victor: 5/3/39;  
Young, Bobbie R.: 24/5/61;  
Young, Capt Gerald O. Young (Medal of Honor): 9/11/67;

#### **AWARDS:**

Air Age Trophy (Vandenberg Trophy): 26/2/49;  
Bane (Thurman H.) Award: 8/8/47;  
Bleriot Cup: 10/5/61;  
Harold Brown Award: 17/9/70;  
Cheney Award: 10/8/67; 30/10/68; 1/10/71; 4/4/75;  
Collier (Robert J.) Trophy: 31/12/13; 8/12/14; 6/4/24; 29/5/34; 22/7/35; 15/9/38; 29/12/42;  
17/12/43; 17/12/45; 10/12/47; 24/9/64; 6/5/70; 27/2/90; 3/3/2001; 11/6/2007;  
Curtiss Marine Trophy: 25/8/16; 20/12/18; 31/5/30;  
Goddard Memorial Trophy: 22/3/63; 16/3/66;  
Harmon International Trophy: 28/2/37; 25/5/54; 8/11/56; 15/3/57; 18/9/62; 16/9/64; 6/8/66; 9/9/67;  
3/12/68; 12/9/69; 12/3/70; 19/5/70; 26/4/71; 20/2/72;  
Frank M. Hawks Memorial Award: 6/12/44;  
Guggenheim (Daniel) Medal: 27/12/25; 20/6/34; 27/7/64;  
LeMay Award: 25/8/95;  
MacKay Trophy: 27/1/12; 9/10/12; 29/12/13; 23/12/14; 28/9/21; 2/5/23; 6/4/24; 28/6/27; 3/2/28;  
17/1/32; 22/5/34; 19/7/34; 23/8/37; 17/2/38; 7/11/39; 14/10/47; 9/12/48; 26/2/49; 15/9/50;  
15/10/50; 17/8/51; 29/7/52; 20/8/53; 7/8/54; 20/8/55; 7/9/56; 18/1/57; 30/8/58; 28/10/59; 19/8/60;  
26/5/61; 5/3/62; 20/7/63; 17/11/64; 23/7/66; 14/12/66; 31/5/67; 12/5/68; 4/4/69; 8/5/70; 26/4/71;  
28/8/72; 9/9/72; 13/10/72; 12/2/73; 3/5/73; 16/1/75; 15/5/75; 19/5/77; 19/6/77; 16/5/78; 31/3/79;  
12/3/80; 4/10/80; 15/9/82; 5/9/83; 25/10/83; 21/1/85; 5/3/86; 4/7/87; 17/4/88; 20/12/89; 24/4/92;  
16/12/92; 10/1/94; 3/6/95; 10/6/97; 21/9/99; 15/10/2000; 2/11/2001; 25/3/2004; 29/10/2007;

4520<sup>th</sup> Aerial Demonstration Team: 28/10/59;  
Beaudry, Lt Col Emil: 9/12/48.  
Brumfield, MSgt Shawn: 25/3/2004;  
Carberry, Lt Joseph E.: 29/12/13;  
Clausen, 1Lt Matt: 25/3/2004;  
Cole, Lt Col Daryl D.: 12/5/68.  
Colvin, Maj Bob: 25/3/2004;  
Daigle, MSgt Steve: 21/9/99.  
DeBellevue, Capt Charles B.: 9/9/72; 3/5/73.  
Dockery, MSgt Chris: 25/3/2004;  
Dodd, Capt Townsend F.: 23/12/14;  
Eastman, Capt Michael: 17/4/88.  
Eunice, Capt Pete B.: 24/4/92.  
Faught, David E.: 21/1/85;



Feinstein, Capt Jeffrey S.: 13/10/72; 3/5/73.  
Fitzgerald, Lt S. W.: 23/12/14;  
Hamilton, MSgt Scott: 21/9/99.  
Hershman, Lt Col Shane: 25/3/2004.  
Hobson, James L. Jr.: 25/10/83.  
Hopkins, TSgt Greg: 21/9/99.  
Howarth, Col Albert L.: 14/12/66.  
Jacobs, Maj John: 21/9/99.  
Kincheloe, Ivan C.: 7/9/56.  
Kisner, Lt Col Frank J.: 10/6/97.  
MacFarlane, Maj William E.: 16/1/75.  
Markle, Capt Scott: 29/10/2007;  
McArdle, Jr., James E.: 31/3/79.  
McMillian, Capt Greg: 20/12/89.  
Mitchell, Capt Harold F.: 19/8/60.  
Nailling, Lt Col Kirk: 15/10/2000;  
Peterson, Maj David W.: 16/1/75.  
Ritchie, Capt Richard S.: 28/8/72; 3/5/73.  
Seydel, Lt Fred: 29/12/13;  
Sprinkle, Capt David M.: 19/6/77.  
Stolar, 1Lt Thaddeus: 21/9/99.  
Undorf, Maj Robert W.: 15/5/75.  
Walters, Capt John J.: 4/10/80.  
Yeager, Charles E.: 14/10/47.  
Yule, Capt James A.: 19/5/77.

Mitchell Memorial Plaque: 18/2/38;

Octave Chanute Award: 26/3/68; 1/4/70;

Presidential Medal of Freedom: 24/9/64; 6/7/89;

Scientific American Trophy: 4/7/08;

Spaatz Trophy: 4/9/75;

Thomas D. White Trophy: 19/6/62; 21/9/64; 17/9/65; 1/7/66; 1/6/67; 4/5/68; 29/4/70;

Thompson Trophy: 14/1/61;

## **BALLOONISTS**

Abruzzo, Ben: 11/8/78;

Anderson, Capt Orville A.: 28/7/34; 11/11/35;

Anderson, Maxie: 11/8/78;

Barnes, Tracy: 10/5/64; 25/8/66;

Berry, John: 5/6/09;

Berry, William R.: 10/7/66;

Bishop, Lt K. J. H.: 30/5/32;

Blanchard, Jean Pierre: 9/1/1793;

Blanchett, Georges: 10/9/27;

Bogan, Brenda: 3/9/65;

Bushnell, Wilfred: 4/5/29; 25/9/32;  
Chandler, Capt Charles DeForest: 17/10/07; 22/4/08; 6/10/13;  
Clark Ron: 10/11/81;  
Dunn, Chauncy: 12/6/71;  
Eareckson, Lt W. O.: 30/6/28;  
Elmstrom, Lois: 5/10/70; 2/5/71;  
Fordney, C.L.: 20/11/33;  
Gray, Hawthorne C.: 9/3/27; 4/5/27;  
Hersey, Maj Henry B.: 30/9/06;  
Hill, E.J.: 4/7/27; 10/9/27;  
Honeywell, Harry E.: 7/10/16; 25/9/20;  
Kendall, Lt Charles H.: 2/9/33; 1/8/34;  
Kepner, Maj (later Maj Gen) William E.: 30/6/28; 28/7/34; 26/9/47;  
Kittinger, Jr., Joseph W.: 2/6/57; 16/11/59; 16/8/60; 13/12/62; 18/9/84;  
Knabenshue, Roy: 22/5/08;  
Lahm, Lt Frank P.: 30/9/06; 12/8/08; 9/9/08; 5/7/11;  
LeGallee, George: 10/9/27;  
Lowe, Thaddeus S.C.: 18/6/1861; 16/1/13 [deceased].  
McCoy, J. C.: 17/10/07;  
McCullough, Paul: 5/6/09;  
Morton, W. W.: 16/4/26;  
Newman, Larry: 11/8/78; 10/11/81;  
Orville, Lt H. T.: 1/8/34;  
Paul, Lt Wilfred J.: 30/5/32;  
Piantanida, Nick: 2/2/66;  
Piccard, Donald L.: 24/7/60; 19/7/61; 24/8/62; 5/10/65;  
Piccard, Wilma: 12/8/72;  
Prather, Victor A.: 4/5/61;  
Preston, R. A. D.: 11/7/14;  
Randall, Dr. R. M.: 12/5/09;  
Rasmussen, S.A.: 4/7/27;  
Ross, Malcolm D.: 4/5/61;  
Schlosser, A.G.: 4/7/27; 10/9/27;  
Settle, Thomas G. W.: 25/9/32; 4/5/29; 25/9/32; 2/9/33; 20/11/33;  
Simons, Davizd G.: 19/8/57;  
Sonnichsen, Deke: 5/10/66; 11/10/66;

Sparks, Robert: 14/12/72;  
Stefan, Karl: 9/6/71;  
Stevens, Capt Albert W.: 28/7/34; 11/11/35;  
Stokes, George A.: 18/9/69;  
Van Orman, Ward T.: 23/4/24; 1/5/25; 16/4/26;  
Ward, Cpl Edward: 4/6/07;  
White, William C.: 13/12/62;  
Wiederkehr, Matt A.: 1/2/72; 29/3/72;  
Wolf, Constance: 19/11/61;  
Wollam, C. K.: 1/5/25;

**BALLOONS:** 9/1/1793; 18/6/1861; 30/9/06; 4/6/07; 17/10/07; 28/1/08; 22/4/08; 30/4/08; 13/5/08; 22/5/08; 12/5/09; 5/6/09; 11/7/14; 23/1/18; 25/9/20; 23/5/21; 23/4/24; 1/5/25; 16/4/26; 9/3/27; 4/5/27; 4/7/27; 10/9/27; 30/6/28; 4/5/29; 30/5/32; 25/9/32; 2/9/33; 20/11/33; 28/7/34; 11/11/35; 15/5/38; 16/8/47; 28/9/48; 28/9/50; 19/7/52; 8/11/56; 2/6/57; 19/8/57; 27/7/58; 11/2/59; 18/7/59; 4/9/59; 28/10/59; 16/11/59; 16/1/60; 11/5/60; 24/7/60; 16/8/60; 17/4/61; 28/4/61; 4/5/61; 19/7/61; 19/11/61; 19/6/62; 24/8/62; 13/12/62; 10/5/64; 17/2/65; 3/9/65; 5/10/65; 2/2/66; 10/7/66; 18/7/66; 25/8/66; 5/10/66; 11/10/66; 11/9/68; 18/9/69; 6/11/69; 5/10/70; 2/5/71; 9/6/71; 12/6/71; 1/2/72; 29/3/72; 11/7/72; 12/8/72; 14/12/72; 11/8/78; 10/11/81; 18/9/84;

Gordon Bennett Balloon Race: 30/9/06; 30/6/28;

Lahm Cup: 17/10/07;

National Balloon Race: 5/6/09; 5/7/11; 11/7/14; 7/10/16; 25/9/20; 23/5/21; 23/4/24; 1/5/25; 16/4/26; 30/5/32;

**BLACK ACHIEVEMENTS:** 7/11/17; 3/4/39; 16/9/40; 22/3/41; 28/3/41; 19/7/41; 6/3/42; 2/7/43; 26/4/48; 27/10/54; 13/5/58; 1/9/75; 8/9/90; 4/8/98; 9/12/98; 24/2/2001; 14/5/2002; 3/8/2002;

**BOMBING TESTS:** 19/1/10; 15/1/11; 17/8/14; 14/10/20; 13/7/21; 29/7/21; 23/9/21; 12/5/38; 10/3/48; 1/3/54; 5/5/56; 1/8/58; 27/8/58; 16/9/76;

Scott Bombing Device: 17/8/14;

Eniwetok Atoll: 16/12/60; 16/9/76 (returned to former inhabitants).

Norden Bomb Sight: 7/10/31; 10/10/47; 14/6/65;

**BOMBING TRAINING:** 16/7/40; 29/9/41;

**BOMBING COMPETITIONS:** 4/5/70;

#### **CHIEF MASTER SERGEANTS OF THE AIR FORCE**

Airey, CMSgt Paul W.: 3/4/67;

**CHIEF SCIENTIST:**

Loewy, Dr. Robert G.: 20/9/65;

Markey, Dr. Winston R.: 20/9/65;

**CIVILIAN LEADERS**

Cole, Rep. W. Sterling: 16/3/54;

Jones, Rep. Walter B., Jr. (NC): 16/12/96;

Ryan, John D.: 29/5/18; 28/8/18;

Vinson, Rep. Carl (Ga.): 3/1/49;

**CLOTHING**

Flight: 18/7/16;

Uniforms: 25/1/49;

**COMMUNICATIONS:** 28/1/08; 28/2/17; 22/8/17; 16/10/17; 26/3/58; 5/4/66; 1/5/67;

DEW Line: 26/3/58;

White Alice: 26/3/58;

**DIRIGIBLES/AIRSHIPS:** 3/8/04; 5/2/05; 11/8/06; 6/12/07; 15/2/08; 4/8/08; 12/8/08; 28/8/08; 4/11/11; 1/6/15; 20/4/17; 30/5/17; 1/3/18; 24/8/19; 11/9/20; 15/11/21; 1/12/21; 14/9/22; 1/3/23; 4/9/23; 10/10/23; 15/10/24; 24/1/25; 3/9/25; 15/9/25; 12/5/26; 18/8/26; 15/6/28; 6/10/28; 29/10/28; 30/3/31; 10/4/31; 3/11/31; 4/4/33; 21/4/33; 12/2/35; 6/5/37; 15/5/40; 18/7/43; 1/6/44; 27/10/46; 6/7/50; 17/6/52; 20/3/53; 25/5/54; 15/3/57; 31/12/62; 8/12/2005;

Army Dirigible No. 1: 12/8/08;

Akron: 4/11/11;

AT-1: 1/3/18;

B-1: 30/5/17;

C2: 14/9/22;

C-7: 1/12/21;

DN-1: 1/6/15; 20/4/17;

Graf Zeppelin: 29/10/28;

Hindenberg: 6/5/37;

K-74: 18/7/43;

Mayflower: 25/2/59;

Ohio: 28/1/08;

Roma: 3/11/21;

RS-1: 15/9/25;

TC1: 1/3/23;  
Signal Corps Airship No. 1 (aka Army Dirigible No. 1): 4/8/08;  
USS Akron (ZR-4): 6/10/28; 3/11/31; 4/4/33;  
USS Los Angeles (ZR-3): 15/10/24; 24/1/25; 27/1/28;  
USS Macon (ZR-5): 6/10/28; 21/4/33; 12/2/35;  
USS Shenandoah (ZR-1): 24/8/19; 4/9/23; 10/10/23; 3/9/25;  
XM-1: 27/10/46;  
ZPG-2: 25/5/54; 15/3/57;  
ZPN-1: 17/6/52;  
ZP2N-1: 20/3/53;

**DIVE-BOMBING:** 1/9/19;

**ELECTRONIC WARFARE OFFICERS:** 15/4/96; 8/11/96;

**ENLISTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** 4/6/07; 8/8/10; 18/8/10; 14/6/12; 28/9/12; 14/2/14;  
12/3/15; 2/9/16; 19/5/19; 2/8/22; 6/4/24; 1/1/29; 9/3/40; 1/5/43; 26/11/43; 20/12/43; 20/2/44;  
17/8/46; 9/11/50; 25/11/56; 10/2/58; 18/6/59; 28/2/62; 3/2/64; 12/3/65; 3/5/66; 9/9/67; 11/10/70;

## **EXERCISES**

Ahuas Tara: 24/1/83; 5/8/83;  
Baltic Challenge 98: 8/7/98;  
Banyan Tree: 22/2/62;  
Bar Frost: 2/9/66;  
Biglift: 22/10/63;  
Brave Defender: 6/9/85;  
Bright Star: 24/11/80; 14/11/81; 23/11/81; 4/3/86;  
Bristle Cone: 2/3/62;  
Busy Prairie: 22/9/80;  
Central Enterprise: 9/6/97;  
Centrazbat: 14/9/97; 9/9/2000;  
Checkmate II: 15/9/61;  
Cloud Chorus: 23/4/80;  
Clove Hitch: 8/4/67;  
Cold Mass: 28/5/68;  
Combined: 19/4/93;  
Commando Rock: 8/2/78;

Commando Vulcan: 3/3/82;  
Cope Tiger: 24/1/2005;  
Coronet 97-2: 19/3/97;  
Crested Cap: 1/10/68; 12/1/69;  
Crisex: 27/10/83;  
Dawn Patrol: 9/5/79;  
Deep Furrow: 17/9/65;  
Display Determination: 18/9/82;  
Distant Hammer: 7/5/85;  
Eternal Triangle: 27/10/83;  
Exotic Dancer: 9/5/69;  
Falcon Condor: 13/2/2007;  
Flintlock: 9/5/79;  
Focus Retina: 15/3/69;  
Gallant Eagle: 4/9/84;  
Global Enterprise: 11/8/93;  
Global Patriot: 29/7/99;  
Global Power: 24/6/96; 19/3/97; 23/5/97; 28/7/2001;  
Global Shield: 10/7/79; 20/6/80;  
Golden Pheasant: 17/3/88;  
Grandero: 19/3/84;  
Green Flag: 4/3/97;  
Guard Strike: 20/7/68;  
Hammer: 19/5/87;  
Intrinsic Action: 17/8/95;  
Iron Thunder: 7/2/2007;  
Jump Light: 4/1/57;  
Koa Lightning: 2/3/2007;  
Linked Seas: 8/5/2000;  
Long Thrust II: 22/1/62;  
Marcot: 24/6/96;  
Nice Way: 15/9/65;  
Northern Edge: 11/6/2007;  
Northern Goshawk: 6/8/2007;  
Pacific Comfort: 14/8/80;  
Peacekeeper 94: 30/8/94;

Proud Phantom: 10/7/80;  
Purple Dragon: 28/1/98;  
Quick Kick: 7/5/62;  
Ramasoon: 4/3/68;  
READEX: 15/7/85;  
Red Flag: 29/11/75; 19/1/76; 14/6/81; 3/2/2007;  
Reforger: 1/10/68; 12/1/69; 27/9/78;  
RIMPAC: 26/2/80;  
Sage Brush: 15/11/55;  
Salty Demo: 29/4/85;  
Siyasat: 7/3/67;  
Sky Try: 22/1/53;  
Sniper Lance: 20/4/2007;  
Snowfall: 8/1/52;  
Talisman Saber: 18/6/2005;  
Team Spirit: 7/6/76; 26/3/77; 1/3/79; 14/3/80; 13/2/82; 7/3/83;  
Tropic Lightning: 1/10/64;

**FLIGHT NURSES:** 18/2/43; 26/3/43;

Ott, 2Lt Elsie S.: 26/3/43;

**FORWARD AIRBORNE CONTROL:** 8/7/50; 9/7/50; 10/7/50; 21/9/50; 22/9/50; 16/2/51;

**MANUFACTURERS**

Aerojet General: 26/9/45; 4/1/55; 29/6/56; 12/8/61; 1/7/74; 26/1/76;  
AeroVironment: 10/11/98; 8/9/99;  
AirLaunch: 29/9/2005; 26/7/2006;  
American Propeller Company: 23/10/22;  
Astronautics: 28/9/62;  
Atlantic Research Corporation: 4/6/97;  
Aurora Flight Service: 27/6/98;  
Beech Aircraft: 19/4/84; 30/9/86; 20/1/88; 22/6/95;  
Bell (later Bell Textron): 1/10/42; 8/1/44; 16/3/44; 19/1/46; 8/3/46; 29/4/46; 9/12/46; 14/10/47;  
5/1/49; 25/3/49; 6/4/49; 30/9/52; 12/12/53; 4/6/54; 23/2/55; 8/10/55; 23/7/56; 7/9/56; 27/9/56;  
26/10/56; 21/5/59; 17/3/66; 30/9/82; 23/5/88; 19/3/89; 4/10/89; 3/11/89; 18/9/2000; 22/11/2000;  
Boeing Company: 21/6/21; 27/8/29; 15/5/30; 20/3/32; 18/6/34; 20/6/34; 28/6/34; 28/7/35; 20/8/35;  
2/12/36; 15/10/37; 31/12/38; 8/7/40; 24/8/40; 21/9/42; 1/11/44; 1/2/45; 25/6/47; 12/9/47; 11/10/47;  
17/12/47; 20/12/48; 20/2/48; 28/3/48; 5/5/48; 26/6/48; 17/11/48; 8/2/49; 17/10/49; 26/10/49;

14/11/49; 1/3/50; 18/4/50; 25/6/50; 21/12/50; 27/2/51; 15/3/51; 14/7/51; 23/10/51; 29/11/51;  
13/8/52; 3/10/52; 6/3/53; 18/3/54; 29/6/55; 16/10/55; 9/3/56; 31/8/56; 24/10/56; 11/3/57; 12/6/58;  
3/7/58; 9/10/58; 12/6/59; 23/7/59; 9/11/59; 3/1/60; 1/2/61; 3/1/63; 19/5/63; 15/7/65; 15/11/65;  
21/9/69; 13/1/70; 20/1/70; 5/7/70; 27/5/71; 1/2/72; 9/2/72; 3/2/73; 2/3/73; 28/7/73; 31/7/73;  
24/7/74; 25/6/75; 1/11/75; 7/11/75; 10/8/76; 18/2/77; 12/7/78; 23/8/78; 20/3/79; 1/7/79; 25/3/80;  
30/4/80; 3/9/80; 11/1/81; 15/8/81; 24/11/81; 22/6/82; 10/10/82; 30/9/83; 13/9/85; 7/10/86; 26/1/88;  
23/5/88; 3/11/89; 6/12/89; 24/4/90; 25/4/90; 24/7/90; 29/8/90; 17/12/90; 18/4/91; 23/4/91; 10/9/93;  
15/9/93; 12/12/96; 9/4/97; 12/11/97; 11/2/98; 19/6/98; 8/7/98; 22/1/2000; 14/5/2000; 19/5/2000;  
18/9/2000; 8/11/2000; 15/11/2000; 4/12/2000; 8/12/2000; 10/12/2000; 19/12/2000; 21/12/2000;  
8/1/2001; 3/2/2001; 29/3/2001; 14/5/2001; 24/6/2001; 8/7/2001; 30/7/2001; 6/8/2001; 27/11/2001;  
15/8/2002; 15/11/2002; 20/5/2003; 4/11/2003; 7/5/2004; 24/9/2004; 9/12/2004; 21/1/2005;  
4/2/2005; 6/7/2005; 7/4/2006; 19/9/2006; 27/10/2006; 9/11/2006; 21/12/2006; 2/10/2007;

Burgess Company: 1/2/11; 17/9/11; 15/4/12; 20/8/12; 12/3/15;

Burgess and Curtiss Company: 24/1/13;

Cessna Aircraft: 2/1/53; 17/4/64; 29/12/66; 28/5/68; 3/4/69; 4/2/70; 1/9/86;

Chance Vought Aircraft: 31/10/43; 26/1/53; 25/3/55;

Chase Aircraft Company: 14/10/49;

Chrysler Corp: 25/10/50; 11/6/56; 4/1/58;

Connecticut Aircraft Company: 1/6/15;

Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corp.: 7/9/33; 10/1/34; 23/7/36; 29/12/39; 16/6/41; 11/2/45; 23/4/45;  
19/4/46; 13/7/48; 16/1/51; 5/9/51;

Convair: 19/4/46; 8/8/46; 16/8/47; 22/9/49; 16/1/51; 17/1/51; 23/1/51; 31/3/51; 30/3/53; 24/10/53;  
25/2/54; 2/6/54; 2/11/54; 19/12/54; 24/2/55; 11/11/56; 26/12/56; 11/6/57; 20/5/60; 12/2/60;  
16/10/63; 23/8/78;

Curtiss Company: 3/8/04; 30/11/07; 21/5/08; 2/9/10; 14/11/10; 1/2/11; 18/1/11; 6/3/13; 5/1/14;  
5/1/15; 24/2/15; 20/5/15; 4/12/18; 14/5/23; 28/2/28; 14/10/38; 14/10/40;

Curtiss-Wright: 11/4/42; 12/7/42; 26/10/45; 30/11/48; 6/4/49; 6/12/54;

De Havilland: 17/7/27; 9/12/88;

Douglas Aircraft Company: 6/4/24; 17/12/35; 20/3/42; 26/3/42; 26/9/45; 8/12/45; 22/3/46; 20/8/47;  
25/8/47; 22/11/49; 5/12/50; 7/8/51; 15/8/51; 20/10/52; 3/10/53; 20/11/53; 22/6/54; 28/6/54;  
17/10/55; 29/10/55; 27/12/55; 1/2/56; 23/4/56; 27/8/56; 26/10/56; 25/1/57; 19/4/57; 19/7/57;  
23/8/57; 28/8/57; 20/9/57; 20/1/59; 26/5/59; 21/8/61; 17/8/62; 24/9/62; 5/10/62; 20/2/64; 23/8/65;  
1/2/66; 19/5/67; 30/6/75; 16/4/80; 17/3/81;

Fairchild: 10/9/44; 16/3/49; 5/4/49; 9/1/73;

Fairchild-Hitler: 22/12/70;

Fairchild-Republic: 10/5/72; 30/5/72; 9/1/73; 1/3/73; 15/4/74; 2/7/82;

Fairchild Space and Electronics Company: 31/1/75;

E-Systems Inc.: 14/3/88;

Ford, Henry: 3/7/36;

Ford Motor Company: 13/4/25; 9/3/27;

Gates Learjet: 25/10/85; 30/9/86;

General Aerial Navigation Company of France: 12/1/09;

General Aircraft Company: 28/5/41;



General Atomics Aeronautical Systems: 9/6/2003; 28/10/2006;

General Dynamics: 11/6/57; 28/9/62; 18/6/64; 21/12/64; 6/1/65; 3/12/65; 25/2/66; 9/7/66; 13/12/73; 2/2/74; 13/1/75; 10/6/75; 20/10/76; 22/11/76; 18/8/77; 23/8/78; 17/8/78; 6/9/78; 1/7/79; 17/7/79; 16/5/80; 26/5/83; 24/2/84; 7/10/87; 10/2/88; 1/3/89; 20/10/89; 29/8/90; 17/12/90; 23/4/91; 9/4/92;

General Electric: 13/11/46; 17/3/47; 5/9/51; 10/5/55; 6/10/55; 20/2/64; 5/6/70; 9/1/73; 2/2/76; 2/2/77; 25/4/2003; 20/5/2003;

Goodrich Zeppelin Corp.: 6/10/28;

Goodyear: 30/5/17; 17/6/52; 25/2/59;

Greeley (Curtis): 15/4/12;

Grumman: 2/4/31; 31/8/43; 20/12/46; 11/9/53; 21/9/56; 18/4/58; 16/8/69; 2/2/76; 14/12/84; 28/2/90; 31/1/92;

Hamilton Standard: 2/3/31; 29/5/34;

Huff-Daland HD-4 Bridget: 3/10/20;

Herring, Augustus M.: 6/2/08; 8/2/08; 10/2/08;

Herring-Curtiss: 20/3/09;

Hiller Aircraft Corporation: 21/1/55; 8/12/58; 24/11/59;

Honeywell: 27/5/71;

Hughes Aircraft: 15/11/66; 23/7/71; 2/2/76; 4/5/90; 11/5/90;

Kelly Space & Technology Incorporated: 20/12/97;

L-3 Communications Integrated Systems: 13/6/2007;

Lear: 23/5/66;

Ling-Temco-Vought (LTV): 9/7/65; 18/5/66; 15/4/74; 13/9/85; 29/11/89; 24/4/90;

Lockheed (later Lockheed Martin) Corporation: 15/4/28; 10/11/30; 23/6/31; 20/5/32; 19/7/33; 7/12/34; 9/5/37; 10/7/38; 1/3/42; 9/1/43; 16/10/43; 8/1/44; 3/12/45; 26/1/46; 22/3/48; 29/9/46; 1/7/49; 5/2/49; 11/1/50; 2/7/52; 20/2/53; 4/9/52; 7/2/54; 28/2/54; 4/3/54; 23/8/54; 7/4/55; 17/2/56; 29/10/56; 9/12/56; 4/9/57; 7/5/58; 16/5/58; 9/9/58; 14/12/59; 20/7/60; 10/8/62; 7/8/63; 1/10/63; 22/1/64; 29/2/64; 22/12/64; 11/5/66; 18/11/66; 8/8/67; 24/2/68; 2/3/68; 4/6/68; 30/6/68; 6/6/70; 21/1/72; 18/5/73; 8/10/74; 14/6/75; 8/1/77; 3/1/78; 4/12/79; 14/8/80; 15/7/81; 15/9/81; 26/1/82; 9/2/83; 7/7/87; 10/1/88; 10/11/88; 17/4/89; 3/10/89; 25/1/90; 27/2/90; 11/5/90; 12/7/90; 29/8/90; 17/12/90; 23/4/91; 27/6/95; 4/6/96; 17/6/96; 16/12/96; 22/1/97; 9/4/97; 7/9/97; 14/11/97; 30/7/98; 21/8/98; 10/10/98; 12/10/98; 19/11/98; 22/1/99; 28/1/99; 16/7/99; 17/1/2000; 19/3/2000; 24/10/2000; 22/11/2000; 5/1/2001; 31/1/2001; 5/2/2001; 10/2/2001; 24/6/2001; 9/7/2001; 19/7/2001; 6/8/2001; 19/9/2001; 5/10/2001; 26/10/2001; 3/12/2001; 5/12/2001; 21/8/2002; 3/10/2004; 19/10/2005; 8/12/2005; 11/6/2007; 8/8/2007; 18/9/2007;

Lucas Aerospace: 30/7/98;

Martin (Glenn L.) Company: 17/8/18; 4/3/24; 27/11/33; 19/7/34; 11/9/41; 30/11/43; 9/12/45; 22/4/46; 4/3/49; 20/6/51; 7/8/51; 20/7/53; 6/10/55; 27/10/55; 30/11/56; 17/6/58; 9/11/59; 6/12/59; 20/12/60; 18/2/65; 26/4/66;

Martin-Marietta: 19/1/62; 20/2/64; 11/7/67; 9/9/75; 14/6/89; 31/12/89; 26/2/90; 18/4/91;

McDonnell Aircraft Company: 23/10/48; 20/10/48; 24/9/51; 28/9/54; 13/2/55; 27/11/57; 31/12/58; 6/12/59; 5/9/60; 28/8/61; 22/11/61; 28/5/62; 31/8/67;

McDonnell-Douglas Corporation: 1/2/56; 27/5/58; 27/5/63; 18/5/64; 10/7/65; 17/6/68; 23/12/69; 26/6/72; 27/7/72; 1/3/73; 7/7/73; 14/11/74; 16/1/75; 2/5/75; 26/8/75; 8/10/75; 19/12/77; 20/5/78; 26/10/79; 12/7/80; 28/8/81; 31/8/81; 10/10/81; 31/3/87; 7/10/87; 20/1/88; 16/3/88; 29/12/88; 1/11/89; 14/2/89; 15/9/89; 3/11/89; 13/11/89; 14/11/89; 2/4/90; 4/4/90; 11/5/90; 22/5/90; 2/7/91; 14/6/93; 18/8/93; 31/5/96; 17/6/96; 17/5/97;

Norair: 30/7/59;

North American Aviation: 10/2/39; 6/2/40; 19/8/40; 26/10/40; 14/10/40; 13/2/42; 3/2/43; 17/3/47; 6/7/45; 28/2/47; 1/10/47; 3/9/47; 20/5/48; 29/3/49; 3/5/50; 19/11/52; 3/3/53; 25/5/53; 16/6/53; 26/2/54; 26/2/55; 30/9/55; 23/8/57; 18/7/58; 16/9/58; 15/10/58; 16/10/58; 23/4/59; 21/12/59; 15/11/60; 15/2/63; 28/3/63; 11/5/64; 24/1/65; 8/2/65; 18/2/65; 14/10/65; 30/4/66; 19/10/66; 15/11/66;

Rocketdyne Division (later Boeing): 26/2/54; 4/4/57; 10/2/61; 8/8/98;

Autonetics Division: 18/7/58;

Northrop Aircraft Inc. (later Northrop Grumman Aircraft): 26/5/42; 5/7/44; 9/1/46; 7/12/44; 21/10/47; 12/1/48; 16/8/48; 26/11/52; 6/3/58; 10/4/59; 17/3/61; 24/8/61; 18/4/63; 20/11/70; 22/12/70; 30/5/72; 23/6/72; 2/8/72; 4/4/74; 9/6/74; 10/6/74; 14/8/74; 13/1/75; 2/5/75; 12/9/78; 22/11/88; 16/2/89; 17/7/89; 8/11/89; 18/11/89; 22/11/89; 27/4/90; 3/5/90; 17/5/90; 23/6/90; 27/8/90; 6/6/91; 3/7/96; 12/7/97; 19/10/99; 3/5/2001; 12/9/2006; 7/11/2003; 1/7/2004; 18/9/2007;

Orbital Sciences Corporation: 24/2/99; 2/6/2001;

Packard Motor Car Company: 19/9/28; 25/5/31;

Piasecki Helicopter Company: 29/11/49; 2/9/53;

Pratt & Whitney: 27/2/70; 16/8/72; 27/8/87; 25/4/90; 23/4/91; 31/5/96;

RCA: 8/2/58;

Raytheon: 4/5/90; 11/5/90; 6/3/97; 15/7/98; 24/1/99; 24/10/2000;

Republic: 6/5/41; 8/9/44; 4/1/45; 30/12/45; 7/2/46; 28/2/46; 24/2/49; 9/5/49; 22/9/50; 14/2/51; 3/12/52; 9/12/52; 16/3/53; 21/5/55; 22/10/55; 26/5/56; 27/5/58; 21/9/60;

Rockwell-Collins: 21/10/99;

Rockwell International: 7/7/65; 16/7/65; 5/6/70; 26/7/72; 26/10/74; 23/12/74; 10/4/75; 21/4/75; 19/9/75; 18/2/78; 30/3/79; 20/1/82; 29/8/84; 4/9/84; 2/7/87; 27/8/87; 7/10/87; 20/1/88; 2/5/88; 1/3/90; 7/3/90; 11/10/90; 21/12/91; 29/4/93; 11/8/93; 21/10/99;

Ryan: 6/11/45; 15/11/49; 10/12/55; 11/4/57; 25/5/64; 7/6/66;

Scaled Composites: 7/8/98; 29/9/2004; 16/11/2004; 24/11/2004; 7/4/2006;

Stout Engineering Laboratory: 25/4/22;

Teledyne Ryan: 1/7/76; 1/2/97;

Tellier Seaplane: 18/11/17;

Thiokol: 2/5/2006;

Thompson, Ramo, Woolridge (TRW): 3/3/69;

Scott, James F.: 6/2/08; 8/2/08; 10/2/08;

Seversky Aircraft Company: 16/6/36;

Sikorsky: 17/5/34; 14/9/39; 13/3/40; 13/5/40; 17/5/42; 1/12/43; 25/4/44; 2/1/52; 8/1/52; 29/8/54;

17/10/54; 15/3/67; 14/6/75; 4/2/84; 14/3/90; 8/7/93;  
Slingsby Aviation: 8/7/93;  
United Technology Center: 20/7/63;  
Vought: 4/1/36; 13/2/43;  
Warner Instruments: 4/11/09;  
Westinghouse Electric: 9/12/45;  
Wright Brothers Company: 23/3/03; 18/1/05; 16/3/07; 6/2/08; 10/2/08; 14/5/08; 3/9/08; 12/1/09;  
29/6/09; 30/7/09; 2/8/09; 22/11/09; 10/2/10; 1/2/11; 13/10/15; 7/8/16; 28/2/28;  
Wright Martin Aircraft Company: 7/8/16;  
XCOR Aerospace: 3/12/2005;

### **MARINE CORPS (USMC)**

Aviation Achievements: 22/5/12; 20/8/12; 18/9/12; 5/1/14; 29/8/16; 13/2/17; 26/2/17; 9/1/18;  
21/1/18; 11/3/18; 13/7/18; 28/9/18; 11/11/18; 17/7/27; 31/5/30; 21/7/30; 20/11/33; 9/3/40; 13/2/43;  
26/3/44; 19/2/45; 25/8/47; 3/8/50; 15/9/50; 17/9/50; 25/9/50; 4/10/50; 6/10/50; 7/12/50; 9/5/51;  
23/5/52; 16/11/52; 11/7/53; 21/8/53; 12/11/56; 6/7/57; 3/6/60; 5/9/60; 22/11/61; 20/2/62; 22/3/63;  
6/6/64; 21/6/68; 18/12/72; 15/7/76; 2/6/95; 23/10/98; 12/12/2000; 29/3/2001; 19/7/2001;  
1st Marine Aviation Company: 9/1/18;  
1<sup>st</sup> Marine Air Wing: 9/5/51;  
Marine Fighter Squadron 124: 13/2/43;

### **MARINE CORPS AIRFIELDS**

Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, S. C.: 7/2/2007;

### **MEDALS**

Air Force Cross: 27/10/62; 11/4/66; 6/2/67; 9/9/67; 9/11/67; 12/5/68; 4/4/75; 21/1/91; 3/10/93;

Anderson, Jr., Maj Rudolf: 27/10/62.

Campbell, Maj Jesse: 12/5/68.

Clay, SSgt Eugene L.: 8/11/67.

Hackney, Duane: 6/2/67; 9/9/67.

Harp, Capt Tilford W.: 4/4/75.

Johnson, Paul T: 21/1/91.

Maysey, Sgt Larry W.: 8/11/67.

Pitsenbarger, A1C William H.: 11/4/66.

Traynor III, Capt Dennis W.: 4/4/75.

Wilkerson, TSgt Timothy A.: 3/10/93;

Airmail Flyers Medal of Honor: 14/2/31; 13/12/33;

Air Medal: 26/3/43;

Distinguished Flying Cross: 13/2/17; 19/5/19; 7/2/23; 2/7/26; 1/1/29; 28/7/34; 19/7/34; 28/7/34;  
30/7/35; 23/8/37; 6/2/39; 22/10/43; 26/11/43; 25/5/54; 28/4/58; 13/7/67; 19/1/68; 27/3/99;  
9/9/2000; 17/6/2003; 9/12/2003; 15/11/2006; 27/7/2007; 29/10/2007;

Akers, Lt Frank: 30/7/35;  
Anderson, Capt David: 15/11/2006;  
Bottriell, MSgt Ralph: 19/5/19;  
Collings, Capt George: 29/10/2007;  
DellaLucca, SSgt Matthew: 27/3/99;  
Eppes, Cmdr M. H.: 25/5/54;  
Haynes, Caleb V.: 6/2/39; 1/7/41; 14/11/41;  
Heffner, Maj R. C.: 22/10/43;  
Henry, Maurice V.: 26/11/43;  
Janney, Capt Clifton G.: 27/3/99;  
Obenauf, 1Lt James E.: 28/4/58;  
O'Dell, Capt Russell: 27/3/99;  
Olson, TSgt Eric M.: 9/12/2003;  
Torres, Maj Kevin: 27/3/99;  
Wolak, Maj Keith: 27/7/2007;

Distinguished Service Cross: 11/3/18; 19/9/18;

French Medaille Militaire: 20/4/16;

Langley Medal: 10/2/10;

Legion of Merit: 8/7/43;

Reed Warner Medal for Creative Engineering: 1/12/43;

Silver Star: 10/10/50; 12/5/68; 27/3/99;

**MEDAL OF HONOR:** 21/8/18; 29/9/18; 6/10/18; 18/4/42; 1/8/43; 20/12/43; 11/1/44; 20/2/44;  
9/8/44; 2/11/44; 12/12/44; 24/12/44; 24/4/45; 5/8/50; 14/9/51; 10/2/52; 10/3/66; 11/4/66; 24/2/67;  
10/3/67; 19/4/67; 26/8/67; 9/11/67; 12/5/68; 1/9/68; 26/11/68; 24/2/69; 6/8/70; 29/6/72;

Baker, Lt Col Addison: 1/8/43;

Bennett, Capt Steven L.: 29/6/72;

Bleckley, Erwin P.: 6/10/18;

Davis, Jr., Maj George A.: 30/11/51; 10/2/52;

Day, Maj George E.: 26/8/67;

Dethelfsen, Maj Merlyn H.: 2/1/68;

Fleming, Capt James P.: 26/11/68;

Hammann, Ensign C. H.: 21/8/18; 14/6/19 (Died, airplane crash at Langley Field)

Howard, Lt Col James H.: 11/1/44;

Jackson, Lt Col Joe M.: 12/5/68;

Jones, Col William A.: 1/9/68; 15 Nov 69 (Died, airplane crash)

Lawley, Lt William R.: 20/2/44;

Levitow, Sgt John L.: 24/2/69;

Loring, Maj Charles J.: 22/11/52.  
Luke, Lt Frank: 12/9/18; 29/9/18.  
Mathies, Ssgt Archibald: 20/2/44;  
Michael, 1Lt Edward: 11/4/44;  
Morgan, John C.: 28/7/43;  
Pitsenbarger, A1C William H.: 11/4/66;  
Pucket, Donald D.: 9/7/44;  
Rickenbacker, Edward V.: 25/9/18;  
Sebille, Maj Louis J.: 5/8/50;  
Sijan, Capt Lance P.: 9/11/67;  
Smith, Sgt Maynard H.: 1/5/43;  
Thorsness, Maj Leo K.: 19/4/67;  
Truemper, 2Lt Walter E.: 20/2/44;  
Vance, Lt Col Leon R.: 5/6/44;  
Young, Capt Gerald O.: 9/11/67;

**MEDICAL CONTRIBUTIONS:** 28/4/17; 8/5/18; 23/7/18; 24/8/18; 1/7/22; 8/7/43;

#### **MILITARY LEADERS:**

Andrews, Lt Gen Frank M.: 1/3/35; 29/6/36; 24/8/35; 3/5/43 [died in air crash, Iceland].  
Arnold, Gen Henry H.: 21/4/11; 13/5/11; 25/1/12; 5/7/12; 5/11/12; 6/10/13; 9/1/17; 20/4/23;  
29/9/38; 1/7/41; 9/3/42; 31/10/42; 19/3/43; 17/12/43; 21/12/44; 15/1/50 [Died of heart ailment].  
Atwood, Lt Col Marcelyn A.: 21/3/97;  
Baca, Lt Gen (US Army) Edward: 4/8/98;  
Bedke, Maj Gen Curtis: 15/12/2006;  
Bedwell, Maj Gen T.C. Jr.: 3/2/64;  
Bennet, Lt Col John B.: 19/2/17;  
Boese, Lt Gen Lawrence: 27/7/96;  
Born, Maj Gen Charles F.: 1/3/47;  
Brereton, Lt Gen Lewis H.: 23/4/19; 2/4/42; 12/11/42; 16/10/43;  
Brett, Maj Gen George H.: 31/5/41; 14/11/41;  
Brown, Gen George C. (USAF Chief of Staff): 10/4/74;  
Buchanan, Lt Gen Walter III: 6/7/2005;  
Butler, Gen George L.: 1/6/92;  
Catton, Gen Jack J.: 6/6/70;  
Chain, Jr., Gen John T.: 21/1/87;  
Chaney, Brig Gen James E.: 26/2/40;

Chennault, Maj Gen Claire: 20/12/41; 4/7/42; 10/3/43;  
Clark, Gen Wesley (US Army): 13/4/99; 26/4/99;  
Collings, Maj Gen Michael: 29/10/2007;  
Conley, Maj Gen Philip J., Jr.: 1/6/79;  
Cowles, Rear Admiral William S.: 2/12/08;  
Curry, John F.: 9/1/17;  
Dargue, Herbert A.: 1/12/14; 11/12/14; 7/4/16; 2/9/16; 21/12/26; 12/12/41 (Died in crash).  
Davis, Brig Gen Benjamin O.: 19/7/41; 6/3/42; 27/10/54; 9/12/98;  
Davis, Lt Gen Russell C.: 4/8/98; 3/8/2002;  
Desjardins, Brig Gen Susan Y.: 9/12/2005; 2/10/2007;  
Doolittle, Lt Gen James H.: 4/9/22; 25/5/27; 24/9/29; 3/9/32; 15/1/35; 18/4/42; 1/11/43; 6/7/50;  
20/2/52; 27/9/93 (died at age 96)  
Dougherty, Gen Russell E.: 30/9/75;  
Drum, Maj Gen Hugh A.: 11/10/33;  
Duncan, Asa N.: 28/1/42;  
Eaker, Lt Gen Ira C.: 1/1/29; 27/8/29; 14/1/43; 2/6/44;  
Eberhart, Gen Ralph E.: 25/1/2000; 1/10/2002;  
Emmons, Maj Gen Delos C.: 1/3/39;  
Eisenhower, Gen Dwight D.: 2/4/51; 7/11/57;  
Eubank, Jr., Brig Gen William E.: 7/4/58;  
Fairchild, Gen Muir S.: 22/8/23;  
Fechet, Maj Gen James E.: 14/12/27; 20/12/31;  
Field, Brig Gen Burton M.: 19/1/2007;  
Ford, Col (later Lt Gen) Phillip S.: 2/5/88;  
Foulois, Maj Gen Benjamin D.: 12/8/08; 23/10/09; 2/3/10; 2/2/11; 27/2/11; 3/3/11; 10/8/12;  
15/3/16; 7/4/16; 23/7/17; 27/11/17; 22/12/31; 10/2/33; 25/4/67 (Died).  
Fraser, Lt Gen William III: 1/3/2005;  
Gabriel, Gen Charles A.: 24/2/84;  
Goewey, Brig Gen Robert J.: 16/12/58;  
Gruenther, Gen Alfred M.: 20/11/56;  
Halverson, Col Harry: 1/1/29; 26/5/42;  
Handy, Gen John W.: 8/2/2003; 10/2/2005;  
Hansell, Jr., Brig G. Haywood S.: 24/11/44;  
Harris, Lt Gen Edgar S.: 17/3/81;  
Harris, Brig Gen Marcelite Jordan: 8/9/90;  
Harmon, Lt Gen Hubert R.: 26/7/54;  
Harmon, Lt Gen Millard F.: 26/2/45;

Hawley, Gen Richard: 27/7/96; 16/12/96; 1/4/97;  
Hennessy, Capt Frederick B.: 5/11/12;  
Holloway, Gen Bruce K.: 8/10/69;  
Holme, Col Jeanne M.: 1/11/65; 29/2/68;  
Hopkins, Joseph G.: 1/1/29;  
Hoyt, Brig Gen Ralph W.: 2/2/11;  
Hoyt, Ross G.: 1/1/29;  
James, Jr., Gen Daniel (Chappie): 1/9/75;  
James III, Lt Gen Daniel (ANG): 14/5/2002; 21/5/2004;  
Johnson, Gen Hansford T.: 1/10/89;  
Jones, Gen David C. (USAF Chief of Staff): 1/7/74;  
Jumper, Gen John P.: 19/1/2001; 28/1/2002; 1/10/2002; 11/11/2004;  
Keirn, Maj Gen Donald: 19/11/57;  
Kelly, LG Christopher: 10/10/2005;  
Kenly, MG William L.: 3/9/17; 27/11/17; 27/4/18; 21/5/18; 10/3/19;  
Kenney, Gen George C.: 9/10/18; 15/6/44;  
Keys, Gen Ronald E.: 15/12/2005;  
Knerr, Maj Hugh: 11/1/32; 10/2/33;  
Lassiter, Maj Gen William: 27/3/23;  
LeMay, Gen Curtis E.: 14/11/41; 16/7/45; 30/1/46; 11/11/57; 31/1/65;  
Loh, Gen John M.: 17/12/93;  
Lord, Gen Lance: 21/5/2004;  
MacArthur, Gen Douglas: 9/1/31; 3/1/33; 12/12/44; 30/6/50; 23/8/50; 1/9/50; 10/9/50;  
Manor, Brig Gen Leroy J.: 21/11/70;  
Mathis, Gen Robert G.: 7/8/59;  
May, Col Geraldine Pratt: 12/6/48;  
Menohar, Maj Gen Charles T.: 23/12/18; 27/10/19; 5/10/21;  
McCarty, Maj Gen Chester E.: 3/7/52; 26/10/56;  
McConnell, Gen John P. (USAF Chief of Staff): 31/1/65; 16/2/66; 23/7/66; 1/8/69;  
McKinley, Lt Gen Craig R.: 21/5/2006;  
McNabb, Gen Duncan: 13/3/2007;  
McPeak, Gen Merrill: 1/10/93;  
Mitchell, Brig Gen William: 3/4/16; 17/10/18; 10/3/19; 23/4/19; 13/7/21; 18/10/22; 25/10/25;  
Moffett, RADM William A.: 17/6/22; 4/4/33;  
Moore, Brig Gen Joseph H.: 11/12/59;  
Moore, Gen William G.: 27/9/78;

Moseley, Gen T. Michael (USAF Chief of Staff): 14/9/2006;  
Mullis, Col Betty L.: 5/5/96;  
Myers, Gen Richard B.: 1/10/2001;  
Norstad, Gen Lauris: 2/4/51; 20/11/56;  
O'Day, Col Helen: 29/2/68;  
Old, Jr., Maj Gen Archie J.: 9/6/51; 18/1/57;  
Pamerleau, Brig Gen Susan L.: 4/8/94;  
Partridge, Lt Gen Earl E.: 24/1/51;  
Patrick, Maj Gen Mason M.: 29/5/18; 5/10/21; 14/12/27;  
Pershing, Gen John J.: 15/3/16; 17/10/18; 17/10/18;  
Peterson, Col Tersea M.: 10/7/1998;  
Power, Gen Thomas S.: 9/9/59; 21/12/59; 1/8/60;  
Pratt, Adm William V.: 9/1/31;  
Quesada, Maj Gen Elwood: 1/1/29; 21/3/46;  
Reber, Lt Col Samuel: 18/7/14; 20/5/16;  
Ridgway, Gen Matthew B.: 24/1/51;  
Robertson, Gen Charles T.: 25/7/01;  
Royce, Maj (later Brig Gen) Ralph: 13/8/17; 23/8/17; 12/4/42;  
Ryan, Gen John D. (USAF Chief of Staff): 1/8/69;  
Ryan, Gen Michael D. (USAF Chief of Staff): 21/9/99;  
Saunders, Brig Gen LaVerne G.: 15/6/44;  
Schriever, Brig Gen Bernard A.: 21/6/54; 1/7/54;  
Schwartzkopf, Gen Norman (US Army): 17/1/90;  
Scott, Brig Gen Eugene D.: 16/2/75;  
Scowcroft, Lt Gen Brent: 6/4/83;  
Shuler, Lt Gen Ellie G. "Buck": 2/5/88;  
Slay, Gen Alton D.: 4/6/70;  
Spaatz, Gen Carl A.: 23/4/19; 31/10/42; 27/3/45; 16/7/45; 1/3/46; 24/1/46; 18/9/47; 30/4/48;  
Squier, Lt Col George O.: 20/5/16; 19/2/17;  
Stratemeyer, Lt Gen George E.: 3/8/50; 1/9/50; 10/9/50;  
Sweeney, Jr., Maj Gen Walter C.: 21/6/54;  
Towers, Admiral John H.: 27/6/11; 25/10/11; 6/10/12; 18/12/12; 6/3/13; 20/1/14; 30/4/55 (Died).  
Twining, Lt Gen Nathan F.: 1/2/43; 20/10/45;  
Tunner, Maj Gen William H.: 23/7/48; 26/8/50; 10/9/50;  
Vandenberg, Gen Hoyt S.: 15/1/48; 30/4/48; 3/7/50; 1/8/50; 15/10/50; 24/8/51; 30/6/53;  
Weaver, Jr., Maj Gen Paul A.: 12/4/99;



Westover, Maj Gen Oscar: 22/12/35; 29/9/38 (Died in a 21 September 1938 airplane crash).

Weyland, Gen O. P.: 26/10/56; 27/5/58;

Whitehead, Lt Gen Ennis C.: 8/1/51;

White, Gen Thomas D.: 1/7/57; 20/9/57; 29/11/57; 9/2/61; 30/6/61;

**MISSILES/ROCKETS:** 7/7/14; 14/7/14; 14/4/17; 7/11/18; 17/7/29; 22/3/46; 22/12/46; 21/8/48; 6/12/54; 27/3/56; 3/12/56; 9/9/58; 12/8/61; 15/12/2005;

Aberdeen Proving Ground: 7/11/18; 10/11/18; 1/9/19;

Advanced ICBM: 4/4/72;

Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM): 7/3/86; 24/10/86; 4/9/87; 4/5/90; 21/9/2001; 24/1/2002;

Advanced Nositip Test Vehicle: 27/2/76;

Aerobee: 24/11/47; 18/4/51; 20/9/51; 22/5/52; 29/6/56; 16/10/57; 13/3/59; 26/3/61; 12/8/61;

Agena: 29/10/56;

Air-Launched, Air-Recoverable Rocket (ALARR): 28/3/66; 30/4/67;

AGM-109: 9/2/80;

AGM-114 Hellfire: 20/12/89; 7/3/90; 21/2/2001; 4/2/2002; 1/3/2005; 27/10/2007;

AGM-142 Raptor: 31/1/97;

AIM-7: 8/1/73;

AIM-9: 8/6/71; 25/7/2000; 26/9/2000; 25/8/2002; 23/11/2002; 9/4/2004;

AIM-82A: 27/8/70;

AIM-120 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM): 24/3/98; 24/10/2000; 21/8/2002; 5/11/2002; 14/4/2006;

Airborne Launch Control System: 2/2/65; 17/4/67; 4/3/80;

Air Launched, Air Recoverable Rocket: 28/3/66;

Air Launched Anti-satellite Missile: 21/1/84; 13/9/85;

Air Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM): 20/7/73; 25/6/75; 8/10/75; 7/11/75; 5/3/76; 9/9/76; 6/1/77; 14/1/77; 15/5/77; 30/6/77; 7/12/77; 5/4/78; 23/8/78; 20/3/79; 23/4/79; 1/7/79; 17/7/79; 9/2/80; 25/3/80; 30/4/80; 12/6/80; 11/1/81; 23/4/81; 25/7/81; 15/8/81; 11/9/81; 15/9/81; 2/10/81; 24/11/81; 27/1/82; 21/9/82; 10/10/82; 16/12/82; 10/2/83; 6/4/83; 22/6/83; 30/9/83; 1/11/83; 6/3/84; 19/2/85; 1/7/85; 23/8/86; 7/10/86; 24/11/87; 16/1/91;

Airmobile Basing: 22/12/72; 24/10/74; 5/12/78; 31/3/79;

Air-to-Air Missiles: 16/8/48; 1/9/53; 30/5/58;

Air-to-Surface Missiles: 22/1/59; 13/2/61;

Anti-ballistic Missile: 10/6/60; 26/6/62; 19/7/62; 27/8/64; 20/10/69; 29/8/70;

Anti-Missile Missile: 14/10/59;

Anti-Satellite Missile: 21/1/85;

Argo D-4: 13/9/61; 10/10/61;

Athena: 21/6/65; 13/2/74; 20/3/77;

Atlantic Missile Range: 11/5/49; 2/8/58; 28/11/58; 23/12/58; 6/4/59; 13/10/59; 24/2/60; 20/10/60; 24/2/61; 9/1/62; 16/3/62; 11/7/62; 22/12/62; 6/2/63; 18/2/63;

Atlas (HGM-16): 19/4/46; 23/1/51; 21/6/54; 11/6/57; 17/12/57; 2/8/58; 16/1/51; 8/2/54; 26/2/54; 21/7/54; 11/8/54; 10/11/54; 12/7/55; 5/3/57; 12/7/57; 5/10/57; 1/2/58; 1/4/58; 5/4/58; 24/4/58; 7/6/58; 28/8/58; 16/10/58; 28/11/58; 18/12/58; 23/12/58; 15/1/59; 23/7/59; 28/7/59; 15/8/59; 24/8/59; 1/9/59; 9/9/59; 31/10/59; 3/11/59; 4/11/59; 8/3/60; 22/4/60; 20/5/60; 9/8/60; 30/8/60; 2/9/60; 16/9/60; 19/9/60; 1/10/60; 13/10/60; 3/12/60; 16/12/60; 23/1/61; 24/2/61; 30/3/61; 1/4/61; 19/6/61; 6/7/61; 24/7/61; 29/7/61; 8/8/61; 13/9/61; 28/9/61; 1/10/61; 20/11/61; 28/2/62; 26/6/62; 19/7/62; 1/8/62; 9/8/62; 9/9/62; 5/12/62; 20/12/62; 7/2/63; 24/5/63; 1/2/64; 1/5/64; 16/5/64; 27/8/64; 1/9/64; 11/9/64; 1/10/64; 1/12/64; 15/12/64; 4/1/65; 21/1/65; 12/3/65; 25/3/65; 31/3/65; 12/5/65; 2/4/66; 21/12/66; 31/3/67; 19/4/67; 31/5/67; 6/7/67; 7/11/67; 7/1/68; 6/8/71; 16/3/74; 9/2/78; 22/2/78; 24/2/79; 11/4/90; 24/3/95;

Atlas V: 21/8/2002; 1/4/2005; 27/1/2006; 8/3/2007; 10/10/2007;

Atlas-Agena: 18/10/62;

Bat Homing Missile: 23/4/45;

Blue Scout: 4/12/61; 11/7/63; 1/12/67; 10/10/67;

Ballistic Missile Defense: 4/12/75; 14/7/2001;

Black Brant III Sounding Rocket (Canada): 13/12/62;

Bold Orion: 13/10/59;

Bomarc: 23/10/57; 4/12/57; 15/1/58; 24/9/58; 16/12/60; 1/6/61; 17/8/61; 19/9/61; 10/5/62; 3/1/63; 19/1/65; 4/2/65; 24/3/70; 31/10/72; 30/7/85;

Boojum: 28/3/46;

BQM-145a Peregrine: 1/2/97;

Bull Goose: 18/3/58;

Bullpup: 3/6/60; 13/2/61;

Bumper-WAC: 13/5/48;

Buried Trench: 9/3/76; 11/8/77; 20/2/78;

Burner II: 8/6/71;

Centaur: 28/9/62;

Closely Spaced Basing: 22/11/82;

Coffin Launch Facility: 1/4/58; 23/7/59; 22/4/60; 28/2/62;

Cold Launch: 26/1/82; 23/8/85;

Command and Control: 1/4/70;

Command Data Buffer System: 27/2/76; 22/1/80;

Conventional Air Launched Cruise Missile (AGM-86C) (CALCM): 12/12/96; 10/11/98; 28/4/99; 17/9/2001;

Decoys: 10/5/55; 18/1/56; 18/3/58; 20/7/61; 12/9/62; 19/1/68; 6/3/97; 9/1/99;

Delta Rocket: 10/7/62; 18/9/62; 15/11/74; 27/1/77; 14/2/89; 7/2/99; 14/5/2000; 17/11/2006; 17/2/2007; 4/8/2007; 21/12/2007;

Dense Pack: 22/11/82;

Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line: 24/2/54; 8/2/58; 31/7/57;

Eastern Test Range: 26/2/66; 3/6/66; 16/6/66; 1/7/67; 7/1/68; 9/2/69; 20/3/70; 2/3/72; 14/3/76; 18/3/87;

Emergency Rocket Communication System: 29/9/61; 11/7/63; 13/12/66; 1/12/67; 10/10/67; 44/8/70;

Engines, Electric Arcjet: 15/3/99;

Engines, Liquid-Fueled: 28/8/53; 10/1/56; 10/2/61; 8/8/98; 19/3/2000; 14/5/2000; 12/9/2000; 14/5/2001;

Engines, Solid-Fueled: 13/2/61; 16/2/61; 3/6/61; 26/1/76; 4/6/97; 30/3/2004; 21/1/2005; 10/6/2005; 27/1/2006; 2/5/2006;

Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle Program: 21/8/2002; 8/3/2007;

Exos: 19/2/60;

EZRocket: 3/12/2005;

Falcon Small Launch Vehicle Satellite Booster: 21/1/2005; 29/9/2005; 26/7/2006;

FIMN-92 Stinger: 23/9/2002;

Firebird (Ryan XAAM-A-1): 15/11/49;

GAM-63B: 13/2/61;

GAR-9: 30/5/58;

Genie (MB-1): 19/7/57;

Goose (SM-73): 10/5/55; 27/6/57; 5/12/58; 12/12/58;

Ground-based Midcourse Defense Segment: 14/7/2001;

Ground Launched Cruise Missile (GLCM): 16/5/80; 24/3/82; 1/7/82; 1/2/83; 26/4/83; 9/9/83; 23/11/83; 28/8/84; 22/10/85; 1/11/85; 8/12/87;

Ground Mobile Basing: 22/12/72;

Guidance Systems: 22/5/46; 6/2/48; 3/5/50; 26/11/55; 12/7/57; 22/10/57; 7/12/57; 18/7/58; 23/12/58; 8/3/60; 25/7/61; 8/10/75; 27/6/76;

Hard Rock Silos: 4/10/67;

Harpoon (AGM-84): 20/9/82; 6/10/83; 21/12/84; 20/4/85; 29/6/85; 15/7/85;

Have Fly: 19/1/75;

Have Mill: 13/2/74;

Hawk (MIM-23): 25/1/60;

High Speed Anti-Radiation Missile: 15/11/76; 30/9/84; 4/11/99; 13/1/2000;

Honest John (MGR-1): 17/4/54; 25/1/60;

Horizontal Multiple Shelters: 2/10/81;

Hound Dog (GAM-77): 15/3/56; 12/7/57; 23/8/57; 16/10/58; 13/2/59; 23/4/59; 29/11/59; 21/12/59; 23/12/59; 29/2/60; 12/4/60; 28/3/61; 9/1/62; 25/8/61; 17/1/62; 28/2/63; 28/3/63; 24/7/73; 30/6/75; 15/6/78;

Hybrid Explicit: 15/3/75; 9/1/76;

Hybrid Trench Basing: 11/8/77;

ICBM: 14/2/55; 8/9/55; 8/11/55; 1/12/55; 23/2/56; 10/1/57; 5/3/57; 5/10/57; 29/11/57; 1/4/58; 23/12/58; 3/11/59; 30/8/60; 10/3/61; 21/4/64; 19/11/64; 26/5/72; 1/7/94;

Inertial Guidance Systems: 18/11/54; 19/12/57;

IRBM: 2/12/54; 14/2/55; 8/11/55; 1/12/55; 18/1/65; 23/2/56; 10/1/57; 5/3/57; 22/10/57; 29/11/57; 19/12/57; 12/2/58; 4/1/58; 22/4/58; 29/2/60; 22/4/60; 20/10/60; 17/1/63; 22/1/63;

Iris Sounding Rocket: 22/7/60;

JB-1: 7/12/44;

JB-2: 8/9/44; 15/9/45;

Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM): 17/6/96; 25/4/2001; 31/5/2001; 31/7/2001; 20/11/2001; 26/12/2001; 30/10/2003; 26/3/2004; 9/4/2004; 25/7/2005; 18/8/2005;

Joint Long Range Proving Ground: 30/12/47; 16/4/50; 27/7/50;

Juno: 3/11/60;

Jupiter: 8/11/55; 1/12/55; 14/3/56; 11/6/56; 20/9/56; 16/11/56; 22/10/57; 27/11/57; 4/1/58; 15/1/58; 31/1/58; 12/2/58; 22/4/58; 18/5/58; 30/9/58; 5/11/58; 10/12/58; 21/1/59; 26/3/59; 6/5/59; 28/5/59; 4/2/60; 11/7/60; 20/10/60; 22/4/61; 18/4/62; 25/5/62; 17/1/63; 22/1/63; 23/1/63;

Killian Report: 14/2/55;

Kwajalein Island: 19/7/62; 22/12/62; 29/8/70; 23/12/70; 15/2/79; 7/3/86; 18/4/91; 13/2/93;

Lance: 30/6/92;

Lark: 13/1/50;

Loon: 12/2/47; 26/1/49;

Mace (TM-76): 6/8/59; 21/10/60; 28/2/62; 14/9/62; 30/4/69; 31/12/69; 31/3/70;

Martin Viking: 3/5/49; 7/8/51;

Matador (TM-61): 22/4/46; 28/3/50; 20/6/51; 20/5/54; 15/9/56; 30/11/56; 6/8/59; 26/2/60; 28/2/62;

Maverick (AGM-65): 15/11/66; 19/9/69; 18/12/69; 23/7/71; 15/1/77; 11/5/90;

Mighty Mouse: 6/2/50;

Minuteman: 6/5/60; 22/3/62; 11/3/64; 20/3/63; 11/9/64; 1/2/66; 19/1/75; 26/10/76; 23/3/77; 1/12/78; 28/10/85; 5/3/86; 1/1/88;

Minuteman I: 12/7/57; 27/2/58; 18/7/58; 21/7/58; 6/8/58; 9/10/58; 17/2/59; 4/9/59; 15/9/59; 23/12/59; 25/3/60; 1/7/60; 1/2/61; 16/3/61; 15/7/61; 21/8/61; 1/12/61; 1/1/62; 15/2/62; 1/5/62; 29/6/62; 1/7/62; 27/7/62; 27/9/62; 28/9/62; 24/10/62; 27/10/62; 7/12/62; 11/12/62; 28/2/63; 11/4/63; 24/5/63; 28/5/63; 18/6/63; 24/6/63; 30/9/63; 17/10/63; 25/2/64; 29/2/64; 1/7/64; 27/11/64; 1/3/65; 15/6/65; 30/6/65; 24/8/65; 24/2/66; 7/5/66; 3/10/66; 22/12/66; 3/10/67; 12/2/69; 29/8/70; 23/12/70; 3/9/74; 24/10/74; 26/1/75; 18/1/88;

Minuteman II: 2/10/63; 28/2/64; 5/3/64; 24/9/64; 1/2/65; 2/2/65; 5/8/65; 7/8/65; 18/8/65; 7/12/65; 1/4/66; 25/4/66; 7/5/66; 8/7/66; 19/10/66; 22/11/66; 13/12/66; 17/4/67; 21/4/67; 3/10/67; 10/10/67; 1/3/68; 12/2/69; 16/4/69; 22/10/70; 13/4/72; 20/1/75; 26/1/75; 11/7/75; 26/8/76; 24/6/93; 8/12/93; 5/3/95; 31/7/95; 22/12/97; 14/7/2001; 22/9/2005;

Minuteman III: 15/7/65; 11/4/66; 8/7/66; 16/8/68; 11/4/69; 14/4/70; 17/4/70; 19/6/70; 19/8/70; 28/8/70; 14/12/70; 29/12/70; 8/1/71; 24/3/71; 19/9/72; 20/6/73; 3/9/74; 20/1/75; 26/1/75; 11/7/75; 27/2/76; 22/2/77; 8/7/77; 6/1/78; 30/11/78; 15/2/79; 10/7/79; 17/9/80; 3/2/83; 4/2/85; 6/10/99; 24/8/2001; 26/8/2005; 2/5/2006; 12/7/2007;

Minuteman Force Modernization Program: 7/5/66; 3/10/67; 12/2/69; 3/9/74; 26/1/75;

Minuteman Integrated Life Extension Program (Rivet Mile): 1/4/85;

Minuteman Integrated Improvement Program: 27/2/76; 23/3/77; 22/1/80;

Missile, Early: 16/3/26;

Missile Competition: 3/4/67; 24/4/75;

Missile-X (Peacekeeper): 4/4/72; 22/12/72; 15/8/75; 26/1/76; 9/3/76; 10/1/77; 20/2/78; 5/12/78; 31/3/79; 12/6/79; 7/9/79; 2/10/81; 26/1/82; 22/11/82; 6/4/83; 17/6/83; 10/8/83; 14/10/83; 15/6/84; 1/10/84; 17/6/85; 30/6/85; 31/8/86; 10/10/86; 29/10/86; 29/11/89; 1/10/2002;

Mobile Basing: 15/8/75; 11/8/77; 31/3/79;

Mobile Minuteman: 15/5/59; 20/6/60; 27/8/60; 1/12/60; 28/3/61; 7/12/61;

Mobile Missile: 13/7/65;

Multiple Protective Shelter: 5/12/78; 7/9/79; 17/6/85;

Naming: 30/4/46;

National Missile Defense Program: 14/7/2001;

Navaho: 29/3/46; 26/5/48; 3/5/50; 23/1/51; 28/7/52; 10/11/52; 3/3/53; 28/8/53; 14/10/53; 18/11/54; 7/12/54; 28/3/55; 29/3/55; 23/2/56; 12/7/57;

Nike-Apache: 30/11/62;

Nike-Asp: 17/8/59;

Nike-Cajun Sounding Rocket: 26/4/62; 30/11/62; 15/12/62;

Nike-Hercules: 10/6/60;

Nike-Zeus: 14/10/59; 28/4/60; 26/6/62; 12/4/62; 19/7/62; 22/12/62; 27/8/64;

Nose Cones: 18/5/58;

Pacific Missile (Test) Range: 29/1/58; 16/12/58; 13/8/59; 7/11/59; 20/11/59; 23/1/64; 1/2/65; 6/10/83; 9/6/97; 21/9/2001; 21/8/2002; 5/11/2002;

Patriot: 6/12/83; 1/10/91; 19/11/97; 9/12/98;

Pave Phased Array Warning System (PAWS): 5/5/72; 19/4/84;

Peacekeeper in Minuteman Silos: 30/12/81; 6/4/83; 10/8/83; 7/3/86;

Pedro Recruit Sounding Rocket: 4/2/74;

Pegasus: 9/11/89; 5/4/90; 3/8/94; 28/4/2001; 2/6/2001;

Pentration Aids: 1/3/68;

Pershing I: 25/2/60; 26/7/60; 10/12/62; 6/7/89;

Pershing II: 12/12/79; 23/11/83; 17/5/90;

Polaris (UGM-27): 12/7/57; 23/3/58; 20/4/59; 27/8/59; 18/3/60; 29/3/60; 14/4/60; 20/7/60; 15/11/60; 2/3/61; 12/8/61; 23/10/61; 1/3/62; 7/2/63; 7/5/62; 17/6/63; 11/9/64; 28/9/64;

President's Commission on ICBM Modernization: 6/4/83;

Private "A": 1/1/44; 1/12/44;

Production Verification Missile: 15/3/75; 9/1/76;

Project Added Effort: 1/5/64; 31/3/67;

Project Asset: 23/2/65;

Project Giant Boost: 19/10/66;

Project Long Life: 27/11/64; 1/3/65; 19/10/66;

Project Misty Bronco: 10/6/69;  
Project MX-771: 22/4/46;  
Project MX-774: 23/1/51;  
Project MX-776: 29/4/46;  
Project MX-1593: 23/1/51;  
Project ORDCIT: 1/1/44; 1/12/44;  
Project Paper Clip: 29/9/45;  
Quail: 13/10/52; 18/1/56; 1/2/56; 15/8/58; 31/12/58; 29/11/59; 27/2/60; 1/3/60; 8/6/60; 13/9/60;  
1/2/61; 7/3/61; 18/12/61; 28/5/62; 23/3/64; 13/7/72; 30/6/78; 1/11/78;  
QuickReach: 26/7/2006;  
Rail Garrison: 29/10/86; 29/11/89;  
Rail Mobile: 17/6/85;  
Rapier: 13/2/81; 19/6/86;  
Rascal: 29/4/46; 28/7/52; 30/9/52; 17/2/58; 29/11/59;  
Research and Development: 1/1/44; 19/4/46; 29/4/46; 3/1/49; 4/1/51; 13/10/52; 27/10/55; 21/7/58;  
23/10/63; 15/7/65; 4/10/67;  
Redstone: 20/8/53; 19/12/60; 31/1/61; 5/5/61; 21/7/61; 10/12/62;  
Redstone Arsenal: 8/11/55; 15/1/58;  
Regulus: 16/9/58; 8/5/59; 25/3/60; 19/9/61;  
Responsibility: 15/3/50;  
Retro Rockets: 28/5/63;  
Ripple Launch: 1/2/65;  
Rocket-assisted Takeoff: 12/8/41;  
Rocket-borne transmitters: 14/1/60;  
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Super Hippo Rocket: 16/10/75;

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Surface-to-Surface: 9/1/46; 26/11/55;

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Augenstein, Dr. B.W.: 8/2/54

Goddard, Dr. Robert H.: 7/7/14; 14/7/14; 7/11/18; 10/11/18; 16/3/26; 17/7/29; 19/4/32; 28/3/35;  
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von Braun, Dr. Wernher: 20/8/53; 27/1/54;

von Karmen, Dr. Theodore: 7/5/63;

von Neumann, Dr. John: 10/2/54;



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ATLAS RESPONSE: 1/3/2000;

AUTHENTIC ASSISTANCE: 15/5/73;

AVID RESPONSE: 18/8/99;

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BATTLE OF KHAFJI: 24/2/91;

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CHRISTMAS KIDLIFT: 20/12/50;  
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COMBAT MOSQUITO: 14/5/69;  
COMBAT VEE: 11/7/71;  
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CREEK HAVEN: 6/6/67;  
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EAGLE CLAW: 24/4/80;  
EAGLE THRUST: 17/11/67;  
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HERMANN: 1/1/45;

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NEW TAPE: 8/7/60;  
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RANCH HAND: 13/1/62; 2/2/62; 31/8/63;

RECUPERATION: 10/1/98;

RED RICHARD: 10/7/59;

REDWING: 5/5/56; 21/5/56;

Rescue: 25/4/44; 8/7/44; 9/12/48; 22/7/50; 28/7/50; 3/8/50; 5/8/50; 4/9/50; 21/10/50; 23/12/50; 18/4/51; 21/4/51; 24/4/51; 30/4/51; 5/5/51; 8/5/51; 19/5/51; 10/9/51; 22/10/51; 25/10/51; 27/10/51; 30/11/51; 25/1/52; 26/1/52; 5/3/52; 27/3/52; 31/3/52; 18/5/52; 23/5/52; 4/6/52; 9/6/52; 22/12/52; 28/12/52; 17/8/63; 16/3/66; 29/5/66; 28/2/68; 15/4/69; 1/7/69; 3/2/70; 10/3/71; 15/7/73; 30/8/74; 17/6/75; 1/8/76; 31/3/79; 10/9/80; 4/10/80; 21/11/80; 23/1/81; 10/2/81; 21/9/81; 1/9/83; 4/10/83; 2/9/84; 19/10/84; 20/12/84; 5/1/85; 28/1/85; 16/10/85; 4/11/85; 18/12/85; 18/2/86; 10/12/86; 25/10/88; 12/12/88; 13/3/93; 10/1/94; 13/1/94; 29/12/94; 2/6/95; 16/10/95; 21/9/99; 5/8/2005; 30/8/2005; 4/9/2005; 5/10/2007; 3/11/2007;

RESTORE HOPE: 9/12/92; 5/10/93; 25/3/94;

RIPPER: 3/6/51;

ROUNDUP: 5/2/51;

RUBBER WALL: 3/9/83;

SAFARI (Congo Airlift): 14/7/60;

SAFE HAVEN: 11/12/56; 31/8/94;

SAFE PASSAGE: 1/2/95;

SAKLOLO: 21/7/72;

SATURATE: 3/3/52;

SEA ANGEL: 11/5/91;

SHINGLE: 11/1/44;

SHINING HOPE: 4/4/99; 1/9/99;

SHUTTLE RAIDS: 17/8/43; 2/2/44; 2/6/44; 11/6/44; 21/6/44; 27/6/44; 22/7/44; 11/9/44; 22/9/44; 26/9/94;

SKY SHIELD: 10/9/60; 14/10/61;

SKYWATCH: 14/7/52;

SNOWBALL: 1/10/51;

SNOW BLOW: 29/1/78; 8/2/78;

SNOWBOUND (HAYLIFT): 23/1/49.

SNO GO: 31/1/77;

SOUTH POLE: 9/1/56; 26/10/56; 31/10/56; 25/11/56; 28/2/2006; 30/10/2006; 20/12/2006;

SOUTHWIND: 24/10/60;

SOUTHERN HAYLIFT: 19/7/86;

SOUTHERN WATCH: 18/8/92; 27/12/92; 13/1/93; 25/6/96; 30/6/96; 19/11/97; 28/4/99; 13/6/99; 3/3/2003; 28/4/2003 (End); 7/4/2007.

SPECIAL MISSION 75: 30/8/45;

STABILISE: 20/9/99;

STAIR STEP: 4/9/61; 30/10/61;  
STRANGLE: 19/3/44; 28/3/44; 31/5/51; 18/8/51;  
SUPPORT HOPE: 24/7/94;  
SUSTAIN HOPE: 4/4/99;  
SWIFT FREEDOM: 28/11/2001;  
SWIFT STRIKE: 8/8/61;  
TALLY HO: 20/7/66;  
THUNDERBOLT: 24/1/51;  
THURSDAY: 11/3/44;  
TIDAL WAVE: 1/8/43;  
TOMAHAWK: 23/3/51;  
TOP SAIL: 27/6/58;  
TORCH: 8/11/42;  
TURKS: 1/5/83;  
UNIFIED ASSISTANCE: 26/12/2004;  
UNISOM II: 7/1/95;  
UNITY KNIGHT: 7/12/2006;  
UPHOLD DEMOCRACY: 8/9/94; 17/4/96;  
URGENT FURY: 25/10/83;  
VARSITY: 24/3/45;  
VIGILANT SENTINEL: 17/8/95; 28/10/95;  
VIGILANT WARRIOR: 10/10/94;  
VOLANT OAK: 17/2/99;  
WATER PUMP: 17/5/64;  
WILD WEASEL: 6/4/67; 28/3/79; 18/6/96;  
WOUNDED WARRIOR: 26/6/54;  
ZAIRE I: 16/5/78;  
ZAIRE II: 31/5/78;

**NAVY AVIATION ACHIEVEMENTS:** 17/9/08; 2/12/08; 16/8/09; 3/11/09; 14/11/10; 18/1/11;  
27/1/11; 30/1/11; 17/2/11; 27/2/11; 13/3/11; 18/4/11; 8/5/11; 27/6/11; 19/7/11; 7/9/11; 22/5/12;  
25/7/12; 31/7/12; 20/8/12; 18/9/12; 6/10/12; 8/10/12; 18/12/12; 26/2/13; 6/3/13; 30/5/13; 20/6/13;  
30/8/13; 7/10/13; 30/6/13; 5/1/14; 7/1/14; 20/1/14; 16/2/14; 6/5/14; 1/6/15; 6/11/15; 9/6/16;  
18/7/16; 29/8/16; 13/2/17; 26/2/17; 6/4/17; 20/4/17; 30/5/17; 27/7/17; 14/8/17; 18/11/17; 21/11/17;  
9/1/18; 21/2/18; 1/3/18; 6/3/18; 7/3/18; 11/3/18; 19/3/18; 25/3/18; 6/5/18; 13/7/18; 17/7/18;  
21/8/18; 24/9/18; 28/9/18; 7/3/19; 27/5/19; 14/6/19; 24/8/19; 7/7/20; 14/10/20; 1/12/21; 25/4/22;  
17/6/22; 1/7/22; 27/9/22; 17/10/22; 26/10/22; 6/6/23; 28/9/23; 6/10/23; 10/10/23; 2/11/23; 4/11/23;  
25/10/24; 22/1/25; 24/1/25; 4/8/25; 31/8/25; 10/7/26; 25/8/26; 27/8/26; 28/7/26; 9/3/27; 27/7/27;  
16/11/27; 27/1/28; 27/2/28; 16/1/29; 4/6/30; 2/4/31; 31/3/31; 26/9/31; 25/9/32; 21/4/33; 7/9/33;  
15/7/33; 2/9/33; 20/11/33; 10/1/34; 1/5/34; 12/2/35; 30/7/35; 9/11/35; 23/7/36; 12/5/38; 24/8/38;



7/9/38; 4/7/39; 1/12/39; 25/4/40; 15/5/40; 15/11/40; 2/6/41; 1/7/41; 11/9/41; 17/11/41; 10/12/41; 1/2/42; 27/2/42; 1/3/42; 18/4/42; 20/4/42; 4/5/42; 10/5/42; 3/6/42; 1/1/43; 1/2/43; 5/7/43; 18/7/43; 18/8/43; 18/9/43; 31/10/43; 11/11/43; 2/12/43; 20/12/43; 11/1/44; 18/1/44; 30/3/44; 25/4/44; 17/5/44; 1/6/44; 11/6/44; 14/7/44; 23/10/44; 24/10/44; 7/12/44; 14/12/44; 22/1/45; 16/2/45; 23/4/45; 10/7/45; 10/9/45; 26/10/45; 6/11/45; 29/9/46; 27/10/46; 20/12/46; 29/1/47; 12/2/47; 20/8/47; 25/8/47; 6/9/47; 22/1/48; 5/5/48; 29/7/48; 28/8/48; 5/9/48; 19/10/48; 21/12/48; 26/1/49; 31/1/49; 4/3/49; 3/5/49; 19/5/49; 9/8/49; 22/11/49; 29/11/49; 1/12/49; 13/1/50; 6/2/50; 8/2/50; 5/8/50; 21/4/50; 19/8/50; 9/11/50; 18/12/50; 22/12/50; 30/1/51; 6/3/51; 31/3/51; 7/8/51; 15/8/51; 24/9/51; 3/10/51; 23/9/52; 12/1/53; 21/7/53; 21/8/53; 3/10/53; 1/1/54; 25/5/54; 2/6/54; 3/8/54; 17/10/55; 1/11/55; 12/3/56; 27/6/56; 20/7/56; 21/8/56; 31/10/56; 8/11/56; 3/12/56; 11/12/56; 6/6/57; 16/7/57; 21/8/57; 11/10/57; 6/12/57; 7/3/58; 18/3/58; 11/5/58; 27/7/58; 27/8/58; 8/9/58; 17/2/59; 13/3/59; 20/4/59; 8/5/59; 18/6/59; 27/8/59; 18/9/59; 30/12/59; 18/3/60; 25/3/60; 29/3/60; 13/4/60; 14/4/60; 22/6/60; 20/7/60; 11/8/60; 15/11/60; 13/12/60; 20/12/60; 13/2/61; 2/3/61; 28/4/61; 17/5/61; 24/5/61; 12/8/61; 28/8/61; 23/10/61; 22/11/61; 1/12/61; 5/12/61; 17/1/62; 24/1/62; 5/2/62; 6/3/62; 12/4/62; 7/5/62; 13/9/62; 13/12/62; 31/12/62; 7/2/63; 17/6/63; 20/11/63; 28/9/64; 23/10/62; 12/2/65; 12/3/65; 4/12/65; 11/3/67; 22/1/71; 27/1/71; 4/2/71; 16/8/72; 18/12/72; 13/1/75; 2/5/75; 15/7/76; 24/4/80; 7/3/83; 25/10/84; 10/1/88; 26/1/89; 4/1/89; 2/8/89; 1/11/89; 11/11/89; 13/11/89; 14/11/89; 4/12/89; 15/12/89; 11/3/90; 5/4/90; 30/4/90; 31/1/92; 22/5/93; 6/6/96; 24/1/99; 18/2/99; 19/12/2000; 5/5/2001; 11/9/2001; 27/8/2003; 27/3/2006; 7/2/2007;

Navy Aircraft Operations from Submarines: 28/7/26;

## **NAVY AIRFIELDS/BASES**

Annapolis: 5/1/14; 20/1/14;

Marine Corps Air Facility Quantico, Va.: 25/6/99;

Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe, Hawaii: 5/8/97;

NAS Adak: 25/8/95;

NAS Anacostia, DC: 26/9/45;

NAS Atsugi, Japan: 27/8/66; 22/1/71;

NAS Bolsena, Italy: 21/2/18;

NAS Coco Solo: 6/5/18;

NAS, Brunswick: 15/1/98;

NAS Guantanamo Bay, Cuba: 1/2/95; 5/1/2002; 28/10/2002;

NAS Jacksonville: 2/7/98;

NAS Keflavik, Iceland: 19/6/99;

NAS McMurdo, Antarctica: 11/7/99; 15/10/99; 20/8/2007;

NAS Moffett: 8/7/40; 2/6/54; 15/5/61; 20/4/2007;

NAS New Orleans: 5/8/2005;

NAS New York: 22/6/56;

NAS North Island: 8/7/98; 29/10/2007;

NAS Oceana, Va.: 7/2/2007;

NAS Patuxent River, Md: 22/1/71; 1/11/89; 14/11/89; 25/6/99; 5/5/2001; 24/6/2001; 8/7/2001; 27/3/2006;

NAS Pensacola: 20/1/14; 1/7/22; 17/7/87;

NAS Quonset Point: 1/1/43;  
NAS Rota, Spain: 30/9/77;  
NAS San Diego: 25/8/26;  
NAS Whidbey Island: 6/6/96;  
Philadelphia Naval Yard (Base): 5/1/14; 18/6/59;

## **NAVY ORGANIZATIONS**

Air Crew Equipment Laboratory: 18/6/59;  
Chief of Naval Operations: 20/12/43;  
Naval Aircraft Radio Laboratory: 27/9/22;  
Naval Air Materiel Center: 18/6/59;  
Naval Air Training Command: 20/12/43;  
Naval Aviator: 22/3/15;  
Navy Bureau of Aeronauts: 10/8/21;  
Navy Bureau of Equipment: 2/12/08; 16/8/09;  
Navy Bureau of Navigation: 7/1/14;  
Naval Consulting Board: 14/4/17;  
Naval Research Laboratory: 22/6/60;  
Naval Reserve: 17/7/18;  
Naval Transport Service: 2/12/43;  
Office of Naval Research: 13/7/59;  
Patrol Squadron 892: 18/12/50;

## **NAVY VESSELS**

USS Abraham Lincoln: 12/8/61; 11/11/89; 1/5/2003; 24/1/2005;  
USS Alabama: 23/9/21;  
USS America: 14/4/86;  
USS Antietam: 12/1/53; 28/4/61;  
USS Archer: 17/11/41;  
USS Barbero: 8/5/59;  
USS Bennington: 18/5/66;  
USS Birmingham: 14/11/10;  
USS Bon Home Richard: 6/6/57;  
USS Boston: 1/11/55;  
USS Boxer: 22/7/50;  
USS Cape Esperance

USS Chenango: 10/11/42;  
USS Chourre: 7/12/44;  
USS Constellation: 10/5/72; 1/7/96;  
USS Coral Sea: 21/4/50; 14/4/86; 30/4/90;  
USS Cusk: 12/2/47;  
USS Daniel Webster: 28/9/64;  
USS Enterprise: 10/12/41; 1/2/42; 17/2/44; 4/2/58; 17/1/62;  
USS Ethan Allen: 23/10/61; 7/5/62;  
USS Forestal: 1/10/55;  
USS George Washington: 30/12/59; 20/7/60; 15/11/60;  
USS Grayback: 7/3/58;  
USS Gyatt: 3/12/56;  
USS Hancock: 5/1/14;  
USS Halibut: 25/3/60;  
USS Hornet: 18/4/42;  
USS Indiana: 14/10/20;  
USS John F. Kennedy: 4/1/89;  
USS Langley: 20/3/22; 17/10/22; 26/10/22; 22/1/25; 30/7/35; 27/2/42; 22/12/46;  
USS Lexington: 14/12/27; 23/1/29; 31/3/31; 4/5/42;  
USS Long Island: 2/6/41; 1/7/41;  
USS Midway: 10/9/45; 6/9/47; 29/4/75;  
USS Mississippi: 25/4/14; 14/12/24;  
USS North Carolina: 6/11/15;  
USS Norton Sound: 26/1/49; 27/8/58;  
USS Observation Island: 27/8/59; 2/3/61; 17/6/63;  
USS Ohio: 14/10/20;  
USS Pennsylvania: 18/1/11; 17/2/11; 11/3/90;  
USS Philippine Sea: 29/1/47;  
USS Ranger: 26/9/31; 24/8/38; 10/5/42;  
USS Ronald Reagan: 4/3/2001;  
USS Franklin D. Roosevelt: 21/7/46;  
USS Saratoga: 16/11/27; 27/1/28; 23/1/29; 17/5/44; 6/6/57;  
USS Tennessee: 2/8/89; 4/12/89;  
USS Thetis Bay: 20/7/56;  
USS United States: 29/7/48;  
USS Wasp: 25/4/40; 14/10/40; 20/4/42;

USS Wake Island: 6/11/45;

USS Yorktown: 1/2/42;

## **ORGANIZATIONS**

Advanced Research Projects Agency: 7/2/58;

Aerial Experiment Association: 1/10/07; 12/3/08; 19/5/08; 21/6/08; 23/2/09; 5/12/11;

Aero Club of America (later National Aeronautic Association): 13/10/05; 13/1/06; 16/3/07; 27/3/09; 10/6/09; 8/12/14; 10/12/47;

Aero Club of France: 5/11/08; 7/10/09;

Aero Club of California: 10/1/10;

Aeronautical Board: 26/6/46;

Aeronautics Branch (Department of Commerce): 7/12/26;

Aeronautical Congress: 28/10/07;

Aeronautical Society of New York: 10/6/08; 3/11/08; 22/1/09; 26/6/09;

Aerospace Medical Center: 1/10/59;

Aircraft Maintenance and Regeneration Center (AMARC): 17/8/93; 4/11/2003; 20/12/2004;

Aircraft Production Board (later Aircraft Board): 16/5/17; 17/6/17; 1/10/17; 19/5/19;

Air Force Association: 12/4/59;

Air Force Ballistic Missile Committee: 14/11/55; 13/3/58; 15/10/59; 23/12/59;

Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories: 21/1/65; 18/7/66; 2/9/69; 15/10/69;

Air Force Council: 4/12/86;

Air Force Inspection Board: 1/3/50;

Air Force Intelligence Command: 1/10/93;

Air Force Museum (later National Museum of the USAF): 17/2/65; 4/2/69; 30/6/75; 16/4/97; 2/11/2000; 6/5/2006;

Air Force Reserve (later Command) (AFRES or AFRC): 10/8/50; 14/4/52; 22/6/56; 13/8/60; 1/8/61; 18/10/62; 30/6/66; 1/7/66; 1/1/68; 26/1/68; 28/1/68; 13/2/68; 25/3/68; 1/5/68; 13/5/68; 1/8/68; 12/12/68; 1/1/69; 1/2/69; 9/5/69; 17/1/70; 30/6/70; 4/8/70; 4/11/70; 5/12/70; 18/4/75; 8/8/75; 15/8/77; 1/10/77; 15/9/79; 26/1/82; 4/6/83; 28/1/84; 1/12/84; 20/12/89; 8/8/90; 20/8/90; 22/8/90; 23/8/90; 1/1/95; 17/1/91; 11/3/91; 1/6/91; 9/12/92; 1/1/93; 1/10/93; 7/12/93; 1/1/94; 4/1/94; 5/2/94; 6/5/94; 27/6/94; 13/5/95; 5/5/96; 16/1/97; 19/1/97; 17/2/97; 1/4/97; 2/4/97; 15/4/97; 9/8/97; 1/9/97; 8/2/98; 12/2/98; 24/2/98; 12/3/98; 4/8/98; 8/7/98; 21/9/98; 12/10/98; 16/12/98; 17/2/99; 27/4/99; 1/5/99; 29/9/99; 1/10/99; 25/7/2000; 5/8/2000; 14/9/2001; 11/1/2002; 16/8/2002; 7/4/2003; 18/6/2003; 21/10/2003; 4/11/2004; 5/8/2005; 9/8/2005; 29/8/2005; 17/10/2005; 6/5/2006; 22/12/2006; 8/8/2007; 2/10/2007;

Air Reserve Personnel Center: 1/8/68;

Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Propulsion Directorate (later Air Force Research Laboratory): 30/7/98; 15/3/99; 22/1/2000; 14/5/2000; 12/9/2000; 14/5/2001; 15/11/2002; 21/1/2005; 1/4/2005; 10/6/2005; 27/1/2006; 2/5/2006;

Air Intelligence Agency: 1/10/93;

Air Medical Department: 28/4/17;

Air National Guard (ANG): 18/10/11; 23/4/12; 13/7/16; 18/11/16; 21/5/27; 24/5/27; 5/6/46; 10/10/50; 14/5/51; 15/5/51; 24/5/51; 24/7/51; 28/5/52; 1/3/53; 2/1/54; 5/1/54; 21/5/55; 5/12/60; 21/1/61; 19/4/61; 30/10/61; 7/11/61; 2/5/65; 18/10/65; 1/1/66; 28/4/67; 13/8/67; 26/1/68; 1/5/68; 3/5/68; 13/5/68; 8/6/68; 20/7/68; 12/12/68; 11/4/70; 25/4/70; 21/8/70; 4/11/70; 21/2/71; 1/7/71; 1/7/75; 15/6/75; 8/8/75; 19/1/76; 1/7/76; 28/4/77; 1/10/77; 15/9/79; 7/8/80; 12/1/81; 17/6/86; 1/3/89; 31/1/90; 22/8/90; 29/12/90; 15/5/93; 4/1/94; 6/5/94; 1/6/94; 27/6/94; 1/7/94; 23/8/94; 8/5/95; 1/10/95; 20/2/97; 2/8/97; 25/9/97; 18/11/97; 30/12/97; 8/2/98; 12/2/98; 22/2/98; 24/2/98; 26/3/98; 17/4/98; 4/8/98; 21/9/98; 27/10/98; 16/12/1998; 17/2/99; 18/2/99; 27/3/99; 28/3/99; 12/4/99; 26/4/99; 27/4/99; 28/4/99; 1/5/99; 4/5/99; 17/5/99; 26/5/99; 1/6/99; 4/6/99; 19/6/99; 21/6/99; 24/6/99; 11/7/99; 16/7/99; 1/9/99; 3/9/99; 14/9/99; 21/9/99; 29/9/99; 1/10/99; 23/10/99; 4/11/99; 13/1/2000; 25/7/2000; 5/8/2000; 9/9/2000; 1/10/2001; 20/1/2001; 1/2/2001; 17/3/2001; 26/6/2001; 31/8/2001; 11/9/2001; 14/9/2001; 15/9/2001; 18/9/2001; 26/9/2001; 8/10/2001; 17/10/2001; 1/11/2001; 5/12/2001; 4/3/2002; 14/5/2002; 22/6/2002; 10/7/2002; 12/7/2002; 3/8/2002; 4/8/2002; 16/8/2002; 6/9/2002; 17/9/2002; 7/10/2002; 7/12/2002; 2/3/2003; 7/4/2003; 21/10/2003; 1/12/2003; 17/12/2003; 27/2/2004; 2/5/2004; 5/5/2004; 21/5/2004; 11/8/2004; 4/11/2004; 1/12/2004; 26/12/2004; 24/1/2005; 23/3/2005; 9/6/2005; 5/8/2005; 12/8/2005; 29/8/2005; 30/8/2005; 2/9/2005; 4/9/2005; 19/9/2005; 21/9/2005; 30/9/2005; 24/1/2006; 28/2/2006; 20/3/2006; 6/5/2006; 21/5/2006; 30/10/2006; 28/11/2006; 18/12/2006; 20/12/2006; 3/1/2007; 4/2/2007; 10/4/2007; 7/2/2007; 20/4/2007; 15/6/2007; 3/11/2007;

Air Policy Board: 18/7/47;

Air Service: 26/5/17; 3/9/17; 27/11/17; 19/1/18; 20/1/18; 20/5/18; 29/5/18; 23/7/18; 28/8/18; 15/10/18; 10/11/18; 14/11/18; 23/12/18; 24/1/19; 10/3/19; 17/5/19; 4/6/20; 5/6/20; 13/2/21; 21/6/21; 15/1/23; 27/6/23; 25/10/23; 18/11/23; 4/3/24; 28/10/24; 12/9/25; 2/7/26;

Air Service Signal Officers Reserve Corps: 22/5/17;

Air Service Medical Research Laboratory: 8/11/22;

Air University: 1/7/93;

Allied Air Force Central Europe: 2/4/51;

Allied Expeditionary Air Force: 2/12/43; \

Allied Supreme Headquarters in France: 6/11/44;

American Aviation Headquarters: 1/4/18;

American Expeditionary Forces: 26/5/17; 28/7/17; 3/9/17; 23/1/18; 11/5/18; 18/5/18; 29/5/18; 17/10/18;

American Telephone and Telegraph Company: 19/10/55; 10/7/62;

Armed Forces Policy Council: 26/11/56;

Army: 16/3/07; 1/8/07; 5/12/07; 23/12/07; 14/5/08; 2/8/09; 3/9/08; 17/9/08; 12/8/08; 26/10/09; 8/8/10; 3/3/11; 17/3/11; 13/5/11; 14/6/12; 28/9/12; 5/3/13; 31/3/13; 18/7/14; 15/3/16; 6/9/16; 2/9/16; 13/3/17; 6/4/17; 26/2/18; 9/4/18; 14/4/18; 20/5/18; 12/9/18; 17/5/19; 20/6/23; 6/4/24; 28/6/34; 23/5/40; 29/6/40; 22/2/42; 21/12/44; 31/5/45; 26/9/47; 4/10/49; 8/1/52; 20/8/53; 17/4/54; 29/8/54; 4/1/57; 14/10/59; 25/1/60; 28/4/60; 11/5/60; 26/7/60; 22/2/62; 28/3/62; 12/4/62; 22/12/62; 26/3/65; 1/1/67; 4/9/84; 6/12/89; 20/12/89; 7/3/90; 14/3/90;

Army Air Corps: 12/9/25; 2/7/26; 27/8/29; 12/4/30; 20/6/30; 22/12/31; 9/5/32; 3/1/33; 10/2/33; 19/2/34; 10/3/34; 22/12/35; 11/1/37; 1/7/37; 17/2/38; 12/5/38; 29/9/38; 14/11/38; 12/1/39; 3/4/39; 14/4/40; 10/11/40; 11/1/41; 30/5/41; 9/3/42;

Army Air Forces (AAF): 20/6/41; 28/1/42; 9/3/42; 4/7/42; 18/2/43; 21/12/44; 3/12/45; 24/1/46; 3/2/46; 10/2/47;

Atomic Energy Commission: 13/11/52; 21/11/57; 3/2/66; 28/1/68;

Atomic Energy Division (USAF): 26/9/47;  
Automobile Club of New York: 28/10/07;  
Aviation Section: 18/7/14; 20/5/16; 19/2/17; 6/4/17; 2/6/17; 24/7/17; 7/3/18; 15/5/18;  
Ballistic Missile Committee: 8/11/55; 25/3/60;  
Ballistic Missile Office: 26/1/82;  
Bureau of Aeronautics: 25/4/22;  
Bureau of Aircraft Production: 20/5/18; 24/5/18; 28/8/18;  
Board of Ordnance and Fortification: 7/11/07; 5/12/07; 6/2/08;  
Cal Tech's Guggenheim Aeronautical Laboratory: 1/1/44;  
Central Intelligence Agency: 29/2/64;  
Chief Signals Officers: 6/12/07; 23/12/07; 11/4/08; 3/4/16;  
Chinese Task Force: 4/7/42;  
Civil Aeronautics Authority: 22/8/38; 27/9/38; 13/10/39; 16/9/40; 9/4/47; 4/2/49;  
Civil Air Patrol: 30/10/49;  
Congressional Aviation Policy Board: 1/3/48;  
Coast Artillery Corps: 15/1/11;  
Community College of the Air Force: 1/4/72;  
Department of Agriculture: 16/4/26;  
Department of Commerce: 16/2/14; 7/12/26; 3/4/96;  
Department of Defense (DoD): 10/8/49; 6/2/50; 17/1/56; 7/12/56; 10/1/57; 19/11/57; 29/1/58;  
7/2/58; 12/2/58; 23/9/59; 1/2/61; 20/11/63; 6/3/64; 23/4/64; 1/1/65; 4/2/66; 2/6/67; 13/1/69; 9/2/69;  
20/6/74; 23/2/76; 27/10/76; 6/1/77; 14/1/77; 19/12/77; 18/1/79; 3/11/95;  
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA): 24/2/79; 20/1/88; 24/4/90; 7/4/99;  
8/11/2000; 27/8/2003; 21/1/2005; 10/6/2005; 22/9/2005; 29/9/2005; 7/4/2006; 26/7/2006;  
30/8/2006; 8/3/2007;  
Defense Communications Agency: 12/1/79;  
Defense Systems Acquisition Review Council (DSARC): 9/3/76; 17/3/78; 5/12/78; 31/3/79; 30/4/80;  
Deputy Chief of Staff for Development: 10/12/57;  
Director of Aircraft Production: 29/5/18; 5/9/18; 13/12/18;  
Directorate of Astronautics: 10/12/57;  
Director of Guided Missiles: 25/10/50;  
Dryden Flight Research Center (NASA): 15/5/61; 12/8/77; 9/3/93; 30/7/97; 31/10/97; 20/12/97;  
30/5/98; 10/11/98; 19/11/98; 24/2/99; 7/4/99; 30/4/99; 30/6/99; 27/9/99; 9/10/99; 13/10/99;  
30/3/2000; 2/11/2000; 19/5/2000; 8/11/2000; 8/12/2000; 30/7/2001; 21/12/2001; 15/11/2002;  
27/6/2003; 27/8/2003; 4/11/2003; 30/3/2004; 8/9/2004; 16/11/2004; 9/12/2004; 4/2/2005;  
14/9/2005; 10/8/2006; 30/8/2006; 28/10/2006;  
Eastern Air Transport Force: 1/1/66;  
Escadrille Americaine (See Lafayette Escadrille).  
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA): 6/1/64; 29/1/65; 20/1/66; 21/9/69; 20/1/70; 29/8/70;

23/9/91; 5/8/97; 1/11/98;  
Federal Communications Commission: 19/10/55;  
General Headquarters Air Force: 11/10/33; 1/3/37; 20/7/37; 1/3/39; 10/11/40;  
Global Weather Central: 15/3/49;  
Ground Observer Corps: 1/6/50; 14/7/52;  
Harmon International Aviation Awards Committee: 6/7/50;  
Institute of Aeronautical Sciences: 2/1/33;  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory: 1/11/44; 30/5/98;  
Joint Army and Navy Technical Aeronautical Board: 7/2/18;  
Joint Atomic Energy Committee: 16/3/54;  
Joint Board: 18/7/41;  
Joint Chiefs of Staff: 15/3/50; 15/8/57; 5/8/64; 1/10/2001;  
Joint Military Medical Command: 16/2/87;  
Joint Numerical Weather Prediction Unit: 15/5/59;  
Lafayette Escadrille: 21/3/16; 16/4/16; 18/6/16; 18/2/18; 19/5/18;  
Lampert Committee: 14/12/25;  
Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory: 8/8/45; 11/9/55;  
Marshall Space Flight Center: 27/6/61; 9/11/62;  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology: 30/5/13; 6/7/15; 1/12/49; 10/4/53;  
Military Aircraft Storage and Disposition (MASDC): 12/7/78;  
Mobile Air Materiel Area: 10/1/58;  
Morrow Board: 12/9/25; 30/11/25.  
National Academy of Sciences: 5/8/64;  
National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA): 3/3/15; 27/5/31; 25/11/40; 16/3/44; 8/8/45;  
22/12/46; 29/9/48; 8/8/55; 11/9/55; 10/10/56; 30/9/58; 3/5/2001;  
National Air Museum: 2/8/46;  
National Guard: 30/4/08; 6/10/18; 7/6/32;  
National Hurricane Center: 20/5/2005;  
National Institute of Health: 17/12/46;  
National Military Establishment (later Department of Defense): 30/12/47;  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): 20/5/2005;  
National Science Foundation: 10/1/88; 26/3/98;  
Naval Ordnance Test Station: 6/3/51;  
Newspapers: 7/6/08;  
Nieuport 124 (See Lafayette Escadrille):  
North American Air Defense Command (later North American Aerospace Defense Command)  
(NORAD): 1/8/57; 1/7/61; 10/9/60; 14/10/61; 15/12/61; 11/2/65; 12/3/81; 11/9/2001; 18/9/2001;

1/10/2002;

Cheyenne Mountain: 12/3/81;

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): 4/4/49; 2/4/51; 15/9/61; 22/10/63; 1/10/80; 12/4/93; 28/2/94; 10/4/94; 25/5/95; 30/8/95; 24/3/99; 10/6/99; 9/9/2000; 9/10/2001;

Allied Command Europe: 2/4/51;

Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE): 2/4/51;

Office of Aerospace Research: 25/6/62;

Office of Air Force Reserve: 1/1/68;

Office of Assistant Chief of Staff for Guided Missiles: 8/4/54;

Office of the Secretary of Defense: 19/2/77; 3/2/89;

Post Office: 12/8/18; 1/7/24; 9/11/60;

RAND Corporation: 8/2/54;

Reserve Corps: 3/6/16;

Rocket Engine Test Laboratory (See RPL): 10/11/54;

Science Advisory Committee: 21/7/54; 14/2/55;

Signal Corps: 7/11/07; 6/7/08; 4/8/08; 15/2/10; 27/4/11; 7/6/11; 3/7/11; 28/11/11; 8/2/12; 21/3/12; 15/4/12; 10/8/12; 28/9/12; 27/11/12; 24/6/14; 18/7/14; 30/12/14; 5/1/15; 12/3/15; 6/9/16; 19/2/17; 26/5/17; 20/1/18; 26/2/18; 15/5/18; 10/11/18; 11/5/60;

Signal Corps Aviation Medical Research Board: 18/10/17;

Signal Corps Experimental Laboratory (McCook): 18/10/17;

Signal Corps Laboratory (Mineola): 8/3/18;

Signal Research and Development Lab: 11/2/59;

Smithsonian Institute: 10/2/10; 4/5/11; 10/10/11; 2/8/46; 17/12/48; 3/7/49; 5/5/69; 10/6/69;

Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO): 7/3/67; 4/3/68;

Space and Missile Systems Organization (SAMSO) (later Space and Missile Systems Center): 1/7/67; 21/11/69; 30/1/70; 4/1/70; 8/1/70; 24/10/74; 31/1/75; 19/9/2001; 8/3/2007;

Space and Missile Test Center: 4/1/70;

Strategic Defense Initiative Organization: 25/6/86;

Strategic Missiles Evaluation Committee: 31/10/53; 10/2/54;

Strategic Projection Force: 22/9/80; 23/11/81;

Supersonic Transportation (SST) Evaluation Group: 6/1/64;

Supreme Allied Command, Europe: 20/11/56;

Task Group 1.5: 25/7/46;

Thunderbirds: 8/6/53; 28/10/59; 4/6/69; 20/7/74; 24/9/87; 24/10/2007;

United Nations: 15/1/79; 3/2/95; 20/9/99;

United States Air Force: 26/7/47; 1/3/48; 3/1/49; 11/1/50; 11/1/54; 30/1/79; 6/6/96;

United States Air Force Medical Service: 1/7/49;

United States Air Force Special Operations: 23/9/50; 28/4/68; 2/6/70; 2/10/70; 19/3/71;



United States Coast Guard: 17/11/34; 1/8/42;

Coast Guard Aviation Division: 29/8/16;

Squadron 212: 1/8/42;

United States Special Operations Command: 16/11/2006;

United States Strike Command: 22/2/62; 15/3/69;

United States Transportation Command: 1/10/87; 26/3/98;

United States Weather Bureau: 20/7/62;

War Department: 25/3/1898; 29/4/1898; 9/10/05; 7/11/07; 23/2/12; 26/2/40; 9/3/42; 27/3/42;

Western Air Transport Force: 1/1/66;

Wykoff, Church, and Partridge: 22/6/09;

## **CENTERS**

2585th Air Reserve Flying Center: 22/6/56;

Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center: 24/6/93; 3/5/94; 29/7/96; 15/6/2007;

Air Force Flight Test Center (AFFTC): 25/5/53; 20/9/66; 4/8/77; 21/3/89; 15/9/91; 30/7/93; 31/1/97; 6/3/97; 17/5/98; 20/10/98; 3/12/98; 12/2/99; 23/3/99; 19/4/99; 2/5/99; 27/9/99; 28/10/99; 4/8/2000; 2/10/2000; 2/11/2000; 22/11/2000; 12/12/2000; 30/1/2001; 12/3/2001; 25/4/2001; 3/5/2001; 9/5/2001; 31/5/2001; 30/7/2001; 17/9/2001; 30/9/2001; 4/10/2001; 11/10/2001; 16/10/2001; 27/11/2001; 24/1/2002; 5/3/2002; 2/5/2002; 6/6/2002; 21/8/2002; 25/8/2002; 11/9/2002; 23/9/2002; 15/11/2002; 6/12/2002; 28/1/2003; 14/3/2003; 15/3/2003; 17/6/2003; 27/6/2003; 6/8/2003; 14/8/2003; 23/8/2003; 25/10/2003; 30/10/2003; 7/11/2003; 8/12/2003; 21/1/2004; 26/3/2004; 9/4/2004; 19/4/2004; 30/4/2004; 7/5/2004; 21/6/2004; 16/7/2004; 11/8/2004; 13/8/2004; 8/9/2004; 29/9/2004; 6/10/2004; 25/10/2004; 26/10/2004; 11/11/2004; 24/11/2004; 21/1/2005; 28/1/2005; 4/2/2005; 24/2/2005; 15/3/2005; 31/3/2005; 22/4/2005; 14/7/2005; 22/7/2005; 28/8/2005; 29/8/2005; 24/10/2005; 1/12/2005; 13/1/2006; 27/3/2006; 14/4/2006; 31/7/2006; 19/9/2006; 10/10/2006; 15/12/2006;

Air Force Missile Development Center: 18/12/69;

Air Force Missile Test Center: 20/6/51; 30/6/51; 29/8/52; 20/8/53;

Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center (AFOTEC): 17/11/2006;

Air Force Rescue Coordination Center: 15/6/74; 18/5/80; 18/10/84; 4/11/85;

Air Force Technical Applications Center: 29/4/86;

Air Research and Development Center (ARDC): 21/6/54; 15/4/57; 20/7/60; 9/2/61;

Arnold Research and Development Center: 13/12/56; 18/2/58;

Arnold Engineering Development Center: 25/6/51; 1/1/66; 3/2/68; 16/3/74;

Cambridge Research Center: 17/4/61;

Flight Research Center: 25/2/61;

G. E. Space Center: 1/9/64;

Johnson Space Center: 2/9/80; 30/7/97;

Kennedy Space Center: 29/11/63; 22/1/68; 4/7/82; 11/2/84; 26/11/85; 9/1/90; 20/2/2001; 4/1/2001;

Lewis Research Center: 25/11/40;

Manned Spacecraft Center: 19/9/61;  
Materiel Center: 10/1/42;  
National Space Surveillance Control Center: 9/2/60;  
Naval Air Missile Test Center: 29/1/58;  
Space Warfare Center: 1/11/93;  
Special Warfare Center: 26/2/68;  
Special Weapons Center: 28/3/66;  
Tactical Airlift Center: 1/9/66;  
Tactical Fighter Weapons Center: 9/1/66;  
Tanker Airlift Control Center: 1/4/92; 1/8/92;  
Valley Forge Space Technology Center: 14/8/64;

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VIII Bomber Command: 21/10/42; 28/12/43;  
VIII Fighter Command: 12/9/42; 25/11/43;  
IX Tactical Air Command: 22/12/44;  
IX Troop Carrier Command: 5/6/44; 24/3/45;  
XII Tactical Air Command: 8/11/42;  
XIII Fighter Command: 22/10/44;  
XIX Tactical Air Command: 22/12/44;  
XX Bomber Command: 27/11/43; 15/6/44; 30/3/45;  
XXI Bomber Command: 24/11/44; 27/3/45;  
Air Combat Command (ACC): 1/6/92; 1/2/93; 1/7/93; 1/10/93; 1/1/94; 1/7/94; 16/9/95; 11/6/96;  
27/7/96; 16/12/96; 1/4/97; 25/1/00; 19/1/2001; 1/3/2005; 28/8/2005; 15/12/2005; 2/10/2006;  
1/12/2006; 27/4/2007;  
Air Corps Ferrying Command: 29/5/41; 1/7/41; 7/12/41; 10/12/41; 20/6/42;  
Air Corps Technical Training Command: 26/3/41;  
Air Defense Command (later Aerospace) (ADC): 26/2/40; 21/3/46; 5/6/46; 1/8/50; 1/1/51; 1/3/53;  
1/10/53; 26/1/58; 25/5/59; 9/2/61; 19/1/65; 4/2/65; 17/7/67; 15/1/68; 5/1/70; 5/3/71; 1/7/71;  
1/10/79; 12/3/81;  
Air Education and Training Command (AETC): 1/7/93; 1/4/97; 30/7/2001; 5/11/2005;  
Air Force Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Agency: 28/5/93;  
Air Force Communications Command (AFCC): 28/5/93;  
Air Force Communications Service (AFCS): 20/7/70;  
Air Force Logistics Command (AFLC): 1/7/66; 2/8/85; 21/10/87; 10/1/91; 1/7/92;  
Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC): 10/1/91; 1/7/92; 21/9/2001; 30/9/2001;  
Air Force Space Command (AFSPACE): 1/1/84; 4/1/85; 10/1/90; 15/1/91; 30/1/92; 1/7/93; 1/11/93;

1/7/94; 27/4/95; 1/10/2001; 19/9/2001;

Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC): 22/5/90; 17/3/97; 23/10/98; 25/10/2004;  
16/11/2006;

Air Force Systems Command (AFSC): 3/5/61; 29/4/65; 17/9/65; 25/4/66; 1/7/67; 11/4/69; 10/6/69;  
8/1/70; 30/1/70; 4/1/70; 5/3/76; 28/1/82; 30/6/85; 23/8/85; 30/9/90; 10/1/90; 15/1/91; 10/1/91;  
1/7/92;

Air Materiel Command: 16/1/44; 28/3/48; 15/5/48; 11/5/52; 30/6/52; 19/9/2001;

Air Mobility Command (AMC): 1/6/92; 4/6/92; 30/6/92; 1/8/92; 2/8/92; 18/8/92; 13/9/92; 1/10/92;  
9/12/92; 1/2/93; 15/8/93; 1/10/93; 1/1/94; 10/4/94; 24/7/94; 23/8/94; 24/8/94; 30/8/94; 8/9/94;  
7/1/95; 19/4/95; 17/8/95; 6/9/95; 16/9/95; 3/10/95; 9/1/96; 31/1/96; 17/3/97; 1/4/97; 18/4/97;  
19/11/97; 28/1/98; 8/2/98; 9/3/98; 10/6/98; 24/6/98; 2/7/98; 21/9/98; 11/10/98; 12/11/98; 9/12/98;  
16/12/98; 5/3/99; 24/3/99; 4/4/99; 27/4/99; 10/6/99; 22/1/2000; 2/3/2000; 17/4/2000; 25/7/2000;  
16/5/2001; 25/7/2001; 31/12/2001; 11/1/2002; 16/1/2002; 8/2/2003; 21/4/2003; 14/5/2003;  
18/6/2003; 11/9/2004; 26/12/2004; 10/2/2005; 21/4/2005; 1/6/2005; 18/6/2005; 6/7/2005; 5/8/2005;  
9/8/2005; 29/8/2005; 11/9/2005; 30/9/2005; 8/10/2005; 10/10/2005; 14/10/2005; 17/10/2005;  
17/10/2006; 28/2/2006; 16/3/2006; 20/3/2006; 13/3/2007; 11/9/2007; 19/11/2007;

Air Research and Development Command (ARDC): 23/1/50; 2/4/51; 30/6/51; 15/4/57;

Air Technical Service Command: 30/12/45; 7/2/46;

Air Training Command (ATC): 17/3/61; 10/4/70; 31/1/72; 1/4/72; 20/10/73; 8/2/78; 1/7/78;  
31/1/79; 1/10/80; 25/11/80; 1/10/81; 21/10/81; 7/8/82; 7/8/82; 1/10/92; 1/7/93;

Air Transport Command: 29/5/41; 20/6/42; 29/8/42; 1/12/42; 5/8/43; 17/8/43; 7/5/45; 3/9/45;  
28/8/45; 13/3/46; 1/7/47; 11/10/47; 1/6/48; 12/6/48; 5/4/66;

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Allied Support Command: 22/1/43;

Atlantic Command: 8/4/67; 15/7/85;

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17/10/50; 20/10/50; 21/10/50; 25/10/50; 26/10/50; 20/11/50; 24/11/50; 1/12/50; 5/12/50; 7/12/50;  
10/12/50; 14/12/50; 6/1/51; 17/1/51; 25/1/51 (Replaced by 315<sup>th</sup> Air Division).

Continental Air Command (CONAC): 1/12/48; 1/2/50; 22/6/56; 30/6/66; 1/7/66; 1/8/68  
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Continental Air Defense Command: 1/9/54;

Flying Training Command: 5/9/42;

Mediterranean Air Command: 7/2/43;

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10/6/67; 8/8/67; 13/8/67; 21/1/68; 13/2/68; 28/2/68; 16/5/68; 17/6/68; 20/6/68; 1/10/68; 30/10/68;  
12/1/69; 15/3/69; 25/8/69; 17/12/69; 30/6/70; 18/11/70; 7/4/72; 30/4/72; 14/10/73; 9/8/74; 30/8/74;  
19/9/74; 1/12/74; 31/3/75; 4/4/75; 19/4/75; 29/4/75; 15/5/75; 1/9/75; 4/2/76; 22/5/76; 19/8/76;  
26/11/76; 1/2/77; 7/3/77; 27/3/77; 27/4/77; 19/6/77; 2/9/77; 12/10/77; 21/9/78; 27/9/78; 19/11/78;  
15/1/79; 31/3/79; 19/4/79; 10/8/79; 30/8/79; 2/12/79; 19/12/79; 22/6/80; 26/11/80; 16/1/81;  
18/1/81; 30/7/81; 14/11/81; 21/6/82; 6/7/82; 6/8/82; 24/1/83; 1/3/83; 1/4/83; 5/4/83; 25/7/83;  
15/8/83; 3/9/83; 16/9/83; 1/11/83; 4/11/83; 30/11/83; 1/1/84; 24/2/84; 19/3/84; 16/5/84; 25/5/84;  
15/6/84; 7/8/84; 4/9/84; 11/10/84; 19/11/84; 19/1/85; 3/2/85; 8/3/85; 15/3/85; 5/4/85; 21/9/85;  
15/11/85; 12/12/85; 8/1/86; 29/4/86; 6/11/86; 1/10/87; 16/11/87; 10/9/88; 16/11/88; 30/11/88;

7/1/89; 27/3/89; 11/5/89; 9/6/89; 31/7/89; 19/9/89; 17/10/89; 14/12/89; 20/12/89; 27/12/89;  
12/1/90; 23/2/90; 17/5/90; 27/6/90; 17/7/90; 30/9/90; 28/2/91; 1/6/91; 21/7/91; 22/7/91; 23/9/91;  
24/9/91; 26/9/91; 27/9/91; 1/10/91; 1/5/92; 1/6/92;

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25/5/60; 5/12/60; 11/1/61; 11/10/61; 21/1/61; 8/3/61; 20/10/61; 2/1/62; 13/1/62; 2/2/62; 22/10/62;  
23/10/62; 17/8/63; 31/8/63; 9/6/64; 10/7/66; 20/7/66; 2/1/67; 4/2/67; 22/2/67; 7/3/67; 10/3/67;  
6/4/67; 9/4/67; 10/4/67; 17/4/67; 19/4/67; 24/4/67; 25/4/67; 13/10/68; 21/7/72; 4/11/72; 18/12/72;  
31/12/72; 28/3/73; 15/11/73; 26/3/77; 8/2/78; 26/2/80; 14/3/80; 23/4/80; 14/8/80; 20/9/80;  
17/10/80; 18/3/81; 14/9/81; 13/2/82; 3/3/82; 1/10/87; 8/9/90; 4/6/91; 1/10/92; 17/5/93; 8/2/2006;  
18/7/2006; 19/6/2007;

Southern Command: 29/2/68; 31/7/68; 1/8/68; 14/5/69; 19/7/69; 11/4/70; 2/6/70; 20/11/70; 26/9/91;  
22/1/2000; 3/11/2007;

Southwest Pacific Air Forces: 2/3/43;

Strategic Air Command (SAC): 21/3/46; 10/10/46; 20/2/47; 16/5/47; 28/11/47; 29/5/53; 4/6/53;  
27/7/53; 4/11/54; 29/6/55; 20/10/55; 18/6/57; 28/6/57; 14/8/57; 14/10/57; 25/11/57; 15/1/58;  
1/2/58; 15/9/58; 12/2/59; 13/2/59; 15/8/59; 1/9/59; 9/9/59; 23/12/59; 27/2/60; 3/5/60; 9/6/60;  
1/7/60; 1/8/60; 16/12/60; 18/1/61; 3/2/61; 7/3/61; 9/5/61; 19/9/61; 17/11/61; 20/11/61; 20/1/62;  
25/5/62; 26/10/62; 20/12/62; 18/6/63; 11/7/63; 23/9/63; 21/4/64; 9/6/64; 4/1/65; 12/1/65; 8/3/65;  
10/11/65; 7/12/65; 7/1/66; 11/2/66; 31/3/66; 2/4/66; 12/4/66; 21/4/67; 6/5/67; 19/1/68; 15/4/68;  
18/6/68; 12/2/69; 11/4/69; 25/4/69; 8/10/69; 29/10/69; 16/1/70; 1/4/70; 4/5/70; 19/6/70; 28/8/70;  
16/12/70; 8/1/71; 30/6/71; 29/9/71; 7/7/71; 4/3/72; 20/6/73; 15/7/73; 3/9/74; 4/4/75; 18/4/75;  
1/7/75; 20/8/75; 4/9/75; 19/9/75; 30/9/75; 1/11/75; 22/3/76; 1/7/76; 19/2/77; 23/3/78; 27/4/78;  
18/8/78; 16/9/78; 1/12/78; 6/2/79; 9/5/79; 1/6/79; 10/7/79; 4/3/80; 20/6/80; 22/9/80; 15/9/81;  
14/2/83; 10/6/82; 15/7/82; 3/2/83; 15/3/83; 1/9/83; 4/9/84; 20/4/85; 17/6/85; 7/7/85; 6/12/85;  
7/10/86; 29/10/86; 21/1/87; 22/7/87; 1/1/88; 20/12/89; 25/1/90; 1/6/90; 24/7/90; 21/8/90; 28/2/91;  
4/4/91; 1/6/92;

Tactical Air Command (TAC): 21/3/46; 15/11/46; 28/3/50; 17/9/51; 8/1/52; 30/6/52; 15/9/52;  
16/12/52; 7/5/53; 12/5/54; 18/9/54; 9/1/56; 31/1/56; 1/2/56; 6/5/56; 4/1/57; 1/7/57; 10/1/58;  
27/5/58; 15/7/58; 30/8/58; 3/9/58; 8/1/59; 29/1/59; 9/7/59; 13/7/59; 21/9/60; 24/10/60; 5/1/61;  
15/2/61; 4/9/61; 30/9/61; 13/1/62; 14/10/62; 5/8/64; 17/2/65; 8/3/65; 9/1/66; 1/2/66; 10/3/66;  
2/9/66; 9/1/67; 6/6/67; 10/6/67; 16/10/67; 2/2/68; 26/2/68; 8/11/68; 15/3/69; 30/9/69; 11/4/70;  
18/9/70; 1/10/70; 12/7/71; 8/1/73; 5/7/74; 14/11/74; 1/12/74; 4/9/75; 30/9/75; 18/12/75; 1/7/76;  
13/3/77; 23/3/77; 24/3/77; 24/1/78; 6/1/79; 1/10/79; 2/5/81; 14/10/81; 1/7/82; 1/3/83; 3/2/84;  
3/6/84; 19/7/84; 4/9/84; 30/9/84; 5/11/84; 8/3/85; 22/10/85; 7/3/86; 1/9/86; 29/10/86; 4/12/86;  
30/9/89; 3/11/89; 20/12/89; 1/6/90; 4/4/91; 1/6/92;

Composite Air Strike Force: 15/7/58; 30/8/58; 3/9/58; 4/9/61;

Tactical Air Force: 12/7/44;

United States Central Command: 17/1/90;

United States Central Command Air Forces: 6/7/2005;

United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE): 1/1/44; 7/8/45; 18/8/48; 16/4/49; 12/5/49; 30/9/49;  
8/10/52; 6/7/53; 20/5/54; 30/8/55; 12/3/56; 15/9/56; 11/12/56; 16/5/58; 10/7/59; 6/8/59; 29/2/60;  
8/7/60; 4/10/62; 22/10/63; 15/3/64; 17/1/66; 20/3/67; 28/4/67; 6/6/67; 10/6/67; 16/1/68; 30/4/69;  
30/3/70; 12/9/70; 4/12/72; 10/4/73; 13/4/73; 10/4/74; 31/3/75; 29/4/76; 27/10/76; 27/3/77; 27/4/77;

19/3/78; 24/8/78; 8/12/78; 28/3/79; 2/5/79; 1/6/79; 28/11/79; 12/12/79; 1/10/80; 12/11/80; 19/11/80; 24/11/80; 27/11/80; 10/12/80; 22/4/81; 14/6/81; 28/10/81; 31/12/81; 24/3/82; 22/6/82; 1/7/82; 18/9/82; 18/4/83; 9/9/83; 23/11/83; 6/12/83; 3/2/84; 8/8/84; 29/8/84; 29/4/85; 25/10/84; 7/5/85; 6/9/85; 1/11/85; 5/9/86; 19/5/87; 1/10/92; 1/6/93; 20/8/93; 7/12/93; 13/1/94; 18/2/94; 21/7/94; 9/1/96; 9/12/98; 19/6/2007;

United States Strategic Air Forces in Europe (USSTAFE): 22/2/44; 7/8/45;

United States Strategic Air Forces in the Pacific: 16/7/45;

United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM): 1/6/92;

United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM): 9/12/98; 25/7/2001; 11/1/2002;

## **AIR DISTRICTS**

Northeast: 26/3/41;

Northwest: 26/3/41;

Southeast: 26/3/41;

Southwest: 26/3/41;

## **DIVISIONS**

1st Missile Division: 15/4/57; 29/11/57; 1/1/58; 15/1/58; 15/1/59; 16/10/58;

3d Air Division: 13/4/44;

40th Air Division: 20/8/53;

47th Air Division: 16/2/75;

315<sup>th</sup> Air Division: 25/1/51; 6/2/51; 13/2/51; 13/2/51; 31/3/51; 16/5/51; 3/6/51; 9/5/51; 30/9/51; 1/10/51; 31/10/51; 11/30/51; 31/1/52; 16/5/52; 26/5/52; 30/6/52; 3/7/52; 10/7/52; 15/8/52; 12/10/52; 6/11/52; 9/4/67;

322d Airlift Division: 12/10/80; 1/4/92;

834th Airlift Division: 2/10/91; 6/12/91; 1/4/92;

Aeronautical Division: 4/6/07; 1/8/07; 11/4/08; 18/7/14; 3/4/16;

Aeronautical Systems Division (later Center): 16/6/65; 14/3/66; 17/9/70; 22/1/81; 28/1/82; 11/10/2001;

Aerospace Division: 3/2/64;

Air Division: 27/4/18;

Air Force Ballistic Missile Division: 9/12/55; 15/5/59;

Air Service Division: 27/4/18;

Airplane Division: 2/6/17; 23/7/17;

Atlantic Division: 1/7/58;

Ballistic Systems Division: 25/4/66; 1/7/67;

Continental Division: 1/7/58;

Division of Military Aeronautics: 20/5/18; 24/5/18; 28/8/18; 10/3/19;

India-China Division: 1/12/42;

Long Range Proving Division: 16/4/50; 30/6/51;  
Materiel Division: 23/2/42;  
Pacific Division: 1/7/58;  
Southern Air Division: 7/8/80; 20/10/80;  
Space Systems Division: 16/3/66; 1/7/67;  
Western Development Division: 21/6/54; 1/7/54;

## **SERVICES**

Aeronautical Chart Service (later Aeronautical Chart and Information Service): 13/3/46; 11/5/52;  
Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service (ARRS): 1/1/66; 3/5/66; 29/5/66; 18/11/66; 9/11/67;  
28/2/68; 20/6/68; 1/7/69; 3/2/70; 1/9/70; 21/11/70; 10/3/71; 20/2/72; 16/1/74; 15/6/74; 21/3/75;  
15/5/75; 19/11/78; 15/1/79; 21/9/81; 1/1/83; 2/9/84;  
Air Communications Service (later Airways and Air Communications Service, then Air Force  
Communications Service): 13/3/46; 1/6/48; 1/7/61; 13/8/67; 9/3/69;  
Air Pictorial Service (later Air Photographic and Charting Service): 16/4/52; 5/5/61; 1/1/66;  
Air Rescue Service: 13/3/46; 1/6/48; 27/1/49; 15/2/51; 3/2/53; 27/7/53; 1/2/61; 22/12/63; 28/2/65;  
1/1/66; 1/2/93;  
Air Rescue and Recovery Service: 29/4/75; 1/9/75; 13/5/76; 22/4/80; 21/9/81;  
Air Weather Service: 13/3/46; 1/6/48; 23/9/49; 13/7/50; 15/5/59; 18/6/64; 10/9/65; 26/9/71; 1/9/75;  
2/9/80; 28/4/86;  
Aerospace Audio-Visual Service: 1/1/66; 1/10/79;  
Flight Services: 13/3/46;  
Flying Safety Service: 13/3/46;  
Military Air Transport Service (MATs): 1/6/48; 23/7/48; 11/9/48; 15/3/49; 12/5/49; 17/10/49;  
12/7/50; 15/12/51; 11/5/52; 4/7/52; 31/7/52; 27/7/53; 26/6/54; 15/9/54; 7/12/56; 11/12/56; 3/10/57;  
1/7/58; 15/7/58; 30/8/58; 15/5/59; 31/3/60; 25/5/60; 8/7/60; 15/7/60; 3/10/60; 24/10/60; 9/2/61;  
9/6/61; 1/7/61; 30/9/61; 11/2/62; 17/4/62; 18/4/62; 11/8/62; 1/9/62; 14/10/62; 2/11/62; 22/10/63;  
4/4/64; 19/10/64; 30/4/65; 17/9/65; 1/1/66;  
Naval Air Transport Service: 12/12/41; 5/4/66;  
Weather Service: 1/7/37;

## **NUMBERED AIR FORCES**

First Air Force: 26/3/41; 22/6/56;  
First Tactical Air Force (Provisional): 6/11/44;  
Second Air Force: 26/3/41;  
Third Air Force: 26/3/41;  
Fourth Air Force: 26/3/41; 1/4/97;  
Fifth Air Force (formerly Far East Air Forces (FEAF) and Philippine Department Air Force):  
20/9/41; 15/9/42; 2/3/43; 11/11/43; 29/2/44; 15/6/44; 2/7/44; 9/7/44; 30/7/44; 5/8/44; 1/9/44;  
15/9/44; 30/9/44; 23/10/44; 10/11/44; 22/11/44; 7/12/44; 31/12/44; 7/1/45; 6/12/45; 28/8/45;

1/1/47; 11/9/48; 26/6/50; 27/6/50; 28/6/50; 3/7/50; 10/7/50; 13/7/50; 15/7/50; 19/7/50; 20/7/50; 3/8/50; 4/8/50; 6/8/50; 12/8/50; 25/8/50; 26/8/50; 27/8/50; 31/8/50; 1/9/50; 3/9/50; 9/9/50; 10/9/50; 15/9/50; 17/9/50; 19/9/50; 21/9/50; 25/9/50; 26/9/50; 2/10/50; 4/10/50; 6/10/50; 12/10/50; 15/10/50; 17/10/50; 19/10/50; 20/10/50; 25/10/50; 26/10/50; 31/10/51; 2/11/50; 5/11/50; 20/11/50; 24/11/50; 1/12/50; 7/12/50; 10/12/50; 15/12/50; 17/12/50; 22/12/50; 1/1/51; 2/1/51; 3/1/51; 8/1/51; 10/1/51; 11/1/51; 12/1/51; 13/1/51; 17/1/51; 19/1/51; 23/1/51; 24/1/51; 25/1/51; 26/1/51; 4/2/51; 8/2/51; 12/2/51; 1/3/51; 3/3/51; 6/3/51; 16/3/51; 24/3/51; 16/4/51; 23/4/51; 30/4/51; 8/5/51; 9/5/51; 15/5/51; 17/5/51; 31/5/51; 22/5/51; 1/6/51; 25/8/51; 28/9/51; 16/10/51; 16/11/51; 30/11/51; 21/12/51; 24/12/51; 27/12/51; 31/1/52; 17/2/52; 3/3/52; 11/3/52; 25/3/52; 31/3/52; 1/4/52; 22/4/52; 8/5/52; 13/5/52; 15/5/52; 20/5/52; 23/5/52; 14/6/52; 24/6/52; 30/6/52; 15/7/52; 6/8/52; 19/8/52; 20/8/52; 29/8/52; 5/9/52; 12/9/52; 16/9/52; 29/9/52; 5/10/52; 7/10/52; 9/10/52; 13/10/52; 24/10/52; 25/10/52; 1/11/52; 16/11/52; 27/7/53; 26/6/54;

Seventh Air Force (formerly Hawaiian Air Force): 1/11/40; 3/6/42; 20/4/43; 16/3/44; 22/6/44; 1/1/45; 1/1/47; 1/1/67;

Eighth Air Force: 28/1/42; 25/3/42; 11/5/42; 17/8/42; 6/9/42; 25/10/42; 27/1/43; 27/2/43; 17/4/43; 13/6/43; 22/6/43; 25/6/43; 8/7/43; 24/7/43; 28/7/43; 17/8/43; 22/9/43; 27/9/43; 10/10/43; 13/10/43; 3/11/43; 5/11/43; 5/12/43; 13/12/43; 24/12/43; 11/1/44; 29/1/44; 3/2/44; 11/2/44; 20/2/44; 22/2/44; 25/2/44; 4/3/44; 8/3/44; 9/4/44; 8/5/44; 9/5/44; 25/7/44; 11/8/44; 26/8/44; 28/8/44; 5/9/44; 10/9/44; 11/9/44; 13/9/44; 16/9/44; 24/10/44; 5/12/44; 28/1/45; 22/2/45; 28/2/45; 11/3/45; 19/3/45; 24/3/45; 27/3/45; 25/4/45; 26/4/45; 26/9/44;

Ninth Air Force: 12/11/42; 4/12/42; 15/12/42; 16/10/43; 5/12/43; 8/4/44; 17/7/44; 2/10/44; 5/12/44; 1/1/45; 24/3/45; 6/7/2005;

Tenth Air Force: 12/2/42; 2/4/42; 10/5/42; 22/6/56; 1/4/97;

Eleventh Air Force: 8/9/90; 27/7/96;

Twelfth Air Force: 8/11/42; 29/11/42; 25/8/43; 31/10/43; 14/11/43; 29/11/43; 24/1/44; 23/9/44; 9/3/45;

Thirteenth Air Force: 13/1/43; 1/2/43; 30/9/44; 15/11/61; 23/10/84;

Fourteenth Air Force: 10/3/43; 25/11/43; 12/7/45; 12/8/45; 22/6/56; 1/7/93;

Fifteenth Air Force: 1/11/43; 2/11/43; 28/3/44; 20/2/44; 25/2/44; 25/3/44; 28/3/44; 4/4/44; 11/6/44; 22/7/44; 31/7/44; 18/11/44; 5/2/45; 22/2/45; 15/3/45; 24/3/45; 1/3/47; 15/1/59; 1/4/70; 1/8/92; 2/7/93;

Eighteenth Air Force: 26/10/56;

Twentieth Air Force: 4/4/44; 5/6/44; 1/4/45; 7/4/45; 16/7/45; 14/8/45; 27/8/45; 1/7/93;

Twenty-First Air Force: 1/7/58; 1/1/66; 28/5/68; 2/7/93;

Twenty-Second Air Force: 1/7/58; 1/1/66; 28/5/68; 22/12/69; 19/8/84; 1/4/92; 2/7/93; 1/4/97;

Twenty-Third Air Force: 1/3/83; 1/5/83; 1/1/84; 22/5/90;

Eastern Transport Air Force: 1/7/58;

Western Transport Air Force: 1/7/58;

## **WINGS**

### Air Expeditionary Wings

31<sup>st</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing: 31/1/97;

379<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing: 16/3/2006; 7/12/2006; 7/4/2007;

332d Air Expeditionary Wing: 16/2/2007;

#### Airlift Wings

15<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing: 8/2/2006; 18/7/2006;

43d Airlift Wing: 23/8/2004; 10/9/2005;

60th Military Airlift (later Air Mobility Wing): 19/2/88; 10/8/88; 4/10/89; 17/7/90; 1/3/91; 25/6/91; 20/1/92; 24/10/93; 26/6/94; 13/8/95; 2/3/97; 14/9/97; 5/3/99; 17/11/99; 5/8/2005;

62d Military Airlift Wing (later Airlift Wing): 18/5/80; 17/7/90; 2/3/97; 5/8/97; 15/10/99; 5/8/2000; 31/1/2001; 28/2/2006; 7/3/2007;

63d Military Airlift Wing: 18/5/80; 5/4/86;

89th Military Airlift (later Airlift) Wing: 20/4/66; 17/2/72; 23/8/90; 11/2/98; 19/6/98; 14/10/98;

105th Airlift Wing: 20/12/99; 26/12/2004;

109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing (ANG): 26/3/98; 18/2/99; 28/2/2006; 30/10/2006; 20/12/2006; 7/3/2007;

118<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing (ANG): 2/3/2003;

136th Airlift Wing (ANG): 30/12/97;

137th Airlift Wing (ANG): 30/12/97;

143d Airlift Wing (ANG): 3/12/2001; 10/12/2004;

145th Airlift Wing (ANG): 5/9/96; 5/8/2000;

146<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing (later Airlift Wing): 11/4/70; 29/7/80; 5/8/2000;

153d Airlift Wing (ANG): 30/12/97; 5/8/2000;

155<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing (ANG): 17/3/2001;

156<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing (ANG): 21/9/98;

164<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing (ANG): 2/5/2004;

167<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing (ANG): 18/12/2006; 10/4/2007;

172d Airlift Wing (ANG): 5/8/2005; 30/8/2005; 20/3/2006;

175<sup>th</sup> Wing (later) Airlift Wing (ANG): 3/9/99; 11/4/2005;

179<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing (ANG): 1/2/2001;

187th Airlift Wing (ANG): 22/1/2000;



302d Airlift Wing: 27/6/94; 5/8/2000;

314<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing: 1/4/97;

315th Airlift Wing: 5/2/94; 8/5/94; 13/10/2000; 4/1/2001; 14/5/2002; 19/4/2003;  
22/12/2006;

349th Air Mobility Wing: 19/1/97; 9/8/97;

374th Tactical Airlift (later Airlift) Wing: 12/5/68; 6/2/73; 23/10/84; 5/12/87; 17/7/90;  
19/1/95;

375th Airlift Wing: 1/4/97;

433<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Airlift (later Airlift) Wing: 29/7/80; 23/7/95;

435th Tactical Airlift (later Airlift) Wing: 12/10/80; 29/12/89; 23/2/90; 6/2/92; 30/6/94;

436th Military Airlift Wing (later Airlift Wing): 16/5/78; 12/10/80; 12/8/85; 18/9/86;  
10/8/88; 18/9/90; 1/3/91; 7/7/91; 14/11/91; 17/12/91; 11/8/93; 21/11/94; 7/9/95; 17/6/97;  
13/8/98; 18/8/99; 10/7/2002; 3/10/2004; 14/10/2005; 17/10/2005; 2/10/2007;

437th Military Airlift Wing (later Airlift Wing): 6/6/70; 2/1/80; 12/10/80; 1/4/92; 14/6/93;  
8/5/94; 17/1/95; 10/1/98; 13/8/98; 9/9/98; 17/4/2000; 5/1/2002; 14/5/2002; 22/12/2006;

438th Military Airlift Wing: 12/10/80; 1/7/85; 11/10/86; 17/5/90; 17/7/90; 18/9/90;  
21/2/91; 17/12/91; 11/5/94;

439th Military Airlift Wing: 17/12/91; 17/10/2005;

443d Military Airlift (later Airlift) Wing: 17/12/69; 4/12/79; 6/4/80; 8/1/86; 5/3/99;

445th Military Airlift (later Airlift Wing) (AFRC): 22/7/91; 12/3/98; 8/7/98; 5/8/2000;  
10/1/2002; 30/9/2005; 14/10/2005; 6/5/2006;

446th Airlift Wing (AFRC): 16/1/97; 9/8/97; 7/3/2007;

452d Airlift Wing (AFRC): 4/2/2005; 9/8/2005;

453d Air Mobility Wing (AFRC): 5/8/2000;

459th Airlift Wing (AFRC): 2/4/97;

512<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing (AFRC): 10/3/2007;

910th Airlift Wing (AFRC): 30/5/2003;

911th Airlift Wing (AFRC): 22/1/2000;

932d Airlift Wing: 23/7/2004; 26/2/2007;

1650th Tactical Airlift Wing (Provisional): 17/1/91;

#### Air Refueling Wings

6<sup>th</sup> AREFW: 14/9/97;

19<sup>th</sup> AREFW: 10/11/88;  
22d AREFW: 27/4/78; 21/6/84; 1/1/94; 14/9/97; 2/6/98; 5/3/99; 7/11/2003;  
27<sup>th</sup> AREFW: 25/11/57;  
100<sup>th</sup> AREFW: 2/2/96;  
101<sup>st</sup> AREFW: 2/2/96;  
108<sup>th</sup> AREFW (ANG): 1/6/99;  
117<sup>th</sup> AREFW (ANG): 1/5/99; 17/10/2001;  
126<sup>th</sup> AREFW (ANG): 23/10/99;  
128<sup>th</sup> AREFW (ANG): 1/5/99;  
141<sup>st</sup> AREFW (ANG): 1/5/99; 9/6/2005;  
151<sup>st</sup> AREFW (ANG): 1/5/99;  
155<sup>th</sup> AREFW (Nebraska ANG): 28/3/99;  
157<sup>th</sup> AREFW: 19/4/2003;  
161<sup>st</sup> AREFW (ANG): 1/5/99; 4/5/99;  
163d AREFW (later Reconnaissance Wing): 28/11/2006;  
168<sup>th</sup> AREFW: 5/8/2005;  
171<sup>st</sup> AREFW (ANG): 1/5/99;  
186<sup>th</sup> AREFW (ANG): 17/10/2001;  
340<sup>th</sup> AREFW: 10/11/88; 1/4/92;  
384<sup>th</sup> AREFW: 20/6/84;  
939<sup>th</sup> AREFW: 5/8/2005;  
940<sup>th</sup> AREFW: 5/5/96;

#### Air Mobility Wings

6<sup>th</sup> AMW: 25/7/2001;  
97<sup>th</sup> AMW: 1/10/92;  
514<sup>th</sup> AMW (Reserve-Associate): 14/5/2003;

#### Air Transport Wings

1501<sup>st</sup> Air Transport Wing: 28/2/62; 23/4/65;  
1502d Air Transport Wing: 1/10/65;  
1608<sup>th</sup> Transport Wing: 11/8/62;  
1611<sup>th</sup> Air Transport Wing: 9/6/61;  
1707<sup>th</sup> Air Transport Wing: 19/10/64;

#### Bomb Wings

1<sup>st</sup> BMW: 27/1/43;

2d BMW: 27/1/43; 27/7/94; 7/8/95; 25/8/95;  
3d BMW: 11/12/52;  
5th BMW: 13/2/59; 23/11/81; 24/6/96;  
7th BMW (later Wing): 1/12/35; 16/1/51; 16/9/78; 4/10/83; 1/7/85; 9/6/97; 18/8/2005;  
11th BMW: 3/12/51;  
22d BMW: 21/6/54; 8/3/65; 29/9/65; 29/9/71;  
28th BMW: 26/9/58; 31/10/94; 9/6/97;  
40th BMW: 24/10/56;  
42d BMW: 24/11/56; 15/9/58; 4/3/72; 15/6/72; 15/9/72; 15/6/78; 27/10/83; 6/10/83;  
15/7/85;  
43d BMW (later Strategic Wing): 20/2/48; 17/11/54; 1/8/60; 12/1/61; 14/1/61; 10/5/61;  
26/5/61; 5/3/62; 28/3/64; 20/3/66; 16/1/70; 29/6/85;  
58<sup>th</sup> BMW: 15/6/43;  
92d BMW (later AREFW): 15/10/54; 30/9/75; 5/8/97; 5/3/99; 7/11/2003; 22/4/2004;  
21/4/2005;  
93d BMW (later Air Control Wing): 29/6/55; 24/11/56; 30/9/95; 6/8/2001; 17/9/2002;  
95th BMW: 12/2/59;  
96th BMW: 7/7/85; 8/11/89;  
97th BMW: 20/10/55; 1/11/78; 21/1/85;  
98<sup>th</sup> BMW: 24/12/51; 8/10/52; 12/11/52; 18/11/52;  
184<sup>th</sup> BMW: 26/9/2001; 4/8/2002;  
305th BMW (later AMW): 16/10/63; 16/1/70; 2/2/96; 4/9/96; 5/8/97; 14/9/97; 3/10/97;  
9/8/98; 18/8/99; 23/1/2002; 14/5/2003; 6/7/2005;  
306th BMW: 23/10/51; 22/1/53; 6/4/53; 4/6/53;  
307<sup>th</sup> BMW: 19/12/51; 13/11/52; 29/12/52;  
308th BMW (later SMW): 20/10/44; 7/8/54; 18/9/80;  
310<sup>th</sup> BMW: 15/9/44;  
319th BMW (later AREFW): 6/6/62; 23/11/81; 6/3/84; 19/2/85; 10/11/88; 5/3/99; 13/6/99;  
23/10/2002;  
320th BMW: 20/8/75; 20/9/82;  
321st BMW: 14/8/57;  
379th BMW: 9/5/61;  
384<sup>th</sup> BMW: 10/11/88;  
410th BMW: 12/3/80; 5/5/81;  
416th BMW: 11/1/81; 15/8/81; 15/9/81; 21/9/82; 16/12/82;  
452d BMW: 10/8/50;  
509th BMW: 16/12/70; 1/1/73; 17/12/93; 17/8/94; 31/8/94; 29/10/94; 30/12/94; 15/5/96;  
3/7/96; 7/10/96; 11/11/96; 16/12/96; 1/2/97; 19/3/97; 1/4/97; 23/5/97; 29/5/97; 28/7/2001;  
7/10/2001;

### Fighter Wings

1st TFW (later FW): 18/12/75; 4/6/99; 1/12/2004; 12/8/2005; 15/12/2005; 19/1/2007; 20/6/2007;

3d TFW (later 3d Wing): 4/11/72; 28/7/80; 1/12/89; 8/8/2007;

4<sup>th</sup> FIW (later TFW): 1/12/50; 2/1/51; 22/4/52; 20/5/52; 14/2/91; 4/4/91;

8th Fighter-Bomber (later Tactical Fighter Wing): 28/6/50; 6/6/60; 19/7/50; 2/1/67; 13/5/67; 23/5/68; 10/5/72;

18<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber (later Tactical Fighter Wing): 5/1/51; 27/1/55; 29/10/63; 1/10/64; 4/11/72; 18/3/81; 24/1/2005;

20th TFW: 12/9/70; 3/2/84; 28/10/95;

21<sup>st</sup> Fighter Bomber Wing: 28/3/52;

27th Fighter-Escort Wing (FEW) (the TFW and later FW): 15/9/50; 15/10/50; 8/11/50; 6/12/50; 24/5/51; 23/9/51; 1/10/52; 30/9/69; 20/3/84; 7/12/93; 29/7/96;

31st Fighter Escort Wing (later Tactical Fighter Wing): 4/7/52; 7/6/52; 25/8/92;

32d TFW: 14/6/81;

33d TFW (later FW): 3/11/89; 16/12/98;

35th FW: 18/6/96;

36<sup>th</sup> TFW: 14/6/81;

37th TFW: 30/9/84;

48<sup>th</sup> TFW: 20/11/80;

49th Fighter-Bomber Wing (later TFW and FW): 19/11/52; 4/4/69; 6/5/72; 22/1/97;

50th Fighter-Bomber Wing (later TFW): 28/3/52; 12/11/80; 31/12/81; 22/6/82;

51st Fighter Interceptor Wing: 1/4/52; 22/4/52; 11/7/53;

57th Fighter Weapons Wing: 21/11/80; 10/2/81;

58th FBW (Later TFTW): 19/11/52; 10/5/53; 14/11/74;

81<sup>st</sup> TFW: 22/4/81;

86<sup>th</sup> TFW: 25/10/84;

103d FW (ANG): 2/8/97;

104<sup>th</sup> FW (ANG): 17/5/99;

110<sup>th</sup> FW (ANG): 17/5/99;

111<sup>th</sup> FW (ANG): 7/12/2002;

116<sup>th</sup> FBW (later Bomb Wing) (later Air Control Wing): 14/5/51; 24/7/51; 28/5/52; 26/9/2001; 22/6/2002; 17/9/2002; 23/3/2005;

119<sup>th</sup> FW (later Wing) (North Dakota Air National Guard): 10/1/2007; 2/7/2007;

122d FW: 24/1/2006;

124<sup>th</sup> FW (ANG): 17/5/99;

125<sup>th</sup> FW (ANG): 4/2/2007;

136<sup>th</sup> FBW: 15/5/51; 24/5/51;  
140<sup>th</sup> FW (ANG): 1/10/2001;  
154<sup>th</sup> Wing: 24/1/2005;  
159<sup>th</sup> FW (ANG): 19/6/99;  
169<sup>th</sup> FW: 4/11/99; 13/1/2000;  
174<sup>th</sup> FW: 1/6/94;  
181<sup>st</sup> FW (ANG): 30/9/2005;  
185<sup>th</sup> FW (ANG): 9/9/2000;  
192d FW: 4/6/99; 1/12/2004; 12/8/2005; 20/6/2007;  
354th TRW (later TFW): 15/7/73; 9/3/77;  
363d TRW (later FW): 6/5/56; 27/12/92;  
388th TFW (later FW): 6/1/79; 4/12/96;  
401st TFW: 30/6/83;  
405th FW: 23/12//64; 7/3/67;  
419<sup>th</sup> FW: 4/12/96; 21/8/98;  
474th Fighter-Bomber Wing: 10/7/52; 11/12/52;  
479th Fighter-Bomber Wing: 18/9/54;  
482d Fighter Wing: 25/8/92;

#### Flying Training Wings

14<sup>th</sup> FTW: 10/7/98; 12/10/2006;  
64th FTW: 17/2/78; 19/2/93;

#### Space Wings

45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing: 17/11/2006; 17/2/2007; 8/3/2007; 4/8/2007;  
50th Space Wing: 20/1/92;

#### Strategic Wings

4038th SW: 17/1/62;  
4080th SW: 22/4/60; 27/10/62;  
4135th SW: 23/12/59; 27/2/60; 12/4/60; 8/6/60; 13/9/60; 1/2/61;  
4126th SW: 9/1/62;  
4241st SW: 18/12/61;  
4602nd SW: 20/6/60; 1/12/60;

#### Strategic Fighter Wing

31st SFW: 20/8/53;

508th SFW: 20/8/53;

#### Strategic/Tactical Missile Wings

44th SMW: 1/1/62; 1/3/65;

71st TMW: 30/4/69;

90th SMW: 20/6/73; 3/9/74; 26/1/75;

91st SMW: 14/4/70; 17/4/70;

308th SMW: 24/4/75;

321st SMW: 28/2/64; 5/8/65; 22/11/66; 24/4/75;

341st SMW: 15/7/61; 24/10/62; 27/10/62; 17/10/63; 24/8/65; 24/2/66; 1/3/68; 11/7/75;  
12/7/2007;

351st SMW: 3/4/67; 3/10/67; 10/10/67; 22/1/80; 4/2/85; 5/3/86; 31/7/95;

381st SMW: 18/8/78; 16/9/78;

389th SMW: 9/8/62;

390th SMW: 1/1/62; 30/9/82; 21/5/84; 31/7/84;

451st SMW: 25/6/65;

485<sup>th</sup> TMW: 8/12/87;

486<sup>th</sup> TMW: 8/12/87;

487<sup>th</sup> TMW: 8/12/87;

501st TMW: 8/12/87; 31/5/91;

702d SMW: 27/5/59; 18/3/60; 28/2/61; 25/6/61;

703d SMW: 25/9/58; 15/1/59;

704th SMW: 1/7/57; 1/7/59;

706th SMW: 1/2/58; 7/6/58; 15/1/59;

4320th SMW: 1/2/58;

#### Strategic Reconnaissance Wings

9th SRW (later Reconnaissance Wing): 15/9/81; 1/1/97; 9/9/2003;

28th SRW: 2/6/50;

91st SRW: 12/7/50; 26/8/50; 29/7/52; 25/4/53;

100th SRW (later AREFW): 1/7/76; 2/2/96;

4080th SRW: 31/5/56; 11/6/57;

4200th SRW: 1/1/65; 7/1/66;

#### Tactical Reconnaissance Wings

67<sup>th</sup> TRW: 28/8/58;

### Troop Carrier Wings

52d TCW: 13/9/43;  
54<sup>th</sup> TCW: 2/7/44;  
62d TCW: 17/9/51;  
63d TCW: 7/5/53; 9/1/56;  
314th TCW: 16/3/49; 6/1/51;  
374<sup>th</sup> TCW: 27/6/50; 1/7/50; 3/7/52;  
403<sup>rd</sup> TCW: 14/4/52; 30/6/52; 15/10/52;  
437<sup>th</sup> TCW: 10/8/50; 10/11/50; 23/3/51;  
463d TCW: 9/12/56;  
464<sup>th</sup> TCW: 17/11/64;  
516th TCW: 8/1/52;

### Miscellaneous Wings

1st Air Commando Wing: 20/7/63; 17/5/64;  
Fourth Allied Prisoner of War Wing: 1/1/74;  
24<sup>th</sup> Composite Wing: 23/10/78;  
30th Space Wing: 14/7/2001;  
41<sup>st</sup> Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Wing: 30/8/74;  
46th Test Wing: 20/11/ 2001;  
58<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Wing: 5/10/2007;  
66<sup>th</sup> Electronic Combat Wing: 6/5/87;  
73d Surveillance Wing: 17/7/67;  
106<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing (ANG): 28/4/99;  
113<sup>th</sup> Wing (ANG): 1/12/2003;  
129<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing (ANG): 28/4/99; 20/4/2007;  
175<sup>th</sup> Wing (ANG): 7/12/2002;  
193d Special Operations Wing (Pennsylvania ANG): 27/3/98; 8/10/2001;  
347<sup>th</sup> Wing: 28/10/95;  
375th Aeromedical Airlift Wing: 10/8/68; 12/2/73; 1/1/84; 6/4/84; 14/5/84;  
403d Wing: 12/10/98;  
412<sup>th</sup> Test Wing: 3/12/99; 7/1/2005;  
432d Wing: 1/5/2007;  
552d Airborne Warning and Control System Wing: 24/3/77; 29/6/2007;  
581<sup>st</sup> Air Resupply and Communications Wing: 27/12/52;

701st Missile Wing: 3/8/56; 15/9/56;  
917<sup>th</sup> Wing: 7/12/93;  
1405<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing: 11/2/62;  
4453d Combat Crew Training Wing: 20/11/63;  
4751st Air Defense Missile Wing: 15/1/58;  
6555<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Test Wing: 21/11/61; 6/2/63;  
6595th Aerospace Test Wing: 11/4/63;

## **GROUPS**

1st Mobile Communications Group: 12/2/73;  
1st Pursuit Group: 15/3/18; 19/3/18; 14/4/18; 7/2/23;  
2d Ferrying Group: 26/7/43;  
3d Air Expeditionary Group: 18/2/97;  
3d American Pursuit Group: 10/11/18;  
5<sup>th</sup> Group (Composite): 27/12/35;  
33d Pursuit (later Fighter) Group: 14/10/40; 10/11/42;  
36<sup>th</sup> Operations Group: 2/3/2007;  
55<sup>th</sup> Operations Group: 11/1/2007;  
80th Air Defense Group: 5/1/70;  
104<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group (ANG): 17/5/99; 26/5/99; 21/6/99; 24/6/99;  
129<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group: 18/2/86;  
193d Special Operations Group: 20/12/89;  
352d Special Operations Group: 10/6/97;  
363d Tactical Reconnaissance Group: 31/1/56;  
504th Tactical Air Support Group: 31/7/68;  
509th Composite Group: 11/6/45;  
1961st Communications Group: 12/2/73;  
4440th Air Defense Group: 13/7/59;  
6511th Test Group (Parachute): 20/7/60; 1/5/63; 7/4/67; 4/1/68; 28/1/70;  
Presidential Airlift Group: 1/4/2001;



### Airlift Groups

105<sup>th</sup> TAG (ANG): 20/12/89;

136<sup>th</sup> TAG (ANG): 20/12/89;

139<sup>th</sup> TAG (ANG): 20/12/89;

145<sup>th</sup> AG: 27/6/94;

146<sup>th</sup> TAG (ANG): 20/12/89;

153d AG: 27/6/94;

165<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Group: 19/9/74;

166<sup>th</sup> TAG (ANG): 20/12/89;

172d TAG (ANG): 20/12/89;

314<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Group: 23/3/51;

615<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Operations Group: 20/7/2002;

944<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Group: 25/3/68;

954<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Group: 5/12/70;

### Air Refueling Groups

68<sup>th</sup> AREFW: 5/3/86;

160<sup>th</sup> AREFG: 18/4/75;

340<sup>th</sup> AREFG: 25/4/90;

931<sup>st</sup> AREFG: 16/9/78; 1/1/94; 1/1/95; 13/5/95;

### Bomb Groups

2d BG: 1/3/37; 7/11/39; 3/8/42;

3d BG: 12/9/42; 28/6/50; 29/6/50; 30/6/50; 26/11/50;

7<sup>th</sup> BG: 28/11/42; 28/11/42; 26/6/48; 12/3/49;

19<sup>th</sup> BG: 28/6/50; 18/7/50; 19/8/50; 23/8/50; 5/11/50; 23/3/51; 9/11/51; 24/11/51; 14/12/51; 26/5/52; 30/12/52;

22d BG: 3/7/50; 10/8/50; 13/7/50; 1/8/50; 7/9/50; 26/9/50;

28<sup>th</sup> BG: 26/6/48;

43d BG: 22/7/48; 26/2/49;

91st BG: 5/4/44;

92d BG: 3/7/50; 13/7/50; 12/7/50; 13/7/50; 1/8/50; 10/8/50; 27/8/50; 18/9/50; 26/9/50;

93d BG: 1/8/43; 5/4/44;

94th BG: 5/4/44;

97th BG: 17/8/42;

98<sup>th</sup> BG: 7/8/50; 10/8/50; 18/9/50; 12/1/51; 9/11/51; 24/11/51;

184th BG: 1/7/94;

301st BG: 26/6/48;

303d BG: 5/4/44;

305th BG: 5/4/44;

306th BG: 5/4/44;

307th BG: 22/12/42; 26/6/48; 7/8/50; 10/11/50; 23/3/51; 23/10/51; 24/11/51;

340th BG: 22/3/44; 23/9/44; 8/10/69; 30/6/71;

376th BG: 15/12/42;

394th BG: 9/8/44;

452d BG (AFRES): 27/10/50; 14/7/51;

482d BG: 28/8/43;

496th BG: 19/3/45;

509th BG: 1/7/46; 10/10/46;

#### Fighter Groups

American Volunteer Group (Flying Tigers): 20/12/41; 4/7/42;

1st FG: 25/8/43;

4th FG (later FIG): 8/10/40; 12/9/42; 15/12/50; 21/1/51; 30/11/51; 13/5/52; 17/11/52;

8<sup>th</sup> FG: 15/12/44;

18<sup>th</sup> FG (later FBG): 22/10/44; 7/8/50;

23d FG: 4/7/42;

31<sup>st</sup> FG: 8/11/42;

35<sup>th</sup> FIG: 14/7/50; 13/8/50; 18/11/50;

49<sup>th</sup> FG: 20/10/44; 27/10/44; 12/12/44;

50<sup>th</sup> FG: 23/6/44;

51<sup>st</sup> FG: 26/4/52;

56<sup>th</sup> FG: 5/11/43;

58<sup>th</sup> FG: 15/12/44;

78<sup>th</sup> FG: 28/8/44;

82<sup>d</sup> FG: 25/8/43;

107<sup>th</sup> TFG: 18/10/65;

114<sup>th</sup> TFG: 20/12/89;

150<sup>th</sup> TFG: 24/11/80;

156<sup>th</sup> TFG (ANG): 12/1/81;

169<sup>th</sup> FG: 29/12/90;

175<sup>th</sup> TFG: 25/4/70;

177<sup>th</sup> FG: 1/8/88;

178<sup>th</sup> FG: 15/5/93;

180<sup>th</sup> TFG: 19/1/76; 20/12/89;

318<sup>th</sup> FG: 22/6/44;

354<sup>th</sup> FG: 5/12/43;

412<sup>th</sup> FG: 3/12/45;

475<sup>th</sup> FG: 9/7/44; 20/10/44;

477<sup>th</sup> FG (AFRC): 8/8/2007; 2/10/2007;

560<sup>th</sup> TFG: 1/10/64;

#### Missile Groups

498<sup>th</sup> Tactical Missile Group: 14/9/62; 31/12/69;

#### Troop Carrier Groups

60<sup>th</sup> TCG: 8/11/42;

61<sup>st</sup> TCG: 20/12/50; 30/1/51; 1/11/52;

62<sup>nd</sup> TCG: 29/11/42;

64<sup>th</sup> TCG: 29/11/42;

317<sup>th</sup> TCG: 11/9/48;

374<sup>th</sup> TCG: 2/8/50;

#### Miscellaneous Groups

24<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Group: 8/10/2005;

91<sup>st</sup> Logistics Group: 31/5/96;

310<sup>th</sup> Space Group (AFRC): 1/9/97;

821<sup>st</sup> Space Group: 1/10/2001;

920<sup>th</sup> Rescue Group: 15/4/97;

6594<sup>th</sup> Test Group: 23/1/81;

### **SQUADRONS**

#### Aero Squadrons

1st Aero (later Reconnaissance) Squadron: 5/3/13; 20/5/15; 26/7/15; 18/11/15; 15/3/16; 27/3/16; 18/11/16; 13/8/17; 3/9/17; 11/4/18; 12/12/98;

1st Aero Reserve (later 26th Aero) Squadron: 5/4/16; 23/8/17;

2d Aero Squadron, 1st Company: 5/1/16;

6th Aero Squadron: 9/1/17;

7th Aero Squadron: 9/1/17;

17th Aero Squadron: 12/9/18;

20th Aero Squadron: 19/9/18;

24th Aero Squadron: 7/10/18;

27th Aero (later Fighter) Squadron: 29/9/18; 15/12/2005;

50<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron: 5/10/18; 6/10/18;

103d Aero Squadron: 11/3/18;

94th Aero Squadron: 19/3/18; 6/11/30;

95th Aero Squadron: 18/2/18;

96th Aero Squadron: 18/5/18; 12/6/18;

185th Aero Squadron: 12/10/18;

#### Aeromedical Squadrons

86th AES: 20/11/2001;

315th AES: 6/9/97;

349th AES: 9/8/97;

#### Airlift Squadrons

10th Military Airlift Squadron: 6/12/85;

16<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron: 24/12/95;

17th Airlift Squadron: 17/1/95;

20<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Squadron: 28/8/88;

18<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Squadron: 9/5/83;

37th Tactical Airlift Squadron: 29/12/89; 18/2/97;

50<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Squadron (later Airlift Squadron): 27/8/86; 10/12/2001;

41st Military Airlift Squadron: 25/8/88;

44<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Squadron: 17/1/67;

75<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Squadron: 19/1/85; 20/11/2001;

80<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Squadron: 10/1/67; 2/1/80;

86<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Squadron: 14/11/66;

167th Tactical Airlift Squadron: 7/1/89;

201st Airlift Squadron (ANG): 1/11/2001; 17/4/98;

310th Tactical (later Military Airlift) (later Airlift) Squadron: 27/6/72; 24/4/92; 12/1/99;

312<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Squadron: 19/1/85;

317th Airlift Squadron: 5/2/94;

326<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron: 10/3/2007;

547th Airlift Squadron: 1/4/97;

548th Airlift Squadron: 1/4/97;

729<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron: 24/2/2001;

#### Air Refueling Squadrons

2d AREFS: 18/6/2001;

6th AREFS: 19/12/2000;

9th AREFS: 10/11/65;

11th AREFS: 4/9/75;

43d AREFS: 19/7/48; 6/7/51;

54th AREFS: 13/8/98;

92d AREFS: 17/9/58;

93d AREFS: 28/6/57;

97th AREFS: 1/9/50; 16/11/56;

99th AREFS: 27/6/58; 24/9/58;  
100th AREFS: 21/12/65;  
203d AREFS (Hawaii ANG): 24/3/99;  
301st AREFS: 18/4/75;  
306th AREFS: 14/7/51;  
340th Expeditionary AREFS: 22/4/2004;  
380th AREFS: 12/1/65;  
384th AREFS: 21/12/65;  
431st AREFS: 8/3/65;  
509th AREFS: 19/7/48;  
902d AREFS: 31/5/67;  
904th AREFS: 23/3/78;  
905th AREFS: 30/6/96; 12/12/98;  
916th AREFS: 27/4/78;  
924th AREFS: 10/6/82;

#### Bomb Squadrons

11th Bomb Squadron: 17/1/32; 21/9/32;  
13<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron: 12/4/72;  
15th Bomb Squadron: 4/7/42;  
60<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron: 29/6/85;  
63d Bomb Squadron: 5/8/44;  
93d Bomb Squadron: 1/10/93;  
96th Bomb Squadron: 25/8/95;  
96<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Bomb Squadron: 2/3/2007;  
155<sup>th</sup> Night Bombardment Squadron: 9/11/18;  
325th Bomb Squadron: 28/7/2001;  
343d Bomb Squadron: 1/6/51;  
393d Bomb Squadron: 11/6/45;  
396th Bomb Squadron: 7/7/42;  
418th Bomb (later Flight Training and Flight Test) Squadron: 30/7/98; 7/5/2004;  
422d Bomb Squadron: 7/10/43;  
445th Bomb Squadron: 17/2/58;  
668th Bomb Squadron: 16/12/92;

#### Electronics Combat Squadrons

43d Electronics Combat Squadron: 6/5/87;  
388<sup>th</sup> Electronic Combat Squadron: 5/11/81;  
390<sup>th</sup> Electronic Combat Squadron: 23/12/83;  
429<sup>th</sup> Electronic Combat Squadron: 24/6/97;

#### Fighter Squadrons

7<sup>th</sup> FBS: 28/9/50; 10/9/51;  
9<sup>th</sup> FS: 27/10/44; 12/12/44; 2/11/95;  
12<sup>th</sup> FS: 22/10/44;  
13th TFS: 30/9/68;  
19<sup>th</sup> FS (Commando) (later Air Commando): 17/4/67; 25/4/67;  
20<sup>th</sup> FS: 20/12/2004;  
25<sup>th</sup> FIS: 23/2/52; 6/4/52;  
26<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Training Aggressor Squadron: 25/11/80;  
32<sup>nd</sup> FS: 13/1/94;  
35<sup>th</sup> FS: 15/11/2006;  
36th FS: 10/3/45; 5/8/64; 14/8/64;  
45th TFS: 10/7/65; 24/7/65;  
55<sup>th</sup> TFS: 5/7/74;  
62<sup>nd</sup> FS: 30/7/97;  
67<sup>th</sup> FBS: 5/8/50; 5/2/51;  
68<sup>th</sup> Fighter All-Weather Squadron: 26/6/50;  
69<sup>th</sup> FBS: 12/10/52;  
71st TFS: 7/8/90;  
74<sup>th</sup> FS: 27/7/2007;  
75<sup>th</sup> FS: 7/8/2007;  
76<sup>th</sup> FS: 22/4/43;  
77<sup>th</sup> FS: 7/2/2007;  
81<sup>st</sup> FS: 29/10/2007;  
90<sup>th</sup> FS: 29/8/2007;  
94<sup>th</sup> FS: 19/1/2007; 3/2/2007;  
107<sup>th</sup> FS (ANG): 27/2/2004;  
114<sup>th</sup> TFTS: 1/3/89;  
119<sup>th</sup> FS (ANG): 12/7/2002;  
120<sup>th</sup> TFS: 3/5/68; 8/6/68;  
194<sup>th</sup> FBS: 1/3/53;

302<sup>nd</sup> FS: 2/10/2007;  
310<sup>th</sup> TFS: 23/3/70;  
313<sup>th</sup> TFS: 22/6/82;  
336<sup>th</sup> FIS (later TFS): 1/6/51; 3/4/52; 21/9/52; 1/10/70; 1/11/70;  
355<sup>th</sup> TFS: 10/3/67;  
366<sup>th</sup> TFS: 30/9/89;  
418<sup>th</sup> NFS: 15/12/44;  
494<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Fighter Squadron: 5/10/2006;  
510<sup>th</sup> TFS: 13/5/62; 29/10/2007;  
511<sup>th</sup> TFS: 2/3/71;  
524<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Fighter Squadron: 15/11/2006;  
525<sup>th</sup> TFS: 27/4/77;  
527<sup>th</sup> TFS: 14/11/81;  
555<sup>th</sup> FS: 19/6/2007;  
559<sup>th</sup> Flying Training Squadron: 6/4/2007;  
562d Flying Training Squadron: 31/5/96;  
706<sup>th</sup> TFS: 19/1/91; 6/2/91;  
4503d TFS (Prov): 23/10/65;  
Eagle Squadron: 8/10/40; 12/9/42;

#### Fighter-Interceptor Squadrons

16<sup>th</sup> FIS: 3/5/52; 22/11/52; 9/3/59;  
83d FIS: 26/1/58;  
102d FIS (ANG) (later ARRS): 15/6/75;  
138<sup>th</sup> FIS: 1/3/53;  
199<sup>th</sup> FIS: 21/1/61;  
334<sup>th</sup> FIS: 20/5/51; 9/9/51; 30/11/51; 4/9/52; 18/11/52;  
335<sup>th</sup> FIS: 9/9/51; 30/11/51; 21/4/52; 3/5/52; 15/5/52; 15/6/52; 7/8/52; 17/11/52;  
336<sup>th</sup> FIS: 23/4/51;  
509<sup>th</sup> FIS: 8/3/61;

#### Pursuit Squadrons

13<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron: 18/10/18;  
17<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron: 10/12/41;  
28<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron: 20/3/18;  
94<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron: 9/4/18; 14/4/18;



95th Pursuit Squadron: 15/3/18; 12/4/30;  
99th Pursuit (later Fighter) Squadron: 22/3/41; 28/3/41; 2/7/43;  
103d Pursuit Squadron: 18/2/18;

#### Reconnaissance Squadrons

1st RS: 12/12/98;  
8<sup>th</sup> TRS: 2/10/50;  
11th RS: 29/7/95; 3/9/96;  
15<sup>th</sup> TRS: 28/8/58; 20/10/61; 4/2/67; 16/2/68;  
91st SRS: 9/11/50; 6/2/51; 8/3/55;  
162d TRS: 8/10/50;

#### Rescue Squadrons

3d Air Rescue Squadron: 13/7/50; 22/7/50; 23/9/50; 10/10/50; 21/10/50; 24/12/50;  
15/2/51; 25/3/51; 31/3/51; 18/4/51; 21/4/51; 24/4/51; 5/5/51; 10/9/51; 22/10/51; 27/10/51;  
3/11/51; 14/4/52; 28/4/52; 18/5/52; 23/5/52; 4/6/52; 9/6/52; 30/7/52; 4/9/52; 12/10/52;  
28/12/52;  
31<sup>st</sup> Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron: 23/10/84; 16/10/85; 18/12/85; 25/2/87;  
25/10/88; 12/12/88;  
33d Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron: 22/4/80; 1/9/83;  
36<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron: 3/2/70;  
37<sup>th</sup> Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron: 28/2/68; 17/6/75;  
38th Air Rescue Squadron: 1/12/90;  
39<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron (AFRC): 15/4/97;  
41<sup>st</sup> Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron: 18/2/86;  
48th Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron: 1/6/67; 16/1/74;  
56th Rescue Squadron: 10/1/94; 13/1/94; 29/12/94; 16/3/95;  
57th Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron: 20/2/72;  
58th Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron: 8/10/69;  
59th Air Rescue Squadron: 2/4/54;  
71st Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron: 4/10/80;  
102d Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron (Formerly 102 FIS): 14/6/75;  
210<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron (ANG): 21/9/99; 10/7/2002;  
301st Rescue Squadron: 13/3/93;  
303d Rescue Squadron (AFRC): 15/4/97;

### Strategic Missile Squadrons

10th SMS: 1/12/61; 24/10/62; 27/10/62; 28/2/63; 29/2/64;

66th SMS: 1/7/62; 24/6/63; 30/9/63;

374th SMS: 1/9/62; 31/12/63;

389th SMS: 26/6/62;

400th SMS: 1/7/64; 15/6/65; 20/6/73;

447th SMS: 1/2/65; 7/8/65; 25/4/66;

490th SMS: 1/5/62;

548th SMS: 4/1/65;

549th SMS: 1/10/60; 30/3/61; 1/10/64; 15/12/64;

550th SMS: 1/4/61; 24/7/61; 9/9/62;

551st SMS: 1/4/61; 12/4/65;

556th SMS: 15/12/57; 27/6/58; 25/8/58; 1/10/61; 20/12/62;

564th SMS: 9/8/60; 30/8/60; 2/9/60; 1/9/64; 1/4/66; 21/4/67; 20/1/75; 12/7/2007;

565th SMS: 10/3/61; 19/7/62;

566th SMS: 15/8/59; 4/1/65;

567th SMS: 4/1/60; 3/12/60; 29/7/61; 28/9/61; 31/3/65;

568th SMS: 28/9/62; 4/1/65;

569th SMS: 1/4/65; 25/6/65;

570th SMS: 1/1/62; 8/6/63; 30/3/63; 2/7/82; 30/11/83;

571st SMS: 2/12/83;

576th SMS (later Flight Test Squadron): 1/4/58; 18/2/59; 1/5/64; 2/4/66; 26/8/2005;

578th SMS: 1/12/64;

672d SMS: 1/1/58;

724th SMS: 6/10/61; 18/4/62; 20/4/62; 25/6/65;

725th SMS: 4/5/62; 15/4/65; 25/6/65;

740th MS: 17/6/93;

741st SMS: 19/6/70; 19/8/70; 29/12/70;

848th SMS: 1/2/60;

850th SMS: 4/1/65;

851st SMS: 4/1/65;

864th SMS: 15/1/58;

### Troop Carrier Squadrons

21<sup>st</sup> TCS: 6/1/51;

22<sup>nd</sup> TCS: 11/9/48;

39<sup>th</sup> TCS: 11/9/48;  
41<sup>st</sup> TCS: 11/9/48;  
47<sup>th</sup> TCS (Provisional): 26/8/50;  
48<sup>th</sup> TCS (Provisional): 26/8/50;  
644th TCS, Assault: 16/12/52;

#### Miscellaneous Squadrons

1st Airborne Command and Control Squadron: 1/11/75;  
1st Commando Squadron: 11/2/64; 10/3/66;  
1st Corps Observation Squadron: 8/4/18;  
1<sup>st</sup> Flying Training Squadron: 1/9/70;  
3d Special Operations Squadron: 29/8/2006;  
7<sup>th</sup> Space Operations Squadron: 1/1/93;  
8<sup>th</sup> Space Operations Squadron (AFRC): 1/9/97;  
11<sup>th</sup> Space Warning Squadron: 10/3/95;  
11<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Squadron: 29/8/2006; 22/6/2007;  
16th Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (TEWS): 16/2/68;  
16th Special Operations Squadron: 22/2/68;  
20<sup>th</sup> Missile Warning Squadron: 4/1/85;  
22d Air Defense Missile Squadron: 31/10/72;  
29<sup>th</sup> Provisional Squadron: 28/7/17;  
42d Attack Squadron: 9/11/2006; 13/3/2007;  
53d Weather Reconnaissance (later Weather) Squadron: 1/6/91; 16/10/95; 12/10/98;  
20/5/2005;  
89<sup>th</sup> Attack Squadron: 12/9/42;  
110th Observation Squadron: 21/5/27;  
115<sup>th</sup> Observation Squadron (California National Guard): 24/5/27;  
123d Special Tactics Squadron (Kentucky ANG): 4/3/2002;  
128<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Airborne Command and Control Squadron: 7/4/2007;  
135<sup>th</sup> Corps Observation Squadron: 2/8/18;  
148<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron (later Space Operations Squadron): 1/10/2001;  
304th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron: 20/8/2007;  
337<sup>th</sup> Test and Evaluation Squadron: 25/7/2005;  
392d Space and Missile Training Squadron: 1/7/93;  
394th ICBM Maintenance Squadron: 14/7/80;  
394th Missile Training Squadron: 1/7/60;  
762d Air Control and Warning Squadron: 7/5/56;

763d Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron: 11/1/2007;  
775th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron: 7/4/2003;  
782d Air Expeditionary Squadron: 20/7/2002;  
868<sup>th</sup> Tactical Missile Training Squadron: 1/2/83;  
1365<sup>th</sup> Photographic Squadron: 5/5/61;  
1467<sup>th</sup> Facility Checking Squadron: 23/9/91;  
4200th Test and Evaluation Squadron: 19/9/75; 17/3/81;  
4300th Support Squadron: 18/1/65;  
4400<sup>th</sup> Combat Crew Training Squadron: 14/4/61;  
4520<sup>th</sup> Aerial Demonstration Team: 28/10/59;  
4701<sup>st</sup> Airborne Early Warning and Control Squadron: 1/10/53;  
6023d Radar Evaluation Squadron: 21/6/60;  
6132d Tactical Air Control Squadron: 14/7/50;  
6147<sup>th</sup> Tactical Air Control Squadron (Airborne): 1/8/50;  
6400<sup>th</sup> Air Intelligence Squadron: 6/8/52;  
6593d Test Squadron (Special): 19/8/60;  
Attack Squadron 83: 12/3/56;  
Delta Squadron: 4/1/94;  
Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron (HS-1): 3/10/51;  
Red Horse Squadrons: 1/10/65;  
VF Squadron 2: 22/1/25;  
VF-17A: 5/5/48;  
VF-43: 27/6/56;  
VF-112: 27/6/56;

#### Special Operations Squadrons

17<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Squadron: 10/9/71;  
20th Special Operations Squadron: 21/11/80; 1/5/83; 17/4/98; 2/11/2001;  
71<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Squadron: 1/1/69;  
302d Special Operations Squadron: 21/11/80; 4/10/83;

#### **SCHOOLS**

Aerospace Research Pilot School: 15/12/61; 18/6/62; 1/2/66;  
Air Corps Tactical School: 1/11/20; 25/2/20; 15/7/31; 11/8/31;  
Air Force Academy: 1/4/54; 24/6/54; 26/7/54; 11/7/55; 29/3/58; 3/6/59; 25/6/62; 5/1/68; 28/5/80;  
9/12/2005; 2/10/2007;  
Air Force Test Pilot School: 10/6/89; 16/4/97; 2/10/2000; 24/10/2000; 5/10/2001; 28/1/2002;

21/8/2003;  
Air-Ground School: 15/9/50;  
Air Service School: 25/2/20;  
Air Service Tactical School: 1/11/20;  
Air Weapon Systems School (USN): 1/1/54  
American Balloon School: 23/1/18;  
Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics (later Army Air Forces School): 29/11/45; 12/3/46;  
Army Air School (Fort McKinley): 11/3/12; 21/3/12; 14/6/12;  
Army Air School at Tuskegee (also Tuskegee Institute): 19/7/41; 6/3/42; 2/10/2007;  
Army Aviation School (Augusta): 5/7/11; 25/1/12; 1/4/12;  
Army Aviation School (College Park): 7/6/11; 1/4/12; 23/4/12;  
Army Aviation School (Fort Kamehameha): 8/8/13;  
Army Balloon School (Fort Omaha): 20/12/16;  
Aviation Medicine: 19/1/18; 10/11/48; 9/2/49; 8/2/53; 7/8/54; 1/10/59;  
Curtiss North Island School and Experimental Station: 27/1/11; 7/2/11; 17/2/11; 23/2/11; 27/2/11;  
Curtiss School, Hammondsport, Va.: 27/6/11;  
Curtiss School, Miami, Fla.: 22/5/17;  
Curtiss School, Newport News: 22/5/17;  
Field Officers School: 1/11/20;  
Governor's Island Training Corps: 5/4/16;  
Officer Training School: 1/10/93;  
Reserve Officer Training Corps: 1/8/56; 5/5/70;  
School of Aviation Medicine: 8/11/22; 1/8/26; 30/10/26; 1/10/59;  
School for Flight Surgeons: 8/11/22;  
Signal Corps Aviation School: 21/1/11; 3/7/11; 28/11/11; 15/1/13; 11/12/15;  
Signal Corps Aviation School (Also North Island Flying School) (San Diego): 21/1/11; 24/1/13; 24/2/14; 24/6/14; 11/7/14; 17/8/14; 13/9/16; 12/5/17;  
University of California: 6/2/65;  
USAAF School of Air Evacuations: 18/2/43;  
Wright School (Dayton, Ohio): 21/4/11; 13/5/11;  
U.S. Army School for Negroes: 6/3/42;

### **Miscellaneous Units**

1<sup>st</sup> Air Commando Group: 25/4/44; 11/10/61;  
2d Advanced Echelon: 15/11/61;  
2d Balloon Company: 26/2/18; 5/3/18;  
5<sup>th</sup> Flying Training Flight: 1/4/97;

43d Flying Training Flight: 1/4/97;  
48<sup>th</sup> Air Transportable Hospital: 27/9/70;  
65th Coast Artillery: 23/1/40;  
3600<sup>th</sup> Air Demonstration Flight: 8/6/53;  
Air Expeditionary Force (AEF): 19/11/97; 4/8/98; 5/3/99; 20/9/99;  
Aircraft Warning Stations: 5/9/42;  
Aviation Detachment, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Signal Corps: 1/11/15;  
First Aero Company: 13/7/16;  
First Aeronautic Detachment: 5/6/17;

#### Women's Units

Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASP): 5/8/43;  
Women's Army Auxiliary Corps: 5/9/42;  
Women's Army Corps: 12/6/48;  
Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Service: 5/8/43;  
Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron: 5/9/42; 5/8/43;  
Women's Flying Training Detachment: 5/9/42; 15/11/42; 5/8/43;  
Women in the Air Force: 12/6/48; 29/2/68;  
319<sup>th</sup> Army Air Force Flying Training Detachment: 15/11/42;

#### **TASK FORCES**

1<sup>st</sup> Troop Carrier Task Force: 26/8/50;  
Airlift Task Force: 23/7/48;  
India Air Task Force: 21/10/42;  
Navy Task Force 15: 31/8/43;  
Navy Task Force 58: 30/3/44; 11/6/44;  
Navy Task Force 77: 12/8/50; 1/9/50; 3/9/50; 10/9/50; 18/11/52;  
Northeast Tanker Task Force: 18/11/97; 16/12/1998;  
Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force: 24/11/80;  
Yankee Team Tanker Task Force: 5/8/64; 28/9/64;

**PATENTS:** 5/12/11; 25/4/14; 18/12/23; 10/10/47;

**PILOT REQUIREMENTS:** 17/2/12; 4/6/20; 23/2/12; 10/8/14;

## **PRESIDENTS**

Bush, George H. W.: 17/8/90; 27/9/91; 30/6/92; 3/1/93; 13/1/93;  
Bush, George W.: 20/1/2001; 14/9/2001; 13/12/2001; 1/5/2003;  
Carter, Jimmy: 11/2/77; 19/2/77; 22/2/77; 30/6/77; 19/12/77; 12/6/79; 7/9/79; 2/10/81;  
Clinton, William J.: 9/3/98; 10/6/98; 27/4/99; 24/2/98;  
Coolidge, Calvin: 2/2/25; 5/9/25; 12/9/25; 25/10/25; 20/5/26; 21/5/27;  
Eisenhower, Dwight D.: 2/4/51; 24/2/54; 8/9/55; 1/12/55; 1/8/56; 20/4/66;  
Ford, Gerald R.: 14/11/74; 24/11/74; 18/12/74;  
Johnson, Lyndon B.: 29/11/63; 31/12/63; 29/2/64; 24/7/64; 16/9/64; 17/9/64; 24/9/64; 21/12/64;  
18/1/65; 23/8/65; 10/3/66; 16/3/66; 13/10/67; 31/3/68; 1/4/68; 1/11/68; 24/1/73 (Died 22/1/73).  
Kennedy, John F.: 11/10/61; 4/2/62; 20/11/62; 21/12/62; 22/12/62; 29/11/63;  
Nixon, Richard M.: 8/7/69; 5/1/72; 17/2/72; 8/5/72; 26/5/72; 23/10/72; 18/12/72 (resigned 9/8/74).  
Reagan, Ronald: 2/10/81; 4/7/82; 30/9/82; 22/11/82; 13/10/84; 24/6/87;  
Roosevelt, Franklin D.: 13/12/33; 9/2/34; 19/2/34; 23/6/38; 14/11/38; 12/1/39; 16/5/40; 11/3/41;  
29/5/41; 18/8/41; 13/12/41; 9/2/45;  
Roosevelt, Theodore: 16/3/07; 4/6/07; 22/4/08; 11/10/10;  
Taft, William H.: 10/6/09; 19/12/12; 8/3/13;  
Truman, Harry S.: 17/12/45; 18/7/47; 25/9/47; 29/7/48; 30/3/49; 10/8/49; 27/6/50; 29/6/50; 10/8/50;  
25/5/51; 20/2/52;  
Washington, George: 9/1/1793;  
Wilson, Woodrow: 28/2/18;

## **PROJECTS**

Added Effort: 1/5/64; 19/11/64; 31/3/67;  
Argus: 27/8/58;  
Big Arm: 20/1/60;  
Blue Book: 17/12/69;  
Boomtown: 3/12/59;  
Cabriolet: 28/1/68;  
Coin: 6/10/75;  
Early Look: 28/2/90;  
Enhance Plus: 23/10/72;  
Farm Gate: 11/10/61; 3/1/63; 20/7/63; 1/4/64.  
Far Side: 28/6/57; 22/10/57;  
Fast Fly: 11/2/66;  
Fast Relocations: 20/3/67;  
Field Glass: 13/5/62;

Giant Boost: 19/10/66;  
Green: 7/5/45;  
Hop-A-Long: 31/7/52;  
Lincoln: 26/7/51;  
Long Life: 27/11/64; 1/3/65; 19/10/66;  
Manhattan: 3/8/42;  
Man High: 2/6/57; 19/8/57; 16/8/60;  
Military Assistance for Safety in Traffic (MAST): 1/9/70;  
Mule Train: 2/1/62; 29/6/62;  
Narrow Gauge: 5/1/61;  
ORDCIT: 1/1/44; 1/12/44;  
Pacer Bravo: 10/4/70;  
Pipe Stem: 20/10/61;  
ROTAD: 4/1/57;  
Sapphire: 21/11/94;  
SCOOT (Supply Out Of Thailand): 11/4/73;  
Score: 18/12/58;  
Skyhook: 13/7/59;  
Slide Rule: 3/12/59;  
Spotlight: 30/12/52;  
Stargazer: 13/12/62;  
Stormfury: 26/9/71;  
Tackhammer: 4/9/61;  
Tropic Moon: 15/9/70; 15/10/70; 12/4/72;  
Turn Key: 10/6/67;  
White: 7/5/45;  
Window: 17/6/43;

**RADAR:** 27/9/22; 1/1/43; 27/8/43; 31/10/43; 9/4/47; 4/2/49; 30/3/49; 5/12/49; 10/7/50; 1/8/51;  
12/1/51; 6/2/51; 23/9/52; 10/4/53; 11/1/54; 17/1/56; 20/9/57; 8/2/58; 1/2/59; 1/2/61; 10/7/61;  
17/9/64; 15/1/69; 5/1/70;

Air Defense Integrated System: 10/4/53;

Backup Intercept Control (BUIC) Radar: 15/1/69; 5/1/70; 24/3/70;

Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS): 8/2/58; 1/10/60; 1/2/61;

Defense Early Warning (DEW) Line: 1/2/59;

Ground Controlled Approach Radar: 1/1/43; 9/4/47; 4/2/49;



MPQ-2 Radar Equipment: 6/2/51;

Pinetree Radar Network: 10/7/50;

Radar Jamming: 6/6/96;

Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE): 10/4/53; 19/10/55; 17/1/56; 8/2/58;  
24/9/58; 16/12/60; 19/9/61; 15/12/61;

Short-Range Navigation System (SHORAN): 12/1/51; 23/9/51; 21/5/53;

Texas Towers: 11/1/54; 7/5/56;

Vela Hotel: 16/10/63;

## **RECORDS**

Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI): 13/10/05; 13/11/08; 18/12/08; 31/12/08; 18/7/09;  
23/8/09; 25/8/09; 17/9/09; 7/10/09; 12/1/10; 14/6/10; 10/7/10; 11/8/10; 10/10/10; 31/10/10;  
26/12/10; 20/8/11; 17/9/11; 17/2/12; 6/5/12; 24/5/12; 6/10/12; 18/9/18; 25/11/18; 4/12/18; 16/5/19;  
18/9/19; 4/10/19; 27/2/20; 21/2/21; 22/2/21; 28/9/21; 29/12/21; 2/8/22; 4/9/22; 5/10/22; 14/10/22;  
18/10/22; 29/3/23; 16/4/23; 17/4/23; 2/5/23; 26/5/23; 6/6/23; 7/6/23; 27/8/23; 13/9/23; 28/9/23;  
25/10/23; 2/11/23; 4/11/23; 6/4/24; 23/6/24; 25/10/24; 31/8/25; 12/10/25; 27/10/25; 8/5/26;  
12/5/26; 9/3/27; 12/4/27; 4/5/27; 21/5/27; 4/6/27; 28/6/27; 29/6/27; 4/7/27; 27/7/27; 16/8/27;  
10/9/27; 12/2/28; 15/4/28; 12/5/28; 30/5/28; 17/6/28; 29/6/28; 19/8/28; 10/10/28; 20/12/28; 1/1/29;  
10/2/29; 24/4/29; 4/5/29; 27/6/29; 15/8/29; 28/11/29; 6/4/30; 4/6/30; 11/6/30; 12/8/30; 24/11/30;  
2/12/30; 25/5/31; 23/6/31; 28/7/31; 29/7/31; 3/10/31; 20/5/32; 30/5/32; 3/9/32; 25/9/32; 14/11/32;  
15/7/33; 2/9/33; 4/9/33; 7/9/33; 20/11/33; 10/1/34; 26/4/34; 17/5/34; 25/6/34; 8/11/34; 11/1/35;  
15/1/35; 29/1/35; 24/8/35; 13/9/35; 11/11/35; 23/11/35; 12/12/35; 14/4/36; 29/6/36; 4/9/36;  
14/9/36; 2/11/36; 19/12/36; 19/1/37; 9/5/37; 3/12/37; 10/7/38; 18/7/38; 29/8/38; 30/7/39; 12/10/39;  
3/9/45; 20/10/45; 19/11/45; 25/11/45; 8/12/45; 11/12/45; 26/1/46; 1/8/46; 3/6/46; 29/9/46; 9/12/46;  
28/2/47; 19/6/47; 19/7/47; 7/8/47; 20/8/47; 25/8/47; 3/9/47; 14/10/47; 24/5/48; 22/7/48; 28/8/48;  
5/9/48; 15/9/48; 8/12/48; 13/12/48; 13/1/49; 4/3/49; 8/3/49; 27/3/49; 29/3/49; 6/4/49; 26/4/49;  
27/4/49; 2/12/49; 29/12/49; 22/1/50; 3/1/50; 22/9/50; 31/1/51; 20/4/51; 29/5/51; 7/8/51; 15/8/51;  
15/4/52; 4/7/52; 31/7/52; 19/11/52; 30/3/53; 18/5/53; 16/7/53; 28/7/53; 21/8/53; 2/9/53; 5/9/53;  
3/10/53; 29/10/53; 6/11/53; 20/11/53; 12/12/53; 2/1/54; 13/2/54; 28/3/54; 31/3/54; 1/4/54; 4/6/54;  
25/8/54; 3/9/54; 9/3/55; 21/5/55; 20/8/55; 17/10/55; 23/7/56; 7/9/56; 27/9/56; 18/1/57; 21/3/57;  
14/6/57; 2/6/57; 16/7/57; 19/8/57; 21/8/57; 11/10/57; 11/11/57; 27/11/57; 27/3/58; 18/4/58; 7/5/58;  
16/5/58; 12/6/58; 27/6/58; 11/7/58; 26/9/58; 18/12/58; 20/1/59; 22/8/59; 17/9/59; 16/11/59;  
6/12/59; 15/12/59; 12/2/60; 4/7/60; 24/7/60; 12/8/60; 16/8/60; 5/9/60; 20/9/60; 14/12/60; 27/2/61;  
30/3/61; 21/4/61; 4/5/61; 24/5/61; 26/5/61; 19/7/61; 21/7/61; 24/8/61; 28/8/61; 9/11/61; 22/11/61;  
1/12/61; 11/1/62; 5/2/62; 5/3/62; 6/3/62; 17/4/62; 18/4/62; 22/4/62; 30/4/62; 6/6/62; 27/6/62;  
5/7/62; 17/7/62; 24/8/62; 13/9/62; 13/12/62; 19/5/63; 27/6/63; 19/7/63; 3/8/63; 22/8/63; 16/10/63;  
17/4/64; 10/5/64; 12/5/64; 23/3/65; 1/5/65; 21/8/65; 3/9/65; 5/10/65; 15/11/65; 4/12/65; 23/5/66;  
4/6/66; 10/7/66; 18/7/66; 25/8/66; 12/9/66; 5/10/66; 11/10/66; 1/6/67; 3/10/67; 21/12/68; 3/4/69;  
16/7/69; 16/8/69; 18/9/69; 14/11/69; 5/10/70; 27/1/71; 5/2/71; 2/5/71; 9/6/71; 12/6/71; 26/7/71;  
1/2/72; 29/3/72; 20/4/72; 12/8/72; 7/12/72; 14/12/72; 16/1/75; 4/7/87; 10/11/88; 17/4/89; 28/2/92;  
19/12/93; 27/7/94; 12/12/98; 22/4/2001; 27/11/2001; 20/5/2003; 25/10/2003;

Flying Hours: 29/7/70;

## **Aerial Combat**

Cambodia: 15/7/73;

Korea: 27/6/50; 3/8/50; 8/11/50; 9/11/50; 6/12/50; 17/12/50; 21/1/51; 20/5/51; 6/7/51;

27/7/53;

Mexico: 30/11/13; 15/3/16;

Vietnam: 23/2/55; 20/10/61; 31/12/63; 9/6/64; 5/8/64; 28/9/64; 8/2/65; 18/2/65; 19/2/65;  
2/3/65; 18/6/65; 10/7/65; 24/7/65; 23/10/65; 10/3/66; 26/4/66; 5/5/66; 2/1/67; 10/3/67;  
19/4/67; 6/5/67; 13/5/67; 31/3/68; 10/5/72; 18/12/72; 8/1/73; 15/7/73;

World War I: 19/3/18;

Airdrops: 4/10/49; 12/5/60; 20/7/60; 22/2/67; 28/5/68; 24/1/83; 7/6/89; 12/1/90; 16/3/2006;

C-130: 8/1/59; 7/4/67; 4/1/68; 28/1/70; 12/1/90; 23/10/92;

C-17: 16/3/2006;

Altitude: 8/8/08; 13/11/08; 18/12/08; 18/7/09; 17/9/09; 12/1/10; 5/5/10; 14/6/10; 10/7/10; 11/8/10;  
10/10/10; 31/10/10; 26/12/10; 20/8/11; 18/8/11; 25/1/12; 13/4/13; 13/6/13; 26/12/13; 9/2/14;  
16/2/14; 25/2/14; 8/10/14; 5/1/15; 23/4/15; 3/12/15; 2/4/16; 12/5/17; 8/3/18; 18/9/18; 18/1/19;  
6/9/19; 18/9/19; 24/9/19; 4/10/19; 27/2/20; 28/9/21; 2/8/22; 17/4/23; 25/10/23; 29/1/26; 4/5/27;  
27/7/27; 10/10/28; 4/6/30; 14/2/32; 30/5/32; 20/11/33; 26/4/34; 17/5/34; 28/7/34; 29/1/35;  
11/11/35; 14/4/36; 19/9/37; 24/3/39; 4/7/39; 9/3/40; 10/1/46; 10/2/47; 28/9/48; 21/5/49; 28/9/50;  
29/9/50; 4/1/51; 20/4/51; 15/8/51; 16/7/53; 21/8/53; 2/9/53; 24/5/54; 4/6/54; 25/8/54; 17/10/54;  
7/9/56; 8/11/56; 13/12/56; 14/6/57; 19/8/57; 18/4/58; 7/5/58; 11/2/59; 16/11/59; 6/12/59; 9/12/59;  
14/12/59; 11/5/60; 24/7/60; 12/8/60; 16/8/60; 20/9/60; 25/2/61; 30/3/61; 5/5/61; 19/7/61; 21/7/61;  
9/11/61; 19/11/61; 5/12/61; 17/4/62; 30/4/62; 27/6/62; 17/7/62; 24/8/62; 13/9/62; 18/9/62;  
13/12/62; 19/7/63; 22/8/63; 6/12/63; 28/1/64; 17/2/65; 11/5/65; 3/9/65; 5/10/65; 2/2/66; 10/7/66;  
18/7/66; 25/8/66; 12/9/66; 11/10/66; 11/11/66; 3/10/67; 17/10/67; 24/10/68; 21/12/68; 4/2/71;  
8/2/71; 26/4/71; 28/7/76; 31/1/84; 17/4/89; 9/6/97; 6/8/98; 12/12/98; 27/11/2001;

Distance: 8/8/08; 18/12/08; 31/12/08; 25/8/09; 13/6/10; 3/3/11; 5/8/11; 25/10/11; 28/3/13; 28/5/13;  
8/7/13; 25/8/16; 19/4/19; 16/4/23; 6/6/23; 10/11/25; 21/5/27; 4/6/27; 4/7/27; 10/9/27; 15/8/29;  
28/7/31; 3/10/31; 25/9/32; 12/12/35; 29/6/36; 28/3/38; 25/5/38; 12/10/39; 20/10/45; 19/11/45;  
29/9/46; 28/2/47; 19/7/47; 13/1/49; 8/3/49; 22/9/50; 13/2/51; 18/3/52; 9/8/52; 21/6/54; 7/8/54;  
17/11/54; 18/5/55; 26/5/56; 17/8/55; 24/11/56; 18/1/57; 13/5/57; 14/8/57; 11/11/57; 17/11/57;  
7/4/58; 1/8/58; 10/8/58; 17/9/58; 25/9/58; 26/9/58; 22/1/59; 4/6/59; 26/11/59; 30/11/59; 4/7/60;  
14/12/60; 27/2/61; 11/1/62; 6/6/62; 13/6/62; 5/7/62; 16/10/63; 6/3/65; 21/8/65; 11/11/66; 18/9/69;  
22/1/71; 12/3/80; 23/11/81; 6/3/90; 19/12/93;

Aircraft:

Around-the-US: 9/11/19;

Around-the-World: 6/4/24; 29/6/28; 21/12/26; 23/6/31; 15/7/33; 21/5/37; 10/7/38; 2/12/41;  
25/11/45; 12/4/47; 7/8/47; 22/7/48; 13/12/48; 26/2/49; 2/12/49; 18/1/57; 22/8/59; 27/2/61;  
3/8/63; 17/4/64; 12/5/64; 15/11/65; 23/5/66; 4/6/66; 3/4/69; 14/12/86; 11/8/93; 27/7/94;  
3/6/95;

Mass: 7/9/38; 17/8/55;

Sorties: 29/8/52; 22/4/81;

Transcontinental: 17/9/11; 17/2/12; 4/12/18; 21/2/21; 22/2/21; 4/9/22; 2/5/23; 26/5/23;  
13/9/23; 13/9/23; 23/6/24; 1/3/28; 19/8/28; 27/6/29; 27/8/29; 6/4/30; 12/8/30; 24/11/30;  
2/12/30; 25/8/32; 14/11/32; 8/11/34; 15/1/35; 7/6/36; 4/9/36; 19/1/37; 28/7/38; 19/8/38;  
29/8/38; 8/12/45; 11/12/45; 26/1/46; 1/8/46; 3/9/47; 5/2/49; 8/2/49; 29/3/49; 22/1/50;  
14/5/51; 2/1/54; 13/2/54; 28/3/54; 31/3/54; 1/4/54; 24/2/55; 25/2/55; 9/3/55; 21/5/55;  
16/10/55; 23/8/56; 25/1/57; 11/3/57; 21/3/57; 22/3/57; 16/7/57; 27/11/57; 12/6/58;  
20/1/59; 25/1/59; 3/1/60; 12/2/60; 24/5/61; 5/3/62; 6/3/90;

Transatlantic: 17/7/18; 16/5/19; 27/5/19; 21/5/27; 4/6/27; 29/6/27; 17/6/28; 20/5/32;  
14/9/36; 9/5/37; 18/7/38; 28/1/38; 28/12/42; 1/6/44; 20/1/46; 1/3/46; 14/7/48; 26/10/49;  
22/9/50; 18/3/52; 31/7/52; 28/7/53; 15/9/54; 27/11/54; 27/6/58; 26/5/61; 19/5/63; 13/1/70;  
21/1/70; 11/8/78;

Transpacific: 31/8/25; 28/6/27; 16/8/27; 30/5/28; 29/7/31; 3/10/31; 10/1/34; 11/1/35;  
14/5/41; 3/9/45; 28/8/48; 8/12/48; 13/1/49; 18/1/49; 4/7/52; 15/2/53; 7/3/54; 21/8/57;  
11/10/57; 3/12/57; 7/3/65; 17/1/67; 10/11/81; 22/4/2001;

Polar: 8/5/26; 12/5/26; 28/11/29; 15/4/28; 20/12/28; 23/11/35; 29/5/51;

Straight-line: 21/5/27; 10/1/34; 20/2/72; 6/3/90;

Helicopters: 15/4/41; 10/2/47; 2/1/52; 31/7/52; 2/9/53; 2/9/56; 12/11/56; 9/12/59; 19/7/61;  
18/10/61; 5/2/62; 13/6/62; 5/7/62; 24/1/65; 6/3/65; 24/5/67; 1/6/67;

Transatlantic: 14/7/48; 31/7/52; 6/11/53; 1/6/67;

Transpacific: 9/2/61; 15/8/70;

Duration: 8/8/08; 9/9/08; 18/12/08; 31/12/08; 26/9/11; 24/5/12; 6/10/12; 28/3/13; 28/5/13; 14/2/14;  
15/1/15; 12/3/15; 9/2/16; 29/12/21; 5/10/22; 16/4/23; 6/6/23; 25/10/23; 12/4/27; 4/7/27; 10/9/27;  
1/1/29; 11/2/29; 27/11/29; 11/6/30; 25/5/31; 30/5/32; 2/9/33; 2/9/38; 25/11/45; 27/10/46; 26/4/49;  
11/10/49; 17/1/51; 28/9/51; 17/11/54; 2/9/56; 27/7/58; 7/2/59; 14/12/60; 5/10/66; 11/11/66;  
18/9/69; 8/1/70; 16/8/70; 5/10/70; 14/12/72; 12/3/80; 27/7/94;

Formation: 7/9/33;

Parachute: 1/3/12; 21/6/13; 23/2/14; 25/8/14; 28/4/19; 19/5/19; 8/6/20; 18/2/21; 23/3/21; 12/6/22;  
15/1/23; 19/10/28; 24/10/41; 24/6/43; 29/9/50; 5/7/52; 25/11/56; 16/11/59; 12/5/60; 20/7/60;  
6/6/64; 4/1/68;

Passenger Airlift: 25/11/18; 8/11/34; 25/2/49; 19/5/49; 18/11/49; 2/7/55; 3/10/60; 30/6/66; 29/4/72;

Speed: 23/8/09; 14/10/22; 13/10/22; 18/10/22; 29/3/23; 17/4/23; 6/6/23; 7/6/23; 27/6/23; 27/8/23;  
28/9/23; 6/10/23; 2/11/23; 4/11/23; 12/10/25; 27/10/25; 18/2/30; 18/1/32; 3/9/32; 4/9/33; 24/8/35;  
13/9/35; 4/9/36; 2/11/36; 19/12/36; 19/1/37; 4/1/37; 26/7/37; 19/9/37; 28/7/38; 15/11/42; 26/10/45;  
3/6/46; 30/8/46; 9/12/46; 19/6/47; 20/8/47; 25/8/47; 14/10/47; 2/1/48; 12/1/48; 24/5/48; 10/7/48;  
15/9/48; 18/1/49; 8/2/49; 25/3/49; 6/4/49; 27/4/49; 22/11/49; 29/12/49; 3/1/50; 7/8/51; 19/11/52;  
9/12/52; 6/4/53; 18/5/53; 16/7/53; 2/9/53; 5/9/53; 3/10/53; 16/10/53; 29/10/53; 20/11/53; 12/12/53;  
5/1/54; 29/8/54; 3/9/54; 20/8/55; 17/10/55; 22/10/55; 23/7/56; 21/8/56; 27/9/56; 10/10/56; 11/3/57;  
27/11/57; 7/4/58; 16/5/58; 27/6/58; 3/7/58; 17/9/58; 26/9/58; 20/1/59; 11/12/59; 15/12/59; 3/1/60;  
7/1/60; 5/9/60; 12/1/61; 14/1/61; 21/4/61; 22/6/61; 10/5/61; 26/5/61; 21/7/61; 24/8/61; 28/8/61;  
9/11/61; 22/11/61; 11/1/62; 1/12/61; 5/2/62; 5/3/62; 6/3/62; 18/4/62; 27/6/62; 17/7/62; 19/7/63;  
16/10/63; 5/12/63; 28/1/64; 12/10/64; 24/3/65; 1/5/65; 3/11/65; 9/11/66; 16/11/66; 17/1/67;  
21/8/67; 3/10/67; 24/10/68; 16/8/69; 14/10/70; 27/1/71; 26/4/71; 21/4/72; 1/9/74; 13/9/74; 27/7/76;  
28/7/76; 17/12/79; 31/1/84; 6/3/90; 25/8/95; 25/10/2003; 27/03/2004; 16/11/2004; 24/10/2005;

Rocket Sled: 10/12/47; 21/3/58;

Time-to-Climb: 5/1/49; 13/2/55; 28/2/55; 18/12/58; 19/7/61; 19/2/62; 6/3/62; 12/4/62; 13/4/62;  
14/4/62; 8/2/71; 21/4/72; 16/1/75; 10/11/88; 17/4/89;

Weight/Payload: 31/1/49; 21/4/50; 30/3/53; 24/9/58; 17/9/58; 16/12/58; 12/1/61; 14/1/61; 10/8/61;  
17/4/62; 18/4/62; 13/9/62; 24/3/65; 21/12/68; 15/6/69; 14/10/69; 12/11/70; 21/4/72; 28/2/92;  
27/11/2001; 20/5/2003; 25/10/2003; 26/7/2006;

**REENTRY VEHICLES:** 16/12/60; 7/12/62; 1/3/63; 21/6/65; 8/7/66; 6/7/67; 6/1/78; 15/2/79; 3/2/83;

Advanced Ballistic Missile Reentry System: 1/3/63; 21/6/65;

Advanced Ballistic Reentry System (ABRES): 6/7/67;

Mark 3: 16/12/60;

Mark 11 Reentry Vehicle: 7/12/62;

Mark 12 Reentry Vehicle: 8/7/66; 6/1/78; 15/2/79;

## **RESEARCH FACILITIES**

Air Force Rocket Propulsion Laboratory (RPL): 16/10/75; 26/1/76;

Test Tracks: 8/7/55; 25/2/59; 16/3/71;

Wind Tunnel: 26/2/13; 27/5/31; 30/1/46; 4/1/48; 23/5/48; 1/12/49; 18/2/58; 6/12/83;

**SATELLITES:** 15/1/48; 29/7/55; 6/10/55; 17/3/58; 11/10/58; 17/2/59; 28/2/59; 11/3/60; 1/4/60; 13/4/60; 9/11/60; 12/11/60; 16/2/61; 4/2/62; 8/2/62; 7/3/62; 23/4/62; 24/4/62; 26/4/62; 1/6/62; 20/7/62; 27/8/62; 29/9/62; 7/1/63; 1/8/63; 25/1/64; 19/8/64; 21/1/65; 12/2/65; 8/7/65; 5/10/65; 16/6/66; 18/1/67; 28/4/67; 1/7/67; 31/12/67; 13/6/68; 11/7/68; 24/9/68; 9/2/69; 3/3/69; 18/3/69; 23/5/69; 21/11/69; 30/1/70; 2/2/71; 8/6/71; 6/8/71; 3/12/73; 20/3/75; 31/1/75; 15/1/76; 2/2/76; 14/3/76; 17/1/77; 27/1/77; 3/1/78; 9/2/78; 22/2/78; 12/1/79; 18/1/79; 24/1/85; 18/4/86; 3/12/89; 14/6/89; 31/12/89; 5/4/90; 11/4/90; 20/1/92; 30/1/92; 7/2/94; 13/3/94; 24/3/95; 27/4/95; 6/11/95; 4/12/98; 27/2/2001; 20/5/2005; 6/2/2007; 8/3/2007; 10/10/2007;

Ariel I: 26/4/62;

Alouette: 29/9/62;

ASTRO: 8/3/2007;

Beta II: 12/2/65;

Cibola Flight Experiment: 8/3/2007;

Compass Link: 20/7/70;

Defense Communication Satellite Program (DSCP): 16/6/66;

Defense Meteorological Satellite: 10/9/65; 16/3/74; 15/11/74; 14/7/80;

Defense Satellite Communication System (DSCS): 3/3/69; 2/11/71; 2/2/76; 2/2/77; 12/1/79; 3/10/87; 10/10/2007;

Discoverer: 28/2/59; 13/4/59; 13/8/59; 19/8/59; 7/11/59; 20/11/59; 11/8/60; 12/11/60; 7/12/60; 13/10/61;

Echo: 9/11/60; 18/7/62; 12/8/62; 25/1/64;

Explorer: 31/1/58; 26/3/58; 26/7/58; 7/8/59; 13/10/59; 3/11/60; 16/2/61; 25/3/61; 15/8/61; 21/1/65; 12/2/65; 12/12/70;

FalconSat-3: 8/3/2007;

Fleet Satellite Communications (FLTSATCOM)

General Purpose Satellite Communications System Program: 17/1/77;

Global Positioning System: 31/1/75; 24/8/79; 1/1/84; 27/4/95; 29/3/96; 12/12/96;

Greb: 29/6/61;

Helios: 11/2/74; 15/1/76;

Injun: 29/6/61;

Initial Defense Communications Satellite Program (IDCSP): 1/7/67; 13/6/68;

INTASAT: 15/11/74;

Interim Polar System: 6/2/2007;

International Search and Rescue Satellite System: 1/1/83;

Lincoln Experimental Satellites: 14/3/76;

Long Duration Exposure Facility (LDEF): 9/1/90;

MidSTAR: 8/3/2007;

MightySAT I: 4/12/98;

Military Strategic and Tactical Relay (MILSTAR): 7/2/94; 6/11/95; 1/10/2001; 27/2/2001;

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21/12/2007;

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NextSat: 8/3/2007;

Nimbus Weather Satellite: 8/4/70;

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Transit: 13/4/60; 22/6/60; 29/6/61;

Vanguard: 6/12/57; 17/3/58; 17/2/59; 18/9/59; 12/2/65;

Vela Nuclear Detection Satellites: 23/5/69;

Wideband Global SATCOM Satellite: 10/10/2007;

#### **SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**

Brown, Harold: 1/10/65; 1/7/66; 15/2/69;

Douglas, James H.: 1/5/57;

Gates, Thomas S.: 6/6/60;

Finletter, Thomas K.: 18/7/47;

Lucas, Dr. John L.: 13/1/75;

Orr, Verne: 9/2/81; 28/8/81; 31/1/83; 3/2/84;

Quarles, Donald A.: 14/11/55; 23/2/56; 1/5/57; 7/6/58;  
Reed, Thomas C.: 2/1/76; 6/4/77;  
Rice, Donald B.: 23/4/91; 10/1/91;  
Roche, James G.: 8/9/2001; 26/9/2001; 11/11/2004;  
Seamans, Robert C., Jr.: 15/2/69; 21/4/69; 17/12/69; 5/6/70; 9/1/73;  
Sharp, Dudley C.: 24/1/61;  
Stetson, John C.: 6/4/77;  
Symington, W. Stuart: 21/8/47; 18/9/47; 14/12/88 [Deceased].  
Talbott, Harold E.: 4/2/53; 24/6/54;  
Widnall, Sheila E.: 6/8/93; 31/5/96; 24/6/96;  
Wynne, Michael W.: 9/11/2006; 8/8/2007; 29/8/2007; 17/12/2007;  
Zuckert, Eugene M.: 24/1/61; 19/6/62; 21/9/64; 1/10/65;

#### Assistants/Undersecretaries

Gardner, Trevor: 31/10/53;  
Hermann, Robert J.: 30/3/81;  
Sega, Ronald: 19/9/2006;

#### **SECRETARY OF COMMERCE**

Brown, Ronald: 3/4/96;

#### **SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**

Aspin, Les: 28/4/93;  
Brown, Harold: 19/2/77; 15/5/77; 8/7/77; 7/12/77;  
Cheney, Richard B.: 20/8/90;  
Cohen, William S.: 22/2/98; 26/4/99;  
Forrestal, James V.: 26/9/47; 14/10/47; 1/6/48; 29/12/48;  
Johnson, Louis A.: 21/3/50;  
Laird, Melvin R.: 19/3/69; 10/6/69; 20/10/69;  
McElroy, Neil H.: 27/11/57;  
McNamara, Robert S.: 17/11/61; 7/12/61; 1/5/62; 10/12/63; 16/5/64; 19/11/64; 23/3/65; 25/3/65;  
30/9/65; 3/12/65; 8/12/65; 10/12/65; 5/4/66; 26/4/66; 4/10/67;  
Rumsfeld, Donald H.: 19/4/76; 2/12/76; 8/5/2001; 26/6/2001; 14/9/2001; 8/2/2003; 28/4/2003;  
29/4/2006;  
Schlesinger, James R.: 29/4/74; 29/7/74; 18/4/75; 20/8/75;  
Wilson, Charles E.: 8/11/55; 27/3/56; 16/11/56; 26/11/56; 5/10/57;  
Weinberger, Caspar: 30/12/81; 10/8/83;

Assistants

Carlucci, Frank P.: 2/10/81;  
Clements, Jr., William P.: 30/6/73; 1/8/74; 19/12/74;  
Currie, Malcolm R.: 20/7/73;  
Douglas, James H.: 25/3/60;  
Murphree, E. V.: 27/3/56;  
Packard, David: 15/7/70; 22/12/73;  
Perry, William: 5/12/78;

**SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR**

Ickes, Harold L.: 15/5/38;

**Assistants**

Warner, Edward P.: 10/7/26;

**SECRETARY OF THE NAVY:** 25/7/12; 18/7/16; 27/7/17; 30/11/43;

Daniels, Josephus: 7/10/13;  
Knox, Frank: 30/11/43;

**Assistants**

Theodore Roosevelt: 25/3/1898;

**SECRETARY OF WAR:** 8/2/08; 20/4/12; 19/2/34; 20/2/45;

Baker, Newton D.: 18/7/34;  
Dern, George: 11/10/33; 19/2/34;  
Ryan, John D.: 29/5/18; 28/8/18;  
Stimson, Henry: 20/2/45;

**Assistants**

Davison, F. Trubee, Assistant for Air: 16/7/26; 21/5/29;

**SIMULATORS:** 5/10/61; 13/8/62; 7/10/96; 11/11/96; 1/2/97;

**SKYWRITING:** 19/7/13;

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Helios: 13/8/2001;

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Kodiak Launch Complex: 29/9/2001;

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Mariner: 27/8/62; 14/12/62; 1/8/63; 14/7/65; 31/7/69;

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MIR Space Station: 25/9/97;

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National Reconnaissance Office: 19/10/2005;

National Space Club: 16/3/66;

Nuclear Engine for Rocket Vehicle Application: 3/2/66;

Nuclear Rocket Development Station (Jackass Flats, Nev): 3/2/66;

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 Surveyor: 26/5/66;  
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 Teal Ruby: 18/2/78;  
 Thermosphere, Ionosphere, Mesosphere, Energetics, and Dynamics (TIMED) Spacecraft: 30/5/2001;  
 Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission: 22/8/97;  
 Venera: 1/3/66;  
 Viking: 11/7/72; 11/2/74; 20/8/75; 9/9/75; 20/6/76; 7/8/76; 3/9/76;  
 Voyager Space Probe Program: 20/8/77; 9/7/79; 24/8/89; 23/2/90;  
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 24/10/2005;  
 X-33 VentureStar: 14/11/97; 14/1/99; 22/5/2002;  
 X-34: 24/2/99; 30/4/99; 30/6/99;

## **TERRORISM**

Khobar Towers: 25/6/96; 27/6/96;

## **VICE PRESIDENTS**

Agnew, Spiro T.: 12/3/70;

## **WARS and CRISES**

World War I: 21/3/16; 16/4/16; 18/6/16; 6/4/17; 30/4/17; 24/5/17; 5/6/17; 3/9/17; 7/11/17; 23/1/18;  
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 17/10/18; 18/10/18; 9/11/18; 10/11/18; 6/11/30;  
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 22/2/42; 1/3/42; 9/3/42; 25/3/42; 27/3/42; 2/4/42; 12/4/42; 10/5/42; 11/5/42; 18/5/42; 12/6/42;  
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 9/10/43; 10/10/43; 13/10/43; 16/10/43; 31/10/43; 1/11/43; 2/11/43; 3/11/43; 5/11/43; 13/11/43;  
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26/6/45; 10/7/45; 12/7/45; 14/7/45; 1/8/45; 6/8/45; 9/8/45; 12/8/45; 14/8/45; 15/8/45; 27/8/45;  
28/8/45; 2/9/45;

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25/1/51; 26/1/51; 30/1/51; 4/2/51; 5/2/51; 6/2/51; 8/2/51; 10/2/51; 12/2/51; 13/2/51; 15/2/51;  
1/3/51; 3/3/51; 4/3/51; 6/3/51; 7/3/51; 20/3/51; 23/3/51; 24/3/51; 29/3/51; 31/3/51; 12/4/51;  
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7/12/52; 11/12/52; 17/12/52; 22/12/52; 27/12/52; 28/12/52; 29/12/52; 30/12/52; 10/5/53; 18/5/53;  
21/5/53; 27/7/53; 6/8/53; 4/8/55;

Bay of Pigs: 19/4/61;

Berlin Occupation/Wall: 1/8/61; 30/10/61; 31/8/94;

Arab-Israeli: 9/6/67;

Israeli-Egyptian: 25/10/73; 15/11/73;

Laos: 15/11/68; 21/2/73; 22/2/73; 16/4/73;

Mexican Punitive Expedition: 27/3/16; 7/4/16;

Mexican Revolution: 10/5/13; 30/11/13; 6/5/14;

Paradrop Operations: 17/10/18; 17/9/41; 13/9/43; 16/2/45; 25/3/51; 29/6/62; 1/2/69; 25/10/83;  
7/6/89;

Vietnam (SEA) War: 22/10/57; 11/10/61; 15/11/61; 2/1/62; 13/1/62; 2/2/62; 13/5/62; 29/6/62;

3/1/63; 11/2/64; 17/5/64; 9/6/64; 5/8/64; 14/8/64; 1/11/64; 14/12/64; 12/2/65; 3/4/65; 10/7/65;  
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13/5/67; 9/6/67; 1/7/67; 26/8/67; 9/9/67; 24/10/67; 21/1/68; 22/1/68; 26/1/68; 28/1/68; 13/2/68;  
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11/9/72; 13/10/72; 23/10/72; 22/11/72; 18/12/72; 31/12/72; 8/1/73; 28/1/73; 29/1/73; 22/2/73;  
28/3/73; 29/3/73; 15/7/73; 25/3/75; 29/3/75; 6/6/75; 15/6/75;

Yom Kippur: 14/10/73; 20/10/73;

## **UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES (UAV)**

Altair: 9/6/2003; 28/10/2006;

Centurion: 10/11/98;

*Chukar* (BQM-74): 12/7/97;

D2: 7/8/98;

DarkStar: 29/3/96; 29/6/98; 28/1/99;

EuroHawk (Global Hawk derivative): 17/11/2003;

Flight Inserted Detector Expendable for Reconnaissance (FINDER), US Navy: 7/6/2002; 23/8/2003;

Global Hawk (RQ-4A): 28/2/98; 29/8/98; 1/11/98; 22/1/99; 19/6/99; 29/7/99; 19/10/99; 14/4/2000;  
8/5/2000; 19/1/2001; 3/3/2001; 22/4/2001; 8/6/2001; 21/9/2001; 4/10/2001; 16/10/2001;  
10/11/2001; 25/3/2002; 10/7/2002; 29/9/2002; 6/12/2002; 24/1/2003; 28/1/2003; 14/2/2003;  
3/3/2003; 5/5/2003; 9/9/2003; 7/11/2003; 17/11/2003; 1/7/2004; 6/10/2004; 26/10/2004; 28/8/2005;  
20/2/2006; 27/3/2006; 15/6/2006; 17/11/2006; 29/10/2007;

Global Hawk (RQ-4B): 12/9/2006;

Helios: 8/9/99;

Kettering Bug: 2/10/18;

MC2A-X: 18/4/2002;

Pathfinder: 9/6/97; 6/8/98; 14/9/2005;

Peregrine (BQM-145A): 1/2/97;

Perseus B: 30/4/98; 27/6/98;

Predator (RQ-1 or MQ-1): 3/9/96; 17/4/99; 21/2/2001; 4/2/2002; 7/6/2002; 23/9/2002; 23/8/2003;  
1/3/2005; 14/9/2005; 29/8/2006; 14/9/2006; 9/11/2006; 28/11/2006; 10/1/2007; 22/6/2007;  
2/7/2007;

Reaper (MQ-9): 9/11/2006; 14/9/2006; 13/3/2007; 27/10/2007;

X-36 Tailless Fighter Agility Aircraft: 17/5/97; 12/11/97;

X-37 Space Maneuver Vehicle (SMV) and later Approach and Landing Test Vehicle (ALTV):  
19/5/2000; 8/12/2000; 7/4/2006;

X-38 Atmospheric Test Vehicle: 30/7/97; 12/3/98; 21/12/2001;

X-40A: 19/5/2000; 8/12/2000; 14/3/2001; 19/5/2001;

X-45A Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV) (later Joint Unmanned Combat Aerial System):  
7/4/99; 8/11/2000; 22/5/2002; 22/11/2002; 6/12/2002; 28/2/2003; 4/11/2003; 20/3/2004; 18/4/2004;  
7/5/2004; 9/12/2004; 21/1/2005; 4/2/2005;

## **WEAPONS:**

Atomic: 24/8/51; 6/4/55;

EGBU-27 Enhanced Guided Bomb Unit: 14/3/2003;

EGBU-28 "Bunker Buster" Enhanced Guided Bomb Unit: 18/4/2003;

GB-1 Glide Bomb: 7/11/41;

GB-4 Glide Bomb: 13/8/44;

GB-8 Glide Bomb: 12/11/41;

GPS-Aided Munition (GAM): 1/4/97;

GBU-27A/B Enhanced Guided Bomb Unit: 4/8/2000;

GBU-28: 14/8/2003;

GBU-39B Small Diameter Bomb: 2/10/2006; 5/10/2006;

Hydrogen Bomb: 16/3/54; 5/5/56; 21/5/56;

Incendiary Ammunition: 16/10/43; 5/11/50; 8/11/50; 19/11/50; 3/1/51; 5/1/51; 13/11/52;

Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM): 1/4/97; 11/2/98; 14/5/2002; 10/6/2002; 6/8/2003; 10/9/2003;  
21/1/2004; 16/7/2004; 24/2/2005; 14/7/2005; 1/12/2005; 21/8/2007;

Joint Standoff Weapon (JSOW): 24/1/99; 23/3/99; 25/3/99; 17/6/2003;

Lasers: 3/2/68; 2/9/69;

Massive Ordnance Penetrator: 18/12/2007;

Napalm: 22/6/44; 17/7/44; 2/10/44; 16/5/45; 17/9/50; 3/1/51; 1/10/51; 11/3/52;

Parachute Retarded Bomb: 12/9/42;

Paveway I Laser Guided Bombs: 23/5/68; 27/4/72;

Razon Radio-Guided Bomb: 18/7/50; 23/8/50; 8/10/50;

Rocket Bombs: 14/7/45;

Tarzon Radio-Guided Bomb (6-ton): 14/12/50; 13/1/51; 17/1/51; 3/3/51;

Torpedos: 14/8/17;

Weapon Systems Evaluation Program: 8/1/98;

Combat Archer: 8/1/98;  
Combat Echo: 8/1/73; 8/1/98;  
Combat Pike: 8/1/98;

Wind Corrected Munitions Dispenser (WCMD) Sensor-Fuzed Weapon: 23/4/98; 1/11/2001;  
5/3/2002; 6/6/2002; 10/6/2002; 21/8/2007;

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

Alabama	Ala.	North Dakota	N. Dak.
Alaska		Nebraska	Nebr.
Arizona	Ariz.	Nevada	Nev.
Arkansas	Ark.	New Hampshire	N. H.
California	Calif.	New Jersey	N. J.
Colorado	Colo.	New Mexico	N. Mex.
Connecticut	Conn.	New York	N. Y.
Delaware	Del.	Ohio	
Florida	Fla.	Oklahoma	Okla.
Hawaii		Oregon	Oreg.
Idaho		Pennsylvania	Pa.
Illinois	Ill.	Rhode Island	R. I.
Indiana	Ind.	South Carolina	S. C.
Iowa		South Dakota	S. Dak.
Kansas	Kans.	Tennessee	Tenn.
Kentucky	Ky.	Texas	Tex.
Louisiana	La.	Utah	
Maine	Me.	Virginia	Va.
Massachusetts	Mass.	Vermont	Vt.
Maryland	Md.	Washington	Wash.
Michigan	Mich.	Wisconsin	Wis.
Mississippi	Miss.	West Virginia	W. V.
Missouri	Mo.	Wyoming	Wyo.
Montana	Mont.		
North Carolina	N.C.		



## ACRONYMS

AAW	AEROMEDICAL AIRLIFT WING
ACE	ALLIED COMMAND EUROPE
ACFC	AIR CORPS FERRYING COMMAND
AD	AIR DIVISION
ADC	AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND
	AIR DEFENSE COMMAND
AETC	AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND
AFCC	AIR FORCE COMMUNICATIONS COMMAND
AFCS	AIR FORCE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE
AFLC	AIR FORCE LOGISTICS COMMAND
AFRC	AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND
AFRES	AIR FORCE RESERVES
AFSC	AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND
AFSPACE	AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND
AFTTC	AIR FORCE FLIGHT TEST CENTER
ALCM	AIR LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILE
ALCS	AIRBORNE LAUNCH CONTROL SYSTEM
ANG	AIR NATIONAL GUARD
AMC	AIR MOBILITY COMMAND
AMW	AIR MOBILITY WING
AMRAAM	ADVANCED MEDIUM RANGE AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE
ARB	AIR RESERVE BASE
ARDC	AIR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND
AREFG	AIR REFUELING GROUP
AREFS	AIR REFUELING SQUADRON
AREFW	AIR REFUELING WING
ARRG	AEROSPACE RESCUE AND RECOVERY GROUP
ARRS	AEROSPACE RESCUE AND RECOVERY SQUADRON
ARS	AIR RESCUE SQUADRON
	AIR RESERVE STATION
AS	AIRLIFT SQUADRON
ASAT	ANTI-SATELLITE
ATC	AIR TRAINING COMMAND
ATCA	ADVANCED TANKER/CARGO AIRCRAFT
ATSC	AIR TECHNICAL SERVICE COMMAND
ATW	AIR TRANSPORT WING
AWACS	AIRBORNE WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM
BG	BOMB (OR BOMBARDMENT) GROUP
BMS	BOMB (OR BOMBARDMENT) SQUADRON
BMW	BOMB (OR BOMBARDMENT) WING
BUIC	BACK-UP INTERCEPT CONTROL
BMEWS	BALLISTIC MISSILE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

CAOC	COMBINED AIR OPERATIONS CENTER
CONUS	CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES
DARPA	DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY
DEW	DISTANT EARLY WARNING
DoD	DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DSCS	DEFENSE SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM
EST	EASTERN STANDARD TIME
FAA	FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY
FAI	FEDERATION AERONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE
FEAF	FAR EAST AIR FORCES
FTW	FIGHTER TRAINING WING
FW	FIGHTER WING
GAM	GPS-AIDED MUNITION
GATM	GLOBAL AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT
GCA	GROUND CONTROLLED APPROACH
GLCM	GROUND LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILE
IAP	INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
ICBM	INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE
IRBM	INTERMEDIATE RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE
JCS	JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
JDAM	JOINT DIRECT ATTACK MUNITION
JASSM	JOINT-AIR-TO-SURFACE MISSILE
LDEF	LONG DURATION EXPOSURE FACILITY
MAC	MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND
MAS	MILITARY AIRLIFT SQUADRON
MATS	MILITARY AIR TRANSPORT SERVICE
MAW	MILITARY AIRLIFT WING
MILSTAR	MILITARY STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL RELAY
MOL	MANNED ORBITING LABORATORY
MPH	MILES PER HOUR
NAS	NAVAL AIR STATION
NACA	NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS
NASA	NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
NATO	NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION
NAVSTAR	NAVIGATION SYSTEM TIMING AND RANGING
NERVA	NUCLEAR ENGINE FOR ROCKET VEHICLE APPLICATION
PRIME	PRECISION RECOVERY INCLUDING MANEUVERING ENTRY

RAF	ROYAL AIR FORCE
R&D	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
RAMP	RECONNAISSANCE AVIONICS MAINTAINABILITY PROGRAM
RNAS	ROYAL NAVAL AIR STATION
RS	RESCUE SQUADRON
SAC	STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND
SAGE	SEMI-AUTOMATIC GROUND ENVIRONMENT
SAMSO	SPACE AND MISSILE ORGANIZATION
SCAD	SUBSONIC CRUISE AIRCRAFT DECOY
SEA	SOUTHEAST ASIA
SECAF	SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
SECDEF	SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
SHAPE	SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED POWERS EUROPE
SIRE	SATELLITE INFRARED EXPERIMENT
SMS	STRATEGIC MISSILE SQUADRON
SMW	STRATEGIC MISSILE WING
SRAM	SHORT-RANGE ATTACK MISSILE
SRW	STRATEGIC RECONNAISSANCE WING
SST	SUPERSONIC TRANSPORT
START	STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY
STOL	SHORT TAKEOFF AND LANDING
SW	STRATEGIC WING
TAC	TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
TAW	TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING
TCAS	TRAFFIC AND COLLISION AVOIDANCE SYSTEM
TCS	TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON
TCW	TROOP CARRIER WING
TEWS	TACTICAL ELECTRONIC WARFARE SQUADRON
TFG	TACTICAL FIGHTER GROUP
TFW	TACTICAL FIGHTER WING
TFS	TACTICAL FIGHTER SQUADRON
TFTS	TACTICAL FIGHTER TRAINING SQUADRON
TIROS	TELEVISION INFRARED OBSERVATION SATELLITE
TRS	TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON
UAV	UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE
UHF	ULTRA HIGH FREQUENCY
UK	UNITED KINGDOM
US	UNITED STATES
US AAC	UNITED STATES ARMY AIR CORPS
US AAF	UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCES
USAF	UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
USAFE	UNITED STATES AIR FORCES IN EUROPE
USMC	UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

USN	UNITED STATES NAVY
USSOUTHCOM	UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND
VISTA	VARIABLE STABILITY IN-FLIGHT SIMULATOR AIRCRAFT
VNAF	VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE
VSTOL	VERTICLE/SHORT TAKEOFF AND LANDING
WAC	WITHOUT ALTITUDE CONTROL
WAF	WOMEN IN THE AIR FORCE
WSEP	WEAPON SYSTEM EVALUATION PROGRAM

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