



U.S. AIR FORCE

After the first airplane took flight on December 17, 1903, the world realized that the sky was no longer the limit. Airplanes began to conquer the skies and support the country economically, and especially as a safeguard during times of war. On September 18, 1947 the United States Air Force was created to protect the skies, space, and cyberspace. Their motto "Aim High" ignites a spark to always go beyond the limits of mankind. We salute the U.S. Air Force in serving our country in times of war and peace.

1. The Lockheed P-38 Lightning could climb 3,300 feet in one minute, reaching 400 mph, 100 mph faster than any fighter in the world during WWII.
2. Pilots of the USAF Air Demonstration Squadron –aka the "Thunderbirds"– often "sing" while performing their flight maneuvers, helping maintain precision in their shows.
3. The SR-71 Blackbird's last flight from Los Angeles to Washington DC in 1990 took only 67 minutes making it the world's fastest and highest-flying manned aircraft.
4. The F-35 is superior to all fighter aircrafts when it comes to air-to-ground attacks.
5. The F-117 Nighthawk was the first operational aircraft to be designed around stealth technology. The U.S. Air Force denied its existence until 1988.
6. The F-22 Raptor is the best stealth air fighter today. When noticed on Radar, it's only a blip about the size of a bumblebee.
7. The P-51 Mustang is considered one of the best U.S. Fighters of WWII.
8. B-52 Stratofortress first flew on April 15, 1952 and is still in service today.
9. The Sabre is the first US swept wings jet fighter aircraft that served in the Korean War.
10. The Douglas C-47 Skytrain was the main military transport in WWII and the Korean War.
11. Around 13,100 Allie paratroopers were dropped in the early hours of D-day behind enemy lines.
12. U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel was finished in 1962 in Colorado Springs CO—right next to the Air Force Academy.
13. The Air Force Academy's Center for Character and Leadership was developed on April 1, 1954.
14. The Wright brothers flew their first successful airplane on December 17, 1903.
15. The C-54 was a great cargo and passenger aircraft, but is most famous for being the Candy Bomber. See 37
16. The Edwards Air Force Base –located in California– is the perfect testing spot for both military and NASA aircrafts.
17. Thanks to the Candy Bomber's first drop of goodies to the starving children of West Berlin, more aircrafts began delivering candy rations to try and uplift the Berlin people's spirits after WWII.
18. Berlin, Germany was bombed 363 times during WWII.
19. About 30 children participated in The Candy Bomber's first drop of goodies.
20. Even after 60 years, the C-130 Hercules is the primary transport aircraft for airdropping troops and equipment.
21. An "Ace Pilot" isn't just a good pilot; they are the best combat pilots.
22. The F4-Phantom is the only jet aircraft the Thunderbirds flew from 1969-1973.
23. Captain Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager was the first to break the sound barrier in his "Glamorous Glennis."
24. "Glamorous Glennis" is a Bell X-1 airplane that flew faster than the speed of sound (1,127 km or 700 mph) on October 14, 1947. It was named after Chuck's wife.
25. The variety of "blues," or azure color, in the U.S. Air Force is meant to represent the purest tones of the sky on a clear day.
26. You're looking sharp there Thunderbird pilot!
27. Shout out to Captain Sergio Martinez!
28. Lt. Colonel Robert D. Hemmingway in his Dress Suit and his B-17 Flying Fortress called "Lilly the Lemon" that he piloted in WWII.
29. This is Lt. Colonel Robert D. Hemmingway today, dressed in his WWII flight suit that still fits, with his son Dave.
30. The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African-American military aviators in the U.S. Army Air Corps in WWII.
31. The falcon is the mascot for the U.S. Air Force Academy.
32. Colonel Loyal W. Fry flew in WWII, Vietnam, and the Korean Conflict.
33. F-15E Strike Eagles is a fighter and attack aircraft that has a max speed of 1,875 mph.
34. The Women Air Force Service Pilots or WASP –established August 5, 1943– was a civilian women pilots' organization that helped provided flyers during WWII.
35. Enola Gay, the Boeing B-29 Superfortress aircraft, dropped the first atomic bomb, "Little Boy," on August 6, 1949.
36. The A-10 Warthog aircraft is designed to fly even if one engine, one tail, one elevator, and half a wing is missing.
37. Jimmy Stewart was a famous U.S. actor and military officer.
38. On July 8, 1948 Esther McGowin Blake became the first female U.S. Air Force pilot.
39. The HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter maximum speed is 360 km/h or 223 mph.
40. The F-16 Falcon is nicknamed "The Viper" because of its snake-like design.
41. Colonel Sergio A. DelHoyo flew in the Vietnam War.
42. The "Berlin Candy Bomber" or "Uncle Wiggly Wings" Gail Halvorsen is a retired officer and command pilot in the USAF that dropped candy to starving Berlin children from 1948 to 1949.
43. P-47 Thunderbolt was considered a flying tank, 50 percent heavier than the Mustang, yet both could travel at speeds of 440 mph.
44. The U.S. Air Force symbol honors the air force history and its promise of a future filled with freedom.

FUN FINDS:

- Santa Clause flying in his favorite airplane.
- The Tuskegee Airmen planes. Hint look for airplanes with red tails.
- Allie planes on D-day. Hint: The black and white Invasion Stripes.