

Do You Know Your Air Force History?

Provided by HQ USAF/HO

1. When the U.S. entered WWI, mobilization took place almost overnight. Where did the Army Air Service turn for advanced pilot training?

- Civilian contractors
- Army Training Command
- Allied nations

2. At one point in the history of U.S. air power, the total number of aircraft in the inventory consisted of one plane and one pilot. What future Chief of the Army Air Corps piloted that single aircraft and what type of aircraft was it?

- Mason Patrick, DH-4
- Hap Arnold, Curtis "Jenny"
- Benjamin Foulois, Wright Flyer A

3. Which conflict saw the greater number of laser PGMs used?

- Yom Kippur War
- Vietnam/SEA
- Desert Storm

4. Since the beginning of recorded military history, man has attempted to extend the distance between himself and his enemy while still retaining lethality in weapons. Aerial combat is no different. Before Vietnam, almost all air-to-air kills resulted from guns or maneuvering. Of the 247 U.S. aerial victories since 1953, how many have been the result of cannon or gunfire?

- 150
- 50
- 30

5. Proponents of WW II strategic bombing argued that air power could reduce the horrific WW I battlefield attrition. While WW II air-ground maneuver warfare decreased battlefield attrition in Western Europe, casualties increased among the Army's officer corps. What branch of the Army suffered the greatest officer

casualties?

- Infantry
- Field Artillery
- Air Corps

6. Tuskegee Airmen are recognized for their combat successes in the Mediterranean Theater; they hold the distinction of never losing a bomber to enemy fighters. With what aircraft are they especially associated?

- P-36
- P-51
- P-40

7. The United States initially had difficulty finding a reliable launch vehicle. What early upper stage vehicle proved to be the Air Force's "workhorse" for space delivery?

- Aerobee 75
- Centaur
- Inertial Upper Stage (IUS)
- Agena

8. During the 1950s Roles and Missions debate, the AF designated some of its ballistic missiles as bombers. One such "bomber" was the XB-65. To which ICBM did this correspond?

- Atlas
- Titan
- Thor
- Jupiter

9. In what year did the Air Force issue a general operational requirement (GOR) for a "strategic reconnaissance satellite weapon system"?

- 1945
- 1950
- 1955
- 1960

10. What tactical formation used in the Korean War actually limited the number of USAF air-to-air victories?

- Immelman Turn
- Finger Four
- Lufbery Circle

11. Besides defending the nation, the Air Force has a long tradition of providing disaster relief/peacekeeping operations, from the Berlin Airlift to Operation Restore Hope. What and when was the first recorded use of USAF air power in an operation aiding civil authorities?

- Mexican-U.S. border patrol, 1919
- Forest Fires, 1919
- Flood Relief, 1919

12. Communication between air and ground proved to be a problem for several years after WWI. On cross country flights on the Mexican border or on the Canal Zone, pilots often carried pigeons to release if the plane went down in uninhabited country. Communication between aircraft was also a serious problem. One of the early radios, the Signal Corps Radio (SCR) 133, installed in pursuit aircraft had a range of how many miles?

- Five miles
- Fifty miles
- One hundred miles

13. What item of life support equipment, used widely by the German Air Service in WW I, was disdained by Army Air Service pilots until the early 1920s when Lt Frank Tyndall used this piece of equipment?

Parachutes

- Seatbelts
- Life Preservers

14. During the Interwar Years, the Air Service/Air Corps experimented with new ideas, technology, and equipment and continually "pushed the envelop" to go farther, faster, and higher. What year did two Air Service lieutenants push the technological envelope by making the first non-stop transcontinental flight?

- 1923
- 1933
- 1935

15. Despite plans for long-term air power studies, Project RAND started with a crash effort resulting from perceived needs of the Army Air Force to demonstrate independent competence in analyzing the feasibility and potential applications of space technology, in advance of an interservice review with representatives of the U.S. Navy. In what year was this crash study (SM-11827, "[Preliminary Design of an Experimental World-Circling Spaceship](#)"), RAND's first, written?

- 1945
- 1946
- 1947

16. In May 1953, Air Research and Development Center planners at Wright-Patterson AFB obtained Air Staff endorsement of the concept for the concept that ARDC should take responsibility for "active direction of the Project RAND study of satellite reconnaissance by 1 June 1953. What was the name of the Air Force's [first reconnaissance program](#)?

- FEEDBACK
- CORONA
- MIDAS

17. Although 18 September is officially the Air Force's birthday, there were six [Army air organizations that preceded the Air Force](#) as a separate service. Name four of the six.

18. Who was the [last Commanding General of the Army Air Forces? Who was the first Air Force Chief of Staff?](#)

- General of the Army Henry Arnold/General of the Air Force Henry Arnold
- General of the Army Henry Arnold/General Carl Spaatz
- General Carl Spaatz/General Carl Spaatz3

19. Who was the first and who was the [last commander of the Strategic Air Command \(SAC\)?](#)

- General Curtis LeMay, General Lee Butler

- General Jimmy Doolittle, General Eugene Habiger
- General George Kenney, General Lee Butler
- General Curtis LeMay, General Benny L. Davis

20. Name two popular nicknames of the gunship AC-47.

- Spooky and Puff the Magic Dragon
- Skytrain and Skymaster
- Spectre and Puff the Magic Dragon
- Commando and the Ghost

21. Who was the first and who was the last commander of Tactical Air Command (TAC)?

- Lt Gen Pete Quesada, Gen Michael Loh
- Gen Thomas Power, Gen Michael Loh
- Gen William Momyer, Gen Robert Oaks
- Gen O.P. Weyland, Gen Michael Loh

22. During WWII, the first bombing mission of the U.S. Army Air Forces hit what target on the European continent?

- Ploesti, Rumania (oil refineries)
- Aachen, Holland (Luftwaffe base)
- Rouen, France (rail marshaling yard)

23. Which document declared: "Land power and air power are co-equal and interdependent forces; neither is an auxilliary of the other."

- War Department Field Manual 31-35, 9 April 1942
- War Department Field Manual 100-20, 21 July 1943
- Air Force Manual 1-7, 18 September 1947

24. The first flight of our first jet, Bell XP-59A, took place at Edwards AFB, 1 October 1942. The first test flight at Edwards, then called, Muroc, was?

- X-216H, proto-flying wing
- XP-54, Vultee Swoose Goose
- C-69, Lockheed Constellation
- XP-55, Ascender

25. What famous Air Force leader found and organized the remote location called Muroc for a bombing and gunnery range for his March Field squadron?

- Lt. Col. Carl Spaatz
- Lt. Col. Henry H. "Hap" Arnold
- Col. Frank Andrews
- Col. George C. Kenney

26. In the summer of 1948 CSAF Hoyt Vandenberg was initially reluctant regarding the proposed Berlin Airlift plan. Why?

- Lack of transport aircraft
- Negative impact on SAC war plans
- Lack of escort fighter aircraft
- Lack of qualified pilots

27. In the summer of 1948 how many nuclear bombs did the United States Air Force have?

- 10
- 50
- 100
- 200

28. What WW II fighter-bomber was the dominant aircraft regarding sorties flown and number of bombs dropped?

- P-38 Lightning
- P-40 Warhawk
- P-47 Thunderbolt
- P-51 Mustang

29. What military service member holds the distinction of being the oldest aviator to earn his pilot wings?

- BGen Billy Mitchell
- ADM William A. Moffett
- MGen Benny Foulois

- MGen Mason M. Patrick

30. America's first jet-powered aircraft, the XP-59A, was first flown at what location?

- Edwards AFB
- March Field
- Bell Field, Cleveland OH
- Muroc Army AFB

31. Which operation saw the greatest number of Medal of Honor recipients? How many?

- Ploesti, 1 Aug 43
- Schweinfurt-Regensburg, 17 Aug 43
- Rabaul, 7 Aug 42
- Berlin, 10 May 45

32. Which major command had the most commanders/CinCs go on to become Air Force Chief of Staff?

- TAC/ACC
- MAC/AMC
- SAC
- USAFE

33. Name five of the seven Chiefs of Staff who also served as Vice Chief?

34. Which set of aircraft made the first successful jet-to-jet aerial refueling? When did it occur?

- KB-47/B-47; 1 Sep 53
- KC-135/B-47; 1 Sep 54
- KC-135/B-52; 1 Sep 55

35. When did General Hap Arnold receive his fifth star? When did he become "General of the Air Force"?

- 1 Dec 44; 7 May 49
- 21 Dec 44; 21 Dec 44
- 7 Dec 41; 18 Sep 47
- 9 May 45; 18 Sep 47

36. MAC's special airlift routes, DESERT EXPRESS and EUROPEAN EXPRESS, moved critical parts to the Gulf during DESERT SHIELD/STORM. In fact, the overall rate for USAF aircraft being unable to fly due to supply shortages was less than:

- 15%
- 10%
- 5%

37. At its high point, what was the greatest number of AFROTC units in existence?

- 109
- 209
- 309

38. Besides AFROTC, the Air Force also helps fund the Air Force Junior ROTC program in high schools--especially inner city schools with at-risk teens. As of 1996, how many high school students were enrolled in Air Force Junior ROTC?

- 40,000
- 60,000
- 80,000

39. During OPERATION DESERT STORM the United States provided the bulk of the in-theater air power. What percentage of total sorties did American aircrews fly during Desert Storm?

- 65
- 85
- 95

40. Which one of the following American warplanes was built in the greatest number?

- B-17
- B-24

- P-51

41. During the Cold War, several of the USAF's operational bombers never actually saw combat. Among these bombers, which one was built in greatest number?

- B-36
- B-47
- B-58

42. On 8 September 1955, President Eisenhower and the National Security Council declared this weapon system to have the highest research and development priority in the nation- -to be changed only by presidential action.

- Atlas ICBM
- Titan ICBM
- Thor IRBM
- Jupiter IRBM

43. When, and by which Secretary of Defense, was the USAF assigned the responsibility for the development of military space systems?

- Neil H. McElroy in 1959
- James H. Douglas, Jr. in 1960
- Robert S. McNamara in 1961
- Clark M. Clifford in 1970

44. When WW I broke out, very few nations had distinctive aircraft insignia. The need to identify friend from foe quickly led to the adaptation of distinctive markings on aircraft. When the U.S. entered WW I what type of national insignia was put on Air Service aircraft?

- Roundel with red center, white middle ring, and blue outer ring
- White star on blue background superimposed over a white bar
- White star on blue background with red ball in center of star
- Roundel with white center, blue middle ring, and red outer ring

45. Who was the first enlisted man to win the Air Force Cross?

- A1C William Pitsenbarger
- TSgt John Sams

- A1C John Levitow

46. Who was Chief of Staff for the very first CORONA?

- Gen Charles Gabriel
- Gen Curtis LeMay
- Gen Nathan Twining
- Gen Carl Spaatz

47. Expressed as an average, how many millions of ton-miles per day did the U.S. contribute in Desert Shield/Storm compared to the Berlin Airlift?

- 17/1.2 MTM
- 13/1.2 MTM
- 11/1.2 MTM
- 4.5/1.2 MTM

48. Shortly after launch at Langley Field, the world's largest semidirigible, the Roma, went down in flames. MSgt Harry A. Chapman risked his own life to rescue four others from the catastrophe. He became the first recipient of the Cheney Award. What president presented the award?

- President Teddy Roosevelt, 1904
- President Woodrow Wilson, 1922
- President Calvin Coolidge, 1928
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1940

DOWNLOAD Word document of these questions and answers.

POC: AETC History Office Webmaster, DSN 487-6564 or comm 210-652-6564, Randolph AFB TX

If you have questions or comments, please e-mail the [AETC History Office](#).

"Your email will be used only so that AETC/HO may provide for you the information you request. E-mails will be destroyed after the information you requested is forwarded back to you"

This Government Computer System is provided as a public service by HQ AETC/HO, Randolph AFB TX. It is intended for use by the public for viewing and retrieving information only. Unauthorized attempts to

upload information or change information on this service are strictly prohibited and are punishable under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act of 1986. Unless otherwise indicated, all information on this system is public information and is available to copy or distribute.

Disclaimer: The appearance of hyperlinks throughout this site does not constitute endorsement by the U. S. Air Force of this web site or the information, products, or services contained therein. For other than authorized activities such as military exchanges and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation sites, the U.S. Air Force does not exercise any editorial control over the information you may find at these locations. Such links are provided consistent with the stated purpose of this DOD web site.

A1C William Pitsenbarger

. On 11 April 1966, Pitsenbarger, a 21 year old pararescuer, was treating wounded infantrymen and preparing them for evacuation. After two helicopter pickups, Pitsenbarger continued his work while ducking enemy fire. When another helicopter was badly hit and had to leave, he chose to stay and help the wounded. Under extremely dangerous conditions, he also distributed ammo and added his weapon to the defensive fire. Pitsenbarger was found the next day--a rifle in one hand and a med kit in the other. He was posthumously awarded the AF Cross. The William H. Pitsenbarger Award for Heroism is awarded annually to recognize heroism among enlisted airmen.

Gen Nathan Twining.

The first CORONA was held at Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico, 1955. Uniform of the day for the group picture was khaki shirt and Bermuda shorts, long stockings, & black shoes.

13/1.2.

During the 6th week of the Desert Shield buildup, the total number of ton-miles flown surpassed the total of the 65-week long Berlin Airlift.

President Wilson.

The Air Service had just refitted the Roma with more powerful engines and the 21 February flight was the first trial run with the new engines. The Air Service planned to relocate the Italian airship, purchased at the instigation of Brig Gen Billy Mitchell, to the recently opened balloon and airship school at Brooks Field, San Antonio, Texas.

Allied nations

Most advanced pilot and observer training took place overseas, especially at Issoudun, France, which conducted all specialized fighter training. The British and Italians provided some primary training to pilots who went on to complete advanced training in bombers. Note: In Italy, future NYC mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, then a captain and U.S. Congressman, provided critical liaison with the host nation.

Benjamin Foulois, Wright Flyer A

In 1910, he was ordered to take Airplane No. 1--a Wright Flyer A--to Fort Sam Houston and "teach yourself to fly." While there, he invented safety belts and replaced landing skids with wheels. He served as Chief, AAC from Dec 31 to Dec 35. Mason Patrick served as Chief of the Army Air Service (Oct 21 to Jul 26) and as Chief, AAC (Jul 26 to Dec 27). Hap Arnold served as Chief, AAC (Sep 38 to Jun 41), as Chief, AAF (Jun 41 to Mar 42) and as Commanding General, AAF (Mar 42 to Feb 46).

Vietnam/SEA

The US Navy initiated the PGM use in Vietnam when it dropped 1000 lb Walleye TV-guided bombs on the Thanh Hoa Bridge in North Vietnam on 11 Mar 1967. However, these proved too light to destroy the bridge. Air Force 2000 lb laser-guided bombs destroyed the bridge in 1972. By the end of the war, the Air Force had dropped over 28,000 laser-guided bombs. In contrast, 8,500 laser PGMs were used in Desert Storm. However, the rate of usage has steadily increased since Vietnam. In Vietnam 1 laser PGM was used for every 47 attack sorties. In Desert Storm, it was 1 for every 3.1 sorties. In Deliberate Force, the ratio dropped to 1 for every 2.1 sorties.

50.

In Vietnam, the U.S. had 48 aerial victories caused by cannon or machine guns. Most of those occurred before the bombing halt in 1968. In Desert Storm, two helicopters were downed by A-10 cannon fire. All other kills were caused by air-to-air missiles or maneuvering. The decision to fire beyond visual range occurred in 33 of 39 engagements thanks to AWACS and fighter radar.

Air Corps.

The AAF holds the unfortunate distinction of having suffered almost three times as many officer battle deaths as any other branch with 22,022. The infantry suffered 8,788 officer casualties with field artillery following a distant third with 1,330 officer deaths. AAF company grade officers suffered the most with 21,518 battle deaths compared to 11,782 CGO battle deaths for all other branches.

P-51.

The red-tailed Mustangs are prominently displayed in 4th floor, 9th corridor art work. The Tuskegee airmen did more than just fly fighters; they flew multi-engine aircraft, and served as navigators and liaison field artillery officers. During the war, the Tuskegee airmen produced 673 fighter pilots and 253 bomber pilots. They are credited with destroying or damaging over 400 enemy aircraft.

Agena.

Between 1959 and 1970, the USAF used this versatile Lockheed upper stage vehicle atop the Atlas, Thor, and Titan boosters to launch virtually all heavy military satellites into low inclination, near-polar, and geosynchronous earth orbits.

Atlas.

By designating the Atlas as a bomber instead of a missile, then ICBMs naturally belonged to the AF. Similarly, the Matador was designated the XB-61. Also, the Falcon and Bomarc missiles carried fighter designations: XF-98 and XF-99 respectively.

1955.

In March 1955, the Air Force established the WS117L program (this program served as the umbrella for the Air Force's nascent space program) at Wright-Patterson AFB. The satellite was expected to become available within 10 years. In the fall of 1955, WS117L management was transferred to the Western Development Division at Englewood CA under General Schriever.

Finger Four.

This formation was mutually supportive and aided target acquisition but generally only allowed one aircraft, the lead, to get a shot at the enemy. Three Sabres covered the rear of the lead which mitigated the MiG's advantages of speed and altitude. Major James Jabara explained the conservative approach: "We could fight the MiG man for man, but in shooting down maybe two or three, we might loose two or three of our own pilots and we don't want those odds. We would like to shoot four or five down and bring all our boys home." The air-to air kill ratio in Korea was 10 to 1 in favor of the Sabres.

Forest Fires, 1919.

At the request of the Dept. of Agriculture, General Menoher ordered the Air Service to patrol large tracts of the west for forest fires. Operations began on 1 June 1919. The Air Service provided tethered balloons, aircraft, and even a primitive rapid response team of firefighters to spot and combat forest fires. In 1919, communication was primitive. Pilots used maps or messages dropped from aircraft (asking the finder to notify the forest service!); they landed and phoned in the fire; they employed carrier pigeons; or they simply returned to base. Operations along the U.S.-Mexican border began on 15 Jun 1919. The Air Service provided flood relief in the Rio Grande valley in Sept. 1919.

Five miles.

The War Department gave the Air Service the responsibility for installing, maintaining and operating radio equipment but not the responsibility for its development. Consequently the early radios had serious range and integration problems. The SCR 134 and 135 used on observation and bombardment aircraft had a range of slightly over 30 miles. Some aircraft needed ignition system shielding--amounting to complete rewiring of aircraft. Wooden aircraft had to be metallized for adequate grounding. All metal aircraft required bonding to prevent absorption of receiver noise.

Parachutes.

Although parachutes had been around for some years and used by balloonists in WWI, wearing one was a sign of "faintheartedness." On 11 Nov 22, 1st Lt Frank B. Tyndall became the second pilot to be saved by a parachute in the space of three weeks, when the wings came off of his MB-3A. Thereafter, the Air Service ordered pilots to have parachutes for all flights. Unfortunately, Tyndall did not survive the crash of a P-1 on 15 Jul 30. Today, Tyndall AFB is named in his honor.

1923.

On 2 May, Lts John Macready and Oakley Kelly set out from Roosevelt Field, Long Island on a nearly 27 hour flight to San Diego. Interestingly, the aircraft became airborne when the ground receded from the aircraft rather than the reverse. How did this happen? The aircraft reached a 20 feet drop off at the end of the runway. The pilots had to fight their overloaded Fokker T-2 to clear roof tops, telephone wires and trees. Eventually, fuel consumption lightened the aircraft enough for them to fly through mountain passes.

1946.

This ground-breaking study contained a multi-authored scientific and engineering review of the feasibility of launching and controlling a space satellite. In Chapter 2, "Significance of a Satellite Vehicle", Professor Louis Ridenour identified numerous missions for satellites. Among these were: navigation for guided missiles (and early GPS concept), space-based missiles, reconnaissance, and communications.

FEEDBACK.

In response to RAND's Project FEEDBACK study, the Air Force established an advanced reconnaissance system with and innocuous sounding system number, Weapon System 117L. This system would later yield three more famous satellite programs: CORONA, MIDAS, and SAMOS.

1 Aug 07 -- Aeronautical Division, US Signal Corps

18 July 14 -- Aviation Section, US Signal Corps

20 May 18 -- Division of Military Aeronautics

24 May 18 -- Army Air Service

2 Jul 26 -- Army Air Corps

20 Jun 41 -- Army Air Forces

18 Sep 47 -- U.S. Air Force

General Carl Spaatz.

General Spaatz assumed command of the Army Air Forces from General Arnold on 9 Feb 1947 and presided over the Air Force's independence on 18 Sep 1947. Technically, General Spaatz did not become AF chief of staff until eight days later when DoD approved the Army-Air Force Transfer Order. General Spaatz retired on 29 Apr 48. General of the Army Arnold's title was changed to General of the Air Force by an act of Congress on 7 May 49.

General George Kenney, General Lee Butler

General Kenney led SAC from Mar 46 - Oct 48. General Kenney later became the commander of Air University until his retirement in 1951. General Butler led SAC from Feb 91 to Jun 92, he then stood up Strategic Command. When asked who killed SAC, Gen Butler jokingly stated "the butler did it" and then added "because it was time".

"Spooky" and "Puff the Magic Dragon"

Lt Gen Pete Quesada, Gen Michael Loh

Lt Gen Quesada led TAC from Mar 46 to Nov 48. Free Press Publishers recently published a new biography, *Over Lord, General Pete Quesada and the Triumph of Tactical Air Power in W. W.II*. Gen Loh led TAC from Mar 91 to Jun 92, he then stood up Air Combat Command.

Ploesti/10 June 1942:

The honor of this first mission went to a detachment of 12 B-24s led by Col. Harry A. Halverson. Halverson's group originally had the mission of bombing Japan; but the Japanese, as a consequence of the Doolittle raid, overran the bases in China projected for the B-24s. Thus, the Halverson force was diverted to Egypt where they were ordered to strike the huge refineries supplying fuel to the German war machine. The first Eighth Air Force strike against German forces in Western Europe was an A-20 attack on 4 July 1942 against Luftwaffe bases in Holland.

War Department FM 100-20.

This represents the first officially sanctioned War Department pronouncement that air and ground forces were operationally equal; that the gaining of air superiority was the first requirement for the success of any major land operation; and emphasized the centralized control of air power.

X-216H, proto-flying wing

Lt. Col. "Hap" Arnold

Impact on SAC war plans.

In those days long-range transports were already committed to the SAC emergency war plan. Unassembled atomic bombs and assembly teams were sent in C-54 aircraft to bases overseas, where the weapons were then assembled and loaded on B-29s that had deployed separately.

50.

In 1946 the total was just nine, while in 1947 the total grew to 13, then 50 by the summer of 1948.

The P-47 Thunderbolt.

This Alexander Kartveli designed fighter-bomber flew over 423,000 sorties and delivered 113,963 tons of bombs. By comparison, the P-51 flew 215,000 sorties and dropped 5,668 tons of bombs. But the Mustang was superior in the destruction of enemy aircraft: 9,212 vs. 6,284 for the Thunderbolt.

MGen Mason M. Patrick

Chief of the Air Service/Air Corps, from 1921-1927, was awarded his wings as junior aviator in 1921 at the age of 59.

Muroc Army AFB.

Now Edwards AFB, Muroc, was selected because of the remoteness of its high-desert location, the clear and uncrowded skies overhead, and the incalculable measure of safety afforded by the vast expanse of Rogers Dry Lake which could (and would, again and again) serve as an emergency landing field should any inflight problems occur.

Ploesti, 1 Aug 43.

On the famous Ploesti mission in August 43, five men earned the nation's highest honor. Three of these men--LtC Addison Baker, 2Lt Lloyd Hughes, and Maj. John Jerstad were killed in action; the other two--Col John Kane and Col Leon Johnson--survived the raid. Two other officers received the Medal of Honor for raids on Ploesti: 2Lt David Kingsley (June 23, 1944) and 1Lt Donald Pucket (July 9, 1944). Thus, the Ploesti target holds the distinction of providing seven Medal of Honor recipients. The next closest targets are Rabaul (3) and Leipzig (3).

USAFE

USAFE has seen four (LeMay, Jones, Gabriel, and Dugan) of its former CinCs occupy the position of CSAF. SAC has seen three (LeMay, Ryan, and Welch) of its former CinCs occupy the position of CSAF. MAC/AMC has seen one of its former CinCs as CSAF. TAC/ACC has seen none of its commanders become CSAF. Gen Loh took over TAC/ACC after his tour as acting CSAF.

Generals Hoyt Vandenberg, Nathan Twining, Thomas White, Curtis LeMay, John McConnell, John Ryan, Lew Allen, and Larry Welch all served as VCSAF before assuming duties as CSAF. Also, General John Loh served as VCSAF and as CSAF (acting) from 18 Sep 90-29 Oct 90.

KB-47/B-47; 1 Sep 53.

The Boeing KC-135 first flew eleven months later on 15 July 1954 near Seattle.

21 Dec 44; 7 May 49.

He was promoted to General of the Army (temp) in Dec 44 and was made a permanent General of the Army by an act of Congress on 23 Mar 46. By an act of Congress, he was made a General of the Air Force in mid-1949. He died 15 Jan 50.

5%.

During Desert Storm, the overall rate for AF aircraft being unable to fly because of supply shortages was actually less than 4 percent, better even than the standard for peacetime, and far less than the projected war standard of up to 25 percent after 30 days of combat.

209.

At the height of the Korean War in 1952, there were 209 detachments. Incidentally, officer production peaked in 1951 when 13,717 cadets were commissioned second lieutenants. The peak for the Vietnam War was 5,896 in 1967.

80,000.

In 1966, there were only 20 AFJROTC units with 2,659 students. As of 1996, there are 609 Air Force Junior ROTC units with more than 80,000 students. Generally, 25-35% of these students go on to serve in the Air Force.

85.

In addition to combat aircraft, the United States provided all of the electronic warfare aircraft (96), 91 of 106 reconnaissance aircraft, almost 40 of the nearly 50 command and control aircraft, and 223 of the nearly 260 air refueling aircraft.

B-24.

Although when one thinks of WW II, the P-51 Mustang and B-17 Flying Fortress come immediately to mind, the U.S. built more B-24 Liberators (over 18,000) than any other American warplane and more than any bomber type in any other country in the world.

B-47.

Since WW II, the United States built more B-47s (2,041) than any other bomber aircraft. Although the Air Force lost B-47s to Soviets on overflight missions, the plane never saw combat in hot war. The Air Force built only 385 B-36s and 116 B-58s.

Atlas.

On 8 September 1955, the Atlas weapon system was so designated, but less than three months later, on 1 December, President Eisenhower officially assigned "highest and equal priority" to the development of all four weapon systems.

Robert S. McNamara did so on 6 Mar 1961.

It was Secretary McElroy, who, on 21 September 1959, assigned to the Air Force full responsibility for the development and launching of all military space boosters as well as associated systems integration.

White star on blue background with red ball in center of star.

Later, the U.S. adopted the roundel composed of rings (white, blue, red). After the war, the Air Service returned to the more familiar star format.