



NEWS RELEASE

United States Air Force

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[Air Education and Training Command 75th Anniversary Extravaganza](#)

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – Air Education and Training Command will celebrate its 75th anniversary at an official event here, Jan. 23, beginning year-long commemorations of the command’s heritage throughout 2017.

Known as the “First Command,” AETC was born on Jan. 23, 1942 with the Air Corps Flying Training Command; the origins of America’s first professional Air Force. AETC’s beginnings directly led to many of the nation’s major successes of the last 75 years – the Doolittle Raiders, precision daylight bombing, the Tuskegee Airmen, the Women’s Auxiliary Air Force, worldwide aerial logistics and a global reach, the Berlin Airlift, MiG Alley, Operation Linebacker, Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and other events integral to the U.S. Air Force’s heritage.

In January of 1942, Gen. Henry “Hap” Arnold, the commanding general of the U.S. Army Air Forces, confronted the greatest challenge in Air Force history, expanding a token force from its depression-era strength of 20,000 Airmen, to a war-winning force producing 1.9 million Technical Training graduates, 200,000 pilots, 48,000 navigators and aircrew, and a 2.8 million Basic Military Training graduates. Arnold first began at Lackland’s Parade Grounds with a speech to 100,000 Airmen arrayed across 10 acres, foretelling about new technologies, strategies and equipment to come for the Air Force.

Today, AETC is a major command responsible for 23 wings at 10 major installations. With an annual budget of \$6.5 billion and assets spread across the globe, AETC includes about 60,000 active duty, Air National Guard and reserve members, civilians and contractors who deliver training programs tailored to meet the strategic needs of today’s Air Force.

[Air Education and Training Command Press Kit](#)

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To access downloadable visual material of this event, please go to:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/feature/AETC75>

For more information contact the AETC Public Affairs Office at (210) 652-4400.