



## Air Force Quick Facts<sup>1</sup>

### **Motto**

'Aim High ... Fly-Fight-Win'

### **Background**

The Air Force is the youngest of the Military Services and represents the aerial warfare branch of the armed forces.

The United States Air Force was formed as a separate branch of the military in 1947 and prior to that was the Army Air Corps.

### **Mission**

“To fly, fight and win in air, space and cyberspace.”

Air Force missions may include:

- Transporting cargo for any of the Services
- Bombing runs
- Close air support (CAS) for on-the-ground missions
- Fighter patrols to protect airports, strategic locations, etc.
- Airborne mapping and monitoring of targets
- Maintenance of aerospace systems and planes
- In-flight refueling
- Rescue missions behind enemy lines
- Medical service in impoverished areas
- Food and supplies distribution around the world

## Organization

The Air Force is comprised of an Active Duty and Reserve (Reserve and National Guard) component.

Organizationally the Air Force consists of three components:

- Air Staff/Headquarters (HQ)
  - The Air Staff is led by the Air Force Chief of Staff who directs plans and policies to the operations forces.
- Major Commands (MAJCOMs)
  - MAJCOMs consist of strategic, tactical, space, or defense forces and support commands, which may provide weapons systems, supplies, operational support equipment, education, and training.
- Air Base
  - Most Air Force bases are organized around a Wing. Wings are often comprised of three or more operational and support groups. Groups consist of three or more squadrons, each with a separate mission or role. Flights and Elements are the smallest components of the AF structure and typically are organized around a specific part of the squadron mission.

## Values

The common bond that unifies all members of the Air Force is the commitment to three core values:

- Integrity First
  - A member of the Air Force is a person of integrity, courage, and conviction. They must be willing to control their impulses and exercise courage, honesty, and accountability in order to do what is right even when no one is looking.
- Service Before Self
  - The professional duties of Air Force Service members take precedence over personal desires. Every Airman is expected to have the discipline to follow rules, exhibit self-control, and possess respect for the beliefs, authority, and worth of others.
- Excellence in All We Do
  - Air Force Service members always strive for continual improvement in self and service in order to propel the Air Force further and to achieve greater accomplishment and performance for themselves and their community.

## References

- Military.com. (n.d.). *U.S. Air Force's mission; Decide if you're ready*. Retrieved from <http://www.military.com/join-armed-forces/air-force-missions-values.html>
- U.S. Air Force. (2010, October 7). *'Aim High... Fly-Fight-Win' to be Air Force motto*. Retrieved from <http://www.af.mil/News/ArticleDisplay/tabid/223/Article/115367/aim-highfly-fight-win-to-be-air-force-motto.aspx>
- U.S. Air Force. (n.d.). *Mission*. Retrieved from <https://www.airforce.com/mission>
- U.S. Army. (n.d.). *U.S. Army symbols & insignia*. Retrieved from <http://www.army.mil/symbols/>
- U.S. Department of Defense. (n.d.). *Military Service seals*. Retrieved from <http://www.defense.gov/Media/Military-Service-Seals>

---

<sup>1</sup> For more information, please visit <http://www.af.mil/>