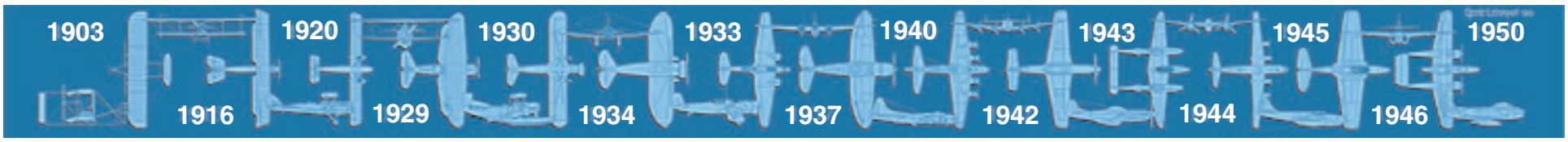
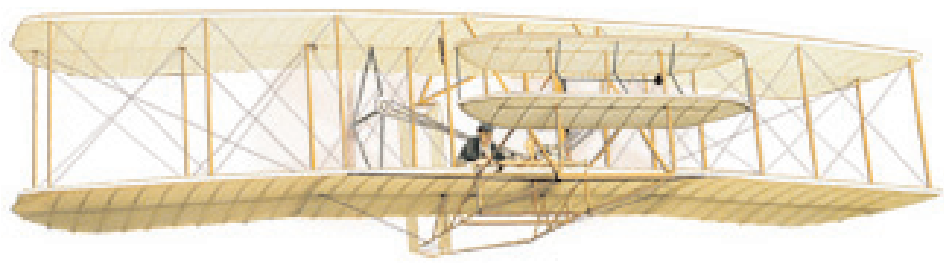


A Century of Flight



Aviation History

Dec. 17, 1903 The Wright brothers fly the first successful heavier-than-air, powered, manned aircraft.

April 14, 1918 The American Expeditionary Force shot down the first two enemy aircraft.

June 20, 1923 The Army's first all-metal airplane, the CO-1, made its first flight.

March 1, 1935 The War Department activated an air combat command called General Headquarters Air Force at Langley Field, Va.

Aug. 6, 1945 B-29 "Enola Gay" dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan.

Dec. 3, 1945 The P-80 became the U.S. Army Air Force's first jet fighter.

March 21, 1946 The Strategic Air Command, Tactical Air Command and the Air Defense Command are created.

Sept. 17, 1947 Air Force officially established as a separate service.

Oct. 14, 1947 Capt. Charles Yeager makes the first faster-than-sound flight.

March 2, 1949 The Lucky Lady II, a B-50 Superfortress, completes the first nonstop, around-the-world flight.

Nov. 8, 1950 In history's first battle between jet aircraft, a U.S. Air Force F-80 Shooting Star, piloted by Lt. Russell J. Brown, downs a North Korean MiG-15.

June 8, 1953 The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds perform for the first time.

Oct. 4, 1957 The Soviet Union launches Sputnik, the world's first artificial space satellite.

April 12, 1961 Yuri Gagarin becomes the first person to orbit the earth.

July 20, 1969 Neil Armstrong becomes the first person to walk on the moon.

Feb. 2, 1974 The YF-16 makes its first official flight.

Nov. 10, 1988 The U.S. Air Force reveals the F-117A Stealth fighter to the public for the first time.

Dec. 17, 1993 The first B-2 Spirit bomber arrives at Whiteman AFB, Mo. The B-2 is the first "stealth" heavy bomber.

April 9, 1997 Rollout of the F-22 Raptor stealth air superiority fighter, designed to secure air dominance for the United States in the twenty-first century.

By Maj. Ruth Larson
U.S. Air Force Public Affairs

November is Aviation History Month. Launched by the Wright brothers' Dec. 17, 1903, flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C., civilian and military aviation took off on a flight that has been evolving and has yet to reach a final destination. Along the way, advances have been many — going from open cockpits to canopies, gasoline engines to jet propulsion, bi-wings to single wings, cloth and metal construction to composite materials, just to name a few. As we celebrate the advances of the past and look to the future, remember, it all began with Orville and Wilbur Wright and their historic flight.

Gen. Henry "Hap" Arnold, one of the giants of military aviation, received his flight training from the Wright brothers themselves and earned the 29th pilot's license ever issued. Looking back, Arnold reflected, "More than anyone I have ever known … the Wright brothers gave a sense that nothing is impossible."

"Nothing is impossible." Those three words exemplify the history of military aviation. In the century since Kitty Hawk, military aviation has been the crucible for ingenuity and innovation. The quest to own the sky has forged an array of technological advances that have transformed the aviation community.

The airplane itself revolutionized the way wars were fought. For centuries, wars involved bloody battles of attrition, fought between massed ground forces. But Kitty Hawk forever changed modern warfare. With the advent of aircraft, military strategists suddenly saw the possibility of flying over the heads of those ground forces, bypassing their destructive power and selectively striking vital enemy targets. Aircraft allowed aerial forces to strike directly at the heart of a state's power, destroying its industrial centers and its leaders' ability to control their forces.

Aerial combat also forced the development of new weapons and tactics, designed to take advantage of the airplane's unique military potential. Fortunately, at every step of the way, there were bold visionaries in uniform, willing to risk their lives in pursuit of "pushing the envelope" -- flying higher, farther, faster. Their individual achievements are forever etched on the pages of aviation history.

Lessons from the Air

- Every takeoff is optional. Every landing is mandatory.
- It's always better to be on the ground wishing you were in the sky than in the sky wishing you were on the ground.
- When in doubt, hold your altitude. No one has ever collided with the sky.
- A 'good' landing is one from which you can walk away. A 'great' landing is one after which the plane can be used again.
- Stay out of clouds. The silver lining everyone keeps talking about might be another airplane going in the opposite direction. Reliable sources also report mountains have been known to hide out in clouds.
- Always try to keep your number of landings equal to your number of take-offs.

Information courtesy of ***www.lsss.homestead.com***

Photo by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning

Taxi ride

Melike Wilkerson prepares for a taxi ride in an F-16CJ here Friday while her husband, Senior Airman Joseph Wilkerson, 77th Fighter Squadron crew chief, assists her with safety gear. The ride was part of the squadron's spouse appreciation program.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy Simon

Senior Airman Jason Dolansky, 55th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, shares the holiday meal at the CDC with daughter Katelyn.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy Simon

Senior Airman Tierra Cope, 20th Logistics Readiness Squadron, attends the Harvest Feast with son Channin Ford.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy Simon

Parents and children enjoy the Harvest Feast at Shaw's Child Development Center Thursday.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning

Geneva Ling, Youth Center cook, prepares turkey gravy Nov. 19 for Harvest Feasts being held at the Child Development and Youth Centers.

Have defenses ready during cold season

By Adriene M. Dicks
Correspondent

Worries of catching a cold increase this time of year because of cooler weather. It may seem everywhere you go someone is coughing or sneezing. Knowing what to do to avoid a cold or how to treat it may make the season for sneezin' more tolerable.

According to Capt. Cheryl Elliott, 20th Medical Operations Squadron clinical nurse, a cold is a viral infection that lasts about a week with or without medication. It enters through the nasal passages and is also referred to as an upper respiratory infection.

Colds can be prevented by getting plenty of rest, maintaining a healthy diet and washing your hands often.

Second Lt. Dwayne Alleyne, 20th MDOS clinical nurse, said the body needs a recovery period.

"If you don't get enough rest, the immune system responds slowly," said Alleyne. "Rest is a recharge for your body."

Although vitamin C aids in strengthening the immune system, according to Alleyne, a healthy diet with many vitamins and minerals is more useful in avoiding sickness than depending on one vitamin. Elliott said over-medicating on vitamins and supplements isn't beneficial because the body gets rid of what it doesn't need. Maintain a diet of fruits and vegetables for good health.

Elliott explained colds are caught and passed to others through tiny mucus droplets released mainly through coughing and sneezing.

"The more you wash your hands, the less likely you are to catch a cold or pass it on," said Elliott.

Even taking the proper precautions, people still can find themselves with all the symptoms of a cold. If this should happen, giving it time is the best thing to do. The only thing that can be controlled is the comfort level with the symptoms.

"Because it's a virus, it has to work its way out, but the symptoms can be treated so it won't be as uncomfortable," said Elliott.

She suggests having products with acetaminophen or ibuprofen for aches and fever, an expectorant for cough and a decongestant for stuffiness and drainage. Elliott suggests not taking cough medicine during the day because coughing is the body's way of getting out the infection. She says cough medicine should be taken to allow restful sleep. Alleyne also suggests lozenges or doing warm salt water gargles for sore throat pain.

According to Elliott, infants, toddlers and the elderly are more susceptible to getting colds and other illnesses during winter months. For little ones, weak immune systems and not enough strength to cough make cold season more difficult. For the elderly, having suppressed or tired immune systems as well as weak cough reflexes and taking medication for other conditions makes it harder to treat cold symptoms, according to Elliott.

If a cold does not work its way out of the system, other illnesses can develop, such as bronchitis and sinusitis. Sinusitis is sometimes confused with a cold because they share many of the same symptoms, but there is one major difference, according to Alleyne.

"If you have sinusitis, you will have the cold symptoms for at least two weeks along with sinus and tooth pain," said Alleyne. "Sinusitis should be treated with antibiotics."

In addition to taking vitamin C, many were taught to bundle up with a hat, scarf and gloves to defend against cold germs during the winter months, but Elliott explained that this is only partly correct.

"It's not the bundling up that keeps you safe from germs, it's your body temperature," said Elliott. "What you should do is avoid getting too cold or catching a chill. You should also avoid overbundling because that can cause you to sweat, get a chill and then you may get sick. If your temperature drops, you leave yourself open for cold germs."

Although more people have colds and illnesses associated with them during the winter months, Alleyne advises the same precautions to avoid colds should be taken year round.

Spirit Spotlight

Staff Sgt. Autumn Stephens

Organization: 20th Mission Support Group

Duty title: Command section information manager

Hometown: LaGrange, Ga.

Time in service: Five years

Family: Husband, Senior Airman Taurus Stephens

Off-duty interests: Traveling, shopping and reading

Words I live by: "God never consults your past to determine your future."

The Shaw Spirit runs announcements for sporting event winners, adult and youth sporting leagues, retirements, award winners and graduates. For more information, call **895-2018** or send an e-mail to **spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil**.

Wing Holiday Party

Dec. 13 from 7 - 11 p.m.
at the Conference Center

Tickets are available from any first sergeant.
E-1 - E-4, GS-5 and WS-6: **$2**
E-5 - E-6, O-1 - O3 and GS-6 - GS-9: **$5**
All others: **$8**