



WASPS, WACS, AND THE CIVIL AIR PATROL: IOWA'S ROLE IN THE FUTURE OF AVIATION

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) provides opportunities for both men and women to serve their country on the home front. Many of accomplishments were done by women. Many of these women were a part of CAP and did many other leaps and bounds for the greater good.

One of the first known all female flight crew was in Iowa. Jane Stallings, Virginia Reynolds, and Phillis Hoopes were planning a training flight in Marshalltown, Iowa. Reynolds was the pilot while Stallings and Hoopes were the flight observers. This flight crew provides an example that women contributed to World War II. These examples go from all of the women in the army, ordinance workers, nurses attendants, CAP women and many more. Women in CAP were prevalent that there was another company created exclusively for women.

The introduction of Women's Army Corp (WAC) provided the all female company. The WAC company comprised 200 women from all different parts of the nation. They would remain together in Fort Des Moines for basic training to obtain a distinctive Civil Air Patrol guidon. Two of the first Iowa women to join were Ellen J. White of Sioux City and Ida M. Mecum of Muscatine. There was the active recruitment of women for WAC being aided by CAP. Later on, CAP wanted to focus all of their energy on the creation of the group. A woman named Private Marcilla Forgie completed her basic training at Fort Des Moines for WAC; she was then sent to Galesburg, Ill. to continue her service.

Jean White was a woman who already knew how to fly by Morningside College's program before she joined CAP. She had her

fascination with flying at the age of 13. Unfortunately, due to the Great Depression she couldn't fly; she entered an essay writing competition, winning the ability to ride on a flight from Omaha, Neb. all the way to Washington, D.C. Jean White like Betty Jean Schultz (who was another CAP member) wanted to join Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) but they were deemed too short. White used this experience in CAP as a stepping stone for her career in the United States Military for 26 years.

Another woman in CAP is Willa Beatrice Brown. She was considered the advocate for both women and civil rights in the aviation spectrum; not just CAP. She was the first African American to be an officer in CAP and served in the new US Aviation Commission Board. She provided education to many pilots including those who later joined the US Army Air Corp. She also created the Pilot Trainee program for the Tuskegee Institution; those pilots would later become Tuskegee Airmen. She also was the first to get a pilot mechanic license and a commercial pilot license.

These remarkable women in CAP show the courage and the lasting impact of generations to come through their actions. Some of those actions may not be massive but just a demonstration to the future how women can do what the men can do. CAP is meant for men and women; women of CAP show the capable abilities to do what they please in CAP.

Across the larger Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPTP) organization, there were numerous "firsts" in aviation in service to the nation during World War II. Many women participated in this program, trailblazing and forging a path forward for future women aviators. Some of these women pilots ferried aircraft to forces fighting overseas in Europe and the Pacific. Others instilled a passion for aviation in other women at home.

Throughout the history of the Civil Air Patrol has been countless women who supported the cause and the effort. Women were instrumental in assisting the organizations efforts in administration, flight training, and cadet programming. Others assumed officer ranks fulfilling roles such as transportation and maintenance officers.

These women were also instrumental in the eventual authorization to allow other women into the ranks of the regular Air Force in 1948. It wasn't until 1993 that the first woman pilot took controls of her first fighter, however. 1996 was the first time a woman took control of a bomber in a bombing mission. It was not until these many years later that women began to fulfill the vision of their forerunners from World War II.

Today, women serve in all facets of our military and in all branches. They make up the total collective of our combined force. In Civil Air Patrol, women occupy and bolster key positions that contribute to the stability and success of the organization. Now, just like then, it is the woman aviator and ally of the aviator that helps further the evolution and progression of our success our CAP and USAF.



Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month originated in 1981 when Congress passed Public Law 97-28, which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as "Women's History Week." After being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Public Law 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month."

This year's theme, chosen by the National Women's History Alliance (NWA) (formerly the National Women's History Project), is: Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories. Women have long been instrumental in passing on our heritage in word and in print to communicate the lessons of those who came before us. Women's stories, and the larger human story, expand our understanding and strengthen our connections to each other. Generations of women have broken-down barriers, shattered stereotypes, and changed our society.

For more information on DoD's Women's History Month Observation from the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, scan the code to the right.



MONTHLY TRIVIA

- 1 What other organizations were a direct result of the CPTP?
- 2 What was the cited cause of women aviators being removed from the ferrying program?
- 3 Who was the first female fighter pilot (mentioned) in 1993?

TRIVIA ANSWERS

- 1 When was the last Tuskegee Airmen trained at Moton Field?
8 JUN 1946
- 2 What is the primary aircraft flown by the active fighter component of the 447th Fighter Group?
F-22 Raptor
- 3 What historical project aims at the restoration and maintaining of warbirds dedicated to the Tuskegee Airmen?
Red Tail Project (Commemorative Air Force)

Flight crews and pilots alike usually have a great sense of humor. Especially "Hog" drivers. The iconic A-10 has been around since the late 1970s and has been the staple of close-air-support (CAS) ever since. Built around a GAU-8 30-mm gun known as the "Avenger", the aircraft is capable of laying down an absolutely devastating amount of fire power while loitering for a fair amount of time. Coupled with the AC-130 gunships, these are a Soldier's best friend.

1942	The U.S. Army Air School in Tuskegee graduates its first class of black aviators.	06
1956	The F-100 "Super Sabre" is formally introduced into the U.S. Air Force inventory.	12
1990	The SR-71 makes its last flight for the Air Force flying from Oxnard, California to Washington, D.C.	06
1992	Two F-15's intercept a pair of Tu-95's near Alaska, the first interception since the fall of the U.S.S.R.	19
1999	A pair of F-15's engage and down a pair of Yugoslavian MiG-29's during the opening shots of the interdiction against Slobodan Milosevic.	24



The IAWG History Office curates a large number of historical documents that contributed to this publication. This includes newspaper articles from Red Oak, Sioux City, and Des Moines as well as correspondence between squadrons and the Iowa Wing Headquarters. Additional resources were provided by the Iowa Aviation Museum.

This month's publication includes a contribution by SM Skylar Bowrey, Historian, Davenport Composite Squadron in Davenport, Iowa. (sbowrey@iawg.cap.gov) SM Bowrey is a student of St. Ambrose University and has fulfilled the role of Historian at the Squadron for 3 months. Her current mission is cross examining documents of the Iowa Wing as well as building the history of the female aviator in the Iowa Wing and the whole Civil Air Patrol.