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***HISTORICAL INFORMATION,
PROPERTY, AND ART***

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Informed perspectives based on historical information enable the Air Force to understand the present and plan for the future while remembering its rich heritage. The Air Force needs a well-structured history program to gather that information and mold those perspectives. The Air Force also requires a viable museum and heritage system to collect, conserve, and display examples of its material culture and technology. Furthermore, the Air Force needs a vibrant art program to acquire and display works of art that portray its mission and history. This directive establishes policies for collecting, preserving, organizing, retrieving, interpreting, and employing historical information and properties as well as art to keep a comprehensive record of the Air Force's mission accomplishment and meet future needs. This further implements 10 USC 2572 and DoD Directive 4140.1

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

This revision updates the previous edition of the policy directive and makes a variety of editorial changes and organizational name changes.

1. Purpose. The Air Force History and Museums Program (HMP) is a Total Force (active, ANG, AFR) program and performs the following major functions:

- 1.1. Collect, record, and preserve valuable historical information in both peace and war.
- 1.2. Research and analyze historical information to write, publish, and distribute objective publications on past Air Force activities.
- 1.3. Provide historical perspective, advice, and factual data to Air Force leaders at all levels.
- 1.4. Answer information requests and assist other agency and individual researchers.
- 1.5. Promote institutional heritage and awareness of air and space power.

2. Policies. The following policies support the purpose described above.

2.1. Air Force organizations, wing level and above (plus unique or independent groups or squadrons) will prepare periodic histories to serve as a permanent record of their missions, basic structure, key data, and important activities.

2.2. Air Force organizations will ensure their historians are integral members of commanders' staffs with access to all information needed to compile an accurate and comprehensive historical record.

2.3. To enhance the Air Force's institutional memory, historians will provide commanders, staffs, and other customers with historical publications and timely background information relevant to current issues and actions.

2.4. To preserve and display its material heritage, the Air Force will operate a national museum, which major commands may supplement with field museums, displays of aerospace vehicles, and other historical property holdings.

2.5. To portray its history and culture, the Air Force will accept, maintain, and display the works of professional artists.

2.6. During war, humanitarian missions, and contingency operations, Air Force organizations will thoroughly document their involvement to preserve detailed information as a basis for analysis and lessons learned, and they will support historical property collection teams in obtaining US, allied, and enemy equipment and artifacts for museums and historical displays. HMP will support war and contingency operations with a well-organized system of deployed historians and appropriate museum personnel.

2.7. History offices and museums will endeavor to inform and educate the public about the history of the Air Force and the importance of air power.

2.8. As a means of fostering esprit de corps and identifying its heritage, each Air Force organization will have a unique lineage and distinctive heraldry.

2.9. To ensure an effective museum and heritage system, as well as art program, Air Force organizations will properly account for, protect, and exhibit historical property and Air Force art in their custody.

3. Responsibilities. The following responsibilities and authorities implement the policies stated above.

3.1. The Director, Air Force History and Museums Policies and Programs, (HQ USAF/HO) is responsible for: setting policies and standards for historical products and services; providing management oversight to its subordinate division, the Air Force Historical Studies Office (HQ USAF/HOH), and its field operating agency, the Air Force Historical Research Agency (AFHRA); and furnishing guidance and policy for the USAF museum and heritage system.

3.2. HQ USAF/HOH is responsible for preparing books, studies, and other publications; supporting Headquarters Air Force, government agencies, and individuals with historical analysis and research; and engaging in certain educational activities.

3.3. The AFHRA, as the Air Force's central historical repository, furnishes information throughout the Air Force and to other agencies, institutions, and individuals. It is responsible for collecting, organizing, and disseminating USAF and air power related history, providing research services, compiling and approving organizational lineage, honors, and heraldry actions, and supporting wartime and contingency operations.

3.4. The National Museum of the United States Air Force, a primary subordinate unit of Air Force Materiel Command, is the Air Force's central museum and is responsible for managing the acquisition and care of historical property and serving as the Air Force's focal point for interfacing with other museums worldwide.

3.5. SAF/AFAPO is responsible to maintain, catalog, inventory, etc., all items designated as Air Force art/sculptures that do not fall under the purview of the museum programs.

3.6. Historians at major commands (MAJCOM) and other field organizations are responsible for preparing periodic histories and other historical publications according to standards and requirements established by HQ USAF/HO.

3.7. To ensure uniformity and adherence to standards, MAJCOMs are responsible for overseeing and assessing the historical products and historical property management of subordinate organizations.

3.8. Chaplains are responsible for providing historical information under the guidance of the Office of the Chief of the Chaplain Service. MAJCOM-level surgeons are responsible for preparing medical historical reports under the guidance of the Office of the Air Force Surgeon General, which prepares its own annual history.

Pete Geren
Acting Secretary of the Air Force

Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

10 USC 2572, Sections of Title 16

AFMD 30, *Air Force Historical Research Agency*

AFI 36-2863, *History Awards*

AFPD 38-5, *Unit Designations*

AFI 84-101, *Historical Products, Services, and Requirements*

AFI 84-102, *Historical Operations in Contingency and War*

AFI 84-103, *USAF Heritage Program*

AFI 84-104, *Art Program*

AFI-84-105, *Organizational Lineage, Honors and Heraldry*

Terms

Air Force Art Office (AFAPO)—consists of paintings and sculptures that portray people, equipment, activities, facilities, and other subjects related to the United States Air Force and its predecessor organizations in the U.S. Army. The Air Force Art Collection comprises historically significant works of Air Force Art, mostly donated by professional artists, controlled through a central inventory by the Air Force Art Program.

Documentation—consists of paper and other records, including electronic, used by historians to substantiate decisions and actions, to prepare historical publications, and to provide research and reference services.

Heraldry—consists of emblems, mottoes, and designations of establishments and units as depicted respectively on shields and disks.

Historical Properties—consist of aerospace vehicles, weapons, equipment, supplies, personal property, and other physical manifestations of the Air Force's heritage designated as artifacts by the Director, National Museum of the USAF.

Historical Publications—are periodic histories of organizations (normally annual or semiannual), books, studies, articles, pamphlets, documentaries, and reference works.

Honors—recognize USAF participation in combat or meritorious achievement. They appear as service, campaign, Armed Forces Expeditionary, and decoration streamers affixed to the organizational flag of an establishment or to the guiding of a unit.

Lineage—is the tracking of actions affecting the status of an organization over time.

Repository—is a place where historical publications and documentation are stored and safeguarded.