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SPECIALISTS

These Air Force general officers began their careers as enlisted members.

Mustangs

By Wendy Alexis Peddrick, Staff Editor

The "Wall of Achievers" at the Air Force Enlisted Heritage Research Institute, Gunter Annex, Maxwell AFB, Ala., honors former Air Force–Army Air Corps enlisted personnel who achieved fame in various occupations and pursuits. Among those recognized are enlisted members who later became officers—"mustangs"—and achieved general officer grade. Their routes to commissions ranged from Officer Candidate School and the Aviation Cadets to the Air Force Academy.

Maj. Gen. Lewis E. Curtis III

Airman Third Class Curtis (at left, top) was not long out of basic training in 1960 when this photo was taken. He started his service as an F-105D radar maintenance technician and completed his career as commander of the San Antonio Air Logistics Center at Kelly AFB, Texas, in 1996.

Maj. Gen. Doyle E. Larson Shortly after Private First Class Larson (far left) finished basic training in 1951, he was en route to Army language school to study Russian. Larson was the first commander of Electronic Security Command when he retired in 1983. He is currently president of the Air Force Association.

Brig. Gen. Mark J. Worrick In September 1951 Private First Class Worrick (immediate left) was an accounting and payroll technician at Erding Air Depot, Germany. Worrick retired in 1988 as assistant comptroller of the Air Force for accounting and finance, commander of the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center, and assistant director, Defense Security Assistance Agency for Security Assistance Accounting.



Gen. Earl T. O'Loughlin After completing basic training in March 1951, Private First Class O'Loughlin shows off his very first stripe at Sampson AFB, N.Y. The Air Force did not change its Army-style enlisted rank until 1952. Many more promotions would follow before O'Loughlin retired in 1987 as commander of Air Force Logistics Command.



Lt. Gen. Anthony J. Burshnick In 1955 Airman Third Class Burshnick was an electronics instructor in the Technical Training Center at Chanute AFB, Ill. (On the right is A3C "Doc" Dougherty, who would retire in the late 1970s as a chief master sergeant.) Burshnick retired in 1991 as vice commander in chief, Military Airlift Command.



Gen. John G. Lorber After Airman Lorber had completed basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas, in 1959, he was sent to the Naval Academy Preparatory School to see if he could qualify for the Air Force Academy. He did. Lorber became commander of Pacific Air Forces, Hickam AFB, Hawaii, before retiring in September 1997.



Brig. Gen. Alfred P. Bunting After a stint in the Army, Bunting enlisted in the Kansas Air National Guard, where he would serve as first sergeant for the 127th Fighter Bomber Squadron, Wichita MAP, Kan. He was directly commissioned from chief master sergeant to first lieutenant in 1962. Bunting went on to be the assistant adjutant general for air and commander of the Kansas ANG.



Lt. Gen. Donald O. Aldridge In February 1957, Technical Sergeant Aldridge was a Russian linguist stationed in Bad Kreuznach, Germany. Here, he holds his daughter, Holly Anne. He went on to become vice commander in chief of Strategic Air Command.



Maj. Gen. John E. Griffith *Sergeant Griffith was assigned to the 2d Air Refueling Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., in January 1950. He was enlisted for more than eight years, went to Officer Candidate School, and was an officer for 32 years. Griffith completed his service in 1990 as director, operations and logistics, US Transportation Command. He was honored as having served longer on continuous Air Force active duty (41 years, five months, 21 days) than anyone before him.*



Lt. Gen. Warren D. Johnson *Private Johnson takes a break from washing pots and pans at the mess hall at Camp Barkeley, Texas, in 1942. He had been assigned the task "after having my rear end chewed for goofing off." He applied himself better after that and was director of the Defense Nuclear Agency at the time of his retirement in 1977.*



Maj. Gen. Charles I. Bennett Jr. *In this 1942 photo, Corporal Bennett trains in a BT-13 aircraft at Brady, Texas. He later served as personal pilot to General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower. Bennett retired as director of plans, Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Operations, USAF. The Air Force Association's chapter in Merced, Calif., is named after him.*



Gen. Alfred G. Hansen *In April 1953, Airman Basic Hansen got a weekend pass from Sampson AFB, N.Y., went into Syracuse, and put a coin in a machine to get this photo. Years later, Hansen would wear four stars and lead Air Force Logistics Command, before his retirement in 1989.*



Brig. Gen. Lonnie J. Slauson Jr. *Private First Class Slauson was on active duty with the Army in Korea in 1954. In 1956, he joined the Alabama ANG as an airman first class. At his retirement in March 1993, Slauson was Alabama National Guard assistant adjutant general for air.*



Maj. Gen. Charles D. Link Airman Link was a student in the jet engine maintenance course at Sheppard AFB, Texas, in 1957. In 1963, he was a member of the last class to go through Air Force Officer Candidate School. When he retired in 1997, he was special assistant to the Chief of Staff and the Air Force's point man on the Quadrennial Defense Review and the National Defense Panel report.



Maj. Gen. Monroe T. Smith Staff Sergeant Smith proudly presents his new F-86 in early 1954 at RAF Manston, UK, where he was a flight line crew chief. Smith became deputy chief of staff, product assurance and acquisition logistics, Air Force Systems Command, Andrews AFB, Md., before he retired in 1987.



Brig. Gen. Tedd L. Bishop Eighteen-year-old mechanic Private Bishop works on an AT-10 in Columbus, Miss., in August 1944. Bishop retired from active duty 34 years later after serving as commander of the 437th Military Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, S.C.



Brig. Gen. Richard A. Ingram Sergeant Ingram was a personnel and administration specialist in 1951. When he retired in 1988, Ingram was deputy commander of the Canadian North American Aerospace Defense Command Region and the senior US military officer assigned to Canada.



Maj. Gen. G. Wesley Clark About the time this photo was taken in April 1952, the Air Force switched from Army-style grade designations to its own style. Clark sometimes tells friends that he was "the last private in the Air Force" before transformation to airman basic. From there, he became a nuclear weapons electronic technician. Clark retired as vice commander, Air Force Space Command, in 1990.



Brig. Gen. Charles L. Bishop After completing Russian language training at Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y., Airman First Class Bishop was assigned to the 6937th Communications Group in Peshawar, Pakistan, where this photo was taken in September 1960. By 1989, Bishop was deputy chief of staff for intelligence, US Air Forces in Europe.



Maj. Gen. Jeanne M. Holm In August 1942, Auxiliary Holm was stationed in Des Moines, Iowa, with the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, where she drove in the motor pool. In 1948, she received a regular commission in the new US Air Force. From 1965 to 1972 she was Director of Women in the Air Force. In 1971, she became the first female Air Force general officer and its first female two-star general two years later. When Holm retired, she was director of the Air Force Personnel Council.



Brig. Gen. Edwin F. Wenglar Staff Sergeant Wenglar was an enlisted pilot flying C-47s out of Ismailia, Egypt, in 1942, with the 45th Troop Carrier Squadron, 316th Troop Carrier Group. Wenglar became vice commander of the Central Air Force Reserve Region, Ellington AFB, Texas. He retired in 1983.



Maj. Gen. Lucius Theus First Sergeant Theus oversaw pre-aviation cadet and basic training squadrons at Keesler Field, Miss., in 1944. Theus retired as director of accounting and finance, USAF Comptroller, and commander of the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center in 1979.



Lt. Gen. George H. McKee Buck Sergeant McKee was serving as an instructor at the Aircraft Maintenance Course at Chanute Field, Ill., in April 1942. McKee's last assignment was commander of Air Training Command. After retiring in 1975, he was appointed governor of the US Soldiers' and Airmen's Home in Washington, a post he kept for 12 years.



Gen. John L. Piotrowski After basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas, in 1952, Airman Basic Piotrowski went to electronics and ground radar school at Keesler AFB, Miss. In this photo he is getting ready for a dorm inspection. Piotrowski retired in April 1990 as commander in chief of NORAD and US Space Command.



Maj. Gen. Thomas M. Sadler Private Sadler (right), broom in hand, pauses with a friend during basic training (and a lot of KP duty) at Keesler Field, Miss., in 1943. Sadler retired in 1983 as commander of Military Airlift Command's 21st Air Force.



Gen. William L. Kirk Private Kirk entered the Air Force in October 1951, shown here just after basic training. When he retired in 1989, Kirk was commander in chief of US Air Forces in Europe and commander, Allied Air Forces Central Europe.



Lt. Gen. Carl G. O'Berry Communications specialist Airman First Class O'Berry reenlisted in May 1961, just prior to his entry into Officer Candidate School. O'Berry retired in 1995 as deputy chief of staff, Command, Control, Communications, and Computers, USAF.



Lt. Gen. Harry A. Goodall In 1952, Sergeant Goodall was training recruits at Lackland AFB, Texas, when he volunteered for weekend duty to put in a golf course at the base. Goodall's last assignment was as commander, Allied Air Forces Southern Europe, and deputy commander in chief, US Air Forces in Europe for the Southern Area, Naples, Italy. He retired in 1991 and is now president of AT&T's Defense Programs Group.

Brig. Gen. Raymond V. McMillan
Technical Sergeant McMillan (right) receives a Safe Driver Award from Brig. Gen. Curtis R. Lowe, commander of 28th Air Division, Hamilton AFB, Calif., in March 1958. McMillan became chief, System Integration Office, and assistant deputy chief of staff, systems integration, logistics, and support, Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, Colo., retiring in 1987.



Other Mustangs

The following general officers were once enlisted and are honored on the Wall of Achievers at Gunter, but photographs from their enlisted days were not available.

- Brig. Gen. Thomas E. Bowen**
- Lt. Gen. Patrick P. Caruana**
- Brig. Gen. Rendell F. Clark Jr.**
- Brig. Gen. Joe Crawford**
- Gen. W.L. Creech**
- Lt. Gen. Charles E. Franklin**
- Maj. Gen. Richard F. Gillis**
- Brig. Gen. William M. Guth**
- Brig. Gen. Trevor A. Hammond**
- Brig. Gen. Charles B. Jiggetts**
- Lt. Gen. Jay W. Kelley**
- Gen. Robert T. Marsh**
- Maj. Gen. Richard M. Pascoe**
- Lt. Gen. Winston D. Powers**
- Maj. Gen. Raymond B. Stewart**
- Maj. Gen. Russell L. Waldron**
- Gen. Larry D. Welch**
- Brig. Gen. Charles E. Yeager**



A Mustang of Considerable Fame

James Stewart was already a well-known movie star when he joined the Army in 1941. Before World War II was over he would fly combat missions in Europe as pilot of a B-24 Liberator. He stayed in the Air Force Reserve and retired from the Air Force as a brigadier general in 1968. (Along the way, he joined with 11 other veterans in 1946 to found the Air Force Association.)

In 1941, Stewart reported along with other recruits for initial training at Moffett Field, Calif., and was assigned to a four-man tent. According to Carl L. Miller, who was a sergeant at the

recruiting detachment at Moffett, Stewart's training as an actor helped him memorize the drill manual, and he was quickly assigned as a drill instructor. In this photo, Stewart sits on the steps with 1st Sgt. Frank Jellison.

Miller, who retired as a colonel, recalls that Stewart had been a civilian pilot before he enlisted and convinced the Army to let him fly the BT-13. From there, he moved on to Air Corps pilot training and B-24s.