Records and Trophies

Absolute Aviation World Records

The desirability of a standard procedure to certify air records was recognized early in the history of powered flight. In 1905, representatives of Belgium, Germany, the US, Great Britain, France, Spain, Italy, and Switzerland met in Paris to form the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, the world body of national aeronautic sporting interests. The FAI today comprises the national aero clubs of 77 nations and certifies national records as world records. Since 1922, the National Aeronautic Association, based in Arlington, Va., has been the US representative to the FAI. The NAA supervises all attempts at world and world-class records in the United States. Absolute world records are the supreme achievements of all the records open to flying machines.


This award, presented by the National Aeronautical Association, is the most prestigious in American aviation. It recognizes the "greatest achievement in aeronautics or astronautics in America, with respect to improving the performance, efficiency, and safety of air or space vehicles, the value of which has been thoroughly demonstrated by actual use during the preceding year." The award is named for a prominent publisher, sportsman, and aviator. Collier, the first person to purchase a Wright airplane for personal use, commissioned the trophy and presented it to the Aero Club of America (the forerunner of the NAA) in 1911.

1913 Orville Wright. Automatic stabilizer.  
1914 Elmer A. Sperry. Gyroscopic control.  
1916 Elmer A. Sperry. Drift indicator.  
1917–20 No award.  
1921 Grover Loening. Aerial yacht.  
1922 US Air Mail Service. One year without fatality.  
1924 US Army Air Service. First aerial flight around world.  
1925 S. Albert Reed. Metal propeller.  
1927 Charles L. Lawrence. Radial air-cooled engine.  
1928 Commerce Dept., Aeronautics Branch. Airways, air navigation facilities.  
1929 National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. Cowling for radial air-cooled engines.  
1930 Harold Pitcairn and staff. Autogiro.  
1931 Packard Motor Car Co. Diesel aircraft engine.  
1932 Glenn L. Martin. Two-engined, high-speed, weight-carrying airplane.  
1935 Donald Douglas and staff. DC-2.  
1936 Pan American Airways. Trans–Pacific and overwater operations.  
1937 Army Air Corps. Design, flight test of XC–35 first pressurized cabin.  
1938 Howard Hughes and crew. Around-the-world flight.  
1940 Sanford Moss, Army Air Corps. Turbo-supercharger.  
1943 Capt. Luis De Florez (USNR). Synthetic training devices.  
1944 Gen. Carl A. Spaatz. US air campaign against Germany.  
1945 Luis W. Alvarez. Ground-control approach radar landing system.  
1946 Lewis A. Rodert. Thermal ice-prevention system.  
1947 Lawrence D. Bell, John Stack, Capt. Charles E. Yeager. Supersonic flight.  
1948 Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics. All-weather air traffic control system.  
1949 William P. Lear. F-5 automatic pilot, automatic approach control coupler system.  
1950 Helicopter industry, military services, Coast Guard. Rotary-wing aircraft in air rescue.  
1951 John Stack, associates at Langley Aeronautical Laboratory, NACA. Transonic wind tunnel throat.  
1954 Richard Travis Whitcomb. Discovery, verification of area rule, yielding higher speed and greater range.  
1959 USAF, General Dynamics–Convair, Space Technology Laboratories. Atlas ICBM.  
1974 John F. Clark, NASA; Daniel J. Fink, GE; RCA; Hughes. Resource and environmental management in space technology; LANDSAT.  
1976 USAF, Rockwell, B-1 industry team. B-1 bomber.  
1978 Sam B. Williams, Williams Research Corp. Turbofan cruise missile engines.  
The Robert J. Collier Trophy, continued

1982 T.A. Wilson, Boeing, supported by FAA, industry, airlines. 757 and 767 airliners.
1983 US Army, Hughes Helicopters, industry team.
1985 Russell W. Meyer, Cessna Aircraft, Cessna Citation business jets. Outstanding safety.

The Mackay Trophy

The Mackay Trophy was established by Clarence H. Mackay, an industrialist, philanthropist, communications pioneer, and aviation enthusiast. Presented by the National Aeronautic Association, the trophy recognizes “the most meritorious flight of the year” by an Air Force member, members, or organization.

1912 2nd Lt. Henry H. Arnold.
1914 Capt. Townsend F. Dodd and Lt. S.W. Fitzgerald
1915 Lt. B.Q. Jones.
1916–17 No award.
1918 Capt. Edward V. Rickenbacker.
1921 Lt. John A. Macready.
1928 1st Lt. Harry A. Sutton.
1929 Capt. A.W. Stevens.
1930 Maj. Ralph Royce.
1933 Capt. Westside T. Larson.
1936 Capt. Edward V. Rickenbacker.
1940–46 No award.
1947 Capt. Charles E. Yeager.
1949 Capt. James G. Gallagher and crew of Lucky Lady II.
1950 27th Fighter Wing.
1951 Col. Fred J. Ascani.
1953 40th Air Division, SAC.
1954 308th Bombardment Wing (M) and 38th Air Div., SAC.
1956 Capt. John A. Macready.
1957 93rd Bombardment Wing, SAC.
1960 6593rd Test Sq.; Hickam AFB, Hawaii.
The Mackay Trophy, continued

1964 464th Troop Carrier Wing, TAC.
1969 49th Tactical Fighter Wing, TAC.
1973 MAC aircrews.
1977 C-5 aircrew (Capt. David M. Sprinkel and crew).
1980 Crews S-21 and S-31, 644th Bombardment Sq.
1982 B-52 Crew E-21, 19th Bombardment Wing.
1983 Capt. Robert J. Goodman and his crew, 42nd Bombardment Wing, SAC.
1987 Det. 15, USAF Plant Representative Office, and B-1B SPO.
1988 C-5 crew, 436th Military Airlift Wing.
1989 B-1B crew, 96th Bomb Wing.
1990 AC-130 crew, 16th Special Operations Sq.
1992 C-130 crew, 310th Airlift Sq., ACC, Howard AFB, Panama.
1993 B-52 crew, 668th Bomb Sq., ACC.
1995 Aircrew BAT-01, Dyess AFB, Tex.
1997 Crew of Whiskey-05, 7th Special Operations Sq., RAF Mildenhall, UK.
2000 Crew of Airevac 10E1/10E2, 86th AES and 75th AS, Ramstein AB, Germany.

Lts. John Macready (left) and Oakley Kelly pose in front of their record-setting Fokker T-2. The Army Air Service pilots received the Mackay Trophy for 1922 and 1923 in this transport, first for a world duration record of more than 35 hours and then for the first nonstop transcontinental flight—Long Island, N.Y., to San Diego. Macready had also received the 1921 trophy for world altitude record flights.
The Gen. Thomas D. White USAF Space Trophy

The Gen. Thomas D. White USAF Space Trophy is named for the fourth Air Force Chief of Staff, a longtime champion of USAF's role in space. The Air Force selects the recipients among USAF individuals or organizations that made the year's outstanding progress in the field of aerospace. It was established in 1961 and, until 1996, sponsored by the National Geographic Society. It is now an AFA national award sponsored by the Gen. B.A. Schriever Los Angeles Chapter.

1963 Maj. L. Gordon Cooper.
1965 Lt. Col. Edward H. White II.
1966 Alexander H. Flax.
1974 No award.
1978 No award.
1996 No award.
1998 Gen. Howell M. Estes III.

The Hughes Achievement Award

The Hughes Achievement Award (formerly the Hughes Trophy) is presented annually to the top Air Force squadron with an air defense/air superiority mission. Raytheon now sponsors the award.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Unit, Base</th>
<th>Aircraft</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>58th FIS, Otis AFB, Mass.</td>
<td>F-94C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>96th FIS, New Castle County Airport, Del.</td>
<td>F-94C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>49th FIS, Landstuhl AB, West Germany</td>
<td>F-86D</td>
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<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>317th FIS, McChord AFB, Wash.</td>
<td>F-86D/F-102A</td>
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<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>52th FIS, RAF Bentwaters, UK</td>
<td>F-86D</td>
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<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>31st FIS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska</td>
<td>F-102A</td>
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<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>54th FIS, Ellsworth AFB, S.D.</td>
<td>F-89J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>460th FIS, Portland Arpt., Ore.</td>
<td>F-102A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>83rd FIS, Hamilton AFB, Calif.</td>
<td>F-101B</td>
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<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>444th FIS, Charleston AFB, S.C.</td>
<td>F-101B</td>
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<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>497th FIS, Torrejon AB, Spain</td>
<td>F-102A</td>
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<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>329th FIS, George AFB, Calif.</td>
<td>F-106A/B</td>
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<tr>
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<td>F-102A</td>
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<td>1966</td>
<td>32nd FIS, Soesterberg AB, Netherlands</td>
<td>F-102A</td>
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<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>317th FIS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska</td>
<td>F-106A/B</td>
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<td>1968</td>
<td>64th FIS, Clark AB, Philippines</td>
<td>F-102A</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>71st FIS, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.</td>
<td>F-106A/B</td>
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<td>1970</td>
<td>57th FIS, NAS Keflavik, Iceland</td>
<td>F-102A</td>
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<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>48th FIS, Langley AFB, Va.</td>
<td>F-106A/B</td>
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<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>43rd TFS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska</td>
<td>F-4E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>555th TFS, Udorn RTAB, Thailand</td>
<td>F-4D</td>
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<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>119th FIG (ANG), Hector Field, N.D.</td>
<td>F-101B</td>
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<td>1975</td>
<td>318th FIS, McChord AFB, Wash.</td>
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<td>F-15A/B</td>
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<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>11th TFS, Kadena AB, Japan</td>
<td>F-15C/D</td>
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<td>1982</td>
<td>44th TFS, Kadena AB, Japan</td>
<td>F-15C/D</td>
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<tr>
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<td>67th TFS, Kadena AB, Japan</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>318th FIS, McChord AFB, Wash.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>120th FIG (ANG), Great Falls Arpt., Mont.</td>
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<td>67th TFS, Kadena AB, Japan</td>
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<tr>
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<td>57th TIS, NAS Keflavik, Iceland</td>
<td>F-15C/D</td>
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<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>22nd TFS, Bitburg AB, West Germany</td>
<td>F-15C/D</td>
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<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>67th TFS, Kadena AB, Japan</td>
<td>F-15C/D</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>58th TFS, Eglin AFB, Fla.</td>
<td>F-15C/D</td>
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<tr>
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<td>F-15C</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>178th FS (ANG), Hector Arpt., N.D.</td>
<td>F-16A/B</td>
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<td>493rd FS, RAF Lakenheath, UK</td>
<td>F-15C</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>493rd FS, RAF Lakenheath, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>19th FS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska</td>
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