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, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and the US met in Paris to form the Federation Aeronautique Internationale, the world body of national aeronautic sporting interests. The FAI today comprises the national aero clubs of some 100 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.

**Speed around the world, nonstop, nonrefueled:** 342.24 mph (550.8 kph), Steve Fossett in Virgin Atlantic GlobalFlyer at Salina, Kan., Feb. 28-March 3, 2005.

**Great circle distance without landing:** 25,766 miles (41,467 kilometers), Steve Fossett in Virgin Atlantic GlobalFlyer from NASA Kennedy Space Center to Bournemouth, England, Feb. 8-11, 2006.

**Distance in a closed circuit without landing:** 24,986.727 miles (40,212.139 kilometers), Richard G. Rutan and Jeana L. Yeager in Voyager at Edwards AFB, Calif., Dec. 14-23, 1986.

**Altitude:** 123,523.58 feet (37,650.00 meters), Alexander Fedotov flying E-266M, a modified MiG-25, at Podmoskovnoye, USSR, Aug. 31, 1977.


**Speed over a straight course:** 2,193.16 mph (3,529.56 kph), USAF Capt. Eldon W. Joersz (pilot) and USAF Maj. George T. Morgan Jr. (ROSO) in Lockheed SR-71A Blackbird at Beale AFB, Calif., July 28, 1976.

**Speed over a closed circuit:** 2,092.294 mph (3,367.221 kph), USAF Majs. Adolphus H. Bledsoe Jr. (pilot) and John T. Fuller (ROSO) in Lockheed SR-71A Blackbird at Beale AFB, Calif., July 27, 1976.

The Robert J. Collier Trophy

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 No award.
1918 No award.
1919 No award.
1920 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.
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. 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.
1957 Edward P. Curtis. “Aviation Facilities Planning” report. USAF/Lockheed/GE F-104 team, F-104.
1958 Clarence L. Johnson, airframe design; Neil Burgess, Gerhard Neumann, J79 turbojet engines; Maj. Howard C. Johnson, landplane altitude record; Capt. Walter W. Irwin, straightaway speed record.
1959 USAF, General Dynamics-Convair, Space Technology Laboratories. Atlas ICBM.
1973 John F. Clark, NASA; Daniel J. Fink, GE; RCA; Hughes. Resource and environmental management in space technology; LANDSAT.
1977 Sam B. Williams, Williams Research. Turbofan cruise missile engines.
1981 T.A. Wilson, Boeing, supported by FAA, industry, airlines. 757 and 767 airliners.
1982 US Army, Hughes Helicopters, industry team. AH-64A Apache helicopter.
1983 NASA, Martin Marietta, Walter W. Bollendonk, astronaut Capt. Bruce McCandless II (USN), Charles
The Robert J. Collier Trophy, continued

E. Whitsett Jr. Manned maneuvering units, satellite rescue.
Russell W. Meyer, Cessna Aircraft, Cessna Citation business jets. Outstanding safety.
Nasa Lewis Research Center, NASA-industry team. Advanced turboprop propulsion concepts.
Ben R. Rich, Lockheed-USAf team. F-117A.
Bell-Boeing team. V-22 Osprey.
Northrop-USAf industry team. B-2.
Hubble Space Telescope recovery team. Successful orbital recovery and repair.
USAf, McDonnell Douglas, US Army, C-17 industry team. C-17.
Boeing 777 team. Boeing 777.
Cessna Citation X design team. Cessna Citation X.
Gulfstream Aerospace, Gulfstream V industry team. Gulfstream V.
Boeing, Hornet industry team, and US Navy. F/A-18E/F.
Northrop Grumman, Rolls Royce, Raytheon, L-3 Communications, USAF, DARPA. Global Hawk.
Pratt & Whitney, Rolls Royce, Lockheed Martin.
Northrop Grumman, BAE Systems, JSF Program Office. Integrated lift fan propulsion system.
Gulfstream G550 team. Ultra long-range business jet.
Paul G. Allen, Elbert L. Rutan, Michael W. Melvill, and entire SpaceShipOne team.

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. H.H. Arnold.
1913 2nd Lts. J.E. Carberry and F. Seydel.
1914 Capt. T.F. Dodd and Lt. S.W. Fitzgerald.
1915 Lt. B.Q. Jones.
1916 No award.
1917 No award.
1918 Capt. E.V. Rickenbacker.
1921 Lt. J.A. Macready.
1925 Lts. C.K. Bettis and J. Doolittle.
1928 1st Lt. H.A. Sutton.
1929 Capt. A.W. Stevens.
1930 Maj. R. Royce.
1933 Capt. W.T. Larson.
1935 Capts. O.A. Anderson and A.W. Stevens.
1939 No award.
1940 No award.
1941 No award.
1942 No award.
1943 No award.
1944 No award.
1945 No award.
1946 No award.
1947 Capt. C.E. Yeager.
1949 Capt. J.G. Gallagher and crew of Lucky Lady Il.
1950 27th Fighter Wing.
1951 Col. F.J. Ascani.
1953 40th Air Division, SAC.
1954 308th Bombardment Wing (M) and 38th Air Div., SAC.
1956 Capt. I.C. Kincheloe Jr., Air Research and Development Command.
1957 93rd Bombardment Wing, SAC.
1960 6593rd Test Sq., Hickam AFB, Hawaii.
1964 464th Troop Carrier Wing, TAC.
1969  49th Tactical Fighter Wing, TAC.  
1973  MAC aircrews.  
1977  C-5 aircrew (Capt. D.M. Sprinkel and crew).  
1979  Maj. J.E. Mc Ardle Jr.  
1980  Crews S-21 and S-31, 644th Bombardment Sq.  
1982  B-52 Crew E-21, 19th Bombardment Wing.  
1983  Capt. R.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 Air Evac 10E1/10E2, 86th AES and 75th AS, Ramstein AB, Germany.  
2001  Crew of Knife 04, 20th SOS, Hurlburt Field, Fla.  
2002  Crew of Grimm 31, 16th SOS, Hurlburt Field, Fla.  
2004  Crews of Jolly 11 and Jolly 12, 41st and 38th Rescue Sqs. (respectively), Moody AFB, Ga.

Gen. Thomas Power (right), commander in chief of Strategic Air Command, greets the B-58 Hustler crew that set three speed records and was later awarded the 1962 Mackay Trophy. From left are Maj. Robert Sowers and Capts. Robert MacDonald and John Walton. For their record-setting flight, the crew flew round-trip between New York and Los Angeles in four hours, 42 minutes.
The Gen. Thomas D. White USAF Space Award

The Gen. Thomas D. White USAF Space Award 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.
2002 Lt. Gen. Roger G. DeKok, USAF (Ret.).

The Raytheon Hughes Achievement Award

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Unit, Base</th>
<th>Aircraft</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>496th FIS, Landstuhl AB, West Germany</td>
<td>F-86D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>317th FIS, McChord AFB, Wash.</td>
<td>F-86D/F-102A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>512th FIS, RAF Bentwaters, UK</td>
<td>F-86D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>31st FIS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska</td>
<td>F-102A</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>444th FIS, Charleston AFB, S.C.</td>
<td>F-101B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>497th FIS, Torrejon AB, Spain</td>
<td>F-102A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>329th FIS, George AFB, Calif.</td>
<td>F-106A/B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>317th FIS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska</td>
<td>F-102A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>32nd FIS, Soesterberg AB, Netherlands</td>
<td>F-102A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>317th FIS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska</td>
<td>F-106A/B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>64th FIS, Clark AB, Philippines</td>
<td>F-102A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>71st FIS, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.</td>
<td>F-106A/B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>57th FIS, NAS Keflavik, Iceland</td>
<td>F-102A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>48th FIS, Langley AFB, Va.</td>
<td>F-106A/B</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>119th FIG (ANG), Hector Field, N.D.</td>
<td>F-101B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>318th FIS, McChord AFB, Wash.</td>
<td>F-106A/B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>57th FIS, NAS Keflavik, Iceland</td>
<td>F-4C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>58th TFS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska</td>
<td>F-106A/B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>49th FIS, Griffiss AFB, N.Y.</td>
<td>F-106A/B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>32nd TFS, Soesterberg AB, Netherlands</td>
<td>F-15A/B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>32nd TFS, Soesterberg AB, Netherlands</td>
<td>F-15A/B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>12th TFS, Kadena AB, Japan</td>
<td>F-15/C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>44th TFS, Kadena AB, Japan</td>
<td>F-15/C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>67th TFS, Kadena AB, Japan</td>
<td>F-15/C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>318th FIS, McChord AFB, Wash.</td>
<td>F-15C/B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>120th FIG (ANG), Great Falls Arpt., Mont.</td>
<td>F-106A/B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>67th TFS, Kadena AB, Japan</td>
<td>F-15C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>57th FIS, NAS Keflavik, Iceland</td>
<td>F-15C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>22nd TFS, Bitburg AB, West Germany</td>
<td>F-15C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>67th TFS, Kadena AB, Japan</td>
<td>F-15C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>58th TFS, Eglin AFB, Fla.</td>
<td>F-15C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>58th TFS, Eglin AFB, Fla.</td>
<td>F-15C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>59th FS, Eglin AFB, Fla.</td>
<td>F-15C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>71st FS, Langley AFB, Va.</td>
<td>F-15C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>178th FS (ANG), Hector Arpt., N.D.</td>
<td>F-16A/B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>60th FS, Eglin AFB, Fla.</td>
<td>F-15C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>493rd FS, RAF Lakenheath, UK</td>
<td>F-15C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>493rd FS, RAF Lakenheath, UK</td>
<td>F-15C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>19th FS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska</td>
<td>F-15C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>71st FS, Langley AFB, Va.</td>
<td>F-15C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>27th FS, Langley AFB, Va.</td>
<td>F-15C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>67th FS, Kadena AB, Japan</td>
<td>F-15C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>60th FS, Eglin AFB, Fla.</td>
<td>F-15C/D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>