

What is the mission of the Air Force's History and Museums Program?

History and Museums

The Air Force History and Museums Program comprises a global network of trained, educated and experienced professional historians, archivists, writers and museum curators and specialists with a deep belief in the value of history's contributions to combat capability and program development. Personnel in the Air Force History and Museums Program are postured to meet their mission of improving US Air Force combat capability through the collection, preservation, interpretation, dissemination and display of historical information, artifacts and Air Force heritage. The career opportunities offered by the Air Force History and Museums Program are rewarding and challenging.

Document history as it happens!

Historians with the US Air Force have the unique opportunity to document history as it happens. Historians are assigned at Air Force bases throughout the world. Historians also deploy to various geographical locations to document the Air Force's participation in contingency and humanitarian operations.

National Museum of the United States Air Force

The National Museum of the United States Air Force (NMUSAF) fulfills the Secretary of the Air Force's statutory responsibility for the acquisition, accountability, preservation, control and use of material heritage of the USAF's national historic property collection. NMUSAF collects, researches, conserves, interprets and presents the Air Force's history, heritage and traditions as well as today's mission to fly. It began its activities with the establishment of a museum at Wright Field following World War I and has grown to a collection of more than 125,000 objects that document the Air Force story. More than 400 aerospace vehicles are exhibited at Wright Patterson Air Force Base to 1.2 million visitors every year. Also, the museum oversees 50,000 objects displayed at 276 military commands, 106 civilian museums and 356 other civilian locations across the United States and foreign nations.

Job Descriptions

All entry-level historian positions are designated Emergency Essential and require the individual to deploy in support of wartime, contingency and/or humanitarian operations. Historians deployed in support of operations can expect to be away from home for an estimated four months every two years (subject to change based on operations tempo) to write histories on various operations and collect documentary material for future studies. All historians selected for deployment will

be given appropriate immunizations, be trained in the proper use of chemical gear, and live and work on an austere military base. Deployments in support of humanitarian operations can vary in length, depending on the mission.

Locations

Museums

- National Museum of the US Air Force, Wright Patterson AFB, OH
- Air Mobility Command Museum, Dover AFB, DE
- South Dakota Air and Space Museum, Ellsworth AFB, SD
- Air Armament Museum, Eglin AFB, FL
- Air Force Space and Missile Museum, Patrick AFB, FL
- Hill Aerospace Museum, Hill AFB, UT
- Museum of Aviation Flight and Tech Center, Robins AFB, GA
- Air Force Flight Test Center Museum, Edwards AFB, CA
- Peterson Air and Space Museum, Peterson AFB, CO
- Warren ICBM and Heritage Museum, F.E. Warren AFB, WY
- History and Traditions Museum, Lackland AFB, TX
- Air Force Security Police Museum, Lackland AFB, TX

Heritage Centers

- McChord Heritage Center, McChord AFB, WA
- Travis Heritage Center, Travis AFB, CA
- Malmstrom Heritage Center, Malmstrom AFB, MT
- Vandenberg Heritage Center, Vandenberg AFB, CA
- Air Force Enlisted Heritage Hall, Maxwell/Gunter AFB, AL
- Sheppard Heritage Center/HO, Sheppard AFB, TX

Education Requirements

Historians

The basic requirement to qualify for most historian jobs is a bachelor's degree in history (or a field related to history, such as political science) combined with one year of experience working as a historian. However, it's a very competitive process and applicants with less than a master's degree are rarely hired. (FYI, nearly 35 percent of historians possess a PhD.) Additionally, applicants must be a US citizen and be able to obtain and maintain a Top Secret security clearance.

Archivist

The basic requirement to qualify for archivist positions is similar: a degree in history or archival sciences (or related fields) combined with experience in the archival sciences, i.e., the collection, appraisal, analysis or synthesis of information having historical or archival values.

Museum Curator

The basic requirement to qualify as a museum curator is a bachelor's degree in museum studies or history combined with a year of specialized experience. However, this is another very competitive series, with little turn-over, and the Air Force rarely hires below the master's level. Individuals with four years of experience that provided the knowledge comparable to that acquired through the formal education process can also qualify. But, again, with the competitiveness of this series and the few jobs that are available and the very limited turn-over, applicants will have a very limited chance of making the cut unless they have the master's in museum studies.