

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER
AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND**

**AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND
MISSION DIRECTIVE NMUSAF**



23 DECEMBER 2025

MISSION DIRECTIVE

**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE U.S. AIR
FORCE (NMUSAF)**

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

ACCESSIBILITY: Publications and forms are available on the e-Publishing website at <https://www.e-publishing.af.mil/> for downloading or ordering.

RELEASABILITY: There are no releasability restrictions on this instruction.

OPR: AFMC/A1MO

Certified by: AFMC/A1M

Supersedes: AFMCMD417, 2 JUNE 2021

Pages: 5

This mission directive implements DAFI 38-107, *Air Force Mission Directives*, and defines the mission of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force (NMUSAF), a direct reporting unit of HQ Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC). This publication applies to all AFMC Regular Air Force. This publication does not apply to United States Space Force, Air Force Reserve, or Air National Guard units. Ensure all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with AFI 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule located in the Air Force Records Information Management System. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the OPR using the DAF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Product*; route DAF Forms 847 from the field through the appropriate functional chain of command. HQ AFMC/A1 is the waiver authority for compliance items in this publication. Submit requests for waivers through the chain of command to the publication OPR for consideration. This mission directive may not be supplemented.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Updates to this publication were made to refine the mission and clarify the roles and responsibilities of the NMUSAF.

1. Mission. NMUSAF provides a comprehensive portrayal of the commitment, accomplishments, and sacrifices of the Airmen and Guardians of the Department of the Air Force's (DAF) air, space, and cyberspace forces. NMUSAF collects, researches, conserves, and interprets the DAF portion of the national historical collection to create learning opportunities for the American People and a Worldwide Audience to discover and explore DAF history, heritage, and traditions. NMUSAF heritage cooperation and collaboration and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) educational outreach inform, motivate, educate, and inspire interest in the DAF. NMUSAF fulfills the Secretary of the Air Force's (SECAF) statutory duties to accomplish historic preservation for the inspiration and benefit of present and future generations.

2. Command.

2.1. The NMUSAF, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, is a direct reporting unit of HQ AFMC for operational control, administrative, logistical, and fiscal support.

2.2. Oversee fiscal management of all appropriated and non-appropriated funds supporting NMUSAF operations. This includes budget planning, formulation, execution, and financial reporting following Department of the Air Force and HQ AFMC financial policies. Ensure compliance with applicable fiscal laws and guidance, maintain transparency and accountability, and align financial resources with mission objectives and strategic priorities.

2.3. The NMUSAF director is accountable to the Headquarters Air Force Director of Staff and the Headquarters US Space Force Director of Staff through the Air Force Directorate of History and Museums (AF/HO) office for strategic policy guidance, operational direction, and input on content for the NMUSAF.

3. Responsibilities. The Director, NMUSAF shall:

3.1. Operate the DAF's national museum.

3.1.1. Develop, plan, and maintain infrastructure, budgetary, and management support to ensure safe and appropriate facilities, with effective security and environmental controls for historical collections.

3.1.2. Maintain professional museum standards via accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums and through engagement with peer institutions and the profession at large, incorporating digital archiving practices, virtual museum experiences, and innovative technologies to expand access to its collection for global audiences.

3.2. Provide a comprehensive portrayal of Air, Space, and Cyberspace history, heritage, and culture through a wide variety of exhibits and educational opportunities designed to inform, motivate, educate, and inspire interest in the DAF and STEM subjects/careers, while fostering civic engagement and cultural understanding of the Air Force and Space Force legacy. Emphasis will be placed on cultivating a strong Warrior Ethos through storytelling, honoring sacrifice, and inspiring patriotism.

3.2.1. Conduct programs and activities for a variety of audiences to stimulate engagement and promote familiarity with Air, Space, and Cyberspace material culture/material heritage.

3.2.2. Provide a wide variety of exhibits and educational outreach opportunities designed to inform, motivate, educate, and inspire interest in the DAF and STEM subjects/careers.

3.2.3. Provide opportunities for the recruitment, training, education, and retention of Total Force Airmen and Guardians.

3.3. Exercise stewardship responsibility on behalf of the SECAF for all DAF historical property.

3.3.1. Support material culture/material heritage scholarly investigation and research to identify items of historical significance and to ensure intellectual integrity of items of historical significance owned by the DAF.

3.3.2. Designate plant, property, and equipment (contemporary and obsolete aerospace vehicles and other equipment or material) as significant to the history of the DAF. In coordination with the AF/HO program, prepare plans for the collection and disposition of historical property during and after contingency or humanitarian operations. Coordinate appropriate actions to acquire and preserve these items.

3.3.3. Exercise control and accountability of all historical property, including identification, acquisition, preservation, accessioning, cataloging, inventory, distribution, disposition, and disposal. Plan, execute, and manage placement of historical property with DAF organizations, other Armed Services, Department of Defense organizations, and Federal agencies.

3.3.4. Discharge DAF responsibilities concerning the loan, exchange, or donation of historical property to non-federal entities (10 USC § 2572, *Documents, historical artifacts, and condemned or obsolete combat materiel: loan, gift, or exchange*). Implement policy, plan, execute, and manage placement of historical property with qualified foreign national entities, domestic civilian museums, and domestic civilian entities. Identify items and services to be obtained via exchange of excess museum property.

3.3.5. Provide recommendations and advice to AF/HO on DAF Heritage Program (DAFHP) strategic planning.

3.3.6. Provide the SECAF, Air Staff, Space Staff, AF/HO, Major Commands (MAJCOMs), and Space Force Field Commands (FLDCMD) with professional expertise and advice on Air, Space, and Cyberspace material culture/material heritage. As required, provide periodic evaluation of heritage activities and advise supporting commanders, MAJCOM History Offices (MAJCOM/HOs), and Field Command History Offices (FLDCMD/HOs) on professional museum standards and practices. Provide USAFHP leadership oversight to identify and intervene to correct potential problem areas before they negatively impact artifacts, archival collections, or exhibit elements.

3.3.7. Provide technical guidance and professional assistance to DAF heritage activities, other government activities, educational institutions and private, nonprofit organizations that portray DAF history in their museums and exhibits.

4. Terms Explained.

4.1. DAF Heritage Program (DAFHP): The DAFHP is a function of the DAF History and Museums Program (DAFHMP) and comprises the National Museum of the United States Air Force (NMUSAF) and DAF field museums (DAFFMs), DAF heritage Centers (DAFHCs), DAF Historical Holdings (DAFHHs), and airparks, all of which are referred to as heritage

activities. The DAFHP acquires, cares for and manages all DAF historical property. It operates under the policy and guidance of the AF/HO located in Washington, D.C.

4.2. The National Museum of the United States Air Force (NMUSAF): The DAF's official, service-level museum. NMUSAF is a public institution established by the Air Force for educational, heritage, and aesthetic purposes; has a professional staff; owns, cares for, uses, and/or exhibits tangible heritage assets; undertakes stewardship on an institutional, national, and international scale; is open to the public on a regular basis; and provides reasonable accessibility to the general public.

4.3. National historical collection: The collective term used to describe the Federal Government's owned and administered historical property.

4.4. Historical Property: Historically significant item (or group of items) associated with a person, event or place; having a traditional association with a Department of the Air Force organization; having significance as a representative example of military equipment; or representing a significant technological contribution to military science or equipment. The term may include museum objects, artifacts, works of art, books, documents, photographs, recording or digital/machine readable media, or natural history specimens. Historical property may also be referred to as heritage assets.

4.5. Material culture/material heritage: All of the things people make from the physical world, i.e., objects made or modified by people, directly or indirectly, that reflect values and beliefs through time and that serve as tangible evidence of events or cultural concepts.

KATHY L. WATERN, SES, DAF
Director, Manpower, Personnel and Services

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

10 USC § 2572, *Documents, historical artifacts, and condemned or obsolete combat materiel: loan, gift, or exchange*

AFI 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, 23 March 2020

DAFI 38-107, *Air Force Mission Directives*, 16 September 2025

Adopted Forms

DAF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Product*

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFFM—Air Force Field Museum

AFHC—Air Force Heritage Center

AFHH—Air Force Historical Holding

AFHMP—Air Force History and Museums Program

NMUSAF—National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

USAFHP—United States Air Force Heritage Program

Office Symbols

AF/HO—Air Force Directorate of History and Museums

AFMC/A1—Air Force Materiel Command Directorate of Manpower, Personnel, and Services