

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

**AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND  
MISSION DIRECTIVE 417**



**2 JUNE 2021**

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

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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This mission directive 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), and implements Air Force Instruction (AFI) 38-101, Manpower and Organization. This instruction applies to AFMC Regular Air Force (RegAF). This publication does not apply to the Air National Guard (ANG) and the Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) and their units. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with (IAW) AFI 33-322, Records Management and Information Governance Program, and disposed of IAW Air Force Records Information Management System (AFRIMS) Records Disposition Schedule (RDS). Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) using the AF Form 847, Recommendation for Change of Publication; route AF Forms 847 from the field through the appropriate functional chain of command. This publication may be supplemented at any level, but all Supplements must be routed to the OPR of this publication for coordination prior to certification and approval. See Department of the Air Force (DAF) Instruction (DAFI) 33-360, Publications and Forms Management, for a description of the authorities associated with the Tier numbers. Submit requests for waivers [using a completed AF Form 679, Air Force Publication Compliance Item Waiver Request/Approval (or equivalent information),] through the chain of command to the appropriate Tier waiver approval authority, or alternately, to the Publication OPR for non-tiered compliance items.

## ***SUMMARY OF CHANGES***

The formatting of this document was updated to align with guidance in AFI 38-101, *Manpower and Organization*. AFD38-6, *Mission Directives* has been rescinded and AFI 38-101, *Manpower and Organization* is now the official higher guidance for mission directives.

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## **ATTACHMENT 1— GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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**1. Mission.** NMUSAF collects, researches, conserves, interprets and presents the Air Force’s history, heritage, and traditions, as well as today’s mission to fly, fight, win ... in Air, Space, and Cyberspace to a global audience through engaging exhibits, educational outreach, special programs, and the stewardship of the national historical collection. With our educational outreach, we motivate, educate, and inspire youth interest in the United States Air Force (USAF) and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). The statutory duties delegated by the Secretary of the Air Force (SECAF) are accomplished on behalf of the American People. We are the keepers of their stories™.

### **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. The NMUSAF Director is designated a member of the USAF Heritage Program (USAFHP) Board of Directors, chaired by the Air Force Director of Staff (AF/DS), and reports to the Board for strategic policy guidance, operational direction, and management control of the NMUSAF.

### **3. Responsibilities.** The Director, NMUSAF shall:

3.1. Operate the USAF’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.

3.2. Provide a comprehensive portrayal of Air, Space, and Cyberspace history, heritage, and culture that demonstrates the enduring Air Force core values of “integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do.”

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 youth interest in our USAF and STEM subjects/careers.

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

3.3. Exercise stewardship responsibility on behalf of the SECAF for all Air Force 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 Air Force.

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 Air Force. In coordination with the Director, Air Force History and Museums Program (AF/HO), 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 Department of the Air Force organizations, other Armed Services, Department of Defense organizations, and Federal agencies.

3.3.4. Discharge Air Force responsibilities concerning the loan, exchange, or donation of historical property to non-federal entities (10 USC § 2572). 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 United States Air Force Heritage Program (USAFHP) strategic planning.

3.3.6. Provide the SECAF, Air Staff, AF/HO, and Major Commands (MAJCOMs) 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 and MAJCOM History Offices (MAJCOM/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 Air Force heritage activities, other government activities, educational institutions and private, nonprofit organizations that portray Air Force history in their museums and exhibits.

#### **4. Terms Explained.**

4.1. United States Air Force Heritage Program (USAFHP): The USAFHP is a function of the Air Force History and Museums Program (AFHMP) and comprises the National Museum of the United States Air Force (NMUSAF) and Air Force field museums (AFFMs), Air Force heritage centers (AFHCs), Air Force historical holdings (AFHHs), and airparks, all of which are referred to as heritage activities. The USAFHP acquires, cares for and manages all Air Force 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 USAF'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 Air Force's federally 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 an 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.

JOHN W. SNODGRASS, SES  
Director; Manpower, Personnel and Services

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

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

AFI 38-101, Manpower and Organization, 29 August 2019

DAFI 33-360, Publications and Forms Management, 21 October 2020

***Adopted Forms***

AF Form 847, Recommendation for Change of Publication

***Abbreviations and Acronyms***

**AF**—Air Force

**AFB**—Air Force Base

**AFFM**—Air Force Field Museum

**AFHC**—Air Force Heritage Center

**AFHH**—Air Force Historical Holding

**AFHMP**—Air Force History and Museums Program

**DAFI**—Department of the Air Force Instruction

**IAW**—In Accordance With

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

**STEM**—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

**USAFHP**—United States Air Force Heritage Program