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Get to Know the U.S. Air Force Puzzles, Quizzes, and More

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To all who have served and supported those who have served, thank you.

Aircraft Decoding

During a war, the airmen of the Air Force will often receive their orders in code. They have to be able to understand the code to complete their mission. If you were a radio operator on a plane and somehow intercepted a message that the enemy was sending, you would have to send it to the correct department to have it decoded.

Try to decode the following names of a few of the aircraft used throughout history by the Air Force (formerly the Air Corps and Army Air Corps). Use the following information to help you discover what the code is to decipher the names of the aircraft.

If you look at an alphabet, it has 26 letters, from a – z. You would normally number a as 1 through z as 26. In this code, each letter has a different number. A may be 2; it could be 5; or it could be 20. The codes are uniform, so if a is 2, then b is 3, and so on. It is also possible that the puzzle is numbered backward. See if you can break the code, then using the decoded letter and number key, decide what letter each number is and then decode the puzzle.

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
					15			12				
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
	6							25				

1. ___ -47 ___
 18 2 10 22 1 3 20 12 7

2. ___ -51 ___
 5 8 26 2 1 20 7 14

3. ___ -17 ___
 19 15 9 22 12 7 14 15 6 3 1 3 16 2 2

4. ___ -29 ___
 19 2 26 5 16 3 15 6 3 1 3 16 2 2

5. ___ -86 ___
 15 2 20 19 3 16

6. ___ -52 ___
 19 2 1 3 20 1 6 15 6 3 1 3 16 2 2

27. Captain Jacquelyn S. Parker was the first woman to graduate from the Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base in California.
 $(28 \times 24) + (439 \times 3) =$
28. Joan Olsen was the first woman cadet to attend the Air Force Academy.
 $5928 - [(45 \times 15) + (683 \times 4) + (109 \times 5)] =$
29. Major Susan Helms of the United States Air Force became the first United States military woman in space.
 $(127 \times 5) + (679 \times 2) =$
30. The Air Force was designated as the executive agent for the Pentagon's space activities.
 $(43 \times 20) + (163 \times 7) =$
31. The Army's Signal Corps began an Aeronautical Division that would be in charge of military balloons and other air machines.
 $1046 + [(59 \times 2) - 45] + (394 \times 2) =$
32. During a reconnaissance mission, the first U.S. airplane was hit by hostile fire from the ground.
 $(900 \times 2) + (38 \times 3) =$
33. General Nathan F. Twining became the first officer of the United States Air Force to become chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
 $(119 \times 3) + (200 \times 8) =$
34. Lt. Jeannie Flynn became the first woman fighter pilot in the Air Force.
 $(329 \times 2) + (167 \times 8) =$

. . . conflicts, no doubt, will be
carried on in the future in the air,
on the surface of the earth and
water, and under the earth and
water. Captain Billy Mitchell, 1906

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Answer Key

Outranked

Enlisted

4 Staff Sergeant

1 Airman

5 Technical Sergeant

3 Senior Airman

6 Master Sergeant

2 Airman First Class

7 Senior Master Sergeant

8 Chief Master Sergeant

Officers

2 1st Lieutenant

1 2nd Lieutenant

3 Captain

5 Colonel

4 Major

6 Brigadier General

8 General

7 Major General

Air Force True or False

1. True

2. True

3. False (they were called WASPs)

4. True

5. False (it was after World War II, in 1947)

6. True

7. True

8. False (it is located in Colorado)

9. True

10. False (it is Langley Field in Virginia)

Air Force Who's Who

1. c

2. i

3. h

4. a

5. b

6. g

7. d

8. j

9. e

10. f