

# THE ARNOLD AIR LETTER

Newsletter of the Arnold Air Society

**2004-2005: What's in store**

**The Women Airforce Service Pilots:  
Honoring Their Service**



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**CHECK US OUT ONLINE!**

The national website is evolving into an internal and external resource, with updated content and more user friendly navigation. Check it regularly!

[www.arnold-air.org](http://www.arnold-air.org)



**FEATURE STORY**

**12 - Honor Their Service**

This year's Joint National Project is one to embrace. The time has come to honor the service of the Women Airforce Service Pilots. Read why, and how. Get ideas on how your squadron can participate in this great opportunity.



**5, 15 - JOINT RELATIONS**

- Learn about the new AAS/SW Coin, available for purchase.
- Read an update from SW NHQ.

**16 - NEWS FROM THE NATION**

See what other cadets are doing in squadrons all over the country.





# A Word from the Commander



*National Commander, Matt Hoyt, C/Brig Gen, AAS*

Wow...it seems like only yesterday we were in Denver conducting our national business and trying to decide between four outstanding Proposed National Headquarters. Now, six months later, Arnold Air Society is well on its way to one of the most productive years we have seen in recent history. As a society we are eagerly embracing an amazing Joint National Project with Wings Across America supporting the Women Airforce Service Pilots, soaring to new levels of professionalism as Air Force Officer Candidates, and extending our positive influence throughout Air Force ROTC and our communities anticipating re-

cord membership numbers by the close of this academic year. Though we are doing extremely well, there is always room for improvement and this article will outline some important aspects for AAS to focus on this year.

We need to re-focus our service efforts towards the Joint National Project. Our manuals tell us to support only the JNP every year, and that resources surplus to the JNP are to be spent on regional and community concerns (AASMAN-1 3.10). Recently, however, we have been doing the opposite. Everyone has been doing incredible community service, but only spending 5-10% of our time on the JNP. We need to start taking steps back in the right direction by concentrating on the JNP and ensuring that at least 50% of our projects are JNP related. The WASP gave selflessly to our country and now it is time for our society to show the country's appreciation and give back to them.

Many questions arise throughout the society because of a lack of familiarity with our manuals. My advice is for everyone to read AASMAN-1 at least once, and be comfortable enough to go back through AASMAN-1 to find the answers to your questions. Having a more knowledgeable society can only lead to a more informed, productive society because as we all know knowledge is power.

Our society allows for expanded leadership opportunities, but everyone does not always take advantage of them, especially on a national level. If you come from a strong squadron and want to show the society what you are made of, we want you to run for either National Headquarters or NATCON Headquarters. The society needs strong squadrons to compete for our National Staff positions in order to continue our promising growth. If you are interested in hosting a future HQ write the National HQ an e-mail and let us know today!

After six months getting to see "the whole picture" of our society, and working with such an outstanding group of future Air Force Officers, I am proud to say that you never cease to amaze me. I cannot say exactly what great things AAS will have accomplished by the end of the year, but with the caliber of people in this society I know that it will be the product of everyone's best effort. It is an honor to serve you, and I hope that I have a chance to meet each and every one of you at MEMORIALCON in Oklahoma City. Until then, continue to strive for excellence and keep up the great work!

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**AAL**

**Any questions or comments regarding the AAL can be directed to Angela Campbell at [public-affairs@arnold-air.org](mailto:public-affairs@arnold-air.org)**

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They flew 60 million miles in every type of aircraft in the Army Air Force arsenal--from fighters to bombers; They flew in nearly every type of mission any Army Air Force male pilot flew during World War II; They were stationed at 120 Army Air Bases across America; They experienced 38 deaths while flying for their country; They received no recognition, no honors, no benefits, no American flag allowed to cover their coffins; They have been left out of most official histories of WWII and were denied Veteran status for 35 years.... They are the Women Airforce Service Pilots, and it's time to

# Honor Their Ser





"I want to stress how valuable I believe this whole WASP program has been for the country. If another national emergency arises... we will not again look upon a women's flying organization as an experiment. We will know that they can handle our fastest fighters, our heaviest bombers...." - *General Hap Arnold*

"...The outstanding performance of these pilots helped open up opportunities for women in my generation and in generations to come. WASP trained hard, took risks, did a great job, and served their country."

- *Eileen Collins, Col, USAF, NASA Astronaut and first woman Space Shuttle Commander.*



Jackie Cochran, a major influence and leader of the WASP, here with General Hap Arnold

The quotes above are from two of the most influential people in the aviation world. They both agree: the Women Airforce Service Pilots were driven, capable, and did our country great service during World War II. Yet, not much is known of these women; their history has been left on the editing room floor, and they have not been properly recognized for what they did. The point is that they were more than pilots; they were way ahead of their time, and refused to stop when told they were not capable of continuing. Today, it is hard to fully comprehend the challenges they faced, now that women have the open opportunity to fly in the military. But we must attempt to understand the scope of their success and their service, and with this knowledge we must inform others so that their influence continues to spread regardless of their age.

Wings Across America is going to be a powerful Joint National Project for us this year. It should be one of the most rewarding projects in a while not just for the WASP, but also for the cadets and Silver Wings members that participate. Accounts of meeting WASP have already been coming into the National Headquarters, and they have been nothing but incredibly positive and inspiring. The National Staff has had the chance to meet WASP on two separate occasions, and just these two short meetings have had an impact.

The first meeting was at Executive Boards in Washington D.C. at the Air Force Anniversary dinner. Florene Watson blew the whole crowd away when she stood up to accept the AFA's lifetime achievement award. This 84-year old woman had the energy of someone half her age. After the dinner, the National Staff went and spoke with her. She told us stories of her flights and the way things were when she flew. Her words were inspiring to us, and we began to realize how selfless these women were. It is unfortunate how they were not treated very fairly, and how very few actually had confidence in their abilities. Through all the challenges they faced, they continued to look skyward. They wanted to serve, so they kept flying and took all the negative comments in stride. As a female, it was looking at history and realizing that the WASP were some of the first women to fight for equality. Not only did they fight, they proved that a woman could fly just like a man could and in some cases, better than a man. These are just some of the accounts that you will experience by talking to the WASP for a few minutes.

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The second meeting was in Miami for the Area/Region 4 ARCON. The National Commander and Executive Officer had the chance to meet another WASP. They had similar experiences talking with her. Upon returning from the ARCON, they both raved about their encounter, and C/Hoyt proclaimed, "I love the WASP!"

vice

We believe everyone will find that the WASP are all incredible women with a story to tell. There are so many people in this country that do not know who these women are. Therefore, this is the main part of the JNP: to appreciate them and tell their story to the world. Turn the page to find more ideas from the National Director of Operations about the JNP and what you can do to help.

# Ideas for the JNP



BY JULIE WILLIS, C/Lt. Col, AAS  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

There have been a lot of questions as far as what can be done for the Joint National Project if a squadron does not have a WASP in their area. I want to try to clear some things up about this. If there are more questions, please check out the National website or email me.

The first thing to do is to research the Women Air Service Pilots. Take time to read books, look on the Internet and just talk to your WASP about what she did (which does not need to be done in person). Become an expert about the WASP. Without knowledge about the WASP, it is almost impossible to do the JNP. A great way to get ideas about this and to get started is to check out the website: [www.waspwwii.org/airforce/](http://www.waspwwii.org/airforce/).

The next step is the full understanding of the JNP. It is not only to adopt a WASP and take down her story, but instead, this JNP is also bringing much deserved attention to the WASP. It is spreading the news about what these amazing women did.

Here are some ideas if your WASP is far away:

- Check with local schools to see if the WASP are included in their history books under World War II.
- Make a presentation about the WASP (which can actually be found on the website) and present it to school groups, boy/girl scout troops, groups on campus, local group meetings, etc.
- Check with the local library in your area to see if they have any books on the WASP. If not, find a way to donate a book (there are a lot out there that are inexpensive).
- Sponsor a theme bulletin board or display in your local library about the WASP and their service.
- Call your WASP on the phone and talk to her about her experience and what she has done since she was a WASP.
- See if your WASP has family around you at all, and, even if not, talk to the family (if possible) about special things you can do for your WASP.
- Mail your WASP cards and pictures from your squadron with what you are doing. They are interested in what the youth of today and future officers are doing.
- Write a short article to your local newspaper reminding them of the great contributions of the WASP.

There are a lot more things that can be done, but this is just to get you started. Don't wait; start now! The goal for the year is for 50% of the service projects we do be involved with the JNP. This will not happen without an honest effort from every squadron. So get out and make an impact with this project; it will be rewarding in more ways than one.



Cadets from Area 4 honoring their WASP earlier this fall.