A brief history of Maxwell & AU

1910: The Wright brothers open their civilian flying school on land that is now Maxwell Air Force Base
1918: The land is leased to the government for use as a military aviation repair depot
1922: The War Department re-designates Montgomery Air Intermediate Depot as Maxwell Field
1931: The Air Corps Tactical School (ACTS) opens at Maxwell Field after being moved from Langley Field, Virginia

1940: Basic flying training cadets arrive at Maxwell. The flying school later moved to the municipal airport (later Gunter Field)
1942: ACTS closes due to the ongoing war
1946: The War Department re-designates the Army Air Forces School, which moved from Orlando to Maxwell Field in 1945, at Air University, a major command
1946-1948: Air University establishes Air Command and Staff School (later College) and Air War College
1947: The 502nd Air University Wing activates as the host unit on Maxwell Field, which becomes Maxwell Air Force Base in January 1948
1948: The 502nd AUW becomes the 3800th AUW
1950: The Air Force reassigns the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, to AU
1954: Construction begins on AU’s Academic Circle to make way for AU’s major schools and library
1972: The Air Force establishes the AF Senior Noncommissioned Officer School on Gunter Air Force Station and the Community College of the Air Force
1992: Gunter AFS is re-designated as Gunter Annex
1993: AU moves under Air Education and Training Command, and Officer Training Squadron moves from Lackland to Maxwell and named Officer Training School
1994: The 42nd Air Base Wing activates at Maxwell, replacing the 502nd, which was re-activated in 1992
2008: Air University confers its first honorary doctoral degree to then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

For more information, call or email 42nd ABW Public Affairs at (334) 953-2014/2015, MaxwellPublicAffairs@us.af.mil

To be an air show sponsor, call the base commercial sponsorship coordinator at (334) 953-3366

www.maxwell.af.mil
Maxwell Air Show

“Fast Facts”

For the most up-to-date information on the air show, visit www.maxwell.af.mil

- **U.S. Air Force**: Celebrating its 70th anniversary, the U.S. Air Force was formed as a separate branch of the military on Sept. 18, 1947. (www.us.af.mil)
- **World War I**: Partnering with the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission to commemorate the 100th anniversary of American involvement in the “Great War.” (www.worldwar1centennial.org)
- **Tuskegee Airmen**: Celebrating the 75th anniversary of significant milestones, such as the first African American pilots to graduate from advanced flight training at Tuskegee Army Airfield; the activation of the first African American flying group, the 332nd Fighter Group, at Tuskegee Army Airfield; and the activation of the 100th Pursuit Squadron, Army Airfield; the activation of the first African American pilots to graduate from advanced flight training at Tuskegee Army Airfield; and the activation of the 100th Pursuit Squadron, later re-designated as the 100th Fighter Squadron and reactivated in 2007 at the Alabama Air National Guard’s 187th Fighter Wing in Montgomery to honor the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. (www.afhra.af.mil)
- **“Patrouille de France”**: The last time the French aerial demonstration team made an appearance in the U.S. was at the Statue of Liberty’s centennial celebration in 1986. In 2017, the team is touring the U.S. to commemorate U.S. partnership in WWI. While in Montgomery, the team will lay a wreath at Oakwood Cemetery, where 20 French Air Force and 78 Royal Air Force flight cadets are interred. The cadets died in training accidents while in flight training in the southeast U.S. during WWII. (www.patrouilledefrance.fr)
- **“Thunder Over Alabama”**: The last air show held at Maxwell, “Thunder Over Alabama 2010,” attracted more than 100,000 guests over two days, with the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds as the headline act.
- **U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds**: As an air demonstration team, the Thunderbirds were activated in 1953, just six years after the Air Force became a separate service. They were activated at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, as the 3600th Air Demonstration Unit. They adopted the name “Thunderbirds” in part by the strong Native American culture and folklore in that part of the country. (www.afthunderbirds.com)

The 42nd Air Base Wing’s mission is to operate a world-class installation and its vision is to be the premier Air Base Wing in the Air Force. The Wing’s mission and vision drive its daily activities to serve its more than 40 mission partners at Maxwell AFB to the highest standards.

### 42nd Air Base Wing Priorities

1. Highlight and promote the **Profession of Arms** to all **Airmen** at Maxwell
2. **Foster** and deepen **professional relationships** between Maxwell and River Region
3. Seek out/employ the **latest innovations** to keep Maxwell on the leading edge of **energy initiatives**
4. Continue to create **opportunities** that will **capitalize** on the **diversity** of the **Total Force**
5. Committed to **improve** the **Quality of Life** for all Airmen on Maxwell and local military retirees

#### Team Maxwell -- By The Numbers

- More than **11,000** Total Force Airmen and civilian contractors work at Maxwell-Gunter organizations
- Maxwell and its mission partners have a total annual economic impact of more than **$1.1B**
- Team Maxwell deploys more than **200** Airmen worldwide per fiscal year in Air Force operations
- Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters has been operating from Maxwell for almost **50 years**
- The Air Force Reserve’s 908th Airlift Wing at Maxwell operates a fleet of **8** C-130 H-2 aircraft

**www.maxwell.af.mil**

### Air University

Air University provides the full spectrum of Air Force education, from pre-commissioning to the highest levels of professional military education, including degree-granting and professional continuing education for officers, enlisted and civilian personnel throughout their careers.

#### Air University Priorities

1. Deliver the **best training, education & leadership development** opportunities
2. Research/analysis to address Air Force, nation/leadership challenges
3. Improve **integration & outreach**
4. Execute robust lessons-learned/doctrine development, delivery & education that underpin and guide **airpower strategy**
5. Build AU’s **capability** to deliver development opportunities/research/ problem solving, outreach & doctrine

#### Air University -- By The Numbers

- Touches the professional military academic lives of more than **210,000** graduates annually
- Commission about **80%** of the Air Force’s officers annually through officer commissioning programs
- Build strategic partnerships with the **200+** annual international student graduates from AU schools
- Academic journals reach **85,000+** airpower and national security enthusiast in **97+** countries
- Celebrating **70** years of leader development, airpower thought and innovation in education

**www.airuniversity.af.mil**