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The U.S. Air Force's storied achievements take center stage at the Air Force Historical Foundation's biennial Awards Banquet

November 8, 2010, Arlington, Virginia – The Air Force Historical Foundation's 2010 Awards Banquet will spotlight those who have made significant contributions to the making and documentation of air power history, featuring presentation of the Foundation's most prestigious distinctions and perspective from the U.S. Air Force General whose duties include commander of the Air Combat Command.

As the highlight of its activities in 2010, the Foundation's biennial event brings together members, historians, military officials, corporate supporters and other guests to further the organization's central mission: preserving the great history and traditions of American aviation.

Providing his own perspective on Air Force history and conducting the awards presentation will be General William M. Fraser III, Commander, Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, and Air Component Commander for the U.S. Joint Forces Command. He previously served as the U.S. Air Force's Vice Chief of Staff from October 2008 – September 2009.

General Fraser has extensive wartime, contingency, and humanitarian relief operational experience. During Operation Enduring Freedom, he led an intelligence fusion organization that provided direct support to the warfighter.

In his current capacity, General Fraser is responsible for organizing, training, equipping and maintaining combat-ready forces for rapid deployment and employment, while ensuring that strategic air defense forces are ready to meet the challenges of peacetime air sovereignty and wartime defense.

This year's ceremony, which will begin at 6:00 p.m. on November 18, will see the Foundation recognize four individuals for their far-reaching contributions to air power history with the organization's most significant awards:

The General Carl "Tooe" Spaatz Award, which recognizes those who have made significant contributions to the making of Air Force history. Receiving this year's Spaatz award will be General Larry D. Welch, USAF (Ret), who – among his many important military posts – served as Commander-in-Chief, Strategic Air Command, and as 12th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force.

General Welch's military awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, and Air Medal with six oak clusters.

Among his post-retirement activities General Welch served on the Rumsfeld Commission, and he is a past president of the Institute for Defense Analyses.

The Major General I.B. Holley Award, which recognizes a sustained, significant contribution to the documentation of Air Force history during a lifetime of service. This year's recipient is Dr. Alan Gropman, who currently serves as a Distinguished Professor of National Security Policy at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF), National Defense University.

Among his many distinctions, Dr. Gropman – who retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Colonel after 27 years of service – is the author of numerous books, monographs and articles, including: "Mobilizing U.S. Industry in World War II" and "The Air Force Integrates, 1945-1964."

The best Air Power History Article Award, to be presented this year to Thomas Wildenberg for his feature story "The A-1C Gunsight: A Case Study of Technological Innovation in the United States Air Force" – which appeared in the Summer 2009 edition of the Foundation's official journal, *Air Power History*.

In his in-depth and meticulously-researched article, Wildenberg examines the process of technological innovation from the perspective of engineers who built and advocated this weapon system, and details the gunsight's performance during the Korean War.

Wildenberg's award-winning piece can be reviewed in its entirety at:

<http://www.afhistoricalfoundation.org/awards>.

The Best Air Power History Book Award, which will be awarded posthumously to Herman S. Wolk for his "Reflections on Air Force Independence." This distinction is given annually following a three-judge panel's careful consideration of all books reviewed in *Air Power*

History during the year. Its criteria calls for the book to be of high quality, to contribute to an understanding of air power, and for the author(s) to have had a connection to the U.S. Air Force or be a member of the Air Force Historical Foundation. Mrs. Sandy Wolk will accept the award on her husband's behalf.

In addition to its special guests and the award ceremony, author Lt. Col. Dik Daso, USAF (Ret), Curator of Modern Military Aircraft at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., will be on hand to sign copies of the Air Force Historical Foundation's "World War II: A Chronology of War" and "The Vietnam War: A Chronology of War" – the latter of which was released to the public earlier this month.

These large-format books – which provide detailed, day-by-day accounts of operations during each conflict – will be available for purchase at the Awards Banquet, and currently can be obtained through the Air Force Historical Foundation website.

This year's event will be held on November 18 at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Virginia. Tickets are available for purchase on the Air Force Historical Foundation's website: www.afhistoricalfoundation.org.

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About the Air Force Historical Foundation (@AFHF on Twitter)

Founded on May 27, 1953 by Gen Carl A. "Tooey" Spaatz and other air power pioneers, the Air Force Historical Foundation (AFHF) is a non-profit tax-exempt organization dedicated to the preservation, perpetuation and appropriate publication of the history and traditions of American aviation – with emphasis on the U.S. Air Force, its predecessor organizations, and the men and women whose lives and dreams were devoted to flight.

The Foundation serves all components of the United States Air Force, and strives to make available to the public and today's government planners and decision-makers information that is relevant and informative about all aspects of air and space power. By doing so, the Foundation hopes to assure the nation profits from past experiences as it helps keep the U.S. Air Force the most modern and effective military force in the world.