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Biography

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES E. YEAGER

Retired
B. 28, 1975.

Brigadier General Charles E. (Chuck) Yeager is the Director of Aerospace Safety for the Air Force Inspection and Safety Center, a separate operating agency located at Norton Air Force Base, San Bernardino, California. The Center is a function of the Air Force Inspector General's office in the Pentagon.

General Yeager became the Director on June 1, 1973 after having reported to the Center on March 16, 1973 from Islamabad, Pakistan where he had been the United States Defense Representative to the Pakistani government.

The general has worldwide supervisory responsibility for the development and implementation of policies, standards, and procedures for Air Force flight, ground, missile, space, explosives, and system safety engineering programs. His directorate's mission is to help conserve the nation's aerospace resources by preventing and reducing accidents through global programs of safety education, accident investigation and analysis, human factors research, and safety inspections.

He was born February 13, 1923 in Myra, W. Va., and is a graduate of Hamlin, W. Va., High School. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in September 1941, was accepted for pilot training under the flying sergeant program in July 1942, and received his pilot wings and appointment as a flight officer in March 1943 at Luke Field, Ariz.

During World War II, General Yeager distinguished himself in aerial combat over France and Germany during the years 1943-1945 by shooting down 13 enemy aircraft, five on one mission, including one of Germany's first jet fighters. On March 5, 1944 he was shot down over German-occupied France but escaped capture when elements of the French Maquis helped him to reach the safety of the Spanish border.

He returned to the United States in February 1945 to attend the instructor pilot course after which he served as an instructor pilot. In July 1945 he went to Wright Field, Ohio where he received his first taste of experimental flight test work. His assignment there led to his selection as pilot of the nation's first research rocket aircraft, the Bell X-1 at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., where he served from 1949 to 1954.

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(Current as of 1 June 1973)

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General Yeager made world history on October 14, 1947, when he became the first man to fly faster than the speed of sound. During his nine-year assignment as the nation's leading test pilot, he also became the first man to fly more than twice the speed of sound, flying the Bell X-1A on December 12, 1953. During 1952 he attended the Air Command and Staff School.

He returned to Europe in October 1954 and became Commander of the 417th Fighter Squadron at Hahn Air Base, Germany in May 1955. He remained in that position when his squadron was reassigned to Toul-Rosieres Air Base, France in April 1956.

Upon his return to the United States in September 1957, he was assigned to the 413th Fighter Wing at George Air Force Base, Calif., and in April 1958 became Commander of the 1st Fighter Squadron. In April 1958 he went with the 1st Tactical Fighter Squadron to Moron Air Base, Spain, where he remained until November 1958. He returned to George Air Force Base with the same unit which was later redesignated the 306th Tactical Fighter Squadron.

General Yeager was graduated from the Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., in June 1961 and became Commandant of the Aerospace Research Pilot School, where all military astronauts are trained, in July 1962.

In July 1966 he assumed command of the 405th Fighter Wing at Clark Air Base, Republic of the Philippines. While Commander of the 405th Fighter Wing he flew 127 missions in South Vietnam.

General Yeager assumed command of the 4th Tactical Fighter Wing at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N. C., in February 1968 and went with the wing to Korea during the Pueblo crisis. In July 1969 he became Vice Commander, Seventeenth Air Force, with headquarters at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

His military decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star with one oak leaf cluster (OLC), Legion of Merit with one OLC, Distinguished Flying Cross with two OLCs, Bronze Star Medal with "V" device, Air Medal with 10 OLCs, Air Force Commendation Medal, and Purple Heart. He is a command pilot and has flown more than 10,000 hours in 155 different types of military aircraft.

He was awarded the MacKay Trophy in 1948, the Collier Trophy in 1948, and the Harmon International Trophy in 1954. *From CISENHOWER*

General Yeager was awarded an honorary doctor of science degree from West Virginia University in 1948 and an honorary doctor of science degree from Marshall University of Huntington, W. Va., in 1969.

General Yeager is married to the former Glennis Faye Dickhouse of Grass Valley, Calif., and they reside in quarters at Norton Air Force Base. They have two sons, Donald C. and Michael D. Yeager, and two daughters, Mrs. Sharon C. (Steven) Wren and Susan F. Yeager. They also have two grandchildren.

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PERSONAL FACT SHEET

A. Personal Data

1. Born - Feb. 13, 1923, Myra, W. Va.
2. Married - Feb. 26, 1945; wife - Glennis Faye (Dickhouse); children - Donald, Michael, Sharon and Susan.
3. Hometown - Hamlin, W. Va.

B. Education

1. Graduate, Hamlin High School, W. Va., 1941.
2. Graduate, Pilot Training School, Luke Field, Ariz., 1943.
3. Graduate, Test Pilot School, 1951.
4. Air Command and Staff School, Maxwell AFB, Ala., 1952.
5. Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., 1961.

C. Service

1. Sept 1941 - Mar 1943 Enlisted crew ch., Victorville, Calif.; later, aviation stu., Luke Field, Ariz.
2. Mar 1943 - July 1945 Ftr. Plt., ETO.
3. July 1945 - Oct 1954 Experimental flight test pilot and asst. ch. of flight test ops. laboratory, Wright Field, Ohio, and Edwards AFB, Calif.
4. Oct 1954 - Apr 1956 Staff Plans Off., Ops. Off., Ftr. Div.; later Comdr., 417th Ftr. Bomb. Sq., Hahn AB, Germany.
5. Apr 1956 - Sept 1957 Comdr., 417th Ftr. Bomb. Sq., Toul-Rosieres AB, France.
6. Sept 1957 - Oct 1957 Asst. Ops. Off., 413th Ftr. Day Gp., George AFB, Calif.
7. Oct 1957 - Apr 1958 Ops. Staff Off., Hq. 413th Ftr. Day Wg., George AFB, Calif.
8. Apr 1958 - July 1958 Comdr., 1st Tac. Ftr. Sq., George AFB, Calif.
9. July 1958 - Nov 1958 Comdr., 1st Tac. Ftr. Sq., Moron AB, Spain.
10. Nov 1958 - Mar 1959 Comdr., 1st Tac. Ftr. Sq., George AFB, Calif.
11. Mar 1959 - July 1960 Comdr., 306th Tac. Ftr. Sq., George AFB, Calif.

12. Aug 1960 - June 1961 Stu., Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
13. June 1961 - July 1962 Dep. Dir., Dir. of Flight Testing, Edwards AFB, Calif.
14. July 1962 - July 1966 Comdt., Aerospace Research Plt. School, Hq. Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, Calif.
15. July 1966 - Feb 1968 Comdr., 405th Ftr. Wg., Clark AB, Republic of the Philippines.
16. Feb 1968 - July 1969 Comdr., 4th Tac. Ftr. Wg., Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.
17. June 1969 - Jan 1971 Vice Comdr., 17th AF, Ramstein AB, Germany.
18. Jan 1971 - Jan 1973 U.S. Defense Representative to Pakistan, Islamabad, Pakistan.
19. Mar 1973 - May 1973 Special Asst. to the Comdr., Air Force Inspection and Safety Center, Norton AFB, Calif.
20. Jun 1973 to present Dir. of Aerospace Safety, AFISC, Norton AFB, Calif.

D. Decorations and Service Awards

Distinguished Service Medal
 Silver Star w/1 oak leaf cluster
 Legion of Merit w/1 oak leaf cluster
 Distinguished Flying Cross w/2 oak leaf clusters
 Bronze Star Medal with V device
 Air Medal w/10 oak leaf clusters
 Air Force Commendation Medal
 Purple Heart
 Distinguished Unit Citation Emblem w/1 oak leaf cluster
 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award Ribbon
 American Defense Service Medal
 American Campaign Medal
 European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal
 World War II Victory Medal
 Army of Occupation Medal (Germany)
 National Defense Service Medal w/1 service star
 Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
 Vietnam Service Medal w/2 service stars
 Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon w/5 oak leaf clusters
 Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon
 Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

E. Effective Dates of Promotion

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Temporary</u>	<u>Permanent</u>
Flt Officer	Mar 10, 1943	Jul 6, 1944
2nd Lt	Jul 6, 1944	Jul 6, 1947
1st Lt	Sep 4, 1944	Jul 6, 1951
Capt	Oct 24, 1944	Jul 6, 1958
Maj	Feb 15, 1951	Aug 1, 1964
Lt Col	Mar 22, 1956	Sep 20, 1967
Col	Mar 20, 1961	Aug 11, 1969
Brig Gen	Aug 1, 1969	
(Date of rank June 22, 1969)		

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END