



## “The Mighty Eighth”

It was the largest air armada in the history of warfare. The heroic actions of the airmen who flew in the Mighty Eighth during World War II preserved freedom throughout the world and changed the course of history. Today men and women continue the fight for liberty and justice serving in the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force now headquartered at Barksdale Air Force base, Louisiana.



**JOIN THE 8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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**MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL DUES: \$60 [Add \$25 for hard copy magazine] or £50 [add £20 for magazine]**

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## THE LEGACY OF THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE

The Eighth Air Force was activated in January 1942 in Savannah, Georgia, and was charged with carrying the air war to the enemy in the European Theater of Operations. Their mission was to destroy vital industries and transportation facilities of the Nazi oppressors and thereby neutralize their war-making capability. They were also tasked to secure air superiority in order to permit allied ground troops to land in Europe and liberate countries occupied by German forces. The men and women of the Mighty Eighth successfully accomplished these missions. Since 1942 the Eighth Air Force has epitomized values important to our country and has become a true legacy in American history.

### HONORING THE PAST

Before World War II ended, 350,000 Americans served in the Eighth Air Force, stationed at over fifty-five airbases in England. The 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force was the largest air force ever assembled and committed to battle. Eighth airmen suffered the greatest casualty rate of any single American WWII military unit—over 26,000 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force airmen were killed in action and another 28,000 fliers were taken prisoner or were forced to evade after being shot down over enemy territories. The Eighth Air Force never was NEVER turned back by enemy forces on ANY combat mission they flew! Its tradition of excellence has continued throughout all of America's conflicts from WWII, the Korean War, the Cold War, and Vietnam, up through operations in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq, to keeping the United States safe today.

### LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Headquartered at Barksdale Air Force Base in the communities of Bossier City and Shreveport, LA, Eighth Air Force is one of two active duty numbered air forces in Air Force Global Strike Command. The

mission of the Mighty Eighth is to safeguard America's interests through strategic deterrence and global combat power. The flexible, conventional and nuclear strategic mission gives Eighth Air Force the ability to deploy forces and engage enemy threats both from home station or forward positioned, anywhere and at any time.

Our motto is *"Deterrence through strength, global strike on demand."*



### THE EIGHTH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Today these men and women—all heroes of what has been called “The Greatest Generation”—are part of an international organization whose purpose is to honor and commemorate the deeds of those who are part of the legacy of these brave warriors. They are members of the **Eighth Air Force Historical Society** and they would like you to become one of them. We invite new members of all ages, genders, and nationalities, and we would be honored to have you join us in our enjoyable and memorable activities.

**The Eighth Air Force Historical Society**, founded in 1975 by 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force pilot Lt. Col. John Woolnough,

466<sup>th</sup> BG, serves as the central global organization for individual Chapters and Wings.

- Regular meetings and events are held by local State Chapters which also publish their own Chapter newsletters.
- Society members become part of our commitment to promoting character values such as loyalty, courage, duty, honest, responsibility, and patriotism to all generations.
  - The Historical Society sponsors an annual reunion and general membership meeting every Fall at various locations across the nation. Members may volunteer to serve on the Historical Society's Board of Directors through the election process.
  - The Society's newsmagazine, the 8<sup>th</sup> A F News, is produced quarterly in full-color for all members. [Hard copies available for additional charge.]
  - Historical Society members interact with other organizations around the world, with an especially active membership base in the United Kingdom.
  - Many World War II Bomb Group, Fighter Group, and Airbase Support Group Associations join in activities with the Historical Society.

**The 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society** has a major mission: the preservation of the memories and legacy of the men and women who have served in the Eighth Air Force and the education of current and future generations about the role of the Eighth Air Force in World War II and beyond.

### JOIN WITH US!

We invite you to become an important part of our membership. We encourage you to experience once-in-a-lifetime activities and opportunities of the **Eighth Air Force Historical Society**. We look forward to meeting you and your family and would be honored to count you as one of us!

**We are a 501(c)3 organization. EIN: 59-1757631**