



GENERAL HENRY H. ARNOLD EDUCATION GRANT in honor of

LIEUTENANT GENERAL FRANK MAXWELL ANDREWS



General Frank Andrews' name will forever stand for strategic air power and the fight for air independence. He was the first Commander of General Headquarters (GHQ) Air Force, which was created in 1935 as a compromise to air power enthusiasts who wanted a separate Air Force.

Frank Andrews was born in 1884 in Nashville, Tennessee. He graduated from West Point in 1906 and was commissioned in the cavalry. In 1917 he transferred to the aviation section of the Signal Corps.

General Douglas MacArthur selected Lieutenant Colonel Frank Andrews from a field of over seventy contenders, many of them senior to Andrews, to command the newly formed GHQ Air Force in 1935. For the first time all of the air strike elements were under one commander. Andrews was considered a safe team player by the Army General Staff and he shocked the establishment when he named a staff of the "radical agitators" of the Air Corps. Nearly all of the twenty-three officers assembled by Andrews at Langley Field were believers in the "heresy" that air power could play an independent and decisive role in warfare. Among his staff were Harry Burnell, Follett Bradley, George C. Kenney, Joe McNarney and Hugh Knerr. Under Andrews' guidance, these men accomplished the essential ground work that enabled the Army Air Forces to bear the brunt of the war against Hitler's Germany until 1944.

After commanding GHQ, Andrews was named Assistant Chief of Staff for Training and Operations. In 1941 Frank Andrews became the first "airman" to be promoted to lieutenant general and, as Commander of the Caribbean Defense Command, became the first "airman" to head a joint command. He then commanded the United States Army Forces in the Middle East and later the United States Army Forces in Europe.

On May 3, 1943 a B-24 liberator crashed on its landing approach to Meeks Field near Keflavik, Iceland with General Frank Andrews on board. His untimely death denied America of the leader most qualified to command its Air Force. He possessed the perfect balance required to a military aviation leader; superior intellect, strength of character, courage and superb pilot skills. He bound all of that with warmth and directness. Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland was named for this great leader in June 1949.