

A program for the training and use of women pilots by the Army Air Forces was inaugurated on 15 September 1942. A group of 25 experienced women pilots were employed directly by the Ferrying Division, Air Transport Command, and at the same time plans were laid for training additional women for flying duties. The first group reported for training at the 319th AAFSTD, Howard Hughes Airport, Houston, Texas, on 15 November 1942 and since that time classes have entered every month. In May 1943 the training program was transferred to the 318th AAFSTD, Avenger Field, Sweetwater, Texas, where all training of women pilots for the Army Air Forces is now given. There are approximately 500 students in training and the 24 weeks course includes 180 hours of flying time in primary, basic, and advanced type training planes and 230 hours of ground school.

At the present time, 296 WASPs (Women's Airforce Service Pilots) are engaged in ferrying duties for the Air Transport Command. They are ferrying planes from the smallest make up to and including the C-47, P-47, P-39, and B-25.

A group of 47 WASPs, assigned to the Third Air Force, Camp Davis, North Carolina, are towing targets, performing tracking missions for the Anti-Aircraft Gunnery School, and acting as co-pilots in the AT-11 and B-34 in the performance of night searchlight missions. Fifteen of this group are at present being given special training in a secret project at Camp Stewart, Georgia, and will later be used in connection with Anti-Aircraft Gunnery Schools.

Special projects have recently been inaugurated by the Army Air Forces Training Command to transition 50 WASPs into heavy type aircraft and if the experiments are successful they will be used to replace men pilots now flying these ships in non-combat duties.

The program will be expanded as needs develop for additional women pilots and the various experiments prove successful.

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