

# ON THE BOOKSHELF

## “The Tuskegee Airmen Chronology: A Detailed Timeline of the Red Tails and Other Black Pilots of World War II”

By Daniel L. Haulman (New South Books, Montgomery, Alabama)

The story of the Tuskegee Airmen is now being celebrated, but there was more to the legacy than only fighter pilots. The Airmen included bomber pilots, aircrews, ground-crews, officers and other support personnel, in Tuskegee but also at other fields and locations. The fighter pilots flew P-47 and red-tailed P-51s to escort B-17 and B-24 bombers deep into enemy territory in the European Theater. There were also bomber pilots who were trained for the Pacific Theater, but the war ended before they were deployed.

This book addresses the progress of black aviators in the 20<sup>th</sup> century including the WWII era and its influence on Korean War and the US military.

It is the first book to chronicle all the events and people who led to the creation of this unique and highly successful military training experience and the personnel it produced, who served honorably and exceptionally.

“The Tuskegee Airmen Chronology” provides an overview which includes the formation of the first military pilots training for black men, the phases of their training in Tuskegee and other locations, their deployment overseas to the Mediterranean Theater, and their exemplary service. It includes abundant information on the Tuskegee Airmen who were not fighter pilots, but bomber pilots and ground crews. They fought the Nazis and racism; prototypes for military service of the future and civil rights pioneers in the 1940s.

“The Tuskegee Airmen opened the door of opportunity for black people in aviation wider than it has ever been opened before. They proved that black men could not only fly military aircraft, but also the most advanced fighters, in successful combat with the enemy. The Tuskegee Airmen also demonstrated that they could fly multi-engine bombers, leading crews that included bombardiers, navigators, and radio operators. Their success contributed immeasurably to the ultimate integration of the Air Force. After WWII many of them left the Army Air Forces and became successful businessmen in the civilian world. Many also stayed in the new USAF.” They included Benjamin O. Davis, Jr, who became the first African-American general in the USAF, and Daniel “Chappie” James, who was named the first African-American four-star (full) USAF general, and later commanded NORAD. They inspired the first black pilots in the US Navy, USMC, & NASA.

We talked to the author, Dr. Dan Haulman, for Black History Month ON THE BOOKSHELF on WTBF-AMFM. He is the Chief of the Organizational History Division of the USAF Historical Research Agency, a member of the Tuskegee Airmen Inco, and has attended 8 of the organization’s conventions.