

November 14, 1910 – Civilian pilot, Eugene B. Ely, Makes the first flight to take off from a ship, the USS BIRMINGHAM (CL 2), from a wooden platform. The ship was at anchor in Hampton Roads, VA and Ely landed safely on the Willoughby Spit.

December 23, 1910 – The first military students of the Glenn Curtiss flying school at North Coronado Island. From left to right are; Captain John Walker, US Army, Captain Paul Beck, US Army, Glenn H. Curtis, Lieutenant Theodore Ellyson, US Navy, and Captain George Kelly, US Army.

May 8, 1911 – Captain Washington Irving Chambers prepares contract specifications for the Navy's first aircraft (Curtiss A-1 Triad). This date later designated the birthday of U.S. Naval Aviation.

July 1, 1911 – First flight of the A-1 Triad at 6:50 PM demonstrated by Glenn H. Curtiss taking off from and alighting on Keuka Lake at Hammondsport, NY.

May 22, 1912 – First Lieutenant Alfred Cunningham, US Marine Corps, reports to Annapolis, Maryland, for flight training, marking the birth of Marine Corps aviation.

March 30, 1916 – Second Lieutenant Charles Sugden and Third Lieutenant Elmer F. Stone become the first two Coast Guardsmen assigned to flight instruction. Third Lieutenant Elmer Stone goes on to become the first Coast Guard aviator.

October 26, 1922 – Lieutenant Commander Godfrey DeC. Chevalier records the first landing on board a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier, successfully trapping on the flight deck of Langley while she is underway off the Virginia Capes.

January 26, 1911 – Lieutenant Theodore Ellyson—destined to become the first Naval Aviator — observes Glenn Curtiss making the first successful hydroaeroplane flight in San Diego, demonstrating the application of the airplane to Naval purposes.

May 8, 1911 - Captain Washington Chambers prepares contract specifications for the Navy's first aircraft. This date is later designated the birthday of Naval Aviation.

July 1, 1911 - The Navy's first aircraft, the A-1 Triad, makes its maiden flight from Keuka Lake at Hammondsport, NY.

May 22, 1912 - Marine Corps 1st. Lt. Alfred Cunningham reports to Annapolis, MD., for flight training, marking the birth of Marine Corps Aviation. He is designated Naval Aviator #5 and Marine Aviator #1.

January 20, 1914 - The first generation of aviation personnel arrive at Pensacola, FL. This becomes the Navy's first Naval Air Station.

April 24, 1914 - An AB-3 flying boat, flown by Lt. Patrick Bellinger, completes the first combat flight by a U.S. military aircraft, flying a reconnaissance mission in support of operations in Veracruz, Mexico.

March 30, 1916 - Coast Guard 2nd Lt. Charles Sugden and 3rd Lt. Elmer Stone become the first two Coast Guard aviators assigned to flight instruction. Stone completed flight training April 10, 1917, and became Naval Aviator #38 and Coast Guard Aviator #1.

Glenn H. Curtiss - Father of Naval Aviation. A visionary whose efforts convinced Navy leadership in the viability of the aircraft as a weapon of war. His persistence led to the purchase of the first Navy aircraft on May 8, 1911.

Eugene Ely - Civilian pilot. Demonstrated Naval Aviation application completing the first flight from a ship on Nov. 14, 1910 from the USS Birmingham. Jan. 18, 1911 he successfully landed onboard USS Pennsylvania.

CAPT Carl Von Paulsen, USCG - Designated a Naval Aviator in 1920. Credited for reestablishing USCG Aviation after successfully providing aerial surveillance for liquor smuggling interdiction by establishing a makeshift Air Station using borrowed planes.

MajGen Marion E. Carl, USMC - Winged Dec. 1939. A record setting test pilot, notable aviator, and the first Marine Corps ace in WWII, finishing as the Corps' seventh ranking ace with 18.5 victories.

ENS Jesse Brown, USN - Oct. 1948 made history becoming the first African American to complete flight training and be designated a Naval Aviator. ENS Brown served with Fighter Squadron 32 until shot down during the Korean War.

RADM Alan Shepard, Jr., USN – A former test pilot, RADM Shepard was one of the original seven astronauts chosen by NASA for its Mercury program. He became the first American (second overall) in space on May 5, 1961 when he went aloft in the Freedom 7 capsule for a 15-minute suborbital flight.

LCDR Barbara Allen Rainey, USN - Designated the first female Naval Aviator during ceremonies on Feb. 22, 1974. LCDR Rainey continued her career as a flight instructor assigned to VT-3 at Naval Air Station Whiting Field.

On October 17, 1922, a Vought VE-7SF biplane, piloted by LT V.C. Griffin, rumbled off the wooden flight deck of the USS Langley at anchor in the York River, Virginia. This was the first takeoff from a U.S. Navy carrier.

On Nov 5, 1915, LCDR Mustin successfully flew an AB-2 flying boat off the stern of the USS NORTH CAROLINA in Pensacola Bay, FL, making the first ever recorded catapult launching from a ship underway.

Formed Sep 1919, VFA-14 "Tophatters" are the Navy's oldest active squadron. The squadron has flown 23 different types of aircraft, changed designations 14 times, and operated from 20 different aircraft carriers (and several battleships).

Renamed in honor of aviation pioneer Samuel Pierpont Langley, USS LANGLEY started Oct 18, 1911 as Proteus-class collier USS JUPITER. Conversion began following JUPITER's decommissioning. USS LANGLEY was commissioned Mar 20, 1922 and designated CV-1.

On Oct 17, 1922, LT V.C. Griffin, in a Vought VE-7SF, took off from the LANGLEY at anchor in the York River, Virginia, making the first take-off from a U.S. aircraft carrier.

Oct 26, 1922 – LCDR Godfrey deC. Chevalier (Naval Aviator #7), flying an Aeromarine 39B, records the first landing aboard a U.S. Navy carrier, successfully trapping on the flight deck of the USS LANGLEY while she was underway off Cape Henry, Virginia.

Commissioned Nov 25, 1961, USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65) is the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and the eighth US naval vessel to bear the name. Like her predecessor of World War II fame, she is nicknamed the "Big E".

The stealthy F-35 will be the most powerful single-engine fighter ever fielded. The F-35B and F-35C will be the Navy's and Marine Corps first stealthy plane; it will eventually replace the F/A-18 Hornet and fly alongside the newer F/A-18E/F Super Hornet as the main combat assets of U.S. Naval Aviation.