

**The United States  
Government Manual  
2003/2004**

**Office of the Federal Register  
National Archives and Records Administration**

**Revised June 15, 2003**

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*On the cover:* Celebrating 100 years of American powered flight. Photographs courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum (NASM).

The birth of powered flight was the most monumental accomplishment of the early 20th century. As humans began to soar through the sky toward an inevitable destiny, pilots and their flying machines were shepherding a new way of life for American society—one that was unparalleled and that would define the core of America's lifestyle, her approach to war, and international relations—while gradually carving a permanent path for man and machine to travel through the skies and to explore and develop space.

While Wilbur and Orville Wright are the pioneers of powered flight, aviators such as Charles Lindbergh, Bessie Coleman, Amelia Earhart, the Tuskegee Airmen, Charles (Chuck) Yeager, John Glenn, Neil Armstrong, Sally Ride, Ronald E. McNair, and numerous others are heralded as heroes in this ongoing journey of discovery. And without innovators such as Curtiss, McDonnell, Boeing, Douglas, Goddard, Northrop, Grumman, and others—barnstormers, airmail, transatlantic flights, atomic bombs, rockets, and space shuttles might never have been possible.

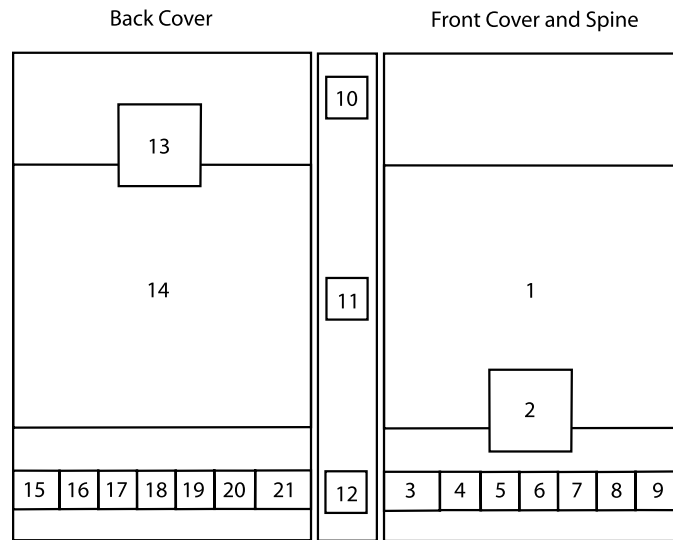
From that historic day on December 17, 1903, at Kill Devil Hill in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, was born 12 perpetual seconds in history that introduced the world to a timeless experience of powered flight and boundless space discovery. That journey took us from Orville Wright's maiden flight on the *Flyer 1* to NASA's Space Station in the abyss of space. This year we proudly celebrate 100 years of powered flight in all its glory and with anticipation of all the possibilities yet unfulfilled in mankind's wondrous imagination.

Special thanks is extended to NARA and NASM for photographs used in developing this year's cover. See the identification key on the opposite page for a description of each photograph.

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ISBN 0-16-051455-X



*Photos:*

1. Wilbur Wright and the 1903 *Flyer 1* (18-WP-6543, NARA).
2. *Apollo 15* astronaut David R. Scott, on the moon (306-AP-AS15-88-11863, NARA).
3. World War II Tuskegee Airmen fighter pilots (208-MO-18H-22051-FA, NARA).
4. Amelia Earhart, first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean nonstop (237-G-141-15, NARA).
5. Dr. Ronald E. McNair, space shuttle *Challenger* astronaut (99-15502, NASM).
6. Charles A. Lindbergh and the *Spirit of St. Louis*, first nonstop Atlantic Ocean crossing (237-G-121-1, NARA).
7. President Harry S. Truman's DC-4 Presidential plane, *Independence* (237-G-143-8127, NARA).
8. Charles (Chuck) Yeager and the Bell X-1 *Glamorous Glennis*, first to break the sound barrier (A-2013, NASM).
9. North American F-86 Sabre, first swept-wing U.S. Air Force jet fighter (74-3342, NASM).
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12. Claude Grahame-White, taking off near the Executive offices, Washington, DC, 1910 (111-RB-5118, NARA).
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15. Lawson Airliner, early passenger plane (18-WP-4496, NARA).
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18. TWA Boeing 307 passenger plane (80-G-15540, NARA).
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21. *Apollo 11* crew, moon landing mission (99-41160, NASM).



# Preface

As the official handbook of the Federal Government, *The United States Government Manual* provides comprehensive information on the agencies of the legislative, judicial, and executive branches. The *Manual* also includes information on quasi-official agencies; international organizations in which the United States participates; and boards, commissions, and committees.

A typical agency description includes a list of principal officials, a summary statement of the agency's purpose and role in the Federal Government, a brief history of the agency, including its legislative or executive authority, a description of its programs and activities, and a "Sources of Information" section. This last section provides information on consumer activities, contracts and grants, employment, publications, and many other areas of public interest.

The 2003/2004 *Manual* was prepared by the Presidential and Legislative Publications Unit, Office of the Federal Register, under the supervision of Gwendolyn J. Henderson. Alfred W. Jones was Managing Editor; Stephen J. Frattini was Chief Editor, assisted by Stacey A. Mulligan and Maxine L. Hill.

## THE FEDERAL REGISTER AND ITS SPECIAL EDITIONS

The *Manual* is published as a special edition of the *Federal Register* (see 1 CFR 9.1). Its focus is on programs and activities. Persons interested in detailed organizational structure, the regulatory documents of an agency, or Presidential documents should refer to the *Federal Register* or one of its other special editions, described below.

Issued each Federal working day, the *Federal Register* provides a uniform system for publishing Presidential documents, regulatory documents with general applicability and legal effect, proposed rules, notices, and documents required to be published by statute.

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recommendations for executive, legislative, and judicial salaries; reorganization plans; proposed and ratified amendments to the Constitution; and Presidential proclamations. Included with many of these documents are sidenotes, U.S. Code and statutes citations, and a summary of their legislative histories.

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