

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: What is a DOTA?

A: Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated (TAI) defines a Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen (DOTA) as an individual who served in a Tuskegee Airmen unit between 1941 and 1949 when Executive Order 9981 was issued by President Truman. This means that all individuals (black or white) who fit this criterion are considered to be Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen. Those units include the 332nd Fighter Group with its four squadrons (99th, 100th, 301st and 302nd Fighter Squadrons) along with associated support units and the 477th Bombardment Group with its four squadrons (916th, 917th, 918th and 919th Bombardment squadrons) along with associated support units.

Q: How many airmen were trained at Tuskegee?

A: There were 932 individuals who completed flight training at Tuskegee Army Air Field. Of that number 355 flew in the European theater during WWII.

Q: How many Tuskegee Airmen are still alive?

A: While the composite of both the bombardment and fighter units exceeds 16,000 men and women, for several reasons we are unable to determine the exact number of all individuals who participated in the Tuskegee Airmen experience between March 22, 1941 and November 5, 1949. Consequently, we are challenged to provide the actual number of all Tuskegee Airmen participants who are still living. Through our research, we can confirm **[as of 18-Sep-2018]** that 13 of the 355 Tuskegee Airmen single engine pilots who served in the Mediterranean theater operation during WWII are currently living. In addition, we can confirm 2 of 32 Tuskegee Airmen single engine pilots who were prisoners of war (POW) are still living.

Not all individuals are or were members of Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated so our numbers of survivors are estimates except for the remaining pilots who were deployed overseas.

Q: I have autographs signed by various DOTAs. Are these signatures valuable?

A: To prevent commercialization, resale, or invasion of privacy of Original Airmen, we do not place a value on these autographs. Please do not market them in any way. (4-Sep-17)