The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African American pilots in American military history. They became popularly referred to as the Tuskegee Airmen because of their training at Tuskegee Army Airfield and Moton Field near the city of Tuskegee, Alabama, between 1941 and 1945. Including all the support personnel, ranging from mechanics to nurses, there were more than 14,000 Tuskegee Airmen who formed the 332nd Fighter Group and 477th Bombardment Group of the United States Army Air Forces.

During the 1940 presidential campaign, Franklin D. Roosevelt pledged to allow African Americans to become military pilots. Congress passed a bill that designated funds for their training, through the War Department decided that they would be trained on a segregated basis and serve in their own units. In 1948 President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9981, which eventually ended this practice and led to the end of segregation in the United States Armed Forces.

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