



FALCON
FOUNDATION



SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

**MAJOR GENERAL
MUIR S. FAIRCHILD**

U.S. AIR FORCE

Major General Muir S. Fairchild

Muir S. Fairchild was one of Gen. H. H. (Hap) Arnold's key staff officers throughout World War II and was the Air Force Vice Chief of Staff under Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg in the difficult post-war years.

During most of World War II he served as the Air Force member of the three-man Joint Strategic Survey Committee in the Office of the Combined Chiefs of Staff. From November 1942 to January 1946 he served on this senior advisory group of experienced officers, which had the task of advising the Joint Chiefs of Staff on grand strategy.

In January 1946 Fairchild was named Commandant of the Air University at Maxwell Field in Montgomery, Alabama. He led the move to establish the University while in Washington. Its goals were large and standards high from the beginning. Many outstanding officers were selected not only for its staff and faculty, but as students. Among the number of students at the Air Command and Staff School in 1947 who later were prominent leaders was Bruce K. Holloway, who became Air Force Vice Chief of Staff in 1966.

General Fairchild was convinced for years that education and training were essential for developing skilled air officers. He had been an instructor in the late 1930s at the Air Corps Tactical School at Maxwell Field and in July 1940 was Director of the Department of Air Tactics and Strategy at the school when he was moved to Washington to become Assistant Executive in the Plans Division of the Office of the Air Corps. He had attended several service schools during his career - the Air Service Engineer School, the Air Corps Tactical School, the Army Industrial College and the Army War College. And he had been active in the establishment of the AAF School for Applied Tactics at

Orlando, Florida, in 1942, when he was Director of Military Requirements on the Air Staff. It was needed then at the beginning of our large-scale participation in World War II to develop proper methods of using new aircraft, weapons and equipment in combat.

As General Vandenberg's Vice Chief of Staff, General Fairchild acted as his alter ego, managing and administering the Air Force, while Vandenberg concentrated on Joint Chiefs of Staff matters. General Fairchild was Chairman of the USAF Senior Officers Board, which studied and made recommendations to the Chief on the weightiest problems. It was General Fairchild, too, who justified before Congress the budget for FY-1951. Vandenberg and Fairchild believed in using committees of experts - sometimes from outside the Air Force - to study special problems. Thus, in 1949, Fairchild asked the USAF Scientific Advisory Board to make a study of the research and development structure of the Air Force. This and a study by Air University resulted in creation of the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Development and, later, the Air Research and Development Command. Similarly, Generals Vandenberg and Fairchild requested the Board to study the air defense system. "Air defense forces," said General Fairchild in February 1950, "must be trained and equipped and in place and actually on 24-hour alert if they are to be committed to combat in defense against any sudden atomic attack - possibly one in great force."

General Fairchild's tour as Vice Chief of Staff, from May 1948 until he died at age 55 on March 17, 1950, was during a period of unprecedented organizational and administrative turbulence. While developing its new functional organizational structure that later would be adapted by

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the Army and Navy, the Air Force was undergoing expansion and contraction as budget changes were made in the Executive Branch. There was a shortage of skilled military manpower available to serve. The Berlin airlift was taxing Air Force capabilities. And the B-36 controversy was consuming the time of military leaders in the public disagreement between advocates of land-based airpower - with one issue at stake being the share of the defense funds to be allotted to each Service.

General Fairchild's experience at the highest levels in Air Force headquarters totaled some seven years, during which time he was the first Secretary of the Air Staff, and, in 1941 and 1942, the Assistant Chief of the Air Corps. He was a member of the U.S. Delegation to the Dumbarton Oaks, Conference in 1944 and, a year later, was military ad-

visor to the U.S. Delegation to the San Francisco United Nations Conference.

Fairchild was one of the first ten officers to receive the newly authorized decoration, the Distinguished Flying Cross, for his participation in a good-will flight to South America, from December 21, 1926 to May 2, 1927.

According to Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle (USAF Ret.): "When considering the men who made the Air Force what it is today, one cannot overemphasize the role of General Muir S. Fairchild. He was a stabilizing influence where stability was required."

Fairchild Air Force Base, Spokane, Washington, is named for this great airman.

Dear General Bellis,

The Millard Foundation is proud to sponsor the Muir Fairchild Memorial Scholarship and to join the Falcon Foundation in paying honor to this great man.

May those who study under this scholarship be inspired by General Fairchild's example to contribute and serve their country well.

Sincerely,

Esther L. Millard

*Esther L. Millard
President
Millard Foundation*



The Falcon Foundation is a 501(c)(3), non-profit foundation. Its purpose is to provide scholarships to College or Preparatory Schools for motivated young people seeking admission to USAFA and a career in the Air Force.

Although it is a separate organization, the Falcon Foundation works closely with USAFA.