



# Flying Tigers Association

American Volunteer Group • Chinese Air Force  
[www.flyingtigersavg.com](http://www.flyingtigersavg.com)

## Scholarship Notice

We are pleased to announce that the AVG (American Volunteer Group) will be celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. In order to properly recognize and celebrate the magnitude of this occasion, the Flying Tigers Association will begin offering an annual scholarship in their dedication.

This year's scholarship will be in the amount of \$500 given to the most deserving student. The students must meet the following requirements:

1. Full-time student and U.S. Citizen
2. Sophomore level or above
3. Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above
4. Pursuing a degree in an aviation-related field of study (e.g. Aeronautical Engineering, Aviation Management, Professional Pilot, etc.) at an accredited university

In order to apply, students are expected to submit the following information:

1. Brief statement outlining how they fulfill the above requirements (stating Major and GPA)
2. A short 300-500 word essay on the history and legacy of the AVG/Flying Tigers
3. A letter of recommendation

Completed submissions can be emailed to [AVGScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:AVGScholarship@gmail.com) or can be mailed to:

Thomas Engle  
159 W. Pinewood Ave.  
Defiance, OH 43512

To assure consideration, submissions should be received no later than March 31, 2011. The Scholarship committee will review the applications immediately thereafter. Successful students will be notified by the end of April, 2011.

### **Brief History of the Tigers**

In early 1941, Claire Chennault received authorization from President Roosevelt to recruit 100 pilots and 200 ground personnel from the U.S. Armed Services to go to China to train the Chinese Air Force. The men and women were obligated to resign from their respective service and volunteer for duty in China. With arrivals on several ships from July to mid-November 1941, this group of recruits was formed into three squadrons. With some of the pilots having less than one month of training, the first air combat took place near Kunming, China, on December 20, 1941.

From December 29, 1941 to July 18, 1942, the AVG was engaged in combat with the Japanese over a front that extended from Rangoon to Kweilin, including missions penetrating far into enemy territory. In this short period of seven months, there were 297 confirmed victories, hundreds more unconfirmed and many more aircraft destroyed on the ground. In proving themselves true adversaries in the air, the group was named "Fei Hu" (Flying Tigers) by the Chinese. Not one pilot would ever claim to have been successful in combat without the constant labor of the ground personnel who worked tirelessly to keep the planes in the air and the guns working properly.

The AVG was officially disbanded on July 4, 1942, to be replaced by the U.S. Army Corps (14<sup>th</sup> Air Force). While it would be three long years of constant combat before the enemy was brought to its knees in 1945, the legacy of the American Volunteer Group/Flying Tigers remains in the annals of aviation history as an accomplishment never again to be duplicated.