

Dwight D. Eisenhower was the 34th President of the United States, and prior to that, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in Europe during WWII. He was the architect of Operation Overlord, the June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1944 successful beach landings of American, Canadian and British forces on the beaches of Normandy France on D-Day.

Ike saw firsthand the tremendous contribution that aviation provided during the war, and continued to embrace it as President. In Eisenhower's day, the premier long range airliner was the Lockheed Constellation, powered still by radial piston engines.

The 34th President actually used two different Constellations during his time in office. It is believed that the Constellation President Eisenhower used early in his presidency was the first aircraft to be given the official call sign of **Air Force One**.

Now, a group of folks is well along in their journey to restore and tour in what they have named the **First Air Force One**. Even if you have little interest in Presidential aircraft history, it's worth clicking on the link below and taking a look. There are some fabulous pictures and video of the gorgeous Lockheed design available when the page opens.

It takes a whole lot of drive and dedication to bring a historic airplane of this size and complexity, which was one step away from the aluminum smelter, back into pristine period condition. We salute all of those who have labored away years of their lives, riveting and wiring, and welding and painting, so we can all experience the closest thing to time travel available. Climbing aboard one of these restorations is a real life glimpse of history to see, feel, hear, and smell.

Scroll down slowly and look around closely; there are numerous pictures and stories and videos to see read and watch. [Click Here To Read More About The First Air Force One](#)

Hat tip our very own SOAR Aviation Day Stearman specialist **Bob Redinger** for this great story!