



# HILL AEROSPACE MUSEUM

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, UTAH

## The Parts of an Airplane



### COCKPIT

The space in the forward fuselage of an aircraft for the pilot and crew that has the instruments and controls for flying the aircraft.

### ELEVATORS

The parts of the horizontal stabilizer that moves up or down, thereby controlling the pitch of the aircraft around the lateral axis. Upwardly deflected elevators decrease lift on the tail and cause it to go down, making the aircraft go up. Downwardly

deflected elevators increase lift on the tail and cause it to rise up, making the aircraft go down.

## **EMPENNAGE**

The tail structure of an airplane, consisting of the vertical and horizontal stabilizers, rudder, and elevators.

## **FLAPS**

Moveable surfaces on the inboard trailing edges of the wings of an aircraft that serve to increase lift at slower speeds, allowing the aircraft to take off and land safely.

## **FUSELAGE**

The central body portion of an airplane that accommodates the crew and passengers or cargo.

## **HORIZONTAL STABILIZER**

Part of the tail of an aircraft that helps control its stability. The elevators are usually along the trailing edge of the horizontal stabilizer, unless the entire horizontal surface moves, in which case it is called a "stabilator."

## **LANDING GEAR**

The fixed or retractable "legs" with wheels that an aircraft taxis, takes off, and lands upon. They may also have skis, skids, floats, or pontoons.

## **RUDDER**

The moveable part of the vertical stabilizer that controls the yaw of the aircraft around the vertical axis. A deflection to the right causes the tail to move to the left and a deflection to the left causes the tail to move to the right.

## **VERTICAL STABILIZER**

The upright portion of the tail of an aircraft that helps control the stability of the aircraft. The rudder is usually attached to the trailing edge, unless the entire vertical stabilizer moves as a unit.

## **WINGS**

The part of an airplane that provides the main lifting force and thereby supports the weight of the airplane in flight. The flaps and ailerons are along the trailing edges of the wings.