

## **NINTH AIR FORCE (AIR FORCES CENTRAL)**



### **MISSION**

#### **LINEAGE**

5 Air Support Command established, 21 Aug 1941

Activated, 1 Sep 1941

Redesignated 9 Air Force, 8 Apr 1942

Redesignated Ninth Air Force, 18 Sep 1942

Inactivated, 2 Dec 1945

Activated, 28 Mar 1946

Redesignated Ninth Air Force (Tactical), 1 Aug 1950

Redesignated Ninth Air Force, 26 Jun 1951

Redesignated Ninth Air Force (Air Forces Central), 1 Mar 2008

Redesignated United States Air Forces Central Command, 5 Aug 2009 (The organization is a Named Air Force)

Redesignated Ninth Air Force (Air Forces Central), 20 Aug 2020

#### **STATIONS**

Bowman Field, KY, 1 Sep 1941

New Orleans AAB, LA, 24 Jan 1942

Bolling Field, DC, 22 Jul-Oct 1942

Cairo, Egypt, 12 Nov 1942-Oct 1943

Sunnyhill Park, England, Nov 1943-Sep 1944

Chantilly, France, 15 Sep 1944

Bad Kissingen, Germany, 6 Jun-2 Dec 1945

Biggs Field, TX, 28 Mar 1946

Greenville AAB (later, AFB), SC, 31 Oct 1946

Langley AFB, VA, 14 Feb 1949  
Pope AFB, NC, 1 Aug 1950  
Shaw AFB, SC, 20 Aug 1954

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Air Force Combat Command (later, Army Air Forces), 1 Sep 1941  
United States Army Forces in the Middle East, 12 Nov 1942  
European Theater of Operations, United States Army, 3 Nov 1943  
United States Strategic Air Forces in Europe (later, United States Air Forces in Europe), 22 Feb 1944-2 Dec 1945  
Tactical Air Command, 28 Mar 1946  
Continental Air Command, 1 Dec 1948  
Tactical Air Command, 1 Dec 1950  
Air Combat Command, 1 Jun 1992

### **COMMANDERS**

Brig Gen Junius W. Jones, 1 Sep 1941  
Col Rosenham Beam, Feb 1942  
None (not manned), May-11 Nov 1942  
Lt Gen Lewis H. Brereton, 12 Nov 1942  
Lt Gen Hoyt S. Vandenburg, 8 Aug 1944  
Maj Gen Otto P. Weyland, 23 May 1945  
Maj Gen William E. Kepner, 4 Aug-2 Dec 1945  
Brig Gen Homer L. Sanders, 28 Mar 1946  
Brig Gen Yantis H. Taylor, 17 Aug 1946  
Brig Gen Jarred V. Crabb, 28 Sep 1946  
Maj Gen Paul L. Williams, 1 Nov 1946  
Maj Gen William D. Old, 15 Sep 1947  
Maj Gen Willis H. Hale, 20 Oct 1949  
Maj Gen Willard R. Wolfenbarger, 1 Aug 1950  
Maj Gen Edward J. Timberlake, 7 Sep 1951  
Brig Gen Bruce K. Holloway, 10 Jun 1957  
Maj Gen Robert M. Lee, 25 Jul 1957  
Maj Gen Daniel W. Jenkins, 28 Jun 1958  
Maj Gen David W. Hutchison, 31 Jul 1958  
Maj Gen Daniel W. Jenkins, 1 Jul 1961  
Maj Gen Richard T. Coiner Jr., 19 Jul 1961  
Maj Gen Charles R. Bond Jr., 22 Nov 1963  
Maj Gen Marvin L. McNickle, 13 Jan 1964  
Maj Gen Lawrence F. Tanberg, 30 Jul 1966  
Maj Gen Don O. Darrow, 1 Sep 1966  
Maj Gen Lawrence F. Tanberg, 14 Jun 1967  
Maj Gen Gordon M. Graham, 31 Aug 1967  
Brig Gen Donavon F. Smith, 1 Aug 1968

Maj Gen Timothy F. O'Keefe, 15 Aug 1968  
Maj Gen Richard H. Ellis, 16 Sep 1969  
Maj Gen Augustus M. Hendry, Jr., 22 Aug 1970  
Maj Gen Roger K. Rhodarmer, 22 Jul 1971  
Maj Gen Levi R. Chase, 1 Jun 1973  
Lt Gen James D. Hughes, 1 Dec 1973  
Lt Gen James V. Hartinger, 1 Jul 1975  
Lt Gen Arnold W. Braswell, 20 Jun 1978  
Lt Gen Larry D. Welch, 1 Jun 1981  
Lt Gen John L. Piotrowski, 18 Oct 1982  
Lt Gen William L. Kirk, 18 Jul 1985  
Lt Gen Charles A. Horner, 24 Mar 1987  
Lt Gen Michael A. Nelson, 19 Jun 1992  
Lt Gen John P. Jumper, 2 Aug 1994  
Lt Gen Carl E. Franklin, 7 Jun 1996  
Lt Gen Hal M. Hornburg, 11 May 1998  
Lt Gen Charles F. Wald, 12 Jan 2000  
Lt Gen T. Michael Moseley, 7 Nov 2001  
Lt Gen Walter E. L. Buchanan III, 11 Aug 2003  
Lt Gen Gary L. North, 16 Feb 2006  
Maj Gen H.D. Polumbo Jr.

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

WWII American Theater

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

Egypt-Libya

Tunisia

Sicily

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia

Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

## Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jun 1986-31 May 1988

1 Jul 1996-31 Mar 1998

1 Jun 1998-31 May 2000

1 Jun 2000-31 May 2002

1 Jun 2004-31 May 2006

1 Jun 2006-31 May 2007

1 Jun 2007-31 May 2008

1 Jun 2008-31 May 2009

## EMBLEM



Azure, a bezant winged Argent charged with the Arabic numeral "9" Gules, in honor point a mullet of the second bearing a torteau; all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "NINTH AIR FORCE" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The star symbolizes the old Army Air Forces under which the unit was first activated. The numeral "9" indicates the numerical designation, and the wings imply the unit's air mission. (Approved, 16 Sep 1943; revised, 14 Sep 1951; AFCENT alternate emblem originally approved on 9 Apr 1987; newest rendition, 30 Jun 2008)



## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Involved in early training activities for air-ground support operations from the fall of 1941 through the spring of 1942, but essentially unmanned during the summer of 1942 when most personnel were reassigned to Twelfth Air Force. Small cadre moved to Egypt and began operations upon assuming the personnel, units and resources of the provisional U.S. Army Middle East Air Force in Nov 1942; participated in the Allied drive across Egypt and Libya, the campaign in Tunisia, and the invasions of Sicily and Italy. Moved to England in Oct 1943 to become the tactical air force for the invasion of the European Continent. Helped prepare for the assault on Normandy, supported operations in the beachhead during June 1944, and through its advanced headquarters took part in the drive that carried the Allies across France and culminated in victory over Germany in May 1945.

Assigned to Tactical Air Command until Dec 1948 when the Ninth, reassigned to Continental Air Command, lost its role as a tactical air organization and became concerned chiefly with reserve and National Guard units and activities. Assigned to Tactical Air Command in Dec 1950 and became concerned primarily with tactical air operations and training.

On Sept. 1, 1954, 9th Air Force, under the command of Maj. Gen. Edward J. Timberlake, opened its headquarters at Shaw AFB. It was rumored at the time that General Timberlake enjoyed a good round of golf and was so impressed by the golf course at Shaw AFB that he moved his headquarters here to be close to Shaw's course. Located at Shaw AFB, South Carolina, Headquarters Ninth Air Force directs the activities of wings performing fighter operations and training as well as reconnaissance and the tactical air control mission. The Ninth Air Force commander also serves as commander, US Central Command Air Forces (COMUSCENT AF).



Maj Gen Edward J. Timberlake

Since 1983, headquarters served in a joint-force capacity as U.S. Central Command Air Forces (later, Air Forces Central) responsible for contingency air operations in Southwest Asia, namely as primary air command element during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990-1991, and later during Operation Enduring Freedom beginning in 2001 and Operation Iraqi Freedom beginning in 2003.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.