

US AIR FORCE BAND OF THE WEST



MISSION

LINEAGE

Air Force Band, Moffett Field constituted and activated, 1 Oct 1941
Redesignated 39 Army Air Forces Band, 7 Aug 1942
Redesignated 539 Army Band, 18 Dec 1943
Redesignated 539 Army Air Forces Band, 26 Feb 1944
Redesignated 539 Air Force Band, 26 Sep 1947
Inactivated, 8 Aug 1955
Activated, 8 Jul 1959
Redesignated Air Training Command Band, 1 Oct 1991
Redesignated Air Education and Training Command Band, 1 Jul 1994
Redesignated Air Force Band of the West, 29 Jul 1994
Redesignated US Air Force Band of the West, 1 May 1997

STATIONS

Moffett Field, CA, 1 Oct 1941
Santa Ana Army Air Base, CA, 25 Mar 1942
Enid Army Air Field, OK, 15 Aug 1946
AAF Military Training Center (later Lackland AFB), TX, 19 Mar 1947-8 Aug 1955
Lackland AFB, TX, 8 Jul 1959

ASSIGNMENTS

1 Flying Training Command, 1 Oct 1941
AAF Training Command, unkn
AAF Personnel Distribution Command, 1 Nov 1944
AAF Training Command, 14 May 1946
AAF Overseas Replacement Depot, 29 May 1946
Indoctrination Division, Air Training Command, 19 Mar 1947

3700 Air Base Group, 28 Aug 1948-8 Aug 1955
3700 Air Base Group, 8 Jul 1959
Lackland Military Training Center, 1 Jul 1968
3700 Air Base Group, 1 Jul 1971
Air Force Military Training Center, 1 Nov 1988
3300 Training Support Group, 15 Dec 1991
Lackland Training Center, 15 Jul 1992
37 Training Wing, 1 Jul 1993
502 Air Base Wing, 31 Jan 2010

COMMANDERS

Capt Michael D. Hoerber
Capt Rafael F. Toro-Quinones

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II
American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award
7 Jul 2001-30 Jun 2003

EMBLEM



Blue and 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 silhouette of the Alamo suggests the Band's home location in San Antonio, Texas. The torch is incorporated into the winged lyre to reflect the inspirational aspects of the music performed by the Band for Air Force personnel and the public. (Approved, 23 Mar 1990)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The USAF Band of the West is a musical organization with an outstanding record of achievement. The Airmen assigned to the band are highly-trained professional musicians who have dedicated themselves to serving their country through music. The USAF Band of the West travels more than 125,000 miles annually and provides over 300 performances to military and civilian audiences throughout Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Louisiana. The band has been an integral part of the music scene in the Southwest for many years. The USAF Band of the West has performed for presidents, heads of state, and dignitaries from around the world earning an outstanding reputation among America's military bands.

By the early 1980s, the Air Force Band of the West was, for all intents and purposes and for as far as most people were aware, assigned to AFMTC. By then, the band had assumed virtually all of its own scheduling and much of its own promotional work, so the public affairs officer's operational control had become more a formality than a duty; generally, band commanders reported to the center vice commander. Official organizational charts and directories placed the band directly under the center.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Updated:

Sources

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

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