

# NINETEENTH AIR FORCE



## MISSION

## LINEAGE

Nineteenth Air Force established, 1 Jul 1955

Activated, 8 Jul 1955

Inactivated, 2 Jul 1973

Activated 1 Jul 1993

## STATIONS

Foster AFB, Texas,

Seymour Johnson AFB, NC, 1 Sep 1958

Randolph AFB, TX, 1 Jul 1993

## ASSIGNMENTS

Tactical Air Command

Air Education and Training Command, 8 Jun 1993

## COMMANDERS

MG Henry Vicellio, 8 Jul 1955

MG Maurice A. Preston, 1 Aug 1960

LTG Henry Vicellio, 1 Jul 1963

MG Don O. Darrow, 15 Aug 1964

MG Robert W. Burns, 27 Mar 1967

MG Henry G. Thorne, Jr., 29 Jul 1968

MG Joseph G. Wilson, 16 Feb 1970

MG William E. Bryan, Jr., 10 Dec 1970

MG Woodard E. Davis, Jr. Jul 1972-2 Jul 1973

MG Everett H. Pratt, 1 Jul 1993  
MG Nicholas B. Kehoe, 27 Oct 1994  
MG W. Thomas West, 15 Nov 1995  
MG Kurt B. Anderson, 21 Apr 1997  
MG Steven R. Polk, 25 May 1999  
MG James E. Sandstrom, 20 Jan 2002  
MG Edward R. Ellis, 11 Jun 2004  
MG Marc E. Rogers, 21 Oct 2005  
MG Irving L. Halter, Jr., 3 Oct 2006  
MG Gregory A. Feest, 30 Jul 2008  
MG Mark Solo, # 2010  
MG Michael Keltz, 2014  
MG James Hecker, 2015

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

None

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998

1 Jul 1999-30 Jun 2001

1 Jul 2003-30 Jun 2005

1 Jul 2005-30 Jun 2007

## **EMBLEM**



Approved, 13 Jun 1957, modified, 24 Jul 1995

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Served as the command and planning element for deploying tactical air forces and the operational headquarters for the composite strike force of units drawn from the Tactical Air Command. After its reactivation and assignment to the Air Education and Training Command, ensures the execution of Air Force initial qualification and follow-on combat crew flying programs whose graduates then report to war-fighting commands and conducts annual air crew standardization and evaluation visits to its units to assess the effectiveness of its training programs.

Formed after World War II, the Nineteenth Air Force served Tactical Air Command between its creation in 1955 and 1973. Since 1993, it has been responsible to Air Education and Training Command for undergraduate and specialized flying training.

On 1 Jul 1993, HQ USAF redesignated Air Training Command as Air Education and Training Command. For all practical purposes, this action made AETC the focal point for all education and training activities in the Air Force. The only notable exceptions were that the other commands continued crew training where the requirements were relatively small (e.g. B-1 and F- 117 training), and the United States Air Force Academy retained its independent status. In preparation for the stand-up of Air Education and Training Command, ATC activated two provisional numbered air forces—Flying Training Numbered Air Force (Provisional) at Randolph AFB, Texas, and Technical Training Numbered Air Force (Provisional) at Keesler AFB, MS effective 17 March. Just a few months later on 1 July, the command activated the Nineteenth Air Force at Randolph to supervise flying training activities and the Second Air Force at Keesler to manage all technical training units.

Air Education and Training Command inactivated 19th Air Force last week during a ceremony at JBSA-Randolph, Tex. The numbered air force oversaw AETC's flying mission for nearly two decades, but the Air Force identified it as one of three numbered air forces that it could do without as part of broader efforts to shed some \$34 billion in overhead. " 2012

The 19th Air Force activated under Air Education Training Command on Oct. 1. The new unit, which was inactivated in 2012, was brought back following a Rand study identifying a need for "realigning responsibilities to reinforce proper command relationships and training oversight," according to an Air Force release . The new 19th Air Force will be headquartered at JBSA-Randolph, Texas, and will include 19 training locations, 10 regular Air Force wings, six Guard and Reserve wings, approximately 32,000 personnel, and 1,350 aircraft spanning 29 different models. Maj. Gen. Michael Keltz will be appointed commander of the numbered air force, states a Sept. 29 release. "This restructuring within AETC will move all formal aircrew flying training missions under General Keltz's command," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh. "AETC has a wide range of responsibility when it comes to training and educating airmen. Our flying training mission requires a significant level of coordinated oversight to ensure our airmen in the skies remain the best in the world and 19th Air Force will take on that responsibility." 2014

Maj. Gen. Michael Keltz resigned from his position as commander of 19th Air Force following "an inappropriate comment" made in a "public Air Force forum," according to an April 30 Air Education and Training Command release. AETC Commander Gen. Robin Rand accepted his resignation Thursday and began processing his request to retire after 34 years in uniform, states the release. "Mike Keltz is an extraordinarily dedicated airman and commander with a highly distinguished service career," said Rand. "He realizes the impact of his actions and has expressed his genuine regret to me, which he extends to all airmen. As a senior leader, Maj. Gen. Keltz understands he must be held accountable for this inappropriate comment." It's not clear what the comment was or where it was made. Keltz is a command pilot with more than

4,000 hours, including more than 300 combat and contingency sorties on AC-130H, MC-130H, and AC-130U gunships and Combat Talons in Grenada, El Salvador, Panama, Sierra Leone, and in Operations Desert Storm, Provide Comfort, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. He is the second Air Force commander this month to lose his position because of inappropriate comments. Former Air Combat Command Vice Commander Maj. Gen. James Post was relieved of command after an Air Force Inspector General investigation found he attempted to restrict airmen from communicating with Congress. Post allegedly told airmen that expressing their opinion on the Air Force's decision to divest the A-10 Warthog could be construed as "treason."  
2015

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Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 23 Aug 2010

Updated:

Sources

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

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