

# AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY



## MISSION

## LINEAGE

Air Force Research Laboratory established, 31 Mar 1997  
Activated, 8 Apr 1997

## STATIONS

Wright Patterson AFB, OH

## ASSIGNMENTS

Air Force Materiel Command, 8 Apr 1997

## COMMANDERS

Maj Gen Richard R. Paul, Apr 1997  
Maj Gen Paul D. Nielsen, Apr 2000  
Maj Gen Perry L. Lamy, Jun 2004  
Maj Gen Ted F. Bowlds, Jan 2006  
Maj Gen Curtis M. Bedke, Oct. 2007  
Maj Gen Ellen M. Pawlikowski, Feb 2010  
Maj Gen William N. McCasland, May 2011  
Maj Gen Tom Masiello, 2013

## HONORS

**Service Streamers**

## **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

Air Force Organizational Excellence Awards

1 Jan 2001-31 Dec 2002

1 Mar 2006-29 Feb 2008

1 Mar 2008-28 Feb 2010

## **EMBLEM**

Approved, 22 Jul 1997

To bolster its S&T mission, General Paul thought it very important to craft a distinctive emblem that would promote and identify what the laboratory stood for. Just as the “swoosh” check gives instant recognition to Nike products, a creative AFRL emblem would convey a comparable message to any audience, underscoring the importance of the S&T mission throughout the Air Force and DOD. Since the unit emblem would represent the totality of the new laboratory, Paul decided to “go to the troops” to solicit their ideas. In February 1997, he sent a letter to the workforce encouraging everyone to submit a heraldry design that would best exemplify the new lab. In a pleasantly surprising response, workers from the four labs, AFOSR, and AFMC/ST turned in 45 full-color entries.

General Paul, Dr. Daniel, and Dr. Russo reviewed and evaluated each entry, narrowing the field to eight emblem designs. Paul declared that the “very good” submissions made it quite difficult for him to select a winner. But on 24 March, he opted for a synthesis of two different designs proposed by the team of Mr. Rogelio Burgos and 1st Lt William Sabol from Phillips Lab’s Propulsion Directorate and Maj Dave Swinney from Headquarters AFMC/ST. The combination of these two designs received high marks because the final emblem took into account three fundamental concepts: the origins of the unified lab, a broad range of missions, and the clear implication of the new lab’s focus on the future.

The simplicity of the new emblem made it very attractive and appealing. On the left side, five stars arranged vertically serve as a prominent reminder of AFRL’s origins. Four of these stars honor the heritage of the four former laboratories Phillips, Rome, Wright, and Armstrong—and the fifth represents AFOSR. The bright, guiding star in the upper right signifies the lab’s constant striving to achieve greatness. At the center of the shield, a three-dimensional triangle traveling to new heights “represents a marriage of aircraft, missile, and spacecraft.”

The Institute of Heraldry officially described the three dimensional craft as “silver and white in color to give the impression of quick flight and straightforward in design to highlight the constant and steady advances enabled by our research and development. The craft is pointing to the heavens as it rolls back the night. Thus, through research and development, the light of understanding replaces the darkness of ignorance. Pleased that the new emblem dignified the heritage, spirit, and mission of AFRL, General Paul on 23 April sent a letter requesting approval to General Viccellio, who quickly concurred.

Two weeks later, the Air Force Historical Research Agency at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, advised General Paul that the emblem met the requirements of AFI 84-101, *Historical Products, Services,*

*and Requirements*, which governs heritage guidelines and requirements for all Air Force units. After the chief of staff of the Air Force gave his approval, an artist at the Institute of Heraldry at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, completed the design and artwork of the official AFRL emblem in five months. The original drawing and a final letter of approval authenticating the emblem was then sent to the Air Force Historical Research Agency for permanent retention and safekeeping.

AFRL received a copy of the original drawing to serve as the template for making unit flags and any other reproductions of the emblem (i.e., unit patches, decals, signs, and other emblem facsimiles). Prior to approval, no one could officially use the emblem because of the possibility that some minor changes might have to be made during the final design process. As it turned out, that never became a problem. The final, official emblem released in the fall of 1997 was an exact replica of the one submitted by AFRL in the spring.

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Apr 1 The two Air Force research organizations at Hanscom--the Geophysics Directorate of Phillips Laboratory and the Electromagnetics Directorate of Rome Laboratory--were merged into the new Air Force Research Laboratory. 1997

National Guardsmen from six states have potentially saved the Air Force some \$31 million by stepping up to move a radar research tower from Rome, N.Y., to Springfield ANGB, Ohio. Mandated under BRAC 2005, the Air Force Research Lab set out to consolidate four radar towers near Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. With initial contract estimates as high as \$35 million, AFRL sensors directorate officials turned to the New York Air National Guard's 213th Engineering Installation Squadron in 2007. Harnessing Air Guard manpower from across the nation, the squadron estimated that it could complete the project for just \$4.2 million. In late May, the Air Guardsmen, supported by active duty airmen, completed the disassembly, move, and reassembly process at Springfield, all for \$600,000 under the unit's cost projection. "The underlying theme behind BRAC is achieving savings for the taxpayers. This effort is one of our biggest success stories to date," said Frank Albanese, AFRL's BRAC director. 2011

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USAF Unit Histories  
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Sources  
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.