

SECOND AIR FORCE



MISSION

The Second Air Force mission is to train the best mission ready graduates to support combat readiness as we build the world's most respected air and space force. To carry out this mission, Second Air Force manages all operational aspects of active training courses taught to students in technical training, basic military training, medical and distance learning courses.

Training operations across Second Air Force range from intelligence to computer operations to space and missile operations and maintenance. Courses are primarily taught at four resident training wings: Keesler; Goodfellow, Lackland and Sheppard AFB, TX; and a training group located at Vandenberg AFB, CA. Aside from the resident bases, Second Air Force operates training detachments around the world, which provide advanced aircraft maintenance continuation training. In addition, Second Air Force wings conduct training at detachments and operating locations at other Air Force and joint service bases.

LINEAGE

Northwest Air District established, 19 Oct 1940
Activated, 18 Dec 1940
Redesignated 2 Air Force, 9 Apr 1941
Redesignated Second Air Force, 18 Sep 1942
Inactivated, 30 Mar 1946
Activated, 6 Jun 1946
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1948
Activated, 1 Nov 1949
Inactivated, 1 Jan 1975
Activated, 1 Sep 1991
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1993
Activated, 1 Jul 1993

STATIONS

McChord Field, WA, Dec 18, 1940
Fort George Wright, WA, Jan 1941
Colorado Springs, CO, Jun 1943
Fort Crook, NE, 6 Jun 1946-1 Jul 1948
Barksdale AFB, LA, 1 Nov 1949
Beale AFB, CA 1 Sep 1991
Keesler AFB, MS, 1 Jul 1993

ASSIGNMENTS

Central Defense Command, U.S. Army
Western Defense Command, U.S. Army
Army Air Forces, Sep 1943
Continental Air Forces (later, Strategic Air Command), 16 Apr 1945
Air Defense Command, 6 Jun 1946
Strategic Air Command, 1 Nov 1949
Strategic Air Command, Aug 29, 1991
Air Combat Command, 1 Jun 1992
Air Education and Training Command, 1 Jul 1993

COMMANDERS

Maj Gen John F. Curry, 18 Dec 1940
Maj Gen Millard F. Harmon, 5 Aug 1941
Brig Gen John B. Brooks, 19 Dec 1941
Maj Gen Frederick L. Martin, 1 Feb 1942
Maj Gen Robert Olds, 14 May 1942
Maj Gen Davenport Johnson, 25 Feb 1943
Maj Gen St Clair Streett, 9 Sep 1943
Maj Gen Uzal G. Ent, 15 Jan 1944
Maj Gen Robert B. Williams, 28 Oct 1944
Brig Gen Julius K. Lacey, 21 Nov 1945
Maj Gen Charles B. Stone III, 21 Feb 1946
Brig Gen Charles F. Born, 19-30 Mar 1946
Brig Gen Walter R. Peck, 6 Jun 1946
Maj Gen Frederick W. Evans, 15 Jul 1946
Brig Gen Walter R. Peck, 3 Jun 1947
Maj Gen Paul L. Williams, 15 Sep 1947-1 Jul 1948
Brig Gen Paul T. Cullen, 1 Nov 1949
Maj Gen Joseph H. Atkinson, 10 Nov 1949
Maj Gen Frank A. Armstrong, Jr., 16 Nov 1952
Maj Gen George W. Mundy, 15 Jul 1956
Maj Gen John P. McConnell, 1 Nov 1957
Lt Gen John D. Ryan, 1 Jul 1961
Lt Gen David Wade, 1 Aug 1963
Lt Gen Austin J. Russell, 1 Aug 1966

Lt Gen David C. Jones, 1 Aug 1969
Lt Gen Russell F. Dougherty, 3 Apr 1971
Lt Gen James M. Keck, 1 May 1972
Lt Gen Richard M. Hoban, 3 Oct 1973-1 Jan 1975
Brig Gen Lawrence A. Mitchell, 1 Sep 1991
Maj Gen Brett M. Dula, 18 Aug 1992-1 Jul 1993
Maj Gen John C. Griffith, 1 Jul 1993
Maj Gen Henry M. HoBrig Genood, 13 Jun 1995
Maj Gen Lance W. Lord, 28 Aug 1996
Maj Gen Andrew J. Pelak Jr, 1 Aug 1997
Maj Gen John F. Regni, 25 Aug 2000
Maj Gen Lloyd S. Utterback, 8 Jul 2004
Maj Gen Michael C. Gould, 9 Nov 2005
Maj Gen Mary Kay Hertog, #2010
Maj Gen Leonard Patrick, #2014
Maj Gen Mark Brown

HONORS

Service Streamers

American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1994

1 Jul 1994-30 Jun 1996

1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 2000

1 Jul 2000-30 Jun 2002

1 Jul 2002-30 Jun 2004

EMBLEM



On a blue square, a golden orange falcon with jesses in striking attitude below a white star bearing a red disc. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The falcon represents the trained servant of man as well as of the planet here represented by the Army Air Force star. The falcon is an intelligently controlled force of destruction, destroying both in the air and upon the ground, thereby symbolizing the elements of fighter and bombardment groups which make up the Second Air Force. (Approved, 16 Dec 1943)



Second Air Force Description: On a shield azure, within a diminutive of the border argent, a stylized winged "2" numeral or, shaded. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The "2" represents Second Air Force. The wings represent air power. The colors and simplicity of the emblem are to create strength and power, qualities which are important to the successful completion of the Force's mission by all its members. (Approved 19 Oct 1954)

This emblem was the winning entry in a Second Air Force emblem contest. It was submitted by A1C William N. Merry of the 46th Communications Squadron at Barksdale AFB, LA.



Azure, a golden orange falcon with jesses in striking attitude below a white star bearing a red disc.

MOTTO

SECOND TO NONE

OPERATIONS

Trained bomber, fighter, and other units for assignment overseas, 1940-1946. Units of the Second also participated in combat training maneuvers with Army ground forces, and provided aircraft for defense of the continental United States. In November 1943, the Second Air Force received command jurisdiction for the B-29 bomber program. Tested and formulated standard procedures for flying the new aircraft, 1943-1946. Beginning in Jun 1946, assumed responsibility for the air defense of certain portions of the continental United States until Jul 1948.

In early 1950, SAC's three numbered air forces were somewhat distinct. The Eighth was concerned primarily with medium and heavy bombers, the Fifteenth concentrated on medium bombers, and the Second devoted its attentions almost exclusively to reconnaissance activities. Expansion and the integration of B-36s and B-50s into the command created the need for a more balanced organization. Geographic factors also prompted the need for reorganization. Headquarters Second Air Force, located in Louisiana, controlled units at Fairfield-Suisun AFB, CA, while Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, located in California, controlled units at MacDill AFB, FL. On 1 Apr, the SAC forces were realigned. Each numbered air force was assigned both bomber and reconnaissance aircraft and was assigned units and bases in rather specific geographical regions of the United States the Second in the eastern part, the Eighth in the central region, and the Fifteenth in the western area.

Until 1 Apr 1950, the exclusive mission of the Second Air Force was Strategic Reconnaissance, which is the examination and survey of territory, on a broad scale, for the purpose of securing information to be used in planning long-range operations against the enemy countries. This

reconnaissance is carried out largely by means of aerial photography and mapping, and is a prime necessity in locating targets, the destruction of which can inflict the greatest possible damage on the enemy's production, transportation and resources.

By 1955, SAC realigned its three numbered air forces and, effective 13 June. Following this realignment, SAC's numbered air forces were generally responsible for units and bases in the following geographical sections of the country: Second—southeast (including Texas); Eighth—northeast and central; Fifteenth—southwest and west.

Effective 1 January 1959, SAC realigned several bases and units between the Second and Eighth Air Forces. One base and its assigned units were transferred from the Eighth to the Fifteenth Air Force. Basically, this realignment placed the Eighth Air Force in control of forces in the eastern section of the United States and Second Air Force in command of forces in the central section. The Fifteenth's area of responsibility remained in the western section of the country.

On 1 July 1963, SAC reorganized its three numbered air forces in the United States. This realignment was effected primarily to correct an imbalance in the assignment of missiles. Due to restrictive geological factors in the eastern part of the United States, the Eighth Air Force's role in the SAC ICBM program had been limited to one squadron of Atlas F missiles at Plattsburgh AFB, NY. With additional B-47 and KC-97 units of the Eighth Air Force scheduled to be inactivated in the following years, the imbalance of forces among the three numbered air forces would be accentuated. Completely disregarding whatever influence geographical factors may have had upon a numbered air force's area of responsibility, SAC directed that its three numbered air forces be realigned on 1 Jul, an action which overnight plunged the Eighth Air Force into an operational ICBM environment in the Midwestern and Rocky Mountain regions of the United States. From the Fifteenth, the Eighth acquired a tenant Titan I wing at Lowry AFB, CO, and Francis E. Warren AFB, WY, with an operational Atlas wing. With the acquisition of F. E. Warren, a Minuteman wing was activated there. From the Second Air Force, the Eighth acquired a Titan II wing, which would begin receiving missiles shortly thereafter at McConnell AFB, KS, and Whiteman AFB, MO, together with its Minuteman wing.

By 1970, the Second Air Force became an all manned aircraft command, consisting of B-52, FB-111, and KC-135 units; while the Fifteenth Air Force became responsible for all combat ICBM units, the entire strategic reconnaissance force, and a few B-52 and KC-135 units. 1970

By 1 July 1973, the Second and Fifteenth Air Forces had completed a major unit realignment program. This program entailed giving the air division diversified missions with a variety of weapon systems rather than allowing them to specialize in one weapon system. It also included placing some ICBM units one Minuteman and two Titan wings under the Second Air Force rather than having all missile units concentrated in the Fifteenth Air Force as had been the case since the numbered air force realignment of early 1970. The numbered air force realignment was effected in a series of reassignment actions extending from 15 February through 1 July.

Effective 1 Jan 1975, Headquarters Eighth Air Force moved without personnel and equipment

from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, to Barksdale AFB, LA, where it absorbed the functions and personnel of Headquarters Second Air Force, which was inactivated. Retention of Eighth Air Force in SAC and inactivation of Second Air Force was done in order to perpetuate the Eighth's colorful lineage, specifically its World War II combat history. Second Air Force had no World War II combat experience.

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.

USAF 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.

Air Force Magazine Almanacs. Air Force Association. Arlington, VA.

Unit yearbook. *Barksdale AFB, LA, HQ 2 AF, 2 BW, 2 CSG, 1 CEG, 1964*. Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1964.