

SEVENTH AIR FORCE



LINEAGE

Hawaiian Air Force established, 19 Oct 1940
Activated, 1 Nov 1940
Redesignated 7th Air Force, 5 Feb 1942
Redesignated Seventh Air Force, 18 Sep 1942
Redesignated Pacific Air Command, 15 Dec 1947
Discontinued, 1 Jun 1949
Redesignated Seventh Air Force, 10 Dec 1954
Activated 5 Jan 1955
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1957
Activated, 25 Mar 1966
Organized, 1 Apr 1966
Inactivated, 30 Jun 1975
Activated, 8 Sep 1986
Redesignated as Seventh Air Force (Air Forces Korea), 18 Jan 2008

STATIONS

Fort Shafter, Territory of Hawaii
Hickam Field, Territory of Hawaii, Jul 1941
Saipan, Mariana Islands, Dec 1944
Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, Jul 1945
Hickam Field, Territory of Hawaii, 1 Jan 1946
Hickam Field, Territory of Hawaii, 5 Jan 1955
Wheeler AFB, Territory of Hawaii, Mar 1955
Tan Son Nhut Airfield, South Vietnam 1 Apr 1966
Nakhon Phanom Airport, Thailand, 29 Mar 1973
Osan AB, South Korea, 8 Sep 1986

ASSIGNMENTS

Hawaiian Department, U.S. Army
Army Air Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas, 1 Aug 1944
Far East Air Forces (later, Pacific Air Command, U.S. Army), 14 Jul 1945
Army Air Forces, 1 Jan 1947
Pacific Air Force (later, Pacific Air Force/FEAF [Rear]), 5 Jan 1955

Pacific Air Forces, 28 Mar 1966
Pacific Air Forces, 20 Aug 1986

COMMANDERS

MG Frederick L. Martin, 2 Nov 1940
MG Clarence L. Tinker, 18 Dec 1941
BG Howard C. Davidson, 9 Jun 1942
MG Willis H. Hale, 20 Jun 1942
MG Robert W. Douglass, Jr., 15 Apr 1944
MG Thomas D. White, 23 Jun 1945
BG Donald F. Stace, 19 Oct 1946
MG Ralph H. Wooten, 22 May 1947
BG Robert F. Travis, 1 Sep 1948-1 Jun 1949
MG Sory Smith, 5 Jan 1955
BG Julian M. Chappell, 25 Jul 1955-1 Jul 1957
LTG Joseph H. Moore, 1 Apr 1966
Gen William W. Momyer, 1 Jul 1966
Gen George S. Brown, 1 Aug 1968
Gen Lucius D. Clay Jr., 1 Sep 1970
Gen John D. Lavelle, 1 Aug 1971
Gen John W. Vogt Jr., 7 Apr 1972
LTG Timothy F. O'Keefe, 1 Oct 1973-30 Jun 1975
LTG Jack I. Gregory, 8 Sep 1986
LTG Craven C. Rogers Jr., 9 Dec 1986
LTG Thomas A. Baker, 31 Oct 1988
LTG Ronald R. Fogleman, 7 Jul 1990
LTG Howell M. Estes III, 17 Aug 1992
LTG Ronald W. Iverson, 30 Sep 1994
LTG Joseph E. Hurd, 7 Apr 1997
LTG Charles R. Heflebower, 14 Sep 1999
LTG Lance L. Smith, 19 Nov 2001
LTG Gary E. Trexler, 19 Nov 2003
LTG Stephen G. Wood, 6 Nov 2006
LTG Jeffrey A. Remington, Nov 2008
LTG Jan-Marc Jouas

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Central Pacific
Air Offensive, Japan
Eastern Mandates
Western Pacific
Ryukyus
China Offensive

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Dec 1986-2 Oct 1988

3 Oct 1988-7 Jul 1990

1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1995

1 Jul 1995-30 Jun 1997

1 Jul 1999-30 Jun 2001

1 Sep 2001-30 Aug 2003

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Apr 1966-28 Jan 1973

EMBLEM

On a blue disc a golden orange Arabic numeral "7" enfiled in base by a white five-pointed star charged with a red disc, in perspective, all within a golden orange border. (Approved, 21 May 1943) (Approved, 2 Jun 1942; revised, 23 May 2005)

On a blue disc 2 3/8 inches (6.03 cm) in diameter a golden orange number "7" enfiled in base by a white five-pointed star charged with a red disc in perspective all within a 1/8 inch (.32 cm) inch golden orange border.

Symbolism

The numeral seven represents the unit's numerical designation. Golden orange has two meanings, first it is one of the Army Air Forces colors and second it indicates a sunny tropical climate. The star which recedes into the background and encircles the number shows the mobility and protection that the Seventh Air Force affords the Hawaiian Islands. The weight of the star (red in color) shows the strength of the unit.

Background

The shoulder sleeve insignia was approved on 21 May 1943.

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The mission of the Seventh Air Force is to fly and fight. In more specific terms, it is to conduct, control and coordinate offensive and defensive air operations in accordance with tasks assigned; to maintain assigned forces at a level of readiness to insure successful completion of directed military operations; and to advance the national policies and interests of the United States. All Air Force personnel and aircraft in Southeast Asia are under the operational control of the Commander, 7th Air Force, who reports directly to the Commander, United States Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) and to the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Air Force.

Seventh Air Force evolved from the Hawaiian Air Force that was originally established to control a growing number of air units arriving in the Territory of Hawaii in 1940. The serenity of this idyllic home station which garnered the unit the designation "Pineapple Air Force"

Seventh Air Force began the U. S. aerial war against Japan in the Battle of Midway. Its B-17s joined with Navy forces in June 1942 to smash a huge enemy invasion fleet off Midway. Seventh Air Force conducted strikes against enemy positions in the Gilbert Islands at Nauru and Tarawa, Eniwetok, Guam and Saipan. By the close of war in mid-August, FEAF pilots, including those of Seventh Air Force, had flown nearly half a million combat sorties against the Japanese. They defeated the Japanese air forces in the Pacific, spearheaded the way for General MacArthur's island-hopping campaign and supported the massive amphibious assaults which leap-frogged to Japan.

In the aftermath of World War II the Seventh was briefly a named command (Pacific Air Command) before inactivating on 1 Jun 1949. Seventh Air Force regained its name and enjoyed a brief rebirth in the second half of the 1950s. Resurrected as an administrative headquarters, 7 AF oversaw Pacific Air Force's area of responsibility east of 140 degrees east longitude, including the Hawaiian Islands. Seventh was also responsible for the air defense of the islands. However, the movement of Far East Air Forces (renamed Pacific Air Forces) from Japan to Hawaii led to the inactivation of 7 AF on 1 Jul 1957.

When activated on 28 Mar 1966, 7 AF was designated a combat command at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Republic of Vietnam the Air Component Command of Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. From April 1966 through 1973, the command assumed responsibility for most Air Force operations in Vietnam and shared responsibility with Thirteenth Air Force for operations from Thailand as 7/13 Air Force.

The residual responsibilities of Headquarters USMACV/Seventh Air Force were moved from Saigon to Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, in Feb 1973 and assumed by the US Support Activities Group/ Seventh Air Force (USSAG/7AF). The combined headquarters, commanded by General Vogt, was organized under a joint table of authorization, and all personnel were assigned to USSAG. Seventh Air Force, as a separate organization, ceased to exist in fact, but the designation was retained in the title of the headquarters. It served in this role until inactivated on 30 Jun 1975.

On 8 Sep 1986, Seventh Air Force activated at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, and assumed the mission of maintaining the fragile armistice on the Korean peninsula previously performed by the 314th Air Division. Since then, both as U.S. Air Forces Korea, under the joint U.S. Forces

Korea, and the U.S. Air Force component to the United States and Republic of Korea Combined Forces Command's Air Component Command, 7 AF has been an integral part of deterring aggression from North Korea.





Air Force Order of Battle
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Sources
AFHRA

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