

SEVENTEENTH AIR FORCE



MISSION

LINEAGE

Seventeenth Air Force established, 17 Apr 1953
Organized, 25 Apr 1953
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1996
Redesignated Seventeenth Air Force (Air Forces Africa), 5 Sep 2008
Activated, 1 Oct 2008
Inactivated, 2012

STATIONS

Rabat-Sale, French Morocco (later, Morocco)
Wheelus AB, Libya, 1 Aug 1956
Ramstein AB, West Germany, 15 Nov 1959
Sembach AB, Germany, 5 Oct 1972-30 Sep 1996
Ramstein AB, Germany, 1 Oct 2008

ASSIGNMENTS

United States Air Forces in Europe, 17 Apr 1953-30 Sep 1996
United States Air Forces in Europe, 1 Oct 2008

COMMANDERS

None (not manned), 25 Apr-12 May 1953
Maj Gen David W. Hutchison, 13 May 1953
Maj Gen Frederic E. Glantzberg, 18 Feb 1954

Maj Gen Richard J. O'Keefe, 1 Aug 1956
Brig Gen Robert J. Goewey, 10 Jun 1958
Maj Gen Henry R. Spicer, 30 Jun 1958
Maj Gen Gabriel P. Disosway, 15 Nov 1959
Maj Gen Henry R. Spicer, 25 May 1960
Maj Gen James V. Edmundson, 22 Jun 1962
Maj Gen John K. Hester, 28 Sep 1964
Brig Gen Loren C. McCollum, 8 Apr 1965
Maj Gen Henry G. Thome, Jr., 19 Apr 1965
Brig Gen Luther H. Richmond, 19 Jun 1966
Maj Gen John D. Lavelle, 18 Jul 1966
Maj Gen Rollen H. Anthis, 4 Dec 1967
Maj Gen Royal N. Baker, 7 Jul 1969
Maj Gen Dale S. Sweat, 16 Feb 1971
Maj Gen Robert W. Maloy, 5 Jul 1972
Maj Gen C. Giraud, 30 May 1973
Maj Gen Benjamin N. Bellis, 15 Nov 1974
Maj Gen Walter D. Druen, Jr., 9 Jun 1977
Maj Gen William E. Brown, Jr., 17 Jul 1980
Maj Gen Harry A. Goodall, 26 Aug 1982
Maj Gen William J. Breckner, Jr., 29 Aug 1984
Maj Gen Richard M. Pascoe, 30 Sep 1986
Maj Gen Robert L. Rutherford, 25 Apr 1988
Maj Gen James E. Chambers, 23 Oct 1989
Brig Gen Glenn A. Profitt (acting), 7 Aug 1991
Maj Gen James E. Chambers, 25 Sep 1991
Maj Gen Eugene D. Santarelli, 21 Sep 1993
Maj Gen Charles R. Heflebower, 28 Feb 1995-30 Sep 1996
Maj Gen Ronald R. Ladnier, 1 Oct 08
Brig Gen Margaret Woodward, 2010
Lt Gen Darryl L. Roberson

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1987-30 Jun 1989

1 Jul 1990-30 Jun 1992

1 Oct 1994-30 Sep 1996

1 Oct 2008-30 Jun 2010
1 Jul 2010-31 Jul 2011

EMBLEM



Azure, a stylized Pegasus rampant Argent, eyed Gules, a lightning flash emitting from his nostril bend sinisterwise of the last garnished of the second, his body charged with a hurté, thereon a mullet White, charged with a torteau; all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "SEVENTEENTH AIR FORCE" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force 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. For more than 2,000 years, the figure of the winged horse "Pegasus" has been common in the mythology of a dozen different cultures. In the Seventeenth Air Force emblem, Pegasus, symbolizes the unity by air of the vast

area of the command, and courage and combat readiness which unites these elements. His wing is a modification of the traditional Air Force wing used in the insignia of every existing Air Force. The star and circle date back to the beginning of American Air Power. Pegasus is the symbol of those who stand ready to serve in an age where distance and time are no more a barrier than they were to his original owners. (Approved, 25 Jan 1955; revised, 5 Aug 2008)

After securing the approval of the Fairchild Engine and Airplane Company to use its symbol, Pegasus, in the Seventeenth Air Force unit emblem, 2Lt John B. Lawson designed the emblem in 1954. Lt Lawson was aid de camp to Seventeenth Air Force's second commander, Maj Gen Frederic E. Glantzberg.

MOTTO

Valor, Strength, and Unity

Motto coined by 1Lt Lawrence J. Green in 1969 while assigned to the 40 Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Aviano AB, Italy. Motto approved, 4 Mar 1969

OPERATIONS

Activated in 1953 to exercise area command responsibilities in North Africa, the Mediterranean and the Middle East. Upon moving to Germany in Nov 1959, assumed command of all USAFE units in NATO's Central Region in Western Europe; maintained readiness of units primarily based in West Germany; served as command element for coordination of air support to U.S. and NATO ground forces and air defense missions in the Central Region. Supported PROVIDE PROMISE and DENY FLIGHT operations in Bosnia 1992-1995. Activated in 2008 as the air component for US Africa Command (USAFRICOM).

Seventeenth Air Force inactivated in a ceremony here today and the Air Forces Africa flag and mission were passed to U.S. Air Forces in Europe. The numbered Air Force, which has also been known as Air Forces Africa, served as the air component for U.S. Africa Command. USAFE now takes up air component responsibilities for the African area of activity. U.S. Africa Command commander Gen. Carter F. Ham was joined by USAFE commander Gen. Mark A. Welsh III in overseeing the inactivation and transfer, both lauding 17th Air Force commander Maj. Gen. Margaret Woodward and her organization. Many of the Airmen formerly assigned to 17th Air Force have joined USAFE and 3rd Air Force and remain focused on the African mission. We may not have been the largest NAF in the Air Force but in my opinion we were certainly the best." In the almost four years since 17th was reactivated in October 2008 to coincide with the standup of AFRICOM as a unified command, the unit accomplished more than 200 engagement events with 36 partner nations in Africa. They also took planning and command and control responsibility for air operations in Africa. 2012

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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