

15th EXPEDITIONARY MOBILITY TASK FORCE



MISSION

LINEAGE

Fifteenth Air Force established, 30 Oct 1943

Activated, 1 Nov 1943

Inactivated, 15 Sep 1945

Activated, 31 Mar 1946

Redesignated 15th Expeditionary Mobility Task Force, 1 Oct 2003

Inactivated, 2012

STATIONS

Tunis, Tunisia, 1 Nov 1943

Bari, Italy, 1 Dec 1943

Ent AFB, Colorado Springs, CO, 31 Mar 1946

March AFB, CA, 7 Nov 1949

Travis AFB, CA, 1 Jul 1993

ASSIGNMENTS

North African Theater of Operations, 1 Nov 1943

Army Air Forces, Mediterranean Theater of Operations, 26 Apr 1944-15 Sep 1945

Strategic Air Command, 31 Mar 1946

Air Mobility Command, 1 Jun 1992

Eighteenth Air Force, 1 Oct 2003

COMMANDERS

MG James H. Doolittle, 1 Nov 1943
MG Nathan F. Twining, 3 Jan 1944
BG James A. Mollison, 26 May 1945
BG William L. Lee, 3 Aug 1945
Col Elmer J. Rogers, Jr., 31 Aug-15 Sep 1945
MG Charles F. Born, 31 Mar 1946
BG Leon W. Johnson, 24 Apr 1947
MG Emmett O'Donnell, Jr., 6 Oct 1948
MG Walter C. Sweeney, Jr., 20 Apr 1953
MG Archie J. Old, Jr., c. 20 Aug 1955
LTG William K. Martin, 1 Sep 1966
LTG Jack J. Catton, 1 Aug 1968
LTG Paul K. Carlton, 1 Aug 1969
LTG William F. Pitts, 27 Nov 1972
LTG Bryan M. Shotts, 1 Aug 1975
LTG James P. Mullins, 1 Nov 1978
LTG John J. Murphy, 14 Jul 1981
LTG James E. Light, Jr., 1 Sep 1983
LTG Richard A. Burpee, 26 Jan 1988
LTG Robert D. Beckel, 5 Feb 1990
LTG John E. Jackson, Jr., 1 Jul 1992
LTG Walter Kross, 7 Aug 1993
MG Marvin S. Ervin (temporary), 18 Jul 1994
LTG Bruce L. Fister, 3 Aug 1994
LTG Charles T. Robertson, Jr., 9 Sep 1996
LTG John B. Sams, Jr, 24 Jul 1998
LTG Walter S. Hogle, Jr., 1 Nov 1999
MG John D. Becker, 3 Jul 2001
BG Richard E. Perraut, Jr., 1 Oct 2003
BG Brooks L. Bash, 27 Oct 2004
BG Mark E. Stearns, 15 Sep 2006

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Air Combat, EAME Theater
Air Offensive, Europe
Naples-Foggia
Anzio
Rome-Arno
Normandy
Northern France
Southern France

North Apennines
Rhineland
Central Europe
Po Valley

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1984-30 Jun 1986

1 Jul 1989-30 Jun 1991

1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1995

1 Jul 1995-30 Jun 1997

1 Jul 1997-30 Jun 1999

1 Jul 1999-30 Jun 2000

1 Jul 2000-30 Jun 2001

1 Jul 2001- 30 Jun 2003

1 Oct 2004-30 Sep 2005

1 Oct 2005-30 Sep 2006

EMBLEM



On a blue disc a white star charged with a red disc in the center and with golden orange stylized wings below a golden orange Arabic numeral "15", all within a golden orange annulet. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The insignia is in the colors of the Air Forces. The white star with the red center together with the wings indicates that it is an organization of the Army Air Forces, while the number "15" is the numerical designation of the organization. (Approved, 19 Feb 1944; revised, 7 Jul 1994)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

In late 1943, Fifteenth Air Force was newly established in the Mediterranean theater as a strategic air force. The new air force drew its operational units from existing air forces in the European and Mediterranean theaters and commenced combat operations the day after it was formed.

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 Air Force Base, California, while Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, located in California, controlled units at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. On 1 April, 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.

By 1955, the New York-New England area was becoming increasingly important to SAC operations. Dow and Loring Air Force Bases, Maine, had been supporting F-84 and B-36 wings, respectively, for some time; Westover Air Force Base, Massachusetts, which became a SAC installation on 1 April, was being groomed to support tankers and bombers; and new B-47/KC-97 bases were being built at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Plattsburgh, New York. In line with this expansion, SAC realigned its three numbered air forces and, effective 13 June, moved Headquarters Eighth Air Force from Carswell Air Force Base, Texas, to Westover. 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 Air Force Base, New York. 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 July, 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 Air Force Base, Colorado, and Francis E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming, 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 Air Force Base, Kansas, and Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, together with its embryonic Minuteman wing.

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.

In the postwar years it became one of Strategic Air Command's primary numbered air forces. Upon its transfer to Air Mobility Command in 1992, Fifteenth Air Force assumed responsibility for airlift and air refueling missions. Beginning in 2003, served as an expeditionary task force conducting air mobility operations in support of worldwide contingencies, humanitarian operations, exercises and other missions.

The 18 AF commands two EMTFs, the 15 EMTF at Travis AFB, and the 21 EMTF at McGuire AFB. The EMTF's mission is to provide rapid, tailored, world-wide, air mobility responses to support the combatant commanders' requirements. The EMTF's are the source for a variety of deployable Global Air Mobility Support System GAMSS units. The EMTFs support Rapid Global Mobility operations via AMC infrastructure, through both enroute employment and rapid forward deployment capabilities. In order to project and sustain combat forces worldwide, the EMTFs provide mission-ready Command and Control (C2) elements, Aerial Port operations, Aircraft Maintenance, Air Traffic Control, Security Forces, Civil Engineering, Weather, Finance, Supply, and Intelligence Personnel, as well as, Airlift, Air-refueling, and Aeromedical Evacuation expertise. An important function of the EMTF is the establishment of airlift operations in the planning, opening and execution of initial airfield operations.

Air Mobility Command inactivated the 15th Expeditionary Mobility Task Force at Travis AFB, Calif., one day after standing down the 21st EMTF-a parallel organization at JB McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. Part of AMC's streamlining of mobility forces, 18th Air Force is relinquishing the roles and units formerly assigned to the task forces to the Air Force Expeditionary Center at McGuire. Along with the 515th Air Mobility Operations Wing at JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, the 615th Contingency Response Wing at Travis formally transferred to AFEC control in a ceremony Tuesday at Travis. "The mission will continue no matter what we do to the wing," said Lt. Gen. Mark Ramsay, 18th AF commander, addressing 615th CRW airmen at the ceremony. "When other nations have called on America in a time of need, we have always responded. . . . That will continue," he added, noting that former 15th EMTF constituent units at Travis and Hickam will remain in place. 2012

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 23 Aug 2010

Updated: 19 Jan 2014

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.