

26th AIR DIVISION



MISSION

LINEAGE

26th Air Defense Division established, 21 Oct 1948
Activated, 16 Nov 1948
Redesignated 26th Air Division (Defense), 20 Jun 1949
Inactivated, 1 Feb 1952
Organized, 1 Feb 1952
Redesignated 26th Air Division (SAGE), 8 Aug 1958
Redesignated 26th Air Division, 1 Apr 1966
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1969
Activated, 19 Nov 1969
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1990

STATIONS

Mitchel AFB, NY, 16 Nov 1948
Mitchel AFB Sub Base #3, Roslyn, NY, 18 Apr 1949-1 Feb 1952
Mitchel AFB Sub Base #3, Roslyn (later, Roslyn AFS), NY, 1 Feb 1952
Syracuse AFS, NY, 15 Aug 1958
Hancock Field, NY, 14 Feb 1959
Stewart AFB, NY, 15 Jun 1964

Adair AFS, OR, 1 Apr 1966-30 Sep 1969
Luke AFB, AZ, 19 Nov 1969
March AFB, CA, 31 Aug 1983-1 Jul 1987

ASSIGNMENTS

First Air Force, 16 Nov 1948
Air Defense Command, 1 Apr 1949
First Air Force, 16 Nov 1949
Eastern Air Defense Force, 1 Sep 1950-1 Feb 1952
Eastern Air Defense Force, 1 Feb 1952
Air Defense Command, 1 Aug 1959
Fourth Air Force, 1 Apr 1966-30 Sep 1969
Tenth Air Force, 19 Nov 1969
Aerospace Defense Command, 1 Dec 1969
Tactical Air Command, 1 Oct 1979
First Air Force, 6 Dec 1985-30 Sep 1990

ATTACHMENTS

Eastern Air Defense Force, 17 Nov 1949-31 Aug 1950

COMMANDERS

Unkn (manned at paper unit strength), 16 Nov 1948-31 Mar 1949
Col Ernest H. Beverly, 1 Apr 1949
BG Russell J. Minty, Nov 1949
Col Hanlon H. Van Auken, 1953
BG James W. McCauley, 1 Apr 1953
BG Thayer S. Olds, 26 Oct 1955
BG Arthur C. Agan Jr., 1 Aug 1957
MG Sam W. Agee, 8 Aug 1958
BG Ernest H. Beverly, May 1960
BG William E. Elder, Jun 1960
BG Ernest H. Beverly, 20 Jun 1960
BG Henry Viccellio, 11 Jul 1960
MG Arthur C. Agan Jr., 1 Jul 1963
BG Thomas B. Whitehouse, 8 Jun 1964
MG Von R. Shores, 20 Jul 1964
MG Gordon H. Austin, 29 Jul 1965
BG Frank W. Gillespie, 1 Apr 1966
Col Wayne E. Rhynard, 29 Jul 1966;
Col Harry L. Downing, by Sep 1969-30 Sep 1969
BG Sanford K. Moats, 19 Nov 1969
BG Richard G. Cross Jr., Aug 1970
BG James E. Paschall, 1 Dec 1971
BG Ranald T. Adams Jr., 21 May 1973

BG Dan A. Brooksher, 30 Aug 1974
MG Thomas E. Clifford, 19 Apr 1976
BG James S. Creedon, 7 Sep 1978
Col Allan E. Aaronson, 22 Jan 1979
Col Frank T. Faha, 15 Mar 1979
BG James S. Creedon, 2 Feb 1980
BG Thomas W. Sawyer, 1 Aug 1980
Col Henry D. Canterbury, 27 Jan 1982
Col Richard A. Pierson, 7 Jun 1982
BG Christian F. Dreyer Jr., 22 May 1985
BG John M. Davey, 15 Aug 1986-1 Jul 1987

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
4 Feb 1972-12 Mar 1973
15 Jul 1975-14 Jul 1977
16 Jul 1978-15 Jul 1980

EMBLEM



Original 1952 emblem





26th Air Division emblem: Or, three stylized jet aircraft one in chief fesswise, one bend sinisterwise in bend, and one palewise, nose to base in sinister fess azure, arched from sinister base to dexter fess a segment of a globe of the like charged with a stylized building within an atomic symbol argent. (Approved, 17 Nov 1960)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Beginning in Nov 1948, the division performed air defense over an area that covered much of the industrial northeast, including New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. It employed off shore naval picket ships, fixed "Texas Tower" radar sites, airborne early warning units, and a civilian ground observer corps program. The latter phased down when the SAGE program was implemented. Improved radar and communications equipment and fighter interceptors, and better techniques and methods, eventually led to the 26th Air Division becoming the first operational SAGE air defense system (1 Jan 1959) within Air Defense Command.

The 26th's area of control expanded until by 1963 its boundaries extended from the Arctic to the Gulf of Mexico and well toward the center of the United States. In 1961 the division assumed air defense training responsibility for Air National Guard (ANG) units within the area. During the Cuban Crisis of 1962, the division deployed fighter aircraft and part of its airborne early warning and control force to Florida.

In Apr 1966, the division, replaced by the First Air Force, moved without personnel or equipment to Adair AFS, Oregon, where it assumed responsibility for the defense of Oregon, part of California and Nevada, gradually phasing down until it replaced the 27th Air Division at

Luke AFB, Arizona in Nov 1969.

In Oct 1979, it transferred to Tactical Air Command and continued to supervise its assigned components until 1 Jul 1987.

Air Force Order of Battle

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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.