

AIR FORCES PANAMA



LINEAGE

Established as USAF Southern Air Division, 24 Nov 1975

Activated, 1 Jan 1976

Redesignated 830th Airlift Division, 1 Jan 1989

Air Forces Panama, 15 Feb 1991

Inactivated, 11 Feb 1992

STATIONS

Albrook AFS, CZ, 1 Jan 1976

Howard AFB, CZ (later, Panama), 15 Aug 1977

Albrook AFS, Panama, 1 Mar 1989

Howard AFB, Panama, 15 Feb 1991-11 Feb 1992

ASSIGNMENTS

Tactical Air Command, 1 Jan 1976

Twelfth Air Force, 31 Jan 1987-11 Feb 1992

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Rotational aircraft

A-7, 1976-1990

A-10, 1985-c.1988

C-130, 1976-1984

F-15, 1990-1992

F-16, 1990-1992

A-37, 1985-1992

O-2, 1976-1986

UH-1, 1976-1986

COMMANDERS

Maj Gen James M. Breedlove, 1 Jan 1976
Maj Gen Robert B. Tanguy, 6 Apr 1977
Brig Gen Thomas E. Wolters, 27 Jun 1980
Maj Gen William E. Masterson, 1 Feb 1981
Maj Gen Henry D. Canterbury, 13 Dec 1984
Col Harold E. Watson, 17 Jan 1987
Brig Gen Robin G. Tornow, 22 Jun 1988
Brig Gen David Oakes, 24 May 1990-c. 11 Feb 1992

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Panama, 1989-1990

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
20 Dec 1989-14 Feb 1991

Air Force Organizational Excellence Awards

1 Feb 1981-31 Jan 1983

1 Jan 1986-31 Dec 1987

EMBLEM

Azure, issuing from base a demi-globe light blue gridlined argent below four rolled parchments arraswise of the second and of the third surmounted by a lightning bolt bendsinisterwise gules below four mullets of four points palewise one, two, and one or, all within a diminished bordure argent.

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The USAF Southern Airlift Division replaced the USAF Southern Air Command as the Air Force component of the U.S. Armed Forces in the Panama Canal Zone in Jan 1976. It assumed responsibility for the air defense of the Panama Canal and for USAF relations, including foreign military sales (FMS) and disaster relief assistance, with the Latin American nations. The division supported disaster relief to countries such as Guatemala, Jamaica, Nicaragua, the Dominican

Republic, Panama and Columbia. It also assisted Mexico in its purchase of F-5s and trained Mexican technicians in logistics and maintenance for the new aircraft. In 1984 the division, through the FMS program, delivered T-33s to Ecuador and A-37Bs to the Dominican Republic. The division participated annually in various training exercises, including paratroop drops and close air support for Army troops. It also conducted numerous combined exercises with various Latin American countries. Through the Inter-American Air Forces Academy, it provided technical training and education for airmen and officers from approximately 14 Latin American countries.

BEG_DATE 01-01-1917 MAIN WING/0024

END_DATE 01-01-1992

24 COMPOSITE WING (24 COMPW) WAS ACTIVATED ON 1 JAN 89. UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND (USSOUTHCOM) SHIFTED ITS MISSION PRIORITIES AFTER COMPLETION OF OPERATION JUST CAUSE IN PANAMA DURING DEC 89 AND EARLY PART OF 1990. OVER HALF OF PILOTS OF 24 TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON OF 24 COMPW DEPLOYED TO SUPPORT OPERATION DESERT SHIELD/STORM ON 1 OCT 90. 24 COMPW WAS INACTIVATED WHEN AIR FORCES PANAMA (AFP) BECAME SENIOR UNITED STATES AIR FORCE (USAF) ORGANIZATION IN PANAMA DURING FEB 91. AFP SUPPORTED MULTI/SERVICE UNITS EXECUTING MISSIONS DIRECTED BY USSOUTHCOM AND UNITED STATES SOUTHERN AIR FORCES (USSOUTHAF). AFP INACTIVATED IN FEB 92 WHEN 24 WING ACTIVATED AND ASSUMED AFP MISSION. MISSION OF 24 WING WAS TO: PROVIDE, CONTROL, AND EMPLOY AIR POWER AS DIRECTED BY COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF USSOUTHCOM AND USSOUTHAF TO PROTECT AND DEFEND INTERESTS OF UNITED STATES IN LATIN AMERICA. BRIG GEN DAVID A. SAWYER REPLACED BRIG GEN DAVID OAKES AS 24 WING COMMANDER EFFECTIVE 13 JUL 92.

830th AIRLIFT DIVISION

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

Sources