

USAF CENTRAL COMMAND



LINEAGE

5th Air Support Command established, 21 Aug 1941

Activated, 1 Sep 1941

Redesignated 9th Air Force, 8 Apr 1942

Redesignated Ninth Air Force, 18 Sep 1942

Inactivated, 2 Dec 1945

Activated, 28 Mar 1946

Redesignated Ninth Air Force (Tactical), 1 Aug 1950

Redesignated Ninth Air Force, 26 Jun 1951

Redesignated Ninth Air Force (Air Forces Central), 1 Mar 2008

Redesignated United States Air Forces Central Command, 5 Aug 2009 (The organization is a Named Air Force)

The current Ninth Air Force is not the same as the original Ninth Air Force, which is now the United States Air Forces Central Command. The lineage, honors, emblem, and heritage of the original Ninth Air Force belong to United States Air Forces Central Command.

STATIONS

Bowman Field, KY, 1 Sep 1941

New Orleans AAB, LA, 24 Jan 1942

Bolling Field, DC, 22 Jul-Oct 1942

Cairo, Egypt, 12 Nov 1942-Oct 1943

Sunnyhill Park, England, Nov 1943-Sep 1944

Chantilly, France, 15 Sep 1944

Bad Kissingen, Germany, 6 Jun-2 Dec 1945

Biggs Field, TX, 28 Mar 1946

Greenville AAB (later, AFB), SC, 31 Oct 1946

Langley AFB, VA, 14 Feb 1949

Pope AFB, NC, 1 Aug 1950

Shaw AFB, SC, 20 Aug 1954
Undisclosed location, 5 Aug 2009

ASSIGNMENTS

Air Force Combat Command (later, Army Air Forces), 1 Sep 1941
United States Army Forces in the Middle East, 12 Nov 1942
European Theater of Operations, United States Army, 3 Nov 1943
United States Strategic Air Forces in Europe (later, United States Air Forces in Europe), 22 Feb
1944-2 Dec 1945
Tactical Air Command, 28 Mar 1946
Continental Air Command, 1 Dec 1948
Tactical Air Command, 1 Dec 1950
Air Combat Command, 1 Jun 1992

COMMANDERS

BG Junius W. Jones, 1 Sep 1941
Col Rosenham Beam, Feb 1942
None (not manned), May-11 Nov 1942
LTG Lewis H. Brereton, 12 Nov 1942
LTG Hoyt S. Vandenburg, 8 Aug 1944
MG Otto P. Weyland, 23 May 1945
MG William E. Kepner, 4 Aug-2 Dec 1945
BG Homer L. Sanders, 28 Mar 1946
BG Yantis H. Taylor, 17 Aug 1946
BG Jarred V. Crabb, 28 Sep 1946
MG Paul L. Williams, 1 Nov 1946
MG William D. Old, 15 Sep 1947
MG Willis H. Hale, 20 Oct 1949
MG Willard R. Wolfenbarger, 1 Aug 1950
MG Edward J. Timberlake, 7 Sep 1951
BG Bruce K. Holloway, 10 Jun 1957
MG Robert M. Lee, 25 Jul 1957
MG Daniel W. Jenkins, 28 Jun 1958
MG David W. Hutchison, 31 Jul 1958
MG Daniel W. Jenkins, 1 Jul 1961
MG Richard T. Coiner Jr., 19 Jul 1961
MG Charles R. Bond Jr., 22 Nov 1963
MG Marvin L. McNickle, 13 Jan 1964
MG Lawrence F. Tanberg, 30 Jul 1966
MG Don O. Darrow, 1 Sep 1966
MG Lawrence F. Tanberg, 14 Jun 1967
MG Gordon M. Graham, 31 Aug 1967
BG Donavon F. Smith, 1 Aug 1968
MG Timothy F. O'Keefe, 15 Aug 1968
MG Richard H. Ellis, 16 Sep 1969
MG Augustus M. Hendry, Jr., 22 Aug 1970

MG Roger K. Rhodarmer, 22 Jul 1971
MG Levi R. Chase, 1 Jun 1973
LTG James D. Hughes, 1 Dec 1973
LTG James V. Hartinger, 1 Jul 1975
LTG Arnold W. Braswell, 20 Jun 1978
LTG Larry D. Welch, 1 Jun 1981
LTG John L. Piotrowski, 18 Oct 1982
LTG William L. Kirk, 18 Jul 1985
LTG Charles A. Horner, 24 Mar 1987
LTG Michael A. Nelson, 19 Jun 1992
LTG John P. Jumper, 2 Aug 1994
LTG Carl E. Franklin, 7 Jun 1996
LTG Hal M. Hornburg, 11 May 1998
LTG Charles F. Wald, 12 Jan 2000
LTG T. Michael Moseley, 7 Nov 2001
LTG Walter E. L. Buchanan III, 11 Aug 2003
LTG Gary L. North, 16 Feb 2006

HONORS

Service Streamers

WWII American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Egypt-Libya

Tunisia

Sicily

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia

Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jun 1986-31 May 1988

1 Jul 1996-31 Mar 1998

1 Jun 1998-31 May 2000

1 Jun 2000-31 May 2002

1 Jun 2004-31 May 2006
1 Jun 2006-31 May 2007
1 Jun 2007-31 May 2008
1 Jun 2008-31 May 2009

EMBLEM

Azure, a bezant winged Argent charged with the Arabic numeral “9” Gules, in honor point a mullet of the second bearing a torteau; all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed “NINTH AIR FORCE” in Blue letters. (Approved, 16 Sep 1943; revised, 14 Sep 1951; AFCENT alternate emblem originally approved on 9 Apr 1987; newest rendition, 30 Jun 2008)

An ultramarine blue shield $2 \frac{5}{8}$ inches (6.67cm) in height charged with a red numeral “9” 1 inch (2.54 cm) in height on a golden orange disc $1 \frac{3}{16}$ inches (3.02 cm) in diameter between white wings, below and partially encircling a white star $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (1.91 cm) in diameter , charged with a red disc.

Symbolism

Ultramarine blue and golden orange are the colors of the Army Air Forces. The white star with the red disc represents the Army Air Force. The Arabic number “9” indicates the numerical designation of the unit.

Background

The shoulder sleeve insignia was approved on 16 September 1943.

EMBLEM 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. The star symbolizes the old Army Air Forces under which the unit was first activated. The numeral “9” indicates the numerical designation, and the wings imply the unit’s air mission.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Involved in early training activities for air-ground support operations from the fall of 1941 through the spring of 1942, but essentially unmanned during the summer of 1942 when most personnel were reassigned to Twelfth Air Force. Small cadre moved to Egypt and began operations upon assuming the personnel, units and resources of the provisional U.S. Army

Middle East Air Force in Nov 1942; participated in the Allied drive across Egypt and Libya, the campaign in Tunisia, and the invasions of Sicily and Italy. Moved to England in Oct 1943 to become the tactical air force for the invasion of the European Continent. Helped prepare for the assault on Normandy, supported operations in the beachhead during June 1944, and through its advanced headquarters took part in the drive that carried the Allies across France and culminated in victory over Germany in May 1945.

Assigned to Tactical Air Command until Dec 1948 when the Ninth, reassigned to Continental Air Command, lost its role as a tactical air organization and became concerned chiefly with reserve and National Guard units and activities. Assigned to Tactical Air Command in Dec 1950 and became concerned primarily with tactical air operations and training.

On Sept. 1, 1954, 9th Air Force, under the command of Maj. Gen. Edward J. Timberlake, opened its headquarters at Shaw AFB. It was rumored at the time that General Timberlake enjoyed a good round of golf and was so impressed by the golf course at Shaw AFB that he moved his headquarters here to be close to Shaw's course.

Since 1983, headquarters served in a joint-force capacity as U.S. Central Command Air Forces (later, Air Forces Central) responsible for contingency air operations in Southwest Asia, namely as primary air command element during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990-1991, and later during Operation Enduring Freedom beginning in 2001 and Operation Iraqi Freedom beginning in 2003.

Ninth AF Commander Flies in Razor Talon

Maj. Gen. H.D. Polumbo Jr, commander of 9th Air Force at Shaw AFB, S.C., paid a visit to Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. earlier this month where he flew an F-16 in support of Exercise Razor Talon. Polumbo flew in the exercise Dec. 5, participating in a large force-training sortie. Razor Talon is a monthly joint force exercise, which is designed to bring together forces from several installations along the East Coast, and integrate air, land, and sea forces from all services to train in advanced scenarios. The low cost exercise has served as a premier venue for integrating and training for anti-access, area-denial scenarios, and running through concepts related to AirSea Battle. 2014

Maj. Gen. H.D. Polumbo Jr., Ninth Air Force commander, settles into the cockpit of his F-16 Fighting Falcon prior to takeoff for exercise Razor Talon at Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C., Dec. 5, 2014. Air Force photo by SrA. John Nieves Camacho.



Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 23 Aug 2010
Updated:

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. Various years.