

# SEVENTEENTH AIR FORCE



## 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  
MG David W. Hutchison, 13 May 1953  
MG Frederic E. Glantzberg, 18 Feb 1954  
MG Richard J. O'Keefe, 1 Aug 1956  
BG Robert J. Goewey, 10 Jun 1958  
MG Henry R. Spicer, 30 Jun 1958  
MG Gabriel P. Disosway, 15 Nov 1959  
MG Henry R. Spicer, 25 May 1960  
MG James V. Edmundson, 22 Jun 1962  
MG John K. Hester, 28 Sep 1964  
BG Loren C. McCollum, 8 Apr 1965  
MG Henry G. Thome, Jr., 19 Apr 1965  
BG Luther H. Richmond, 19 Jun 1966  
MG John D. Lavelle, 18 Jul 1966  
MG Rollen H. Anthis, 4 Dec 1967  
MG Royal N. Baker, 7 Jul 1969  
MG Dale S. Sweat, 16 Feb 1971  
MG Robert W. Maloy, 5 Jul 1972

MG C. Giraud, 30 May 1973  
MG Benjamin N. Bellis, 15 Nov 1974  
MG Walter D. Druen, Jr., 9 Jun 1977  
MG William E. Brown, Jr., 17 Jul 1980  
MG Harry A. Goodall, 26 Aug 1982  
MG William J. Breckner, Jr., 29 Aug 1984  
MG Richard M. Pascoe, 30 Sep 1986  
MG Robert L. Rutherford, 25 Apr 1988  
MG James E. Chambers, 23 Oct 1989  
BG Glenn A. Profitt (acting), 7 Aug 1991  
MG James E. Chambers, 25 Sep 1991  
MG Eugene D. Santarelli, 21 Sep 1993  
MG Charles R. Heflebower, 28 Feb 1995-30 Sep 1996  
MG Ronald R. Ladnier, 1 Oct 08  
BG Margaret Woodward, 2010

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

None

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

## **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1987-30 Jun 1989

1 Jul 1990-30 Jun 1992

1 Oct 1994-30 Sep 1996

## **EMBLEM**

Approved, 25 Jan 1955; revised, 5 Aug 2008

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **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

9/16/2014 - RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany -- Lt. Gen. Darryl L. Roberson, 3rd Air Force and 17th Expeditionary Air Force commander, outlined his priorities, challenges, leadership philosophy and personal experiences during an interview here Sept. 2.



Sources

AFHRA

Air Force Magazine Almanacs. Air Force Association. Arlington, VA. Various years.