

SIXTEENTH AIR FORCE



LINEAGE

Joint United States Military Group, Air Administration (Spain) established and activated, 20 May 1954

Redesignated Sixteenth Air Force, 15 Jul 1956

STATIONS

Madrid, Spain,

Torrejón AB, Spain, 1 Feb 1958

Aviano AB, Italy, 10 Aug 1992

Ramstein AB, Germany, 30 Sep 2005

ASSIGNMENTS

Strategic Air Command, 1 Jul 1957

United States Air Forces in Europe, 15 Apr 1966

COMMANDERS

MG August W. Kissner, 20 May 1954

MG Henry K. Mooney, 1 Jul 1957

MG John D. Ryan, 9 Jul 1960

MG Horace M. Wade, 26 Jun 1961

MG David Wade, 5 Jul 1961

MG James B. Knapp, 16 Jul 1963

MG Delmar E. Wilson, 13 Oct 1964

MG Stanley J. Donovan, 30 May 1966

MG Eugene B. LeBailly, 1 Aug 1967

MG Edward A. McGough III, 15 Jul 1970

MG Sanford K. Moats, 17 Oct 1972

LTG Richard H. Ellis, 14 May 1973

LTG Joseph G. Wilson, 29 Oct 1973

LTG Devol Brett, 22 Jul 1977

LTG Walter D. Druen, Jr., 25 Jul 1980

MG Robert W. Clement, 1 Jul 1981

MG William A. Gorton, 29 Jun 1984

MG Thomas A. Baker, 25 Sep 1985

MG Winfield S. Harpe, 6 Jul 1987

MG William J. Grove, Jr., 6 Dec 1988

MG Gerald A. Daniel, 10 Jan 1989

MG Ralph Rohatsch, Jr., 3 Oct 1992
LTG Joseph W. Ashy, 31 Jan 1994
LTG Michael E. Ryan, 8 Sep 1994
LTG Richard C. Bethurem, 11 Apr 1996
LTG Michael C. Short, 6 May 1998
LTG Ronald E. Keys, 2 Jul 2000
LTG Glen W. Morehead, III, 13 Nov 2002
MG Paul J. Fletcher, 14 Jun 2006
Unmanned, 1 Dec 2006

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

Kosovo

Kosovo Air Campaign, 1999

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Aug 1990-31 Jul 1991

1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1995

1 Jul 1995-30 Apr 1998

1 May 1998-30 Sep 1999

24 Mar-10 Jun 1999

19 Mar-16 April 2003

1 Jan-30 Nov 2006

EMBLEM

Approved, 4 Apr 1958; modified, 3 Sep 2003

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Oversaw and managed the construction of bases in Spain, 1954-1957, for US strategic bombers and aerial tankers. Had responsibility for the air defense of Spain, 1957-1960.

On 1 July, SAC assumed jurisdiction over the Sixteenth Air Force in Spain. Since its activation on 15 July 1956 at Torrejon Air Base, near Madrid, Headquarters Sixteenth Air Force had operated as a special organization under the direct control of Headquarters USAF. Its primary responsibility had been to monitor the construction of Spanish bases to be used

by SAC bombers. In addition to Torrejon, the Sixteenth controlled three other bases in Spain. Concurrent with its assignment to SAC, the Sixteenth assumed command jurisdiction over the Fifth Air Division and its bases in Morocco. It was not fully capable of taking over control of SAC operations in North Africa at this time. Second Air Force retained this responsibility throughout 1957.

Supported and conducted Strategic Air Command operations from bases in Spain and Morocco until 1965. With assignment to US Air Forces in Europe in 1966, gained responsibility for US Air Force bases in the Mediterranean region and controlled permanent and rotational forces in support of NATO's Southern Region.

1966 Sixteenth Air Force Transferred to USAFE - With B-47 Reflex operations having ceased there in late March 1965, the Spanish base complex became less important to SAC operations. On 15 April, Headquarters Sixteenth Air Force and Moron, Torrejon, and Zaragoza Air Bases were transferred from SAC to USAFE.

After moving to Aviano AB in 1992, Italy, served as the operational command for air expeditionary units established to conduct US Air Force operations in the Balkans, 1994-95 (Operations DENY FLIGHT and DELIBERATE FORCE) and 1999 (Operation ALLIED FORCE), and in Turkey, 1997-2003 (Operation NORTHERN WATCH). With its move to Germany in 2005, designated as the warfighting headquarters for the US Air Forces in Europe to execute aerospace operations through expeditionary force command and control in support of the US European Command and NATO.



Air Force Order of Battle
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Sources
AFHRA
Air Force Magazine Almanacs. Air Force Association. Arlington, VA. Various years.