AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND

LINEAGE
Research and Development Command established, 23 Jan 1950
Organized as a major command, 1 Feb 1950
Redesignated Air Research and Development Command, 16 Sep 1950
Redesignated Air Force Systems Command, 1 Apr 1961
Inactivated 1 Jul 1992

STATIONS
Andrews AFB, MD

COMMANDERS
MG David M. Schlatter, 1 Feb 1950
LTG Earle E. Partridge, 24 Jun 1951
LTG Donald L. Putt, 30 Jun 1953
LTG Thomas S. Power, 15 Apr 1954
MG John W. Sessums (acting), 1 Jul 1957
LTG Samuel E. Anderson, 1 Aug 1957

MG. John W. Sessums (acting), 10 Mar 1959
Gen Bernard A. Schriever, 25 Apr 1959
Gen James Ferguson, 1 Sep 1966
Gen George S. Brown, 1 Sep 1970
Gen Samuel C. Phillips, 1 Aug 1973
Gen William J. Evans, 1 Sep 1975
Gen Lew Allen Jr., 1 Aug 1977
Gen Alton D. Slay, 14 Mar 1978
Gen Robert T. Marsh, 1 Feb 1981
Gen Lawrence A. Skantze, 1 Aug 1984
Gen Bernard P. Randolph, 17 Jul 1987
Gen Ronald W. Yates, 1 Apr 1990

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE
The new emblem of the Air Research and Development Command portrays a missile rolling back the darkness of the unknown. The missile is red and white, the background is dark blue with light blue showing through the tear. Col. A. A. Arnhym, Special Assistant to ARDC Commander, Lt. Gen. Thomas S. Power, won a $100 savings bond for submitting the winning idea.

OPERATIONS
To plan, finance, encourage and direct a sound, realistic research and development program — defining and outlining the problems to be solved in terms of immediate and long range Air Force requirements — contracting with industry and private research organizations for the solution of these problems and evaluating and testing their results is the task of the Air Research and Development Command.

The Air Research and Development Command bears a large part of the responsibility for these plans, as well as for the research, development, and test of the systems that implement these plans. The burden of formulating operational concepts has become an important element in the evolution of new aerospace systems.

To pursue this aim, ARDC acts in concert with civilian scientists, industry, and universities, in addition to utilizing considerable facilities of its own. Hq. ARDC, situated at Andrews AFB, Md., operates eleven major centers and subcommands in this country, a European office, and other important facilities. Under its new commander, General Schriever, some reorganization of its present headquarters and field organization is expected, to prepare ARDC for its increasingly significant role in the next decade.

Functional antecedents of Air Force Systems Command date at least to the establishment of the Airplane Engineering Department by the Chief Signal Officer, U.S. Army, on October 13, 1917. The department was located in the vicinity of Dayton, Ohio, where its successor, the Engineering Division, became part of the Materiel Division on October 15, 1926. Subsequently, the engineering function resided in the Materiel Command, the AAF Technical Service Command,

the Air Technical Service Command, and the Air Materiel Command until the creation of a separate research and development command in 1950. In the reorganization and redesignation actions of 1961, Air Force Systems Command acquired the materiel procurement function from Air Force Logistics Command. Then with the 1992 reorganization of the Air Force, the functions of this command and the logistics command were once again merged in the Air Force Materiel Command.

Air Research and Development Command

Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 24 Aug 2010
Updated:

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