

TWELVETH AIR FORCE



LINEAGE

Twelfth Air Force constituted and activated, 20 Aug 1942

Inactivated, 31 Aug 1945

Activated, 17 May 1946

Discontinued, 1 Jul 1950

Organized, 21 Jan 1951

Redesignated Twelfth Air Force (Air Forces Southern), 29 Feb 2008

STATIONS

Boiling Field, DC, 20-28 Aug 1942

England, 12 Sep-22 Oct 1942

Algeria, 9 Nov 1942

Tunisia, 10 Aug 1943

Italy, 5 Dec 1943-31 Aug 1945

March Field, CA, 17 May 1946

Brooks AFB, TX, 1 Jan 1949-1 Jul 1950

Wiesbaden, Germany, 21 Jan 1951

Ramstein AB, Germany, 27 Apr 1953

Waco, TX, 1 Jan 1958

Bergstrom AFB, TX, 30 Aug 1968

Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, 1 Oct 1992

ASSIGNMENTS

Tactical Air Command

Continental Air Command, Dec 1948

United States Air Forces in Europe, 21 Jan 1951

COMMANDERS

LTC Roger J. Browne, 26 Aug 1942

LTC Harold L. Neely, 28 Aug 1942

MG James H. Doolittle, 23 Sep 1942

LTG Spaatz, 1 Mar 1943

LTG John K. Cannon, 21 Dec 1943

MG Benjamin W. Chidlaw, 2 Apr 1945

BG Charles T. Myers, 26 May-31 Aug 1945

BG Yantis H. Taylor, 17 May 1946
BG John P. Doyle, 10 Jul 1946
MG William D. Old, 24 Sep 1946
BG John P. Doyle, 23 Jan 1947
MG Glenn O. Barcus, 2 May 1947
MG Alden R. Crawford, 1 Sep 1949
Col Ezekiel W. Napier, 13 Jun-1 Jul 1950
MG Robert W. Douglass, Jr., 22 Jan 1951
MG Dean C. Strother, 16 Mar 1951
MG Robert M. Lee, 20 Nov 1953
MG John K. Gerhart, 15 Jun 1956
MG Chester E. McCarty, 1 Jan 1958
MG Jacob E. Smart, 17 Sep 1959
MG Karl Truesdell, Jr., 13 Jan 1960
MG Fred M. Dean, 1 Jul 1963
MG John C. Meyer, 1 Nov 1963
MG Lucius D. Clay, Jr., 21 Jan 1966
MG H. B. Thorne, 17 Jun 1966
MG Charles R. Bond, Jr., 30 Jun 1967
MG Jay T. Robbins, 30 Jun 1969
MG Albert W. Schinz, 1 Jul 1969
MG David I. Liebman, 26 Jan 1971 (acting)
MG Gordon F. Blood, 10 Feb 1971
MG John S. Burns, 30 Jun 1973
LTG Charles W. Carson, Jr., 11 Mar 1974
LTG James D. Hughes, 1 Jul 1975
LTG James V. Hartinger, 20 Jun 1978
MG Malcolm E. Ryan, Jr., 1 Jan 1980 (acting)
LTG William R. Nelson, 21 Jan 1980
LTG Jack I. Gregory, 1 Jun 1983
LTG Charles J. Cunningham, 31 May 1985
LTG Merrill A. McPeak, 26 Jun 1987
LTG Peter T. Kempf, 7 Jul 1988
MG Walter T. Worthington, 2 Nov 1990
LTG Thomas A. Baker, 31 May 1991
LTG James L. Jamerson, 13 Jul 1993
LTG Thomas R. Griffith, 22 Jul 1994
LTG James F. Record, 24 Jun 1995
LTG Frank B. Campbell, 9 Dec 1996
LTG Lansford E. Trapp Jr., 25 Nov 1997
LTG Robert H. Foglesong, 8 Sep 1999
LTG William T. Hobbins, 7 Aug 2000
LTG Randall M. Schmidt, 25 Jul 2003
LTG Norman R. Selp, 7 Jul 2006
LTG Glenn F. Spears, #2010

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Algeria-French Morocco

Tunisia

Sicily

Naples-Foggia

Anzio

Rome-Arno

Southern France

North Apennines

Po Valley

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Grenada, 1983;

Panama, 1989-1990

Decorations

Meritorious Unit Citation

1 Jun-31 Dec 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Feb 1987-28 Feb 1989

1 May 1989-31 Jan 1990

1 Feb 1990-1 Feb 1992

1 Jan 1993-31 Dec 1994

1 Jun 1996-31 May 1998

1 Jun 1999-31 May 2001

1 Jun 2003-31 May 2005

EMBLEM

an ultramarine blue equilateral triangle, one point down, a white star with a red disc in the center thereof bearing the numeral "12" in white, below a pair of stylized golden orange wings. (Originally approved, 1 Dec 1943, modified, 9 May 1958. Current rendition approved, 22 Jun 1994)

On a 3 1/4 inch (8.26 cm) ultramarine blue equilateral triangle, point down, a white star 1 1/4 inches (3.18 cm) in diameter with a red disc in the center thereof bearing the number "12" in white, below a pair of stylized golden orange wings.

Symbolism

The colors and elements represent the Army Air Force and the number "12" the numerical designation of the unit.

Background

The shoulder sleeve insignia was approved on 1 December 1943.

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Moved to England for training in late 1942 and participated in the invasion of North Africa. It engaged in tactical operations for the remainder of the war in the Mediterranean. The Twelfth Air Force has subsequently served both in Europe and later the United States. Beginning in 1987, Twelfth Air Force took on the added responsibility of managing all AF assets in US Southern Command Air Forces. From 1993-2002, managed the strategic reconnaissance assets for the Air Force. Participated in Operations Just Cause, 20 Dec 1989-31 Jan 1990 and Promote Liberty, 1990-1991. Provided fighter and reconnaissance aircraft and support to US Central Command Air Forces for operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, 1990-1991. Supported operations Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom in Iraq by ensuring force protection measures at home and abroad. It continued to support the Global War on Terror while at the same time conducting its mission as the Air Force component of the United States Southern Command by participating in its exercise program. From 2003, Twelfth Air Force led the way in bringing the Air Force's Warfighting Headquarters concept to life, establishing a command and control element, an Air Force Forces staff, and an Air Operations Center.

Lt. Gen. Tod Wolters assumed command of 12th Air Force (Air Forces Southern) from Lt. Gen. Robin Rand. The leadership change took place during a ceremony on Sept. 24 at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., according to a base release. Wolters previously served as the director of the Air Force's legislative liaison office at the Pentagon. Rand, who led 12th AF since December 2011, will put on a fourth star for his next assignment leading Air Education and Training Command at JBSA-Lackland, Tex. The Senate approved Rand for the post in August. "It has been an absolute pleasure working alongside you these past 30 years," said Air Combat Command boss Gen. Mike Hostage to Rand during the ceremony. "I've seen firsthand how you've delivered in every challenge put before you. Air Education and Training Command is gaining a great leader," said Hostage. Rand thanked 12th AF's airmen for their hard work. "No commander could have had a better championship team than the one I just played on," he said. 2013

Monday, December 22, 2014
New Boss at 12th Air Force

Air Forces Southern and 12th Air Force is now under the command of newly promoted Lt. Gen. Mark Nowland, who assumed leadership of AFSOUTH and 12th AF during a Dec. 19 change of command ceremony at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. Nowland replaced Lt. Gen. Tod Wolters, who is headed to the Pentagon where he steps into the office of deputy chief of staff for operations, plans, and requirements on the Air Staff. Nowland previously served as the chief of staff at US Southern Command, where he worked to coordinate the command's theater campaign plan, and to sync the efforts of nine directorates and 16 staff offices. The subordinate commands of 12th AF operate more than 680 aircraft and oversee more than 55,000 airmen and civilian employees. In a holiday message to airmen, Nowland said he and his family are excited, honored, and humbled to join the 12th AF community. "I look forward to earning your trust, and getting to know you and your families," he said. "While leading 12th AF and Air Forces Southern in producing and providing the trained and ready airmen this nation needs to fight the threats facing America, we will strive to balance mission and family."



Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 23 Aug 2010
Updated: 19 Jan 2014

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.