

TWENTIETH AIR FORCE



LINEAGE

Twentieth Air Force activated and established, 4 Apr 1944
Inactivated, 1 Mar 1955
Activated, 1 Sep 1991
Redesignated as Twentieth Air Force (Air Forces Strategic), 1 Dec 2009

STATIONS

Washington, DC, 4 Apr 1944
Harmon Field, Guam, 16 Jul 1945
Kadena, Okinawa, 16 May 1949-1 Mar 1955
Vandenberg AFB, CA, 1 Sep 1991
F. E. Warren AFB, WY, 1 Oct 1993

ASSIGNMENTS

Army Air Forces
U.S. Army Strategic Air Forces, Jul 1945
Pacific Air Command, U.S. Army, (later Far East Air Forces), 6 Dec 1945
Strategic Air Command, 29 Mar 1991
Air Combat Command, 1 Jun 1992
Air Force Space Command, 1 Jul 1993
Air Force Global Strike Command, 1 Dec 2009

COMMANDERS

General of the Army Henry H. Arnold, 6 Apr 1944
MG Curtis E. LeMay, 16 Jul 1945
LTG Nathan F. Twining, 2 Aug 1945
MG James E. Parker, 15 Oct 1945
BG Frederick M. Hopkins, Jr., 19 Mar 1946
MG Francis H. Griswold, 10 Sep 1946
MG Alvan C. Kincaid, 8 Sep 1948
MG Ralph F. Stearley, 31 Jul 1950
MG Fay R. Upthegrove, 8 Feb 1953-1 Mar 1955
BG Thomas E. Kuenning, Jr., 1 Sep 1991

LTG Arlen D. Jameson, 1 Jul 1992
MG Robert W. Parker, 22 Jun 1994
MG Donald G. Cook, 17 Jun 1996
MG Thomas H. Neary, 4 Sep 1998
MG Timothy J. McMahon, 19 Jul 2000
LTG Frank G. Klotz, 30 May 2003
LTG Thomas F. Deppe, 14 Oct 2005
MG Roger W. Burg, 10 Aug 2007
MG Donald Alston, 2010

Maj. Gen. Jack Weinstein, 20th Air Force commander 2015

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
American Theater
India-Burma
Air Offensive, Japan
China Defensive
Eastern Mandates
Western Pacific
Central Burma

Korean War
UN Defensive

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Sep 1991-31 Aug 1993
1 Sep 1993-14 Oct 1994
1 Oct 1995-30 Sep 1997
1 Oct 1997-30 Sep 1999
1 Oct 2000-1 Oct 2001
1 Oct 2001-30 Sep 2003

EMBLEM

A disc of ultramarine blue marked with white parallels of latitude and meridians of longitude surmounted in base by a white star charged at center with a red disc and circumscribed by an annulet golden orange lined blue, tips enclosing the Arabic numeral "20". (Approved, 26 May 1944, modified, 15 Oct 1991 and 18 May 1994)

Description

A disc of ultramarine blue 3 inches (7.62 cm) in diameter marked with white parallels of latitude and meridians of longitude surmounted in base by a white star 15/16 inch (2.38 cm) in diameter, charged at center with a red disc 5/16 inch (.79 cm) in diameter, and circumscribed by a 1/16 inch (.16 cm) annulet golden orange lined blue, tips enclosing the Arabic numeral "20" in 5/8 inch (1.59 cm) high white block letters.

Symbolism

The insignia is in the colors of the Air Forces. The white star with the red center together with the wings indicates that it is an organization of the Army Air Forces, while the number "20" is the numerical designation of the organization.

Background

The shoulder sleeve insignia was approved on 6 May 1944. It was amended to change the description on 13 July 1944.

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Twentieth AF has dual responsibilities to Air Force Space Command and United States Strategic Command. As the missile numbered air force for AFSPC, the 20th Air Force is responsible for maintaining and operating the Air Force's ICBM force. Designated as USSTRATCOM's Task Force 214, the 20th Air Force provides on-alert, combat-ready ICBMs to the President of the United States.

Twentieth Air Force was formed during World War II, exclusively as a heavy strategic bombardment organization. Headquartered in the United States, under command of General Henry H. Arnold, with direction from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, its B-29 components operated in the China-Burma-India and Pacific theaters, carrying the air war to the Japanese. Operations climaxed with atomic attacks on Japan in August 1945. Twentieth AF units also supported United Nations' forces during the Korean War.

Inactivated on March 1, 1951, the unit was reactivated Sept. 1, 1991 as a component of the Strategic Air Command and was located at Vandenberg AFB, Calif. Operationally responsible for all land-based ICBMs, 20th AF's rebirth came at a time when America's nuclear forces were entering a decade of unprecedented force reductions and changes. Spawned by the Cold War's end and the breakup of the Soviet Union, these changes reshaped the basic fabric of the nation's nuclear deterrent forces. For the men and women of America's ICBM team, it proved to be a period of sustained, dramatic change. In nine short years following its rebirth, the 20th AF experienced three major command identities. After one year in SAC and another year in Air Combat Command, the 20th AF found a permanent home in Air Force Space Command in 1993.

Twentieth Air Force's location also changed in 1993, moving from Vandenberg AFB, Calif., to its current home at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo.

The ICBM force structure was reduced radically during the 1990s, going from six wings to three, and from 1,000 alert ICBMs to 550. Currently, there are more than 11,000 personnel operating, maintaining, protecting and supporting 500 Minuteman III ICBMs at three bases: F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo.; Minot AFB, N.D. and Malmstrom AFB, Mont.

Carey Reassigned to Air Force Space Command The Air Force has reassigned Maj. Gen. Michael Carey to Air Force Space Command headquarters following his dismissal as 20th Air Force commander, service spokeswoman Ann Stefanek told the Daily Report. On Oct. 11, Air Force Global Strike Command chief Lt. Gen. James Kowalski announced that he had relieved Carey of duty "due to a loss of trust and confidence in his leadership and judgment." This action came after allegations against Carey of "personal misbehavior" during a temporary duty assignment. Information Kowalski received from personnel who traveled with Carey prompted Kowalski this summer to engage the Air Force's inspector general to look into the matter, said Stefanek. Investigators interviewed Carey as part of their probe. The IG is expected to complete its report in three to six weeks, she said. For now, the Air Force is not releasing details of what transpired, other than to say "there is no indication of criminal activity at this time," said Stefanek. Carey took command of 20th AF, which oversees the Minuteman III ICBM fleet, in June 2012. The Air Force promoted him to the rank of major general in November 2011. 2013

Air Force Global Strike Command boss Lt. Gen. James Kowalski relieved Maj. Gen. Michael Carey duty as 20th Air Force commander "due to a loss of trust and confidence in his leadership and judgment," announced the command. The numbered air force, headquartered at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo., oversees the Air Force's three Minuteman III ICBM wings, which constitute one leg of the nation's nuclear triad. Kowalski said he based his decision on information that came to light in an inspector general's investigation into Carey's behavior during a temporary duty assignment, according to the command's Oct. 11 release. "It's unfortunate that I've had to relieve an officer who's had an otherwise distinctive career spanning 35 years of commendable service," said Kowalski. He added, "20th AF continues to execute its mission of around-the-clock nuclear deterrence in a safe, secure, and effective manner." AFGSC did not offer additional details on the allegations, other than they were "not related to operational readiness or the inspection results of any 20th AF unit, nor do they involve sexual misconduct." Carey led 20th AF since June 2012. Maj. Gen. Jack Weinstein, AFGSC vice commander, will serve as 20th AF's interim commander. Carey's removal came several weeks after President Obama relieved US Strategic Command's deputy commander. 2013

Former 20th AF Commander Drunk, Rude During Russian Visit A recent report from the Air Force Inspector General found that Maj. Gen. Michael Carey, former commander of 20th Air Force, violated Article 133-conduct unbecoming an officer-during a trip to Russia in July. According to the report, Carey, who was leading a US delegation of military and civilian nuclear security experts in Moscow for a joint nuclear security exercise, was repeatedly drunk and often rude during the trip. While having drinks with his team on July 15, Carey boasted "of the importance of his position" and complained "that his group had the worst morale and that the leadership wasn't supporting him," according to the report. During a lunch banquet on July 16,

Carey made inappropriate comments about Syria and National Security Administration leaker Edward Snowden "that were not well received." He then went on to announce "he had met two hot women the night before," states the report. 2014



Sources
AFHRA

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