

3rd AIR DIVISION



LINEAGE

3rd Bombardment Division established, 30 Aug 1943
Activated, 13 Sep 1943
Redesignated 3rd Air Division, 1 Jan 1945
Inactivated, 21 Nov 1945
Organized, 23 Aug 1948
Discontinued, 1 May 1951
Redesignated 3rd Air Division (Operational), 8 Oct 1953
Activated, 25 Oct 1953
Inactivated, 1 Mar 1954
Redesignated, 3rd Air Division, 8 Jun 1954
Activated, 18 Jun 1954
Inactivated, 1 Apr 1970
Activated, 1 Jan 1975
Inactivated, 1 Apr 1992

STATIONS

Camp Blainey, England, 13 Sep 1943
Honington, England, 27 Oct-21 Nov 1945
Marham, England, 23 Aug 1948; Bushy Park, England, 8 Sep 1948
Victoria Park Estate (later, USAF Station), South Ruislip, England, 15 Apr 1949-1 May 1951
Wiesbaden, Germany, 25 Oct 1953-1 Mar 1954
Andersen AFB, Guam, 18 Jun 1954-1 Apr 1970
Andersen AFB, Guam, 1 Jan 1975
Hickam AFB, HI, 12 Sep 1988-1 Apr 1992

COMMANDERS

BG Curtis E. LeMay, 13 Sep 1943
Col Russell A. Wilson, 23 Nov 1943 (temporary)
MG Curtis E. LeMay, 20 Jan 1944

MG Earl E. Partridge, 21 Jun 1944
BG Norris B. Harbold, 14 May 1945
BG Eugene L. Eubank, 6 Jun 1945
BG Murray C. Woodbury, 6 Sep-21 Nov 1945
MG Leon W. Johnson, 23 Aug 1948-1 May 1951
Unkn, 25 Oct 1953
Maj James D. McCauley, 1 Dec 1953
Maj Russel R. Frederick, 26 Dec 1953 1 Mar 1954
BG Joseph D. C. Caldara, 18 Jun 1954
BG Nils O. Ohman, 10 Feb 1955
Col Thomas G. Netcher, 14 Sep 1956
MG Charles W. Schott, 1 Oct 1956
MG Richard M. Montgomery, 3 Sep 1958
MG John M. Reynolds, 2 Aug 1959
MG William C. Kingsbury, 7 Jul 1961
BG Harold W. Ohlke, 2 Jul 1963
MG William J. Crumm, 16 Jul 1965
BG John W. Kline, 7 Jul 1967
MG Selmon W. Wells, 8 Jul 1967
LTG Alvan C. Gillem II, 6 Jun 1968-1 Apr 1970
MG Charles F. Minter, Sr., 1 Jan 1975
MG Thomas F. Rew, 20 Aug 1975
MG Hilding L. Jacobson, Jr., 17 Aug 1976
MG Thomas F. Rew, 18 Aug 1976 (acting)
MG Hilding L. Jacobson Jr., 28 Aug 1976
MG Andrew Pringle, Jr., 30 Apr 1978
MG Louis C. Buckman, 13 Aug 1979
MG Stanley C. Beck, 12 Aug 1980
MG C. Reuben Autery, 27 Aug 1982
MG E. G. Shuler, Jr., 7 Jul 1984
MG Donald L. Marks, 10 Jul 1986
MG David J. Pederson, 29 Sep 1989
MG Robert E. Dempsey, Jun 1991-1 Apr 1992

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II

European African Middle Eastern Theater

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device
2 Mar 1969-31 Mar 1970

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
18 Jun 1965-1 Mar 1966
2 Mar 1966-1 Mar 1968
2 Mar 1968-1 Mar 1969

EMBLEM

Azure, three lightning bolts, points to base, radiating to chief or. (Approved, 14 Mar 1955)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The division entered combat in Sep 1943, performing strategic bombardment against Axis targets in the European theater of operations. During the weeks immediately preceding D Day (6 June 1944), division aircraft bombed tactical targets such as German communications centers and lines of support, and on D Day hit targets on the Cherbourg Peninsula immediately behind the landing beaches. In August 1948, the division assumed the job of administering and controlling attached SAC bombardment, fighter, and reconnaissance organizations deployed in England for training. From 3 Jan 1949-21 Jan 1951, as a major command the division controlled large numbers of USAF organizations based in the United Kingdom and supervised a tremendous airfield construction program. It also provided aircraft maintenance support for C-54s.

During the 3rd Air Division's status as a major command (1949-1951), it controlled large numbers of USAF organizations based in the United Kingdom and supervised a tremendous airfield construction program. Mission was to coordinate Air Force requirements for British resources and facilities, negotiate agreements with British Air Ministry, and plan implementation of approved Air Force emergency war plans as they pertain to United Kingdom and British possessions.

In early 1954, Headquarters USAF directed that the FEAF Bomber Command be discontinued and that its three B-29 wings be returned to the United States and equipped with B-47s. It was at this time that FEAF's 19th Bomb Wing was reassigned to SAC. On 18 June, concurrent with the inactivation of the FEAF Bomber Command at Yokota Air Base, Japan, Headquarters 3d Air Division was activated at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, and assigned to SAC. The new division was manned largely with people from the FEAF Bomber Command. Brigadier General Joseph D. Caldara, the last commander of FEAF Bomber Command, became the first 3d Air Division Commander. The 3d Air Division's primary responsibility was to control all SAC units operating in the Far East and to monitor the construction of bases and facilities to support these operations. Throughout 1954, the 3d Air Division operated as a tenant at Andersen, with logistical support provided by FEAF's 6319th Air Base Wing.



Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 25 Aug 2010
Updated: 16 Nov 2013
Published:

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.
Unit History. *The Development of Strategic Air Command 1946-1986*. Offutt AFB, NE. 1 Sep 1986.
Unit History. *Pacific Air Forces 1944-1994; 50 Years in Defense of the Nation*. Hickam AFB, HI. 1994.