

# EIGHTEENTH AIR FORCE



## LINEAGE

Eighteenth Air Force (Troop Carrier) established, 7 Mar 1951  
Organized, 28 Mar 1951  
Redesignated Eighteenth Air Force, 26 Jun 1951  
Inactivated, 1 Jan 1958  
Activated, 1 Oct 2003  
Redesignated as Eighteenth Air Force (Air Forces Transportation), 1 Apr 2007

## STATIONS

Donaldson AFB, SC  
Waco, TX, 1 Sep 1957  
Scott AFB, IL, 1 Oct 2003

## ASSIGNMENTS

Tactical Air Command, 28 Mar 1951-1 Jan 1958  
Air Mobility Command, 1 Oct 2003

## COMMANDERS

Col Earl B. Young, 28 Mar 1951  
MG Robert W. Douglass Jr., 1 May 1951  
MG Chester E. McCarty, 22 Nov 1954-1 Jan 1958  
MG Paul W. Essex (interim), 1 Oct 2003  
MG William Welser III, 1 Dec 2003  
MG James A. Hawkins, 29 Nov 2005  
MG Winfield W. Scott III, 24 Jun 2008  
LTG Robert R. Allardice, 19 Aug 2009  
LTG Larry McDew, Aug 2012-2014  
LTG Carlton Everhart II, 2014

## HONORS

**Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

None

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Oct 2004-30 Sep 2005

1 Oct 2005-30 Sep 2006

1 Oct 2006-30 Sep 2007

1 Oct 2007-30 Sep 2008

1 Oct 2011-30 Sep 2012

### **EMBLEM**

Approved, 21 Sep 1951, modified, 28 Jul 2003

### **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

### **MOTTO**

### **OPERATIONS**

The 18 AF manages the execution of all Air Mobility Command missions world-wide. This is accomplished through its major subordinate organizations- the TACC and the warfighting forces. The TACC is charged with tasking all Air Mobility Command missions, with exception of the 89th Airlift Wing. TACC serves as the Air Mobility Command's air operations hub, directing world-wide aircraft operations. The warfighting forces consist of all AMC wings and groups based in the continental US, as well as two Expeditionary Mobility Task Forces.

Extensive troop carrier operations within Tactical Air Command during the early 1950s called for some intermediate echelon of command, and HQ USAF created a new numbered air force for this purpose in March 1951. Activated in March 1951 to discharge Tactical Air Command's troop carrier responsibilities. Became operational on 1 Jun 1951 and assumed control initially of nine continental "medium" troop carrier wings, seven of which were Reserve wings called to active duty. Added a "heavy" (C-124) wing in Fall 1951 and another in early 1953. By early 1953 the Reserve wing designations were replaced by active duty wings. Eighteenth Air Force organized, administered, equipped, trained, and prepared for combat assigned troop carrier units. Augmented troop carrier forces in the Far East and Europe and provided trained crews and replacement personnel to units in the Korean conflict. Provided USAF troop carrier participation in joint operations training. Took part in joint exercises and provided support for airborne paratroop training. Worked to improve communications capabilities and to include AF medical air evacuation in joint exercises. Provided airlift support to other USAF major commands and to other Tactical Air Command (TAC) organizations. Supplemented Military Airlift Transportation Service (MATs) airlift when needed. Moved units of USAF and US Army for training and/or

deployment. Rotated troop carrier units to Europe in support of NATO. Heavily committed to airlift operations in arctic areas beginning autumn 1952. Airlanded and airdropped equipment supporting the construction of the Distant Early Warning radar system across northern Canada in proximity to the Arctic Circle, 1955-1957. Helicopters of the 310th TCS, operating from two icebreakers, provided support airlift to the U.S. Navy in the HIRAN (High Precision Air Navigation) project, Jan 1956. Provided airlift and airlift expertise to the U.S. Navy in Antarctic operations Deep Freeze I and II, establishing a base at the South Pole. Crews of the 63 TCW performed the first airdrop at the South Pole in Oct 1956; a combat controller of the 1 Aerial Port Squadron performed the first parachute jump at the South Pole in Nov 1956 in order to determine necessary corrections to ongoing airdrops of equipment. Provided airdrop and airland support, Mar-early Jun 1957, to Alaskan Air Command and Northeast Air Command to establish similar sites on ice islands in Arctic regions. Instrumental in development of aerial port concept, including techniques and equipment for loading troop carrier aircraft and airdropping cargo. Developed the AF "pathfinder" combat controller capability to establish ground to air communications and navigation aids at jump sites, and to select landing sites. Developed fixed wing assault mission using C-123 for landing on small unimproved landing areas. Organized the first rotary assault group in the USAF before losing the mission to the U.S. Army. Served as advisory body for reserve troop carrier wings. Tested new aerial delivery equipment, equipment and techniques for dropping paratroops and cargo, and navigation devices to determine "point of release". Lost troop carrier and airlift functions, Jul-Aug 1957. Moved to Texas in Aug 1957. Effective 1 Oct 1957, gained responsibility for Tactical Air Command's day fighter, fighter-bomber, and aerial tanker operations on western U.S. bases. Inactivated effective 1 Jan 1958, replaced by Twelfth Air Force, which moved on paper from Germany. Twelfth Air Force absorbed all of its resources on January 1, 1958.

Activated 1 Oct 2003 as Air Mobility Command's warfighting headquarters to accomplish the command's global mobility mission through a combination of airlift and air refueling missions, as well as the command and control of air mobility assets around the globe.

Eighteenth Air Force, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, distinguished itself by exceptional meritorious service from 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2009. During this period, the numbered Air Force, enabled by 51,000 officer, enlisted, and civilian personnel worldwide, executed day-to-day operations via 2 Expeditionary Mobility Task Forces, 18 mobility wings, a stand-alone group, the 618th Tanker Airlift Control Center, and gained Air Reserve Component units. This numbered Air Force provided record setting support to Global Operations, including Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM, completing more than 150,000 sorties encompassing 532,000 flying hours while transporting 2,300,000 passengers and 724,000 tons of cargo. Eighteenth Air Force's unmatched warfighter support across the entire mobility enterprise involved more than 30 Presidential and Secretary of Defense-directed operations and over 35 multinational exercises supporting the Global War on Terrorism and humanitarian operations, both domestically and around the world. The distinctive accomplishments of the members of the Eighteenth Air Force reflect great credit upon themselves and the United States Air Force.

Lt. Gen. Darren McDew

18th AF/CC

Maj. Gen. Carlton Everhart  
18th AF COMMANDER

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Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 23 Aug 2010

Updated:

Sources

AFHRA

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