

# FIRST AIR FORCE



## LINEAGE

Northeast Air District established, 19 Oct 1940

Activated, 18 Dec 1940

Redesignated 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force, 9 Apr 1941

Redesignated First Air Force, 18 Sep 1942

Discontinued, 23 Jun 1958

Activated, 20 Jan 1966

Organized, 1 Apr 1966

Inactivated, 31 Dec 1969

Activated, 6 Dec 1985

Redesignated First Air Force (ANG), 1 Oct 1995

Redesignated First Air Force (Air Forces Northern), 1 Nov 2007

## STATIONS

Mitchel Field, NY, 18 Dec 1940

Fort Slocum (later, Slocum AFB), NY, 3 Jun 1946

Mitchel AFB, NY, 17 Oct 1949-23 Jun 1958

Stewart AFB, NY, 1 Apr 1966-31 Dec 1969

Langley AFB, VA, 6 Dec 1985

Tyndall AFB, FL, 12 Sep 1991

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Northeast (later Eastern) Defense Command, U.S. Army, 18 Dec 1940  
Army Air Forces, 17 Sep 1943  
Continental Air Forces 16 Apr 1945  
Air Defense Command 21 Mar 1945  
Continental Air Command, 1 Dec 1948  
Aerospace Defense Command, 1 Apr 1966  
Tactical Air Command 14 Nov 1985  
Air Combat Command, 1 Jun 1992

### **COMMANDERS**

MG James E. Chaney, 18 Dec 1940 (additional duty until 9 Apr 1941)  
BG Arnold N. Krogstad, 15 May 1941 (temporary)  
MG Herbert A. Dargue, 24 Jun 1941  
BG Arnold N. Krogstad, 10 Dec 1941  
BG John K. Cannon, 4 Mar 1942 (temporary)  
MG Follett Bradley, 5 Mar 1942  
MG James E. Chaney, 23 Jul 1942  
MG Ralph Royce, 18 Apr 1943  
BG Westside T. Larson, 2 Sep 1943 (temporary)  
BG Glenn O. Barcus, 10 Sep 1943 (temporary)  
MG Frank O'D Hunter, 17 Sep 1943  
MG Robert W. Douglass Jr., 20 Oct 1945  
LTG Lewis H Brereton, 5 Feb 1946  
MG Robert W. Douglass Jr., 17 May 1946  
MG Robert M Webster, 16 Jul 1947  
MG Glenn O. Barcus, 1 Sep 1949  
MG Willis H. Hale, 17 Jul 1950  
MG James P. Hodges, 27 Feb 1951  
Col Joseph A. Bulger, 1 Sep 1951  
MG Howard M. Turner, 9 Aug 1952  
MG Roger J. Browne, 10 May 1954  
MG John H. Ives, 1 Nov 1957-23 Jun 1958  
MG Gordon H. Austin, 1 Apr 1966  
MG James C. Jensen, 29 Nov 1966  
MG Joseph L. Dickman, 14 Jul 1967-31 Dec 1969  
MG Buford D. Lary, 6 Dec 1985  
MG Jimmie V. Adams, 10 Jul 1987  
MG Richard A. Pierson, 1 Jul 1988  
MG Lester P. Brown Jr., 12 Sep 1991  
MG Philip G. Killey, Jan 1994  
MG Larry K. Arnold, 19 Dec 1997  
MG Craig R. McKinley, 1 Aug 2002  
MG M. Scott Mayes, 27 Oct 2004

MG Henry C. Morrow, 1 Nov 2006  
LTG William Etter,

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**  
American Theater

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards  
1 Apr 1988-31 Mar 1990  
1 Apr 1991-31 Mar 1993  
1 Jun 1994-31 May 1996  
1 Jun 1996-31 May 1998  
1 Jun 1998-31 May 1999  
1 Aug 2000-31 Jul 2002  
11 Sep 2001  
31 Jul 2005-31 May 2007

## **EMBLEM**

A white star charged with a red disc in the center and with golden orange stylized wings below the Arabic number "1" in white, all on a blue disc. (Approved, 18 Jan 1944; revised, 10 Dec 1952 and 17 Mar 2005. Additional component status emblem approved, 10 Sep 2008)

**A white star 1 1/8 inches (3.86 cm) in diameter charged with a red disc in the center and with golden orange stylized wings below the Arabic number "1" in white 15/16 inch (2.38 cm) in height, all on a blue disc 2 5/8 inches (6.67 cm) in diameter.**

## **Symbolism**

**The winged star is symbolic of the Army Air Forces and the Arabic numeral "1" indicates the unit's numerical designation. The colors used are those of the Army Air Forces.**

## **Background**

**The shoulder sleeve insignia was approved on 18 January 1944.**

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

First Air Force is one of four numbered air forces assigned to Air Combat Command. It has the responsibility for ensuring the air sovereignty and air defense of the U.S. As the CONUS geographical component of the binational North American Aerospace Defense Command, it provides airspace surveillance and control and directs all air sovereignty activities for the continental U.S.

First Air Force is charged with aerospace warning and aerospace control of the North American Aerospace Defense Command's (NORAD) Continental United States Region. CONR's resources include an air operations center charged with command and control, air defense sectors executing air battle management functions, radar warning systems, fighter aircraft, and aerial refueling tankers used to conduct peacetime and wartime air sovereignty and air defense missions. The 1AF/CONR mission has remained constant. Under CONR's operational control, and sector tactical control, fighters and supporting tankers are launched to intercept and identify unauthorized or unknown aircraft entering the U.S. Air Defense Identification Zone. CONR has also supported the U.S. Customs Service and law enforcement agencies to detect, identify, and track suspected airborne drug smugglers since 1989.

One of the original four numbered air forces formed in the United States in 1940, provided air defense, conducted anti-submarine operations, and trained personnel of newly formed combat units that were deploying overseas. In the first months of World War II, First Air Force was responsible for the air defense of the entire eastern seaboard of the United States. In Jan 1942, the command commenced shore based anti-submarine operations flying B-17s from Langley Field, VA. Later that year, First Air Force turned to the task of training combat air crews for immediate deployment to overseas theaters.

At the end of World War II, First Air Force was again tasked with the air defense of the Northeast. It also continued in the training role, primarily with the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, until its inactivation on 23 Jun 1958.

First Air Force was reactivated at Stewart AFB, NY, on 20 Jan 1966. During this period, the unit was charged with the air defense of the northeastern United States, Greenland, Iceland and parts of Canada. By Jul 1968, First Air Force had again assumed total responsibility for the air defense of the eastern seaboard, just as it had during World War II. Its second period of service was short lived, and the unit was again inactivated as the result of an air defense reorganization on 31 Dec 1969.

On 6 Dec 1985, the Air Force activated the First Air Force at Langley AFB, VA, and assigned it to Tactical Air Command. Since that time, its mission has been to provide, train and equip combat ready forces for the air defense of the North American continent. Upon its activation, First Air Force was composed of units of the active Air Force and the Air National Guard.

Because of its unique mission and its bi-national responsibilities, First Air Force works closely with the Canadian Forces. Canadian personnel are stationed at First Air Force Headquarters at Tyndall AFB, FL, and at the various regional air defense sectors located throughout the United States.

In October 1997, First Air Force became a primarily Air National Guard numbered air force charged with the air defense of the North American continent. Its commander during the transition, Maj. Gen. Philip G. Killey was previously the director of the Air National Guard.



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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.