

## FOURTH AIR FORCE



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

Southwest Air District established, 19 Oct 1940  
Activated, 18 Dec 1940  
Redesignated 4 Air Force, 9 Apr 1941  
Redesignated Fourth Air Force, 18 Sep 1942  
Discontinued, inactivated, 1 Sep 1960  
Activated, 20 Jan 1966  
Organized, 1 Apr 1966  
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1969  
Redesignated Fourth Air Force (Reserve), 24 Sep 1976  
Activated, 8 Oct 1976  
Redesignated Fourth Air Force, 1 Dec 1985

#### STATIONS

March Field, CA  
Riverside, CA, Jan 1941  
Hamilton Field, CA, 7 Dec 1941  
San Francisco, CA, Jan 1942  
Hamilton Field (later, AFB), CA, Jun 1946  
Hamilton AFB, CA, 1 Apr 1966  
McClellan AFB, CA, 8 Oct 1976  
March ARB, CA, 1 Apr 1998

#### ASSIGNMENTS

General Headquarters Air Force  
Western Defense Command, U.S. Army  
Army Air Forces, 16 Sep 1943

Continental Air Forces, 16 Apr 1945  
Air Defense Command, 21 Mar 1946  
Continental Air Command, 1 Dec 1948  
Air (later, Aerospace) Defense Command, 20 Jan 1966  
Air Force Reserve (later, Air Force Reserve Command), 8 Oct 1976

## COMMANDERS



MG Jacob E. Fickel (USAAF photo)

MG Jacob E. Fickel, 18 Dec 1940  
MG George C. Kenney, 2 Apr 1942  
MG Barney M. Giles, 22 Jul 1942  
MG William E. Kepner, 18 Mar 1943  
MG William E. Lynd, 8 Jul 1943  
MG James E. Parker, 14 Jul 1944  
BG Aubrey C. Strickland, 3 Jan 1945  
MG James E. Parker, 25 Jan 1945  
BG Edward M. Morris, 19 May 1945  
MG Willis H. Hale, 6 Jul 1945  
BG Ned Schramm, 1 Nov 1947  
MG John E. Upston, 20 Jan 1948  
MG Alvan C. Kincaid, 30 Sep 1950  
Col Claude E. Duncan, 15 Dec 1950  
MG William E. Hall, 29 Jan 1951  
MG Alfred A. Kessler Jr, 8 Sep 1952  
Col George G. Northrup, 1 Feb 1955 (interim)  
Maj Gen Robert B. Landry, 4 Feb 1955  
Col George G. Northrup, 27 Jun 1957  
Maj Gen Sory Smith, 30 Aug 1957-1 Sep 1960  
Maj Gen Carroll W. McColpin, 1 Apr 1966  
BG John A. Rouse, 23 Jul 1966 (temporary)  
MG Carroll W. McColpin, 25 Aug 1966  
MG Robert W. Burns, 30 Aug 1968

BG Eugene L. Strickland, 1 Aug-30 Sep 1969  
MG Sidney S. Novaresi, 8 Oct 1976  
MG Sloan R. Gill, Apr 1981  
BG Robert G. Mortensen, 1 Nov 1982  
MG James H. Wahleithner, 1 May 1985  
MG James E. Sherrard III, 4 Feb 1990  
MG Wallace W. Whaley, 1 Jul 1993  
MG James P. Czekanski, 7 Aug 2000  
MG Robert E. Duignan, 7 Sep 2003  
BG Eric W. Crabtree, #2009  
MG Mark Kyle,  
BG John Flournoy

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

American Theater

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Oct 1985-30 Sep 1987

1 Oct 1988-30 Sep 1990

1 Oct 1991-30 Sep 1993

1 Jun 1998-31 May 2000

2 Sep 2003-1 Sep 2005

## **EMBLEM**





Azure, a white star, charged with a red disc, all within a white winged annulet upheld by four golden yellow rays, radiating from base point, all within a border of the last. (Approved, 1 Sep 1943; revised, 22 Jun 1994)

On an ultramarine blue shield  $2 \frac{3}{4}$  inches (6.99cm) in height and  $2 \frac{3}{8}$  inches (6.03 cm) in width with a  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch (.32 cm) golden orange border a white star  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch (1.91 cm) in diameter charged with a red disc all within a white winged annulet upheld by four golden orange rays, the top outline of the shield arched parallel to the annulet. SIGNIFICANCE The shield being symbolic of a headquarters furnishes the background. The Army Air Force colors, blue and gold, are incorporated into a blue sky and the gold, the rays of the setting sun, symbolic of the Golden Gate and location of Headquarters Fourth Air Force. The four rays of the setting sun, extending toward the heavens, represent the Fourth Air Force, supporting the Army Air Forces (which is indicated by the Air Force star with wings attached thereto) in this Theatre of Operations.

The shoulder sleeve insignia was approved, 1 Sep 1943

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Formed in the United States during World War II to provide air defense and combat training for the personnel of newly formed units, the Fourth Air Force was assigned, in turn, to Continental Air Forces, Air Defense Command, and Continental Air Command before inactivating in 1960. The Fourth Air Force served in the air defense program, 1966-1969 and became part of the Reserve program in 1976.

One of the original four numbered air forces formed in the United States in 1940, trained units and personnel for combat operations. Also served as the primary air defense command for the West Coast from Dec 1941-Sep 1943.

The 4th Air Force, commanded by Major General Jacob E. Fickel, was activated on January 16, 1941, and designated the Southwest Air District. It was redesignated the 4th Air Force on March 31, 1941. It is one of the four Air Forces in the United States under the

Air Force Combat Command at Bolling Field, Washington, D. C. It has charge of the combat air units in the States of California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, and that portion of the State of Texas west of the 103rd meridian.

In addition to the supervision and administration of the Air Force units under its command, the 4th Air Force is charged with the responsibility, in conjunction with the Western Defense Command, of defending its territorial area from attack by air, sea, and land. To better carry out this mission, a Bomber, an Interceptor, and an Air Support and an Air Base Command were organized under the 4th Air Force.

Brigadier General Frank D. Lackland commands the Bomber Command, with headquarters in Tucson, Arizona. Heavy and medium bombardment units stationed at Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Tucson, Arizona, make up this command. This is the long range striking force which attacks with heavy bombs, objectives deep within the enemy lines.

The Interceptor Command is composed of units with pursuit planes, whose function is to intercept and destroy enemy aircraft, which attempt to attack ground targets in the area. Coordination of pursuit planes with the defense by anti-aircraft guns and barrage balloons is also a function of this command, together with the aircraft warning service. Brigadier General William O. Ryan is the commanding officer, with headquarters in the Virginia Building in Riverside. Units are stationed at March Field and Hamilton Field.

The Air Support Command, under Colonel Robert C. Candee, with headquarters at Hamilton Field, California, consists of light bombardment and observation units, whose mission is to support the action of the ground forces by aerial reconnaissance and attack of enemy troops on the battlefield.

While the 4th Air Force is chiefly concerned with defense of the Southwestern United States, it is organized so that all, or part of it, can be shifted quickly to assist in the defense of any other region which is threatened.

Following WWII, administered air defense systems, and later primarily conducted Reserve and National Guard training until Sep 1960. Responsible for air defense and early warning forces based primarily in the western U.S., 1966-1969. From 1976, exercised intermediate command over reserve component air mobility, special operations, and support units.

The Fourth Air Force (Reserve) was assigned to McClellan AFB on 8 Oct 1975. Originally formed on 31 Dec 1969, at Hamilton AFB, CA, as the Headquarters for the Western Air Force Reserve Region, USAF officially redesignated the unit as a numbered air force, 8 Oct 1976. From its location on McClellan AFB, the Fourth Air Force (Reserve) administered reserve units throughout 17 western states, including Alaska and Hawaii.

Flournoy Assumes Command of 4th Air Force Brig. Gen. John Flournoy Jr. assumed command of 4th Air Force during a Nov. 3 ceremony at March AFB, Calif. Flournoy, who previously led the Air Reserve Personnel Center at Buckley AFB, Colo., replaced Maj. Gen. Mark Kyle who now commands 22nd Air Force at Dobbins ARB, Ga. "Fourth Air Force stood up right here at March Field, so you have a proud heritage. We want to continue that proud heritage and this is exactly the leader to do it," said Air Force Reserve Command boss Lt. Gen. James Jackson, who served as the presiding officer at the ceremony. He added, "Without a doubt, I know that this gentleman right here has exactly what you need to lead 4th Air Force to the next level." 2013

Officials from March Air Reserve Base, Calif., and the surrounding communities gather for a ceremony marking the arrival of the first C-17 to the base's 452nd Air Mobility Wing Aug. 9. The 452nd is the first Air Force Reserve Command unit that flies the C-17 to actually "own" the aircraft. The 446th Airlift Wing at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., and the 315th AW at Charleston AFB, S.C., both associate units, fly and maintain C-17s, but the planes belong to the active duty. Eight more C-17s will be delivered to March by January 2006 to replace the wing's fleet of C-141s, the last of which was retired earlier this year. Maj. Gen. Robert E. Duignan, Fourth Air Force commander, and an aircrew from the 452nd AMW made the flight from Boeing's Long Beach, Calif., facility, where the aircraft was built, to the base. #44138 2005

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USAF Unit Histories  
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#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
Unit yearbook. *March Field Air Base, CA, 1941*. Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1941.