

AIR FORCE LOGISTICS COMMAND



LINEAGE

Army Air Forces Materiel and Services established as, 14 Jul 1944
Organized as a major command, 17 Jul 1944
Redesignated Army Air Forces Technical Service Command, 31 Aug 1944
Redesignated Air Technical Service Command, 1 Jul 1945
Redesignated Air Materiel Command, 9 Mar 1946
Redesignated Air Force Logistics Command, 1 Apr 1961
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1992

STATIONS

Wright Patterson AFB, OH

COMMANDERS

LTG Nathan F. Twining, 9 Mar 1946
Gen Joseph T. McNarney, 14 Oct 1947
LTG Benjamin W. Chidlaw, 1 Sep 1949
Gen Edwin W. Rawlings 21 Aug 1951
LTG William F. McKee (acting), 1 Mar 1959
Gen Samuel E. Anderson, 15 Mar 1959
Gen William F. McKee, 1 Aug 1961
Gen Mark E. Bradley Jr., 1 Jul 1962
Gen Kenneth B. Hobson, 1 Aug 1965
Gen Thomas P. Gerrity, 1 Aug 1967
LTG Lewis L. Mundell (acting), 24 Feb 1968
Gen Jack G. Merrell, 29 Mar 1968
Gen Jack J. Carton 12 Sep 1972
Gen William V. McBride, 1 Sep 1974
Gen F. Michael Rogers. 1 Sep 1975
Gen Bryce Poe II, 1 Feb 1978
Gen James P. Mullins, 1 Aug 1981

Gen Earl T. O'Loughlin, 1 Nov 1984
Gen Alfred G. Hansen, 31 Jul 1987
Gen Charles C. McDonald, 31 Oct 1989

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

OPERATIONS

The mission of Air Force Logistics Command (AFLC) is to keep the US Air Force's aerospace weapon systems in a constant state of combat readiness and support of the Air Force's weapon systems in the form of procurement, supply, maintenance, and transportation.

This support is provided for all Air National Guard and US Air Force Reserve activities, as well as friendly nations who purchase military equipment and services under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program or receive aid under the Military Assistance Program (MAP), and other US government agencies. These and other responsibilities of the command are divided among Air Logistics Centers and specialized organizations.

On 1 Apr 1961 HQ USAF redesignated Air Materiel Command as the Air Force Logistics Command. The reasons behind it lay in the Air Force's earlier adoption of the system management concept, done in response to the need to develop and support sophisticated weapon systems as rapidly as possible and have them be totally dependable. It upgraded the research phase, but it left an organizational and management gap between the development phase and that of procurement, and it failed to shorten appreciably the time required to create a weapon system from research to deployment. To bridge the gap, the two commands had established the joint project offices which included personnel from each command in order to allow direct communication at the working level.

Throughout the 1950s, the Air Force had continued to ponder the problem of compressing the weapon cycle, with attention at the highest levels. There was general agreement that the weapon system concept itself was sound, and that the responsibility for a weapon program should always be lodged firmly in a single organization with the authority to carry out its mission. On other matters, different camps emerged, centering on the longstanding issue of the placement of functions. Materiel personnel felt that the research and development process went too far into development and delayed production, while the research and development camp contended that the materiel function hampered development through their control of funds.

In 1959 the Air Force commenced a searching examination of the issue, with the aim of finding practical management solutions to the problem of accelerating the weapon system cycle from concept to deployment. General Anderson was the chairman of the committee, which included his counterpart from the Air Research and Development Command, Gen Bernard A. Schriever; other members were the Air Force Comptroller, the Air Force Inspector General, and the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Development, and Materiel, along with a large complement of staff personnel. After studying the situation, the group came to be divided in its recommendations; the options advanced were the merging of the two commands, the division of

the procurement function between them, and limited modifications of the existing structure.

The Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen Thomas D. White, vetoed both a recombination of the two commands and the transfer of procurement-production responsibility to the Air Research and Development Command. The Anderson Committee then reached a consensus whose basic principles included the establishment of a single focal point of authority and responsibility at each stage of a system's cycle, and giving the system manager the authority to integrate the program without usurping the responsibility of the functional managers. There was to be no change in the existing functional mode of organization. The Air Materiel Command would retain its current procurement responsibility. System program offices, with enlarged duties, were to replace the weapon system program offices. The concepts produced by the committee were put into a series of regulations. Tension persisted over the issue of procurement. The ARDC commander continued to seek the transfer of procurement authority to that command, and contended that the Air Materiel Command exhibited "a lack of sympathetic understanding" for ARDC's situation that resulted in a stressful working relationship.

The Air Materiel Command defended the status quo, and General White endorsed it, stating that "procurement and contracting should be consolidated in AMC insofar as practical," and urging the elimination of unnecessary duplication of effort. The two commands attempted to work out their problems, but frictions continued.

In 1961 the situation was resolved, more or less, by action from a higher level. The new Secretary of Defense, Robert S. McNamara, decided to assign responsibility for the military space program to the Air Force, and in March 1961 he told the Air Force to adjust its organization to accommodate this task. The Secretary of the Air Force, Eugene M. Zuckert, called together a group including Generals White, Schriever, and Bradley, who was then the Deputy Chief of Staff for Materiel at HQ USAF, to formulate a reorganizational plan, which was accepted by Secretary McNamara.

The reorganization, which was announced on 17 Mar, called for the Air Materiel Command and the Air Research and Development Command to be redesignated as the Air Force Logistics Command and the Air Force Systems Command, respectively. The effective date was 1 Apr, 1961. The three Air Materiel Command centers were transferred to the Air Force Systems Command, with AFLC retaining those materiel and procurement functions necessary to carry out its logistics mission. The contract management regions also would go to AFSC on a schedule worked out jointly, as would some Air Force-owned industrial facilities and contractor test sites which had belonged to the Air Materiel Command. The new Air Force Systems Command would take over site activation and construction responsibility for ballistic missiles. The actual division of the materiel and procurement functions, along with the necessary personnel, was negotiated by task groups representing the two commands.



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Sources
AFHRA

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