

## TACTICAL AIR COMMAND



### **LINEAGE**

Tactical Air Command established and activated, 21 Mar 1946

Reduced from major command status, and assigned to Continental Air Command as a subordinate operational command, 1 Dec 1948

Returned to major command status, 1 Dec 1950

Inactivated, 1 Jun 1992

## **STATIONS**

Drew Field, Tampa, FL, 21 Mar 1946  
Langley AFB, VA, 27 May 1946-26 Aug 1948  
Langley AFB, VA

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

Continental Air Command, 1 Dec 1948

## **COMMANDERS**

LTG Elwood R. Quesada, 21 Mar 1946  
MG Robert M. Lee, 24 Dec 1948  
MG O. P. Weyland, 7 Jul 1950  
MG Glenn O. Barcus, 17 Jul 1950  
Gen John K. Cannon, 25 Jan 1951  
Gen Otto P. Weyland, 1 Apr 1954  
Gen Frank F. Everest, 1 Aug 1959  
Gen Walter C. Sweeney Jr., 1 Oct 1961  
Gen Gabriel P. Disosway, 1 Aug 1965  
Gen William W. Momyer, 1 Aug 1968  
Gen Robert J. Dixon, 1 Oct 1973  
Gen W.L. Creech, 1 May 1978  
Gen Jerome F. O'Malley, 1 Nov 1984  
Gen Robert D. Russ, 22 May 1985  
Gen John Michael Loh, 27 Mar 1991

## **EMBLEM**

Approved, 6 Nov 1952

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

### **OPERATIONS**

The Tactical Air Command will provide and operate that portion of the AAF which is maintained in the United States, and in such other areas as may be designated from time to time, for cooperating with land and sea forces in the conduct of land and amphibious operations.

The Commanding General, Tactical Air Command is authorized to designate, organize and discontinue Army Air Forces Base Units within the block of numbers 300 to 399, inclusive, and within the bulk allotment of personnel authorized his command.

HQ USAF established this command to provide a balance between strategic, air defense, and tactical forces of the post-World War II Air Force. In 1948 the Continental Air Command assumed control over air defense, tactical air, and air reserve forces. After two years in a subordinate role, Tactical Air Command (TAC) was reestablished as a major command. In 1992, after assessing the mission of TAC and to accommodate the decision made regarding Strategic Air Command, HQ United States Air Force inactivated TAC and incorporated its resources into

the newly created Air Combat Command.

TAC's organization has varied greatly over this ten year period. TAC's formation, on 21 Mar 1946, brought it five numbered air forces. TAG sought a three numbered air force structure, with the Intent of East and West Coast tactical forces, plus the third force of troop carriers for support. The subsequent reductions to two numbered air forces—Ninth and Twelfth—allowed TAG to still have tightly controlled East and West Coast tactical forces, but troop carrier assets were assigned to the Ninth. This diversity of missions, within the numbered air forces, was not ideal. TAC's major setback—its subordination to CONAC—came in 1949, and wasn't resolved until Dec 1950. While TAC's growth and advancement suffered greatly, during this two year stagnation, the tactical experience and knowledge of its personnel allowed rapid recovery. TAC was restored, as a major command, in Dec 1950, with only the Ninth Air Force assigned. When the Eighteenth Air Force was assigned, in Mar 1951, TAC remembered its previous problems with diversification of missions. Thus, the Ninth possessed the fighters/bombers; the Eighteenth, troop carriers. The addition of the Nineteenth Air Force, in 1955, was TAC's early version of the "Rapid Deployment Force." At the time, it was called the "Composite Air Strike Force" and provided a highly mobile, responsive, operational force to TAC.





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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

AFHRA

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