

THIRTEENTH AIR FORCE



Thirteenth Air Force established, 14 Dec 1942

Activated, 13 Jan 1943

Inactivated (as a Table of Organization (T/O) establishment), 8 Feb 1952

Organized (as a Table of Distribution (T/D) establishment), 8 Feb 1952

Discontinued (as a T/D establishment), 1 Feb 1953

Activated (as a T/O establishment), 1 Feb 1953

Redesignated as Thirteenth Air Force (Air Forces Pacific), 16 Jan 2007

STATIONS

New Caledonia, 13 Jan 1943

Espiritu Santo, 21 Jan 1943

Guadalcanal, 13 Jan 1944

Los Negros, 15 Jun 1944

Hollandia, New Guinea, 13 Sep 1944

Noemfoor, 23 Sep 1944

Morotai, 29 Oct 1944

Leyte, 1 Mar 1945

Clark Field, Luzon, 1 Jan 1946

Ft William McKinley, Luzon, 20 May 1946

Clark Field, Luzon, 15 Aug 1947

Kadena, Okinawa, 1 Dec 1948

Clark AFB, Luzon, 16 May 1949

Andersen AFB, Guam, 2 Dec 1991

Hickam AFB, HI, 2 May 2005

ASSIGNMENTS

Far East Air Forces, 15 Jun 1944

Pacific Air Force (later, Pacific Air Force/FEAF [Rear]), 17 May 1955

Pacific Air Forces, 1 Jul 1957

COMMANDERS

MG Nathan F. Twining, 13 Jan 1943

BG Ray L. Owens, 27 Jul 1943

MG Hubert R. Harmon, 7 Jan 1944

MG St Clair Streett, 15 Jun 1944
MG Paul B. Wurtsmith, 19 Feb 1945
MG Eugene L. Eubank, 4 Jul 1946
MG Charles T. Myers, 1 Dec 1948
MG Howard M. Turner, Jun 1949
MG Ernest Moore, 16 Oct 1951
MG John W. Sessums, Jr., 10 Oct 1952
BG William L. Lee, 27 Aug 1954
Maj Gen John B. Ackerman, 15 Sep 1956
Unkn, Feb-Apr 1958
MG Thomas S. Moorman, Jr., 14 Apr 1958
MG Theodore R. Milton, 19 Jun 1961
MG Sam Maddus, Jr., 24 Jul 1963
LTG James W. Wilson, 1 Jul 1965
LTG Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., 1 Aug 1967
LTG Francis C. Gideon, 1 Aug 1968
LTG Marvin L. McNickel, 1 Feb 1970
LTG William G. Moore, Jr., 1 Sep 1972
MG Leroy J. Manor, 1 Oct 1973
MG Freddie L. Poston, 8 Oct 1976
MG James R. Hildreth, 9 Apr 1979
MG Kenneth D. Burns, 22 Jun 1981
MG Michael A. Nelson, 6 Jul 1984
MG Gordon E. Williams, 17 Jun 1985
BG Charles F. Luigs, 27 Mar 1986
MG Michael P. C. Carns, 31 Jul 1986
MG Donald Snyder, 19 Jun 1987
MG William A. Studer, Jun 1990
MG H. Hale Burr, Jr., 2 Dec 1991
MG Richard T. Swope, 21 Jul 1994
MG John R. Dallager, 22 Apr 1996
MG Thomas C. Waskow, 20 Aug 1998
MG Daniel M. Dick, May 1999
MG Theodore W. Lay II, 14 Nov 2000
MG Dennis R. Larsen, 21 Sep 2002
MG Edward A. Rice, Jr., 24 Jan 2005
LTG Loyd S. Utterback, 6 Oct 2006
LTG Herbert Carlisle, 2 Sep 2009
LTG Ted Kresge

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

China Defensive

Guadalcanal

New Guinea
Northern Solomons
Eastern Mandates
Bismarck Archipelago
Western Pacific
Leyte
Luzon
Southern Philippines
China Offensive

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
1 Jun 1985-31 May 1987
1 Sep 1991-31 Aug 1993
1 Oct 1995-30 Sep 1997
1 Oct 2000-30 Sep 2002
1 Nov 2002-31 Oct 2004
1 Jun 2005-5 Oct 2006
6 Oct 2006-31 Oct 2007

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation
21 Jul 1972-15 Aug 1972

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
9 Mar 1967-28 Jan 1973

EMBLEM

On a blue disc, bordered golden orange, a pair of golden orange wings surmounted in base by a white star charged with a red disc; all below the Arabic numeral "13" in white. (Approved, 18 Jan 1944)

Description

A white star 1 inch (2.54 cm) in diameter with a red disc in the center and with golden orange wings below the Arabic number "13" in white 1 3/32 inches (2.78 cm) in height on a blue disc 2 1/2 inches (6.35 cm) in diameter with a 1/8 inch (.32 cm) golden orange border.

Symbolism

The colors are those of the Army Air Forces. The winged star is symbolic of the Army Air Forces while the number "13" is the numerical designation of the organization.

Background

The shoulder sleeve insignia was approved on 18 January 1944.

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Thirteenth Air Force has never been stationed in the continental United States. When originally activated as Thirteenth AF at New Caledonia on Jan. 13, 1943, the command consisted of many widely separated and independent units scattered throughout the Pacific. By the end of World War II, they had operated from tropical jungles on more than 40 remote islands, earning the nickname "The Jungle Air Force." Thirteenth AF units initially prevented the further advance of Japanese forces and later took the offensive from the Solomon Islands to the Admiralty Islands, New Guinea, Morotai and the Philippines. After the war, it became a part of the Far East Air Forces, chartered to defend the western Pacific and the Philippine Islands. With its headquarters, established at Clark AFB, Philippines in May 1949, its units provided staging areas for people and equipment sent to the Korean peninsula during the Korean War.

In the 1950s and early 1960s, the command concentrated on training and surveillance activities to maintain a high state of readiness for contingencies. After the escalation of the Vietnam War in the mid-1960s, the Thirteenth AF served as a staging base and logistics manager for units fighting in Southeast Asia and deployed combat units to air bases in Thailand. At its peak, Thirteenth AF was composed of seven combat wings, nine major bases, 11 smaller installations and more than 31,000 military members.

From the 1970s to the late 1980s, the command returned to its peacetime mission to training for contingencies. During Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Thirteenth AF provided aircraft and support staff vital to the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi forces. In June 1991, when Mount Pinatubo erupted and buried Clark in volcanic ash, the command led the evacuation of military personnel and their families in Operation Fiery Vigil.

With the official closure of Clark AFB on 26 Nov 1991, it relocated and officially established its headquarters at Andersen AFB, Guam, on 2 Dec 1991. The command then moved from Guam to Hickam AFB in May 2005 to allow Thirteenth AF to become a core building block for the new Air Force operational-level component headquarters organization in the Pacific.

On 6 Oct 2006, Thirteenth AF was redesignated a component numbered air force headquarters. It plans, commands and controls, and assesses air, space, and information operations in the Asia-Pacific region, except for Korea, from peacetime engagement to major combat operations as the Air Force component to the US Pacific Command and provides support to US military forces and scientists participating in Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica.

10/3/2012 The 13th Air Force, headquartered at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, inactivated on September 28, in a ceremony which celebrated its 70-year history of supporting the Pacific region. The operational roles and responsibilities of 13th Air Force will be assumed by Pacific Air Forces, making the command an operational component MAJCOM headquarters, or a C-MAJCOM. These roles and responsibilities involve planning and executing airpower operations across the Asia-Pacific region--excluding the Korea theater across the range of military operations, from peacetime engagement to major combat operations. The transition will be seamless as the 13th Air Force and PACAF staffs have worked side-by-side throughout the past year in order to prepare for this merger. The joining of 13th Air Force and PACAF not only ensures an effective response in a crisis, but also facilitates increased trust and interoperability with allies and partners. The inactivation of 13th Air Force is a part of an Air Force initiative calling for the inactivation of three numbered air forces and the consolidation of their duties to other units. In addition to the inactivation of 13th Air Force, 19th Air Force at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, and 17th Air Force at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, inactivated earlier this year. 2012





Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 23 Aug 2010

Updated: 19 Jan 2014

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

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