

THIRTEENTH AIR FORCE (AIR FORCES PACIFIC)



MISSION

LINEAGE

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 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

Maj Gen Nathan F. Twining, 13 Jan 1943
Brig Gen Ray L. Owens, 27 Jul 1943
Maj Gen Hubert R. Harmon, 7 Jan 1944
Maj Gen St Clair Streett, 15 Jun 1944
Maj Gen Paul B. Wurtsmith, 19 Feb 1945
Maj Gen Eugene L. Eubank, 4 Jul 1946
Maj Gen Charles T. Myers, 1 Dec 1948
Maj Gen Howard M. Turner, Jun 1949
Maj Gen Ernest Moore, 16 Oct 1951
Maj Gen John W. Sessums, Jr., 10 Oct 1952
Brig Gen William L. Lee, 27 Aug 1954
Maj Gen John B. Ackerman, 15 Sep 1956
Unkn, Feb-Apr 1958
Maj Gen Thomas S. Moorman, Jr., 14 Apr 1958
Maj Gen Theodore R. Milton, 19 Jun 1961
Maj Gen Sam Maddus, Jr., 24 Jul 1963
Lt Gen James W. Wilson, 1 Jul 1965
Lt Gen Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., 1 Aug 1967
Lt Gen Francis C. Gideon, 1 Aug 1968
Lt Gen Marvin L. Mcnickel, 1 Feb 1970
Lt Gen William G. Moore, Jr., 1 Sep 1972
Maj Gen Leroy J. Manor, 1 Oct 1973
Maj Gen Freddie L. Poston, 8 Oct 1976
Maj Gen James R. Hildreth, 9 Apr 1979
Maj Gen Kenneth D. Burns, 22 Jun 1981
Maj Gen Michael A. Nelson, 6 Jul 1984
Maj Gen Gordon E. Williams, 17 Jun 1985
Brig Gen Charles F. Luigs, 27 Mar 1986
Maj Gen Michael P. C. Carns, 31 Jul 1986
Maj Gen Donald Snyder, 19 Jun 1987
Maj Gen William A. Studer, Jun 1990

Maj Gen H. Hale Burr, Jr., 2 Dec 1991
Maj Gen Richard T. Swope, 21 Jul 1994
Maj Gen John R. Dallager, 22 Apr 1996
Maj Gen Thomas C. Waskow, 20 Aug 1998
Maj Gen Daniel M. Dick, May 1999
Maj Gen Theodore W. Lay li, 14 Nov 2000
Maj Gen Dennis R. Larsen, 21 Sep 2002
Maj Gen Edward A. Rice, Jr., 24 Jan 2005
Lt Gen Loyd S. Utterback, 6 Oct 2006
Lt Gen Herbert Carlisle, 2 Sep 2009
Lt Gen 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)

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. 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.

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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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.