About the Almanac

On the following pages appears a variety of information and statistical material about the US Air Force—its people, organization, equipment, funding, activities, bases, and heroes. This “Almanac” section was compiled by the staff of Air Force Magazine. We especially acknowledge the help of the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Public Affairs in its role as liaison with Air Staff agencies in bringing up to date the comparable data from last year’s Almanac.

A word of caution: Personnel figures that appear in this section in different forms will not always agree (nor will they always agree with figures in command, field operating agency, and direct reporting unit reports or in the “Guide to USAF Installations Worldwide”) because of different cutoff dates, rounding, differing methods of reporting, or categories of personnel that are excluded in some cases. These figures do illustrate trends, however, and may be helpful in placing force fluctuations in perspective.

THE EDITORS
There is considerable variation in how the major commands and subordinate units of the Air Force are organized. This overview describes the typical organization chain.

The Department of Defense (DoD) is a Cabinet agency headed by the Secretary of Defense. It was created in 1947 to consolidate pre-existing military agencies—the War Department and the Navy Department. Subordinate to DoD are the three military departments (Army, Navy, and Air Force), each headed by a civilian secretary.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) constitute the corporate military leadership of DoD. The chairman and vice chairman of the JCS serve full-time in their positions. The service chiefs are the military heads of their respective services, although JCS responsibilities take precedence.

The Department of the Air Force is headed by the Secretary of the Air Force, who is supported by a staff called the Secretariat. The Chief of Staff, USAF, heads the Air Staff, and the military heads of the major commands report to the Chief of Staff.

Most units of the Air Force are assigned to one of the major commands (see p. 79). Major commands are headed by general officers and have broad functional or geographic responsibility. Commands may be divided into numbered air forces.

The fundamental unit of the working Air Force is the wing. The typical air force base is built around a wing. Until recently, most wings were headed by colonels but now are usually under the command of a general officer. An objective wing typically contains an operations group, which includes aircrews, intelligence units, and others; a logistics group, which can include maintenance and supply squadrons; a support group, which can include such functions as security forces and civil engineers; and a medical group.

Most individual officers and airmen are assigned to a squadron, which may be composed of several flights.

In addition to these, there are numerous others, including centers, field operating agencies, and direct reporting units.
### The Nation’s Air Arm and Its Early Leaders

| Designation                              | Commander (at highest rank)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Dates of Service                                     |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aeronautical Division, US Signal Corps   | Chief, Aeronautical Division  
Capt. Charles deForest Chandler  
Capt. Arthur S. Cowan                                                                                                                                          | Aug. 1, 1907–1911  
1911–unknown                                                                                                    |
| Aviation Section, US Signal Corps        | Chief, Aviation Section  
Lt. Col. Samuel Reber  
Lt. Col. George O. Squier  
Feb. 19, 1917–May 20, 1918                                                                                       |
| Division of Military Aeronautics         | Director of Military Aeronautics  
Maj. Gen. William L. Kenly (Kept same title three months into absorption by Air Service)                                                                                                                                                | May 20, 1918–August 1918                                                                                          |
| Air Service                              | Director of Air Service  
John D. Ryan  
|                                         | Chief of Air Service  
Maj. Gen. Charles T. Menoher  
Oct. 5, 1921–July 2, 1926                                                                                     |
| Air Corps                                | Chief of Air Corps  
Maj. Gen. Mason M. Patrick  
Maj. Gen. James E. Fechet  
Maj. Gen. Benjamin D. Foulois  
Maj. Gen. Oscar Westover  
Dec. 20, 1931–Dec. 21, 1935  
Dec. 22, 1935–Sept. 21, 1938  
Sept. 29, 1938–June 20, 1941                                                                                   |
| Army Air Forces                          | Chief, Army Air Forces  
Lt. Gen. Henry H. Arnold                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | June 20, 1941–March 9, 1942                                                                                     |
|                                         | Commanding General, AAF  
Gen. of the Army Henry H. Arnold  
Gen. Carl A. Spaatz                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | March 9, 1942–Feb. 9, 1946  
Feb. 9, 1946–Sept. 26, 1947                                                                                     |
| United States Air Force                  | Chief of Staff, USAF  

The title General of the Army for Henry H. Arnold was changed to General of the Air Force by an Act of Congress May 7, 1949. The position of Chief of Staff was established by a DoD-approved Army–Air Force Transfer Order issued Sept. 28, 1947.

The Air Corps became a subordinate element of the Army Air Forces June 20, 1941. Since the Air Corps had been established by statute in 1926, its disestablishment required an act of Congress, which did not take place until 1947. Between March 9, 1942, and Sept. 18, 1947, the Air Corps continued to exist as a combatant arm of the Army, and personnel of the Army Air Forces were still assigned to the Air Corps.
Leaders Through the Years

Secretaries of the Air Force

Stuart Symington  Sept. 18, 1947  April 24, 1950
Thomas K. Finletter  April 24, 1950  Jan. 20, 1953
Donald A. Quarles  Aug. 15, 1955  April 30, 1957
John L. McLucas  July 18, 1973  Nov. 23, 1975
James W. Plummer (acting)  Nov. 24, 1975  Jan. 1, 1976
Thomas C. Reed  Jan. 2, 1976  April 6, 1977
John C. Stetson  April 6, 1977  May 18, 1979
Hans Mark (acting)  May 18, 1979  July 26, 1979
Hans Mark  July 26, 1979  Feb. 9, 1981
Verne Orr  Feb. 9, 1981  Nov. 30, 1985
Russell A. Rourke  Dec. 9, 1985  April 7, 1986
Edward C. Aldridge Jr. (acting)  April 8, 1986  June 8, 1986
Donald B. Rice  May 22, 1989  Jan. 20, 1993
Sheila E. Widnall  Aug. 6, 1993  Oct. 31, 1997
F. Whitten Peters (acting)  Nov. 1, 1997

Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force

CMSAF Paul W. Airey  April 3, 1967  July 31, 1969
CMSAF Robert D. Gaylor  Aug. 1, 1977  July 31, 1979
CMSAF James M. McCoy  Aug. 1, 1979  July 31, 1981
CMSAF Sam E. Parish  Aug. 1, 1983  June 30, 1986
CMSAF James C. Binnicker  July 1, 1986  July 31, 1990
CMSAF Eric W. Benken  Nov. 5, 1996

Air Combat Command

Gen. Richard E. Hawley  April 5, 1996

Air (Aerospace) Defense Command

Lt. Gen. George E. Stratemeyer  March 27, 1946  Nov. 30, 1948

Usaf Chiefs of Staff

Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg  April 30, 1948  June 29, 1953
Gen. David C. Jones  July 1, 1974  June 20, 1978
Gen. Charles A. Gabriel  July 1, 1982  June 30, 1986
Gen. Larry D. Welch  July 1, 1986  June 30, 1990

Air Education and Training Command

Gen. Lloyd W. Newton  March 17, 1997
Maj. Gen. John S. Fairfield
Maj. Gen. Robert F. McCarthy
Maj. Gen. Rupert H. Burris
Maj. Gen. Robert W. Paulson
Maj. Gen. Harold W. Grant
Maj. Gen. Kenneth A. Minihan
Maj. Gen. Gary W. O'Shaughnessy
Gen. George T. Babbitt Jr.
Lt. Gen. Kenneth E. Minihan
Lt. Gen. Lewis L. Mundell
Gen. Charles C. McDonald
Gen. Alfred G. Hansen
Gen. Earl T. O'Loughlin
Gen. James P. Mullins
Gen. F. Michael Rogers
Gen. Jack J. Catton
Gen. Joseph T. McNarney
Lt. Gen. Nathan F. Twinning
Gen. Joseph T. McNair
Lt. Gen. Benjamin W. Chidlaw
Gen. Edwin W. Rawlings
Lt. Gen. William F. McKee
Gen. Samuel E. Anderson
Gen. William F. McKee
Gen. Mark E. Bradley Jr.
Gen. Kenneth B. Hobson
Gen. Thomas P. Gerrity
Lt. Gen. Lewis L. Mundell
Gen. Jack G. Merrell
Gen. Jack J. Catton
Gen. William V. McBride
Gen. F. Michael Rogers
Gen. Bryce Poe II
Gen. James P. Mullins
Gen. Earl T. O'Loughlin
Gen. Alfred G. Hansen
Gen. Charles C. McDonald
Gen. Ronald W. Yates
Gen. Henry Viccello Jr.
Gen. George T. Babbitt Jr.


Now Air Intelligence Agency, an FOA. See Electronic Security Command.

Lt. Gen. William F. McKee (acting) March 1, 1959 March 14, 1959
Gen. Earl T. O'Loughlin Nov. 1, 1984 July 31, 1987
Gen. Charles C. McDonald Oct. 31, 1989 July 1, 1992


Gen. Lawrence A. Skantze Aug. 1, 1984 July 17, 1987
Gen. Ronald W. Yates April 1, 1990 July 1, 1992


Air National Guard

Col. William A.R. Robertson Nov. 28, 1945 October 1948

Now Air Force Development Test Center, Eglin AFB, Fla.

Air Proving Ground Command

Maj. Gen. Carl A. Brandt October 1946 August 1948

Air Training Command

Gen. John W. Roberts Aug. 29, 1975 April 1, 1979

Alaskan Air Command


Air University

Lt. Gen. Truman Splanrdug Nov. 6, 1986 July 12, 1988

Established as AAF School of Applied Tactics Oct. 16, 1943 (assumed history and insignia dating to Air Services School, 1920). Redesignated AAF School June 1, 1945. Redesignated AU May 12, 1946. Part of ATC between May 1978 and July 1983. Ceased to be a major command and was assigned to AETC July 1, 1993.
Northeast Air Command

- Maj. Gen. John B. Marks
- Gen. Robert E. Huyser
- Gen. Jack J. Catton
- Lt. Gen. William H. Tunner
- Lt. Gen. Joseph Smith


Electronic Security Command

- Col. Roy H. Lynn
- Col. Travis M. Hetherington
- Maj. Gen. John B. Ackerman
- Maj. Gen. Millard Lewis
- Maj. Gen. Louis E. Coira
- Maj. Gen. Howard P. Smith
- Maj. Gen. John B. Marks
- Maj. Gen. Paul H. Martin
- Maj. Gen. Gary W. O'Shaughnessy


Headquarters Command

- Brig. Gen. Burton M. Hovey
- Brig. Gen. Sydney D. Grubbs
- Brig. Gen. Morris J. Lee
- Brig. Gen. Stoyte O. Ross
- Maj. Gen. William C. Norris


Military Airlift Command

- Lt. Gen. Laurence S. Kuter
- Lt. Gen. Joseph Smith
- Lt. Gen. William H. Tunner
- Gen. Jack J. Catton
- Gen. Paul K. Carlton
- Gen. Robert E. Huysler

Gen. Hansford T. Johnson  Sept. 20, 1989  June 1, 1992

Antecedents: Army Air Corps Ferrying Command (1941); AAF Ferrying Command (1942); Air Transport Command (1942, inactivated June 1, 1948). Military Air Transport Service established June 1, 1948. Redesignated Military Airlift Command Jan. 1, 1966. In 1982, the inactivated Air Transport Command was consolidated with MAC. MAC inactivated June 1, 1992.

Northeast Air Command


Pacific Air Command/Seventh Air Force

- Brig. Gen. Robert F. Travis  Sept. 1, 1948  June 1, 1949


Pacific Air Forces

- Gen. Laurence S. Kuter  June 1, 1955  July 31, 1959
- Gen. Jacob E. Smart  Aug. 1, 1963  July 31, 1964


Strategic Air Command

- Gen. Thomas S. Power  July 1, 1957  Nov. 30, 1964
Gen. John C. Meyer           May 1, 1972        July 31, 1974
Gen. George L. Butler        Feb. 1, 1991        June 1, 1992


**Tactical Air Command**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maj. Gen. Glenn O. Barcus</td>
<td>July 17, 1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. Otto P. Weyland</td>
<td>April 1, 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. Frank F. Everest</td>
<td>Aug. 1, 1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. William L. Creech</td>
<td>May 1, 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. Richard D. Russ</td>
<td>May 22, 1985</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**US Air Forces in Europe**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gen. Lauris Norstad</td>
<td>Jan. 21, 1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. Frank F. Everest</td>
<td>July 1, 1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. Truman H. Landon</td>
<td>July 1, 1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. Bruce K. Holloway</td>
<td>Aug. 1, 1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. Maurice A. Preston</td>
<td>Aug. 1, 1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. David C. Jones</td>
<td>Sept. 1, 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. John W. Vogt</td>
<td>July 1, 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. William J. Evans</td>
<td>Aug. 1, 1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. Charles A. Gabriel</td>
<td>Aug. 1, 1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. Billy M. Minter</td>
<td>July 1, 1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. William L. Kirk</td>
<td>May 1, 1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. Michael J. Dugan</td>
<td>April 12, 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. Richard E. Hawley</td>
<td>July 17, 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. Michael E. Ryan</td>
<td>April 4, 1996</td>
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</tbody>
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**US Air Forces Southern Command/Caribbean**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maj. Gen. Willis H. Hale</td>
<td>Nov. 13, 1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maj. Gen. Truman H. Landon</td>
<td>June 20, 1956</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**USAF Academy Superintendents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lt. Gen. Thomas S. Moorman Sr.</td>
<td>July 1, 1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt. Gen. Paul E. Stein</td>
<td>July 8, 1994</td>
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**Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff**


**Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff**