

## 20<sup>th</sup> AIR DIVISION



### LINEAGE

Established as 20<sup>th</sup> Air Division (Defense), 8 Jun 1955  
Activated, 8 Oct 1955  
Inactivated, 1 Jan 1960  
Redesignated 20<sup>th</sup> Air Division and activated, 20 Jan 1966  
Organized, 1 Apr 1966  
Discontinued and inactivated, 31 Dec 1967  
Activated, 19 Nov 1969  
Inactivated, 1 Mar 1983

### STATIONS

Grandview (later, Richards Gebaur) AFB, MO, 8 Oct 1955-1 Jan 1960  
Truax Field, WI, 1 Apr 1966-31 Dec 1967  
Fort Lee AFS, VA, 19 Nov 1969  
Tyndall AFB, FL, 1 Mar 1983-1 Mar 1983

### ASSIGNMENTS

Central Air Defense Force, 8 Oct 1955-1 Jan 1960  
Air Defense Command, 20 Jan 1966  
Tenth Air Force, 1 Apr 1966-31 Dec 1967  
Aerospace Defense Command, 19 Nov 1969  
Tactical Air Command, 1 Oct 1979-1 Mar 1983

### COMMANDERS

BG Clifford H. Rees, 8 Oct 1955  
BG Gordon H. Austin, 10 Mar 1958  
BG Theron Coulter, 14 Sep 1958  
Col John H. Bell, 8 Jul 1959-1 Jan 1960  
BG William S. Harrell, 1 Apr 1966  
Col Wallace P. Mace, 1 Jul 1966  
MG Jack K. Gamble, 19 Nov 1969  
BG James M. Fogle, 20 Mar 1972  
MG James S. Murphy, 26 Aug 1974

Col Thomas G. McConnell, 20 Aug 1975  
BG Francis A. Humphreys Jr., 15 Oct 1975  
BG Edward L. Tixier, 10 Jul 1978  
Col Edward Levell Jr., 22 Jan 1979  
BG Edward L. Tixier, 1 Feb 1980  
BG Paul D. Wagoner, 19 Jun 1980-1 Mar 1983

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

None

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

## **Decorations**

None

## **EMBLEM**

On a shield azure, an American Bald Eagle, wings surmounted, tips to dexter, perched on the beam of the Liberty Bell all proper; flanked on the dexter with an aerial burst gules, two aircraft with jet vapor streams in flight, fesswise, argent, markings sable, and a radome proper, resting on a land mass argent, all in pale. (Approved 20 Aug 1956)

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

On 8 June 1955, the 20<sup>th</sup> Air Division (Defense) assumed responsibility for the air defense of an area that covered parts of Nebraska, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, and virtually all of Kansas and Missouri. In 1966, it provided air defense for parts of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, and all of Illinois. It supervised Air National Guard units that flew interception sorties using, among others, F-101 and F-106 aircraft, while at the same time controlling numerous radar squadrons. Beginning in Nov 1969, the 20th provided air defense for virtually all of the southeastern United States, except for most of Louisiana. After 1981, it controlled units equipped with F-15 aircraft, while its subordinate units continued to participate in intensive academic training, numerous multi-region simulated (non-flying) exercises, and flying exercises.

The 20th Air Division, centermost in America's air defense system, is headquartered at

Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Grandview, Missouri. With Brigadier General Clifford H. Rees as its commander, the 20th is responsible for the air defense of Missouri and Kansas plus parts of Illinois, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Nebraska.

All major elements of the air defense system are assigned to the 20th—detection, identification, interception and destruction of hostile aircraft — plus operational control of fighter aircraft and weapons of assigned and augmenting forces within the division's area.

The newest of the 16 divisions of the Air Defense Command, General Rees's unit was activated October 8, 1955, and became operational March 1, 1956. Among the units under the division are the 725th, 738th, 788th, 789th, 790th, 791st, 793rd, 794th, 797th and 798th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadrons and the 4715th Ground Observer Squadron with its nine detachments.

Weapons of the 20th Air Division are found at the 328th Fighter Group with its 326th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base; the 53rd Fighter Group and its 13th and 14th Fighter-Interceptor Squadrons at Sioux City Municipal Airport, Iowa, and the 85th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

The 788th AC&W Squadron was selected by Central Air Defense Force as an outstanding example of good community relations and was publicized in a special brochure, later being honored by the neighboring community of Waverly, Iowa.





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Air Force Order of Battle  
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Sources  
AFHRA