

21st AIR DIVISION



LINEAGE

Established as 21st Bombardment Wing, 16 Dec 1942
Activated, 22 Dec 1942
Redesignated I Staging Command, 27 Sep 1945
Inactivated, 3 Apr 1946
Activated in the Reserve, 20 Dec 1946
Redesignated 21st Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy, 31 Dec 1946
Redesignated 21st Air Division, Bombardment, 16 Apr 1948
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949
Redesignated 21st Air Division, 5 Feb 1951
Activated, 16 Feb 1951
Inactivated, 8 Apr 1952
Organized, 8 Apr 1952
Discontinued, 16 Oct 1952
Activated, 16 Oct 1952
Redesignated 21st Strategic Aerospace Division, 15 Feb 1962
Discontinued and inactivated, 1 Sep 1964
Redesignated 21st Air Division and activated, 20 Jan 1966
Organized, 1 Apr 1966
Discontinued and inactivated, 31 Dec 1967
Activated, 19 Nov 1969
Inactivated, 23 Sep 1983

STATIONS

Smoky Hill AAFld, KS, 22 Dec 1942
Topeka AAFld, KS, 31 May 1943
Merced AAFld (later, Castle Field), CA, 7 Oct 1945-3 Apr 1946
Memphis Municipal Airport, TN, 20 Dec 1946-27 Jun 1949
Forbes AFB, KS, 16 Feb 1951-8 Apr 1952
Forbes AFB, KS, 8 Apr-16 Oct 1952
Forbes AFB, KS, 16 Oct 1952-1 Sep 1964
McGuire AFB, NJ, 1 Apr 1966-31 Dec 1967
Hancock Field, NY, 19 Nov 1969
Griffiss AFB, NY, 31 Aug-23 Sep 1983

ASSIGNMENTS

Second Air Force, 22 Dec 1942
Continental Air Forces, 18 Jul 45
Fourth Air Force, c. 23 Nov 1945-3 Apr 1946
Fourteenth Air Force, 20 Dec 1946
Ninth Air Force, 22 Dec 1948
Fourteenth Air Force, 1 Feb-27 Jun 1949
Strategic Air Command, 16 Feb 1951-8 Apr 1952
Strategic Air Command, 8 Apr 1952
Fifteenth Air Force, 16 Jul-16 Oct 1952
Fifteenth Air Force, 16 Oct 1952
Eighth Air Force, 1 Jul 1955
Second Air Force, 1 Jan 1959-1 Sep 1964
Air Defense Command, 20 Jan 1966
First Air Force, 1 Apr 1966-31 Dec 1967
Aerospace Defense Command, 19 Nov 1969
Tactical Air Command, 1 Oct 1979-23 Sep 1983

COMMANDERS

BG Albert F. Hegenberger, 22 Dec 1942
Col Henry W. Harms, c. Feb 1944
Col Cornelius W. Cousland, 26 Dec 1944
Col Wallace S. Dawson, 21 Jan 1945
Col Ralph E. Koon, 29 May 1945
BG James M. Fitzmaurice, 19 Jul 1945-c. Apr 1946
BG Everett R. Cook, 1947-1949
MG David W. Hutchison, 16 Mar 1951-8 Apr 1952
MG David W. Hutchison, 8 Apr-16 Oct 1952
MG David W. Hutchison, 16 Oct 1952
BG Joseph D. C. Caldara, 4 Dec 1952
BG David Wade, 15 Apr 1954
BG Henry R. Sullivan Jr., 25 Jul 1955
BG Ariel W. Nielsen, 7 Sep 1957
BG Richard O. Hunziker, 16 Jul 1960
Col Richard N. Ellis, 16 Aug 1962-unkn
None (not manned), 20 Jan-31 Mar 1966
Col Albert L. Evans, 1 Apr 1966-31 Dec 1967
MG George V. Williams, 19 Nov 1969
MG James L. Price, 15 Feb 1972
MG Ray A. Robinson Jr., by 30 Sep 1973
MG Richard H. Schoeneman, 11 Aug 1975
BG Carl S. Miller, 7 Nov 1977
Col Gary K. Carroll, 22 Jan 1979
BG Alonzo L. Ferguson, 1 Feb 1980
BG Kenneth W. North, 7 Aug 1982-23 Sep 1983

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II
American Theater

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Jul 1973-30 Jun 1974
1 Jul 1974-30 Jun 1975

EMBLEM

Shield divided by a diagonal line from the upper right to middle left, light blue and white, a sword slanting from upper left to lower right, the point to lower right base, the hilt and pommel yellow encircled with five stars, yellow, the lower blade of the sword over a branch of olive in base green. (Approved, 17 Jul 1952)

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 21st functioned as a staging wing, and later as a command, processing heavy bombardment crews and aircraft for overseas movement, and then processing men returning from overseas, from 1942-1946. From Dec 1946, it performed routine training duties in the Reserve through 27 Jun 1949. Beginning in Feb 1951, the division trained aircrews for medium bombardment wings, bomber replacement crews, and replacements for strategic reconnaissance slots until Sep 1964. It took on an air defense role in Jan 1966, assuming responsibility for defense of parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. During this time, it participated in air defense training exercises, accomplished live and simulated intercepts, and directed numerous flying sorties until inactivation in Dec 1967. Upon reactivation in 1969, it carried out the same duties but changed geographic locations and covered most of New England except for the upper half of Maine.

21st Air Division: Constituted originally as the 21st Bombardment Wing and activated 22 December 1942. After numerous changes, redesignated 21st Air Division and activated 16 February 1951; redesignated 21st Strategic Aerospace Division on 15 February 1962; discontinued

1 September 1964; redesignated 21st Air Division and activated 20 January 1966. Organized on 1 April 1966 at McGuire AFB, NJ, and assigned to First Air Force; discontinued and inactivated 31 December 1967. Activated at Hancock Field, NY, 19 November 1969, and assigned to ADC; reassigned to TAC on 1 October 1979.



Air Force Order of Battle
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Sources

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