

32nd AIR DIVISION



MISSION

The 32nd organized, administered, equipped, trained, and prepared for operation, all of its assigned units. The division participated in exercises such as Creek Brave, Top Rung and Natchez Echo. Initially, it assumed responsibility for an area including Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and part of New York. Later, beginning in 1966, the area expanded to include Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and parts of South Carolina, Louisiana and Florida.

LINEAGE

32nd Air Division (Defense) established, 8 Nov 1949
Activated, 8 Dec 1949
Inactivated, 1 Feb 1952
Organized, 1 Feb 1952
Inactivated, 15 Aug 1958
Redesignated 32nd Air Division (SAGE), 21 Oct 1958
Activated, 15 Nov 1958
Discontinued and inactivated, 4 Sep 1963
Redesignated 32nd Air Division and activated, 20 Jan 1966
Organized, 1 Apr 1966
Inactivated, 31 Dec 1969

STATIONS

Stewart AFB, NY, 8 Dec 1949-1 Feb 1952
Stewart AFB, NY, 1 Feb 1952
Hancock Field (later, Syracuse AFS), NY, 12 Feb 1952-15 Aug 1958
Dobbins AFB, GA, 15 Nov 1958

Oklahoma City AFS, OK, 1 Aug 1961-4 Sep 1963
Gunter AFB, AL, 1 Apr 1966-31 Dec 1969

ASSIGNMENTS

First Air Force, 8 Dec 1949
Eastern Air Defense Force, 1 Sep 1950
Eastern Air Defense Force, 1 Feb 1952
Eastern Air Defense Force, 15 Nov 1958
Air Defense Command, 1 Aug 1959-4 Sep 1963
Air Defense Command, 20 Jan 1966
Fourteenth Air Force, 1 Apr 1966
First Air Force, 1 Jul 1968-31 Dec 1969

COMMANDERS

LTC John A. H. Miller, 8 Dec 1949
LTC Otto G. Quanrud, 31 Jan 1950
Col Fred T. Crimmins Jr., 28 Feb 1950
BG Jacob E. Smart, 31 Jul 1950
Col Fred T. Crimmins Jr., 28 Feb 1951
Col Arthur C. Agan Jr., 30 Apr 1951
Col Grover C. Wilcox Jr., 30 Sep 1951
BG James W. McCauley, 30 Nov 1951
BG James W. McCauley, 1 Feb 1952
BG Robert S. Israel Jr., 31 May 1953-31 Jul 1958
BG Edward N. Backus, 15 Nov 1958
BG William H. Wise, 14 Jul 1959
MG Thomas J. Gent Jr., 1 Aug 1961-4 Sep 1963
Col Victor Milner Jr., 1 Apr 1966-31 Dec 1969

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
20 Oct-30 Nov 1962
1 Jan 1967-31 Mar 1968

EMBLEM



Azure, a talbot rampant with collar and broken chain or, between five lightning bolts three in chief and two in base gules, fimbriated of the second; all within a diminished bordure of the last. (Approved, 4 Mar 1953)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Organized at Stewart Air Force Base in December, 1949, the 32nd began operations on the morning of February 21, 1950. This was the era of temporary radar equipment rushed out of mothballs to construct a stop-gap air defense in a tense world situation. Only two aircraft control and warning squadrons and their detachments were then operating temporary radars through the sector. The arrangement at Stewart was also temporary, for Stewart was in the area of the 26th Air Division, and the 32d was then in a position of controlling its resources from outside its own area. It was not until February, 1952, that the Division moved to its present headquarters at the Syracuse Air Force Station. By this time the permanent radar stations had grown in number to eight.

Air Defense is a cooperative venture, its very success depends upon teamwork of a high order. Added to the products of the ever-rotating radars are the data from the human eyes and ears of the Ground Observer Corps, which seek to plug the gaps in the radar screen. These are correlated with flight plans filed with air movements identification sections of the Civil Aeronautics Authority. When aircraft remain unknown the fighter-interceptors spring into the air—just in case. All of these actions are supervised by the Division air control center which portrays a total picture of tactical activity. The net result is a smoothly efficient mechanism, ever alert to its heavy responsibilities in air defense of the continent.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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