

AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND



LINEAGE

Air Defense Command established, 21 Mar 1946
Activated as a major command, 27 Mar 1946
Became a subordinate operational command of Continental Air Command, 1 Dec 1948
Discontinued, 1 Jul 1950
Reestablished as a major command, and organized, 1 Jan 1951
Redesignated Aerospace Defense Command, 15 Jan 1968
Inactivated, 31 Mar 1980

STATIONS

Mitchel Field, NY
Ent AFB CO, 8 Jan 1951
Colorado Springs, CO, 1 Dec 1979

COMMANDERS

LTG George E. Stratemeyer, 27 Mar 1946
MG Gordon P. Saville, 1 Dec 1948
LTG Ennis C. Whitehead, 1 Jan 1951
Gen Benjamin W. Chidlaw, 25 Aug 1951
MG Frederic H. Smith, Jr. (acting), 1 Jun 1955
Gen Earle E. Partridge, 20 Jul 1955
LTG Joseph H. Atkinson, 17 Sep 1956
LTG Robert M. Lee, 1 Mar 1961
MG Gen Robert H. Terrill (acting), 6 Jul 1961
LTG Herbert B. Thatcher, 1 Aug 1963
LTC Arthur C. Agan, Jr., 1 Aug 1967
LTG Thomas K. McGehee, 1 Mar 1970
Gen Seth J. McKee, 1 Jul 1973
Gen Lucius D. Clay, Jr., 1 Oct 1973
Gen Daniel James, Jr., 1 Sep 1975
Gen James E. Hill, 6 Dec 1977

Gen James V. Hartinger, 1 Jan 1980-31 Mar 1980

EMBLEM

OPERATIONS

Provided for the air defense of the United States. Organized, administered, trained, and maintained aircraft warning and control units.

The War Department established an Air Defense Command on 26 Feb 1940. This command, operating under the control of the First Army Commander from 2 Mar 1940, to 9 Sep 1941, engaged in planning for air defense. Before the United States entered World War II, air defense was divided among the four air districts later, First, Second, Third, and Fourth Air Forces based in the United States. In mid-1944, when the threat of air attack seemed negligible, this air defense organization was disbanded. Subsequently, no real air defense organization existed until the second Air Defense Command was established in 1946 as a major command of the Army Air Forces (AAF).

Air Defense Command, established in Mar 1946, had responsibility for the organization and training of the Air Reserve. The first objective of the initial plan was to activate 40 of 130 planned Reserve training bases.

The Commanding General, Air Defense Command was authorized to designate, organize and discontinue Army Air Forces Base Units within the block of numbers 100 to 199, inclusive, and within the bulk allotment of personnel authorized his command.

In 1979, after several years of planning, Headquarters USAF directed that the Aerospace Defense Command (ADCOM) be reorganized and its resources be divided among Tactical Air Command, Air Force Communications Service, and Strategic Air Command. Under the reorganization, SAC acquired resource management responsibilities for ADCOM's space surveillance and missile warning systems. The North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) retained operational control over these systems. The transfer actions were completed on 1 December, at which time SAC received the space surveillance and missile warning system units and several installations and small sites throughout the United States and at various oversea locations.

The Aerospace Defense Command declined after the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve gradually assumed more and more of the air defense mission.



Air Force Order of Battle
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Sources

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