

# ANTILLES AIR COMMAND



## **LINEAGE**

Constituted as Antilles Air Task Force, 20 Feb 1943  
Activated in Puerto Rico, 1 Mar 1943  
Redesignated Antilles Air Command, Jun 1943  
Inactivated in Puerto Rico, 25 Aug 1946  
Disbanded, 8 Oct 1948

## **STATIONS**

San Juan, PR, 1 Mar 1943  
Borinquen Field, PR, 1 Mar-25 Aug 1946

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **COMMANDERS**

MG Edwin J House, 1 Mar 1943  
BG Edwin B Lyon, 14 May 1943  
Col Bayard Johnson, 8 Jan 1944  
BG Wolcott P Hayes, 22 Feb-Dec 1944  
BG George G Lundberg, Feb 1945-unkn

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

American Theater

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

### **ANTILLES Am TASK FORCE AND ANTILLES AIR COMMAND**

Before moving on to the little-known and relatively short-lived Antilles Air Command, it is first necessary to trace the antecedents of this step-child of the Sixth Air Force, including the equally obscure Antilles Air Task Force.

As the Axis submarine threat in the Caribbean region increased dramatically during the first six months of 1942, it was clear that extraordinary measures would be required to deal with this threat, and that aside from the contributions of the Anti-Submarine Command and the Navy, the local USAAC forces would have to make do with what was at hand.

It came to pass that, on 16 February 1942, Headquarters, Caribbean Air Force issued Field Order No.2 from Albrook Field, creating an organization named the Antilles Air Task Force (AATF).

For some time after creation of the AATF, General House (CG of the 6th Interceptor Command, which became the VI Fighter Command, Antilles Air Task Force by 21 July 1942) had been trying to increase fighter aircraft strength in the Trinidad Sector, which he considered to be woefully weak. One Squadron from the 36th Pursuit Group in Puerto Rico was stationed at Waller Field, Trinidad, and a detachment from the 16th Pursuit Group in Panama was at Zandery Field, Surinam. Plans called for the movement of the 37th Pursuit Group from Panama to Trinidad - although this was contingent upon the remaining Groups in Panama being brought up to strength.

It is difficult to put an exact date on the creation of CAFAC, but it was in being by the Fall of 1943, the first reported action involving an aircraft under CAFAC control coming on 8 November 1943, when a Navy Lockheed PV-1 "Ventura" attacked a submarine near the islands. By 1030hrs, CAFAC had also directed three 32nd Fighter Squadron Bell P-39's airborne to search for the sub as well, but no further contacts were made. At this time, the 32nd Fighter Squadron was cooperating with CAFAC only, as up to about this point, CAFAC only controlled Navy air assets, USAAF units on the islands not as yet having received authority to submit to CAFAC direction.

By March 1944, CAFAC, besides Navy units, had 34 Bell P-39's under its tactical control, all 32nd Fighter Squadron aircraft, but this unit was finally relieved from duty with CAFAC on 11

March 1944 and its 22 P-39's then at Hato Field (and 12 others at Dakota Field) departed the Dutch islands for their new posting to France Field, in the Canal Zone.

1943

By March 20th, the VI Fighter Command had moved to another base and on May 27th, the Antilles Air Task Force was assigned jurisdiction over the base. Later, in June, the 24th Service Group and the 33rd Service Squadron moved to another base. The Antilles Air Task Force was redesignated Antilles Air Command on June 1, 1943.

From July 10, 1944 to October 15, 1946, the 330th Transport Squadron (Cargo and Mail), which replaced the Troop Carrier Detachment, Antilles Air Command, carried out air courier functions, operating from Borinquen Field. And on August 1, 1944, Hq & Hq Sq, Antilles Air Command was located at Borinquen Field and most base units fell under this command's control. 1944

Base strength increased rapidly in June, as preparations began to support the Green and White Projects. Aircraft and passengers moved through Borinquen Field on the special Green and White

On August 20, 1945, Hq & Hq Sq, Antilles Air Command, moved from Borinquen and on October 5th, the 4th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron returned to Borinquen. From November 13th until mid-January 1945, Detachment, 243rd AAF Base Unit (of Second Air Force), with 24 officers, 26 enlisted men, and 4 B-29 aircraft, operated from the base while performing radar scope photography of all islands between Miami and Trinidad. 1945

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Components. Unkn.

Stations. San Juan, PR, 1 Mar 1943; Borinquen Field, PR, 1 Mar-25 Aug 1946.

Commanders. Maj Gen Edwin J House, 1 Mar 1943; Brig Gen Edwin B Lyon, 14 May 1943; Col Bayard Johnson, 8 Jan 1944; Brig Gen Wolcott P Hayes, 22 Feb-Dec 1944; Brig Gen George G Lundberg, Feb 1945-unkn.

Campaigns. American Theater.

Decorations. None.

Insigne. None.

COMMANDS

AAF Personnel Distribution Command, Hq - Gibbs-Inman Bldg, 9th & Broadway, Louisville 3, Ky.

    Miami District - Hotel Cadillac, Miami Beach, Fla.

AAF Proving Ground Command, Hq - Eglin Field, Valparaiso, Fla.

AAF Training Command, Hq - Texas & Pacific Bldg, Fort Worth 2, Tex.

Air Technical Service Command, Hq - Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio

Air Transport Command, Hq - AAF Annex #1, Gravelly Point, Washington, D. C.

    Ferrying Division, Hq - 309 Vine St, Cincinnati 2, Ohio

Antilles Air Command, Hq & Hq Sq - Borinquen Field, P. R. (845 MIA)

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources