

FIFTH AIR FORCE



LINEAGE

Philippine Department Air Force established, 16 Aug 1941
Activated, 20 Sep 1941
Redesignated Far East Air Force, 28 Oct 1941
Redesignated 5th Air Force, 5 Feb 1942
Redesignated Fifth Air Force, 18 Sep 1942

Not to be confused with a second "Fifth" air force created as a temporary establishment to handle combat operations after the outbreak of hostilities on 25 Jun 1950, in Korea. This numbered air force was established as Fifth Air Force, Advance, and organized at Itazuki AB, Japan, assigned to Fifth Air Force, on 14 Jul 1950. It moved to Taegu AB, South Korea, on 24 Jul 1950, and was redesignated Fifth Air Force in Korea at the same time. After moving, it apparently received command control from Far East Air Forces. The establishment operated from Pusan, Taegu, and Seoul before being discontinued on 1 Dec 1950.

STATIONS

Nichols Field, Philippine Islands
Darwin, Australia, Dec 1941
Brisbane, Australia, Sep 1942
Nadzab, New Guinea, Jun 1944
Owi, Schouten Islands, Aug 1944
Leyte, Philippine Islands, Nov 1944
Mindoro, Philippine Islands, Jan 1945
Luzon, Philippine Islands, Apr 1945
Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, Jul 1945
Irumagawa, Japan, about 25 Sep 1945
Tokyo, Japan, Jan 1946
Nagoya (later, Nagoya AB), Japan, May 1946
Seoul, South Korea, 1 Dec 1950
Taegu AB, South Korea, 22 Dec 1950
Seoul, South Korea, 15 Jun 1951
Osan-ni, South Korea, Jan 1954
Nagoya AB (later, Nagoya AS; Moriyama AS), Japan, 1 Sep 1954

Fuchu AS, Japan, 1 Jul 1957
Yokota AB, Japan, 11 Nov 1974

ASSIGNMENTS

Philippine Department, U.S. Army
Southwest Pacific Area, Nov 1942
Far East Air Forces (later, Pacific Air Command, U.S. Army; Far East Air Forces; Pacific Air Forces), Jun 1944

COMMANDERS

BG Henry B. Clagett, 20 Sep 1941
MG Lewis H. Brereton, Oct 1941-Feb 1942
LTG George C. Kenney, 3 Sep 1942
LTG Ennis C. Whitehead, 15 Jun 1944
MG Kenneth B. Wolfe, 4 Oct 1945
MG Thomas D. White, 16 Jan 1948
LTG Earle E. Partridge, 6 Oct 1948
MG Edward J. Timberlake, 21 May 1951
MG Frank F. Everest, 11 Jun 1951
LTG Glenn O. Barcus, 30 May 1952
LTG Samuel E. Anderson, 31 May 1953
LTG Roger M. Ramey, 1 Jun 1954
LTG Frederic H. Smith Jr., 20 Jun 1956
LTG Robert W. Burns, 4 Aug 1958
MG Robert F. Tate, 6 Jul 1961 (temporary)
LTG Jacob E. Smart, 2 Aug 1961
LTG Maurice A. Preston, 30 Jul 1963
LTG Seth J. McKee, 1 Aug 1966
LTG Thomas K. McGehee, 13 Jul 1968
LTG Gordon M. Graham, 24 Feb 1970
LTG Robert E. Pursley, 15 Nov 1972
MG Edward P. McNeff, 1 Mar 1974 (temporary)
LTG Walter T. Galligan, 8 May 1974
LTG George G. Loving Jr., 22 Jun 1977
LTG William H. Ginn Jr., 14 Jun 1979
LTG Charles L. Donnelly Jr., 5 Aug 1981
LTG Edward L. Tixier, 19 Jul 1984
LTG James B. Davis, 22 Jan 1988
BG James M. Johnston III, 18 Jul 1991 (temporary)
LTG Richard E. Hawley, 9 Aug 1991
LTG Richard B. Myers, 13 Nov 1993
LTG Ralph E. Eberhart, 18 Jun 1996
LTG John B. Hall Jr., 27 Jun 1997
Lt Gen Paul V. Hester, 3 Sep 1999
LTG Thomas C. Waskow, 19 Nov 2001
LTG Bruce A. Wright, 10 Feb 2005

MG Edward A. Rice Jr., 25 Feb 2008
LTG Sam Angelella
LTG John Dolan, 2015

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Philippine Islands
East Indies
Air Offensive, Japan
China Defensive
Papua
New Guinea
Northern Solomons
Bismarck Archipelago
Western Pacific
Leyte
Luzon
Southern Philippines
China Offensive

Korean War
UN Defensive
UN Offensive
CCF Intervention
1st UN Counter-offensive
CCF Spring Offensive
UN Summer-Fall Offensive
Second Korean Winter
Korea Summer-Fall, 1952
Third Korean Winter
Korea Summer-Fall, 1953

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Aug 1987-31 Jul 1989
1 Oct 1994-30 Sep 1996
1 Oct 1998-30 Sep 2000
1 Jan 2005-30 Sep 2006

Distinguished Unit Citations
Philippine Islands, 8-22 Dec 1941

Philippine Islands, 7 Dec 1941-10 May 1942
Papua, [Sep] 1942-23 Jan 1943

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations

24 Jul 1950-15 Mar 1951

16 Mar 1951-30 Sep 1952

1 Oct 1952-27 Jul 1953

1 Sep-14 Nov 1983

EMBLEM

On an ultramarine blue disc, the Southern Cross consisting of five stars in white between a flaming comet, the head consisting of a white five pointed star, charged with a red roundel, within a blue disc outlined in white, its tail consisting of three white streamers; all surmounted by an Arabic numeral "5," golden orange. The insignia is in the colors of the Air Forces. The Southern Cross is that heavenly body which may be viewed from the area in which the Force received its baptism of fire. The comet of the star design indicates the former Aircraft Marking and the three streamers of the tail represent bombers, fighters and troop carriers. (Approved, 25 Mar 1943 revised, 27 Jun 1995)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

One of the numbered air forces never stationed in the United States. Engaged in early combat on Luzon in December 1941, and later fought on in Java from Jan-Feb 1942 as part of the Allied effort to stem the Japanese thrust at Australia. Although unmanned from Mar-Aug 1942, the air force became directly involved from Sep 1942 onward in the island hopping campaigns in the Southwest Pacific during World War II and remained as part of the occupation force in Japan following the war. Served as the combat air force in Korea during the Korean conflict, after which it returned to Japan. Responsible for maintaining a strong tactical posture for the defense of Japan, South Korea, and the northwestern Pacific; played a critical role in helping establish Japan's and the Republic of Korea's modern air forces. Supported training activities with nations in the Pacific area; provided forces to contingencies worldwide; served as air component to US Forces Japan.

In the Southwest Pacific the Fifth Air Force was activated in Brisbane, Australia, in Mar 1942. After playing an instrumental role in the New Guinea campaign following the May 1942 Battle of the Coral Sea, units of the Fifth joined with other allied air forces to provide the push back toward the Philippines. Fifth Air Force was the primary unit in the Southwest Pacific theater. Its first commander was MG George C. Kenney, who after Aug 1942 also commanded all Allied Air Forces in the theater. In its campaigns, first in New Guinea, and then northward toward the Philippines

During 1949 FEAF adjusted its areas of responsibilities so that Fifth Air Force had responsibility for Japan and the Bonin and Volcano Islands, but not Korea. Twentieth Air Force was

responsible for the occupied Ryukyu Islands and the Marianas. Thirteenth Air Force was responsible for the Philippines.

Fifth Air Force, in Korea, was responsible for air operations in the war zone. On 18 May 1951 the 314th Air Division separated from the Fifth Air Force and assumed responsibility for air defense of Japan. Twentieth Air Force with units in the Marianas and Bonin Islands, was relieved of responsibility for that area by the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet. It did retain responsibility for the air defense of the southern portion of the Ryukyu Islands. The Thirteenth Air Force covered the Philippine Islands. The 315th Air Division, activated on 25 Jan, became the organization responsible for combat cargo operations, operating directly under FEAF.



Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 23 Aug 2010
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Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Fifth Air Force, Flying Buccaneers, The Illustrated Story of the Kenney's Fifth Air Force. Steve Birdsall. Doubleday and Company, Inc. Garden City, NY. 1977.

Unit History. *The Fifth Air Force in the Huon Peninsula Campaign, Jan 1943-Oct 1943.* USAF Historical Study no 113.

Unit History. *The Fifth Air Force in the Huon Peninsula Campaign, Oct 1943-Feb 1944.* USAF Historical Study no 116.

Unit History. *The Fifth Air Force in the Conquest of the Bismarck Archipelago, Nov 1943-Mar 1944.* AAF Historical Studies no 43.