

# AIR FORCE GLOBAL WEATHER CENTRAL



## LINEAGE

Air Force Global Weather Central established, 18 Mar 1969  
Activated, 8 Jul 1969

## STATIONS

Offutt AFB, NE

## ASSIGNMENTS

6th Weather Wing 30 Jun 1972  
Became a direct reporting unit of Air Weather Service, 1 Aug 1975

## COMMANDERS

Col Ralph J. Steele, 8 Jul 69  
Col Daniel B. Mitchell, Jun 70  
Col John C. Ball, Jan 73  
Col Richard A. Johnston, Feb 73  
Col Herbert A. Million, 31 Aug 75  
Col Alphonse Gargiulo, Jr., 28 May 76  
Col Arthur Bidner, 15 Jun 78  
Col George E. Chapman, 22 Jun 81  
Col Dale C. Barnum, 23 Jul 82  
Col David L. Donley, 20 Jul 84  
Col John W. Diercks, 3 Jul 86  
Col Adrian A. Ritchie, 7 Jun 89

## HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

### **EMBLEM**

### **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

### **MOTTO**

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

The Air Force Global Weather Central provides U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army with global information and products relating to past, present, and future states of the aerospace environment. It is the Air Weather Service manager for the collection and dissemination of aerospace environmental data and provides and arranges for meteorological aerospace environmental support to Air Weather Service units, and other Department of Defense and government agencies as directed by the Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force.

Global Weather Central (Detachment 16-12U, 16WS) began at Offutt AFB, Nebraska, on 15 March 1949, under the command of the 2103d Air Weather Group. It was reassigned in place to the 2059th Air Weather Wing on 31 January 1950 and began operations as Detachment 2059-6U on 1 February 1950 at Offutt. It was reassigned on 6 August 1951 as Detachment 2101 of the 2101st Air Weather Group. On 20 April 1952 it became Detachment 1, Offutt Weather Central, 1st Weather Group, and was replaced on 8 October 1956 by Detachment 1, Offutt Weather Central, 3d Weather Wing. Detachment 1, 3d Weather Wing was replaced by Air Force Global Weather Central, 2d Weather Squadron, on 8 July 1967. It was inactivated on 8 July 1969.

Established on 18 March 1969, it was activated at Offutt AFB, by the Air Force Global Weather Central on 8 July 1969. It was assigned to the 6th Weather Wing on 30 Jun 1972 and on 1 August 1975 it was reassigned directly to Air Weather Service.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for 8 Jul 1969-30 Jun 1970;  
1 Jul 1971-31 May 1973  
1 Jul 1980—30 Jun 1982

EMBLEM; Approved in July 1976

**SIGNIFICANCE:** The globe symbolizes Air Force Global Weather Central's worldwide interests, the two colors indicate 24-hour-a-day, around-the-clock support. The latitude and longitude lines symbolize its ability to provide tailored support to specific areas or points worldwide. The electric signals symbolize its central role in tying everything together, as well as the speed and efficiency with which weather support is provided to all users. The satellite is used to gather meteorological and solar data and to communicate weather data worldwide. Computers

are used to process raw environmental data and to produce meteorological analysis and forecasts. The anemometer symbolizes the collection of conventional weather data which is still the heart of meteorology. The three stylized aircraft symbolize the support provided to the aerospace forces of today and tomorrow. The general color scheme is designed to resemble the Air Weather Service shield. The colors used represent the following: ultramarine blue for daylight operations as well as the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations; dark gray for nighttime operations; and golden yellow for the sun and the excellence of Air Force personnel

#### AIR FORCE GLOBAL WEATHER CENTRAL (AFGWC)

In November 1957 the forerunner of AFGWC was formed from a nucleus of two AWS units. Thirteen forecasters and 25 observers from the disbanded USAF Weather Central, Suitland, Maryland, combined with 30 personnel from the SAC Forecast Center to form 3d Weather Wing, Det 1 (also known as the Offutt Weather Central). Two years later, on 8 July 1969, the 2d Weather Squadron was officially redesignated Air Force Global Weather Central. The Air Force Global Weather Central of the Air Weather Service (MAC) has the responsibility of providing aerospace environmental services on a global basis to conventional and space operations of the United States Air Force, the United States Army, and other DOD and governmental agencies as directed by USAF. AFGWC is the largest military meteorological facility in the world with resources consisting of over 700 scientists and technicians and five large UNIVAC computer systems. The concept of operations is to construct the world's most comprehensive environmental data base and apply the data to the specific operational requirements of the military decision maker on a realtime basis.

Air Force Global Weather Central is commanded by Colonel Alphonse Garguilo, who assumed duty on 1 June 1976.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

AFHRA