

AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY



LINEAGE

Established as Air Force Research Laboratory on 31 Mar 1997
Activated on 8 Apr 1997

STATIONS

Wright Patterson AFB, OH

ASSIGNMENTS

Air Force Materiel Command, 8 Apr 1997

COMMANDERS

Maj. Gen. Richard R. Paul April 1997-April 2000
Brig. Gen. (later Maj. Gen.) Paul D. Nielsen April 2000-June 2004
Brig. Gen. (later Maj. Gen.) Perry L. Lamy June 2004-Nov. 2005
Maj. Gen. Ted F. Bowlds Jan. 2006-Nov. 2007
Maj. Gen. Curtis M. Bedke Oct. 2007-Feb. 2010
Maj. Gen. Ellen M. Pawlikowski Feb. 2010-May 2011
Maj. Gen. William N. McCasland May 2011

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Organizational Excellence Awards

1 Jan 2001-31 Dec 2002

1 Mar 2006-29 Feb 2008

1 Mar 2008-28 Feb 2010

EMBLEM

Approved on 22 Jul 1997

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Looking back, it is rather remarkable that what started as a fragmentary strategic concept in the minds of a few people in January 1997 turned into reality a short three months later with the interim stand-up of the single laboratory. This major event symbolized a radical and fundamental change within the Air Force in terms of how it planned to conduct its S&T business in the future. To bolster its S&T mission, General Paul thought it very important to craft a distinctive emblem that would promote and identify what the laboratory stood for. Just as the “swoosh” check gives instant recognition to Nike products, a creative AFRL emblem would convey a comparable message to any audience, underscoring the importance of the S&T mission throughout the Air Force and DOD. Since the unit emblem would represent the totality of the new laboratory, Paul decided to “go to the troops” to solicit their ideas. In February 1997, he sent a letter to the workforce encouraging everyone to submit a heraldry design that would best exemplify the new lab. In a pleasantly surprising response, workers from the four labs, AFOSR, and AFMC/ST turned in 45 full-color entries. General Paul, Dr. Daniel, and Dr. Russo reviewed and evaluated each entry, narrowing the field to eight emblem designs. Paul declared that the “very good” submissions made it quite difficult for him to select a winner. But on 24 March, he opted for a synthesis of two different designs proposed by the team of Mr. Rogelio Burgos and 1st Lt William Sabol from Phillips Lab’s Propulsion Directorate and Maj Dave Swinney from Headquarters AFMC/ST. The combination of these two designs received high marks because the final emblem took into account three fundamental concepts: the origins of the unified lab, a broad range of missions, and the clear implication of the new lab’s focus on the future. The simplicity of the new emblem made it very attractive and appealing. On the left side, five stars arranged vertically serve as a prominent reminder of AFRL’s origins. Four of these stars honor the heritage of the four former laboratories Phillips, Rome, Wright, and Armstrong—and the fifth represents AFOSR. The bright, guiding star

in the upper right signifies the lab's constant striving to achieve greatness. At the center of the shield, a three-dimensional triangle traveling to new heights "represents a marriage of aircraft, missile, and spacecraft." The Institute of Heraldry officially described the threedimensional craft as "silver and white in color to give the impression of quick flight and straightforward in design to highlight the constant and steady advances enabled by our research and development. The craft is pointing to the heavens as it rolls back the night. Thus, through research and development, the light of understanding replaces the darkness of ignorance. Pleased that the new emblem dignified the heritage, spirit, and mission of AFRL, General Paul on 23 April sent a letter requesting approval to General Viccellio, who quickly concurred. Two weeks later, the Air Force Historical Research Agency at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, advised General Paul that the emblem met the requirements of AFI 84-101, *Historical Products, Services, and Requirements*, which governs heritage guidelines and requirements for all Air Force units. After the chief of staff of the Air Force gave his approval, an artist at the Institute of Heraldry at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, completed the design and artwork of the official AFRL emblem in five months. The original drawing and a final letter of approval authenticating the emblem was then sent to the Air Force Historical Research Agency for permanent retention and safekeeping. AFRL received a copy of the original drawing to serve as the template for making unit flags and any other reproductions of the emblem (i.e., unit patches, decals, signs, and other emblem facsimiles). Prior to approval, no one could officially use the emblem because of the possibility that some minor changes might have to be made during the final design process. As it turned out, that never became a problem. The final, official emblem released in the fall of 1997 was an exact replica of the one submitted by AFRL in the spring.

National Guardsmen from six states have potentially saved the Air Force some \$31 million by stepping up to move a radar research tower from Rome, N.Y., to Springfield ANGB, Ohio. Mandated under BRAC 2005, the Air Force Research Lab set out to consolidate four radar towers near Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. With initial contract estimates as high as \$35 million, AFRL sensors directorate officials turned to the New York Air National Guard's 213th Engineering Installation Squadron in 2007. Harnessing Air Guard manpower from across the nation, the squadron estimated that it could complete the project for just \$4.2 million. In late May, the Air Guardsmen, supported by active duty airmen, completed the disassembly, move, and reassembly process at Springfield, all for \$600,000 under the unit's cost projection. "The underlying theme behind BRAC is achieving savings for the taxpayers. This effort is one of our biggest success stories to date," said Frank Albanese, AFRL's BRAC director. 2011

Kirtland AFB became the hub of Air Force space technology when the Air Force Space Technology Center was activated October 1, 1982.

In June 1990, the Air Force Contract Management Division was deactivated as a result of the Defense Management review. And, in December 1990, the Air Force Space Technology Center and Weapons Laboratory consolidated to become Phillips Laboratory, and later, the Air Force Research Laboratory.

Maj. Gen. Tom Masiello is the new commander of the Air Force Research Lab, after taking the leadership reins from Maj. Gen. William McCasland during a change-of-ceremony at Wright-

Patterson AFB, Ohio, site of the lab's headquarters. "Let us never forget our proud legacy and awesome responsibility to create the Air Force of 2030, 2040, 2050, and beyond," said Masiello in his remarks during the July 29 event. "Together, as a team, we will face our new challenges and our new opportunities, and together as a team, we will deliver a rich legacy of technologies for our future force," he said. Masiello comes to AFRL from the Pentagon where he served since May 2011 as director of special programs for the Defense Department's acquisition executive. He is now responsible for managing the lab's eight technology directorates and one wing and a \$2 billion science and technology portfolio, according to Wright-Patt's Aug. 2 release. McCasland, who led AFRL since May 2011, is retiring from the Air Force, effective Oct. 1, after 34 years in uniform. 2013



Air Force Order of Battle
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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.