

## TWELVETH AIR FORCE



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

Twelfth Air Force constituted and activated, 20 Aug 1942

Inactivated, 31 Aug 1945

Activated, 17 May 1946

Discontinued, 1 Jul 1950

Organized, 21 Jan 1951

Redesignated Twelfth Air Force (Air Forces Southern), 29 Feb 2008

### STATIONS

Boiling Field, DC, 20-28 Aug 1942

England, 12 Sep-22 Oct 1942

Algeria, 9 Nov 1942

Tunisia, 10 Aug 1943

Italy, 5 Dec 1943-31 Aug 1945

March Field, CA, 17 May 1946

Brooks AFB, TX, 1 Jan 1949-1 Jul 1950

Wiesbaden, Germany, 21 Jan 1951

Ramstein AB, Germany, 27 Apr 1953

Waco, TX, 1 Jan 1958

Bergstrom AFB, TX, 30 Aug 1968

Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, 1 Oct 1992

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

Tactical Air Command

Continental Air Command, Dec 1948

United States Air Forces in Europe, 21 Jan 1951

## **COMMANDERS**

Lt Col Roger J. Browne, 26 Aug 1942

Lt Col Harold L. Neely, 28 Aug 1942

Maj Gen James H. Doolittle, 23 Sep 1942

Lt Gen Spaatz, 1 Mar 1943

Lt Gen John K. Cannon, 21 Dec 1943

Maj Gen Benjamin W. Chidlaw, 2 Apr 1945

Brig Gen Charles T. Myers, 26 May-31 Aug 1945

Brig Gen Yantis H. Taylor, 17 May 1946

Brig Gen John P. Doyle, 10 Jul 1946

Maj Gen William D. Old, 24 Sep 1946

Brig Gen John P. Doyle, 23 Jan 1947

Maj Gen Glenn O. Barcus, 2 May 1947

Maj Gen Alden R. Crawford, 1 Sep 1949

Col Ezekiel W. Napier, 13 Jun-1 Jul 1950

Maj Gen Robert W. Douglass, Jr., 22 Jan 1951

Maj Gen Dean C. Strother, 16 Mar 1951

Maj Gen Robert M. Lee, 20 Nov 1953

Maj Gen John K. Gerhart, 15 Jun 1956

Maj Gen Chester E. McCarty, 1 Jan 1958

Maj Gen Jacob E. Smart, 17 Sep 1959

Maj Gen Karl Truesdell, Jr., 13 Jan 1960

Maj Gen Fred M. Dean, 1 Jul 1963

Maj Gen John C. Meyer, 1 Nov 1963

Maj Gen Lucius D. Clay, Jr., 21 Jan 1966

Maj Gen H. B. Thorne, 17 Jun 1966

Maj Gen Charles R. Bond, Jr., 30 Jun 1967

Maj Gen Jay T. Robbins, 30 Jun 1969

Maj Gen Albert W. Schinz, 1 Jul 1969

Maj Gen David I. Liebman, 26 Jan 1971 (Acting)

Maj Gen Gordon F. Blood, 10 Feb 1971

Maj Gen John S. Burns, 30 Jun 1973

Lt Gen Charles W. Carson, Jr., 11 Mar 1974

Lt Gen James D. Hughes, 1 Jul 1975

Lt Gen James V. Hartinger, 20 Jun 1978

Maj Gen Malcolm E. Ryan, Jr., 1 Jan 1980 (Acting)

Lt Gen William R. Nelson, 21 Jan 1980

Lt Gen Jack I. Gregory, 1 Jun 1983

Lt Gen Charles J. Cunningham, 31 May 1985

Lt Gen Merrill A. Mcpeak, 26 Jun 1987  
Lt Gen Peter T. Kempf, 7 Jul 1988  
Maj Gen Walter T. Worthington, 2 Nov 1990  
Lt Gen Thomas A. Baker, 31 May 1991  
Lt Gen James L. Jamerson, 13 Jul 1993  
Lt Gen Thomas R. Griffith, 22 Jul 1994  
Lt Gen James F. Record, 24 Jun 1995  
Lt Gen Frank B. Campbell, 9 Dec 1996  
Lt Gen Lansford E. Trapp Jr., 25 Nov 1997  
Lt Gen Robert H. Foglesong, 8 Sep 1999  
Lt Gen William T. Hobbins, 7 Aug 2000  
Lt Gen Randall M. Schmidt, 25 Jul 2003  
Lt Gen Norman R. Selp, 7 Jul 2006  
Lt Gen Chris Nowland  
Lt Gen Glenn F. Spears, #2010

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

Air Combat, EAME Theater  
Algeria-French Morocco  
Tunisia  
Sicily  
Naples-Foggia  
Anzio  
Rome-Arno  
Southern France  
North Apennines  
Po Valley

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

Grenada, 1983;  
Panama, 1989-1990

#### **Decorations**

Meritorious Unit Citation  
1 Jun-31 Dec 1944

#### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards**

1 Feb 1987-28 Feb 1989  
1 May 1989-31 Jan 1990  
1 Feb 1990-1 Feb 1992  
1 Jan 1993-31 Dec 1994

1 Jun 1996-31 May 1998  
1 Jun 1999-31 May 2001  
1 Jun 2003-31 May 2005

**EMBLEM**



an ultramarine blue equilateral triangle, one point down, a white star with a red disc in the center thereof bearing the numeral "12" in white, below a pair of stylized golden orange wings. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The colors and elements represent the Army Air Force and the number "12" the numerical designation of the unit. (Originally approved, 1 Dec 1943, modified, 9 May 1958. Current rendition approved, 22 Jun 1994)



## MOTTO

## OPERATIONS

Moved to England for training in late 1942 and participated in the invasion of North Africa. It engaged in tactical operations for the remainder of the war in the Mediterranean. The Twelfth

Air Force has subsequently served both in Europe and later the United States. Beginning in 1987, Twelfth Air Force took on the added responsibility of managing all AF assets in US Southern Command Air Forces. From 1993-2002, managed the strategic reconnaissance assets for the Air Force. Participated in Operations Just Cause, 20 Dec 1989-31 Jan 1990 and Promote Liberty, 1990-1991. Provided fighter and reconnaissance aircraft and support to US Central Command Air Forces for operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, 1990-1991. Supported operations Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom in Iraq by ensuring force protection measures at home and abroad. It continued to support the Global War on Terror while at the same time conducting its mission as the Air Force component of the United States Southern Command by participating in its exercise program. From 2003, Twelfth Air Force led the way in bringing the Air Force's Warfighting Headquarters concept to life, establishing a command and control element, an Air Force Forces staff, and an Air Operations Center.

Lt. Gen. Tod Wolters assumed command of 12th Air Force (Air Forces Southern) from Lt. Gen. Robin Rand. The leadership change took place during a ceremony on Sept. 24 at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., according to a base release. Wolters previously served as the director of the Air Force's legislative liaison office at the Pentagon. Rand, who led 12th AF since December 2011, will put on a fourth star for his next assignment leading Air Education and Training Command at JBSA-Lackland, Tex. The Senate approved Rand for the post in August. "It has been an absolute pleasure working alongside you these past 30 years," said Air Combat Command boss Gen. Mike Hostage to Rand during the ceremony. "I've seen firsthand how you've delivered in every challenge put before you. Air Education and Training Command is gaining a great leader," said Hostage. Rand thanked 12th AF's airmen for their hard work. "No commander could have had a better championship team than the one I just played on," he said. 2013

Monday, December 22, 2014 New Boss at 12th Air Force Air Forces Southern and 12th Air Force is now under the command of newly promoted Lt. Gen. Mark Nowland, who assumed leadership of AFSOUTH and 12th AF during a Dec. 19 change of command ceremony at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. Nowland replaced Lt. Gen. Tod Wolters, who is headed to the Pentagon where he steps into the office of deputy chief of staff for operations, plans, and requirements on the Air Staff. Nowland previously served as the chief of staff at US Southern Command, where he worked to coordinate the command's theater campaign plan, and to sync the efforts of nine directorates and 16 staff offices. The subordinate commands of 12th AF operate more than 680 aircraft and oversee more than 55,000 airmen and civilian employees. In a holiday message to airmen, Nowland said he and his family are excited, honored, and humbled to join the 12th AF community. "I look forward to earning your trust, and getting to know you and your families," he said. "While leading 12th AF and Air Forces Southern in producing and providing the trained and ready airmen this nation needs to fight the threats facing America, we will strive to balance mission and family."

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 23 Aug 2010

Updated: 19 Jan 2024

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.