

557 WEATHER WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

Weather Wing, Flight Control Command established and activated, 14 Apr 1943
Redesignated Army Air Forces Weather Wing, 6 Jul 1943
Redesignated Army Air Forces Weather Service, 1 Jul 1945
Redesignated Air Weather Service, 13 Mar 1946
Redesignated Air Force Weather Agency, 15 Oct 1997
Redesignated 557 Weather Wing with a change in status to subordinate unit, 27 Mar 2015

STATIONS

Washington, DC, 14 Apr 1943
Asheville, NC, 3 May 1943
Langley Field, VA, 7 Jan 1946
Gravelly Point, VA, 15 Jun 1946
Andrews AFB, MD, 1 Dec 1948
Scott AFB, IL, 23 Jun 1958
Offutt AFB, NE, 15 Oct 1997

ASSIGNMENTS

Flight Control Command, 14 Apr 1943
Headquarters, Army Air Forces, 6 Jul 1943
Air Transport Command, 13 Mar 1946
Military Air Transport Service (later, Military Airlift Command), 1 Jun 1948
Headquarters, United States Air Force, 1 Apr 1991
Twelfth Air Force (Air Forces Southern), 27 Mar 2015

COMMANDERS

Col Harold H. Bassett

Lt Col William O. Senter

Col James W. Twaddell, Jr.

Col Donald N. Yates

Col William O. Senter, 1 Aug 1950

Brig Gen Thomas S. Moorman, Jr., 23 Apr 1954

Col Norman L. Peterson, 20 Mar 1958

Maj Gen Harold H. Bassett, 13 Nov 1958

Brig Gen Norman L. Peterson, 1 Nov 1959

Brig Gen Roy W. Nelson, Jr., 18 Mar 1963

Col Russell K. Pierce, Jr., 6 Oct 1965

Brig Gen William H. Best, Jr., 27 Jul 1970

Brig Gen Thomas A. Aldrich, 30 Jun 1973

Brig Gen John W. Collens III, 15 Feb 1974

Brig Gen Berry W. Rowe, 6 Aug 1975

Brig Gen Albert J. Kaehn, Jr., 17 Aug 1978

Col George E. Chapman, 30 Jul 1982

Col John J. Kelly, Jr., 1 Jul 1988

Col Joseph D. Dushan, #1995 #1997

Col Charles W. French, #1999

Col Robert H. Allen, #2002

Col Charles L. Benson, Jr., #2004

Col John M. Lanicci, #2005

Col Patrick M. Condray, #2007

Col David Handle, #2007

Col John D. Murphy, #2008

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II

American Theater Service Streamer

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award

1 May 1984–30 Apr 1986

1 May 1986–30 Apr 1988

1 Sep 1993–30 Sep 1995

1 Oct 1995–30 Sep 1996

1 Sep 1996–30 Sep 1998

1 Oct 1998–30 Sep 1999
1 Oct 1999–30 Sep 2001
1 Oct 2001–30 Sep 2003
1 Apr 2007-31 Dec 2008

EMBLEM



Originally approved, 8 Sep 1942. The Air Weather Service Shield Emblem was later approved for

use on Air Weather Service headquarters, group, and wing flags with the appropriate unit designation in the scroll on 24 Jul 1952. On 31 Jan 1961 the shield emblem was approved for all uses. Two weeks later, on 13 Feb, the old disc emblem and motto were retired. The latest modification was approved, 24 Sep 1998.

First participation in combat by a U.S. Army Weather Service took place in France during World War I and is commemorated in the Air Weather Service emblem by the golden yellow fleur-de-lis. Performance of weather duties both day and night is indicated on the gold-bordered shield by light blue, to the viewer's left, and black backgrounds, which divide the shield vertically. Three white and gold trimmed anemometer cups representing the continual collection of weather data serve to identify the round-the-clock, round-the-world functions of the U.S. Air Force Air Weather Service, a technical service of the Military Air Transport Service.

Unofficially adopted by organization 1943; officially approved for this organization, 24 Jul 1952; latest rendition approved, 11 May 2015.

MOTTO

Coelum Ad Proelium Elige--Choose The Weather For Action

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Air Weather Service provides staff and operational environmental service to support departments of the Air Force and Army and designated unified and specified command activities. This service includes forecasts and observations of the atmosphere and the earth's space environment and climatological studies. The AWS operates fixed and mobile ground weather stations throughout the world.

Each major Air Force or Army command headquarters has an AWS unit assigned to provide such services. The AWS headquarters retains technical control of all-weather units to ensure worldwide integration and standardization. The Air Force Communications Command (AFCC) maintains AWS equipment. Logistics support comes from the commands, bases receiving the services, and AFLC. The AWS provides communications directly through AFCC in some theaters and through leased commercial facilities elsewhere.

Upon mobilization, AWS gains 1 ANG weather squadron and 38 ANG weather flights that provide weather support to Air Force and Army National Guard units.

The mission of Air Force Weather Agency is to maximize America's power through the exploitation of timely, accurate and relevant weather information; anytime, everywhere by providing accurate, relevant, and timely air and space weather information to DOD, coalition, and national users and by providing standardized training and equipment to Air Force weather forces. Air Force Weather works in partnership with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to continually improve the developing science.

Air Force Weather has been instrumental in the protection of life and property at home as well. Since World War II, Air Force Weather personnel have provided hurricane reconnaissance. Air Force Weather participated in the development of the nation's severe storm forecasting centers. In 1948 two Air Force weather officers issued the first tornado warning.

With its early adoption of emerging computing and communications technologies, Air Force Weather was at the fore of the Space Age. In the 1960s Air Force Weather began assimilating weather data collected from meteorological satellites. At the same time, Air Force Weather, as the single agent for all of the Department of Defense, began solar observations and forecasting.

Air Force Weather endorsed the Information Revolution early in the 1980s with tools that provided state-of-the art computing at the lowest echelons to gather, process, and disseminate weather data. In concert with Air Force communicators, Air Force Weather constructed communications networks that enabled weather information to be disseminated around the world in moments. Today, Air Force Weather employs the Internet to rapidly disseminate weather data around the globe.

Working with the other national agencies, Air Force Weather has been instrumental in the development of modern meteorological technologies, such as the deployment of NEXRAD, the Next Generation Radar, in the 1990s.

Air Force Weather Agency manning consists of more than 1,400 active duty, reserve, civilian and contract personnel and is headquartered on Offutt AFB, NE. Air Force Weather Agency executes a \$175 million annual budget including more than \$90 million in operations and maintenance.

Air Force Weather Agency is organized into a headquarters element, consisting of staff agencies, two groups, four directorates, a subordinate center, and five solar observatories.

Weather Agency Becomes 557th Weather Wing The Air Force Weather Agency will redesignate as the 557th Weather Wing, becoming the service's largest meteorological organization at Offutt AFB, Neb., effective March 27, officials announced. "This transition to an operational wing will allow us to be more ops-focused and responsive to the Air Force, Army, and Joint warfighters needs," said AFWA Commander Col. William Carle in a release. The 557th WW will retain the former agency's subordinate 1st Weather Group and 2nd WG and a restructured headquarters, reporting directly to 12th Air Force under Air Combat Command. The unit will grow to 1,700 airmen, retaining AFWA's emblem with the addition of the Latin blazon, "Coelum Ad Prelium Elige"-choose the weather for battle-harkening back to the Air Weather Service. AWS at Scott AFB, Ill., became the AFWA when it merged with the AF Global Weather Center at Offutt in 1997. 2015

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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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.