

608th AIR OPERATIONS CENTER



MISSION

The 608th Air Operations Center (AOC) plans, directs, and assesses daily operations employing global, kinetic and non-kinetic capabilities in order to deliver strategic effects for the United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) commander and joint fires in direct support of theater commanders.

The 608th AOC fills the critical need to support USSTRATCOM Joint Functional Component Command in deliberate, crisis action and time sensitive planning to combat adversary weapons of mass destruction worldwide; provide integrated global strike capabilities to deter and dissuade threats and when directed, defeat adversaries through decisive joint global kinetic and non-kinetic combat effects.

The 608th AOC is made up of more than 175 active-duty, civilian and contractor positions and has five unique divisions and one squadron that serve critical roles in support of the Joint-Global Strike Operations Center, bomber wings and Air Force Global Strike Command:

Air Communications Squadron Manages the AOC weapon system, provides rapid computer network, radio support and conducts cyber maintenance and defense operations.

Air Mobility Division coordinates all tanker requirements between USSTRANSCOM, Air Mobility Command and the 618th Tanker Airlift Control Center to support bomber missions globally.

Combat Plans Division Coordinates, schedules and builds global bomber task force (BTF) missions, deployments and long-range strike.

Combat Operations Division is the command, control and communications for global bomber missions. COD coordinates with units, worldwide AOCs and Joint forces.

Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Division (Provides real-time threat support, all-source environment analysis, target development, and ISR integration for bombers worldwide.

Strategy Division Shapes component commander strategy to meet combatant commander intent and assesses mission effectiveness within USSTRATCOM and combatant commands.

LINEAGE

608th Air Operations Group constituted and activated, 1 Jan 1994

Redesignated 608th Air and Space Operations Center, 3 Jun 2008

Redesignated 608th Air Operations Center

STATIONS

Barksdale AFB, LA, 1 Jan 1994

ASSIGNMENTS

Eighth Air Force, 18 Jan 1994

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Valor

1 Jun 2001-31 May 2003

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jun 1995-31 May 1997

1 Jun 1997-31 May 1999

1 Jun 2004-31 May 2006

EMBLEM



Tenné, to dexter a sword point to base palewise Argent grip Gules, overall a demi-lion sans tail rampant Azure armed and langued of the like fimbriated Or, all within a diminished bordure Yellow. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "608TH AIR & SPACE OPERATIONS CENTER" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The orange background represents the strength of air power. The lion is taken from the insignia of the World War Two VIII Fighter Command, the predecessor of the Eighth Air Force, the parent unit of the 608th Air and Space Operations Center. The sword relates to the emblem of the Air Combat Command. (Approved, 6 Feb 1995)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

On Jan. 1, 1994, Headquarters Air Combat Command activated and assigned the 608th Air Operations Group (AOG) to Eighth Air Force to provide operational and planned expertise to

the Eighth Air Force commander. Since its activation, the unit has kept the commander informed about force operations and theater command and control procedures, while conducting deliberate planning activities, identifying joint issues, and running an Air Operations Center.

The unit has participated in or supported virtually every contingency deployment since Operation Uphold/Maintain Democracy to Haiti during late 1994 and early 1995. The group supported several operations against Iraq, including Desert Strike in September of 1996, Desert Thunder in November of 1998, and Desert Fox in December of 1998. Additionally, in 1999 the unit supported Allied Force, while in 2001 the unit deployed people to Noble Eagle for homeland defense and Enduring Freedom against a terrorist regime in Afghanistan. The unit also supported Southern Watch, Northern Watch and Joint Guardian before returning to Southwest Asia in 2003 to fight in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit has also supported major exercises like Blue Flag, Green Flag, Warrior Flag, Global Guardian, Roving Sands, Mighty Thunder, Unified Endeavour, Joint Fleet Exercises, Titanium Flacon, Bright Star and several Joint Expeditionary Force Experiments (JEFX).

During 2005, an effort was made to develop a Space and Global Strike Air and Space Operations Center reflecting the evolving operational relationship between the Eighth Air Force and United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM). This specialized operations center was established by November 2005 providing quick strike options and operational integration of kinetic and non-kinetic effects supporting USSTRATCOM.

On Nov. 1, 2006, the Eighth Air Force commander received a tasking directly from Gen. T. Michael Moseley, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, to create an integrated global effects command called Air Force Cyber Command. The 608th AOG was at the forefront of making this transaction a reality during the 2006-2007 timeframe. It was during this time the Eighth's AOC revolutionized time-sensitive planning and forged a global relationship with unified and combatant commanders augmenting their internal planning support with a global perspective. In several Global Power exercises, the 608th AOC further honed its institutional skills in command and controlling continental U.S.-based bombers operating in multiple theaters.

Effective June 3, 2008, as part of the re-designation of Eighth Air Force into Eighth Air Force (Air Forces Strategic), the 608th AOG was formally re-designated as the 608th Air and Space Operations Center (608th AOC). This re-designation changed the 608th AOG with its assigned subordinate squadrons to a center with five staff divisions with the 608th AOC becoming a unit separated out of the headquarters staff structure becoming an organizational flag bearing unit with readiness reporting responsibilities.

During the time of 2008 through 2009, the 608th AOC oversaw the transfer of the critical Conventional Air Launched Cruise Missile planning mission from Detachment 1, 608th AOC, at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., to the 608th AOC at Barksdale AFB as Det. 1 was slated for inactivation. This transfer was coordinated between the USSTRATCOM, Air Combat Command, Eighth Air Force and Task Force 204 and was successfully accomplished Dec. 17, 2009.

A new planning cell at Air Force Global Strike Command's 8th Air Force is in charge of coordinating standoff weapon assets across the Department of Defense, from JASSMs to Navy Tomahawks, in order to get better results in the opening stages of an air campaign. The Standoff Munitions Application Center (SMAC) is now up and running at the 608th Air and Space Operations Center at Barksdale AFB, La., 8th Air Force Commander Maj. told Air Force Magazine Friday. The effort pulls together the operational planning elements for standoff weapons from the Air Force, Navy, and other services, in order to help better coordinate bomber-launched cruise missiles, to air-launched jammers and Tomahawks. As US Strategic Command's air component and functional commander for global strike, Vander Hamm can now coordinate and support standoff weapons operations. A given command may have a handful of personnel who can plan and coordinate standoff assets, but now the SMAC can consolidate this expertise and provide teams to deploy and directly support operations should the need arise. "These assets are very expensive, and this is to help pull them together from an operational planning perspective," Vander Hamm said. Using tools available via his STRATCOM authorities, Vander Hamm can utilize electronic warfare, cyber, and space assets to "better optimize these weapons." 2014

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 28 May 2011

Updated:

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.