

12 AIR DIVISION



MISSION

LINEAGE

12 Pursuit Wing established, 19 Oct 1940

Activated, 20 Nov 1940

Inactivated, 6 Mar 1942

Redesignated 12 Bombardment Wing, 23 Aug 1942

Activated, 8 Sep 1942

Disestablished, 9 Oct 1944

Reestablished and redesignated 12 Bombardment Wing, Light, 3 Jul 1947

Activated in the Reserve, 3 Aug 1947

Redesignated 12 Air Division, Bombardment, 16 Apr 1948

Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

Redesignated 12 Air Division, 1 Feb 1951

Organized, 10 Feb 1951

Discontinued, 16 Jun 1952

Activated, 16 Jun 1952

Redesignated 12 Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Jun 1962

Redesignated 12 Strategic Missile Division, 30 Jun 1971

Redesignated 12 Air Division, 1 Mar 1973

Inactivated, 31 Jul 1990

STATIONS

Albrook Field, CZ, 10 Nov 1940-6 Mar 1942

MacDill Field, FL, 8 Sep-28 Nov 1942

Gourock, Scotland, 15-16 Dec 1942
Chelveston, England, c. 17 Dec 1942-12 Jan 1943
Marks Hall, England, 12 Jan 1943-9 Oct 1944
Cleveland Municipal Airport, OH, 3 Aug 1947-27 Jun 1949
March AFB, CA, 10 Feb 1951-16 Jun 1952
Davis Monthan AFB, AZ, 1 Jan 1962
Dyess AFB, TX, 30 Sep 1976
Ellsworth AFB, SD, 15 Jul 1988-31 Jul 1990

ASSIGNMENTS

VI Interceptor Command, 20 Nov 1940-6 Mar 1942
Eighth Air Force, 8 Sep 1942
VIII Bomber Command (later, Eighth Air Force), Dec 1942-9 Oct 1944
Eleventh Air Force, 3 Aug 1947
First Air Force, 1 Jul 1948
Ninth Air Force, 23 Feb-27 Jun 1949
Fifteenth Air Force, 10 Feb 1951-16 Jun 1952
Fifteenth Air Force, 16 Jun 1952
Eighth Air Force, 1 Jul 1989-31 Jul 1990

COMMANDERS

Brig Gen Adlai H. Gilkeson, 20 Nov 1940-6 Mar 1942
Unkn, 8-9 Sep 1942
2Lt Leonard B. Flemmons Jr., 10 Sep 1942
Maj George M. Green, 24 Sep 1942
Maj Henry G. Silleck, 17 Nov 1942
Maj Thomas L. Dawson, 25 Nov 1942-19 Jan 1943
None (not manned), 20 Jan 1943-9 Oct 1944
Brig Gen Wiley D. Ganey, 10 Feb 1951
Brig Gen Howell M. Estes Jr., 1 Mar-16 Jun 1952
Brig Gen Howell M. Estes Jr., 16 Jun 1952
Brig Gen Charles B. Westover, 23 Jul 1953
Col Frederic G. Huish, 23 Feb 1956
Col, Willard W. Smith, 5 Mar 1956
Brig Gen Robert B. Miller, 12 Jan 1957
Col Robert J. Hughey, 8 May 1959
Col William C. Bacon, 1 Jan 1962
Brig Gen William C. Garland, 2 Mar 1964
Brig Gen Everett W. Holstrom, 1 Jul 1965
Brig Gen George P. Cole, 1 Sep 1966
Brig Gen Jack C. Ledford, 9 Jul 1968
Brig Gen John A. DesPortes, 30 Sep 1970
Brig Gen Harry M. Darmstandler, 29 Feb 1972
Brig Gen James S. Murphy, 2 Feb 1973

Brig Gen Raymond L. Haupt, 9 Oct 1973
Brig Gen Christopher S. Adams Jr., 1 Dec 1975
Brig Gen Dennis B. Sullivan, 17 Jul 1978
Brig Gen Pintard M. Dyer III, 28 May 1981
Brig Gen Walter E. Webb III, 1 Aug 1985
Brig Gen Robert M. Marquette Jr., 11 Apr 1987-31 Jul 1990

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

World War II European African Middle Eastern Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



12 Air Division patch emblem 16 Apr 1952





Or, issuing from chief a chevron inverted azure spattered with 15 mullets argent overall between in dexter a pattern of 15 stripes palewise throughout sable surmounted by a sphere of the second gridlined of the first and in sinister a mailed clenched fist silver, grasping four lightning flashes gules, a missile in pale, of the third emitting a flame to base gules, all within a diminished bordure of the first. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The missile in the center of the design represents the unit's primary function and mission. The three larger stars on the blue field represent the unit's three primary missile installations and the 12 smaller stars represent the numerals of the unit's designation--12th Strategic Missile Division. The 15 stars combined is representative of the unit's parent command; Fifteenth Air Force. The gridlined globe symbolizes the unit's worldwide commitment and the mailed clenched fist and lightning bolts denote power and is also a primary element. (Approved: 5 January 1972) Emblem designed by Lt Col Steven A. Thomas.

Or, a globe azure grid lined of the first between in dexter an airplane palewise ascending argent, exhaust gules and in sinister a missile palewise of the like, overall a gauntlet of the third, grasping an olive branch vert and a lightning flash of the fourth bend sinisterwise and two lightning flashes of the last bendwise, on a chief of the second per chevron inverted seme of

mullets argent; all within a diminished bordure of argent (Approved, 30 Dec 1988).



12 Air Division emblem approved Dec 1986

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The wing operated in the Panama Canal Zone 20 November 1940-6 March 1942. It moved to England in November 1942, with assignment to the Eighth Air Force. All personnel and equipment were withdrawn in January 1943, and the organization did not serve in combat. As an Air Division, from February 1951, it conducted training for world-wide bombardment operations. From 1963-1984 and 1988-1990, it maintained an ICBM capability, conducted staff assistance visits, and monitored programs such as retention, domestic actions, and medical capabilities of its subordinate units.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.