

## EIGHTEENTH AIR FORCE



### MISSION

The Eighteenth Air Force is Air Mobility Command's numbered Air Force (NAF). The commander exercises operational control of the air mobility wings and contingency response groups assigned to U.S. Transportation Command and delegated to AMC. The Eighteenth Air Force also exercises operational control of assets around the world through the two expeditionary mobility task forces (15 and 21 EMTF), their Contingency Response Wings and enroute Air Mobility Operations Groups. The Eighteenth Air Force provides airlift, aerial refueling and aeromedical evacuation assets in support of the combatant commanders.

Eighteenth Air Force manages the execution of all Air Mobility Command missions world-wide. This is accomplished through its major subordinate organizations: the Tanker Airlift Control Center (TACC) and the warfighting forces. The TACC is charged with tasking all Air Mobility Command missions, with exception of the 89th Airlift Wing. TACC serves as the Air Mobility Command's air operations hub, directing world-wide aircraft operations. The warfighting forces consist of all AMC wings and groups based in the continental US, as well as two Expeditionary Mobility Task Forces.

### LINEAGE<sup>1</sup>

Eighteenth Air Force (Troop Carrier) established, 7 Mar 1951  
Organized, 28 Mar 1951

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<sup>1</sup>Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

Redesignated Eighteenth Air Force, 26 Jun 1951  
Inactivated, 1 Jan 1958  
Activated, 1 Oct 2003  
Redesignated as Eighteenth Air Force (Air Forces Transportation), 1 Apr 2007

### **STATIONS**

Donaldson AFB, South Carolina  
Waco, Texas, 1 Sep 1957  
Scott AFB, Illinois, 1 Oct 2003

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Tactical Air Command, 28 Mar 1951-1 Jan 1958  
Air Mobility Command, 1 Oct 2003

### **COMMANDERS**

Col Earl B. Young, 28 Mar 1951  
MAJ GEN Robert W. Douglass Jr., 1 May 1951  
MAJ GEN Chester E. McCarty, 22 Nov 1954-1 Jan 1958  
MAJ GEN Paul W. Essex (interim), 1 Oct 2003  
MAJ GEN William Welser III, 1 Dec 2003  
MAJ GEN James A. Hawkins, 29 Nov 2005  
MAJ GEN Winfield W. Scott III, 24 Jun 2008  
LT GEN Robert R. Allardice, 19 Aug 2009  
LT GEN Larry McDew, Aug 2012-2014  
LT GEN Carlton Everhart II, 2014  
Lt Gen Samuel D. Cox, Oct 2015  
Lt Gen Giovanni K. Tuck, Jun 2017  
Maj Gen Sam C. Barrett, Jul 2018  
Maj Gen Kenneth T. Bibb, Aug 2020  
Maj Gen Corey J. Martin, Aug 2022

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

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

#### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards  
1 Oct 2004-30 Sep 2005  
1 Oct 2005-30 Sep 2006  
1 Oct 2006-30 Sep 2007  
1 Oct 2007-30 Sep 2008

1 Oct 2011-30 Sep 2012

## **EMBLEM**



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 of Air Force personnel. The chevron and wings are ancient military symbols of strength and protection. The parachutes, representative of equipment used by the Eighteenth Air Force in carrying out its mission with speed, safety, and success, are suitable symbols for the organization. Approved, 21 Sep 1951, modified, 28 Jul 2003

## **MOTTO**

### **OPERATIONS**

Extensive troop carrier operations within Tactical Air Command during the early 1950s called for some intermediate echelon of command, and HQ USAF created a new numbered air force for this purpose in March 1951. Activated in March 1951 to discharge Tactical Air Command's troop carrier responsibilities. Became operational on 1 Jun 1951 and assumed control initially of nine continental "medium" troop carrier wings, seven of which were Reserve wings called to active duty. Added a "heavy" (C-124) wing in Fall 1951 and another in early 1953.

By early 1953 the Reserve wing designations were replaced by active duty wings. Eighteenth Air Force organized, administered, equipped, trained, and prepared for combat assigned troop carrier units. Augmented troop carrier forces in the Far East and Europe and provided trained crews and replacement personnel to units in the Korean conflict. Provided USAF troop carrier participation in joint operations training.

Took part in joint exercises and provided support for airborne paratroop training. Worked to improve communications capabilities and to include AF medical air evacuation in joint exercises. Provided airlift support to other USAF major commands and to other Tactical Air Command (TAC) organizations. Supplemented Military Airlift Transportation Service (MATS) airlift when needed. Moved units of USAF and US Army for training and/or deployment.

Rotated troop carrier units to Europe in support of NATO. Heavily committed to airlift operations in arctic areas beginning autumn 1952. Airlanded and airdropped equipment supporting the construction of the Distant Early Warning radar system across northern Canada in proximity to the Arctic Circle, 1955-1957.

Helicopters of the 310th TCS, operating from two icebreakers, provided support airlift to the U.S. Navy in the HIRAN (High Precision Air Navigation) project, Jan 1956. Provided airlift and airlift expertise to the U.S. Navy in Antarctic operations Deep Freeze I and II, establishing a base at the South Pole. Crews of the 63 TCW performed the first airdrop at the South Pole in Oct 1956; a combat controller of the 1 Aerial Port Squadron performed the first parachute jump at the South Pole in Nov 1956 in order to determine necessary corrections to ongoing airdrops of equipment.

Provided airdrop and airland support, Mar-early Jun 1957, to Alaskan Air Command and Northeast Air Command to establish similar sites on ice islands in Arctic regions. Instrumental in development of aerial port concept, including techniques and equipment for loading troop carrier aircraft and airdropping cargo. Developed the AF "pathfinder" combat controller capability to establish ground to air communications and navigation aids at jump sites, and to select landing sites. Developed fixed wing assault mission using C-123 for landing on small unimproved landing areas. Organized the first rotary assault group in the USAF before losing the mission to the U.S. Army.

Served as advisory body for reserve troop carrier wings. Tested new aerial delivery equipment, equipment and techniques for dropping paratroops and cargo, and navigation devices to determine "point of release". Lost troop carrier and airlift functions, Jul-Aug 1957. Moved to Texas in Aug 1957. Effective 1 Oct 1957, gained responsibility for Tactical Air Command's day fighter, fighter-bomber, and aerial tanker operations on western U.S. bases. Inactivated effective 1 Jan 1958, replaced by Twelfth Air Force, which moved on paper from Germany. Twelfth Air Force absorbed all of its resources on January 1, 1958.

Activated 1 Oct 2003 as Air Mobility Command's warfighting headquarters to accomplish the command's global mobility mission through a combination of airlift and air refueling missions, as well as the command and control of air mobility assets around the globe.