

20th AIR DIVISION



MISSION

LINEAGE¹

20th Air Division (Defense) established, 8 Jun 1955
Activated, 8 Oct 1955
Inactivated, 1 Jan 1960
Redesignated 20th Air Division and activated, 20 Jan 1966
Organized, 1 Apr 1966
Discontinued and inactivated, 31 Dec 1967
Activated, 19 Nov 1969
Inactivated, 1 Mar 1983

STATIONS

Grandview (later, Richards Gebaur) AFB, MO, 8 Oct 1955-1 Jan 1960
Truax Field, WI, 1 Apr 1966-31 Dec 1967
Fort Lee AFS, VA, 19 Nov 1969
Tyndall AFB, FL, 1 Mar 1983-1 Mar 1983

ASSIGNMENTS

Central Air Defense Force, 8 Oct 1955-1 Jan 1960
Air Defense Command, 20 Jan 1966
Tenth Air Force, 1 Apr 1966-31 Dec 1967
Aerospace Defense Command, 19 Nov 1969

¹ Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

Tactical Air Command, 1 Oct 1979-1 Mar 1983

COMMANDERS

BG Clifford H. Rees, 8 Oct 1955
BG Gordon H. Austin, 10 Mar 1958
BG Theron Coulter, 14 Sep 1958
Col John H. Bell, 8 Jul 1959-1 Jan 1960
BG William S. Harrell, 1 Apr 1966
Col Wallace P. Mace, 1 Jul 1966
MG Jack K. Gamble, 19 Nov 1969
BG James M. Fogle, 20 Mar 1972
MG James S. Murphy, 26 Aug 1974
Col Thomas G. McConnell, 20 Aug 1975
BG Francis A. Humphreys Jr., 15 Oct 1975
BG Edward L. Tixier, 10 Jul 1978
Col Edward Levell Jr., 22 Jan 1979
BG Edward L. Tixier, 1 Feb 1980
BG Paul D. Wagoner, 19 Jun 1980-1 Mar 1983

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



On a shield azure, an American Bald Eagle, wings surgent tergiant, tips to dexter, perched on

the beam of the Liberty Bell all proper; flanked on the dexter with an aerial burst gules, two aircraft with jet vapor streams in flight, fesswise, argent, markings sable, and a radome proper, resting on a land mass argent, all in pale. (Approved, 20 Aug 1956)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

On 8 June 1955, the 20th Air Division (Defense) assumed responsibility for the air defense of an area that covered parts of Nebraska, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, and virtually all of Kansas and Missouri. In 1966, it provided air defense for parts of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, and all of Illinois. It supervised Air National Guard units that flew interception sorties using, among others, F-101 and F-106 aircraft, while at the same time controlling numerous radar squadrons. Beginning in Nov 1969, the 20th provided air defense for virtually all of the southeastern United States, except for most of Louisiana. After 1981, it controlled units equipped with F-15 aircraft, while its subordinate units continued to participate in intensive academic training, numerous multi-region simulated (non-flying) exercises, and flying exercises.

All major elements of the air defense system are assigned to the 20th—detection, identification, interception and destruction of hostile aircraft — plus operational control of fighter aircraft and weapons of assigned and augmenting forces within the division's area.