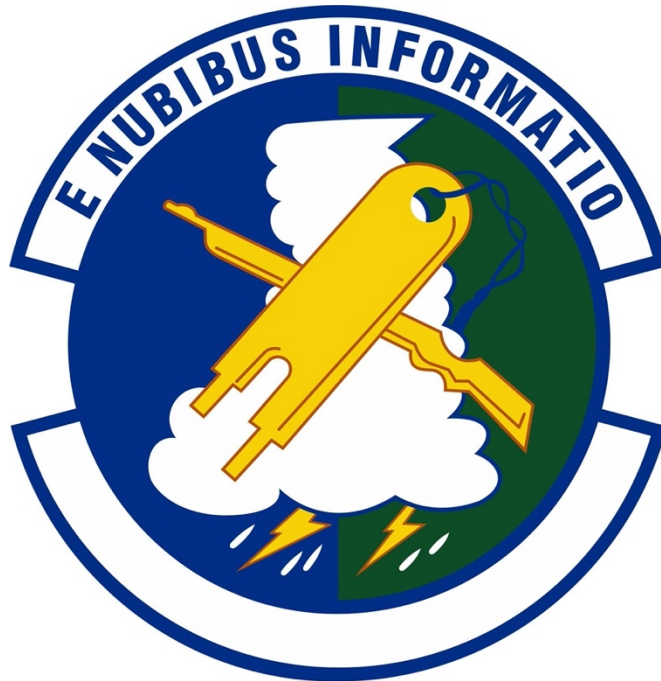


7 COMBAT WEATHER SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

Air Corps Detachment, Weather, Hawaii constituted, 15 Nov 1940

Activated 1 Jan 1941

Redesignated 7 Air Corps Squadron, Weather (Regional Control) 18 Nov 1941

Redesignated 7 Weather Squadron, Jan 1943

Disbanded, 10 Feb 1945

Reconstituted 7 Weather Squadron, 1 Jun 1959

Activated, 8 Jul 1959

Inactivated, 1 Jul 1994

Activated, 30 Sep 1996

Redesignated 7 Combat Weather Squadron, 1 Oct 2020

STATIONS

Hickam Field, Territory of Hawaii, 1 Jan 1941-10 Feb 1945

Heidelberg, Germany, 8 Jul 1959-1 Jul 1994

Heidelberg, Germany, 30 Sep 1996

Wiesbaden, Germany, 31 Mar 2013

ASSIGNMENTS

17 Air Base Command, 1 Jan 1941

Hawaiian Department Air Force, 18 Nov 1941

Hawaiian Air Force Base Command, 22 Jan 1942
Headquarters, Hickam Field, Territory of Hawaii, 10 Feb 1942
Seventh Air Force, 19 Apr 1943
United States Army Forces, Central Pacific Area, 12 May 1944
Army Air Forces, Pacific Ocean Area, 1 Aug 1944
1 Provisional Weather Group, 4 Sep 1944
Air Weather Service (attached to the 2 Weather Wing), 8 Jul 1959
United States Air Forces in Europe, 30 Sep 1991-1 Jul 1994
4 Air Support Operations Group, 30 Sep 1996
United States Air Forces in Europe, 3 Mar 1998
4 Air Support Operations Group, 1 Oct 2005

COMMANDERS

Capt Ernest Moore, 1 Jan 1941
Capt John K. Arnold, Jr., 21 Jul 1941
Capt Newton C. Chaney, 14 Nov 1941
Maj John K. Arnold, Jr., 15 Dec 1941
Capt Albert G. Kehrig, 23 Mar 1943
Capt Kenneth C. Banzhof, 13 Jul 1944
Maj Albert G. Kehrig, 5 Sep 1944
Lt Col Robert B. Sykes, 8 Jul 1959
Lt Col Roy A. Weidmaa (temporary), 18 Jul 1961
Lt Col Walton L. Hogan, Sr., 27 Aug 1961
Col Lewis A. Pitt, 23 Aug 1965
Col Leonard V. Gillespie, 26 Jun 1968
Col James M. Priest, 12 Oct 1971
Col Boyce M. Smith, 29 Jul 1972
Col John H. Elliff, 2 Aug 1976
Col John A. Lasley, Jr., Jul 1979
Col John H. Taylor, Aug 1982
Col James B. Sands, Jr., 3 Jul 1985
Col Walton L. Hogan, Sr.

HONORS

Service Streamers

Central Pacific, World War II, 7 Dec 1941-6 Dec 1943

Campaign Streamers

World War II: Central Pacific
Kosovo: Kosovo Air

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device

1 Jul 2002-30 Jun 2004

1 Jul 2004-30 Sep 2005

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jan 1968-31 Dec 1969

1 Jul 1972-30 Jun 1974

1 Jul 1975-30 Jan 1977

1 Jul 1977-30 Jun 1979

1 Jul 1982-30 Jun 1984

1 Jul 1984-30 Jun 1986

1 Jul 1990-30 Sep 1991

1 Jul 1995-30 Jun 1997

1 Jan 2006-31 Dec 2007

1 Jan 2008-30 Jun 2009

16 Jul 2009-31 Dec 2010

1 Jan-31 Dec 2011

1 Jan 2015-31 Dec 2016

1 Jan-31 Dec 2017

1 Jan 2018-31 Dec 2019

EMBLEM



The squadron symbol consists of a roundel, with a background of green and blue, divided from top to bottom. Over this background is a cumulonimbus cloud with lightning and rainfall falling from the cloud. Superimposed over the CB is an M-1 rifle, pointing from the lower left to the upper right. Over the rifle is a sling psychrometer, pointing from lower right to upper left. A ribbon at the base of the roundel states "E NUBIBUS INFORMATIO", which freely translated means "information from the clouds". The blue background color is symbolic of Air Force heritage and the green background color is symbolic of the Army support that 7 WS provides. (Approved on 21

Feb 1961; latest rendering, 15 Sep 2015)



MOTTO

E NUBIBUS INFORMATO--Information from the clouds

OPERATIONS

The 7 Weather Squadron mission is to enhance USEUCOM land component effectiveness by equipping aligned warfighters to fully exploit weather impacts in planning and decision-making processes; provide fully trained Battlefield Airmen to support command-directed taskings across the full spectrum of Expeditionary Squadron capabilities.

There are currently 70 members in the 7 Weather Squadron. They consist of AF meteorologists, airfield systems support staff, knowledge operations managers, and personnel specialists. The squadron is responsible for over \$4 million in resources and equipment, Kestrel 4000, Tactical Meteorologic Observation System, laser rangefinder, Iridium Phones, and Humvees.

The 7 WS headquarters is located in Heidelberg, Germany. It consists of the Commander and support staff as well as 5 sections. These sections include Director of Current Operations, Director of Operations Superintendent, Director of Operations Logistics, Director of Operations Contingency, and Director of Operations Training. These sections, along with the Commander and support staff work in tandem to maximize the warfighting capabilities of the detachments assigned to the 7 WS.

Will the ground at Grafenwöhr be hard enough to take an M60 tank? How will the direction and speed of winds affect an airdrop in Bavaria tomorrow? Would radioactive fallout over Kaiserslautern affect troops at Baumholder?

The Army has to have the answers to questions like these, and responsibility for providing them rests with the Air Force's Air Weather Service. What a ground commander wants to know about the weather is different from what the Air Force commander wants to know, and two weather squadrons have been set up to service the Army; the 16th Weather Squadron services the Continental Army Command, and USAREUR is serviced by the 7th Weather Squadron. Weather is just as critical to the Army as to the Air Force. Tank and personnel carrier operations are as dependent on it as jet aircraft flights.

There's also the fact that the Air Force usually operates from hardened bases, whereas the Army operates on all kinds of terrain. And whether infantry troops will begin operations slogging through ankle-deep mud or not often depends on the accuracy of Air Weather forecasting. How accurate is this forecasting? Air Weather Service personnel, like weathermen the world over, are the butt of a lot of jokes. But the record is much better than you might suppose. Though a few elements of weather simply can't be accurately predicted with present methods, most can. Forecasting accuracy today averages 80 per cent -- and sometimes Air Weather Service can be as much as 98 per cent sure that certain things will occur at certain times. As Air Force Col Walton L. Hogan, Commander of the 7th Weather Squadron, points out, if a stockbroker could predict the stock market with accuracy anything like this, he could retire in a very short time.

The 7th Weather Squadron works directly with the Army in Europe. Its personnel are assigned at units of USAREUR, mostly at Army airfields, and Air Force weather personnel go into the field with the Army for exercises and maneuvers. There are staff weather officers at Seventh Army Headquarters, at the two corps headquarters, and at 10th Special Forces (which obviously has special requirements for weather information). Colonel Hogan, besides commanding the 7th Squadron, is Staff Weather Officer at USAREUR Headquarters.

This integration of the Army and Air Force in the field of meteorology has saved millions of defense dollars. The 7th Weather Squadron is by no means working alone in providing weather information to USAREUR. The big weather picture for the European area comes out of Air Weather Central in London. A Tactical Center near Ramstein, Germany, provides USAREUR (as well as the 17th Air Force) with more detailed information. And, finally, there are the 7th's own 27 subordinate units. This entire network is in constant intercommunication. Air Weather units at lower levels continually get the bigger picture from higher levels and interpret it for their own purposes. They also gather local information at least hourly and feed it back up the line.

Some units observe local conditions; others also forecast for their areas. Weather information is transmitted largely in the form of facsimile maps and in a number-letter code that is international. U. S. Air Weather Service cooperates closely with European military and civilian weather agencies. It trades information with the Bundeswehr, for example, and thus saves money by avoiding duplication of weather coverage. The biggest service rendered to USAREUR by the 7th Weather Squadron is to Army pilots. Some 20,000 weather briefings are given to USAREUR pilots every month. The weather forecaster can often help the pilot in his flight planning to avoid bad flying weather.

Some of the other weather services provided to the Army were noted earlier -- information on the condition of roads and terrain (six inches of frozen soil, for example, will take the biggest tank the Army has); and wind information for airdrops and radioactive fallout. The standard periodical forecasts (for example, those carried on AFN) are so commonplace that they hardly need be

mentioned. Air Weather Service personnel obviously play a big role in Army planning. "Should we can we -- can we -- conduct an exercise in such-and-such an area next month?" (Hard frozen soil makes for less maneuver damage.) Air Weather Service helps answer the question. And Air Weather goes into the field with Army troops to supply on-the-spot weather information to commanders. It has mobile weather vans, and even pack units that an airman can tote on his back.

The value of weather information for military operations can't be overestimated -- for airdrops, beach landings -- you name it. Much of the success of the D-Day Normandy landings in World War II was due to expert weather prediction. Here, German weathermen were not quite on their toes. They told the Wehrmacht there was little chance of an invasion 6 June; weather was too bad. But Allied weathermen found holes in the weather, and the invasion went ahead as planned. Air Weather Service also helps out in other kinds of Army planning. It provides climatic studies to Army Engineers to assist in the design and building of construction projects. The studies cover expected snow depth, rainfall, average temperatures, and maximum expected winds for the area in question.

But doesn't the Army do any of its own meteorology? In one specialized area, yes. It sounds the atmosphere, by means of radios attached to balloons, for artillery firing. But Air Weather Service can and sometimes does provide this service as well. What are the weather elements actually observed and measured? In fact they're simple; weathermen have been observing them for many years. Only the means of measurement have improved.

Cloud height: by means of a light beam. Visibility: by checking to see whether objects at known distances can be seen. (Only when visibility is very poor is a more complex photoelectric cell method used.) Humidity, barometric pressure, wind velocity and direction-and, of course, temperature. An expert can put these together and derive an amazing amount of knowledge from the total picture.

Weather satellites are gradually making their presence felt too. They can photograph huge cloud areas and provide information that more traditional means cannot. Someday the weather satellite may be king of the field. But today the monarch is still the weather airman who takes his observations and the weather forecaster who interprets them and fits the pieces of the puzzle together.

Air Weather Service is pretty proud of its personnel. All the men of the 7th Weather Squadron have at least a high school education. Over half have some college. An Air Weather officer will have a B.S. degree and then will attend an Air Force School. After that he serves a year's "apprenticeship." And any Air Weather man will tell you that school training alone doesn't fill the bill. A man has got to work on the job, get the feel of it, over a period of years.

Detachment 1, 7th Weather Squadron is located at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany. Their mission is to provide and/or arrange for decision-scale environmental intelligence for the 1st Armored Division, while optimizing flight safety and resource protection for all parent and host organizations. Detachment 1 prides themselves on being combat ready to fight for freedom anywhere the United States Army and Air Force's Europe deploy.

Detachment 2, 7th Weather Squadron, is located at Grafenwoehr Army Air Field, Germany. Their mission is to enhance warfighter capability by interpreting meteorological impact upon training

and real-world operations with optimized staff weather liaison support to Joint Multinational Command Training Center, Joint Multinational Readiness Center, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, 172nd Infantry Brigade, 1/214th Aviation Regiment, G. Company 52nd Aviation Regiment MEDEVAC, and NATO allies. As a secondary mission support role, Detachment 2 also hosts exercise CADRE FOCUS. "Cadre Focus" is a weeklong course that prepares USAFE Battlefield Weather Forecasters for downrange deployments in support of United States Army, United States Air Force, and joint operations by enhancing tactical meteorological operational and warrior combat skills expertise with an end state of improved success in mission accomplishment, improved service camaraderie, and individual self-confidence.

Detachment 3 is located in Vicenza, Italy. Detachment 3's airmen operate in support of US Army Africa and the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team. Foremost is the monitoring of Army operations across Africa for weather impacts and seasonal trends. In autumn 2009, the detachment continued its history of innovative weather support by deployment in support of Operation NATURAL FIRE in Uganda, where cooperative weather sensing and forecasting efforts between Det 3, the Uganda National Weather Center, and CJTF-HOA METOC were successful and will help support future deployments to the continent. Tactical support to 173 ABCT is on hold for the length of the brigade's deployment, but quarterly jumps continue.

Detachment 4, 7th Weather Squadron, is located on Katterbach Kaserne (Ansbach Army Heliport), Germany. Based in Bavaria, their mission is to support MEDEVAC and cargo rotary assets of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade with area and location specific forecasts, as well as climatology and long-range forecasts to key headquarters staff. Personnel work with Detachment 5 personnel from Illesheim to provide comprehensive support to all facets of 12 CAB operations.

Detachment 5, 7th Weather Squadron, is located at Illesheim Army Heliport, Germany. Their mission is to provide decision-grade weather intelligence to 12 CAB Attack Aviation units. This is done by producing timely and accurate forecasts to mitigate mission limiting weather impacts to supported weapons systems. The Airmen of Detachment 5 have and will continue to personify combat readiness by honorably serving on combat deployments with both United States Army and Air Force assets in the USEUCOM, USAFRICOM, and USCENTCOM theaters.

OL-A is located at Coleman Army Airfield, Mannheim, Germany. OL-A's primary function is to provide flight weather forecasting and resource protection for US Army, Europe's (USAREUR) Coleman Army Airfield and Heidelberg Army Airfield. The team supports rotary wing VIP airlift operations across Europe; including movement of the USAREUR Commanding General and senior staff. Additionally, the team provides weather support for test flights following major maintenance and repair activity.

Det 1, Nurnberg, Germany

Det 2, Hanau, Germany

Det 3, Heidelberg, Germany

Det 4, Schwabisch, Germany

Det 5, Ansbach, Germany

Det 6, Fulda, Germany
Det 7, Grafenwohr, Germany
Det 8, Frankfurt, Germany
Det 9, Mohringen, Germany
Det 10, Geibalstadt, Germany
Det 11, Sandhofen, Germany
Det 12, Mainz, Germany
Det 13, Illesheim, Germany
Det 26, Wiesbaden, Germany

Det 1, 7th WS (Feucht)
Det 5, 7th WS (Katterbach)
Det 8, 7th WS (Bonames)
Det 9, 7th WS (Echterdingen)
Det 13, 7th WS (Traben-Trarbach)
Det 14, 7th WS (Heidelberg)

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry