

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF THE AIR FORCE



MISSION

The Community College of the Air Force offers and awards job-related associate-in applied science degrees and other academic credentials that enhance mission readiness, contribute to recruiting, assist in retention, and support the career transitions of Air Force enlisted members. The CCAF associate degree is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

LINEAGE

Community College of the Air Force

STATIONS

Randolph AFB, TX, 1 Apr 1972-15 Jan 1977

Lackland AFB, TX, 15 Jan 1977-1 Apr 1979

Maxwell AFB, AL, 1 Apr 1979

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Jeffrey K. Little

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

At the direction of Headquarters USAF, Air Training Command activated the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) at Randolph AFB, Texas, on 1 April 1972 and assigned the group-level unit to command headquarters.

Because of the controversy surrounding American involvement in Vietnam, the Defense Department examined the possibility of establishing an all-volunteer force- The 1970 Gates Commission noted that while the offer of sufficient money would induce people to join the services, the quality of personnel drawn to the military life remained problematic. Air Force planners, especially, recognized that education related-incentives might attract better quality recruits. From this realization, the Air Force established the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) in 1972 as part of ATC.

The idea behind the community college was to provide the means to blend on-duty technical training and education experiences with courses from civilian colleges and universities into coherent, job-related education programs. Under the CCAF program, an airmen could earn a Career Education Certificate, which recognized the completion of a minimum of 64 semester hours of college-level work. The Air Force considered the certificate equivalent to an associate's degree offered by a college or university, The Community College of the Air Force was first accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in December 1973. This was the highest accreditation available and gave CCAF academic credibility^ In a further step, Public Law 94-361, signed in July 1976, authorized the Commander, Air Training Command to award the Associate in Applied Science degree to those who had completed a CCAF study program. On 25 April 1977, CCAF awarded its first college degrees to 275 airmen stationed around the world. This marked the first time enlisted personnel had received college degrees from a military organization.

In 1975 Lt Gen John W. Roberts, ATC commander, expressed concern about the growing number of missions being located at Randolph and Lackland AFBs, while the Lackland Training Annex at nearby Medina had facilities to absorb additional activities. Therefore, the USAF Occupational Measurement Center moved to Medina in 1976 and, the following year, CCAF relocated to the training annex. Only two years later, as part of the realignment brought about by the consolidation of Air University and Air Training Command, ATC moved the community college to Maxwell AFB at Montgomery, Alabama. Organizationally, the Community College of the Air Force remained part of ATC.

The Community College of the Air Force graduated its 100,000th student in the spring of 1992 and currently offers approximately 70 academic degree programs through more than 80 affiliated schools. When Air Education and Training Command stood up on 1 July 1993, the command realigned CCAF under Air University

When first activated in 1972, ATC located the Community College of the Air Force at Randolph. Then in 1977, due to crowding on Randolph, the college moved to the Lackland Training Annex. That was a short tenancy, because as a part of the 1978 assignment of Air University to ATC, the command decided to move the Community College of the Air Force to Maxwell AFB, Alabama. That transfer took place on 1 June 1979.

On 12 December 1980, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools voted unanimously to accredit the Community College of the Air Force as a degree granting institution, ending two and one half years of evaluation and consideration.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.