

AIR FORCE DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON



MISSION

Air Force District of Washington (AFDW) is the single Air Force voice for planning and implementing Air Force and joint solutions within the National Capital Region (NCR). AFDW organizes, trains, equips and provides forces for Air and Space Expeditionary Force (AEF) deployment, homeland operations and ceremonial support within the NCR and worldwide. AFDW executes specified Military Department statutory responsibilities for administration and support of Headquarters Air Force and assigned Air Force units and personnel within the NCR and worldwide.

The Air Force District of Washington executes Air Force operations and supports Joint Force and Inter-Agency operations in the National Capital Region while providing superior support to Combatant Commanders and Air Force Elements worldwide.

AFDW is responsible to organize, train, equip and provide forces for AEF deployment, provide ceremonial support, and conduct homeland operations as part of a Joint effort, within the NCR. Homeland operations include homeland defense, defense support to civil authorities, emergency preparedness, and support to National Special Security Events.

AFDW exercises UCMJ authority over, and provides manpower, personnel, legal, chaplain, finance, logistics, and safety support for, designated Air Force activities located within the NCR, selected Field Operating Agencies, and selected Air Force Elements performing duties in non-Air Force activities worldwide.

Organize, train, equip, and deploy forces for AEFs and homeland defense, civil support, national

special security events; flagship ceremonial and musical capability in support of NCR and global interests Ensure USAF members assigned worldwide have administrative and UCMJ support Perform MAJCOM-level responsibilities

AFDW is a direct reporting unit to Headquarters Air Force, reporting to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. AFDW serves as the Air Force service component to JFHQ-NCR and the supporting command to Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical (JTF CapMed). When the JFHQ-NCR transitions to the Joint Task Force National Capital Region (JTF-NCR), the 320th Air Expeditionary Wing (320 AEW) activates and becomes the Air Force component of JTF-NCR. The Commander of AFDW serves as the Commander, 320 AEW. Air Force Mission Directive 13 delineates missions and assigned duties applicable to AFDW in both its worldwide Air Force service role and its JFHQ-NCR Air Force component role.

AFDW is composed of three wings and one group. The 11th Wing at Bolling Air Force Base, 79th Medical Wing and 316th Wing. Also under AFDW is the 844th Communications Group. The 79th Medical Wing and 844th Communications Group both have specialized missions where they will be single Air Force voice in the NCR for their respective fields of expertise. Both the 11th and 316th Wings will fulfill duties as the host base organization of Bolling and Andrews Air Force Base, respectively, while also supporting AFDW requirements.

LINEAGE

Air Force District of Washington constituted and activated as a direct reporting unit, 1 Oct 1985

Inactivated, 15 Jul 1994

Activated as a direct reporting unit, 7 Jul 2005

STATIONS

Bolling AFB, DC

Andrews AFB MD

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj Gen Robert L. Smolen, #2006

Brig Gen Frank Gorenc, #2007

Maj Gen Ralph J. Jodice II, #2008

Maj Gen Darrell D. Jones, #2010

Maj Gen Robert L. Smolen,

Brig Gen Edward N. Giddings, 1 Oct 1985

Brig Gen Ralph R. Rohatsch Jr., Nov 1988

Brig Gen James L. Vick, Jul 1990-Sep 1992

Col Stevan B. Richards, unkn-15 Jul 1994

Brig Gen Duane A. Jones, 7 Jul 2005

Maj Gen Robert L. Smolen, 14 Apr 2006

Maj Gen Frank Gorenc, c. 29 Jun 2007
Maj Gen Ralph J. Jodice II, Aug 2008
Maj Gen Darrell D. Jones, 18 Nov 2009
Maj Gen Darren W. McDew

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award:

1 Oct 1985-30 Jun 1987

1 Nov 1991-31 Oct 1993

[7 Jul] 2005-31 Dec 2006

EMBLEM

Approved, 9 Oct 1986

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The world's greatest airpower has been proudly represented in the NCR for almost 90 years, beginning with the establishment of Bolling Field as the Air Corps' third flying installation in October 1917. Both Bolling and Andrews Air Force Bases have served as primary military installations for many years, their personnel achieving numerous aviation milestones and record-setting flights in both wartime and peace.

That legacy continues today with the newest incarnation of AFDW. This organization first saw life at Bolling on October 1, 1985, through July 1, 1994, as the Air Force transitioned out of the Cold War with AFDW leading the way for Air Force assets in the NCR to find new missions and to help establish new doctrine for the new era of national defense.

That new era hit close to home on September 11, 2001, as terrorists used hijacked airlines to attack Washington, D.C., and New York City. There was a need to recreate AFDW at Bolling in response to these attacks, giving a greater role than what AFDW had previously had. AFDW would coordinate the development and stewardship of all USAF assets in the NCR in peacetime. A second organization, Air Force National Capital Region, or AFNCR, would coordinate response, recovery and defense of those same USAF assets in the event of a worst-case situation.

As one of USAF's five Direct Reporting Units, AFDW is also charged to serve Air Force elements worldwide and provides support for approximately 40,000 Air Force military and civilian

members of 2,124 Air Force elements in more than 500 locations in 108 countries. This makes AFDW the leading edge of the Air Force as the organization continues its never-ending support of the world's greatest Air Force.

"To more effectively support the Global War on terrorism and to better align the Air Force command structure in the National Capital Region with the other services, the Secretary and I have decided to reactivate the Air Force District of Washington, effective 1 Jan 2005. This command structure will give Air Force a 'single voice' for working cross-service issues throughout the NCR and improve our support to the newly established Joint Forces Headquarters." -- Gen. John P. Jumper, 22 Nov 04

In accordance with the wishes of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Air Force District of Washington (AFDW) was reborn, redrawing the Air Force landscape in the NCR to provide greater support in defense of the nation's capital.

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 16 Nov 2022
Updated:

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