

## **EASTERN AIR DEFENSE SECTOR**



### **MISSION**

#### **LINEAGE**

4621 Air Defense Wing established and organized, 1 Apr 1956  
Redesignated New York Air Defense Sector, 8 Jan 1957  
Discontinued and inactivated, 1 Apr 1966  
Redesignated Northeast Air Defense Sector and activated, 1 Jul 1987  
Redesignated Northeastern Air Defense Sector (ANG), 1 Dec 1994  
Redesignated Eastern Air Defense Sector, 15 Jul 2009

#### **STATIONS**

McGuire AFB, NJ, 1 Apr 1956-1 Apr 1966  
Griffiss AFB, NY, 1 Jul 1987

#### **ASSIGNMENTS**

26 Air Division (Defense), 1 Apr 1956  
Eastern Air Defense Force, 8 Jul 1956  
26 Air Division (Defense) (later, 26 Air Division [SAGE], 1 Oct 1956-1 Apr 1966  
24 Air Division, 1 Jul 1987  
First Air Force (later, First Air Force [ANG]), 30 Sep 1990

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

4709 Air Defense Wing, 1 Apr 1956-1 Oct 1956  
First Air Forces Northern [First Air Force] [Provisional], 28 Feb 2006

#### **COMMANDERS**

Col Charles G. Chandler Jr., by Oct 1956  
Brig Gen Arthur C. Agan Jr., 4 Sep 1958  
Brig Gen Gilbert L. Pritchard, by Oct 1959  
Col Frederick H. LeFebre, 20 Apr 1962 (temporary)

Brig Gen Arthur G. Salisbury, 14 May 1962  
Brig Gen Theron Coulter, 5 Sep 1963  
Col Albert L. Evans Jr., 1 Nov 1965  
Col Frederick L. Frostic, unkn- 1 Apr 1966  
Unkn, 1 Jul 1987-May 1989  
Col Bodie R. Bodenheim, Jun 1989  
Col Harvey M. Smith, Apr 1991  
Col Thomas W. Dobsen Jr., Jul 1993  
Col John W. Zink, Jul 1994  
Col William C. Diehl, Jul 1995  
Cpt Richard W. Sluys (USN), Jan 1996 (temporary)  
Col John K. Scott, Mar 1996  
Col Michael W. Corbett, Jun 1998  
Col Robert K. Marr, 7 Aug 1999  
Col Clark F. Speicher, 30 Apr 2005  
Col John P. Bartholf, 4 Apr 2008

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award  
1 Jun 1998-31 May 1999

### **Air Force Organizational Excellence Awards**

1 Jul 1987-1 Apr 1989  
1 Jan 1990-1 Jan 1992  
1 Jun 1994-31 May 1996  
1 Jan 2001-30 Apr 2002  
31 Jul 2005-31 May 2007

## **EMBLEM**

A shield per quartered, first and fourth quarters Gules, a missile in the first quarter, in pale, Sable, superimposed over a protruding beam Argent, radiating bendwise from a radar scope centered on the fourth quarter, the radar scope of the third, with circular rings of the second, and finder of the third; second and third quarters Azure, second quarter a cloud of the third; third quarter a nuclear symbol of the last and Gules; overall in bend sinister a lightning bolt of the first, fimbriated of the second; all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "EASTERN AIR DEFENSE SECTOR" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** 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 required of Air Force personnel. The unit's emblem represents its air defense mission. The lightning bolt and cloud represent all-weather operations. The radar scope and protruding beam represent the continual surveillance and future development in the field of electronics in connection with the SAGE mission. The missile represents the current and future air defense weapons, both guided missiles and jet aircraft. The abstract circles represent the integration of the SAGE system into air defense operations and future developments in nuclear and thermonuclear fields. (Approved, 29 Nov 1956, updated and revised, 12 Mar 2010)

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

The primary mission of the Air Defense Sector is to develop and maintain a capability to successfully defend its area of responsibility against hostile air attack. This responsibility encompasses over twenty-five million Americans and a large portion of the nation's industrial might concentrated in a seven-state area along the eastern seaboard of the United States. Ranging from the southern tip of New Jersey and Wilmington, Delaware on the South, to Pennsylvania and southeastern New York on the West, to Nantucket, Massachusetts on the northeast, the Sector is charged with defending the metropolitan centers of Philadelphia and New York, the cities of Wilmington, Camden, Trenton, Newark, New Haven, and Newport, and the densely populated communities of Long Island and southern Connecticut. Early warning and split-second reaction became a matter of vital necessity to air defense following World War II and the advent of the jet age. Although the four basic actions of air defense — Detection, Identification, Interception and Destruction — did not change, the speeds at which a modern day attacker could approach our borders and the tremendous destructive force he could carry dictated that these actions be performed faster than ever before.

Construction of the nation's first SAGE Direction Center at McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey began in mid-1955. By 1 April 1956, work had progressed sufficiently for the formation of a new unit, the 4621st Air Defense Wing (SAGE), which reported through the 26th Air Division (Defense) to Headquarters, Eastern Air Defense Force.

Upon activation in 1956, received bulk of personnel from 4709 Air Defense Wing, and assumed responsibility for manual air defense in its area of responsibility, while preparing for the SAGE (semi-automatic ground environment) air defense system. The Sector controlled four tactical groups, with two fighter-interceptor squadrons each, and several aircraft control and warning squadrons.

On 8 January 1957, this unit was redesignated the New York Air Defense Sector. The completed facility, under the command of Colonel Charles G. Chandler, Jr. became the nation's first operational SAGE Direction Center on 1 July 1958.

The first organization to become operational as a SAGE unit in Jul 1958, it gained two BOMARC air defense missile squadrons, one of which, 46<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Missile Squadron, became the first

operational BOMARC squadron in the Air Force.

As the New York Air Defense Sector is part of the NORAD (North American Air Defense) system, BG Gilbert L. Pritchard also exercises operational command over all NORAD forces in the Sector area that can be utilized for air defense. In the event of a hostile air attack and subsequent declaration of a national emergency the Sector's supersonic fighter-interceptor and pilotless area defense missiles both with an atomic capability would initially intercept the enemy forces.

Upon redesignation as the Northeastern Air Defense Sector (ANG) in 1994, became a regular AF unit manned primarily by Air National Guard personnel and functioned almost exclusively as an ANG unit.

The Air Force has directed the renaming of the New York Air National Guard's Northeast Air Defense Sector (NEADS) to the Eastern Air Defense Sector (EADS). The change, said the release, reflects the sector's expanded East Coast mission. "In November 2006, the sector assumed responsibility for providing air sovereignty over the entire East Coast of the US, which includes more than one million miles of airspace," states the release. The sector that covers US airspace west of the Mississippi River is the Western Air Defense Sector. 2009

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USAF Unit Histories  
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#### Sources

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The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.  
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.  
Unit yearbook. *New York Air Defense Sector. 1960*  
Unit yearbook. *26th Air Division. 1956.*