Cradle of Airpower Education

A Short History of The Air University, Maxwell AFB, and the 42nd Air Base Wing

Air University Directorate of History
March 2016
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The Air University,
Maxwell AFB,
and 42nd Air Base Wing

THE INTELLECTUAL AND LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT CENTER
OF THE
US AIR FORCE

Air University Directorate of History

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“Be the intellectual and leadership-development center of the Air Force
Develop leaders, enrich minds, advance airpower, build relationships, and inspire service.”
Origins and Early Development

The history of Maxwell Air Force Base began with Orville and Wilbur Wright, who, wanting to take advantage of their 1903 historic flight, decided in early 1910 to open a flying school to teach civilians how to fly and to promote the sale of their airplane. Wilbur, after looking at locations in Florida, came to Montgomery, Alabama in Feb 1910. The Wright Brothers decided to open the nation’s first civilian flying school on an old cotton plantation near Montgomery that subsequently become Maxwell Air Force Base (AFB). Unfortunately, the school closed after ten weeks after the United States entered World War I in April 1917, the Army Air Service established Aircraft and Engine Repair Depot No. 3 at the former Wright flying field. The depot operations continued until early 1919. In 1921, the 22nd (later Observation) Squadron became the first major operational unit at the depot. On 8 November 1922, the War Department named the depot Maxwell Field in honor of Second Lieutenant William C. Maxwell. A native of Natchez, Alabama, Lieutenant Maxwell died on 12 August 1920 in the Philippines when his DH-4 aircraft struck a flagpole after swerving to avoid striking a group of children at play.

The 22nd Observation Squadron helped establish an airmail route between the Gulf Coast and northern Great Lakes area. In Mar 1929, torrential rains caused severe flooding in southern Alabama, and Maj Walter Weaver, the Maxwell Field post commander, ordered the squadron to fly daily missions to help the flood victims. Between 14 and 20 Mar, it flew 346 sorties and covered about 60,000 miles, marking the first major operation in which US military forces airdropped relief supplies in a major civilian emergency.

The Air Corps Tactical School Period

The late 1920s began Maxwell’s “Golden Age.” In 1928, the War Department announced the relocation of the Air Corps Tactical School (ACTS) from Langley Field, Virginia, to Maxwell Field with the assistance of Alabama US Congressman John Lister Hill, who had successfully removed Maxwell Field from the War Department’s installation closure list in 1925. As a result, the number of personnel at the field grew from only 210 in the spring of 1931 to nearly 2,000 by September when the ACTS officially opened at Maxwell with 41 students.

The opening of the ACTS transformed Maxwell Field’s mission from aviation training to officer education and doctrine development. The school provided field grade officers with professional military education, developed airpower doctrine, and prepared Air Corps officers for attendance at the U.S. Army’s Command and General Staff College. In its early years the school taught pursuit aviation as the most important airpower mission, but, by the mid-1930s, devotees of Colonel William “Billy” Mitchell had come to dominate the ACTS. This “bomber mafia”
developed the basic concepts of high altitude, daylight precision bombing of industrial targets that became the basis for the strategic bombing of Germany and Japan during World War II.

The ACTS also established one of the Air Corps’ first aerial acrobatics teams. In 1934, then Captain Claire L. Chennault, the ACTS’ chief of pursuit aviation instruction, formed the “Three Men on a Flying Trapeze” to develop pursuit (fighter) tactics. In 1935, Chennault formed a second aerial demonstration team, the “Skylarks.” By 1936, when the ACTS disbanded the Skylarks, both teams had performed 50 plus shows to an estimated audience of 50,000 people.

Maxwell Field during World War II

After Sep 1939, with war raging in Europe and Asia, the Air Corps began transforming Maxwell Field from a peacetime to a wartime base. The War Department suspended instruction at the ACTS on 30 June 1940 and closed the school on 30 June 1942. In Jul 1940, the existing flying training center became the Southeast Air Corps Training Center (SEACTC) (Eastern Flying Training Command after 31 July 1943), which oversaw pilot, navigator, and bombardier training for cadets at over 100 flying schools in the Southeast United States.

In 1941, the War Department expanded Maxwell’s flying training mission. The Air Corps established an advanced flying school at Maxwell and a basic school at Montgomery’s Municipal Airport, became Gunter Field to honor the recently deceased mayor of Montgomery, William A. Gunter. By the end of the war, these schools graduated more than 100,000 aviation cadets.

With the fall of France in June 1940, Britain stood alone against Nazi Germany, and after the battle of Britain, Augt-Sep 1940, turned to the United States for assistance. President Franklin Roosevelt and the US Congress responded with the Lend-Lease Act of 11 March 1941. After Lieutenant General Henry “Hap” Arnold, Chief of the Army Air Corps (AAC), returned from a visit to Britain in April 1941, the AAC established several programs to train Royal Air Force (RAF) flight cadets in the United States, funded by Lend-Lease. Between 7 June 1941 and 17 March 1943, 4,360 of the 7,860 Britons who entered the SEACTC flight training program graduated, and 78 RAF pilot cadets died in training accidents. By Nov 1945, the SEACTC had trained over 8,000 flight cadets of the Free French, Chinese, and other allied air forces.

On 6 September 1941, the Air Corps Replacement Center opened at the field. To meet the replacement center’s requirements, the government acquired another 60 acres and 100 additional
facilities. The center provided candidates for pilot, bombardier, and navigator training with classification and preflight instruction. In mid-1942, the center became the preflight school for pilots and later expanded to include preflight training for bombardier and navigator trainees.

In July 1943 the Army Air Forces (AAF) opened a specialized four-engine pilot school, initially to train air crews for the B-24 Liberator and, later, for the B-29 Superfortress. The graduates of the latter program went on to advanced training and then to conduct the strategic bombing of Japan. By the end of the war, 728 B-29 crews had flown 46,554 hours and 112,809 sorties at Maxwell without a major accident.

Maxwell Field, like other AAF installations, had its own segregated African American unit, the 4th Aviation Squadron, established on 10 Jun 1941. Located near the Alabama River on the north edge of Maxwell Field, the present site of the federal prison camp, this segregated squadron had its own facilities. Although its official mission was stated as “security,” the squadron’s primary duties consisted of service as buglers, custodians, chauffeurs, drummers, foot messengers, hospital and mess hall attendants, military police, and truck drivers.

Women also played an important role at Maxwell during the war. In spring 1943, 156 women of the Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) (the Women’s Army Corps [WAC] after September 1943) arrived at Maxwell to serve as clerks, stenographers, radio and telephone operators, and photographic technicians. Maxwell also had several civilian Women’s Air Service Pilots (WASP) who towed targets, assisted in the conduct of bombardment and navigation training, and transported personnel.

**Early Years of Air University**

Soon after the war’s end, the War Department inactivated the Eastern Flying Training Command. To prepare Air Force personnel for the future, the AAF (soon to be US Air Force) in 1946 moved the AAF School from Orlando, Florida, to Maxwell Field (soon to be Air Force Base), renamed it the Air University (AU), and established it as a major command in Nov 1946.

Unlike the founders of other military educational institutions, the founders of AU sought to break away from traditionalism, rigid thought and doctrine, and the...
formalization of instruction that had often characterized past military education. They, many of whom were ACTS’ graduates, established a progressive, forward-looking institution. Maj Gen Muir S. Fairchild, the first AU commander, stated, “We must guard rigorously against . . . accepting answers from the past instead of digging them out of the future. This is not a post-war school system--it is a pre-war school.”

Considerable organizational growth marked AU’s first years. AU established the Air Command and Staff School (ACSS) on 12 Mar 1946; and the Air War College (AWC) on 22 December 1948. In July 1949, the Air Force established the Human Resources Research Institute and the Extension Course Institute at Maxwell AFB and assigned the Institute of Technology (later Air Force Institute of Technology), Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, as subordinate AU units. By 1950, AU had nearly doubled its size and number of subordinate units.

The outbreak of the Korean War on 25 Jun 1950 interrupted AU’s growth and stability. Air Force commanders argued they needed the personnel attending AU for operational commitments and that the Air Force should close AU. However, Air Force leaders, rather than closing AU completely, reduced its operations, suspended the AWC and the Air Tactical School, and reduced the length of the ACSS to less than four months.

On 1 Aug 1952, the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) joined the AU family. Overtime, AFROTC became the Air Force’s major source of new officers, providing approximately 35 percent, from 145 detachments across the United States. In October 1993, the Air Force moved the Officer Training School, which provided another 40 percent of new officers, from Lackland AFB, Texas, to Maxwell AFB. In 2009, the Air National Guard’s Academy of Military Science relocated from Tyson-McGhee ANG Base, Tennessee. By 2013, AU oversaw three of the Air Force’s four commissioning programs, collectively producing 80 percent of its newly commissioned officers, and allowed AU to develop a total force commissioning program for Regular Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and ANG officer trainees.

In 1954, AU upgraded the ACSS to the Air Command and Staff College (ACSC), and the Air Tactical School became the Squadron Officer School. Later, the Air Force moved the majority of its professional continuing education courses to Maxwell AFB. Meanwhile, the Gunter AFB branch of the School of Aviation Medicine became a part of AU, and the 3870th Special Activities Group followed, later renamed the Research Studies Institute.

These changes placed a heavy strain on facilities at Maxwell. In early 1951, AU officials began planning for a modern, integrated academic campus for the command’s expanding educational, research, and doctrinal development requirements. Over time, Academic Circle, renamed Chennault Circle in May
1975, became home to the Squadron Officer College, the Air Command and Staff College, the Air War College, AU Library (now the Muir S. Fairchild Research and Information Center), Curtis LeMay Center for Doctrine Development and Education, and the Ira C. Eaker Center for Professional Development.

**Air University during the Vietnam War**

The Vietnam War era brought changes to the missions and activities at Air University. President John F. Kennedy requested that “various levels of instruction in counterinsurgency (COIN) be given to all military personnel.” As a result, the ACSC developed a two-week COIN course in 1962. By March 1963, AU transferred this course into the AU Warfare Systems School. As Air Force involvement in the Vietnam War grew in the 1960s, AU in 1968 saw a 30 percent reduction in ACSC and SOS attendance.

In 1966, the Air Force established a program to evaluate the use of airpower in Southeast Asia and, in March 1979, assigned the overall conduct of the project to the AU commander. Students and faculty at AU’s schools produced numerous studies and reports for “Project Corona Harvest” on specific lessons learned in Southeast Asia from 1965 to 1968. Phased out in October 1975, it was the most ambitious effort ever undertaken by AU to study and develop airpower “lessons learned” from a conflict in progress.

With Vietnamization under President Richard M. Nixon, the US military began to draw down its forces in Southeast Asia, and the Air Force approved an increase in student enrollments for AU’s schools to 60 percent or more of the pre-1964 input level. Similarly, the Air Force increased the schools’ faculties and staffs in direct proportion to the growing student population, marking a return to some degree of normalcy.

**Air University after the Vietnam War**

The post-Vietnam War era marked another significant turning point in AU’s history. The AU re-energized its mission of “educating and producing such planners and future leaders. . . [capable of designing] an Air Force so adequate that it need never be used.” Lt Gen Raymond B. Furlong, then AU commander, noted, “with a command motto of ‘Progress Unhindered by Tradition’ we had too often become traditionalist.” He concluded that the emphasis at AWC had drifted from how to fight an air war to high level policy and decision making and, as a result, launched a three-year campaign of curriculum review and overhaul in the mid-1970s that became known as “putting the ‘war’ back into the war college.”

During the 1970s, AU continued to grow. The Air Force established the Air Force Logistics Management Center (AFLMC) and assigned it to Air University on 1 October 1975. On that same day, the Leadership and Management Development Center (LMDC), HQ Civil Air Patrol-USAF, and the Air Force Judge Advocate General School joined the AU family. The following year, LMDC was merged with the AU Institute for Professional Development but retained its name.

Since AU’s establishment in 1946, Air Force leaders had discussed several times
combining Air Training Command (ATC) and AU. On 1 Jul 1978, AU lost major command status and became subordinate to the Air Training Command. However, in 1983, the Air Force separated AU from Air Training Command and returned AU to major command status.

In the 1980s, AU grew again. To research and analyze current and future issues of concern to the Air Force and its major commands, the Air Force established the Center (later College) for Aerospace Doctrine, Research, and Education (CADRE). In 1983, the Air Force redesignated the Academic Instructor and Foreign Officer School as the Educational Development Center, and, in 1986, merged the LMDC with the Educational Development Center. In 1987, the Air Force redesignated the consolidated schools as the Ira C. Eaker Center for Professional Development.

Congressional review of PME indicated that the DOD PME schools were not up to the expected standard. The schools needed to improve the level of education in strategic thinking, emphasize “jointness” more, and upgrade their overall quality—particularly the faculties. In response, the Air Force quickly took steps to hire highly qualified civilian instructors and established a School of Advanced Air Power Studies (SAAS) (later School of Advanced Air And Space Studies) as a one-year follow-up to ACSC for selected ACSC graduates.

Secretary of the Air Force Donald B. Rice and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force General Merrill A. McPeak created a vision of an Air Force office that would inculcate the principles of total quality management across the Air Force. This concept, later known as the Quality Air Force (QAF), led to the establishment of the Air Force Quality Center on 1 August 1991 under AU at Maxwell. The center provided the Air Force with the concepts, methods, tools, and advice to aid them in attaining a QAF culture, as well as QAF education programs, consulting services, training resource materials, and related research and analysis services.

**Air University in the Post-Cold War Era**

Following the end of the 1990-91 Gulf War in Feb 1993, the Air Force reassigned Air University to ATC again and subsequently redesignated the command as the Air Education and Training Command (AETC).

In 1993, Gen Merrill A. McPeak placed Air University in the unique role as the “maverick thinkers” of the Air Force. That year, he directed AU to conduct SPACECAST 2020 and Air Force 2025 to look at the Air Force’s ability to conduct warfare against future opponents while maintaining its “edge” to control the exploitation of air and space into the 21st century. SPACECAST 2020 energized the thinking and imagination of experts to produce a set of possibilities for the United States' dominance in space. Air Force 2025 identified concepts, capabilities, and technologies required to remain the dominant air and space force into the 2000s.

AU continued to grow both in size and stature, reorganize as needed to keep abreast of new technology, and meet the educational needs of all Air Force members. In 1997, the Air Force activated the Air and Space Basic Course School which taught a five-week orientation course to inspire new lieutenants who could exemplify the Air Force’s core values and advocate the contributions of airpower to joint operations.
Starting in the late 1990s, AU pursued degree granting authority and accreditation. In Dec 1999, SAASS received its accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award a master’s degree. In 2000, the AU received authority to confer the Master of Strategic Studies degree to resident graduates of the AWC and the Master of Military Operational Art and Science degree to resident graduates of the ACSC. In 2008, the AU Commander established an honorary doctorate of letters or science program for selected individuals who made significant contributions to the development of airpower or national defense. AU awarded its first honorary doctorate to Condelezza Rice, then Secretary of State and a recognized authority on international relations and national security. In 2010, AU established its first Maxwell-based doctoral program and awarded the first doctorate to Lt Col Tadd Sholtis in November 2011.

In 2006-2007, AU’s structure and program effectiveness underwent an in-depth review that led to major changes in AU’s structure. In April-July 2008, the Air Force activated the Carl Spaatz Center for Officer Education with AWC, ACSC, SOC and SAASS as subordinate units. It also redesignated the College of Enlisted Professional Military Education as the Thomas E. Barnes Center for Enlisted Education with the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF), the Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, and the First Sergeants Academy as subordinate units. The Air Force Doctrine Development & Education Center became the Curtis LeMay Center for Doctrine Development & Education, and Air Force Officer Accessions and Training School became the Jeanne M. Holm Center for Officer Accession and Citizen Development. AU also created the Air Force Research Institute to provide independent analysis and scholarship in support of the Air Force’s mission and contribution to national security.

AU continued its efforts to utilize educational technology and the internet to provide Airmen with improved educational opportunities. In June 2007, CCAF announced its Associate-to-Baccalaureate Program and by which enlisted members could use distance-learning and general courses to complete their four-year degrees. AFIT first offered a master’s degree in systems engineering in March 2007, followed three months later by ACSC’s offering an on-line graduate degree. On 2 Mar 2009, the CCAF initiated the General Education Mobile program by which enlisted Air Force members could complete their general education requirements toward their associate’s degree through distance learning with selected colleges across the country. Since then, AU has migrated many other training and developmental education courses to the internet.
In spring 2011, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force General Norton Schwartz approved redesignating the title of the AU Commander to “Commander and President,” signifying AU’s growing stature as a noteworthy academic institution as well as a military education organization. Lt Gen David S. Fadok, formerly the LeMay Center Commander and AU Vice Commander, became the 29th Commander and the first AU President on 12 Aug 2011. In early 2012, Congress authorized the conversion of the AFIT Commander, a general officer position, to Chancellor, a senior civilian position, to provide leadership continuity for AFIT. Dr. Todd Stewart, a retired Air Force major general, became the first AFIT Chancellor on 8 May 2012.

From mid-2011, AU felt the continuing impact of decreasing national defense budgets and changes in the conduct of armed conflict. In Jul 2013, AU inactivated the ASBC School and SOS and shortened the SOS program to five weeks. Additionally, the AU leadership began a concerted effort to transform officer and enlisted professional military education programs through the use of new education technologies and methods, such as blended learning and Internet platforms, to improve their quality, reduce costs, and increase global access to these programs. In summer 2013, CSAF Gen Mark Welsh approved these changes. During FY 2014 and FY 2015 AU operationalized these revised programs, and AU leaders began transforming AU’s infrastructure and faculty to become more responsive to the needs of the Airmen who will lead tomorrow’s Air Force.

In addition to its education, doctrine development, officer accessions, and citizen development missions, AU, the 42nd Air Base Wing, and several tenant units have deployed several hundred military and civilian personnel annually to worldwide locations, including health care providers to Latin America and a variety of personnel to support Air Force combat operations in Southwest and Central Asia.

Improving upon its heritage and Gen Fairchild’s original vision, AU continues to evolve to meet current and emerging challenges and ensure a secure environment for the United States, its people and its global partners. Its goal is to deliver the leaders, ideas and solutions, and doctrine the US Air Force needs to fly, fight and win in the face of any challenge and against any adversary and remain the preeminent air force for the foreseeable future. As AU celebrates its 70th anniversary, Mar 2016, it continues to play an important role in formulating USAF concepts, doctrines, and strategies for the employment of air power, form a vital link in the Air Force’s overall readiness in today’s world, and remain a key element in building, maintaining, and preparing leaders to lead a first-class Air Force into the future.
CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS

20 Feb 1910  Wilbur Wright came to Montgomery, Alabama, looking for a site for a temporary civilian flying school.

19 Mar-28 May 1910  The Wright brothers operated their flying school on 302 acres of land owned by Frank D. Kohn.

4 Apr 1918  Frank D. Kohn leased the same land, used by the Wright Brothers, to the US government for use as a military aviation repair depot.

Sep 1918  The US Army Air Service redesignated the Engine and Plane Repair Depot as the Engine and Plane Repair Depot #3.

Mar 1919  The depot became the Aviation Repair Depot.

25 Jan 1921  The Aviation Repair Depot renamed as the Montgomery Air Intermediate Depot.

30 Nov 1921  The 2nd Observation Squadron and the 4th Photographic Section moved to Montgomery Air Intermediate Depot.

8 Nov 1922  The War Department redesignated the Montgomery Air Intermediate Depot as Maxwell Field.

Oct 1927  Construction of the first permanent buildings, a barracks (Building 836) and 13 NCO quarters, began at Maxwell Field.

1928  The Army Air Corps announced the movement of the Air Corps Tactical School (ACTS) from Langley Field, Virginia, to Maxwell Field.

14-20 Mar 1929  Maj Walter Weaver, post commander, authorized the units at Maxwell Field to provide flood aid to south Alabama.

15 Jul 1931  The ACTS formally opened at Maxwell Field.

8 Jul 1940  The War Department established the Southeast Air Corps Training Center (SEACTC), headquartered at Maxwell.

9 Sep 1940  The first basic flying training class of 120 flying cadets arrived at Maxwell. In early November, the school moved to the municipal airport (later Gunter Field).

Nov 1940  Advanced flying training began at Maxwell Field.

15 Jan 1941  The USAAF activated the 42nd Bombardment Group (Medium) at Ft. Douglas, Utah.
9 Oct 1942    The ACTS formally closed because of the ongoing war.

Capt Glen Miller, renowned prewar big band leader, served at Maxwell Field during Nov-Dec 1942 as a special services officer.

23 Aug 1943    The War Department redesignated the SEATC as the Army Air Forces (AAF) Eastern Flying Training Command.

29 Nov 1945    The AAF School transferred from Orlando, Florida, to Maxwell Field.

15 Dec 1945    The War Department inactivated the Eastern Flying Training Command.

12 Mar 1946    The War Department redesignated the AAF School as Air University (AU) and designated it as a major command.

1 Apr 1946     The Air University established the Air University Library (later named after Lt Gen Muir S. Fairchild, the first AU commander), which became the largest library in the Department of Defense and the largest federal government library outside of the District of Columbia.

10 May 1946    The USAAF inactivated the 42nd Bombardment Group (Medium).

14-15 Jul 1946 The Air University Board of Visitors, organized on 27 Mar 1946, held its first meeting.

17 Nov 1947    The 502nd Air University Wing activated as the host unit at Maxwell.

13 Jan 1948    Maxwell Field became Maxwell Air Force Base.

28 Jul 1948    AU replaced the 502nd Air University Wing with the 3800th Air University Wing.

12 Sep 1949    The USAF Historical Division, today the Air Force Historical Research Agency, moved from Washington, D.C., to Maxwell AFB. The AFHRA is presenty adjacent to the Air University Library in the center of Chennault Circle between the ACSC and AWC buildings.

1 Apr 1950     The Air Force reassigned the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, on 1 Jan 1962, to Air University.
The Air Force activated the 42nd Bombardment Wing at Loring AFB, Maine.

A $5 million construction project began in the Academic Circle to accommodate Air University major schools and the library. AU renamed Academic Circle Chennault Circle in honor of Maj Gen Claire Lee Chennault on 7 May 1975.

B-52s of the 42nd Bomb Wing participated in Operation Quick Kick, a flight around the perimeter of North America.

The Air Force established the Senior NCO Academy at Gunter Air Force Station (later Air Force Base) near Maxwell AFB, AL.

The Air Force established the Community College of the Air Force which has become the largest community college in the world.

The Air Force reassigned the Civil Air Patrol–HQ US Air Force from Headquarters Command to Air University.

AU lost major command status with its subordination to the Air Training Command.

AU regained major command status.

The Air Force consolidated the World War II 42nd Bombardment Group with the 42nd Bombardment Wing, established on 19 Feb 53.

AU officials dedicated the Enlisted Heritage Hall at Gunter AFS (now Annex) to house the Enlisted Heritage exhibit, established in the SNCOA building in 1984.

AU officials opened LeMay Plaza, Building 804, which now serves as the 42nd Air Base Wing headquarters (and named after Alabama Congressman J. Lister Hill, the “godfather of Maxwell,” on 15 Oct 1992).


AU inactivated the 3800th Air Base Wing and replaced it with the newly activated 502nd Air Base Wing.

AU became a subordinate component of Air Education and Training Command (AETC).

Officer Training Squadron moved from the Medina Annex, Lackland AFB, Texas, to Maxwell AFB and became the Officer Training School (OTS).

The Air Force created the College for Enlisted Professional Military Education (now the Barnes Center) to oversee the CONUS NCO academies and the SNCO Academy and write and standardize the curricula for all Air Force enlisted PME programs.
1 Oct 1994  The Air Force inactivated the 502nd Air Base Wing, redesignated the 42nd Bombardment Wing (see lineage and honors statement below) as the 42nd Air Base Wing, and assigned the latter unit to Maxwell AFB.

29-30 Aug 2005  After hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, Maxwell-Gunter served as an evacuation center for over 1,000 displaced evacuees from the Gulf coast and as a Federal Emergency Management Agency staging area for relief convoys to the affected areas.

1 Oct 2006  The Air Force assigned the Air Force Doctrine Center, later renamed the Curtis E. LeMay Center for Doctrine Development and Education, to Air University.

14 Apr 2008  AU awarded its first honorary doctoral degree to Condelezza Rice, then Secretary of State and a recognized authority on international relations and national security.

1 Oct 2009  The Air Force realigned the National Security Space Institute, Peterson AFB, Colorado, under Air University and assigned it to the Eaker Center.

1 Oct 2009  The Air National Guard (ANG) relocated its officer accessions training program from McGhee-Tyson ANG Base, Tennessee, to Maxwell AFB, giving AU oversight of all of the Air Force’s officer accessions training programs except for the US Air Force Academy.

6 May 2010  The AU Commander Lt Gen Allen Peck dedicated the new Air Force Chaplains’ Corps College, formerly the US Air Force Chaplain’s Service Institute, relocated from Maxwell AFB to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, as part of the consolidation of the chaplain and religious education and training programs of all three military services into one facility, the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Center.

5 Aug 2011  At the beginning of the 2011-2012 school term, the Maxwell Elementary School became the Maxwell Middle School with the addition of the 7th and 8th grades.

12 Aug 2011  Lt Gen David S. Fadok became the 29th commander of Air University and its first president.

18 Nov 2011  AU awarded its first Maxwell-based doctoral degree to Lt Col Tadd Sholtis, the deputy director of public affairs at Headquarters Air Combat Command at Langley AFB, Virginia.
8 May 2012  Dr. Todd Stewart, a retired Air Force major general, became the first civilian Chancellor of AFIT.

Nov 2012  The Community College of the Air Force awarded its 400,000 degree to Senior Airman Emily Barchenger, assigned to Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.

1 Jul 2013  The Air Force inactivated the ASBC School, the SOS, and two training squadrons associated with the inactivated schools.

Oct 2013  The LeMay Center for Doctrine Development and Education (LeMay Center) launched its Doctrine Next website.

Apr 2014  Lt Gen David S. Fadok, AU/CC, approved a new 47-day Officer Training School Basic Officer Training program for active duty and Air Force Reserve officer cadets.

28 May 2014  Colonel Trent Edwards, 42 ABW/CC, officially opened Freedom Park in a ribbon-cutting ceremony, a joint Maxwell-Montgomery area community project.

19 Aug 2014  The Officer Training School graduated its first Total Force class, consisting of active duty, Reserve, and Air National Guard officer cadets.

29 Aug 2014  The 42nd ABW Public Affairs published the last issue of the print base newspaper, the Maxwell-Gunter Dispatch.

1 Oct 2014  The Air Force Lessons Learned Program transferred from HQ US Air Force to the LeMay Center for Doctrine Development and Education.

Feb 2015  Lt Gen Steven L. Kwast, AU commander, established the position of Air University Provost with Dr. Grant Hammond as the first provost.

2 Jun 2015  Lt Gen Steven L. Kwast, the AU commander, announced plans to develop a Cyber College at Air University where students could study together and develop innovative solutions to the cyber challenges of today’s world.

12 Mar 2016  Air University celebrated its 70th anniversary as the Air Force intellectual and leadership development center.
AIR UNIVERSITY COMMANDERS AND PRESIDENTS

Maj Gen Muir S. Fairchild
6 Feb 46
Maj Gen Robert W. Harper
17 May 48
Gen George C. Kenney
1 Nov 48
Lt Gen Idwal H. Edwards
1 Aug 51
Lt Gen Laurence S. Kuter
15 Apr 53
Lt Gen Dean G. Strother
14 May 55
Lt Gen Walter E. Todd
25 Aug 58
Lt Gen Troup Miller, Jr.
1 Aug 61
Lt Gen Ralph Swofford, Jr.
1 Jan 64
Lt Gen John W. Carpenter III
1 Aug 65
Lt Gen Albert P. Clark
1 Aug 68
Lt Gen Alvan C. Gillem II
1 Aug 70
Lt Gen Felix M. Rogers
1 Nov 73
Lt Gen Raymond B. Furlong
15 Aug 75
Lt Gen Stanley M. Umstead, Jr.
1 Jul 79
Lt Gen Charles G. Cleveland
1 Aug 81
Lt Gen Thomas C. Richards
1 Aug 84
Lt Gen Truman Spangrud
6 Nov 86
Lt Gen Ralph E. Havens
12 Jul 88
Maj Gen David C. Reed
7 Oct 89
Lt Gen Charles G. Boyd
4 Jan 90
Lt Gen Jay W. Kelley
29 Oct 92
Lt Gen Joseph R. Redden
1 Oct 96
Lt Gen Lance W. Lord
22 Jun 99
Lt Gen Donald A. Lamontagne
8 May 01
Lt Gen John R. Regni
8 Jul 04
Lt Gen Stephen R. Lorenz
12 Oct 05
Lt Gen Allen G. Peck
16 Jun 08
Lt Gen David S. Fadok (First AU President)
12 Aug 11
Lt Gen Steven L. Kwast
10 Nov 14
## MAXWELL POST/BASE COMMANDERS

### Pre-World War II Post Commanders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commander</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maj Stiles M. Decker</td>
<td>7 Jul 18</td>
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<td>Maj Louis R. Knight</td>
<td>14 Dec 18</td>
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<td>Col William L. Patterson</td>
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<td>Col Albert L. Sneed</td>
<td>8 Aug 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col John H. Pirie</td>
<td>4 Oct 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Douglas B. Netherwood</td>
<td>5 Feb 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Walter R. Weaver</td>
<td>1 Apr 39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lt Col Floyd E. Galloway</td>
<td>20 Aug 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Albert L. Sneed</td>
<td>12 Feb 41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### World War II Post Commanders, 8 Dec 1941

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commander</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Col Elmer J. Bowling</td>
<td>27 Jan 42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Robert E. Choate</td>
<td>14 Jul 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brig Gen William S. Gravely</td>
<td>29 Aug 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Robert E. Choate</td>
<td>6 Dec 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col William E. Covington, Jr.</td>
<td>8 Oct 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Richard H. Ballard</td>
<td>12 Nov 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col William E. Covington, Jr.</td>
<td>13 Jan 46</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 502nd Air University Wing, 17 Nov 1947

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commander</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Col Sidney D. Grubbs, Jr.</td>
<td>17 Jun 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3800th Air University/Air Base Wing, 28 Jul 48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Jan 49</td>
<td>Col Leslie G. Mulzer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Nov 51</td>
<td>Col Stoyte O. Ross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Jun 52</td>
<td>Col James P. Newberry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Mar 53</td>
<td>Col James G. Pratt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Nov 55</td>
<td>Col Mills S. Savage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 May 58</td>
<td>Col Clyde C. Harris, Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Jun 61</td>
<td>Col William J. Wrigglesworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Aug 63</td>
<td>Col Wilson R. Wood</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Jan 67</td>
<td>Col Rudolph B. Walters</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Apr 68</td>
<td>Col Paul A. Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Jan 70</td>
<td>Col Lattie A. Ritter, Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Aug 70</td>
<td>Col Charles G. Weber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Nov 72</td>
<td>Col Andrew J. Chapman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Jun 74</td>
<td>Col James H. Hiley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Aug 75</td>
<td>Col David T. Stockman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Sep 78</td>
<td>Col Robert D. Hartwig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Jun 79</td>
<td>Col Roger W. McLain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Jul 80</td>
<td>Col William D. Palmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Apr 82</td>
<td>Col Donald F. Brackett</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Jul 83</td>
<td>Col Vardaman F. Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Mar 85</td>
<td>Col Mark J. Dierlam</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Jun 88</td>
<td>Col David J. Vogl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Jun 91</td>
<td>Col Gerald R. Adams</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Aug 93</td>
<td>Brig Gen Albert D. Jensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Aug 94</td>
<td>Brig Gen Thomas C. Waskow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>502nd Air Base Wing, 1 Oct 92</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 May 96</td>
<td>Col William S. Cole, Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 May 98</td>
<td>Col Albert A. Allenback</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Jul 01</td>
<td>Col Frances C. Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Jul 03</td>
<td>Col John A. Neubauer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42nd Air Base Wing, 1 Oct 94</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18
Col Peter A. Costello 19 Jul 05
Col Paul H. McGillicuddy 20 Mar 07
Col Kristin D. Beasley 29 Aug 08
Col Brian M. Killough 12 Jul 10
Col Trent H. Edwards 28 Jun 12
Col Andrea D. Tullos 30 May 14
LINEAGE AND HONORS
OF
The Air University


Service Streamers. World War II American Theater.

Campaign Streamers. None.

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers. None.


LINEAGE AND HONORS
OF THE
42nd Air Base Wing


**Stations.** Ft Douglas, UT, 15 Jan 1941; Gowen Field, ID, c. 3 Jun 1941; McChord Field, WA, c. 18 Jan 1942–15 Mar 1943; Fiji Islands, 22 Apr 1943 (air echelon); Carney Field, Guadalcanal, 11 May 1943 (ground echelon), 6 Jun 1943 (air echelon); Russell Islands, c. 21 Oct 1943; Stirling Island, 20 Jan 1944; Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, 24 Aug 1944 (air echelon); Cape Sansapor, Dutch New Guinea, 24 Aug 1944 (ground echelon), c. 15 Sep 1944 (air echelon); Morotai, Philippines, 23 Feb 1945 (air echelon); Puerto Princesa, Palawan Island, Mar 1945; Itami Airfield, Japan, 31 Jan–10 May 1946. Limestone (later, Loring) AFB, ME, 25 Feb 1953–30 Sep 1994. Maxwell AFB, AL, 1 Oct 1994–.


Received a Distinguished Unit Citation for its pre-invasion bombing of Balikpapan, 23–30 Jun 1945. Ended combat service by attacking isolated Japanese units on Luzon, Jul–Aug 1945. 42 Bombardment Wing activated at Limestone AFB in 1953 and began operational training in Apr. All squadrons were flying by Aug. In 1954 and 1955, portions of the wing twice deployed at Upper Heyford and Burtonwood, England, and the entire wing deployed to Upper Heyford, 18 Oct–18 Nov 1955. Gained an air refueling mission in 1955 and B–52 bombers in 1956. Operated out of Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico (bombers), and Goose AB, Labrador (tankers), while runway repairs were made at Loring, 10 Jul–5 Oct 1959. Supported SAC’s bombardment and air refueling operations in Southeast Asia from the mid-1960s to mid-1975, furnishing aircraft, aircrews, and at times support personnel to other units. Participated in strategic and tactical exercises worldwide and supported USAF needs for air refueling after 1975. Won the Omaha Trophy as “the outstanding wing in SAC for 1977.” Deployed personnel, aircraft and equipment to Southwest Asia, 7 Aug 1990 – c. 12 Apr 1991. Began preparations for closure of Loring AFB in Oct 1991. Lost air refueling mission in Jun 1992. Last wing B-52 departed Loring on 18 Nov 1993. After 1 Oct 1994, served as the host unit for Maxwell-Gunter AFB, providing personnel management, communications, financial services, logistics support, health care, safety and force protection, and maintenance and modernization of base facilities for Air University, the 908th Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve); the Business and Enterprise Systems Directorate (Air Force Materiel Command); more than 30 tenant units; and over 10,000 military retirees in Central Alabama. Prepared Airmen to deploy in support of worldwide US military operations and deployed military and civilian members to a variety of operations, including Operations Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, across the globe.

**Service Streamers.** None.

**Campaign Streamers.** *World War II:* Antisubmarine, American Theater; New Guinea; Northern Solomons; Bismarck Archipelago; Western Pacific; Leyte; Luzon; Southern Philippines; China Defensive; China Offensive. *Southwest Asia:* Defense of Saudi Arabia; Liberation and Defense of Kuwait.

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers.** None.


**Emblem.** Approved on 11 Mar 1942; modified on 19 Mar 1997.
“Be the intellectual and leadership-development center of the Air Force
Develop leaders, enrich minds, advance airpower, build relationships,
and inspire service.”