

# *Cradle of Airpower Education*



April 1918 – April 2018



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



Air University Directorate of History  
**January 2018**



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## *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, following their 1903 historic flight, decided in early 1910 to open a flying school to teach people how to fly and to promote the sale of their airplane, Wilbur. After looking at locations in Florida, Wilbur came to Montgomery, Alabama in February 1910 and 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 only ten weeks because of unseasonable high winds.



**Wright Flying School Hanger and Maintenance Workshop, 1910**



**2Lt Maxwell** 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 22d (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, born in Natchez, Alabama. He died on 12 August 1920 in the Philippines after his DH-4 aircraft struck a flagpole while swerving to avoid striking a group of children at play.

The 22d Observation Squadron helped establish an airmail route between the Gulf Coast and northern Great Lakes area. In March 1929, torrential rains caused severe flooding in southern Alabama, and Major Walter Weaver, the Maxwell Field post commander, ordered the squadron to fly daily missions to help the flood victims. Between 14 and 20 March, 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 Joseph 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.



**Austin Hall, Air Corps Tactical School, 1931, now Headquarters Air University**

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, along with Captain Haywood Hansell, 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 July 1940, the existing flying training center became the Southeast Air Corps Training Center (SEACTC) (Eastern Flying Training Command [EFTC] 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, which became Gunter Field to honor the recently deceased mayor of Montgomery, William A. Gunter. By the end of the war, these schools in the Southeast United States graduated more than 100,000 aviation cadets, including the three flight schools at Tuskegee, Alabama, which trained the over 900 African American pilots, known as the Tuskegee Airmen.



**RAF cadets from Maxwell in Armistice Day parade, Montgomery AL, Nov 1941**

SEACTC/EFTC had graduated over 8,000 flight cadets of the Free French, Chinese, and other allied air forces.

After the fall of France in June 1940, Britain stood alone against Nazi Germany and after the battle of Britain, Aug-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 Army Air Forces flight training program graduated, and 78 RAF pilot cadets died in training accidents. By Nov 1945, the

On 6 September 1941, the Air Corps Replacement Center opened at the field. 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.



**Physical fitness exercises for flight cadets at Maxwell Field during World War II**

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 June 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. Nearby Gunter Field had the 22d Aviation Squadron for the same general duties.



**Jacqueline Cochran, Chief of the WASP, inspects women pilots at Maxwell**

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 EFTC. To prepare Air Force personnel for the future, the Army Air Forces (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) in March 1946, and established it as a major command in Nov 1946.



**Maj Gen Fairchild, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right, First Air University Commander**

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 March 1946; and later 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 June 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.



**Air Force ROTC Unit Practicing Drills**

On 1 August 1952, the Air Force assigned the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) to AU. Over time, 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.



**Chennault Circle in the 1970s with Air University Library in the Center**

These changes placed a heavy strain on Maxwell's facilities so AU officials to begin planning for a modern, academic campus for AU's educational, research, and doctrinal development requirements. . In

early 1951, 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 (HQ CAP-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. on 1 June 20016, the Air Force transferred HQ CAP-USAF to First Air Force, Air Combat Command, Tyndall AFB, Florida.



**Planning a CAP Mission**



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 Force SNCO Academy Seminar at Gunter Annex**

### **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 Air Training Comamnd 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 in 1995 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 reputation, to keep abreast of new technology, and meet the educational needs of all Air Force members. In 1997, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General Ron Fogelman, directed the establishment of the Air and Space Basic Course (ASBC) School to provide a five-week orientation course to 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 December 1999, SAASS received its accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and



**Lt Col Tadd Sholtis (r.) receives first Maxwell-based AU doctorate from Lt Gen David Fadok, AU Commander and President (l.), 18 Nov 2011, while Tom Brokaw, renowned correspondent (m.), looks on.**

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.



**Commissioning Ceremony at Officer Training School**

The university 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 by which civilian institutions would accept CCAF courses toward an enlisted member's bachelor's degree and the General Education Mobile program by which an enlisted member could use distance-learning and general courses to complete their associate degree. In Jun 2007, ACSC first offered 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 globalization, widespread access to information, 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, and AU began to operationalize these revised programs in 2014 2015 and 2016 under the new AU commander and president, Lt Gen Steven L. Kwast.

In 2016, Gen Welsh further challenged AU to continue its transformation of its infrastructure and faculty so the institution could become more responsive to the needs of the Airmen who will lead tomorrow’s Air Force in a challenging and increasingly unpredictable world. As a result, in 2017 AU established the Cyber College for instruction and research on the growing cyber threat, the e-School of Graduate Professional Military Education to operationalize the changes in officer distance learning PME programs, and the AU research task forces and Integration Cell to provide more consistent research products from the AU faculty and student which address today’s and future Air Force and US national defense needs.

In addition to its education, doctrine development, officer accessions, and citizen development missions, AU, the 42d Air Base Wing, and several tenant units have deployed up to 150 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 continued 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 develop and 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. In 2016, AU celebrated its 70th anniversary and continued to play an important role in formulating Air Force 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 air-minded leaders to lead a first-class Air Force into the future. This coming April 2018 will mark the centennial of Maxwell AFB since it began as an aircraft and repair depot on 4 April 1918.

## CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS

- 20 Feb 1910 Wilbur Wright came to Montgomery, Alabama, looking for a site for a temporary civilian flying school. The school operated t on 302 acres of land owned by Frank D. Kohn from 19 Mar to 28 May 1910.
- 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 Repair Depot as the Engine and Plane Repair Depot #3. In Mar 1919, the became the Aviation Repair Depot, and on 25 Jan 1921, the Montgomery Air Intermediate Depot.
- Aerial view of the depot in 1919**
- 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 after deceased Alabamian 2Lt William C. Maxwell.
- 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 and suspended the ACTS classes.
- 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.

Nov-Dec 1942 Capt Glen Miller, renowned prewar big band leader, served at Maxwell Field 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 42d 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 502d 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 502d Air University Wing with the 3800th Air University Wing.

12 Sep 1949



The Air Force moved the USAF Historical Division, the Air Force Historical Research Agency today, from Washington, D.C., to Maxwell AFB. It is presently adjacent to the Air University Library in the center of Chennault Circle

between the ACSC and AWC buildings.

1 Apr 1950 The Air Force assigned the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, on 1 Jan 1962, to Air University.

25 Feb 1953 The Air Force activated the 42d Bombardment Wing at Loring AFB, Maine.

- 5 Feb 1954 A \$5 million construction project began in the Academic Circle to accommodate Air University major schools and the library. AU renamed Academic Circle as Chennault Circle in honor of Maj Gen Claire Lee Chennault on 7 May 1975.t
- 24-25 Nov 1964 B-52s of the 42d Bomb Wing participated in Operation Quick Kick, a flight around the perimeter of North America.
- 17 Jan 1972 The Air Force established the Senior NCO Academy at Gunter Air Force Station (later Air Force Base) near Maxwell AFB, AL.
- 1 Apr 1972 The Air Force established the Community College of the Air Force which has become the largest community college in the world.
- 1 Jul 1976 The Air Force reassigned the Civil Air Patrol–HQ US Air Force from Headquarters Command to Air University.
- 1 Jul 1978 AU lost major command status with its subordination to the Air Training Command.
- 1 Jul 1983 AU regained major command status.
- 31 Jan 1984 The Air Force consolidated the World War II 42d Bombardment Group with the 42nd Bombardment Wing, established on 19 Feb 1953.
- 4 May 1986 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.
- 30 Oct 1990 AU officials opened LeMay Plaza, Building 804, which now serves as the 42<sup>nd</sup> Air Base Wing headquarters (and named after Alabama Congressman J. Lister Hill, the “godfather of Maxwell,” on 15 Oct 1992).
- 1 Mar 1992 The Air Force redesignated Gunter AFB as Maxwell AFB/Gunter Annex.
- 1 Oct 1992 AU inactivated the 3800th Air Base Wing and replaced it with the newly activated 502d Air Base Wing.
- 1 Jul 1993 AU became a subordinate component of Air Education and Training Command (AETC).
- 1 Sep 1993 Officer Training Squadron moved from the Medina Annex, Lackland AFB, Texas, to Maxwell AFB and became the Officer Training School (OTS).
- Nov 1993 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 502d Air Base Wing, redesignated the 42<sup>nd</sup>



Bombardment Wing (see lineage and honors statement below) as the 42d Air Base Wing, and assigned the latter unit to Maxwell AFB.

29-30 Aug  
2005



After hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, Maxwell AFB 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.
- 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 42d 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.
- Jan 2015 The Officer Training School began the first class of the Total Force Officer Course, under development since early 2014, to commission active duty, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard line officers through one program.
- 16 Mar 2015 The Air Force launched the Air Force Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) web site.
- 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.
- 30 Sep 2015 AETC formally dissolved the Command Board of Advisors, formed in 1995 and consisting of the vice commanders of the Major Commands, which had made known their respective educational needs to Air University.
- 12 Mar 2016 Air University celebrated its 70th anniversary as the intellectual and leadership development center of the Air Force.
- Apr 2016 The Air Force reassigned the National Security Space Institute and the Center for Unconventional Warfare Studies from the Eaker Center and the Spaatz Center, respectively, to the Air Force Institute of Technology.
- 11 Apr 2016 The Altus, OK, Chamber of Commerce selected Montgomery, AL, to receive the Altus Trophy for its outstanding support to Maxwell AFB and Gunter



Annex.

- 22 Apr 2016 The Maxwell AFB NCO corps hosted the Order of the Sword ceremony for retiring Chief of Staff of the Air Force General Mark A. Welsh III.
- 6 Jun 2016 The Air Force reassigned the CAP-HQ USAF, the Air Force liaison to the Civil Air Patrol, from Air University to First Air Force (Air Forces North [AFNORTH]), Air Combat Command, headquartered at Tyndall AFB, Florida.
- Oct 2016 AU established an e-School of Graduate PME that integrated the distance learning experts, previously assigned to the three officer PME schools, to operationalize the suite of focused officer PME courses and award credit for appropriate graduate courses from civilian institutions, approved in 2014.
- 16 Jan 2017 The Air Force designated the School of Strategic Force Studies as a named activity and assigned it to AFIT.
- 1 Apr 2017 The Air Force returned the Air Force Chaplains' Corps College to Maxwell AFB, AL from Fort Jackson, SC.
- 7 Apr 2017 Lt Gen Steven Kwast, AU commander dedicated a statue of the Greek mythological figure Daedalus in front of the Maxwell club.
- 8-9 Apr 2017 Maxwell AFB presented the "Heritage to Horizon" Air Show and Open House which drew over 160,000 visitors. In Dec, the International Council of Air Shows recognized this air show as the best military air show of the year.
- 1 Jun 2017 The Air Force inactivated the Spaatz Center for Officer Education and the Air Force Research Institute as part of a major reorganization of Air University.
- 15 Sep-31 Oct 2017 Maxwell AFB hosted received and dispatched 1,300 trailers of disaster response supplies for the Federal Emergency Management Agency for victims of Hurricanes Irma and Nate.
- 4 Apr 2018 Maxwell AFB turned 100 years old from its start as the Aircraft and Engine Repair Depot #3 to service aircraft at training airfield in the Southeast United States.

## 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
Maj Gen Michael D. Rothstein	27 Oct 17

## MAXWELL POST/BASE COMMANDERS

### Pre-World War II Post Commanders

Maj Stiles M. Decker	7 Jul 18
Maj Louis R. Knight	14 Dec 18
Col William L. Patterson	Unknown
Maj Louis R. Knight	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown
Maj Frank D. Lackland	Feb 20
Maj William J. Fitzmaurice	Apr 21
Maj Roy S. Brown	May 22
Maj Harrison H. Richards	26 Jun 25
Maj Walter R. Weaver	1 Aug 27
Maj John F. Curry	11 Aug 31
Col Arthur G. Fisher	29 Aug 35
Brig Gen Henry C. Pratt	17 Mar 37
Col Albert L. Sneed	8 Aug 38
Col John H. Pirie	4 Oct 38
Col Douglas B. Netherwood	5 Feb 39
Col Walter R. Weaver	1 Apr 39
Lt Col Floyd E. Galloway	20 Aug 40
Col Albert L. Sneed	12 Feb 41

### World War II Post Commanders, 7 Dec 1941

Col Elmer J. Bowling	27 Jan 42
Col Robert E. Choate	14 Jul 44
Brig Gen William S. Gravely	29 Aug 44
Col Robert E. Choate	6 Dec 44
Col William E. Covington, Jr.	8 Oct 45
Col Richard H. Ballard	12 Nov 45
Col William E. Covington, Jr.	13 Jan 46

### 502<sup>nd</sup> Air University Wing, 17 Nov 1947

Col Sidney D. Grubbs, Jr.	17 Jun 48
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**3800<sup>th</sup> Air University/Air Base Wing, 28 Jul 48**

Col Leslie G. Mulzer	8 Jan 49
Col Stoyte O. Ross	1 Nov 51
Col James P. Newberry	2 Jun 52
Col James G. Pratt	28 Mar 53
Col Mills S. Savage	1 Nov 55
Col Clyde C. Harris, Jr.	5 May 58
Col William J. Wrigglesworth	1 Jun 61
Col Wilson R. Wood	1 Aug 63
Col Rudolph B. Walters	12 Jan 67
Col Paul A. Jones	2 Apr 68
Col Lattie A. Ritter, Jr.	26 Jan 70
Col Charles G. Weber	16 Aug 70
Col Andrew J. Chapman	13 Nov 72
Col James H. Hiley	15 Jun 74
Col David T. Stockman	18 Aug 75
Col Robert D. Hartwig	1 Sep 78
Col Roger W. McLain	1 Jun 79
Col William D. Palmer	7 Jul 80
Col Donald F. Brackett	15 Apr 82
Col Vardaman F. Johnson	1 Jul 83
Col Mark J. Dierlam	25 Mar 85
Col David J. Vogl	20 Jun 88
Col Gerald R. Adams	18 Jun 91

**502<sup>nd</sup> Air Base Wing, 1 Oct 92**

Brig Gen Albert D. Jensen	4 Aug 93
Brig Gen Thomas C. Waskow	9 Aug 94

**42<sup>nd</sup> Air Base Wing, 1 Oct 94**

Col William S. Cole, Jr.	7 May 96
Col Albert A. Allenback	26 May 98
Col Frances C. Martin	12 Jul 01
Col John A. Neubauer	11 Jul 03

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
Col Eric K. Shafa	7 Jul 2016

**LINEAGE AND HONORS  
OF  
The Air University**

**Lineage.** Established as Field Officers School on 30 Oct 1920. Activated Nov 1920. Redesignated as: Air Service Field Officers' School on 10 Feb 1921; Air Service Tactical School on 8 Nov 1922; Air Corps Tactical School on 18 Aug 1926. Discontinued on 9 Oct 1942. Consolidated (26 Apr 1944) with the Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics, which was established on 16 Oct 1943. Activated on 1 Nov 1943. Redesignated as Army Air Forces School on 1 Jun 1945. Redesignated as Air University on 12 Mar 1946, as a major command. Lost major command status on 1 Jul 1978. Regained major command status on 1 Jul 1983. Lost major command status on 1 Jul 1993.

**Assignments.** Army Air Forces, 1920-9 Oct 1942. Army Air Forces Tactical Center (later, Army Air Forces Center), 1 Nov 1943; Army Air Forces, 29 Nov 1945; United States Air Force, 18 Sep 1947; Air Training Command, 15 May 1978; United States Air Force, 1 Jul 1983; Air Education and Training Command, 1 Jul 1993-.

**Stations.** Langley Field, VA, 1920; Maxwell Field, AL, 15 Jul 1931-9 Oct 1942. Orlando, FL, 1 Nov 1943; Maxwell Field (later, Maxwell AFB), AL, 29 Nov 1945.

**Service Streamers.** World War II American Theater.

**Campaign Streamers.** None.

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers.** None.

**Decorations.** Air Force Organizational Excellence Awards: 1 Jul 1986-30 Jun 1988; 1 Jul 1990-30 Jun 1992; 1 Jul 1992-30 Jun 1993; 1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1995; 18 Mar 1997-30 Jun 1998; 1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 2000; 1 Jul 2000-30 Jun 2002; 1 Jul 2002-30 Jun 2004; 1 Jul 2004-30 Jun 2006; 1 Jul 2006-30 Jun 2008; 1 Jul 2008-30 Jun 2010; 1 Jul 2015-30 Jun 2017.

**Emblem.** Approved on 9 Dec 1929. Modified on 2 May 1999.

## LINEAGE AND HONORS OF THE 42<sup>nd</sup> Air Base Wing

**Lineage.** Established as 42 Bombardment Group (Medium) on 20 Nov 1940. Activated on 15 Jan 1941. Redesignated 42 Bombardment Group, Medium, on 6 Sep 1944. Inactivated on 10 May 1946. Consolidated (31 Jan 1984) with the 42 Bombardment Wing, Heavy, which was established on 19 Feb 1953. Activated on 25 Feb 1953. Redesignated: 42 Wing on 1 Sep 1991; 42 Bomb Wing on 1 Jun 1992. Inactivated on 30 Sep 1994. Redesignated 42 Air Base Wing and activated on 1 Oct 1994.

**Assignments.** Northwest Air District (later, Second Air Force), 16 Jan 1941 (attached to 20 Bombardment Wing, 16 Jan–1 Sep 1941); 2 (later, II) Bomber Command, 5 Sep 1941; IV Bomber Command, 25 Jan 1942; XIII Bomber Command, 14 Mar 1943 (attached to 308 Bombardment Wing, Heavy, c. 24 Aug–2 Sep 1944; 310 Bombardment Wing, Medium, 3–c. 14 Sep 1944; Thirteenth Air Task Force, c. 15–30 Sep 1944; XIII Fighter Command, 1 Oct 1944–8 Jan 1945; XIII Bomber Command Rear Echelon, 9 Jan–21 Feb 1945; XIII Fighter Command, c. 22 Mar–c. Sep 1945); Fifth Air Force, 25 Dec 1945; 310 Bombardment Wing, Medium, 31 Jan 1946; V Fighter Command, 25 Mar–10 May 1946. Eighth Air Force, 25 Feb 1953; 45 Air Division, 8 Oct 1954 (attached to 7 Air Division, 18 Oct–18 Nov 1955); Eighth Air Force, 18 Jan 1958; 45 Air Division, 1 Dec 1958; Eighth Air Force, 29 Mar 1989; Ninth Air Force, 1 Jun 1992–30 Sep 1994. Air University, 1 Oct 1994–.

**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–.

**Aircraft.** B–18, 1941–1942; B–26, 1941–1942, 1943; A–29, 1942–1943; B–25, 1942, 1943–1945; A–26, 1946; A–20, 1946. B–36, 1953–1956; KC–97, 1955–1957; B–52, 1956–1993; KC–135, 1957–1992.

**Operations.** Began training in B–26s, Oct 1941–Jan 1942. Patrolled the Northwest Pacific Coast and trained B–25 combat crews for the Alaskan Defense Command. Arrived in New Caledonia in Apr 1943. Entered combat in Jun 1943, operating from Guadalcanal, and later from other bases in the Solomon Islands. Attacked Japanese airfields, personnel areas, gun positions, and shipping. Jan–Jul 1944, engaged primarily in the neutralization of enemy airfields and harbor facilities on New Britain, but also supported ground forces on Bougainville and attacked shipping in the northern Solomon and the Bismarck Islands. Aug 1944–Jan 1945, bombed airfields and installations on New Guinea, Celebes, and Halmahera, and flew reconnaissance missions. Moved to the Philippines in Feb–Mar 1945. Attacked shipping along the China coast, struck targets in French Indochina, bombed airfields and installations in the Philippines, and supported ground operations on Mindanao. Also supported Australian forces on Borneo during May and Jun 1945.

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 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.

**Decorations.** Distinguished Unit Citation: Balikpapan, Borneo, 23–30 Jun 1945. Air Force Outstanding Unit Award: 1 Jul 1986–30 Jun 1988; 1 Jun 1994–30 Jun 1995; 1 Jul 1995–30 Jun 1996; 1 Jul 1996–30 Jun 1997; 1 Jul 1999–30 Jun 2000; 1 Jul 2001–30 Jun 2002; 1 Jul 2002–30 Jun 2004; 1 Jul 2004–30 Jun 2006; 1 Jul 2006–30 Jun 2007; 1 Jul 2010–30 Jun 2011; 1 Jul 2015–30 Jun 2017. Philippine Presidential Unit Citation.

**Emblem.** Approved on 11 Mar 1942; modified on 19 Mar 1997.





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