Cradle of Airpower Education

Maxwell Air Force Base Centennial
April 1918 – April 2018

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

Air University Directorate of History
March 2019
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Maxwell AFB,
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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. 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.

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 1921. 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 Atmore, 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.
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.

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 SEACTC/EFTC had graduated 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. 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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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. By
the mid-1950s, 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. 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. 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**

Following the end of the Vietnam War, 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 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.

In 1976, the Air Force reassigned the Headquarters Civil Air Patrol (HQ CAP-USAF) from the inactivating Headquarters Command, USAF, to Air University on 1 July 1976. The HQ CAP-USAF is the Air Force oversight organization for the Civil Air Patrol, the official Air Force civilian auxiliary. Because of the growth of its emergency services mission, the Air Force transferred HQ CAP-USAF to First Air Force, Air Combat Command, Tyndall AFB, Florida on 1 June 2016.
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, Air Force redesignated the Academic Instructor and Foreign Officer School as the Educational Development Center, and, in 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.

The vision of the Secretary of the Air Force Donald B. Rice and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force General Merrill A. McPeak vision of an Air Force office to inculcate the principles of total quality management across the Air Force (later 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 the Air Force to attain a “quality” culture through education programs, consulting services, training resource materials, and related research and analysis.

**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 Command 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 Schools (SACS) to award a master’s degree. In 2000, the AU received authority to confer master degrees to the resident graduates of the AWC and 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 on 8 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.

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 from selected colleges across the country to complete their associate degree on 2 Mar 2009. In Jun 2007, ACSC first offered an on-line graduate degree. Since then, AU has migrated many other training and developmental education courses to the internet.

In spring 2011, 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 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 over the next three years under Lt Gen Steven L. Kwast.

In 2016, AU continued 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. 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 students to 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 to provide health care to civilians in Latin America and support Air Force combat operations in Southwest and Central Asia.

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. During 2018, Maxwell AFB held several major events which marked the centennial of Maxwell AFB since it began as an aircraft and repair depot on 4 April 1918.

AU and the 42 ABW continued to improve upon their long heritage and Gen Fairchild’s original vision through the evolution of their vital professional military, continuing, and specialized education programs; officer accession programs, citizen development programs; and installation support programs to meet current and emerging challenges and ensure a secure environment for the United States, its people and its global partners. Their 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 today’s and near-term challenge and adversaries and remain the preeminent air force for the foreseeable future.
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 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.

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 Academic Circle to accommodate Air University major schools and the library. AU renamed Academic Circle as Chennault Circle to honor Maj Gen Claire Lee Chennault on 7 May 1975.

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, later Annex) 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 42nd Air Base Wing headquarters (and named after Alabama Congressman J. Lister Hill, the “godfather of Maxwell,” on 15 Oct 1992).


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 School moved from Medina Annex, Lackland AFB, Texas, to Maxwell AFB.

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 42nd 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.


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  Lt Gen Stephen Kwast, AU /CC, officially reopened the Air Force Chaplains’ Corps College upon its return 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 Nathan.

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.

1 Aug 2018  The Air Force inactivated the Squadron Officer College and reactivated the Squadron Officer School to conduct the primary development education course for company grade officers and civilian equivalents.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commander</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maj Stiles M. Decker</td>
<td>7 Jul 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maj Louis R. Knight</td>
<td>14 Dec 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col William L. Patterson</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maj Louis R. Knight</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maj Frank D. Lackland</td>
<td>Feb 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maj William J. Fitzmaurice</td>
<td>Apr 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maj Roy S. Brown</td>
<td>May 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maj Harrison H. Richards</td>
<td>26 Jun 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maj Walter R. Weaver</td>
<td>1 Aug 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maj John F. Curry</td>
<td>11 Aug 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Arthur G. Fisher</td>
<td>29 Aug 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brig Gen Henry C. Pratt</td>
<td>17 Mar 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Albert L. Sneed</td>
<td>8 Aug 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col John H. Pirie</td>
<td>4 Oct 38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Col Douglas B. Netherwood</td>
<td>5 Feb 39</td>
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<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>
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### World War II Post Commanders, 7 Dec 1941

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commander</th>
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<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commander</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Col Sidney D. Grubbs, Jr.</td>
<td>17 Jun 48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3800th 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

502nd Air Base Wing, 1 Oct 92

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

42nd 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Col Peter A. Costello</td>
<td>19 Jul 05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Paul H. McGillicuddy</td>
<td>20 Mar 07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Kristin D. Beasley</td>
<td>29 Aug 08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Col Brian M. Killough</td>
<td>12 Jul 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Col Trent H. Edwards</td>
<td>28 Jun 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Andrea D. Tullos</td>
<td>30 May 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Eric K. Shafa</td>
<td>7 Jul 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Patrick J. Carley</td>
<td>24 Jul 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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. Last 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.


**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.”