

HEADQUARTERS 7TH/13TH AIR FORCE & HEADQUARTERS 7TH AIR FORCE



VIETNAM

From April 1966 until 1973, the 7th Air Force command, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, assumed responsibility for most Air Force operations in Vietnam, and shared responsibility with the 13th Air Force for operations conducted from Nakhon Phanom RTAFB, Thailand.

HEADQUARTERS 7th/13 AIR FORCE Vietnam and Thailand



HEADQUARTERS 7th AIR FORCE Tân Sơn Nhứt AB, SVN, 28 March 1966–30 June 1975

Dual Responsibility 7th/13th AIR FORCES Thailand, 29 March 1973–30 June 1975

VIETNAM WAR (Courtesy: Wikipedia)

"Seventh Air Force was revived under the command of Lt. Gen. Joseph H. Moore to serve Pacific Air Forces during the Vietnam War when the growth of forces required a replacement for the 2d Air Division. In this capacity Seventh Air Force was the Air Component Command of Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV).

Upon reactivation on 28 March 1966, Seventh Air Force was designated a combat command at Tân Sơn Nhứt Air Base, overseeing the operations of the ten primary USAF bases in the Republic of Vietnam. From April 1966 until 1973, the command assumed responsibility for most Air Force operations in Vietnam and shared

responsibility with the Thirteenth Air Force for operations conducted from Thailand as **7/13 Air Force**.

In June 1966, the first US air attacks near Hanoi and Haiphong occurred when 7AF planes bombed nearby oil installations. The following month, US aircraft struck North Vietnamese forces inside the Vietnamese Demilitarized zone (DMZ).

One of the most publicized battles of the war was the siege of Khe Sanh in early 1968, known as "Operation Niagara." More than 24,000 tactical and 2700 B-52 strikes dropped 110,000 tons of ordnance in attacks that averaged over 300 sorties per day. At night, AC-47 gunships kept up fire against enemy troops. In August 1968, General George S. Brown began to oversee the "Vietnamization" of the air war. By 1970, this effort was successful enough that General Brown released the first USAF units to leave Vietnam.

On 29 March 1973, the command transferred to Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, where it accepted dual responsibility as the US Support Activities Group and Seventh Air Force. As a result, 7AF controlled air assets and operations in Thailand. On 30 June 1975, it was deactivated."

As the Vietnam War escalated during the late 1960s and early 1970s, 13th AF provided command and control for USAF units stationed in Thailand, its units conducting combat missions throughout Indochina until August 1973. 13th AF units last engaged in combat during the SS Mayaguez Incident in May 1975.

Returning to the Philippines after the Vietnam War ended in 1975, the command remained there until the 1991 evacuation of Clark Air Base after the Mount Pinatubo [volcano] eruption and the United States withdrawal of military forces afterward. It was inactivated on 28 September 2021 and its functions merged with PACAF.

Lineage, Honors, History. 1966-1975.

HEADQUARTERS 7th/13 AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS 7th AIR FORCE

Tan Son Nhut AB, SVN,

28 March 1966--30 June 1975

Thailand,

29 March 1973-30 June 1975

Dual Responsibility,

7th/13th Air Forces Vietnam and Thailand

Lineage

Established as Hawaiian Air Force on 19 October 1940.

Activated on 1 November 1940

Redesignated: 7th Air Force, 5 February 1942

Redesignated: Seventh Air Force, 18 September 1942

Redesignated: Pacific Air Command, 15 December 1947

Upgraded to Major Command, 15 December 1947

Discontinued, 1 June 1949

Redesignated Seventh Air Force, 10 December 1954

Activated, 5 January 1955

Inactivated, 1 July 1957

Activated, 28 March 1966

Organized, 1 April 1966

Inactivated, 30 June 1975

Activated, 8 September 1986

Assignments

Hawaiian Department, U.S. Army, 1 November 1940
U.S. Army Forces in Central Pacific Area, c. 16 August 1943
Army Air Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas, 1 August 1944
Pacific Air Force (later, Pacific Air Force/Far East Air Forces [Rear]), 5 January 1955 – 1 July 1957
Pacific Air Forces, 28 March 1966 – 30 June 1975
Pacific Air Forces, 8 September 1986—present.

Stations

Fort Shafter, Hawaii, 1 November 1940
Hickam Field (later, Hickam AFB), Hawaii, c. 12 July 1941
East Field, Saipan, Mariana Islands, 19 December 1944
Yontan Air Field, Okinawa, 12 July 1945
Hickam Field, Hawaii, 1 January 1946 - 1 June 1949
Hickam AFB, Hawaii, 5 January 1955
Wheeler AFB, Hawaii, 24 March 1955 - 1 July 1957
Tan Son Nhut Air Base, South Vietnam, 1 April 1966
Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Navy Base, Thailand, 29 March 1973 - 30 June 1975
Osan AB, Republic of Korea, 8 September 1986.

Components

Commands

7th Air Force Base (later, VII Air Force Base; VII Air Force Service): 19 February 1942 – 15 August 1944
VII Air Service Area: 3 August 1944 – 12 August 1945
7th Bomber (later, VII Bomber): 29 January 1942 – 1 January 1946
7th Interceptor (later, 7th Fighter; VII Fighter): 2 February 1942 – 1 March 1945; 14–16 July 1945.

Divisions

7th Air (formerly, 7th Fighter Wing): 1 January 1946 – 3 September 1948
834th Air: 15 October 1966 – 1 December 1971.

SEVENTH AIR FORCE - Principal Organizations (Wings; Groups)



SEVENTH AIR FORCE

Principal Organizations

 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing	 56th Special Operations Wing	 460th Tactical Recon Wing
 8th Tactical Fighter Wing	 315th Special Operations Wing	 483rd Tactical Airlift Wing
 12th Tactical Fighter Wing	 355th Tactical Fighter Wing	 553rd Reconnaissance Wing
 14th Special Operations Wing	 366th Tactical Fighter Wing	 632nd Combat Support Group
 31st Tactical Fighter Wing	 377th Combat Support Group	 633rd Special Operations Wing
 35th Tactical Fighter Wing	 388th Tactical Fighter Wing	 834th Air Division
 37th Tactical Fighter Wing	 432nd Tactical Recon Wing	 2nd Aerial Port Group

Other Units

 1st Civil Engineering Group	 3rd Air Rescue and Recovery Group
 1st Weather Group	 505th Tactical Control Group
 1964th Communications Group	

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