

# A Guide to United States Air Force Lineage and Honors

## Introduction

This Guide to United States Air Force (USAF) Lineage and Honors is designed to assist the researcher in understanding unit lineage and honors (L&H). The Guide includes brief histories and explanations for terms such as "Squadron," "Group," "Wing," "Bestowed Honors," and "Conferred Honors." It also outlines the history of USAF reorganizations affecting the wing and group structure. In addition, the Guide includes a comprehensive list defining terms used within the L&H statement.

## Origins of USAF Organizations 1913-1947

### The Squadron

The term "squadron" literally means a square (from the Latin *quadrare*, to square). In army application, squadron describes a body of troops drawn into a square or arranged in formal order. For more than four centuries, western armed forces have ordered personnel and equipment in organizations known as squadrons. In navies, a squadron was a group of vessels consisting of two or more divisions of a fleet. For armies, the cavalry squadron was the most common type and it consisted of two or more elements called troops. How air forces came to adopt the squadron is an interesting story.

Early in the twentieth century, military doctrine treated air operations as an extension of the cavalry--in effect a sky cavalry. For example, a January 1912 report to the French Chamber of Deputies argued that "the aeroplane should not replace the cavalry, even in reconnaissance work; its action should be auxiliary to that of [the cavalry] and complete it." Echoing this sentiment in 1913, Brig Gen George P. Scriven, Chief Signal Officer of the US Army, testified before Congress "the aeroplane is an adjunct to the cavalry." Even as late as 1920 a much celebrated US Army Air Service regulation seemed to reflect cavalry connections: "Pilots will not wear spurs while flying!"

When the time came to form tactical aviation organizations, most military planners simply adapted the cavalry squadron organization to their purposes. Like cavalry squadrons, the new aero squadrons were administrative and tactical units, which usually consisted of two or more elements. In England, the Royal Flying Corps formed the first two aero squadrons in May 1912. Other nations quickly followed the British example. The US Army Signal Corps organized the 1st Provisional Aero (now, 1st Reconnaissance) Squadron on 5 March 1913. The widespread adoption of the squadron model prompted Gen Henry H. (Hap) Arnold, Commanding General of the US Army Air Forces in World War II, to observe that it is "the smallest administrative organization practically universally accepted for air units."

Initially, US aero squadrons consisted of two elements called companies. By the time the United States entered World War I, they contained two or more elements called flights. Through the years, squadrons have varied in size and composition according to specific needs. However, the squadron design still endures and continues to give formal order to US Air Force assets. Air Force Instruction 38-101, "Air Force Organization," defines the squadron as "the basic unit of the Air Force." A squadron may be either a *functional* organization, such as a maintenance, communications, or transportation squadron, or a *mission* organization such as a flying, space, or missile squadron.

### The Group

When the United States entered World War I in April 1917, Gen John J. Pershing, the commander of the American Expeditionary Forces soon developed a plan for the deployment of over two hundred combat squadrons to France. As these units entered combat, American airmen soon realized that they needed an

intermediate organization between the squadrons and the command level. They looked to the British who had more experience in dealing with combat units and were already engaged in flying combat missions. By December 1917, after looking at British groups, the Americans decided to adopt the "group," making it the smallest self-contained tactical bombardment unit. The Americans had no expectation of bombing by squadron but by groups and perhaps combinations of groups depending on the target. By the end of 1918, the War Department had created one pursuit wing and fourteen service, fighter, bomber, or observation groups in France. After the war the US Army quickly demobilized most of its air arm, including the wing, all of the groups, and most of the squadrons. Almost immediately, however, the Army began to create new organizations for peacetime service, and the concept of the group survived, although in the 1920s and 1930s there were few groups in existence.

In January 1939 President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to strengthen America's air power, which, the President said, was "utterly inadequate." On 1 September 1939, Germany attacked Poland, beginning the Second World War. In the months that followed, as Axis forces won one victory after another, the Army's air arm expanded rapidly. By the end of 1940 there were 33 groups. Within another year, that is, by the time the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and the United States entered the war, the number of active groups had increased to 94. The air arm grew even more rapidly in the months following Pearl Harbor, and by the end of 1943 there were 395 groups. These groups were fighting from Europe to the Mediterranean to the far reaches of the Pacific Ocean and their contribution to winning the war cannot be underestimated. Once the victory had been gained, the United States plunged into demobilization, just as it had done at the end of the First World War. Officers and men went home. Groups inactivated, and once again a new Air Force had to be built. In 1947 the Congress created the Department of the Air Force and established the United States Air Force as a separate service equal to the Army and the Navy.

## **The Wing**

During the Korean War, precipitated by the Communist attack on the Republic of Korea, the number of groups increased drastically. Then in June 1952 the Air Force began expressing its strength in terms of "wings" rather than "groups." It began to inactivate the combat groups and assign their combat squadrons directly to the wing.

Organizations known as "wings" have been used by the Air Force for many years. Indeed, in July 1918 the American Expeditionary Forces of the United States Army organized in France its first aircraft organization higher than a group—the 1st Pursuit Wing. Although this wing did not survive post-World War I demobilization, new wings were created in the 1920s and 1930s. During World War II numerous wings existed; some provided training in the United States, while others controlled combat groups and support organizations overseas.

## **Post World War II Organization**

Most of the wings that remained active after World War II were redesignated as numbered air divisions. The newly independent Air Force instituted in 1947-1948 a service test of a wing-base plan, which prompted an important change in the field structure and organization of the Air Force. Old-style World War II wings supervised a mixture of combat groups and support organizations. None of the subordinate organizations were permanently affiliated with the wings or possessed similar numerical designations or standard functions. The wings organized for the service test featured standard functions. Each test wing had a combat group, a maintenance and supply group, an airdrome (later, air base) group to operate base facilities and services, and a station medical group, all with identical numerical designations. The wing-based service test rendered more nearly uniform the functions of the wing elements and permanently aligned, or affiliated, support organizations with the parent wings through identical

numerical designations. All of the wings involved in the service test became in 1948 Air Force-controlled (AFCON) establishments. The term AFCON applies to all those organizations under the direct control of Headquarters USAF for organizational actions. The Air Force reserved the numbers 1 through 999 for these permanent organizations, with the numbers 101 through 300 allotted to the Air National Guard.

In addition to the permanent AFCON wings, the USAF provided temporary organizations to be controlled by the major commands. The commands wanted a flexible organization at the lower echelons to permit rapid adjustments in manning that short-term requirements often dictated. Because the manning of permanent organizations was judged to be too rigid, in 1948 the Air Force created a new type of temporary organization. These major command-controlled organizations were identified as "MAJCON." Using four-digit numbers allotted to each command (for example, 3900-4399 for Strategic Air Command) by Headquarters USAF, the commands could create and end MAJCON organizations as needed. When a MAJCON organization was discontinued or inactivated, its life ended, never to be revived. The number of this organization could then be reused to designate another, entirely new MAJCON organization. Although the original intent was to provide major command flexibility in establishing and terminating short-lived, temporary organizations, some MAJCON organizations existed more than forty years.

### **USAF Cold War Organization**

The subordinate four-group structure accepted from the 1947-1948-service test (i.e., combat, maintenance and supply, air base, and medical) remained intact only a few years. Under the new AFCON organizational scheme, the combat wing and its integral combat group carried the same numerical and functional designations; for example, the 9th Bombardment Group was an integral part of the 9th Bombardment Wing. In February 1951 the Strategic Air Command (SAC) began to eliminate its combat groups by reducing group headquarters to token strength (one officer and one enlisted man) and attaching the combat squadrons directly to the wings. Thus, the wing replaced the group as the basic combat element of SAC. On 16 June 1952, with the approval of Headquarters USAF, SAC inactivated all its combat groups and assigned the combat squadrons to the wings. By the mid-1950s most USAF wings had inactivated their combat groups and assigned the flying squadrons directly to the wing. Maintenance and supply groups were eliminated, with their squadrons realigned either directly under the wing or under the air base group. Functionally, directorates within the wing headquarters controlled the subordinate squadrons. The Air Force reorganized medical functions and inactivated or redesignated the medical groups under the wing. Of the original four groups, most wings only retained the air base (later redesignated to combat support) group. A few combat groups were again assigned briefly in the late 1970's and early 1980's to combat wings, but in general the trend to do away with them continued to the early 1990's. But, a few survived as independent groups assigned usually to numbered air divisions, and others survived in the reserve forces.

### **USAF Bestowed History**

The SAC reorganization of 1952 also retired the World War II histories and honors of the combat groups, but the SAC wings, having been created during or after 1947, possessed no World War II histories or honors. Deviations from the wing-base plan by other commands, particularly Air Defense Command (ADC), also affected the perpetuation of histories and honors of World War II groups. In 1954 SAC and ADC leaders asked Headquarters USAF to perpetuate the histories and honors of the World War II combat groups. The ad hoc committee that reviewed these requests rejected the idea of redesignating combat groups as wings. Instead, the committee recommended that combat groups and wings be maintained as separate and distinct organizations, and that the histories and honors of combat groups be bestowed upon the similarly designated combat wings. Although the ad hoc committee's proposed bestowals ran counter to a longstanding policy of the Air Force against transferring history and honors from one organization to another, Headquarters USAF accepted the recommendations. Beginning

in November 1954 the Department of the Air Force in a series of letters bestowed upon each combat wing the history and honors of its similarly designated predecessor combat group; for example, 9th Bombardment Wing received by bestowal the history and honors of the 9th Bombardment Group.

In the years since its implementation, bestowal has generated much confusion. Many throughout the Air Force did not understand that the group and the wing remained two separate and distinct entities. To alleviate some of the confusion, the Air Force in the 1980s consolidated some combat wings with their predecessor combat groups. These consolidations were limited to wings and groups whose period of active service did not overlap, since consolidation of organizations with overlapping active service adds confusion, violates lineage principles, and contravenes Air Force policy. By consolidation, the wing and group became one organization, eliminating the need for bestowal of group history and honors on the wing. Bestowal, however, continued to be the policy for the majority of active Air Force wings.

In bestowing group histories and honors on wings, Department of the Air Force directives noted only that bestowals are temporary. Over the succeeding years, the Air Force formulated more specific rules governing temporary bestowals of histories and honors. Currently, the bestowal of a combat group's history and honors to a wing follows these guidelines. Bestowal:

1. Will be made only from the group that has the same numerical designation as the recipient wing and that the Air Force regards as the primary-mission group and thus is an integral part of the wing.
2. May be made if the group is
  - a. Inactive
  - b. Active and assigned to the similarly designated wing.
3. Will not be made if the group is active and assigned to any organization other than the similarly designated wing.
4. Will apply only to that portion of the group's history that the group accrued and to those honors that the group earned during a period when the wing was not active.
5. Is temporary and
  - a. Becomes effective upon activation of the wing.
  - b. Terminates if
    - (1) The group is assigned to any organization other than its similarly designated wing.
    - (2) The wing is inactivated.

### **Post-Cold War Reorganization**

Early in the 1990s with the declared end of the Cold War and the continued decline in military budgets, the Air Force restructured to meet changes in strategic requirements, decreasing personnel, and a smaller infrastructure. This major reorganization stressed elimination of unnecessary layers of authority, decentralization of decision-making, and consolidation of functions. The US Air Force restored a wing organizational structure, called the "objective wing," similar to the original wing-base plan. It organized each operational wing with a combat (now called operations) group, as well as logistics, support, and medical groups, with most wing squadrons assigned under the appropriate groups. Overall, the restructuring maintained a high combat capability while increasing the operational flexibility of the much-reduced force.

At the same time, the Air Force withdrew the authorization for major commands to create MAJCON organizations. Those four digit organizations active on 30 April 1991, changed to organizations under the direct control of Headquarters USAF for organizational actions, eliminating all MAJCON organizations.

Among the former MAJCON organizations were about twenty active four-digit wings. Within a few years, however all those wings were inactivated, consolidated with, or replaced by lower numbered wings.

## **Air Expeditionary Forces**

On 2 August 1990, Iraqi forces invaded and overran the neighboring State of Kuwait. Five days later, American forces began deploying to the Persian Gulf area. The United States Air Force utilized "provisional" units, which are temporary, in moving personnel and aircraft to the area. These "provisional" units, along with Army, Navy, and Allied counterparts, defeated the Iraqi forces and liberated Kuwait.

Based on Air Force policy and long-standing tradition, the history, lineage, and honors of a "provisional" unit terminates when it inactivates, and battle honors earned by the "provisional" unit are not shared with the permanent unit that provided the resources. However, Central Air Force (CENTAF) with inputs from the major commands compiled a list of the regular Air Force units to earn the Gulf War campaign streamers. Air Force Military Personnel Center (AFMPC) then published the list awarding the first two campaign streamers for the Persian Gulf War.

In mid-1996, the Air Force, in response to budget cuts, major drawdowns, and changing world situations, began experimenting with air expeditionary organizations. These organizations, from squadron to wing and above, were, by definition, provisional in nature. Thus once again, in regard to air expeditionary organizations, the Air Force faced the question regarding honors earned by "provisional" units.

The Air Force Historical Research Agency coordinated with USAF Directorate of Manpower and Organization and with the major commands to establish the following policies in transferring honors from provisional units to permanent units.

1. Major force provider is the single permanent unit which provides the majority of manpower and other resources to the expeditionary organization.
  - a. Lineage:
    - 1) Establishments and units given term "Expeditionary" in designation are provisional.
    - 2) Lineage and heritage of provisional organizations will terminate upon inactivation.
    - 3) No lineal connection exists between the expeditionary unit and the major force provider.
  - b. Honors:
    - 1) Combat or expeditionary honors earned by provisional expeditionary establishment or unit may be "conferred" to corresponding permanent active organization with same numerical designation.
    - 2) Activation order must state: "Upon inactivation, any awards or honors earned by (designation of provisional organization) are conferred on (designation of permanent organization)."
    - 3) Honors are normally "conferred" only at the wing, group, or squadron levels.
    - 4) Honors may be "conferred" only from a single expeditionary organization to a single permanent organization. For example, honors earned by the 4th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron may be "conferred" only on the 4th Fighter Squadron.
    - 5) Expeditionary organization may borrow temporarily the major force provider's honors and history.
  - c. Emblems: Expeditionary organization may display officially approved emblem of the major force provider with its commander's permission.



2. "Rainbow" (no major source provider) expeditionary organization converted from permanent units by DAF letters. Example: 363 Fighter Wing redesignated to 363 Air Expeditionary Wing, converted to provisional status, and activated in Saudi Arabia.
  - a. Lineage:
    - 1) Continues lineage of permanent unit.
    - 2) May use permanent unit honors and history.
  - b. Honors: Evolves any earned honors to the permanent unit, consequently conferral is unnecessary.
  - c. Emblems: May display or use officially approved emblem/patch of the permanent unit.

## **The Lineage and Honors History**

The following explains the arrangement of information, and the terms and format used in USAF lineage and honors statements.

**Lineage.** Air Force Instruction 84-105, para 2.1.1, states, "The lineages of *permanent* organizations are continuous. Neither inactivation nor disbandment terminates their lineage or heraldry." Lineage entails tracing the organizational actions affecting the history of an organization. The official USAF statement of lineage forms the foundation of the organization's history and governs the organization's inheritance of emblem and honors. A basic policy of the Air Force is that each organization will have a unique lineage. This policy was in effect in the War Department when military aviation was under the Army and has been continued by the United States Air Force since its inception in 1947. No two organizations can have the same lineage, although at different times in their existence they may have possessed similar or even identical designations. A description of the lineage system may be found in Air Force Instruction 38-101 "Air Force Organization." The Air Force is composed of primary organizations called units and establishments. Units divide among three primary categories: *squadrons* (the numbered flight is considered a "small" squadron), *miscellaneous* (a category including such organizations as bands, infirmaries, hospitals, etc.), and *headquarters*. The headquarters organizations serve as headquarters for establishments. Establishments are Air Force organizations at group echelon or higher, having a headquarters organization as their primary component. The lineage of each organization (unit or establishment) is ultimately determined by the language employed in the War Department and Department of the Air Force letters and major command orders relating to organizational actions. The following glossary defines lineage terms.

## **Glossary**

**Activate.** To bring into physical existence by assignment of personnel (from 1922-1959, and again after 1968). In 1922, "activate" replaced the term "organize." During the period 1959-1968, however, activate meant to place on the active list, available to be organized. See also "organize."

**Assign.** To place in a military organization, as a permanent element or component of that organization.

**Attach.** To place one military organization temporarily with another for operational control and other purposes, including administration and logistical support. An attached organization is one that is temporarily serving away from the establishment to which it is assigned. It is usually attached to another establishment.

**Authorize.** To designate an organization and place it on the inactive Army list. Used during the middle and late 1920s and early 1930s in place of "constitute," particularly for organizations held for an emergency and not scheduled for immediate activation.

**Consolidate.** To combine two (or more) organizations, merging their lineage into a single line, thereby forming a single organization. Organizations with concurrent or overlapping periods of activation cannot be consolidated.

***Constitute.*** After 1922, to give an official name, or number and name, to an organization and place it on the inactive Army/Air Force List. See also "designate."

***Demobilize.*** To withdraw all personnel from an active organization and remove the organization entirely from the Army List. Used 1907-1922. See also "disband."

***Designate.*** To give an official name, or number and name, to an organization and place it on the inactive Army List, 1907-1922. After 1922, see "constitute." Also to give an official name, or number and name, to a nonconstituted organization.

***Designation.*** The name of a unit or establishment. The designation includes all parts of the name: numerical, functional, and generic. A designation also applies to named activities and certain functions.

***Disband.*** After 1922, to remove an inactive organization from the inactive Army/Air Force List. Shortly before and during World War II, this action was also used to withdraw all personnel from an active organization and simultaneously remove the organization from the Army List. Replaced the term "demobilize."

***Discontinue.*** To withdraw all personnel from a constituted organization, used only during period, 1959-1968. See "inactivate."

***Disestablish.*** To terminate an establishment concurrent with disbandment of its headquarters organization, until reestablished.

***Establish.*** To assign a designation to an establishment concurrent with the designation or the constitution of the headquarters organization.

***Establishment.*** A military organization at group or higher echelon composed of a headquarters organization and any other components that might be assigned. Personnel are not assigned to an establishment, but to its components.

***Inactivate.*** To withdraw all personnel from a constituted organization and place the organization on the inactive list (from 1922 to 1959 and from 1968 to date). During the period 1959-1968, however, to be inactivated meant to be transferred from the active to the inactive list, after being discontinued.

***Order to the Active Service.*** To place a Reserve or National Guard organization on active duty with the regular Air Force.

***Organization.*** The term organization applies to units and establishments.

***Organize.*** To assign personnel to a designated organization (1907-1922), a nonconstituted organization (1944-1968), or a constituted organization (1959-1968). See also "activate."

***Reconstitute.*** To return a disbanded or demobilized organization to the inactive Army/Air Force List, making it available for activation (1922-current).

***Redesignate.*** To change the designation of an organization.

***Reestablish.*** To return a previously existing establishment from disestablished status to the active list, so that it can be activated.

***Relieve from Active Duty.*** Reserve organizations are relieved from active duty with the regular Air Force upon completion of a period of active duty.

**ASSIGNMENTS.** Each of the organization's immediate "parent" organizations is listed chronologically. The designation of the parent organization is shown in abbreviated form, omitting information such as "Heavy," "Medium," or "Light." A single date indicates the date of assignment; where a double date appears, the second date indicates termination of assignment. A semicolon is used to show a change of assignment while the organization remained active, a period indicates the organization was demobilized, disbanded, discontinued, or inactivated. If the organization was attached for operational control to another organization, the attachment appears in parentheses, with brackets used to set off parenthetical elements within parentheses. Each attachment contains double dates. Where the exact dates for attached service could not be determined with certainty a *circa* (c.) date is used.

**COMPONENTS.** Tactical components assigned, or attached for operational control, are listed in hierarchical and numerical order. Each list shows only those components at the first subordinate echelon; the list does not show subordinate squadrons of an assigned or attached organization because these squadrons were not directly assigned. Only the numerical designation appears if the functional designations (e.g., fighter, bombardment) were identical for both the component and establishment. If the numerical designation of a component changed during its period(s) of assignment or attachment, the later designation is shown parenthetically. Example: 705th (later, 962d). Support-type components are excluded. A semicolon separating dates indicates a break in assignment or attachment. A comma indicates a change with no break in control. A squadron attached for a time and then assigned (with no break in control), for example, would be shown: Attached 1 January-29 July 1952, assigned 30 July 1952-12 July 1957. Interrupted attached service in a series would read: Attached 12 July-10 August 1956, 17 November 1956-3 January 1957, 10 July-19 August 1957, and so forth, with commas separating the series entries. This same procedure is used to show detached status of assigned components, when such detached periods are frequent. Periods of detached service, when components are detached for duty with another organization, appear in parentheses. In some cases the exact dates for detached service could not be determined with certainty. A *circa* (c.) date is used in these instances.

**STATIONS.** Permanent locations of the organization are listed chronologically. The name of each base is the one in use at the time the organization arrived, with any changes appearing in parentheses. Foreign nations that hosted Air Force organizations are identified by their "popular" name, rather than their official name. Thus, the Republic of Korea appears as South Korea, the Republic of Vietnam as South Vietnam, and the Republic of China as either Formosa or Taiwan, depending upon the time. Organizations located in occupied Germany or in the Federal Republic of Germany are listed as being in Germany. A single date indicates the arrival of the organization at a base. Semicolons separate the station-and-date entries while the organization remained active but changed stations. If an organization moved from one continent to another, a double date is provided for the station being vacated. A double date is also provided whenever an organization arrived at a base and was subsequently demobilized, disbanded, discontinued, or inactivated. A period at the end of a second date indicates demobilization, disbandment, discontinuance, or inactivation. Where the exact dates of attached or detached service could not be determined with certainty, a *circa* (c.) date is used.

**COMMANDERS.** Where included, commanders of the organization are listed chronologically, along with the highest rank attained during the command tenure. When an organization was active but not manned, the statement "none (not manned)" and double dates appear. If for some reason a commander was at first temporarily and then permanently appointed, the commander's name may be followed by one date and a parenthetical "temporary," followed by a second date and parenthetical "permanent." Lists of commanders are as accurate as the sources permit. Commander lists sometimes contain "unknown" as an entry, and in many of the commander lists, *circa* (c.) or some other indicators such as "by" a date are to be found. A second date followed by a period indicates the organization inactivated.

**AIRCRAFT/MISSILES/SPACE VEHICLES.** The aircraft, missiles, and/or space vehicles used by the organization appear in this section. Aircraft are listed by series and number (e.g., F-86 or EC-135), but normally not by model (e.g., B-52H or KC-135A). In the missile category, only strategic or tactical surface-to-surface missiles are included; air-to-air, air-to-ground, or surface-to-air missiles are considered ordnance. Missiles are listed by their popular names (e.g., Atlas, Titan I, Minuteman III). Space vehicles are listed as satellites. The years during which the organization possessed a weapon system are also listed (e.g., RF-101, 1959-1965). For each period of an organization's active service, semicolons separate different weapon systems possessed and the final entry is followed by a period. An organization sometimes temporarily lost possession of its weapon system. A comma shows such temporary absences of a weapon system. Example: B-52, 1957-1960, 1960-1962, 1963-1965. In other words, for a time in 1960



and from a period in 1962 to sometime in 1963, the organization had no B-52 aircraft for its own use, all being under the control of another organization.

**OPERATIONS.** Information in this section is extremely abbreviated, but mentions all combat and some other significant operations. In wing entries, overseas deployments are mentioned, together with changes in wing status and the wing's mission. Readers who wish to know more about an organization's operations may visit the Air Force Historical Research Agency to conduct research, or purchase through the mail microfilm copies of unclassified histories. Some additional information about squadrons may be found in the entries of the [wing\(s\)](#) to which a squadron was assigned or attached, either at <http://afhra.maxwell.af.mil/> or in Charles A. Ravenstein, *Air Force Combat Wings: Lineage and Honors Histories, 1947-1977*.

**SERVICE STREAMERS.** Service streamers represent noncombat service in the various theaters of military operations and bear no embroidery. Those service streamers earned by the organization are listed here. If an organization participated in combat operations in a theater, it earned a campaign streamer instead of a service streamer. For a color photograph and a description of the streamer, see A.T. Warnock, *Air Force Combat Medals, Streamers, and Campaigns*.

#### World War I



Theater of Operations: 6 April 1917-11 November 1918

#### World War II



American Theater: 7 December 1941-2 March 1946.



European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Theater: 7 December 1941-8 November 1945.



Asiatic-Pacific Theater: 7 December 1941-2 March 1946.

#### Korean War



Korean Theater: 27 June 1950-27 July 1954.

#### Vietnam



Vietnam Theater: 1 July 1958-28 March 1973.

#### Southwest Asia

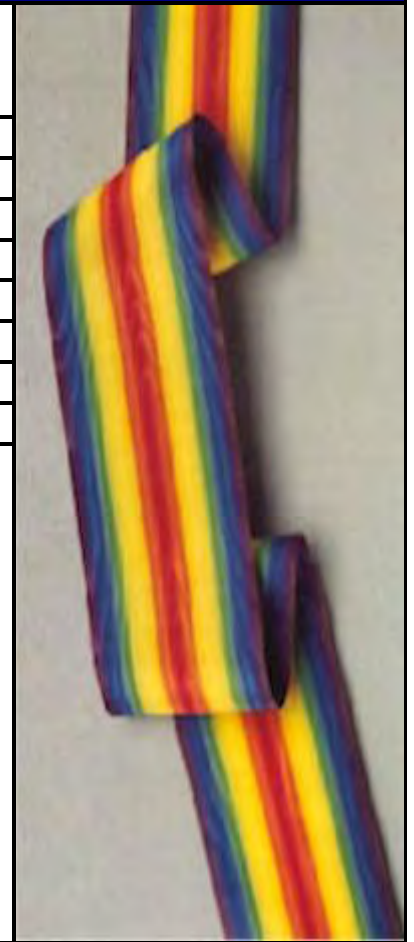


Southwest Asia Theater: 2 August 1990-30 November 1995.

**CAMPAIGN STREAMERS.** Verified combat credit entitles an organization to the appropriate campaign streamers representing the named campaign in which it participated. The campaign streamer will be embroidered with the name and years of the campaign. The Historical Research Agency has traditionally evaluated and verified combat credits. Campaign streamers listed reflect each organization's verified combat record except for the Gulf War campaign credits. US Central Command Air Forces provided the credits for the first two campaigns of the Persian Gulf War. Recipients of the third and final campaign streamer credit have not yet been announced. For a color photograph of the streamer, maps of the campaigns, and a brief description of each campaign, see A.T. Warnock, *Combat Medals, Streamers, and Campaigns*.

## World War I

Campaign Name Embroidered on Streamer	Inclusive Dates	Date Embroidered on Streamer
Some Defensive	21 March-6 April 1918	1918
Lys	9-27 April 1918	1918
Champagne-Marne	15-18 July 1918	1918
Aisne-Marchne	18 July-6 August 1918	1918
Somme Offensive	8 August-11 November 1918	1918
Oisne-Aisne	18 August-11 November 1918	1918
St. Mihiel	12-16 September 1918	1918
Meuse-Argonne	26 September-11 November 1918	1918
Alsace	Defensive Sectors - no dates embroidered on streamer(s)	
Champagne		
Flanders		
Ile-de-France		
Lorraine		
Picardy		



**World War II European-African-Middle Eastern Theater**

<b>Campaign Name Embroidered on Streamer</b>	<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	<b>Date Embroidered on Streamer</b>
Air Combat	7 December 1941-2 September 1945	1941-1945
Antisubmarine	7 December 1941-2 September 1945	1941-1945
Egypt-Libya	11 June 1942-12 February 1943	1942-1943
Algeria-French Morocco	8-11 November 1942	1942
Tunisia	12 November 1942-13 May 1943	1942-1943
Sicily	14 May-17 August 1943	1943
Naples-Foggia	18 August 1943-21 January 1944	1943-1944
Anzio	22 January-24 May 1944	1944
Rome-Arno	22 January-9 September 1944	1944
North Apennines	10 September 1944-4 April 1945	1944-1945
Po Valley	5 April-8 May 1945	1945
Air Offensive, Europe	4 July 1942-5 June 1944	1942-1944
Normandy	6 June-24 July 1944	1944
Northern France	25 July-14 September 1944	1944
Southern France	15 August-14 September 1944	1944
Rhineland	15 September 1944-21 March 1945	1944-1945
Ardennes-Alsace	16 December 1944-25 January 1945	1944-1945
Central Europe	22 March-11 May 1945	1945



## World War II Asiatic-Pacific Theater

Campaign Name Embroidered on Streamer	Inclusive Dates	Date Embroidered on Streamer
Air Combat	7 December 1941-2 September 1945	1941-1945
Antisubmarine	7 December 1941-2 September 1945	1941-1945
Central Pacific	7 December 1941-6 December 1943	1941-1943
Philippine Islands	7 December 1941-10 May 1942	1941-1942
East Indies	1 January-22 July 1942	1942
Papua	23 July 1942-23 January 1943	1942-1943
Aleutian Islands	3 June 1942-24 August 1943	1942-1943
Guadalcanal	7 August 1942-21 February 1943	1942-1943
Northern Solomons	22 February 1943-21 November 1944	1943-1944
Bismarck Archipelago	15 December 1943-27 November 1944	1943-1944
Eastern Mandates	7 December 1943-16 April 1944	1943-1944
Western Pacific	17 April 1944-2 September 1945	1944-1945
New Guinea	24 January 1943-31 December 1944	1943-1944
Leyte	17 October 1944-1 July 1945	1944-1945
Luzon	15 December 1944-4 July 1945	1944-1945
Southern Philippines	27 February-4 July 1945	1945
Burma	7 December 1941-26 May 1942	1941-1942
India-Burma	2 April 1942-28 January 1945	1942-1945
Central Burma	29 January-15 July 1945	1945
China Defensive	4 July 1942-4 May 1945	1942-1945
China Offensive	5 May-2 September 1945	1945
Ryukyus	26 March-2 July 1945	1945
Air Offensive, Japan	17 April 1942-2 September 1945	1942-1945



**Korea**

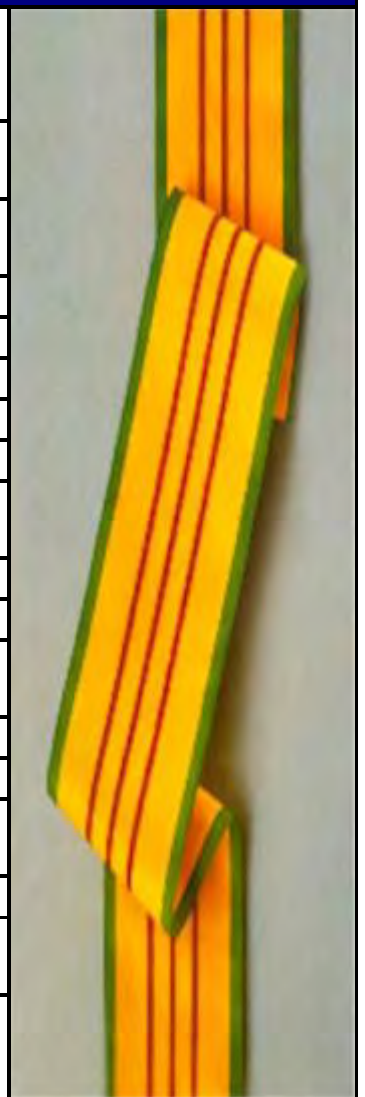
<b>Campaign Name Embroidered on Streamer</b>	<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	<b>Date Embroidered on Streamer</b>
UN Defensive	27 July-15 September 1950	1950
UN Offensive	16 September-2 November 1950	1950
CCF Intervention	3 November 1950-24 January 1951	1950-1951
First UN Counter-offensive	25 January-21 April 1951	1951
CCF Spring Offensive	22 April-8 July 1951	1951
UN Summer-Fall Offensive	9 July-27 November 1951	1951
Second Korean Winter	28 November 1951-30 April 1952	1951-1952
Korea, Summer-Fall	1 May-30 November 1952	1952
Third Korean Winter	1 December 1952-30 April 1953	1952-1953
Korea, Summer	1 May-27 July 1953	1953







**Vietnam**

<b>Campaign Name Embroidered on Streamer</b>	<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	<b>Date Embroidered on Streamer</b>
Vietnam Advisory	15 November 1961-1 March 1965	1961-1965
Vietnam Defensive	2 March 1965-30 January 1966	1965-1966
Vietnam Air	31 January-28 June 1966	1966
Vietnam Air Offensive	29 June 1966-8 March 1967	1966-1967
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II	9 March 1967-31 March 1968	1967-1968
Vietnam Air/Ground	22 January-7 July 1968	1968
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III	1 April-31 October 1968	1968
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV	1 November 1968-22 February 1969	1968-1969
TET 69/Counter-offensive	23 February-8 June 1969	1969
Vietnam Summer-Fall	9 June-31 October 1969	1969
Vietnam Winter-Spring	1 November 1969-30 April 1970	1969-1970
Sanctuary Counter-offensive	1 May-30 June 1970	1970
Southwest Monsoon	1 July-30 November 1970	1970
Commando Hunt V	1 December 1970-14 May 1971	1970-1971
Commando Hunt VI	15 May-31 October 1971	1971
Commando Hunt VII	1 November 1971-29 March 1972	1971-1972
Vietnam Ceasefire	30 March 1972-28 January 1973	1972-1973




Southwest Asia			
Campaign Name Embroidered on Streamer	Inclusive Dates	Date Embroidered on Streamer	
Defense of Saudi Arabia	2 August 1990-16 January 1991	1990-1991	
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait	17 January-11 April 1991	1991	
Southwest Asia Ceasefire *	12 April 1991-30 November 1995	1991-1995	


Kosovo			
Campaign Name Embroidered on Streamer	Inclusive Dates	Date Embroidered on Streamer	
Kosovo Air Campaign	24 Mar 1999-10 Jun 1999	1999	


**ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY STREAMERS.** Until 1983, this Joint Chiefs of Staff award was given only to individuals, not to any USAF organization. Since that date, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamer has been given to Air Force organizations for only two operations: the invasion and occupation of Grenada, 23 October-21 November 1983, and the US invasion of Panama, December 1989-January 1990. For a color photograph of the streamer and a brief description of each operation, see A.T. Warnock, *Combat Medals, Streamers, and Campaigns*.


**DECORATIONS.** Decorations include citations and awards recognizing distinguished or meritorious acts by an organization. In this list, the type of decoration is cited together with specific dates, if date appeared in the award document, usually a general or special order. Air Force Pamphlet 900-2, produced by the Air Force Military Personnel Center, contains the official listing of organization decorations up to circa mid-1991. In addition, since late 1988 each Major Command has been authorized to award some decorations to its subordinate units. The decorations listed in this section of the L&H generally agree with those appearing in the orders, but some revisions may be made based on actual operations. For example, the dates stated in an order may cover a time before an organization was active or after it became inactive. Corrected dates are shown within brackets. The embroidery should be exactly the same as the listing on the official Lineage and Honors History for the unit. For example: *Ploesti, Rumania, 1 August 1943*.


## United States


 **Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC).** Used by the US Army and Army Air Forces. First established by Executive Order 9075 on 26 February 1942, awarded for extraordinary valor in action on or after 7 December 1941.

 **Presidential Unit Citation (PUC).** Equivalent to the Distinguished Unit Citation. The PUC is used by the US Navy and was awarded to a number of AAF organizations that operated under Navy control or in close support of the Navy. After 1965, the US Air Force adopted the Presidential Unit Citation instead of the Distinguished Unit Citation to recognize outstanding combat performance of its tactical organizations.

 **Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device (AFOUA/V).** The AFOUA/V is awarded in lieu of the AFOUA (below) to recognize achievement in combat by USAF units and establishments. The Combat "V" Device was first used during the conflict in Southeast Asia.

 **Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA).** USAF decoration used to recognize outstanding efforts and meritorious actions of USAF units and establishments in peace and war, the AFOUA was announced in Department of the Air Force General Orders No. 1 on 6 January 1954. (Several units and establishments received this award retroactively, for meritorious actions during the Korean War.)

 **Air Force Organizational Excellence Award (AFOEA).** The AFOEA was established on 26 August 1969 by the Secretary of the Air Force. It is awarded by the Secretary to recognize the achievements and accomplishments of Air Force organizations and activities that do not meet the eligibility requirements of the AFOUA (above). The AFOEA may be awarded with the "V" device for combat or direct combat support.

 **Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC).** The US Army's Meritorious Unit Commendation, roughly equivalent to the AFOUA (above), has been earned by a number of AAF and USAF

organizations. This decoration recognizes outstanding and meritorious actions in both peace and war, but these actions are considered to be of a lesser consequence than those recognized by a Distinguished Unit Citation (above).



**Navy Unit Commendation (NUC).** The US Navy Unit Commendation, also roughly equivalent to the AFOUA (above), has been awarded to a few AAF and USAF organizations which worked closely with the Navy. The award recognizes outstanding and meritorious actions in both peace and war, but these actions are considered to be of a lesser consequence than those recognized by a Presidential Unit Citation (above).

## Foreign

### Belgium

**Citation in the Order of the Day, Belgian Army.** A citation by decree of the Belgian Government. Numerous AAF units and establishments which operated in or over Belgium during World War II received this award.



**Belgian Fourragere.** A decoration awarded, by decree of the Belgian Government, to organizations cited twice in the Order of the Day, Belgian Army.

### France



**Croix de Guerre.** A citation by decree of the French Government, awarded to Army Air Service organizations in World War I and Army units and establishments in World War II. Generally identified as French Croix de Guerre with Palm.

**French Fourragere.** A decoration, awarded by decree of the French Government in World Wars I and II, to units and establishments cited twice for the Croix de Guerre.

### Korea



**Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.** A citation for achievement during the Korean War. Most commonly presented to organizations based in Korea and carrying out combat operations there, but also awarded to some organizations, both combat and support types, based in adjacent areas. Since the cessation of hostilities in Korea in July 1953, this decoration has been awarded rarely to USAF units and establishments--usually in recognition of outstanding support in the defense of Korea.

### Philippines



**Philippine Presidential Unit Citation.** A citation for achievement while serving in the Philippines during the periods 7 December 1941-10 May 1942 or 17 October 1944-4 July 1945. No date is connected with the citation. Only one award is authorized for every eligible organization, including those that served in the Philippines during both periods.



**Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation.** A number of USAF organizations stationed in the Republic of the Philippines in July and August 1972 earned this citation in recognition of their participation in disaster relief Operations.

## Vietnam



**Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm.** This organization decoration was awarded to units and establishments actually engaged in combat in defense of the Republic of Vietnam. In numerous instances, it was also awarded to combat support organizations and tactical organizations that were based outside the Vietnam Theater yet flew missions or provided essential services to organizations flying to or operating within the theater.

**EMBLEM.** Information on the current emblem of the organization is provided.