



The Pacific Air Forces

PACIFIC Air Forces (PACAF) is the USAF's tactical aerospace arm in the central and western Pacific and Southeast Asia. PACAF also serves as air component of the Department of Defense's unified Pacific Command (PACOM).

As a major theater command, PACAF receives USAF administrative, logistical, personnel, and training support. From USAF come the forces and other resources to carry out the mission. As the air component of a unified theater command, PACAF is under operational command of the Commander in Chief, Pacific Command (CINCPAC).

The PACAF mission is large, as is the geographical area it serves. Forty percent of the earth's surface is encompassed in this region, from the southwest Pacific to northern Japan and Korea; from the mid-Pacific to Southeast Asia.

In general war PACAF tactical air strike forces would conduct offensive air operations designed to eliminate or degrade the enemy's capability to attack the PACOM areas and the continental US (CONUS). PACAF would conduct defensive air operations to protect the land areas of PACOM and western approaches to the US. PACAF tactical air units would also perform a wide variety of theater air missions, including joint air/ground operations, reconnaissance,

Gen. Hunter Harris, Jr., became Commander in Chief, PACAF, in August 1964 after nearly two years as Vice Commander in Chief, SAC. A native of Texas and 1932 West Point graduate who won his wings in 1933, he served with the Eighth Air Force in Europe during World War II. He has held a number of important operational and staff posts since the war.



and airlift in conjunction with other PACOM forces and with air forces of US and allied countries.

The limited-war tasks of Pacific Air Forces spread from readiness for large-scale conflicts such as the Korean War to the conduct of special air warfare as is now under way in South Vietnam.

PACAF's major specific peacetime missions include: (1) provision of ready, mobile, tactical jet strike forces for any contingency; (2) provision of peripheral air-defense forces against enemy attack on the US from across the Pacific; (3) assistance to the air forces of friendly nations in the Far East in air defense of their homelands; (4) maintenance of an instant, alert air-defense structure in US-controlled areas, and cooperation with friendly foreign air forces in the maintenance of this structure in host countries; (5) support of air aspects of the US Military Assistance Program (MAP) in allied nations; (6) maintenance of close operational, training, logistical, and command relationships with air forces of allied nations; (7) performance of routine and emergency aerial reconnaissance; (8) provision of tactical airpower advice, training, assistance, and support to the Republic of Vietnam Air Force; (9) support of joint PACOM operations; (10) provision of intratheater airlift support for all services and for friendly foreign forces as directed; (11) maintenance of bases and support facilities for augmentation deployments from CONUS; and (12) participation in a wide range of peacetime applications of airpower,

PACAF's skills and tactical know-how are being fed into US assistance program to Republic of Vietnam.

Right, Air Commandos install a delicate payload, a fragmentation bomb connected to bottom of fuselage.



i.e., assistance to any nation or peoples in earthquake, flood, or other national disasters.

This variety of tasks requires a diverse array of tactical air weapons and support equipment. The bulk of PACAF's combat and support weapons and units are in two theater air forces and two combat air divisions.

Fifth Air Force units in Japan, Korea, and Okinawa maintain ready forces of conventional/nuclear-capable F-105 Thunderchief and F-100 Supersabre tactical fighters, RF-101 Voodoo jet-reconnaissance aircraft, and KB-50 aerial-refueling tankers. Ground-to-ground tactical missiles supplement manned systems in Okinawa. F-102 Delta Daggers stand air-defense strip alert with Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) F-86s and F-104s and Republic of Korea Air Force F-86s, backed up by a first-class, modern, efficient air-defense radar/electronic warning network manned by Japanese, Korean, and US technicians.

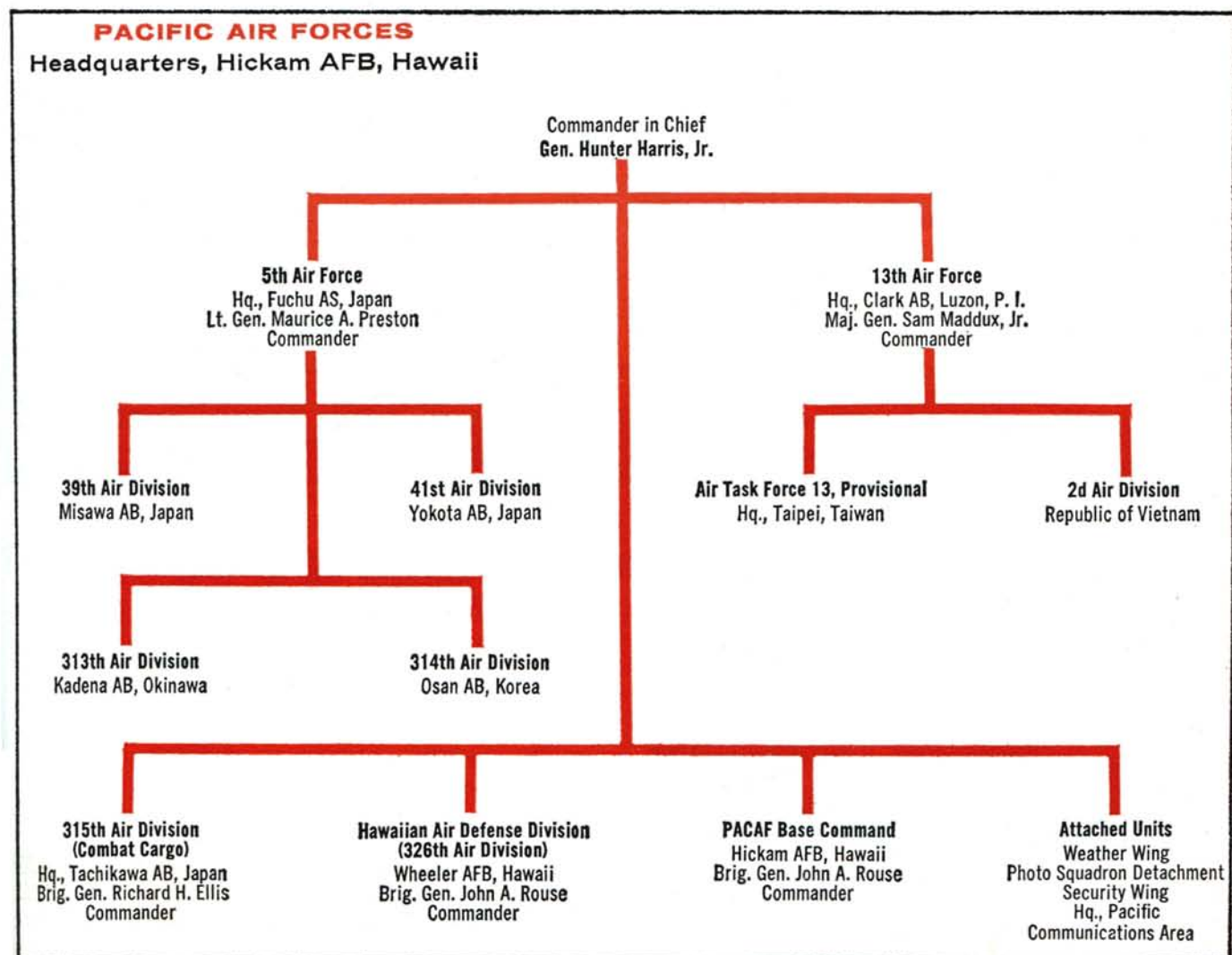
Thirteenth Air Force in the Philippines maintains in readiness F-100 Supersabre and twin-jet B-57 light-bomber forces. F-102s at Clark AB, Philippines, work in conjunction with Philippine Air Force F-86 fighters in air defense of that nation, while a Thirteenth Air Force Task Force (Provisional), based in Taiwan, coordinates operational matters with the Chinese Nationalist Air Force in Taiwan. Mobile tactical control and communication groups with complete equipment are constantly ready for deployment to primitive areas

to establish a Tactical Air Control System (TACS) and an air communication network for joint operations with friendly forces.

The 315th Air Division, equipped with C-124 and C-130 cargo aircraft and C-118 air-evacuation planes, conducts PACAF's intratheater airlift operations. Headquartered in Japan, 315th units operate from bases throughout WESTPAC and Southeast Asia.

In the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) the major air force unit is 2d Air Division, responsible for advising and instructing the Vietnam Air Force (VNAF) in the multiple skills required in tactical combat air-ground operations in counterinsurgency and special warfare. In combat-support roles such as airlift, reconnaissance, and other nonstrike tactical air tasks, 2d Air Division units, personnel, and equipment supplement VNAF operations and provide direct assistance to the government and RVN armed forces. USAF Air Commandos, who instruct VNAF aircrews in special air-warfare techniques, are assigned to 2d Air Division. The 2d Air Division is a subordinate unit of Thirteenth Air Force. It serves as the operational air component for Southeast Asia under the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam/Thailand.

Colocated with Hq. PACAF at Hickam AFB is the Pacific Air Forces Base Command (PACAFBASC), responsible for logistical and housekeeping support of
(Continued on following page)





The war in Vietnam against the tenacious Communist Viet Cong is complex and continuous, and PACAF's missions include such operations as these mass drops of paratroopers into Vietnamese jungle clearings. The aircraft used in these by-now routine operations are versatile C-123 Providers.

bases in the central Pacific and for other using commands, such as SAC, MATS, TAC, and AFSC, which share these bases in tenant status. Reporting directly to CINCPACAF, the Commander, PACAFBASCAM, also commands the 326th Air Division (popularly known as the Hawaiian Air Defense Division) and has operational control over Hawaii Air National Guard F-102s. The 326th Air Division is responsible for air defense of the fiftieth state.

Mobility and quick reaction are the keynotes of PACAF squadrons of strike, support, and air-defense aircraft. Added to this USAF capability are tactical squadrons of the allied nations of the Far East. Backing up this total front-line force are US-based Composite Air Strike Force (CASF) units of TAC which can reach the Far East quickly, using trans-pacific in-flight refueling deployment.



Two USAF and one Vietnamese Air Force forward air controllers make important last-minute check of patrol area for the day. Their L-19 aircraft is in the background. The job of forward air controllers is to spot ground targets and mark them with smoke bombs to guide fighter strikes.

Operating from some twenty-five bases in more than half a dozen allied countries, PACAF/USAF forces have available base facilities of our allied forces throughout the entire Pacific Ocean area.

Major formal agreements align PACAF with foreign air forces of our allies in the Pacific: the seven-member Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO); the Australian-New Zealand-United States (ANZUS) alliance; and the nations with whom the US has bilateral defense treaties—Japan and the Republics of Korea and China.

Large-scale annual SEATO combined exercises have produced closely knit joint air operations. Of lesser scale, but no less valuable, are other joint maneuvers—exercises such as the Flying Brothers fighter weapons meet in the Philippines; Joss Stick in Malaya; Tien Bing (Sky Soldier) in Taiwan; joint Operational Readiness Inspections (ORIs) with air-defense units in the Philippines, Japan, and Korea; and a continual program of joint PACOM-allied nation air/ground exercises in various geographical areas including the Republic of Korea. Realistic operational practice in combined air offensive/defensive operations welds the US and its Pacific air partners into a total tactical "force in the air," facing a combined Communist bloc air strength in the Far East of more than 5,000 tactical fighters, bombers, and support aircraft.

Highlights of PACAF activities and achievements from July 1963 to July 1964 include:

- **July 1963**—Gen. Emmett O'Donnell, Jr., PACAF Commander in Chief and veteran Air Force combat commander, retired at Hickam AFB on July 31.

- **August 1963**—Gen. Jacob E. Smart assumed command of PACAF on August 1, 1963. General Smart was formerly Commander of US Forces, Japan, and PACAF's Fifth Air Force.

- **September 1963**—Fighter pilots of the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing, Japan, began delivery flights of F-105Ds from Mobile, Ala., to their unit at Itazuke AB, Japan. The nearly 10,000-mile flights were made with in-flight refueling by KC-135 tankers, with touch-downs at George AFB, Calif.; Hickam AFB, Hawaii; and Guam.

- **October 1963**—The 18th Tactical Fighter Wing, Okinawa, was congratulated by General LeMay for its record conversion from F-100 to F-105 aircraft under combat status conditions and passing the Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) on the first test. The 18th was the first F-105 unit in USAF to accomplish this feat.

PACAF's F-105 Thunderchiefs participated for the first time in Sky Soldier/Tien Bing IV—annual week-long US-Republic of China joint airborne defense exercise. PACAF F-100s and F-105s teamed with Chinese Air Force F-104s and F-86s in offensive and defensive air operations, while PACAF C-130 and C-124 transports and CHINAT transports accomplished mass air-drops of troops and heavy equipment.

- **November 1963**—Twenty-seven Air Force RF-101 Voodoo reconnaissance pilots were awarded Air Medals at Misawa AB, Japan, for meritorious achieve-

(Continued on page 103)

ment in aerial flight over Southeast Asia under hostile enemy conditions.

USAF C-123 aircraft eliminated a devastating plague of "Bombay" locusts in Lopburi, Thailand. More than 80,000 acres of farm crops were saved from destruction by thousands of gallons of air-sprayed insecticide, preventing a possible national disaster.

● **December 1963**—USAF's famed "Dirty 30" left Vietnam after logging more than 20,000 hours in VNAF C-47 Gooney Birds in one of the oddest cargo operations in modern aviation. By day the thirty Air Force pilots hauled cargo ranging from live animals to primitive tribesmen. By night they dropped paraflares to illuminate battlefields at remote outposts.

PACAF airlift forces, drawing on experiences in Vietnam, developed a new technique for low-level pinpoint paradropping of supplies. Termed PLAD (Parachute Low Altitude Delivery), the technique's operational application scored a drop average of twenty-two feet from target center.

PACAF airlift forces in Vietnam paradropped four and a half tons of Christmas turkey dinners to Special Forces personnel stationed in isolated areas.

● **January 1964**—PACAF began readjustment of forces under a DoD-directed worldwide program. Projected actions involved replacement of some permanent tactical fighter squadrons with TDY rotational units from CONUS; deactivation of historic 3d Bomb Wing and the move of the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing to Yokota AB, Japan. The realignment of transport forces and placing of Itazuke AB, Japan, on DOB (Dispersed Operating Base) status has been accomplished.

USAF-trained VNAF tactical strike forces reached an average monthly combat-sortie rate of 1,120. This compares with 900 in May 1963 and 300 in May 1962.

● **February 1964**—Hq. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), announced that nearly one-third of all officially confirmed Viet Cong military personnel killed in action in 1963 were the result of tactical air strikes by Vietnam Air Force.

An unofficial nonstop distance record for F-105 combat unit flight was set by six PACAF Thunderchiefs. The 4,500-mile course from Andersen AFB, Guam, to Ohakea AS, New Zealand, was completed in seven hours and forty-five minutes with two in-flight refuelings. The Thunderchiefs were part of a PACAF force sent to New Zealand to celebrate Royal New Zealand Air Force Day.

More than 1,000 PACAF officers and airmen participated in SEATO counterinsurgency exercise Air Boon Choo held in Thailand, with Air Force's Maj. Gen. Sam Maddux, Jr., SEATO Air Component Commander. PACAF units included F-100, F-105, F-102, and RF-101 fighter recon aircraft plus C-47, C-123, C-124, C-130 transports, and H-19 helicopters. Other participating air units with tactical and cargo aircraft were from Thailand, Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand. France, Pakistan, and the Philippines provided staff personnel and observers. The exercise successfully defeated a simulated large guerrilla force invasion of Thailand.



En route from US mainland to Clark AB, Philippines, a flight of F-100 tactical fighters on rotational TDY stops at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, before pressing on to destination.

● **March 1964**—The 8th Tactical Fighter Wing, Itazuke AB, Japan, completed conversion from F-100 to F-105D fighters under combat-ready status and passed its ORI with flying colors to C-1 readiness. The accomplishment followed by eight months a similar record set by the 18th Tactical Fighter Wing on Okinawa. Following conversion to the F-105, the 8th Wing was deactivated and its component squadrons were moved to Yokota AB, Japan.

● **April 1964**—Two squadrons of B-57 twin-jet light bombers, formerly of the 3d Bomb Wing, were transferred from Fifth Air Force in Japan to Thirteenth Air Force, Clark AB, Philippines, in augmentation of US Air Forces in that area.

● **May 1964**—President Johnson announced reassignment of PACAF Commander in Chief, Gen. Jacob E. Smart, to Europe as Deputy Commander in Chief, US European Command, and designated Lt. Gen. Hunter Harris, Jr., SAC Vice Commander, to replace General Smart as CINCPACAF. Effective date of shift, August 1, 1964.

PACAF's Yokota AB, Japan, was announced winner of the Daedalian Supply Effectiveness Trophy for 1963. The large silver cup, awarded each year to the supply office having the best effectiveness record in USAF, was presented to Gen. Jacob E. Smart, CINCPACAF, in ceremonies at San Antonio, Tex.

VNAF combat sortie rate reached a monthly average of 2,816, with total operational sortie rate of 5,600 per month.

● **June 1964**—USAF C-130s airdropped more than 100,000 gallons of fire-fighting foam, along with other supplies, to earthquake-devastated Niigata, Japan.

The tactical air-strike capability in RVN was beefed up with introduction of the A-1E Skyraider fighter/bomber, two-place version of VNAF's standard single-seat fighter, the A-1H. The same move saw additional A-1Hs added to VNAF tactical squadrons in a major air buildup move.

Transpacific jet fighter flights with in-flight refueling reached the 1,000 mark for a four-year period without a single incident or loss of aircraft. Each flight averaged 8,000 miles, eighteen and a half air-hours. Refueling was accomplished by KC-135 and KB-50 tankers.

PACAF achieved an estimated 105 percent in its Cost Reduction Program goal of \$7.5 million for FY '64.—END