

# THUNDERBOLT

WWW.MACDILL.AF.MIL

## Official change of command program inside



Photo by Airman David Tracy

(Left) Col. Lenny Richoux, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, and Col. Scott DeThomas, incoming 6th AMW commander, in the cockpit of a KC-135 Stratotanker on the flightline at MacDill Air Force Base, July 23. DeThomas will take command Friday in a ceremony at 9 a.m. in Hangar 3.

# CHANGE OF COMMAND PROGRAM



## Schedule of events

The change of command ceremony begins at 9 a.m. in Hangar 3, where Lt. Gen. Mark Ramsay will pass command of the 6th Air Mobility Wing to Col. Scott DeThomas, and MacDill will bid farewell to Col. Lenny Richoux, the outgoing 6th AMW commander.

The following is the schedule of events, which will run about one hour, not including the reception.

- ◆ **Introductions**
- ◆ **Arrival of the Official Party**
- ◆ **Presentation of Command**
- ◆ **Presentation of Colors**
- ◆ **National Anthem**
- ◆ **Invocation**
- ◆ **Inspection of Troops**
- ◆ **Lt. Gen. Ramsay's Comments**
- ◆ **Presentation of Decoration**
- ◆ **Col. Richoux's Comments**
- ◆ **Change of Command**
- ◆ **Col. DeThomas's Comments**
- ◆ **Air Force Song**
- ◆ **Departure of Official Party**
- ◆ **Reception to follow at the Surf's Edge Club**



### COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

The Action Line provides a two-way communication between the 6th Air Mobility Wing commander and the MacDill community. A 24-hour recording service is provided so personnel may submit questions, concerns or comments. Call the Action Line at 828-INFO (4636) or email [macdillwingcommander@us.af.mil](mailto:macdillwingcommander@us.af.mil)



Follow MacDill  
Air Force Base  
on Facebook



### MacDill Thunderbolt

**Publisher:** Terry Jamerson  
**Editor:** Nick Stubbs

The MacDill Thunderbolt is published by Sunbelt Newspapers, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force. This commercial enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for distribution to members of the U.S. military services on MacDill. Contents of the MacDill Thunderbolt are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government, the Department of De-

fense, the Department of the Air Force or the 6th Air Mobility Wing.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, 6th Air Mobility Wing or Sunbelt Newspapers, Inc., of the products or service advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

Display advertising or classified advertising information

may be obtained by calling 259-7455.

News items for the MacDill Thunderbolt can be submitted to the 6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs office, Bldg. 299, MacDill AFB, FL 33621, or call the MacDill Thunderbolt staff at 828-2215. Email: [thunder.bolt@us.af.mil](mailto:thunder.bolt@us.af.mil).

Deadline for article submissions is noon, Thursdays to appear in the next week's publication. Articles received after deadline may be considered for future use. All submissions are considered for publication based on news value and timeliness.

Every article and photograph is edited for accuracy, clarity, brevity, conformance with the "Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual" and Air Force Instruction 35-101.

# CHANGE OF COMMAND PROGRAM



## Lt. Gen. Mark Ramsay

Selected for reassignment as director, Force Structure, Resources and Assessment, J-8, Joint Staff, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Lt. Gen. Mark F. Ramsay is the commander, 18th Air Force, Scott Air Force Base, Ill. As Air Mobility Command's sole warfighting numbered air force, 18th Air Force is responsible for the command's worldwide operational mission. With more than 39,000 active-duty Airmen, Reservists, and civilians and approximately 1,300 airlift and air refueling aircraft, 18th Air Force manages a streamlined organization that focuses the air mobility warfighting capability through the 618th Air and Space Operations Center (Tanker Airlift Control Center), 11 wings and two stand-alone groups.

General Ramsay entered the Air Force in 1982 as a distinguished graduate of Officer Training School. He has commanded an air refueling squadron and wing (KC-135s), and an airlift group comprising six different fixed and rotary-winged aircraft transporting our nation's most senior leaders. He has also commanded two expeditionary air refueling squadrons supporting operations Provide Comfort and Southern Watch. The general was the U.S. Central Command Air Forces Deputy Director of Mobility Forces from fall 2004 through spring 2005, ensuring airlift and air refueling missions supported the combat, humanitarian, convoy casualty mitigation, and national democratic election operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa.

General Ramsay has served as Chief of the Programs and Mobility Division at Headquarters U.S. European Command; Chief of the Global Mobility and Program Integration divisions and Director of Strategic Planning on the Air Staff; and Deputy Director for Politico-Military Affairs for Europe, NATO, Russia and Africa on the Joint Staff. Prior to his current assignment, he was Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and Intelligence, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, NATO, Casteau, Belgium.

### Education:

1980 Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical science, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Fla.

1987 Distinguished graduate, Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

1992 Master of Science degree in aviation management, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

1993 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

1997 Air War College, by correspondence

1999 Master of Arts degree in national security and strategic studies, with highest distinction, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.

2003 National Security Studies, Syracuse University, N.Y.

2009 Defense Policy Seminar, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

### Assignments:

1. January 1983 - December 1983, student, undergraduate pilot training, Laughlin AFB, Texas  
2. December 1983 - May 1989, C-9A evaluator pilot and assistant Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, 11th Aeromedical Airlift Squadron, Scott AFB, Ill.

3. May 1989 - August 1992, C-9C instructor pilot, assistant Chief of Wing Programs and Requirements, and wing executive officer, 89th Airlift Wing, Andrews AFB, Md.

4. August 1992 - June 1993, student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

5. June 1993 - June 1995, Deputy Division Chief and Strategic Airlift Program Element Monitor, Mobility, Training and Special Operations Requirements Division, Directorate of Operational Requirements, Headquarters U. S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

6. June 1995 - July 1998, operations officer and Commander, 98th Air Refueling Squadron, Fairchild AFB, Wash.

7. July 1998 - July 1999, student, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.

8. August 1999 - July 2001, Chief, Programs and Mobility Division, Logistics and Security Assistance Directorate (ECJ4), Headquarters U. S. European Command, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany

9. July 2001 - August 2003, Commander, 89th Operations Group, Andrews AFB, Md.

10. September 2003 - March 2005, Commander, 319th Air Refueling Wing, Grand Forks AFB, N.D. (October 2004 - March 2005, CENTAF Deputy Director of Mobility Forces, Southwest Asia)

11. March 2005 - February 2006, Chief, Global Mobility Division, Directorate of Programs, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.



Lt. Gen. Mark Ramsay

12. February 2006 - January 2007, Chief, Program Integration Division, Directorate of Programs, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

13. January 2007 - September 2008, Deputy Director for Politico-Military Affairs for Europe, NATO, Russia and Africa (J5), Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

14. September 2008 - October 2009, Director, Air Force Strategic Planning, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

15. October 2009 - September 2011, Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and Intelligence, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, NATO, Casteau, Belgium

16. September 2011 - present, Commander, 18th Air Force, Scott AFB, Ill.

### Summary of join assignments:

1. August 1999 - July 2001, Chief, Programs and Mobility Division, Logistics and Security Assistance Directorate (ECJ4), Headquarters U. S. European Command, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany, as a colonel

# CHANGE OF COMMAND PROGRAM



## Col. Scott DeThomas

Col. DeThomas is the Commander, 387th Air Expeditionary Group, Southwest Asia. He leads 700 Airmen supporting Coalition forces and civilian contractors at the United States Air Force's second busiest aerial port of debarkation while delivering Joint Expeditionary Tasked Airmen in support of US Central Command operations. Airmen of the 387th provide base operating support integration, security, anti-terrorism and force protection, civil engineering, emergency management, personnel support, vehicle maintenance/fleet management and base-supply support at the primary intra-theater airlift hub. Additionally, the group is home to the 387th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, the Air Force's only line-haul trucking company providing convoy logistics in support of Operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom.

Operationally, he has served in positions that include; Wing Accounting and Finance Officer, EC-130 Compass Call Aircraft Commander, and C-17 Evaluator and Lead Airdrop Pilot. Col DeThomas has held various positions on the Air Staff to include Lead Action Officer for Joint Studies and Analyses, Executive Officer to the Director of Strategic Planning, and Military Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force.

Col DeThomas has commanded both in garrison and while deployed to Southwest Asia where he served as the 816th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron Commander providing C-17 airlift and airdrop capability to our nation's warfighters. After completing the requirements for his degree in National Security Studies at National War College, Col DeThomas was assigned to the Strategy and Policy Directorate for USNORTHCOM and NORAD and served as Division Chief for the combined Policy and Strategy Division.

Col. DeThomas is a command pilot with more than 3000 hours in the T-37, T-38, T-1, C-130, EC-130 and C-17 aircraft. He is married to the former Marta Maurer and has two children, Brad and Anna.

### Education:

1990 Bachelor of Science Degree, Management, Military Honors, USAF Academy, Colorado

Springs, CO

1993 Master of Arts, Management, Distinguished Graduate, Webster University, Charleston, SC

2003 Master of Arts and Science, Military Operational Arts and Science, Air University (AU), Maxwell AFB, AL

2004 Master of Arts and Science, Airpower Art and Science (SAASS), AU, Maxwell AFB, AL

2009 Master of Arts, National Security Strategy, National War College, Ft. McNair, DC

### Assignments:

1. Jun 1990 - Nov 1990, USAFA Athletic Department, USAFA, CO

2. Nov 1990 - Nov 1991, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Williams AFB, AZ

3. Dec 1991 - Mar 1995, Wing Accounting and Finance Officer, Charleston AFB, SC

4. Apr 1995 - Jul 1998, EC-130 Compass Call Aircraft Commander, Flight Commander, Sq Quality Officer, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ

5. Aug 1998 - Jul 2002, C-17 Evaluator Lead Airdrop Pilot, Wing Demonstration Pilot, Assistant Operations Officer, Wing Executive Officer, Deployed CENTAF DIRMOBFOR Executive Officer, Sq Scheduler, Charleston AFB, SC

6. Aug 2002 - Jun 2003, Air Command and Staff College, ACSC Student, AU, Maxwell AFB, AL

7. Jul 2003 - Jun 2004, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies (SAASS) Student, AU, Maxwell AFB, AL

8. Jun 2004 - Jun 2005, Chief, Joint Studies & Analysis, Pentagon, Washington, DC

9. Jul 2005- April 2006, Executive Officer, Director of Strategic Planning, Pentagon, Washington, DC

10. May 2006 - May 2007, Military Assistant to the Secretary of the AF, Pentagon, Washington, DC

11. Jun 2007 - July 2008, Commander, 17th Airlift Squadron, Charleston AFB, SC

12. Jan 2008 - May 2008, Commander, 816th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, SWA

13. Aug 2008 - Jun 2009, Student, National War College, Ft. McNair, Washington, DC

14. Jul 2009 - May 2010, Chief, Aerospace Strategy & Policy Branch, NORAD-USNORTHCOM, CO

15. Jun 2010 - Jun 2011, Chief, Strategy & Policy Division, NORAD-USNORTHCOM, CO

16. Jul 2011 - Present, Commander, 387th Air Expeditionary Group, SWA



Col. Scott DeThomas

### Summary of joint assignments:

Jul 2009 - Jun 2011, Chief, Strategy and Policy Division, USNORTHCOM and NORAD J52, and Chief, Strategy and Policy Branch, Aerospace Division, NORAD J53.

### Flight information:

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight Hours (Military): More than 3000

Aircraft Flown: T-37, T-38, T-1, EC-130, C-17

### Decorations:

Meritorious Service Medal with silver oak leaf cluster

Air Medal with oak leaf cluster

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster

### Major awards:

Air Force Accounting and Finance Officer of the Year  
Air Mobility Command Accounting and Finance Officer of the Year

355th Operations Group Company Grade Officer of the Year

437th Support Group Company Grade Officer



# CHANGE OF COMMAND PROGRAM



## Col. Lenny Richoux

Colonel Lenny J. Richoux is Commander, 6th Air Mobility Wing, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. The wing's overall mission is to provide worldwide air refueling and combatant commander airlift in support of the Air Force's global air mobility mission and to provide support to Headquarters U.S. Central Command, Headquarters U.S. Special Operations Command and 36 other mission partners that call MacDill home. As the Commander, he is responsible for more than \$2.8 billion in base property and capital assets, and controls an annual budget exceeding \$249 million. MacDill AFB represents a major economic influence within the Tampa Bay community, with a total economic impact of over \$5 billion annually.

Colonel Richoux is a native of New Orleans, La. and a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology. He was commissioned through the Georgia Tech AFROTC program. He has accumulated over 3,100 flying hours as a KC-135 instructor pilot and C-17 airdrop evaluator pilot, executing 90 combat and 27 combat support missions in support of a variety of operations. Colonel Richoux has commanded at the squadron level and has served as a Vice Wing Commander. He is a graduate of Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and the National Defense Fellows as a published author. The colonel has served on both the Air Staff and Joint Staff.

Prior to his current position, Colonel Richoux served as Vice Commander, 18th Wing, Kadena AB, Okinawa, Japan.

### Education:

1989 Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Ga.  
1994 USAF Flight Safety Officer School, Kirtland AFB, N.M.  
1995 Squadron Officer School, by correspondence  
1997 Master of Arts in Organizational Management, The George Washington University, Washington D.C.  
1997 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.  
2003 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2005 Air War College, by correspondence  
2005 USAF Chief of Safety Course, Kirtland AFB, N.M.  
2007 Maintenance Course for Operational Commanders, Sheppard AFB, Texas  
2008 National Defense Fellow, The Center for a New American Security, Washington D.C.  
2009 Senior Leader Maintenance Course, Scott AFB, Ill.  
2010 Joint and Combined Warfighting School (JPME-II), Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.  
2011 USAF Enterprise Leadership Seminar, Darden School of Business, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.

### Assignments:

1. June 1990 - August 1991, student, undergraduate pilot training, Columbus AFB, Miss.
2. November 1991 - May 1992, student, KC-135 Combat Crew Training, Castle Air Force Base, Calif.
3. May 1992 - October 1993, KC-135R Pilot, 42nd Air Refueling Squadron, Loring AFB, Maine
4. October 1993 - July 1995, KC-135 R/T Aircraft Commander, 93rd Air Refueling Squadron, Fairchild AFB, Wash.
5. August 1995 - May 1997, Air Force Intern Program, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
6. June 1997 - April 2001, Wing Executive Officer, Wing Plans Officer, Squadron Executive Officer, C-17 Lead Airdrop Evaluator Pilot, 437th Airlift Wing and 14th Airlift Squadron, Charleston AFB, S.C.
7. May 2001 - June 2002, Long Range Strategic Planner, Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
8. July 2002 - June 2003, student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
9. June 2003 - April 2005, War Planner, Operations Directorate, J-3, the Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.
10. August 2005 - January 2006, Chief of Wing Safety, 437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, S.C.
11. January 2006 - June 2007, Commander, 17th Airlift Squadron, Charleston AFB, S.C. (June 2006 - September 2006, Commander, 816th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, Al Udeid AB, Qatar)
12. July 2007 - May 2008, National Defense



Col. Lenny Richoux

Fellow, The Center for a New American Security (CNAS), Washington, D.C.

13. May 2008 - December 2008, Division Chief, Strategy and Plans, Directorate of Communication, Secretary of the Air Force, Washington, D.C.

14. December 2008 - July 2010, Vice Commander, 18th Wing, Kadena Air Base, Japan

15. July 2010 - present, Commander, 6th Air Mobility Wing, MacDill AFB, Fla.

### Flight information:

Rating: Command Pilot  
Flight hours: More than 3,200  
Aircraft flown: T-37, T-38, KC-135, C-17 (mission experience in F-15, E-3, HH-60 and C-37)

### Awards and decorations:

Legion of Merit  
Defense Meritorious Service Medal  
Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters  
Air Medal with oak leaf cluster  
Aerial Achievement Medal

See RICHOUX, Page 7

# CHANGE OF COMMAND PROGRAM



## RAMSAY

---

From Page 3

2. January 2007 - September 2008, Deputy Director for Politico-Military Affairs for Europe, NATO, Russia and Africa (J5), Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., as a brigadier general  
3. October 2009 - September 2011, Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and Intelligence, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, NATO, Casteau, Belgium, as a major general

### **Flight information:**

Rating: Command pilot

Flight hours: More than 4,700

Aircraft flown: T-37, T-38, C-9A, C-9C, C-20B, C-37A, C-40B, KC-135R, KC-135T and UH-1N

### **Major awards and decorations:**

Defense Superior Service Medal with oak leaf cluster

Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Medal

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with "V" device, one silver and two bronze oak leaf clusters

NATO Meritorious Service Medal

### **Effective dates of promotion:**

Second Lieutenant Dec. 22, 1982

First Lieutenant Dec. 22, 1984

Captain Dec. 22, 1986

Major May 1, 1993

Lieutenant Colonel Jan. 1, 1997

Colonel April 1, 2000

Brigadier General May 30, 2007

Major General Dec. 4, 2009

Lieutenant General Sept. 23, 2011

## DETHOMAS

---

From Page 4

of the Year

### **Effective dates of promotion:**

Second Lieutenant: 30 May 1990

First Lieutenant: 30 May 1992

Captain: 30 May 1994

Major: 01 Jul 2001

Lieutenant Colonel: 01 Jul 2006

Colonel: 1 Oct 2010

## RICHOUX

---

From Page 6

### **Other achievements:**

2007 David C. Schilling Award for the most outstanding contribution in the field of flight (presented to the 17th Airlift Squadron)

2007 Authored "Start Planning Logistics of Iraq Withdrawal," published in Defense News, 24 Sep 07

2008 Co-authored "Rethinking the QDR," pub-

lished in The Walker Papers, Volume 2

### **Effective dates of promotion:**

Second Lieutenant Jan 25 1990

First Lieutenant Jan 25 1992

Captain Jan 25 1994

Major Apr 01 2001

Lieutenant Colonel May 01 2005

Colonel Oct 1 2008

# CHANGE OF COMMAND PROGRAM



## The storied history of MacDill AFB



An early postcard from prior to the establishment of the U.S. Air Force.

During the Spanish-American War (1898), Tampa, because of its strategic location, was chosen as a rendezvous point for troops heading south to help Cuba gain independence from Spain. Approximately 10,000 of the 66,000 troops in Tampa waiting for ships headed to Cuba set up camp around what was then known as Port Tampa City, which bordered what is now MacDill AFB, which was dedicated April 1941.

Originally known as Southeast Air Base, Tampa, and later named MacDill Field in honor of Colonel Leslie MacDill, the field became MacDill Air Force Base shortly after the establishment of the United States Air Force in 1947.

Flying operations at MacDill began in 1941 with the base's first mission including transitional training in the B-17 Flying Fortress. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, MacDill became a major staging area for Army Air Corps flight crews and aircraft. In just 60 days, 15 LB-30 and 63 B-17 aircraft departed MacDill via the south Atlantic and Africa to Australia.

The base's mission converted to B-26 "Ma-

rauder" training in 1942 and it was the B-26 that earned the slogan "one a day in Tampa Bay." The aircraft proved hard to fly and land by many pilots due to its short wings, high landing speeds, and fighter plane maneuverability. Nine of the 12 combat groups that flew the B-26 in Europe were activated and trained at MacDill and in combat the B-26 enjoyed the lowest loss rate of any Allied bomber.

In 1943 the base discontinued B-26 training and returned to B-17 training which continued through the end of World War II. During the war as many as 15,000 troops were stationed at MacDill at one time. A contingent of Women's Army Corps (WACS) troops arrived in 1943.

Estimates of the number of crew members trained at the base vary from 50,000 to 120,000. Several bases in Florida, including MacDill, served as detention centers for German prisoners-of-war (POWs) in the latter part of 1944 and 1945. At its apex, 488 POWs were interned at MacDill.

MacDill transitioned to a B-29 training base between January 1945, through 1953.

After the war, MacDill became an operational base for Strategic Air Command, with training activities focused around P-51, B-29, and in 1950, B-50 training. In 1951, MacDill's operational mission transitioned to new B-47 medium jet bombers and KC-97 tanker aircraft.

Plans to close MacDill surfaced in 1960, however the Cuban Missile Crisis highlighted the strategic location of the base and led to a reprieve. In 1961 the United States Strike Command was established at MacDill as a unified command with integrated personnel from all branches of the military.

The base began training crews in F-84 aircraft in 1962, and MacDill became a Tactical Air Command base in 1963. In 1965, MacDill's two combat-ready F-4 wings (the 12th and 15th Tactical Fighter Wings) deployed to Vietnam. The 12th's deployment became permanent while

the 15 TFW returned to MacDill and became a replacement training unit with F-4 and B-57 aircraft.

In 1970, the 1st Tactical Fighter Wing moved to MacDill, replacing the 15 TFW and continued F-4 training, losing the B-57 mission in 1972. MacDill's U.S. Strike Command was redesignated U.S. Readiness Command in 1972. In 1975, the 56 TFW replaced the 1 TFW and continued F-4 training until 1979 when F-16 aircraft were brought to the base. The Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force, forerunner of U.S. Central Command, activated at MacDill in 1983.

In 1987, U.S. Special Operations Command replaced U.S. Readiness Command. Helicopter operations ended at MacDill in 1987 after more than 25 years of service.

Between 1979 and 1993 approximately half of all F-16 pilots were trained at MacDill. During Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, accelerated training programs expanded to allow many pilots to go straight from initial training to combat units in the gulf.

In 1991, due to military downsizing, the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (DBCRC) required MacDill to cease all flying operations by 1993. The action effectively transferred MacDill's 100-plus F-16 mission to Luke AFB, Arizona.

Legislation in 1993 reversed the flightline closure ruling and allowed the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to transfer to MacDill to utilize the runway.

The base became home to the 6th Air Base Wing in 1994, with a primary mission of operating the base in support of U.S. Central Command, U.S. Special Operations Command, and a large number of tenant and transient units.

In late 1994 the base quickly became a major staging area for operations in Haiti when the flightline became a temporary home to approximately 75 C-130 aircraft.

See **HISTORY**, Page 10



# HISTORY

---

From Page 9

The successful operation highlighted MacDill's strategic location and flightline capabilities, which in turn led to the 1995 DBCRC's recommendation to bring a KC-135 refueling mission to MacDill. In 1996 the base's host wing redesignation to an Air Refueling Wing marked the beginning of a new era for MacDill.

The Air Force assigned the wing three additional aircraft: two electronic communications aircraft (Boeing EC-135), that supported U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command, and one executive transport jet (Boeing CT-43) used by the U.S. Southern Command in Miami. In 2001, the Wing discontinued these two non-tanker missions and replaced them with a new one - airlift. A new squadron, the 310th Airlift Squadron, began operations with three Gulfstream C-37 executive transport aircraft. They provided airlift services to the combatant commands at MacDill (namely U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command) by flying them to various locations around the world in support of their missions. With this new mission came a new designation, the 6th Air Mobility Wing on Jan. 1, 2001.

During the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the 6th Air Mobility Wing supported U.S. Air Forces Central Command operations in Southwest and Central Asia. The 91st Air Refueling Squadron frequently rotated several of its KC-135s to perform tours of duty at Al Udeid Air Base, near Doha, Qatar. Meanwhile, the 310th Airlift Squadron flew many of the top commanders who oversaw these operations to locations around the world.

Thousands of the wing's airmen, as well as members of all services at MacDill, deployed individually to the Middle East, Southwest Asia, or Central Asia in support of the various operations connected to the Global War on Terrorism. In 2007 alone, more than 800 wing personnel deployed to areas ranging from Southwest Asia to the Western Pacific.

In 2005, the Department of Defense recommended a major realignment, and the Air Force Reserve's 927th Air Refueling Wing would relocate to MacDill but leave behind its eight KC-135s for redistribution at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan. Along with this, the 319th Air Refueling Wing at Grand Forks Air

Force Base would realign and send its four KC-135s to MacDill. Meanwhile, down in Florida, the 6th Air Mobility Wing would integrate the four new aircraft and the 927th at MacDill into what the Air Force defined as an "active-reserve" association.

The following year, a new unit, the 911th Air Refueling Squadron, was assigned to the 6th Air Mobility Wing, but stationed at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina.

In 2010, another such squadron, the 99th Air Refueling Squadron, joined the chain of command. It too remained at its home base, the Birmingham International Airport.

Today at MacDill, the 6th Air Mobility Wing generates and performs air refueling, airlift, and contingency response missions for U.S. and allied forces around the world. The Wing flies 16 Boeing KC-135 "Stratotankers," three Gulfstream C-37A executive transport jets, and has more than 15,000 personnel assigned. Additionally, the 6th Air Mobility Wing is the host unit for MacDill Air Force Base and provides direct support to U.S. Central Command, U.S. Special Operations Command, and 39 more tenant units.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Melanie Bulow-Kelly

**Lt. Col. Collin Gilbert took command of the 6th Logistics Readiness Squadron on May 31.**



Photo by Airman David Tracy

**Lt. Col. Derrick Hodges took command of the 310th Airlift Squadron on June 22.**



Photo by Airman 1st Class Melanie Bulow-Kelly

**Lt. Col. Jason Vietas took command of the 6th Medical Support Squadron on June 22.**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Linzi Joseph

**Maj. Jeffrey Hunziker took command of the 6th Maintenance Operations Squadron on July 3.**



Photo by Senior Airman Melissa Paradise

**Lt. Col. Sean Jones took command of the 6th Force Support Squadron on July 9.**

# Introducing the Mobility Wing



Photo by Airman 1st Class Melanie Bulow-Kelly

**Lt. Col. Lisa Nemeth took command of the 91st Air Refueling Squadron on June 8.**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandon Shapiro

**Lt. Col. Elizabeth Decker took command of the 6th Medical Operations Squadron on June 27.**

# The new 6th Air commanders



Photo by Senior Airman Melissa Paradise

**Lt. Col. Kelly Roth took command of the 6th Communications Squadron on July 3.**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Linzi Joseph

**Lt Col. George Scheers took command of the 6th Contracting Squadron on July 10.**



Photo by Airman 1st Class Shandresha Mitchell

**Lt. Col. Thomas Brown took command of the 6th Comptroller Squadron on July 16.**

# CHANGE OF COMMAND PROGRAM



## History of MacDill AFB wing commanders 1993- present

### Col. Charles T. Ohlinger

56th Fighter Wing  
Commander  
August 1993-January 1994  
6th Air Base Wing  
Commander January 1994-October 1996



### Brig. Gen. Arthur F. Diehl III

6th Air Refueling  
Wing/6th Air Mobility  
Wing Commander  
November 1997-  
June 1999



### Col. Margaret H. Woodward

6th Air Mobility  
Wing Commander  
February 2005-  
March 2007



### Col. Lenny J. Richoux

6th Air Mobility  
Wing Commander  
July 2010-July 2012



### Brig. Gen. John D. Becker

6th Air Base Wing/  
6th Air Refueling  
Wing Commander  
October 1996-  
November 1997



### Brig. Gen. William W. Hodges

6th Air Mobility  
Wing Commander  
August 2001-  
January 2003



### Col. Robert D. Thomas

6th Air Mobility  
Wing Commander  
March 2007-  
September 2008



### Brig. Gen. James N. Soligan

6th Air Refueling  
Wing Commander  
November 1997-  
June 1999



### Brig. Gen. David M. Snyder

6th Air Mobility  
Wing Commander  
January 2003-  
February 2005



### Col. Lawrence M. Martin Jr.

6th Air Mobility  
Wing Commander  
September 2008-  
July 2010





# CHANGE OF COMMAND PROGRAM



## Change of command ceremony has long history

The change of command ceremony is a military tradition deeply rooted in history, dating to the time of Frederick the Great of Prussia.

In that period, military organizations developed flags unique to their units with specialized colors and designs. When the soldiers followed their leader into battle, their flag was used to provide a very visible point around which members of the unit could rally during the battle.

To this flag both the commander and soldiers of a unit would dedicate their loyalty, trust and allegiance. The formal change of command ceremony afforded these troops the opportunity to witness a new leader assuming their dutiful position.



# EVENTS

## **Friday**

### **Surf's Edge Club**

Friday Bash! 3-7 p.m. Bar snacks and drink specials! Guaranteed \$100 club card drawing, Bar Bingo, and DJ!

## **Saturday**

### **Swim & Picnic**

1-3 p.m. at Brandon Sports & Aquatics Center, 405 Bev-

erly Blvd., Brandon. Open to actively serving military and their family members (ID Card required). Priority will be given to deployed or scheduled to deploy members/families. Space is limited and RSVP is required. Call 828-0145 or 655-9281 to sign up.

## **Monday-Friday Youth Center**

Free Cooking Camp 2-5 p.m. for ages 9-18. Participants will be instructed on and demonstrate the ability to successfully participate in a variety of skills including knife safety, selecting and making fresh salads, preparing a meal salad, sautéing and browning foods, food safety, shopping for food, preparing pasta, setting a table, baking foods, and making a healthy snack. Call 828-7956.

## **Tuesday**

### **Airman & Family**

## **Readiness Center (Brandon)**

Summer Fun for Kids (7-12) – Movie and popcorn! Call 655-9281 for more info.

## **Tuesday-Friday Base Pool**

Open for recreational swimming from 2-6 p.m.

## **Thursday Base Theater**

FREE movie: Rango at 5:30 p.m. Everyone welcome! Feel free to bring your own refreshments.

## **Last day to Sign up Friday!**

Intramural Soccer (5-11 yr olds) and Start Smart Soccer (3-4 yr olds): Registration ends for both programs Aug. 3. Register at the Youth Center from 12-6 p.m. Mon-Fri. Cost for Intramural Soccer: \$30 for members/\$45 for Non-members; Cost for Start Smart Soccer is \$36.