

HISTORY
OF THE
U. S. ARMY AIR CORPS
IN THE
HAWAIIAN DEPARTMENT

ESTABLISHMENT OF AIR CORPS UNITS IN THE WING

Department Air Office - - - - -	Nov. 20, 1916
18th Composite Wing Hq. - - - - -	May 1, 1931
Hawaiian Air Depot - - - - -	July 1, 1921
5th Composite Group - - - - -	May 19, 1918
4th Observation Squadron - - - - -	June 23, 1918
50th Observation Squadron - - - - -	Nov. 1, 1930
65th Service Squadron - - - - -	June 6, 1921
11th Photo Section - - - - -	April 19, 1920
23rd Bombardment Squadron - - - - -	June 16, 1917
72nd Bombardment Squadron - - - - -	May 1, 1923
18th Pursuit Group - - - - -	Jan. 20, 1927
6th Pursuit Squadron - - - - -	March 13, 1917
19th Pursuit Squadron - - - - -	Oct. 1, 1921
75th Service Squadron - - - - -	Sept. 15, 1930
26th Attack Squadron - - - - -	Sept. 1, 1930

EXTRACTS FROM HISTORY OF THE HAWAIIAN DEPARTMENT

1898 - - - - - 1930

Ford Island, on which Luke Field is situated was acquired by the Government in 1917 and was occupied on Sept. 25, 1918 by the 6th Aero Squadron, commanded by Major H. J. Knerr. The field is named in honor of Lieut. Frank Luke, A.C., who was killed during the World War, and is used jointly by Army and Navy air units.

Wheeler Field named in honor of Major Sheldon H Wheeler, A.C., who crashed and was killed here, and located at the southern edge of the Schofield Barracks reservation, was established in 1922.

June 28, 1927, Lieuts. L.J. Maitland and A.F. Hagenberger, A.C., US Army, flew from Oakland, Calif, and landed at Wheeler Field on June 29, 1927, completing the first successful flight to Hawaii from the mainland.

1927 witnessed two air flights from the mainland. July 14, 1927, 2nd Lieut. Ernest Smith and Emery Bronte, A.C. Reserve, flew from Oakland and landed in the trees on the Island of Molokai on July 15, 1927. August 16, 1927 Art Goebel, in the "Wooleroc", and Martin Jenson, in the "Aloha", flew from Oakland and landed at Wheeler Field August 17th. They were flying for the Dole prize. Capt. C. Kingsford-Smith, the world famous British flyer, flew from Oakland May 31, 1928, and landed at Wheeler Field June 1st. A day or two later, he flew to Kauai, and took off from there to Fiji, and then for Australia. Great assistance in the foregoing flights was rendered by all agencies of the Department normally concerned herewith.

On May 1, 1931, The Headquarters 18th Composite Wing, Air Corps, was made active, with station at Fort Shafter, T. H. (General Orders No. 7, Headquarters Hawaiian Department, 1931).

On June 5, 1931, the Hawaiian Air Depot was established at Luke Field, T. H. (General Orders No. 14, Headquarters Hawaiian Department, June 5, 1931).

During the International Glider Meet, held on the Island of Oahu, from Nov. 22nd to Dec. 19, 1931, 2nd Lieut. William A Cecke, A. C., Wheeler Field, T. H., broke the world's record for glider flight, both endurance and distance, by remaining in the air 21 hours, 34 minutes and 15 seconds, traveling an estimated distance of 600 miles, on December 17th - 18, 1931.

COCKE

HISTORY OF AIR SERVICE TROOPS

The following indicates the earliest records available of Air Corps units, then designated as "Aviation Section of the Signal Corps", in the Hawaiian Department.

On March 13, 1917, the 6th Aero Squadron arrived from San Diego, Calif., and was stationed at Fort Kamehameha. This organization arrived under command of Capt. John B Brooks, Av. Sec., Signal Corps, who, upon arrival, relinquished command to Capt. John F Curry, Av. Sec., Signal Corps. Capt Brooks remained with the squadron, as Supplu Officer, until the departure of Capt. Curry for the mainland on July 1, 1917; then he resumed command. On Nov. 14, 1917, Major Harold M. Clark, Av. Sec., Signal Corps, assumed command and on Aug. 29, 1918, Major Hugh J. Knorr assumed and remained in command until the squadron moved to the Ford Island station (later named Luke Field), on Sept. 25, 1918.

The 4th Observation Squadron arrived in the Hawaiian Department Jan. 24, 1920 (General Order No. 102, War Department, August 15, 1919), and was assigned to Luke Field, T. H. (Para No. 5, Special Order No. 19, Headquarters Hawaiian Department, Jan. 23, 1920).

On May 6, 1920, the 3rd and 21st Balloon Companies arrived in the Hawaiian Department from Ross Field, Calif. The 3rd Company was stationed at Fort Ruger. The 21st Company was stationed at Fort Shafter from May 6th to Oct. 1, 1920, and stationed at Fort Kamehameha from Oct 2, 1920 to July, 1922.

Both companies were placed on the Inactive List in July 1922, and all personnel disposed of by transfer as follows:

3rd Balloon Company to 4th Squadron (Obsn), Wheeler Field.
21st Balloon Company to 6th Squadron (Pursuit), Luke Field.

The 3rd and 21st Balloon Companies were demobilized and records forwarded to the War Department, Washington, D. C., per Department General Order Number 10, May 12, 1927.

The 23rd Bombardment Squadron arrived in the Hawaiian Department March 15, 1922 and was assigned to Luke Field (G.O. NO. 13, H. H. D., 1922)

The 5th Group at Luke Field was named "5th Group (Composite)" by General Order No. 29, H. H. D., 1922. Change effective May 1, 1923 as follows:

5TH COMPOSITE GROUP, LUKE FIELD

Hq. 5th Comp. Group

41 Air Intelligence Section

11th Photo Section

6th Pursuit Squadron

23rd Bombardment Squadron

72nd Bombardment Squadron

65th Service Squadron

72nd Bombardment Squadron organized at Luke Field by the Post Commander from A. S. personnel available at that post.

17TH COMPOSITE GROUP, SCHOFIELD BARRACKS

Hq. 17th Pursuit Group

4th Observation Squadron

10th Pursuit Squadron

Hq 17th Composite Group and 19th Pursuit Squadron organized at Schofield Barracks by the Post Commander from A. S. personnel available at that post.

The 41st Air Intelligence Section was demobilized by General Orders 45, H. H. D., Dec. 5, 1924.

The 6th and 19th Pursuit Squadrons were relieved from assignment to 5th Composite Group, Luke Field, and assigned to Wheeler Field and organized as a Provisional Pursuit Group by General Orders No. 1, H.H.D., Jan. 5, 1927. They were designated as the 18th Pursuit Group by General Orders No. 2, H.H.D., Jan. 24, 1927.

The 75th Service Squadron was organized at Schofield Barracks Sept. 15, 1930 and assigned to the 18th Pursuit Group (G.O. No. 29, H. H. D., Sept. 12, 1930).

The 50th Observation Squadron was reconstituted at Luke Field effective Nov. 1, 1930 (G. O. No. 33, H. H. D., Oct. 16, 1930).

AIR OFFICE AND WING HEADQUARTERS, 18TH COMPOSITE WING

The Department Air Office was located in the Alexander Young Hotel in Honolulu until it was moved to the Headquarters Area, Fort Shafter, T. H., in 1921. The authorized personnel never exceeded two commissioned officers, two civilian clerks and two enlisted men to the date it was consolidated with Headquarters, 18th Composite Wing, on May 1, 1931.

Effective May 1, 1931, the 18th Composite Wing Headquarters was made active, with station at Fort Shafter, T. H. Total initial

assignment of personnel was four officers and four enlisted men.

Hawaiian Department orders assigning Lieut. Colonel Gerald C. Brant, A. C., as Wing Commander, provided that his duties include all functions formerly pertaining to the Department Air Officer and that the office of the Wing Commander also be the Air Office, Hawaiian Department.

The 18th Composite Wing Headquarters was established at Fort Shafter by obtaining additional space adjacent to the Air Office and consolidation of the two offices. The two civilian stonographers on duty at the Air Office were retained, in addition to personnel mentioned above.

The following is a roster of Department Air Officers to date:

	<u>Arrived</u>	<u>Departed</u>
1st Lieut. Ralph C. Holliday 2nd Infantry	11-26-16	2-28-17
Capt. John F. Curry, Signal Corps, Department Aviation Officer	3-1-17	7-4-17
Capt. John B. Brooks, Jr. Military Aviator, Signal Corps, Department Aeronautical Officer	7-5-17	11-13-17
Major Harold M. Clark, Jr. Military Aviator, Signal Corps, Department Aeronautical Officer	11-14-17	8-28-18
Major Hugh J. Knerr, Jr., Military Aviator, Signal Corps, Department Air Service Officer	8-29-18	4-12-19
Major John B. Brooks, A. S., Aeronautics, Department Air Service Officer	4-13-19	6-12-19
Lt. Col. Bert M Atkinson, A. S., Aeronautics, Department Air Service Officer	6-13-19	1-22-20
Col. John F. Curry, A. S., Aeronautics, Department Air Service Officer	1-23-20	1-15-23
Capt. George E. Stratemeyer, A.S., Air Officer, Hawaiian Dept.	1-16-23	9-2-23

	<u>Arrived</u>	<u>Departed</u>
Major Arnold N. Kregstad, A. S. Air Officer, Hawaiian Dept.	9-3-23	10-31-24
Major Robert E. M. Goelrick, A. S. Air Officer, Hawaiian Dept.	11-1-24	3-3-25
Major Gerald C. Brant, General Staff Corps, A.S., Air Officer, Hawaiian Dept.	3-4-25	5-27-25
Major Robert E. M. Goelrick, A. S., Air Officer, Hawaiian Dept.	5-28-25	8-24-26
Lt. Col. John H. Howard, A. C., Air Officer, Hawaiian Dept.	8-25-26	8-1-29
Lt. Col. Henry C. Pratt, A. C., Air Officer, Hawaiian Dept.	8-2-29	7-17-30
Major Carlyle H. Wash, A. C., Air Officer, Hawaiian Dept.	7-18-30	11-25-30
Lt. Col. Gerald C. Brant, A. C., Air Officer, Hawaiian Dept.	11-26-30	

The Headquarters, 18th Composite Wing, was made active at Fort Shafter, T. H., May 1, 1931 (General Orders No. 7, Headquarters Hawaiian Department, 1931).

HAWAIIAN AIR DEPOT

The Hawaiian Air Depot was established as a branch section of the Hawaiian General Area Depot in Honolulu, T. H., July 1, 1921. Initial personnel comprised Major John B. Brooks and one enlisted man. By the close of 1923, personnel had increased to a total of three officers, two civilians, seven non-commissioned officers and six privates.

War Reserve was established as a part of the Air Depot activities on Aug. 1, 1922, at Forts Ruger and Kamehameha and, later, at both Luke and Wheeler Fields.

In Oct. 1923, the whole of Warehouse No. 5, Q. M. Depot Area, was turned over to the Air Depot. Prior to this time, limited space had made the proper unpacking and distribution of Air Corps supplies very difficult.

All enlisted personnel were relieved from duty at the Air Depot Sept. 15, 1930, when the A. C. Detachment was disbanded. At this time, the civilian personnel had increased in number to 21, the total commissioned being two officers.

In Feb. 1931, authority was received from the W. D. to move the Air Section from the Hawaiian General Depot in Honolulu to Luke Field and consolidate it with the Repair Section activities thereat. This movement was commenced in May 1931 and Department Orders covering the move made the consolidation of the Repair Section and Depot Supply Section effective July 1, 1931. The Luke Field station stock record cards were used to merge accounts for the Repair and Supply activities into one account known as the Hawaiian Air Depot Stock record.

The 21 civilian employees at the Air Depot, added to the 90 employed at the Luke Field Repair Section, made a total of 111 civilians on duty at the Hawaiian Air Depot stock record.

DEPOT COMMANDING OFFICERS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Major John B. Brooks, Air Service	7-1-21	8-19-22
Capt. Douglas Johnson, Air Service	8-20-22	2-17-23
1st Lt. Fred B. Wieners, Air Service	2-18-23	8-4-24
Major George E. Lovell, Jr., Air Service	8-5-24	1-1-26
1st Lt. Myron R. Wood, Air Corps	1-2-26	10-1-27
Capt. George S. Warren, Air Corps	10-2-27	10-21-27
Capt. Philip Schneeberger, Air Corps	10-22-27	4-11-29
Capt. Calvin E. Griffin, Air Corps	4-12-29	8-19-30
1st Lt. Harry G. Montgomery, Air Corps	8-20-30	1-1-31
Capt. Byron T. Burt, Air Corps	1-2-31	3-14-32
Capt. Carl F. Greene, Air Corps	3-15-32	

LUKE FIELD

POST COMMANDERS

Major Hugh J. Knerr, A. S.	9-25-18	5-18-19
Capt. George C. Furrown, A. S.	5-19-19	11-3-19
Major Sheldon H. Wheeler, A. S.	11-4-19	7-12-21
Capt. Harry H. Young, A.S.	7-13-21	7-24-21
Major John B. Brooks, A. S.	7-25-21	8-30-21
Capt. Robert Oldys, A. S.	8-31-21	9-4-21
Major John B. Brooks, A. S.	9-5-21	4-11-22
Major George E. Stratemeyer, A. S.	4-12-22	7-16-22
Major George H. Peabody, A. S.	7-17-22	10-31-22
Major George S. Stratemeyer, A. S.	11-1-22	1-15-23

Capt. Robert Oldys, A. S.	1-16-23	4-12-23
Capt. Karl H. Gorman, A. S. (Cav.)	4-13-23	8-10-23
Major George E. Lovell, Jr., A. S.	8-11-23	4-6-24
Major Arnold N. Kregstad, A. S.	4-7-24	1-8-26
Major George E. Lovell, A. C.	1-9-26	5-25-26
Major Henry J. F. Miller, A. C.	5-26-26	8-25-26
Major Percy E. Van Nostrand, A. C.	8-26-26	5-23-29
Capt. Raymond F. O'Neill, A. C.	5-24-29	8-20-29
Major Maxwell Kirby, A. C.	8-21-29	6-16-32
Capt. James F. Powell, A. C.	6-17-32	9-22-32
Major Vincent B. Dixon	9-23-32	

LUKE FIELD

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

The Army Air Station on Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, was first occupied by the 6th Aero Squadron on Sept. 25, 1918. At this time construction comprised: 2 double seaplane hangars with concrete runways; 2 wooden land plane hangars; 1 small motor repair and machine shop and 1 supply warehouse. a narrow strip of land in the center of the south end of Ford Island was cleared for operation of land planes in Oct. 1918.

Married officers remained quartered at Fort Kamehameha and bachelor officers were quartered, as were all enlisted men, under canvas.

The station was named LUKE FIELD April 30, 1919, in honor of Lieut. Frank Luke, killed in action at Marvaux, France, Sept. 28, 1918.

During 1919, quarters were completed for the Post Commander, also temporary buildings for barracks, mess hall, photo hut and dispensary.

In 1920, the flying field was enlarged and resurfaced and three Bessaneau Hangars erected for temporary storage.

Quarters were built in 1921 in sets, as follows: 2 field officers, 10 company officers, 2 bachelor officers, 6 no-commissioned officers, also 2 squadron barracks, photo laboratory, 3 standard land plane hangars and 3 warehouses.

Post roads and field irrigation system, also telephone, lighting, water and sewerage systems were established in 1921.

Additional sets of quarters were constructed in 1922, as follows: 6 company officers and 1 bachelor officer. Further 1922 additions were: New boat house and dock, 2 land plane and 2 war reserve hangars, also guard house, oil reclamation laboratory and temporary radio station.

The Army was also interested in a water tower erected on Navy side of island.

The airdrome was enlarged in 1925 by clearing algeroba trees from the northwest portion.

In 1931, an addition was made to the Air Corps Supply Warehouse, incident to the movement of the Hawaiian Air Depot from Honolulu and consolidation with the Repair Section at Luke Field.

LUKE FIELD

ORGANIZATION - AND ARRIVAL OF UNITS

The 6th Aero Squadron was transferred from Fort Kamehamaha to the Air Corps station on Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, Sept., 25, 1918.

This station was named Luke Field April 30, 1919.

The 2nd Observation Group Headquarters was organized Dec. 15, 1919.

The 4th Observation Squadron arrived from the mainland January 23, 1920.

Photo Section No 11 arrived from the mainland June 9, 1920.

The 5th Group (Obsn.) was organized April 12, 1921.

Air Park No. 10 was organized June 6, 1921.

Branch Intelligence Office No. 11 was organized Sept., 24, 1921.

The following units were assigned to the Hawaiina Division at Schofield Barracks, effective Feb. 6, 1922:

4th Observation Squadron
Photo Section No. 11
Branch Intelligence Office No. 11

The following were returned to Luke Field Oct. 23, 1922:

Photo Section No. 11
Branch Intelligence Office No. 11

Designations of units were changed as indicated below:

6th Aero Squadron	to 6th Squadron (Obsn)	Jan. 21
6th Squadron (Obsn.)	to 6th Squadron (Pur.)	9-23-21
2nd Group (Obsn.)	to 5th Group (Obsn.)	4-12-21
5th Group (Obsn.)	to 5th Group (Pur & Bomb)	6-21-21

5th Group (Pur. & Bomb.)	to 5th Group (Composite	7-10-22
Branch Intelligence Office No 11	to Air Intell Office No. 11	10-23-22
Air Intelligence Office No 11	to 41st Air Intell Section	1-19-23
Air Park No.10	to 65th Service Sqdn.	1-19-23
Photo Section No. 11	to 11th Photo Section	1-19-23
6th Squadron (Pursuit)	to 6th Pursuit Squadron	Jan. 23

The 23rd Bombardment Sqdn. arrived from the mainland Mar. 15, 1922.
The 72nd Bombardment Sqdn. was organized at Luke Field May 1, 1923.
The 19th Squadron (Pur.) was placed on Inactive List June 21, 1922,
the 6th Pursuit Squadron being designated as Active Associate.

The 19th Squadron was made active and stationed with 18th Comp. Group at Schofield Barracks May 1, 1923. It was transferred from that station to Luke Field, effective Jan. 15, 1924.

The 41st Air Intelligence Section was demobilized Dec 5, 1924.

The 6th and 19th Pursuit Squadrons were transferred to Wheeler Field Jan. 5, 1927.

The 4th Observation Squadron was transferred from the Hawaiian Division to Luke Field Jan. 11, 1927.

The 50th Observation Squadron was reconstituted at Luke Field Nov. 1, 1930.

WHEELER FIELD

POST COMMANDERS

Major George E Stratemeyer, A. S.	2-6-22	3-30-22
Major Karl H. Gorman, A. S.	3-31-22	4-16-23
Capt. Alfred E. King, Jr., A. S.	4-17-23	8-10-23
Major Robert E. H. Goslrick, A. S.	8-11-23	10-31-24
Capt. Hubert V. Hopkins, A. S.	11-1-24	1-15-25
Capt. Chilian F. Wheeler, A. S.	1-16-25	3-17-26
1st Lt. George W McEntire, A. C.	3-18-26	5-20-26
Capt. John W Signor, A. C.	5-21-26	12-1-26
Major Henry J. F. Miller, A. C.	12-2-26	4-5-29
Major Carlyle H. Wash, A. C.	4-6-29	5-15-31
Capt. Horace N. Heisen, A. C.	5-16-31	6-22-31
Major Ernest Clark, A. C.	6-23-31	

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

On Feb 6, 1922, a detachment of 20 enlistment men from the 4th Squadron at Luke Field, proceeded to Schofield Barracks, under 1st Lieut. Wm. T. Agee, A. S., to clear the flying field and construct housing for the Divisional Air Service. Two canvas hangers were erected and the field cleared of weeds and guava and algeroba trees, this being accomplished in March 1922.

Quarters were temporarily obtained for officers in the 21st, 27th and 35th Infantry areas. The enlisted men were quartered with the 35th Infantry.

Those quarters were about two miles from the flying field and transportation being limited, work was greatly retarded.

The new field was named WHEELER FIELD, per W. D. G. O. No. 47, Nov. 11, 1922, in honor of Major Sheldon H. Wheeler, who died as the result of an airplane accident at Luke Field on July 13, 1921.

By June 30, 1923, the following had been completed:

- 3 Shop Hangers, 112' x 200'
- 3 Airplane Hangers, 112' x 200'
- 4 Bessaneau Hangers for storage warehouses
- 2 sets Oil Storage Tanks, 5000 gallon capacity each
- Gasoline Storage Tanks of 50,000 gallon capacity

In 1927, one of the wooden shop hangers was remodeled to provide space for a barracks and mess hall incident to the formation of the Pursuit Group.

Work was commenced in the latter part of 1930 on permanent construction for the 5th Composite Group, the following work having been completed in preparation: Relocation of R.R. around field, brush cleared, excavating and filling and grading.

ORGANIZATION - AND ARRIVAL OF UNITS

In Jan. 1921, to complete the Hawaiian Division organization, the following units were assigned to Schofield Barracks and designated as Divisional Air Service:

- 4th Observation Squadron
- Photo Section No. 11
- Branch Intelligence Office No. 11

The above units proceeded to their new station Feb. 6, 1922, per General Orders No. 7, Headquarters Hawaiian Department, Jan. 31, 1922.

On October 23, 1922, the following were returned to Luke Field:

- Photo Section No. 11
- Branch Intelligence Office No. 11

Effective May 1, 1923, the 17th Composite Group was organized at Wheeler Field, Schofield Barracks, and was composed of the following units:

- 17th Composite Group Headquarters
- 19th Pursuit Squadron
- 4th Observation Squadron

The two former units were organized from A. S. personnel at Wheeler Field.

Effective Jan. 15, 1924, the 17th Composite Group was rendered inactive and, on the same date, the 19th Pursuit Squadron was transferred to Luke Field, leaving only the 4th Observation Squadron at Wheeler Field.

A provisional Pursuit Group was formed Jan. 5, 1927, by transfer of the 6th and 19th Pursuit Squadrons from Luke Field.

The 4th Observation Squadron was transferred to Luke Field Jan. 11, 1927.

On Jan. 24, 1927, the Provisional Group was designated the 18th Pursuit Group.

The 26th Attack Squadron was organized at Wheeler Field Sept. 1, 1930, and was attached to the 18th Pursuit Group, Wheeler Field.

The 75th Service Squadron was organized at Wheeler Field Sept. 15, 1930 and was assigned to the 18th Pursuit Group.

CHRONOLOGY

1 Nov 1940	Hawaiian Air Force Formed (p 138)
5 Feb 1942	Hawaiian Air Force redesignated 7th Air Force
15 Oct 1942	Redesignation of 7th Air Force Base Command to 7th Air Force Service Command
21 Jul 1943	G.O.29, Organization of 7th Air Force Service Command.
Oct 1943	185th Army Band was later designated 285th Army Band was assigned to 7th Air Force.
8 Aug 1945	The Hawaiian Air Depot & Hickam Army Air Base was assigned to Pacific Division Army Transport Command (ATC)
13 Aug 1949	G. O. 36 Activation and Assignment of the 501st Air Force Band.*
19 Jul 1949	G. O. 55, MATS, 501st Air Force Band assigned to 1500th Air Base Wing, MATS.
1 Apr 1955	1500th Air Base Wing redesignated 6486th Air Base Wing, FEAF, S. O. 39, FEAF, effective 31 Mar 1955, 6486th ABW assigned to 7th Air Force.
1 Jul 1957	Far East Air Force (FEAF) redesignated PACAF, 7th Air force deactivated, 6486th ABW redesignated PACAFBASECOM.
5 Feb 1962	Hq PACAF S. O. G-12, 501st Air Force Band redesignated "Command Band for the Pacific Air Forces."
30 Jun 1975	501st Air Force Band deactivated.

* According to Mr. Wayne Peterson, PACAF Office of History, the Pacific area was at one time designated the 500 series.