

WHEELER FIELD/WHEELER AIR FORCE BASE CHRONOLOGY

- 26 Jan 22 - First Lieutenant William T. Agee and twenty enlisted men from the 4th Observation Squadron proceeded from Luke Field on Ford Island to Schofield Barracks where they began clearing land on the south side of the base for construction of buildings to be used by Air Service organizations.
- 31 Jan 22 - Headquarters Hawaiian Department General Orders No. 7 transferred the 4th Observation Squadron, Photo Section No. 11, and Branch Intelligence Office No. 11 from Luke Field to Schofield Barracks. (These units had been designated as "Divisional Air Service" in January 1921 to complete the organization of the Hawaiian Division at Schofield.)
- 6 Feb 22 - The above units left Luke Field for duty and station at Schofield, under the command of Major George E. Stratemeyer. Officers were temporarily housed in the 21st, 27th, and 35th Infantry areas; and enlisted personnel were attached to the 35th Infantry for quarters and rations.

In addition to their regular duties, all 4th Observation Squadron personnel assisted in the work of constructing a permanent flying field at Schofield. Originally known as the Hawaiian Divisional Air Service Flying Field, it was located on the old 17th Cavalry drill grounds and was bordered on the north by Oahu Railroad tracks, on the east by Kunia Road, and on the west and south by gulches. Within a month, a landing strip had been completed sufficient to handle the relatively slow and light aircraft assigned. By the first week in March, work had progressed well enough to bring the aircraft and personnel that had remained behind to the new Schofield facilities. By the end of March, the area was cleared of weeds, guava and algaroba trees; and two temporary canvas hangars had been erected.

- 31 Mar 22 - Major Karl H. Gorman assumed command of the Air Service troops at Schofield, relieving Major Stratemeyer, who then assumed command of Luke Field.
- 3 Jul 22 - The Hawaiian Divisional Air Service Flying Field was redesignated Wheeler Field in honor of Major Sheldon H. Wheeler, who died on 13 July 1921 when his DH-4A aircraft with Sergeant Thomas A. Kelly aboard stalled and crashed on the northeast end of Ford Island, killing both aviators.
- 28 Jul 22 - Branch Intelligence Office No. 11 was redesignated Air Intelligence Office No. 11 by General Orders No. 35, Hq Hawaiian Department.
- 23 Oct 22 - Photo Section No. 11 and Air Intelligence Office No. 11 were relieved from assignment to the Hawaiian Division at Schofield and returned to Luke Field, with assignment to the 5th Group (Composite), leaving only the 4th Observation Squadron at Wheeler.
- 11 Nov 22 - War Department General Orders No. 47 officially named the flying field at Schofield Barracks "Wheeler Field" in memory of Major Sheldon H. Wheeler.

- 16 Feb 23 - The first known reforestation by air was made from Wheeler Field at the request of the Forest Reserve. Two 4th Observation Squadron DH-4B aircraft, crewed by Captains H. H. Young and Alfred E. King and Lieutenants C. E. Duncan and H. W. Sheridan, overcame the dangers of low-altitude flying and successfully sowed 150 pounds of Norton Bay fig tree seeds over two extremely mountainous areas of Oahu--in the Ewa Forest Reserve and along the eastern side of the Waianae Mountain Range from Barbers Point to Kolekole Pass.

 - 1 May 23 - The 17th Composite Group was organized at Wheeler Field, per Hq Hawaiian Department General Orders No. 10 dated 5 April 1923. It was manned by Air Service personnel available at that post and was composed of the 17th Composite Group Headquarters, 19th Pursuit Squadron, and 4th Observation Squadron.

 - 30 Jun 23 - The following facilities had been completed at Wheeler Field: Three shop hangars (112' x 200'), three airplane hangars (112' x 200'), four Bessaneau hangars (for storage warehouses), two 500-gallon oil storage tanks, and several 50,000-gallon capacity gasoline storage tanks.

 - 15 Jan 24 - The 17th Composite Group was inactivated and the 19th Pursuit Squadron transferred to the 5th Composite Group at Luke Field, again leaving at Wheeler Field only the 4th Observation Squadron, which was assigned to the Hawaiian Division.

 - 10 Nov 26 - The Commanding Officer, Hawaiian Department, appointed a board of officers to study the needs of the Department in connection with the Air Corps Five-Year Program. Three months later, in a report dated 21 February 1927, the board recommended the expansion of Wheeler Field in a 400-acre area of land immediately east of old Wheeler Field and contained in the triangle formed by Wahiawa Road, Schofield Road, and the existing Wheeler Field boundary. It was estimated at that time that the cost of preparing the ground, exclusive of the purchase cost, would be \$107,450.

 - 5 Jan 27 - The 6th and 19th Pursuit Squadrons were relieved from assignment to the 5th Composite Group at Luke Field and assigned to Wheeler Field, where they were organized as a Provisional Pursuit Group by General Orders No. 1, Hq Hawaiian Department.
- One of the wooden shop hangars at Wheeler Field was remodeled to provide space for a barracks and mess hall to accommodate the newly formed pursuit group.
- 11 Jan 27 - The 4th Observation Squadron was transferred from Wheeler Field to Luke Field.

 - 24 Jan 27 - The Provisional Pursuit Group was designated the 18th Pursuit Group by General Orders No. 2, Hq Hawaiian Department.

 - 21 Mar 27 - The 18th Pursuit Group participated in festivities dedicating John Rodgers Airport by providing an aerial demonstration, with the 6th and 19th Pursuit Squadrons flying three PW-9 aircraft each.

- 29 Jun 27 - The first nonstop Mainland-to-Hawaii flight (from Oakland, California, to Wheeler Field) was successfully completed by Army First Lieutenants Lester J. Maitland and Albert F. Hegenberger. They flew a Fokker C-2 trimotor airplane called the "Bird of Paradise" a total of 2,407 miles in 25 hours and 50 minutes, and were later awarded the Mackay Trophy for 1927 and the Distinguished Flying Cross. The 6th and 19th Pursuit Squadrons each flew six PW-9 aircraft in an Aloha flight to greet the aviators.
- 6 Jul 27 - The 19th Pursuit Squadron flew three PW-9s in another Aloha flight, this time for the departure of Lieutenants Maitland and Hegenberger aboard the USS Maui to the Mainland. Tragedy struck when the aircraft piloted by Lt Charles L. Williams, while attempting to perform an aileron roll, stalled and crashed into the sea off Fort DeRussy, killing the pilot. The next day, a memorial flight in the "missing man" formation dropped flowers over the site of the accident.
- 15 Jul 27 - The 19th Pursuit Squadron provided three PW-9s which participated in an escort mission for Mr. Ernest Smith and Mr. Emory B. Bronte, the first civilians to fly from the Mainland to Hawaii. They took off on 14 July from Oakland, California, but ran out of fuel and crash-landed on the island of Molokai after a 25-hour flight. DH-4 aircraft dispatched from Luke Field picked up the aviators from Homestead Field on Molokai and carried them to Oahu, where they were met off Diamond Head by the PW-9s, and escorted to Wheeler Field.
- 17 Aug 27 - Winners of the Dole Derby, an air race from California to Hawaii, landed at Wheeler Field. Arthur Goebel collected the \$25,000 first prize with a time of 26 hours and 18 minutes; Martin Jensen was second for the \$10,000 prize with a time of 28 hours and 16 minutes. Prior to their arrival, three PW-9 aircraft from the 6th Pursuit Squadron delighted the waiting crowd with an aerial demonstration.
- 1928 House Bill HR 11134 authorized for Wheeler Field \$504,000 for barracks; \$300,000 for NCO quarters; and \$666,000 for officers' quarters. (The following year, on 25 September 1929, these funds became available as authorized except that the amount for the barracks was reduced to \$502,000.)
- 1 Jun 28 - Australian Squadron Leader Charles E. Kingsford-Smith landed his tri-motored Fokker monoplane "Southern Cross" at Wheeler Field on the first leg of his pioneer trans-Pacific flight from Oakland, California, to Brisbane, Australia, by way of Hawaii and Fiji.
- 31 Oct 29 - First Lieutenant Hoyt S. Vandenberg assumed command of the 6th Pursuit Squadron at Wheeler Field. For the first time since the arrival of that unit in the islands, it managed to retain the same commanding officer for an entire year. Aircraft assigned to the squadron were DH-4B, PW-9C, and P-12B.
- 20 Jan 30 - The final layout plan for Wheeler field was completed and approved by the Quartermaster General.

14 May 30 - Twenty-four aircraft from Wheeler joined sixteen from Luke Field and one from the Naval Air Station to participate in the largest inter-island flight to date, with stops at Maui and the Big Island of Hawaii, and return to Oahu scheduled for the following day. The flight had been planned to work out the problems involved in combining pursuit and bomber formations. A tragic mishap occurred when an LB-5A aircraft flown by 2d Lt Boyd Tallmidge developed mechanical problems and entered a spin at 8,000 feet, forcing the crew of four to bail out. Three made it successfully, but the parachute of SSgt John Becker opened prematurely and became entangled on the tail surfaces of the bomber, pulling him into the ocean with the aircraft. Rescue was attempted immediately by crewmembers of amphibian aircraft involved in the flight; and for their efforts, Distinguished Flying Crosses were awarded to Captain Ulysses G. Jones, 1st Lt Walter T. Meyer, 2d Lt Edwin W. Rawlings, and SSgt Robert S. Summers. (Rawlings, who was stationed at Luke Field at the time, later became the first Comptroller of the Air Force, commanded the Air Materiel Command, and retired as a General, living in Hawaii part of the time and in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, the remainder of the year.)

7 Jul 30 - The Albrook Field double hangar was approved for use at Wheeler.

1 Sep 30 - The 26th Attack Squadron was organized at Wheeler Field and had an authorized strength of ninety men. It was composed of surplus personnel from the Hawaiian Department and those transferred from other Air Corps units. The squadron was attached to the 5th Composite Group (per General Orders No. 26, Hq Hawaiian Department, dated 30 Aug 30) but remained on detached service at Wheeler Field.

15 Sep 30 - The 75th Service Squadron was organized at Wheeler Field and assigned to the 18th Pursuit Group (per General Orders No. 29, Hq Hawaiian Department, 12 September 1930) for the purpose of accomplishing second-, third-, and some fourth-echelon maintenance on the Group's training aircraft.

Around this time, Bellows Field became unofficially connected with Wheeler when it was opened as an aerial gunnery camp for the 18th Pursuit Group.

9 Oct 30 - Six P-12 aircraft from the 6th Pursuit Squadron participated in an aerial review for Major General Douglas MacArthur.

15 Mar 31 - The 19th Pursuit Squadron received its first P-12C aircraft.

2 Jun 31 - The 6th and 19th Pursuit Squadrons participated in a welcoming Aloha flight for Prince and Princess Takamatsu of Japan when they arrived on the SS Chichibu Maru.

5-6 Jun 31- The 19th Pursuit Squadron flew P-12C aircraft in an aerial demonstration at the Hawaiian Division Horse Show.

- 7 Jul 31 - A contract was awarded for the construction of two sets of field grade officer quarters, thirteen sets of company officer quarters, and eleven sets of NCO quarters at Wheeler. (These were constructed in 1932; in addition, five field officer quarters, thirty-seven company officer quarters, and one bachelor officer quarters for 16 officers were completed the same year.)
- 17 Sep 31 - The 6th Pursuit Squadron provided fourteen aircraft for an Aloha flight to welcome the King and Queen of Siam.
- 17-18 Dec 31 - Second Lieutenant William A. Cocke of Wheeler Field, participating in the International Glider Meet held on the windward side of Oahu, established a new world endurance and distance record for glider flight by remaining in the air for 21 hours, 34 minutes, and 15 seconds, traveling an estimated distance of 600 miles.
- 1932 - Construction projects at Wheeler Field included 52 sets of officer quarters, 42 sets of NCO quarters, bachelor NCO quarters, four barracks, dispensary, fire station, guard house, warehouses, hangars, and administration building. Projects completed during the year included an extension of the lighting system at the landing field (\$110,000); hangars, shops, etc. (\$2,367,579).
- 11 Mar 32 - Captain Aubrey C. Strickland was transferred to the 18th Pursuit Group Headquarters at Wheeler Field, relinquishing command of the 19th Pursuit Squadron to 1st Lt Robert C. Oliver. (Strickland later retired as a Brigadier General; and his daughter, Mary Lee, was stationed at Hickam AFB from 1976 to 1978 as the wife of Colonel Howard F. O'Neal, Commander of the 15th Air Base Wing.)
- 20 Oct 32 - The 19th Pursuit Squadron moved into its new barracks at Wheeler.
- 3-4 Nov 32 - The 6th Pursuit Squadron moved to the new Wheeler Field.
- 1933 - Construction at Wheeler included a laboratory, various buildings, and miscellaneous work involving expenditures totaling \$385,262.
- 1934 - Hangars, technical buildings, barracks, quarters, and miscellaneous buildings were completed.
- 19 Mar 34 - The 11th Photo Section was transferred to Wheeler Field and attached for administration.
- 29 Oct 34 - Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith (now knighted) made the world's first west-east trans-Pacific flight (reversing the route flown in 1928), landing his Lockheed Altair airplane "Lady Southern Cross" at Wheeler Field.
- 11 Jan 35 - Amelia Earhart departed from Wheeler Field in her Lockheed Vega and successfully completed the first solo flight from Hawaii to the Mainland in 18 hours and 16 minutes, landing at Oakland, California. Her plane had been shipped to Hawaii from San Francisco and thoroughly overhauled and put in shape by Wheeler Field personnel prior to her historic flight. General Curtis E. LeMay, USAF, Retired

(who, as a lieutenant was stationed at Wheeler in 1935-37), said, "I remember the Amelia Earhart flight. I got the job of checking out her plane's navigation equipment and her navigation ability before the C.O. would clear her for departure."

- 1937 - The 11th Photo Section at Wheeler Field was placed under the direct supervision of the Commanding General, 18th Composite Wing (later redesignated 18th Wing) at Hickam Field.
- 24 Feb 38 - Air Corps units in Hawaii were redesignated as follows:
and Old Designation New Designation
- 25 Mar 38 18th Wing Hq.....Hq & Hq Sq 18th Wing
 5th Composite Group.....5th Bombardment Group
 5th Composite Group Hq.....Hq & Hq Sq 5th Bombardment Group
 18th Pursuit Group Hq.....Hq & Hq Sq 18th Pursuit Group
 4th Observation Squadron.....4th Reconnaissance Squadron
 50th Observation Squadron.....50th Reconnaissance Squadron
 65th Service Squadron.....Base Hq & 17th Air Base Squadron
 75th Service Squadron.....Base Hq & 18th Air Base Squadron
 11th Photo Section demobilized.
- 15 Sep 38 - General Orders No. 20, Hq Hawaiian Department, established the relationship between Wheeler Field and its parent organization, Schofield Barracks, in addition to specifying its relationship with the 18th Composite Wing at Hickam Field. The Wheeler Field garrison was placed under the jurisdiction of the Commanding General, Schofield Barracks, for discipline, recreation, administration, and supply (except Air Corps supply); in all other matters it was to function under the Commander, 18th Composite Wing.
- 12 Oct 38 - The 26th Attack Squadron was relieved from assignment to the 5th Bombardment Group at Hickam Field and attached to the 18th Pursuit Group at Wheeler.
- 1939 - The following projects were completed at Wheeler Field: Refrigeration system for temporary cantonment; furnishing and installing oil-fired ranges in temporary cantonment; excavating, grading, and leveling officer and NCO quarters areas.
- 5 Aug 39 - War Department General Orders No. 4 reassigned a portion of Schofield Barracks (1,427.81 acres) for Wheeler Field. This was the original acquisition for the base.
- 31 Aug 39 - Wheeler Field became a separate permanent military post (per Hq Hawaiian Department General Orders No. 14, 30 Aug 39); however, the functional transition from a satellite of Schofield Barracks to an independent post was accomplished gradually. Pending establishment of separate functions at Wheeler, the Hawaiian Division at Schofield continued to provide supply, chaplain, financial, medical, and administrative support to Wheeler personnel. By this time, Wheeler Field had mushroomed into a large and productive air base. Many steel and wooden hangars as well as machine and repair shops had been constructed. Constant training was being carried on by the combat units stationed there.

24 Nov 39 - General Orders No. 18, Hq Hawaiian Department, was the first step toward centralized control with decentralized operations within the Air Corps. It established (under jurisdiction of the Commanding General, 18th Composite Wing) two Air Base Commands--the 17th at Hickam Field and the 18th Air Base Command at Wheeler. Lt Col W. E. Lynd commanded both the 18th Pursuit Group and the 18th Air Base Command, with responsibilities and authority of an air base commander on Oahu (less Hickam Field, Hawaiian Air Depot, and Sand Island radio beacon). Tactical command of the 18th Pursuit Group remained vested in the Commanding General, 18th Composite Wing (later redesignated 18th Wing), who also assumed duties of Hawaiian Department Air Officer and acted as intermediate commander between the Hawaiian Department and all air bases and the air depot.

26 Dec 39 - General Orders No. 19, Hq Hawaiian Department, redesignated Wheeler units as follows:

<u>Old Designation</u>	<u>New Designation</u>
18th Pursuit Group	18th Pursuit Group (Interceptor)
Hq & Hq Sq 18th Pursuit Gp	Hq & Hq Sq 18th Pursuit Gp (Int)
6th Pursuit Squadron	6th Pursuit Squadron (Int)
19th Pursuit Squadron	19th Pursuit Squadron (Int)
26th Attack Squadron	26th Bomb Squadron (Medium)
(The 26th Bomb Squadron was to move to Hickam Field when accommodations were ready.)	

1940 - The following projects were completed at Wheeler: Thirty-seven double NCO quarters; extension of water main; extension of sewer, electric, street lighting, and water lines; control tower on the operations hangar; new gasoline system; addition to the paint, oil, and dope building.

1 Oct 40 - General Orders No. 33, Hq Hawaiian Department, designated four components under the Base Hq and 18th Air Base Squadron at Wheeler: AB Squadron, 18th AB Group; Hq and Hq Squadron, 18th AB Group; 1st Materiel Squadron, 18th AB Group; and 2d Materiel Squadron, 18th AB Group.

1 Nov 40 - The 14th Pursuit Wing was activated at Wheeler Field (per General Orders No. 37, Hq Hawaiian Department, 28 October 1940), with a strength of one officer and twenty-five enlisted men who had been drawn from personnel of the 18th Air Base Group. On that same day the Hawaiian Air Force was activated at Fort Shafter, assuming the responsibilities of the former 18th Wing, which had been redesignated the 18th Bombardment Wing on 19 October 1940. This action served to separate bombardment (Hickam Field) and fighter (Wheeler Field) activities. The Commanding General of the 14th Pursuit Wing was placed in command of the 18th Air Base Command at Wheeler Field, while the Commanding General of the 18th Bombardment Wing commanded the 17th Air Base Command at Hickam.

In addition, the 1st and 2d Materiel Squadrons, which were performing second- and third-echelon maintenance at Wheeler, were redesignated the 24th and 25th Materiel Squadrons, respectively; and the AB Squadron, 18th ABG, was redesignated the 17th Air Base Squadron.

- 1 Dec 40 - The 15th Pursuit Group (Fighter)--predecessor of today's 15th Air Base Wing--was activated at Wheeler Field and assigned to the 14th Pursuit Wing, along with the 18th Pursuit Group. Squadrons assigned were the 45th, 46th, and 47th Pursuit Squadrons.
- 1941 - Completed Wheeler projects included a 600-man barracks; ten field officer quarters, twenty-five company officer quarters, three 10-unit officer apartment buildings; emergency night lighting system; and pavements, sidewalks, and curbs.
- 27 Oct 41 - A major reorganization (authorized by General Orders No. 68, Hq Hawaiian Department) separated the combat and service functions of the Hawaiian Air Force. Wing commanders were limited to control of their tactical units, and separately designated base commanders were appointed to service the tactical organizations. The base commanders assumed support responsibilities previously carried out by the 17th and 18th Air Base Commands. At Wheeler, the Commanding General of the 14th Pursuit Wing was responsible for all units under his jurisdiction but no longer acted as station commander, relinquishing post command duties to the Wheeler Field Commander.

Colonel William J. Flood was assigned as Commanding Officer of Wheeler Field (Special Orders No. 269, Hq Hawaiian Department, 27 Oct 41) vice Brigadier General H. C. Davidson, who retained command of the 14th Pursuit Wing. The following nontactical units formerly under the jurisdiction of the Commanding General, 14th Pursuit Wing, were placed under the control of the Wheeler Field Commanding Officer:

- Hq & Hq Sq, 18th Air Base Group
- 17th Air Base Squadron
- 24th Materiel Squadron
- 25th Materiel Squadron
- 45th Signal Platoon, Hawaii
- 14th Quartermaster Company (Truck)
- Detachment Quartermaster Corps, Hawaii, Wheeler Field
- Detachment 39th Quartermaster Company
- 741st Ordnance Company, Aviation
- Station Complement attached to 741st Ordnance Company, Aviation
- Detachment Finance Department, Wheeler Field
- Detachment Medical Corps, Wheeler Field

When Colonel Flood took over the base, the following facilities existed and were operating under the 24th and 25th Materiel Squadrons: Air Corps supply, machine and welding shops, engineering department, parachute department, final assembly hangar, woodworking shops, propeller and instrument shops. All of these facilities were used for second- and third-echelon maintenance at Wheeler; the Hawaiian Air Depot at Hickam Field accomplished fourth-echelon work.

- 7 Dec 41 - The Japanese attack on military installations in Hawaii resulted in 37 killed, 53 wounded, and 6 missing at Wheeler Field. Of the 231 aircraft assigned to the Hawaiian Air Force, 153 of which were at Wheeler, only 63 tactical aircraft remained usable, including 27 P-40s. The 25 Japanese dive-bombers (Vals) which came in for the initial attack reduced most of the closely parked airplanes on Wheeler's flight line to twisted wreckage. Then 14 of Japan's best fighters, the Mitsubishi A6M (Zeros), joined in the attack; and all 39 aircraft began to strafe the remaining planes and buildings. Hangars 1 and 3 were soon burning out of control. Heavy loss of life resulted when the 6th Pursuit Squadron barracks was struck by a bomb and a row of tents in which most of the ground crewmen lived was transformed into a fiery furnace. Against overwhelming odds, twelve pilots assigned to the 46th and 47th Pursuit Squadrons managed to launch their P-36 and P-40 aircraft from Wheeler and Haleiwa Fields, engaged the enemy in furious dogfights, and scored some of the first American victories of World War II. Two of the P-40 pilots, Second Lieutenants George S. Welch and Kenneth M. Taylor, were later cited for extraordinary heroism during the attack; and both received the Distinguished Service Cross.
- 17 Dec 41 - The 14th Pursuit Wing was redesignated the Hawaiian Interceptor Command (per General Orders No. 80, Hq Hawaiian Department).
- 25 Dec 41 - The Hawaiian Air Force Base Command was established (per General Orders No. 16, Hawaiian Air Force) as part of the Air Corps reorganization prompted by the outbreak of the war. It consisted of a headquarters located at Hickam Field and four subordinate commands: the Hickam Field, Wheeler Field, and Bellows Field Base Commands; and the Hawaiian Air Depot. The Hickam, Wheeler, and Bellows commands were responsible for supplying, servicing, and maintaining combat units assigned to their respective areas, furnishing administrative assistance, rations, and quarters. The Hawaiian Air Depot was responsible for supply, maintenance, and modification of all Army aircraft in the Central Pacific Area. In addition, immediately after the 7 December attack, when the possibility of invasion of the Hawaiian Islands seemed far from remote, the base commanders were required to train personnel on airdrome defense and physically prepare their installations to insure against possible invasion or acts of sabotage. As invasion fears subsided, however, and were eventually minimized by the crushing defeat of the Japanese at Midway, the emphasis of the base commands once more turned to supply and maintenance functions.
- 11 Jan 42 - The 674th and 696th Ordnance Companies, Aviation (Pursuit) were assigned to Wheeler Field (per General Orders No. 6, Hq Hawaiian Air Force) to maintain the base stock of all ordnance materiel and to procure, store, and issue it. Ordnance materiel for pursuit and bombardment aircraft differed greatly; consequently, the ordnance companies were designated as "(Pursuit)" at Wheeler and "(Bombardment)" at Hickam.

- 5 Feb 42 - The Hawaiian Air Force was redesignated the Seventh Air Force (per General Orders No. 30, Hq Hawaiian Department, 5 Mar 42). It was composed of the VII Interceptor Command (former Hawaiian Interceptor Command) at Wheeler Field, the VII Bomber Command (former 18th Bombardment Wing) and the VII Air Force Base Command (former Hawaiian Air Force Base Command) at Hickam.

- 13 May 42 - The 39th Quartermaster Detachment (Light Maintenance) (Aviation) and the Quartermaster Supply Company Aviation, Wheeler Field, were disbanded. On the same day, the 607th Quartermaster Platoon (Light Maintenance) (Aviation) and the 209th Quartermaster Platoon Service Center (Aviation) were activated at Wheeler, drawing their cadres from the disbanded units. The light maintenance platoon was to provide third-echelon motor transport maintenance, while the other one procured, stored, and issued quartermaster supplies as required.

- 22 May 42 - The VII Interceptor Command was redesignated as the VII Fighter Command (per General Orders No. 43, Hq Seventh Air Force).

- 8 Jun 42 - The 5th Chemical Company was disbanded at Hickam Field and provided the cadres which were formed into twelve chemical organizations, three of which were at Wheeler Field: 887th Chemical Company, Bomb; 178th Chemical Platoon, Airdrome; 564th Chemical Platoon, AF Service Center. The 887th Company equipped planes with spray tanks for gas and smoke missions in addition to setting up and operating distribution points where bulk chemicals were stored and later issued. The 178th Platoon trained personnel in defense against chemical attack, were prepared for large-scale decontamination work, and also stored and issued chemical property. The 564th Platoon handled and maintained all chemical equipment.

- 25 Jun 42 - The Hawaiian Air Depot activated a sub-depot at Wheeler Field (per General Orders No. 22, Hq VII AF Base Command) to perform third- and fourth-echelon maintenance on aircraft based at Wheeler. The 24th and 25th Materiel Squadrons which originally accomplished this work were reformed into service squadrons and became mobile units which performed third-echelon maintenance. When the squadrons were redesignated from materiel to service squadrons, the 18th Air Base Group to which they were assigned was redesignated as well, to the 18th Service Group. The change brought about an increase in the mobility of the organization and reduced the number of administrative personnel assigned.

- 15 Oct 42 - The VII Air Force Base Command was redesignated the VII Air Force Service Command (per General Orders No. 94, Hq Seventh Air Force) and reduced considerably in size, with much of its personnel reassigned to the Seventh Air Force. Hq 7AF General Orders No. 93 dated 15 Oct 42 authorized base commanders to route communications directly to Hq Seventh Air Force, thus marking the decline of the Service Command.

18 Nov 46 - The 7th Fighter Wing (which was activated in Hawaii on 21 Apr 44 and stationed at Fort Shafter) was reassigned to Wheeler Field. Assigned to Seventh Air Force to provide air defense for the Hawaiian Islands, the wing was commanded by Colonel Richard A. Grussendorf, who also assumed command of Wheeler Army Air Base. The following units and installations were under the wing's jurisdiction:

- 3d Communications Squadron
- 9th Radar Calibration Detachment
- 81st Fighter Group
 - 91st, 92d, and 93d Fighter Squadrons
- 348th Station Complement Squadron
- 472d Signal Heavy Construction Company (Aviation)
- 526th Aircraft Control and Warning Group
 - 614th, 615th, 616th, and 617th AC&W Squadrons
- 556th Air Service Group
 - 986th Air Engineering Squadron
 - 991st Air Materiel Squadron
 - Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron
 - Base Photographic Laboratory
 - 7AF Food Service Squadrons 1 and 2 (Provisional)
 - Base Signal Office
- 926th Engineer Aviation Group
 - 2307th, 2308th, and 2309th Engineer Aviation Companies
- 1383d Military Police Company (Aviation)
- Barking Sands, Kauai; Bellows Field, Oahu; General Lyman Field, Hawaii; Homestead Field, Molokai; Kualoa Field, Oahu; Kahuku Field, Oahu; Mokuleia Field, Oahu.

Wheeler Field also served as the "parent station" for the Hawaii Air National Guard until that organization moved from Bellows Field to Hickam Field the latter part of 1947.

- 20 Jan 47 - The Wheeler Field Officers' Club took over managements of its dining room after two unsuccessful attempts at having it run by concessionaires. Social functions held included bingo, dances, tournaments of various types, and parties. Between March and June, the club suffered a loss of \$13,730.55. Under new management, a drive began to eliminate these losses, and social affairs were curtailed to some extent. By the end of the year, the club was in a solvent condition.
- June 1947 - The 81st Fighter Group reached its aggregate of seventy-five P-47N type aircraft and experienced difficulty in obtaining spare parts.
- 10 Jun 47 - Colonel Earl H. Jacobsen assumed command of the 7th Fighter Wing and Wheeler Army Air Base.
- 26 Aug 47 - Colonel Thomas W. Blackburn relieved Colonel Jacobsen as Commander of the 7th Fighter Wing and Wheeler Army Air Base.
- 15 Dec 47 - The Seventh Air Force was redesignated the Pacific Air Command, and the 7th Fighter Wing became the 7th Air Division (per General Orders No. 2, Hq Pacific Air Command, dated 23 Dec 47). This redesignation did not materially affect the operation of the unit except that staff officers functioned in a dual capacity, combining division and base staff section responsibilities.

- 13 Jan 48 - Mokuleia Field, one of the installations under the Wheeler Commander's jurisdiction, was redesignated Dillingham Air Force Base in honor of Captain Henry Gaylord Dillingham, a Hawaii hero who died in combat during World War II. Hundreds of military and civic leaders attended the dedication ceremony, including Territorial Governor Ingram M. Stainback (who delivered the main address) and members of the Dillingham family (Mr. and Mrs. Walter F. Dillingham, parents of the deceased hero; and his two brothers, Lowell S. and Ben F. Dillingham). More than 500 Wheeler personnel stood in formation near Mokuleia's main runway, against a backdrop of 36 silver P-47 Thunderbolts from the 81st Fighter Group, as a giant garrison flag was raised. The 40-minute ceremony featured tributes by high-ranking military and civilian officials and was climaxed by a formation of three B-17 flying fortresses and twelve P-47 fighters which swept low over the newly named base. This base furnished support to aircraft of the 81st Fighter Group during tactical operations until it was closed on 23 December 1948.
- 26 Mar 48 - Wheeler Army Air Base was redesignated Wheeler Air Force Base, in accordance with Department of the Air Force General Orders No. 10, dated 26 March 1948 (as announced by Hq Pacific Air Command General Orders No. 10, dated 15 April 1948).
- 1 May 48 - Headquarters 7th Air Division moved to Hickam AFB (by inactivation of the Hq and Hq Squadron at Wheeler, and organization and assignment of the unit at Hickam); however, this move was in name only, as personnel and equipment remained at Wheeler to comprise the new 81st Fighter Wing, which was established on the same date (per General Orders No. 11, Hq Pacific Air Command, 27 April 1948). The 81st Fighter Group was reassigned to the new 81st Fighter Wing, while other lower echelons and installations were simultaneously assigned to the 7th Air Division, the 81st Fighter Wing, and/or the 81st Fighter Group.
- July 1948 - Barking Sands on the island of Kauai, which had been in caretaker status, was reestablished as a training base for the 81st Fighter Group.
- 3 Sep 48 - The new Hq 7th Air Division at Hickam, which had acquired personnel and equipment through transfer from other sources, was discontinued; and its personnel and units were assigned to the Pacific Air Command, the 81st Fighter Wing, and other organizations. The 7th Air Division was originally established in preparation for the anticipated expansion of the Pacific Air Command; however, directives from HQ USAF ordered a reduction instead, making the division surplus to the needs of the command and resulting in its inactivation.
- 1 Nov 48 - General Lyman AFB in Hilo, Hawaii, was placed in caretaker status, and the Civil Aeronautics Agency began operation of the control tower there.
- 15 Dec 48 - Bellows AFB was placed in caretaker status.

- 25 Feb 49 - A "warning order" from HQ USAF terminated the mission of the 81st Fighter Wing, which was directed to prepare for transfer to the Zone of the Interior. This made it necessary to emphasize training of reserve forces so they would be ready for immediate mobilization for the air defense of the Hawaiian Islands when called upon.
- 4 Mar 49 - Actual flying operations of the 81st Fighter Group ceased; and on 7 March 1949, all of the group's F-47 Thunderbolts were transferred to Hickam AFB, where they were reassigned with other equipment to the Hawaii Air National Guard.
- May 1949 - The 81st Fighter Wing departed with its assigned units to the Mainland, and flight operations ended at Wheeler AFB. A total of 248 housing units were vacated, and HQ USAF approved the use of about 200 of these Wheeler units to relieve the housing shortage for Air Force personnel at Hickam.
- 1 Jun 49 - The Pacific Air Command was discontinued and all its personnel, operations, and functions transferred to the Pacific Division, Military Air Transport Service (PACD/MATS). On the same date, the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 1500th Air Transport Wing, was organized at Hickam AFB and assigned to PACD/MATS. Concurrently, all bases and installations (including those previously under the Wheeler Commander's jurisdiction) were assigned to the 1500th ATW.
- 9 Aug 49 - The "1500th ATW Detachment, Wheeler AFB" was established to maintain the installation on a standby status and to provide general support and utilities for occupied quarters at Wheeler. This included providing security and caretaker maintenance of government property on Wheeler.
- 21 Nov 49 - Disposition instructions issued by HQ PACD/MATS required the 1500th ATW Commander to inactivate and place on minimum caretaker status all of Wheeler AFB except: (1) Buildings 110, 111, 112 and 114, including the adjacent concrete apron and Runway A, which were desired by the Department of the Army; (2) all buildings and facilities located north of Wright Avenue between Elleman and Frutchee Roads (housing area); (3) Buildings 200 (fire station), 203 (motor pool maintenance shop), 205 (air installations shop), 206 (airmen's barracks), and T-252/T-261/T-253/T-261A/T-262 (dispatcher's office and parking area buildings); (4) the motor pool parking area located immediately south of Building 202.
- 1949-1951: Wheeler AFB remained on minimum caretaker status and omitted from consideration in the USAF program for improving and developing existing bases.
- 24 Feb 52 - The 1508th Support Squadron was designated and assigned to PACD/MATS with further assignment to the 1500th ATW and to the 1500th Air Base Group. This unit was organized to operate housing and maintain security at Wheeler AFB and outlying areas, with an authorized strength of 3 officers, 110 airmen, and 38 civilians.

- 10 Mar 52 - Lt Col Robert C. Swearingen assumed command of the 1508th Support Squadron at Wheeler AFB.
- 1 Aug 52 - The 1500th ATW was redesignated as the 1500th Air Base Wing and reorganized, discontinuing the 1500th Maintenance and Supply Group, 1500th Air Base Group, and 1500th Communications Squadron, and activating a 1500th Operations Squadron. Consequently, the 1508th Support Squadron at Wheeler AFB was reassigned from the 1500th ABG and reported directly to the 1500th ABW.
- 1 Jul 53 - Major Joseph A. Lloyd assumed command of the 1508th Support Squadron from Lt Col Robert C. Swearingen, who was reassigned to the 1500th ABW Headquarters.
- 19 Oct 53 - Captain David T. Holloway assumed command of the 1508th Support Squadron.
- Nov 1953 - The 1508th Support Squadron was relocated into Wing E on the first floor of Building 100 from their former location in Building 201, which was taken over by Detachment Joint Task Force Seven for use as its headquarters.
- Aug 1954 - The 1810th Airways & Air Communications Services Group established its headquarters at Wheeler AFB.
- 11 Feb 55 - Lt Col Willie C. Head, Jr., former 1500th ABW Comptroller, assumed command of the 1508th Support Squadron, from Capt David T. Holloway.
- 24 Mar 55 - The newly reactivated Seventh Air Force established its headquarters at Wheeler AFB in Building 107.
- 1 Apr 55 - The 1508th Support Squadron was redesignated the 6487th Support Squadron, concurrent with redesignation of the 1500th ABW as the 6486th Air Base Wing. At the same time, the Wing and its subordinate units were relieved from assignment to the Military Air Transport Service and transferred to the Far East Air Forces without change in strength or station. They were assigned to the newly established Pacific Air Force and further assigned to the Seventh Air Force.
- 8 Mar 56 - Detachment 4, 5th Air Postal Squadron, was attached to the 6487th Support Squadron for logistics support.
- 22 Jun 56 - Lt Col Carl V. Schott assumed command of the 6487th Support Squadron.
- Dec 1956 - The 1808th Airways & Air Communications Services Wing moved its first increment of personnel from Fuchu Air Station, Japan, to Wheeler AFB. This was part of the relocation of Headquarters Far East Air Forces and ancillary units from Japan to Hawaii. The AACS Wing completed its move during the period January-June 1957, establishing its headquarters in Building 105 at Wheeler.