

5 AF and Kenney Warfighting Headquarters Quarters

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General Paul V. Hester, Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) commander, initiated a transition at Fifth Air Force (5 AF) in January 2005. General Hester implemented the 7 January 2005 guidance in *Air Force Forces Command and Control Enabling Concept (AFFOR C2 Enabling Concept)*. This directive established the Warfighting Headquarters Quarters (WFHQ) as a key command and control element in PACAF. General Hester decided that Kenney Headquarters (KHQ), now assigned to 13 AF, located at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii, would execute operational control (OPCON) in Japan. The “History of Pacific Air Forces, 1 January – 31 December 2005” noted these changes. Therefore, 5 AF has modified its role by taking administrative control (ADCON) of the three wings in Japan. Former 5 AF and United States Forces Japan (USFJ) commander, Lieutenant General Bruce Wright, revealed this in a 2006 interview with the 5 AF History Office. General Wright was the US Forces Japan and 5 AF commander from 10 February 2005 through 25 February 2008. The 5 AF still manages personnel, readiness, training, and safety for the 18th Wing, 35th Fighter Wing, and the 374th Airlift Wing, according to General Wright.

Throughout 2005 Fifth Air Force participated in this transition to the KHQ command and control (C2) concept. PACAF decided 20 slots from 5 AF would transfer to KHQ. The 5 AF 2005 manning documents indicated 5 AF reduced its staff from 241 personnel to 221 authorizations. Moreover, 13th Air Force from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam sent 72 slots to KHQ. However, 13 AF began to relocate to Hickam Air Force Base in January and completed the move on 3 May to be attached to KHQ. PACAF would also shift many of its operational duties to KHQ. PACAF provided most of the additional slots for the 770 authorizations for KHQ, per the “History of Pacific Air Forces, 1 January – 31 December 2005.”

PACAF planned to transition OPCON away from 5 AF to KHQ as part of the *AFFOR C2 Enabling Concept*. Therefore, during 2005 Fifth Air Force shifted its mission toward ADCON to adjust to KHQ taking OPCON in Japan. “History of Pacific Air Forces, 1 January – 31 December 2005” shows PACAF also decided the 605 Air Operations Group (AOG) of 5 AF would soon inactivate. The 605 AOG would send its 120 billets to help fill the KHQ slots. That would be in addition to the 20 positions 5 AF already transferred to KHQ. Special Order GS-07-017 directed

the 605 AOG to inactivate on 5 February 2007. The General George C. Kenney Warfighting Headquarters (Provisional) activated at Hickam Air Force Base on 1 June 2005. This new unit completed its conversion to a WFHQ on 1 October that same year and PACAF designated it as Kenney Headquarters (KHQ).

The *AFFOR C2 Enabling Concept* evolution to KQH began taking on the warfighting role in Japan that once only 5 AF had for AFFOR in this area of operations (AO). This was a major shift away from 64 years of 5 AF OPCON in Japan to KHQ taking OPCON of Japan while stationed in Hawaii. However, 5 AF, 13 AF, and PACAF were all contributing to establishing KHQ. Both 5 AF and 13 AF would maintain their heritage, lineage and honors, per the “History of Pacific Air Forces, 1 January – 31 December 2005.” The PACAF plan would assign 13 AF to KHQ and avoid any controversy involved with inactivating 13 AF.

General Wright noted, “...Fifth Air Force remains very busy in sort of a hybrid way in responsibilities for stationing requirements for Air Forces in Japan; Our three wings: the 374th [Airlift] Wing, the 18th Wing at Kadena, 35th [Fighter] Wing at Misawa.” Furthermore, the general explained, 5 AF will have 130 billets remaining after sending over 100 slots to the KHQ. This new and much smaller 5 AF organization is converting from an Air Force Forces (AFFOR) structure to an A (Air) staff configuration. KHQ would be an AFFOR unit under PACAF with an area of responsibility (AOR) for all of the Pacific, except for Korea. The Seventh Air Force (7 AF) fact sheet indicated 7 AF has command and control of Korea.

General Wright clarified the role of the new A staff with the following assessment: “A1 through A7, they have been very busy with stationing responsibilities as well as counterpart in their action with the Japan Air Self Defense Force Air Staff Office in Tokyo and as well as Air Defense Command (ADC) located at Fuchu. And there by keep up those counterpart relationships, those military relationships between the US Air Force and the Air Self Defense Force so that we can keep the strength in the alliance, if you will, at the local military counterpart level. That’s very important. It’s very powerful. Friendships, those relationships, the ability to coordinate and constantly interact are very important, and will continue to be very important.”

5 AF Air Staff

A1	Personnel
A2	Intelligence
A3/A5	Operations/Plans
A4	Logistics
A6	Communications
A7	Civil Engineering

General Wright relinquished command of USFJ and 5 AF on February 25, 2008 to Lieutenant General Edward A. Rice Jr. General Rice commanded 13 AF from January 2005 until 6 October 2006 according to his biography. Thus, General Rice was involved in and is aware of the relationships among 5 AF, the JASDF, 13 AF, and PACAF. A USFJ Web site article from 14 April of this year quoted General Rice as saying, “Although two months is not an exceedingly long period of time, I’ve nonetheless had long enough to confirm my initial assessment that the alliance between the United States and Japan is vitally important for the security of our two nations as well as the entire region and that the alliance is strong and has great promise for getting even stronger in the future,” he said.

Christopher B. Stoltz / Stars & Stripes
Incoming USFJ Commander Lt. Gen. Edward Rice Jr., foreground, and outgoing commander, Lt. Gen Bruce A. Wright, salute during the change-of-command ceremony.



Lieutenant General Edward A. Rice, Jr. speaks to members and guests at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo on April 14. (Photo by Air Force Col. August Schalkham)

The *AFFOR C2 Enabling Concept* did not marginalize 5 AF. Moreover, 5 AF is now serving as a partner to the JASDF for joint U.S. and Government of Japan (GOJ) interests. However, 5 AF has an ADCON relationship with the three US Air Force wings in Japan. Thus, 5 AF began 2005 as an OPCON unit but ended the year as a US tool for bilateral relations with the GOJ. The 18 WG, 35 FW, and 374 AW are all still 5 AF units.

However, 13 AF (KHQ) is the component for conducting missions through these wings and KHQ is the 13 AF Air Operations Center (AOC) now. Special Order GS-07-010 activated Detachment 1, 13 AF (Det 1, 13 AF) on January 5, 2007 at Yokota Air Base. Det 1, 13 AF is

collocated within the 5 AF Headquarters. General Wright had this to say about Det 1 in a 2007 interview with the 5 AF History Office:

“We also have a plug here of about 50 airmen as the 13th Air Force (13 AF) detachment and that’s the plug-in for the air operations center (AOC) and General Utterback’s (Lieutenant General Loyd S. “Chip” Utterback, 13 AF commander) numbered air force, which is described in Air Force terminology today as a war-fighting numbered air force. Primarily they have the air operations and are responsible for the air operations center also known as Kenny Headquarters, Hickam [Air Force Base, Hawaii]. However, they’re not here in theater every day. So they use this detachment of about 50 men like Colonel Mike MacWilliam (detachment commander). They are essentially the counterpart to Air Defense Command (ADC)...” The General added, “So, if you will 13th Air Force detachment engages everyday with Air Defense Command at Fuchu [Air Station, Japan].”

General Wright summed up the structure of 5 AF, 13 AF, and Det 1 by with the following explanation:

“When I put on the U.S. Forces Japan hat, my component commander is General James (Major General Larry James) who is dual hatted as both the Fifth Air Force vice [commander] in my component to U.S. Forces as well as the deputy [commander] to General Utterback (13 AF commander), the deputy 13th Air Force Commander. “

Thus, 5 AF administers personnel, readiness, training, and safety issues pertaining to the wings. 5 AF Headquarters still reports directly to PACAF. This means 5 AF continues its proud heritage throughout the Asia-Pacific region by contributing to regional peace and stability.



Thirteenth Air Force Detachment activated at Yokota

YOKOTA AIR BASE, JAPAN---On January 5, 2007, Detachment 1, 13th Air Force activated at Yokota Air Base, Japan to become the operational arm of Pacific Air Force. Lieutenant General Chip Utterback, 13th Air Force commander, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, takes the flag from the new Detachment 1, 13th Air Force commander, Colonel Michael A. MacWilliam, during activation ceremony. (U.S.Air Force photo by Osakabe Yasuo)