

13th Combat Air Base Squadron **INACTIVATION CEREMONY**



16 June 2026
Luke Air Force Base, Arizona

KEY PERSONNEL

Colonel Darryl J. Hebert, Jr.
Commander, 56th Mission Support Group

Colonel Benjamin A. Donberg
Commander, 13th Air Task Force

Lieutenant Colonel Chris S. Bahrij
Commander, 13th Combat Air Base Squadron

NARRATOR

Major Justin C. Rees

GUIDON BEARER

Chief Master Sergeant Leray Smedley and
Senior Master Sergeant Olufemi A. Owolabi

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Opening Narration

Arrival of Official Party

Presentation of the Colors

National Anthem

Invocation

Chaplain William A. Langston

Remarks

Colonel Benjamin A. Donberg

Medal Presentation

Remarks

*Lieutenant Colonel Chris S. Bahrij and
Chief Master Sergeant Leray Smedley*

Inactivation and Casing of Guidon

Air Force Song

Departure of the Official Party

The Tradition of the Guidon

The activation and deactivation of a unit is a military tradition deeply rooted in history. From the earliest days of combat, the passing or casing of a unit's guidon was preformed in front of the formation so all could witness the transfer of authority and the closing of a chapter. This symbolic tradition has survived throughout military history, serving to publicly honor the lineage, leadership, and legacy of the unit in the finest of military traditions.

The 13th Combat Air Base Squadron

In response to growing global challenges, the Department of the Air Force established six experimental Air Task Forces (ATFs) to test new, integrated methods for generating deployable "Units of Action".

The Combat Air Base Squadron (CABS) serves as the primary base operations support element of the ATF. Moving away from traditional deployment models, the CABS provides the vital sustainment, protection, and airfield management required to project combat power globally.

The 13th CABS was comprised of 340 tasked personnel sourced from Luke AFB, Ellsworth AFB, and McConnell AFB. Structured as cross-functional Combat Service Support Teams, these Airmen formed the critical sustainment layer of the 13th ATF. Over their tenure, they trained, exercised, and deployed as a single, cohesive unit, successfully supporting combat operations and sustaining up to 2,500 joint personnel in austere environments.

Today, as we case the guidon of the 13th CABS, we honor a unit that did not just participate in history, but actively shaped the future of Air Force deployments.

Colonel Darryl J. Hebert, Jr.

Colonel Darryl J. Hébert Jr. is the Commander, 56th Mission Support Group, Luke AFB, Arizona. In this capacity, he leads 1,900 highly integrated military and civilian personnel across six squadrons assigned to the world's largest Fighter Wing; aggressively enabling the posture of combat ready Airmen and the development of the world's greatest fighter pilots. He oversees a one hundred and five million dollar operating budget and directs a diverse and innovative mission portfolio including physical and cyber base defense, engineering, explosive ordnance disposal, fire, emergency management, security forces, logistics and material management, transportation, fuels, cryogenics, contracting, force support, and fighter combat readiness.



Colonel Hébert enlisted in June 1997 as a KC-135 Boom Operator. He was commissioned through the Officer Training School program at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama in February 2005. As a Force Support Officer, he has held a myriad of positions at various levels to include: OSD, HAF, C-NAF, Field Operating Agency, Wing, and Squadron level. Col Hébert has deployed numerous times as an Enlisted Aviator and Force Support Officer, with three previous deployments as an EFSS Deputy Commander, and subsequently leading on as the 20th Force Support Squadron Commander at Shaw AFB, SC.

Colonel Benjamin A. Donberg

Colonel Benjamin A. Donberg is Commander of the 346th Air Expeditionary Wing, in Puerto Rico. In this role, he leads a deployed formation of up to 1,500 personnel consisting of a command element, air base support element and multiple dispersed mission generation force elements. The 346th Air Expeditionary Wing supports U.S. Southern Command's objectives throughout their area of responsibility.



Colonel Donberg graduated from University of Colorado, Boulder in 2003 with a Master of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering. Upon graduation, he earned his commission as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps. He completed Undergraduate Pilot Training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas as a distinguished graduate followed by F-15E training at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina. Colonel Donberg's F-15E assignments include four total operational tours, and six combat deployments with over 1200 hours of combat flight time supporting Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, ODYSSEY DAWN, INHERENT RESOLVE, FREEDOM'S SENTINEL and operations in the Horn of Africa. Prior to his current position, Colonel Donberg was the Deputy Division Chief of Forces Division, Joint Staff J8, Pentagon, Washington D.C.

Additionally, during his career, Colonel Donberg served as the Chief of Fighter Weapons for the Secretary of the Air Force's Legislative Affairs office, graduated from the Weapons Instructor Course at Nellis AFB as a distinguished graduate, and completed the DARPA Service Chiefs Fellowship Program. Colonel Donberg's professional developmental education includes the Air Force Strategic Policy Fellowship attached to the U.S. State Department, and a Master's degree from the National Defense University's Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy.

Lieutenant Colonel Chris S. Bahrij

Lieutenant Colonel Chris S. Bahrij is the Commander, 13th CABS, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. He leads the stand-up team of 340 Mission Ready Airmen who are world-wide deployable to support formations of up to 2,500 personnel consisting of a command element, air base support element, and multiple mission generation force elements. He oversees a \$13M budget to organize, train, equip, deploy, and command the Secretary-directed experimental unit in order to identify lessons learned in support of Secretary of the Air Force's pathfinder initiative to define the Air Force's primary unit of action.



Colonel Bahrij entered the Air Force in June 2007 through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln ROTC program. He has held a variety of Civil Engineer positions from base level, AFCEC, AFIIIMSC, and to the Pentagon. Colonel Bahrij has deployed numerous times across Kyrgyzstan, Qatar, Afghanistan, and Djibouti in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, FREEDOM's SENTINEL, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, and NATO's Resolute Support. Prior to his current position, Colonel Bahrij was the Operations Flight Commander for the 5th Civil Engineer Squadron, Minot, North Dakota.

EDUCATION

2007 Bachelors of Science, Civil Engineering, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, NE
2007 Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL
2011 Squadron Officer School, correspondence
2013 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL
2014 Master of Science in Engineering and Technology Management, Oklahoma State University, OK
2017 Air Command and Staff College, correspondence

ASSIGNMENTS

- Nov 07 – Jun 09, Contract Programs Manager, 22 CES, McConnell Air Force Base (AFB), KS
- Jun 09 – Sep 10, Readiness and Emergency Management Flight Commander, 22 CES, McConnell AFB, KS
- Sep 10 – May 11, Chief of Design Engineering, 65 CES, Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal
- May 11 – Sep 12, Deputy Chief Program Flight, 65 CES, Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal
- Sep 12 – Jun 14, Program Manager, Contingency MILCON, Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment, Joint Base (JB) San Antonio-Lackland, TX
- Jun 14 – Jul 15, Assistant Executive Officer, Air Force Civil Engineer Center, JB San Antonio-Lackland, TX
- Jul 15 – Jun 16, Chief Air Force Budget Execution, Air Force Installation Mission Support, JB San Antonio-Lackland, TX
- Jun 16 – Jul 17, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Policy Manager, AF/A4C, Pentagon, Arlington, VA
- Jul 17 – Jul 19, Expeditionary Engineering Contingency Operation Program Manager, AF/A4C, Pentagon, Arlington, VA
- Jul 19 – Jul 21, Operations Flight Commander, 5 CES, Minot AFB, ND
- Jul 21 – Jul 24, Infrastructure and Environment Protection Programs Chief, Joint Logistics Support Group Headquarters, Brunssum, The Netherlands
- Jul 24 – Present, Commander, 13 Combat Air Base Squadron, Luke AFB, AZ

MAJOR UNIT MILESTONES

2024

- Jun/Jul - CABS Team PCS/PCA to Luke AFB, AZ
- 5 Aug - Unit Activation Ceremony at Luke AFB, AZ
- 6 Aug - Combat Support Instructor Course (CSIC) at Fort Bliss, TX
- 3 Oct - AFFORGEN Kick-Off (Prepare Phase) Training at Luke AFB, AZ
- 1 Nov - Ex Desert Hammer at Gila Bend, AZ
- 1 Dec - Combat Support Training Range (CSTR) at Fort Bliss, TX

2025

- 16 Jan - Local training including: ruck marches, runs, and PT workouts
- 2 Feb - SILVER FLAG, Tyndall AFB, FL, and BAMBOO EAGLE 25-1
- 17 Apr - Resilience training and MSG Combat Dining-In at Luke AFB, AZ
- 15 May - TCCC and CBRNE training
- 29 Jul - Ex BAMBOO EAGLE 25-3 at March ARB, CA
- 10 Aug - Deployment Tasking Change
- 17 Aug - Arrived in Puerto Rico and activated the 346 EABS
- 2 Sep - Operation SOUTHERN SPEAR 1st boat strike
- 8 Sep - Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and CJCS Gen Dan Caine visit Puerto Rico
- 13 Sep - VFMA 225 F35B arrive as Jose Aponte
- 28 Oct - HADR support for Jamaica in response to Hurricane Melissa
- 14 Nov - Celebrated 249th USMC birthday celebration w/ Joint Partners
- 24 Nov - CJCS Gen Dan Caine, and SEAC David Isom visit Puerto Rico
- 27 Nov - 346 AEW/EABS Thanksgiving Celebration
- 14 Dec - JTF II MEF CG Lt Gen Calvert Worth visit to Puerto Rico
- 15 Dec - Commandant of the USMC, General Eric Smith, visit to Puerto Rico

2026

- 3 Jan - Executed Operation ABSOLUTE RESOLVE
- 8 Jan - Acting SOUTHCOM/CC Lt Gen Evan Pettus visit
- 13 Mar - Governor of Puerto Rico, Ms. Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon, visit
- 15 Mar - 346 AEW and EABS Change of Command, Jose Aponte, Puerto Rico
- 16 Jun - Inactivation Ceremony at Club 56, Luke AFB, AZ

Ballad of 346

They say you went to Puerto Rico and slept in a hotel.
And I say... oh well.

Not my fault I didn't pick the destination.
Deployment is a mindset, not a location.

Regardless of your job or the base you came from,
We made it better together and we become one.

We got right into the mix, if it was broke, we had a fix.
Built it brick by brick, stood up the 346.

But I'll admit,
There's nights I couldn't sleep, didn't understand the vision.
Days of frustration, didn't understand the mission.

Had to stop and think about how we spent millions,
Look at what we've done with just a few abandoned buildings.

Honestly it's hard to imagine,
The largest military buildup in 65 years we made it happen.

So hold your head up and walk with confidence.
Take a second to reflect and be proud of your accomplishments.

Real warriors don't sleep on success,
They sleep with one eye open for what comes next.

We earned this moment, yeah, that's a fact,
But don't trade ya focus for a pat on the back.

In the future this unit may not even exist,
But history will forever remember the 346.

*Chief Leray Smedley
13 CABS and 346 EABS/SEL
14 Jan 2026*

Air Force Song

Off we go into the wild blue yonder,
Climbing high into the sun;
Here they come zooming to meet our thunder,
At'em now, Give'em the gun!
Down we dive, spouting our flame from under,
Off with one helluva roar!
We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!
Nothing'll stop the US Air Force!



**Make It Better Together
One Three... SEND ME!!!**