

Air Force of Zimbabwe

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The Air Force of Zimbabwe is the aviation wing of the [Zimbabwe Defence Forces](#). Its current commander is Air Marshal [Elson Moyo](#) who took over from Retired Air Chief Marshall [Perrance Shiri](#) who was appointed Minister of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement by President [Emmerson Mnangagwa](#). The Air Force has three major air bases in Zimbabwe; [Manyame Air Base](#) in [Harare](#) and [Thornhill Air Base](#) in [Gweru](#) and [Field Air Force Base](#), in Chegutu, which is home to air defence and regimental training. | [Air Force 2018 Recruitment Scan Mar 27, 2018.pdf](#)

Functions of the Commander Air Force of Zimbabwe (Comd AFZ)

The Commander of AFZ is a member of the [Defence Policy Council](#). His/Her responsibilities include the following:

- Defending Zimbabwe's Airspace.
- Providing an effective counter-strike force.
- Providing close air support to ground forces.
- Supporting civil powers to maintain law and order.
- Providing search and rescue and casualty evacuations.
- Providing VIP and VVIP transport.
- Performing ceremonial fly-pasts.

Commanders Of The Air Force of Zimbabwe

- Air Chief Marshal [Norman Walsh](#) 1981 - 1983
- Air Chief Marshal [Azim Daudpota](#) 1983- 1986
- Air Chief Marshal [Josiah Tungamirai](#) 1986-1992
- Air Chief Marshal [Perrance Shiri](#) 1992-2017
- Air Marshal [Elson Moyo](#) 2017-

Background

In 1939 it started all as an Air Unit, later becoming the South Rhodesian Air Force. In the Southern Rhodesian Air Force, serials SR1 - SR139 were used. In 1953 Rhodesia and Nyasaland formed a federation and in 1954 the Air Force was named Rhodesian Air Force, shortly after that to be renamed to Royal Rhodesian Air Force. This meant that serials all started with RRAF during that period. ^[1]

In 1980 the Airforce of Zimbabwe (AFZ) was formed in 1980 after the integration of the three belligerent forces, The [Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army](#) (ZANLA), and the [Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army](#), (ZIPRA), on one side and the [Rhodesian Air Force](#) on the other. ^[2]

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Command Element



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LIST IS NOT COMPLETE

Rank structure

The AFZ's rank structure is similar to the [RAF](#)'s rank structure from where, via the Rhodesian Air Force, its ranks were derived.

Commissioned Officers

In descending order, the AFZ officer ranks are:

- [Air Chief Marshal](#) (removed from hierarchy after [Josiah Tungamirai](#))
- [Air Marshal](#) equivalent to Lieutenant-General in the Zimbabwe National Army

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- [Air Vice Marshal](#) equivalent to Major-General in the Zimbabwe National Army
- [Air Commodore](#) equivalent to Brigadier-General (or just Brigadier) in the Zimbabwe National Army
- [Group Captain](#) equivalent to Colonel in the Zimbabwe National Army
- [Wing Commander](#) equivalent to Lieutenant-Colonel in the Zimbabwe National Army
- [Squadron Leader](#) equivalent to Major in the Zimbabwe National Army
- [Flight Lieutenant](#) equivalent to Captain in the Zimbabwe National Army
- Air Lieutenant equivalent to Lieutenant in the Zimbabwe National Army
- Air Sub Lieutenant equivalent to Second Lieutenant in the Zimbabwe National Army

Airmen/Enlisted Personnel

In descending order, the AFZ airman ranks are:

- Warrant Officer Class I equivalent to Warrant Officer Class I in the Zimbabwe National Army
- Warrant Officer Class II equivalent to Warrant Officer Class II in the Zimbabwe National Army
- Master Sergeant
- Flight Sergeant equivalent to Staff Sergeant in the Zimbabwe National Army
- Sergeant equivalent to Sergeant in the Zimbabwe National Army
- Corporal equivalent to Corporal in the Zimbabwe National Army
- Senior Aircraftman equivalent to Lance Corporal in the Zimbabwe National Army
- Leading Aircraftman
- Aircraftman equivalent to Private in the Zimbabwe National Army

Reference

1. ? [Air Force of Zimbabwe](#), *Scamble - Dutch Aviation Society*, Published: Unknown , Retrieved: 14 Nov 2017
2. ? [AIR FORCE OF ZIMBABWE](#), *Ministry of Defence*, Published: Unknown , Retrieved: 15 November 2015