

305th FIELD MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

305th Field Maintenance Squadron

STATIONS

MacDill AFB, FL,
Bunker Hill AFB, IN, (later Grissom AFB, IN), 1 Jun 1959

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj Thomas W. Atkinson, #1954

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 305th Field Maintenance Squadron was activated in 1951, with station at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. Major William H. Patton was the first commander, who was followed by Major

Warren C. Sleeper, who guided the organization to full strength. He was succeeded by Major Thomas W. Atkinson, now presently in command.

The squadron has an authorized strength of 357 airmen and seven officers, but has been overstrength approximately 80 airmen most of its existence. The mission of the Field Maintenance Squadron is to furnish all specialized maintenance for the B-47 and KC-97 aircraft of the wing. To do this the squadron is organized into the following sections:

a. Engine Build Up—The mission of Engine Build Up is to assemble all jet and conventional engines and change them when required. The section also performs minor overhaul when required. The section head for many years has been M/Sgt. Railey E. Myers, who was among the first of the supervisory NCO's to be assigned this organization. He has been commended on numerous occasions by higher headquarters for his superb leadership.

b. Aero Repair—The Aero Repair Branch is primarily responsible for the prompt accomplishment of specialist dispatch, repair, T. O. C, and the manufacture of Work Orders in accordance with established priority for aircraft of the wing. M/Sgt. Wilbur D. Hewitt is the Branch Chief of this section and also has been with the squadron since its infancy. He has been instrumental in the development of the close coordination between Field Maintenance and the Bombardment Squadrons.

c. Fabrication—The Fabrication Branch is responsible for the fabrication of all canvas and leather material required for the mission of the squadron, for all dope and paint work required, for the packing of parachutes within the wing, and for all mi-chine, wood, and sheet metal work required in the maintenance of assigned aircraft of the wing. The branch is supervised by M/Sgt. Herbert I. Hinderliter, who was assigned to the squadron in 1951 as part of the nucleus of the new organization. Sergeant Hinderliter came to the organization with many years Fabrication experience that has been invaluable to the squadron.

Working under the hardship of the constant turnover of personnel, the squadron has shown that it can perform its mission to satisfaction. This has been accomplished through efficient supervision on the part of all Non-Com-missioned Officers and OIC's of the various branches. New personnel are rapidly trained to fill the slots vacated by experienced personnel and are soon absorbed into the routine of the squadron and become an integral part of a smooth organization. Under the capable leadership of the Commander, Major Atkinson, and Major Ralph Bolnick, Field Maintenance Officer, the squadron has met all requirements expected of a specialized maintenance unit. During maximum efforts it has proven itself ready to operate at home or many miles distant from the station with equal readiness. The squadron is now past the days of confusing transition and fully combat ready.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

Unit yearbook. *305 Bombardment Wing, M, Can Do! 1954*. Army and Navy Publishing Co., Baton Rouge, LA. 1954.