

STRATEGIC WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

Bombardment Wing, Medium established, 11 Aug 1948
Activated, 1 Sep 1950
Redesignated Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 1 Apr 1963
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1974
Redesignated Strategic Wing, 14 Aug 1976
Activated, 15 Aug 1976

STATIONS

MacDill AFB, FL, 1 Sep 1950-1 Apr 1963
McCoy AFB, FL, 1 Apr 1963-1 Jul 1974
Ramstein AB, West Germany, 15 Aug 1976
Ramstein AB, Germany, 15 Aug 1976-30 Jun 1978
RAF Mildenhall, England

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Fairford, England, 11 Jun 1953-7 Sep 1953

ASSIGNMENTS

Second Air Force, 1 Sep 1950
6 Air Division, 10 Feb 1951
823 Air Division, 6 Feb 1961
42 Air Division, 30 Jun 1971-1 Jul 1974
Strategic Air Command, 15 Aug 1976

ATTACHMENTS

7 Air Division, 11 Jun-7 Sep 1953
5 Air Division, 5 Jan-21 Feb 1955 and 23 Oct 1956-9 Jan 1957
Sidi Slimane Task Force, 9-15 Oct 1957

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-29, 1950-1951
B-50, 1951
B-47, 1951-1963
KC-97, 1951-1962
B-52, 1963-1973
KC-135, 1963-1973
KC-135 (attached), 1976
RC-135 (attached), 1976

COMMANDERS

Col Thayer S. Olds, 1 Sep 1950
Col Michael N. W. McCoy, 10 Feb 1951
Brig Gen Hewitt T. Wheless, 10 Nov 1953
Col Richard N. Ellis, 12 Mar 1954
Col Kenneth O. Sanborn, 12 Apr 1954
Col Paul S. Emrick, 31 Jul 1954
Col Robert L. Snider, 17 Feb 1956
Col Robert J. Mason, 20 May 1956
Col Robert J. Nolan, 1 Mar 1958
Col Calvin W. Fite, Jr., 6 Apr 1959
Col Stanley I. Hand, 16 Jul 1960
Col William G. Walker, Jr., 1 Apr 1963
Col Sherman W. Wilkins, 8 Jun 1963
Col Stanley I. Hand, 19 Jul 1963
Col Earl L. Johnson, 27 Nov 1954-Sep 1966
Unkn, Sep 1966-Mar 1967
Col Earl L. Johnson, Mar 1967
Col Gail D. Roberts, 1 Jul 1967
Col Salvador E. Felices, 1 Jun 1968
Col James S. Howard, 1968
Col Jon E. White, Dec 1968
Col Salvador E. Felices, 4 Apr 1969
Col Howard P. McClain, 12 Apr 1969
Col Walter A. Carter, Jr., Oct 1969
Col Howard P. McClain, Apr 1970
Col William A. Temple, 4 May 1970
Col Glen L. Pugmire, 16 Aug 1971
Col Robert N. Saye, Jr., 9 Feb 1972
Col Grady L. Friday, Jr., 17 Mar 1972

Col Glen L. Pugmire, 10 May 1972
Col Grady L. Friday, Jr., 19 Jun 1972
Col John J. Murphy, 10 Jul 1972
Col Grady L. Friday, Jr., 9 May 1973
Col Roy L. Harris, Jr., 29 Sep 1973
Col George A. Patterson, 31 Jan-1 Jul 1974
None (not manned), 15-22 Aug 1976
Col Doyle F. Reynolds, 23 Aug 1976

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
22 Jan 1953-8 Dec 1956
1 Jul 1966-30 Jun 1967
1 Oct 1968-1 Mar 1969

EMBLEM

Light blue, issuant from sinister base an eagle ascending bend-wise azure, head and neck argent, beak or, eyed of the second, grasping in its beak an olive branch of the like and emitting from its eye an electronic flash bend sinisterwise or, above the eagle's head a pattern of ten mullets of five points argent, issuing from sinister fess and surmounting the body of the eagle an air refueling ice shield arraswise gray garnished argent and azure, above a canton or fimbriated argent bearing the Indian symbol for rattlesnake's jaws gules and a chief dancette of the second between two triangular armor plates gray bolted argent, all within a diminished bordure gold. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Insignia depicts a bald eagle in flight carrying an olive branch which, in conjunction with the U.S. flag represents the United States of America's role as a peace keeping force. The eagle maintains vigilant surveillance which represents the Wing's Reconnaissance mission and is depicted by the yellow electronic flash originating from the eye of the eagle. The suspended air refueling ice shield and nozzle represents the Wing's air refueling mission. The canton and armor is to perpetuate the historical parentage of the Bombardment Wing and the Bombardment Group. The partition line "dancette" is the Indian representation of mountains and "signifies abundance." The semicircular design in the base is the Indian sign of the jaws of a rattlesnake, meaning "strength." (Approved, 10 Nov 1977)

MOTTO

ABUNDANCE OF STRENGTH

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Delivery of First B-47 - Committed to production in 1949, the B-47 medium bomber first made its appearance in the Bomb Wing on 23 October. On that day, Colonel Michael N. W. McCoy, Wing Commander, flew the first operational B-47 (Serial Number 50-008) from the Boeing Airplane Company plant at Wichita, Kansas, to MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. On 19 November, in a ceremony at MacDill, this B-47 was named "The Real McCoy." The B-47 was a revolutionary aircraft. It was powered by six jet engines, strut-mounted under swept-wings, and was categorized as a 600 mph bomber. The authorized complement was 45 for each wing. 1951

The first B-47 was delivered to the Wing in October 1951, and an instructor pilot program was scheduled and full scale operational training began.

Information was received in March 1953, to make preparation for rotation to the United Kingdom for a period of ninety days. Purpose of the move was to expand the mobility and capabilities of the Wing toward its ultimate mission, combat readiness.

The made aviation history on 3 June 1953, when the first B-47, with Colonel Michael N. W. McCoy at the controls, departed MacDill Air Force Base for Fairford RAF Station, England.

Taking over McCoy AFB from the 4047th Strategic Wing, on 1 April 1963, the , now flying B-52's and KC-135's, has continued to maintain its superior performance and today ranks as one of the foremost units of SAC's deterrent force.

The was reactivated a year and a half later and transferred to MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, minus men and equipment, from Andrews Air Force Base. The was basically a combat organization, but the primary mission of the Group at this time was that of operating a Transition Training School. Transition was accomplished in the B-29 and later the B-50.

When the USAF's jet bomber program got under way in 1950 the was picked to be the first organization to receive Boeing's new six-jet B-47. Late in the year plans were formulated for the conversion to the B-47 program. Some of the personnel began departing for school and transition at the Boeing plant in Wichita, Kansas, for practical and theoretical training on the B-47. In August 1950, another unit was added to the Group, the- Air Refueling Squadron. This squadron, equipped with Boeing KC-97's, gave the Group global range.

Early in 1951 the transitioned from Group to Wing level and came under the command of the newly activated 6th Air Division. While the problems arising from this new move were being worked on, an all-out B-47 indoctrination program was begun. The programming of personnel flow to Ground School, Survival Courses, Bomb Commander, and transition was smoothly effected.

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The made aviation history on 3 June 1953, when the first B-47, with Colonel Michael N. W. McCoy at the controls, departed MacDill Air Force Base for Fairford RAF Station, England. The much publicized overseas deployment, the first of its kind, vividly portrayed to the world the potentialities and capabilities of the Bomb Wing and the Strategic Air Command.

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During deployment period (Oct 66 through Apr 67) wing flew 1,500 B-52 aircraft combat sorties in southeast Asia.

The unit was deactivated in July 1974. The was redesignated a Strategic Wing and activated at Ramstein AB, Germany, in August 1976, assuming the support task of the 98th SW, whose HQ was at Torrejon AB, Spain, prior to the latter unit phasing down operations by that year's end.

The unit operated as liaison between SAC and USAFE until replaced by the 7th Air Division at Ramstein, with the wing relocating to RAF Mildenhall in July 1978. Designation changed to Wing in October 1991.

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 26 Aug 2011
Updated: 11 Dec 2022

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Unit yearbook. *306 Bombardment Wing (M)*, 1954. Army and Navy Publishing Co., Baton Rouge, LA. 1954.
Unit yearbook. *306 Bombardment Wing (Heavy)*, McCoy AFB, FL. @1964.