

307 BOMB WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

307 Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy established, 28 Jul 1947
Organized, 15 Aug 1947
Discontinued, 12 Jul 1948
Redesignated 307 Bombardment Wing, Medium, and activated, 12 Jul 1948
Discontinued and inactivated, 25 Mar 1965
Redesignated 307 Strategic Wing, 21 Jan 1970
Activated, 1 Apr 1970
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1975
Redesignated 307 Bomb Wing, 8 Dec 2010
Activated, 1 Jan 2011

STATIONS

MacDill Field (later, AFB), FL, 15 Aug 1947-12 Jul 1948
MacDill AFB, FL, 12 Jul 1948-14 Aug 1953
Kadena AB, Okinawa, 15 Aug 1953-19 Nov 1954
Lincoln AFB, NE, 20 Nov 1954-25 Mar 1965
U-Tapao Air Field, Thailand, 1 Apr 1970-30 Sep 1975
Barksdale AFB, LA, 1 Jan 2011

DEPLOYED

Kadena AB, Okinawa, 10 Feb 1951-14 Aug 1953
RAF Lakenheath, England, 7 Jul-5 Oct 1956

ASSIGNMENTS

Strategic Air Command, 15 Aug 1947-12 Jul 1948
Strategic Air Command, 12 Jul 1948
Fifteenth Air Force, 16 Dec 1948
Second Air Force, 1 Apr 1950
6 Air Division, 10 Feb 1951
818 Air (later, 818 Strategic Aerospace) Division, 11 Oct 1954-25 Mar 1965
Eighth Air Force, 1 Apr 1970
3 Air Division, 1 Jan-30 Sep 1975
Tenth Air Force, 1 Jan 2011

ATTACHMENTS

Far East Air Forces Bomber Command, Provisional, 10 Feb-11 Aug 1951
Far East Air Forces Bomber Command, Provisional, ADVON, 12 Aug-11 Sep 1951
Far East Air Forces Bomber Command, Provisional, 12 Sep 1951-17 Jun 1954
Twentieth Air Force, 18 Jun 1954-19 Nov 1954
7 Air Division, 7 Jul-5 Oct 1956
Air Division Provisional, 17th, 1 Jun 1972-31 Dec 1974

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P (later, F)-51, 1947-1948
B-29, 1947-1948
F-51, 1948
B-29, 1948-1950, 1951-1954
B-50, 1950
B-47, 1955-1965
KC-97, 1955-1960
EB-47, 1962-1964
B-52D, 1970-1975
KC-135, 1970-1972, 1974-1975
RC-135, 1975

COMMANDERS

Col Bayard Johnson, Aug 1947
Brig Gen Donald R. Hutchinson, 5 Sep 1947
Col Bayard Johnson, 28 Apr 1948
Brig Gen Donald R. Hutchinson, 17 May 1948-12 Jul 1948
Col Bayard Johnson, Mar 1949
BG James E. Briggs, 28 Mar 1949
Col Thayer S. Olds, c. 1 Aug 1950
Col John M. Reynolds, 23 Sep 1950
Col Thayer S. Olds, c. 8 Oct 1950
Col John A. Hilger, 10 Feb 1951
Col John M. Reynolds, 15 Mar 1951
Col William H. Hanson, 20 Aug 1951

Col John C. Jennison, Jr., 4 Feb 1952
Brig Gen Raymond L. Winn, 8 May 1952
Col Charles S. Overstreet, Jr., c. 1 Oct 1952
Col Austin J. Russell, 29 Dec 1952
Col James W. Wilson, 14 Sep 1953
Col Louis G. Thorup, 8 Jun 1954
Maj William T. Minor, 20 Nov 1954
Lt Col Douglas M. Conlan, 1 Dec 1954
Col Louis G. Thorup, 15 Dec 1954
Col Ernest C. Hardin, Jr., 11 Jan 1955
Col Ralph G. Vaughn, 23 Feb 1955
Col Ernest C. Hardin, Jr., 26 Feb 1955
Col Louis G. Thorup, 15 Mar 1955
Col Robert B. Nowell, 13 May 1957
Col Elkins Read, Jr., 18 May 1957
Col Walter W. Berg, 14 Oct 1960
Col William E. Bertram, 27 Nov 1961
Col William E. Riggs, 5 Apr 1963
Col Arthur W. Holderness, Jr., 18 Jan-25 Mar 1965
Brig Gen Woodrow A. Abbott, 1 Apr 1970
Brig Gen John R. Hinton, Jr., 5 Jul 1970
Brig Gen Frank W. Elliott, Jr., 5 Jul 1971
Col Donald M. Davis, 1 Jun 1972
Col Bill V. Brown, 11 Feb 1973
Col Frank J. Apel, Jr., 21 Aug 1973
Col Ernest J. Stirman, 10 Apr 1974
Brig Gen George D. Miller, 1 Jan 1975
Col Ernest J. Stirman, 22 Jan 1975
Col Caryl W. Calhoun, 6 Mar 1975
Col George A. Dugard, 12 Aug-30 Sep 1975
Col Jonathan M. Ellis, Feb 2012
Col Steven W. Kirkpatrick

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

First UN Counteroffensive
CCF Spring Offensive
UN Summer-Fall Offensive
Second Korean Winter
Korea Summer-Fall, 1952
Third Korean Winter
Korea Summer-Fall, 1953

Vietnam
Winter-Spring, 1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Southwest Monsoon
Commando Hunt V
Commando Hunt VI
Commando Hunt VII
Vietnam Ceasefire

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation (Korea)
11-27 Jul 1953

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device
1 Apr 1970-31 Mar 1971
1 Apr 1971-31 Mar 1972
1 Apr 1972-28 Jan 1973
29 Jan-31 Dec 1973

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation
10 Feb 1951-27 Jul 1953

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Crosses with Palm
[1 Apr 1970]-28 Jan 1973
8 Feb-31 Mar 1971

Bestowed Honors. Authorized to display honors earned by the 307 Bombardment Group prior to 28 Jul 1947.

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Central Pacific
Guadalcanal
New Guinea
Northern Solomons
Eastern Mandates
Bismarck Archipelago
Western Pacific
Leyte

Luzon
Southern Philippines
China Offensive

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Truk, 29 Mar 1944
Borneo, 3 Oct 1944

Philippines Presidential Unit Citation

EMBLEM



Azure, a four-petalled dogwood bloom slipped or. (Approved for 307 Group, 21 Dec 1942 and for 307 Wing, 23 Dec 1952)



Azure a four-petalled dogwood bloom slipped Or, all within a narrow border of the last. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "307TH BOMB WING" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The four-petalled dogwood stands for the four combat squadrons of the Wing, with the stem representing the headquarters binding the four squadrons together. (Approved, 10 Dec 2014)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Replaced the 94 Combat Bombardment Wing, VHB (Provisional), and other organizations in Aug 1947.

From Aug 1947 until 12 Jul 1948, and from 12 Jul to 15 Dec 1948, the 307 Wing controlled in addition to its own units the 82d Fighter Wing at Grenier Field, NH.

From Sep 1947 to Jul 1948, and Jul 1948 to Aug 1950, trained other SAC combat units in antisubmarine warfare.

From Feb 1949 through Aug 1950, operated a B-29 transition training school for SAC units, and provided combat crew standardization training for SAC units, Nov 1949-Aug 1950.

The wing's 307 Bombardment Group deployed to Okinawa in Aug 1950 for combat operations under FEAF Bomber Command, Provisional.

The attached 306th Bombardment Group transferred to its parent wing on 1 Sep 1950, and until 10 Feb 1951, the 307 Wing had no tactical mission. On that date, wing resources were used to man the 6th Air Division at MacDill, and the wing deployed with out personnel to Kadena, where

it absorbed resources of the 307 Bombardment Group and began flying combat missions.

By the end of hostilities, the wing (including its tactical group) had flown 5,810 combat sorties during 573 combat missions.

The wing remained in the Far East in combat ready status, and on 15 Aug 1953, Kadena AB, Okinawa, became its permanent base.

Returned to the United States in Nov 1954, disposing of B-29s at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz, en route to a new base in Nebr.

Gained B-47 and KC-97 aircraft in 1955, and, until Jan 1965 when the wing began phasing down for inactivation, conducted strategic bombardment training and air refueling operations to meet SAC's global commitments.

1956 April 307 Bomb Wing declared combat ready,

In 1958, the Wing, having been directed to maintain one-third of its force on alert, found that more crews were needed. To alleviate this, a fourth bomb squadron, the 424th, was activated on 1 September, with Lt Col Walter F Duch as commander. The 424th had been part of the wing in WWII and Korea, but had since been inactive.

The one-third alert posture also dictated a change in the maintenance concept. Until this time, all flight line crew chiefs and assistants were organic to the various bomb squadrons, which also had their own supply support. Crew chiefs were then consolidated into a newly created squadron, the 307 Organizational Maintenance Squadron, and squadron supply personnel were integrated into base supply. Lincoln and Little Rock were test wings for this concept, which was later implemented by all SAC wings.

November 1959, The 307 participated in operation "Red Mike" (team scrimmage), operations order 312-60, during November. This was a no-notice simulated combat mission and special weapons exercise. Generally, the aircraft were to start refueling near Hastings Nebraska, start the Electronic Counter-Measures near Hibbing Minnesota, and start the navigation leg next to Hibbing but near the western most border of North Dakota. From there the navigation leg pointed toward Yellowstone National Park, then turn toward Oklahoma where the 4-ship cell was to fan out at Oklahoma City, to head for the pre-initial point at McCallister, Oklahoma. The initial point was at Fort Gibson, Oklahoma and the first target at Joplin, Missouri. The aircraft were then to swing into Kentucky and turn Northwest for the second target at Saint Louis and then return to Lincoln. The raw scores received from headquarters SAC gave the wing 97.5% in generation, for a "satisfactory" score, 90% in mission effectiveness, for an "outstanding" score, and 96.2% in bombing reliability, for another "outstanding" score.

22 October 1962, In response to President Kennedy's missile crisis declaration to the nation, orders directed the initial dispersal of some 307 Bomb Wing personnel and aircraft to civilian

airfields. Four aircraft were directed to General Mitchel Field, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and 8 aircraft were ordered to Duluth Municipal Airport, Duluth, Minnesota. All Reflex deployments and redeployments were canceled during the "Cuban Crisis." Crews were sent to the UK to man several B-47s, which had been reconfigured from training aircraft to EWO status. The remaining aircraft at Lincoln were generated to EWO configuration and were placed on alert. Base support personnel were used as augmentees with the security forces and in other direct support roles. Every aircraft had a guard assigned around the clock. This could be pretty tough duty at Zero Dark Thirty on a ten-hour shift, and one's imagination could render up threatening things in the darkness. One young security guard augmentee lost it, and fired his carbine clip into the air.

Those crews who dispersed to civilian fields found that initially, once in place, they were on their own, and had to rely on good old Yankee resourcefulness. To have their aircraft refueled, several aircraft commanders had to pull out their personal gasoline company charge cards to pay for the 10000 gallons or so that their bird devoured. Hopefully, SAC reimbursed them!

Following conclusion of the missile crisis, the aircrews were ordered to return from their dispersal bases to Lincoln. One crew did not receive a properly authenticated "go home" order, and remained at their dispersal base, until they finally received a legitimate order, via a higher headquarters fly-in visit!

January 1965, The 307 Bombardment Wing begins deactivation at a rapid pace. They send their B-47's to Davis Monthan AFB where in an earlier era, they had deposited their B-29's.

25 March 1965, The 818th Air Division and the 307 Bomb Wing are deactivated. Many crews remaining are transferred to the 98th, and remain at Lincoln until the 98th is deactivated and the base closes.

7 Dec 65. The last B-47 departs Lincoln, 11 years to the day after the first one arrived in 1954.

Activated in Thailand in Apr 1970, replacing the 4258th Strategic Wing. Until inactivated in Sep 1975, the 307 was the only regular Air Force SAC wing in Southeast Asia. Using aircraft and crews loaned from other SAC wings, the 307 provided KC-135 aerial refueling of U.S. aircraft in Southeast Asia and conducted conventional bombardment operations as directed through the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. Ended all combat operations on 14 Aug 1973.

The final B-52 left the wing in Jun 1975, but the wing continued some KC-135 air refueling and RC-135 reconnaissance operations until inactivated in Sep 1975.

A crowd of more than 900 people turned out for a ceremony Jan. 8 at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., to inactivate the 917th Wing, activate 917th Fighter Group, and activate the 307 Bomb Wing. Brig. Gen. John J. Mooney III accepted the 307 BW's colors from Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., Air Force Reserve Command commander, and in doing so accepted the charge of leading members of the unit in the accomplishment of a new mission as well as upholding the wing's honor and traditions. General Mooney said he is thankful for the opportunity he has been given to

strengthen the Air Force's nuclear enterprise. "The 307 Bomb Wing is first and foremost a combat wing with a sole focus on strategic nuclear deterrence and global strike," he said. "We will embrace (the challenge to) 'deter and assure.' At our heart will be a culture of rigorous compliance and continued dedication to excellence." The new Air Force Reserve wing will also focus on B-52 aircrew training and the bombing mission. The wing will report to the 10th Air Force at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, and will be gained by the Air Force Global Strike Command. Headquarters Air Force at the Pentagon directed these new actions in support of AFGSC, which is also located at Barksdale and will oversee Air Force nuclear weapons training and operations at the new unit. The 917th FG, an A-10 Thunderbolt II close-air support unit, is now part of the 442nd Fighter Wing at Whiteman AFB, Mo. Col. Eric Overturf, 442nd commander, was on hand to accept the new flag from General Stenner. "I'm proud to be your commander," Colonel Overturf told members of the 917th FG. "Make no mistake; you can rest assured when the nation calls on the 917th for airpower, we'll answer the call, and we'll be ready." "We're losing the A-10s (previously assigned to the 917th WG) to Whiteman, but they'll still be here," General Mooney said. "We will still support them, but we are focusing on the bombers."

Air Force Reserve Command's 307 Bomb Wing, a B-52 unit at Barksdale AFB, La., is now certified for the bomber's nuclear mission following completion of an initial nuclear surety inspection earlier this month, announced wing officials. "This certification is a testament to the dedication and professionalism of our people," said Col. Jon Ellis, 307 BW commander. The Reserve wing runs the Air Force's sole B-52 schoolhouse and its airmen also support the members of Barksdale's Active Duty 2nd BW in operating and maintaining the latter's combat-ready B-52s. The five-day inspection, conducted by an Air Force Global Strike Command-led team, concluded on March 18. The inspectors scrutinized the wing's 343rd Bomb Squadron and 707th Maintenance Squadron in five areas: management and administration; technical operations; safety; personnel reliability program; and nuclear control order procedures. 2013



Col Bruce R. Cox

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

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