

704 TACTICAL FIGHTER SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

704 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 20 Mar 1943
Activated, 1 Apr 1943
Inactivated, 28 Aug 1945
Redesignated 704 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 26 Sep 1947
Activated in the reserve, 26 Mar 1948
Redesignated 704 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 27 Jun 1949
Ordered to active service, 1 May 1951
Inactivated, 25 Jun 1951
Redesignated 704 Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 11 Apr 1955
Activated in the reserve, 25 May 1955
Redesignated 704 Tactical Airlift Squadron
Redesignated 704th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 1 Jul 1981
Redesignated 704 Fighter Squadron
Inactivated, 31 Mar 1996

STATIONS

Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 1 Apr 1943
Lowry Field, CO, 8 Jun-19 Oct 1943
Flixton, England, 4 Nov 1943-4 Jul 1945
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 15 Jul-28 Aug 1945
Carswell AFB, TX, 26 Mar 1948-25 Jun 1951
Ellington AFB, TX, 25 May 1955
Bergstrom AFB, TX, 17 Mar 1976

ASSIGNMENTS

446 Bombardment Group, 1 Apr 1943-28 Aug 1945
446 Bombardment Group, 26 Mar 1948-25 Jun 1951
446 Troop Carrier Group, 25 May 1955
446 Troop Carrier Wing, 14 Apr 1959
924 Troop Carrier Group, 17 Jan 1963
924 Fighter Wing

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24, 1943-1945
C-46
C-119
C-130
F-4
F-16

COMMANDERS

LTC John R. Combs, #1956

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

None

EMBLEM



MOTTO

NICKNAME

Outlaws

OPERATIONS

Combat in ETO, 16 Dec 1943-25 Apr 1945

1967/68 The 924th begins its conversion to the C-130A. Its worldwide capabilities are demonstrated during the Vietnam Conflict.

1973 The unit is hampered by lack of combat configured aircraft in upgrading its "C" rating.

1974 In July the 924th attains a C-2 status.

Its early activities included providing special airdrop support to NASA during the Gemini and Apollo space programs. From 1962 to 1967, the unit flew the Fairchild C-119C & G "Flying Boxcar".

During its history, the 704th flew some 155,107 accident free hours, dropped thousands of paratroopers and tons of cargo. They have also moved untold numbers of passengers in missions around the world. They have participated in every kind of emergency and disaster relief imaginable and support NASA in the nation's space program. They have supported every branch of the service, as well as many foreign services, ROTC and CAP. Upon the closing of this very proud chapter in history, the 924th will now go on to become the best fighter group in the Air Force.

1981 On 30 Sep, a new "City of Austin" aircraft was unveiled to replace the C-130 of the same

name. It was only fitting that an F- 4 be named after the Texas Capital and to carry on the tradition started when the 924th first arrived at Bergstrom. The dedication of the new "City of Austin" marked a change in mission of the Reserve unit at Bergstrom.

1981 In July of 1981 the 704th was activated with 70 members. They adopted the nickname "outlaws" They fly approximately 240 sorties per month.

1982 The 704th take six F-4 aircraft to Savannah GA to participate in FIGHTERCOMP 82. It is an annual gunnery and munitions loading competition stressing air-to-air bombing and strafing. Events included low angle bombing, low angle low drive, drive bombing, and low angle strafing and navigation. The 924th placed 7th overall in the competition. The 704th blamed the low score on inclement weather and the recent conversion. However, it was an impressive finish for a unit's first time in competition. A lot was learned about what is necessary to win competitions in the future.

1984 The 704th receives recognition for 34 years of mishap-free flying. A tremendous performance record. Constituted the 704th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) on 20 Mar 43, it had been inactivated and redesignated several times before becoming the 704th Tactical Fighter Squadron 1 Jul 81. It has flown the B-24; B-36; C-45; C-46; C-119; C-130; and F-4.

1986 The Life Support Section personnel participated in WILD STALLION '86 to gain realistic training. Security police aggressor forces, pararescuemen, attack aircraft, and rescue helicopters added to the realistic training affect.

1992: July was a great month for water sports and the Life Support Section took full advantage of the water at Canyon Lake. It was not Beach Party Bingo, but water survival "Outlaw" style as the 704th, along with the Coast Guard, Texas Army National Guard and Texas Air National Guard participated in water survival training. The purpose of the exercise was to teach pilots how to survive under sea conditions if they were to eject over water. Life support personnel set up water obstacles and provided real life training in the water.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 19 Feb 2011

Updated:

Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit history. *Kelly AFB, TX, Heritage of Service, Seventy-Five Years of Military Aviation at Kelly Air Force Base, 1916-1991*. Office of History, San Antonio Air Logistics Center. Kelly AFB, TX. 1991.

Unit history. *924 Fighter Wing, 704 Fighter Squadron History*. @1996.