

717 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, HEAVY



MISSION

LINEAGE

717 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 6 Apr 1943
Activated, 1 May 1943
Redesignated 717 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 23 May 1945
Redesignated 717 Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 28 May 1948
Redesignated 717 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 16 May 1949
Redesignated 717 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron (Photographic), 1 Apr 1950
Redesignated 717 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, Heavy, 16 Jul 1950
Redesignated 717 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 1 Oct 1955
Discontinued and inactivated, 1 Feb 1963

STATIONS

Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 1 May 1943
Alamogordo AAFld, NM, 5 Jul 1943
Bruning AAFld, NE, 12 Sep-26 Nov 1943
Grottaglie, Italy, 5 Jan 194-13 May 1945
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 15 Jun 1945
Dalhart AAFld, TX, 24 Jul 1945
Grand Island AAFM, NE, 8 Sep 1945-4 Oct 1946
Elmendorf Field, AK, 20 Oct 1946-24 Apr 1947
Rapid City AAFld, SD, 3 May 1947
Sheppard AFB, TX, 1 Feb 1960-1 Feb 1963

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Andersen AFB, Guam, 22 Apr 1955-24 Jul 1955

ASSIGNMENTS

449 Bombardment Group, 1 May 1943

28 Bombardment (later Strategic Reconnaissance) Group, 4 Aug 1946

28 Strategic Reconnaissance (later Bombardment) Wing, 16 Jun 1952

4245 Strategic Wing, 1 Feb 1960-1 Feb 1963

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24, 1943-1945

B-17, 1945

B-29, 1946-1950

B-36, 1949-1950

RB-29, 1950

RB-36, 1950-1957

B-52, 1957-1963

COMMANDERS

LTC James G. Gallagher, #1959

HONORS

Service Streamers

American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Europe

Naples-Foggia

Anzio

Rome-Arno

Normandy

Northern France

Southern France

North Apennines

Rhineland

Central Europe

Po Valley

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Bucharest, Rumania, 4 Apr 1944

Ploesti, Rumania, 9 Jul 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Sep 1957-30 Jun 1958

EMBLEM



On a medium blue disc, a white caricatured elephant with blue eye, yellow toe nails, and red wings on feet, in flight, holding aloft with trunk a large yellow aerial bomb banded of the field, and supporting on the back a gunner in red uniform within glass "bubble" gun turret, and having cartridge belt with black and yellow shells hanging down side from turret; sixteen white stars in orle, arranged seven to dexter, one in chief, seven to sinister, and one in base. (Approved, 10 Jul 1944)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Combat in MTO and ETO, 8 Jan 1944-26 Apr 1945.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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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.