

865 TECHNICAL TRAINING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

865 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 14 Sep 1943

Activated, 1 Dec 1943

Inactivated, 6 Jan 1946

Redesignated 865 Strategic Missile Squadron, 12 Mar 1958

Activated, 1 Jun 1958

Redesignated 865 Technical Training Squadron, 25 May 1959

Inactivated, 1 Nov 1959

STATIONS

Wendover Field, UT, 1 Dec 1943

Mountain Home AAFld, ID, 15 Apr-1 Jun 1944

Barking Sands, TH, 15 Jun 1944

Angaur, 30 Sep 1944

Yontan, Okinawa, 24 Jun-19 Dec 1945

Vancouver, WA, 3-6 Jan 1946

Huntsville, AL, 1 Jun 1958-1 Nov 1959

ASSIGNMENTS

494 Bombardment Group, 1 Dec 1943-4 Jan 1946

704 Strategic Missile Wing, 1 Jun 1958

1 Missile Division, 1 Jul-1 Nov 1959

ATTACHMENTS

1 Missile Division, 1 Nov 1958

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24, 1944-1945

Jupiter, 1958-1959

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Japan

Eastern Mandates

Western Pacific

Leyte

Luzon

Southern Philippines

Ryukyus

China Offensive

Air Combat,

Asiatic-Pacific Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

EMBLEM



Over and through a medium blue disc, border golden orange, a caricatured, gray wolf's head, trimmed black, mouth and tongue red, wearing an olive drab service cap tilted over the left eye.

SIGNIFICANCE: The insigne depicts aggressive anticipation of battle. (Approved, 17 May 1944)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Combat in Western and Southwest Pacific, 2 Nov 1944-12 Aug 1945. Trained with personnel from the Italian Air Force in preparation for overseas deployment with Jupiter missiles, 1959.

Headquarters SAC activated the 864th Strategic Missile Squadron (IRBM-Jupiter) at the Army Ballistic Missile Agency, Huntsville, Alabama, and assigned it to the 1st Missile Division. This was the first of three SAC Jupiter squadrons activated at the Redstone Arsenal during 1958 (the second, the 865th Strategic Missile Squadron, was activated on 1 June, while the third, the 866th Strategic Missile Squadron was activated on 1 September) in order to carry out the SAC responsibility of training Italian and Turkish crews in the operation of the Jupiter IRBM. 15 JAN 1958

When the Marianas campaign had ended, most of the naval units which had been involved there were readied for the next move in the Central Pacific offensive the invasion of the Palau Islands and Ulithi and Yap in the western Carolines. The Palaus were invaded on 15 September 1944 at Peleliu Island, where Marine forces met bitter resistance for two months before the Japanese garrison was finally exterminated. On 17 September, Army troops landed on nearby Angaur Island, and it was secured by the 22nd. Immediately work began to get an airfield ready for offensive operations. It was to Angaur that the 494th Bomb Group moved, and from there it went into action with its B-24s on 2 November. The 865th Bomb Squadron flew the first mission that day, the 867th went operational the next day and the other two squadrons on 22 November. Although the Group was part of the Seventh Air Force, it was under command of the Far East Air Forces and for the next six months took part in the Philippines campaign, becoming for all intents and purposes a part of the Fifth Air Force. For the first two months it even shared Angaur with the 22nd Bomb Group of the Fifth. The 494th's first missions were raids to neutralize other islands in the Palau chain. From 17 November and well into December, the Group struck mainly at airfields on the Bicol Peninsula of southern Luzon and on islands to the south in support of General MacArthur's forces fighting on Leyte, which they had invaded on 20 October 1944. Late in December the 494th began raiding airfields in the Manila area, flying from Angaur, striking its target, then refuelling at Tacloban on Leyte and returning to base. As U.S. forces landed on Luzon on 9 January 1945, it continued these raids and from mid-month supported the drive on Manila.

PGM-19 Jupiter, 1958-1959

Provided training for Italian Air Force personnel in the operation and launching of the PGM-19 Jupiter

USAF 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.