

## 2 AIR DIVISION



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

2 Bombardment Division established, 30 Aug 1943

Activated, 13 Sep 1943

Redesignated 2 Air Division, 19 Dec 1944

Disestablished, 28 Aug 1945

Reestablished, 14 Jan 1949

Organized, 1 Jun 1949

Discontinued, 7 May 1951

Activated, 20 Apr 1953

Discontinued and inactivated, 1 Apr 1962

Activated, 10 Sep 1962

Organized, 8 Oct 1962

Discontinued and inactivated, 1 Apr 1966

Activated, 1 Mar 1983

Inactivated, 1 Feb 1987

### STATIONS

Horsham St Faith, England, 13 Sep 1943

Ketteringham Hall, England, 10 Dec 1943

London, England, 22-24 Jun 1945

Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 3 Jul-28 Aug 1945

Wiesbaden Air Base, West Germany, 1 Jun 1949

Landsberg Air Ammunition Depot (later, Landsberg AFB; Landsberg AB), West Germany, 10 Jun 1949-7 May 1951

Ramstein (later, Ramstein AB), West Germany, 20 Apr 1953-1 Mar 1954

Dhahran Airfield (later, Dhahran AB; Dhahran Air Field), Saudi Arabia, 1 Mar 1954-1 Apr 1962

Tan Son Nhut Airfield (later, Tan Son Nhut AB), South Vietnam, 8 Oct 1962-1 Apr 1966

Hurlburt Field, FL, 1 Mar 1983-1 Feb 1987

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

VIII Bomber Command (later, Eighth Air Force), 13 Sep 1943

Army Service Forces, 25 Jun-2 Jul 1945

Second Air Force, 3 Jul-28 Aug 1945

United States Air Forces in Europe, 1 Jun 1949

Twelfth Air Force, 21 Jan-7 May 1951

Twelfth Air Force, 20 Apr 1953

Seventeenth Air Force, 1 Mar 1954

United States Air Forces in Europe, 15 Apr 1955-1 Apr 1962

Pacific Air Forces, 10 Sep 1962

Thirteenth Air Force, 8 Oct 1962

Pacific Air Forces, 8 Jul 1965-1 Apr 1966

Twenty-Third Air Force, 1 Mar 1983-1 Feb 1987

### **ATTACHMENTS**

96 Combat Bombardment Wing, 1-24 Jun 1945

### **COMMANDERS**

BG James P. Hodges, 13 Sep 1943

BG Edward J. Timberlake Jr., 16 Sep 1943

MG James P. Hodges, 4 Oct 1943

MG William E. Kepner, 1 Aug 1944

BG Walter R. Peck, 10 May 1945

Col Harry W. McGee, 1 Jun 1945-unkn

BG Thomas C. Darcy, 1 Jun 1949-7 May 1951

None (not manned), 20 Apr 1953-28 Feb 1954

BG Orrin L. Grover, 1 Mar 1954

Col George W. Humbrecht, 13 Apr 1955

BG George F. Schlatter, 27 Jun 1955

Col Richard L. Temple, 5 Mar 1956

Col Frederick J. Sutterlin, 26 Sep 1956

BG Dale O. Smith, 1 Jul 1957

BG Albert P. Clark, Nov 1957

Col Boyd Hubbard Jr., 21 Jul 1959

BG James C. McGehee, 4 Aug 1959

LTC Robert B. Irwin, 23 Jul 1961

Col George W. Kinney, 10 Aug 1961

Col Willard W. Wilson, 9 Sep 1961-1 Apr 1962  
None (not manned), 10 Sep-7 Oct 1962  
MG Rollen H. Anthis, 8 Oct 1962  
BG Milton B. Adams, 20 Dec 1963  
LTG Joseph H. Moore Jr., 21 Jan 1964-1 Apr 1966  
Col Hugh L. Cox III, 1 Mar 1983  
Col William J. Kornitzer Jr., 20 Apr 1984  
Col William R. Mainord, 9 Jun 1986-1 Feb 1987

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

World War II  
European African Middle Eastern Theater

### **Campaign Streamers**

Southeast Asia  
Vietnam Advisory  
Vietnam Defense  
Vietnam Air

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device  
1 Apr 1964-31 Mar 1966

## **EMBLEM**





On a shield azure double bordered or and of the first a stylized wing of the second, charged with two Doric Columns, architrave and base all outlined of the first. (Approved, 14 Oct 1954)

#### **MOTTO**

#### **OPERATIONS**

Conducted strategic bombardment of Axis targets in Europe, but between 29 August and 2 October 1944 division aircraft dropped food to the French population in liberated areas. It also airdropped food, equipment, and supplies to Allied forces engaged in the airborne attack on Holland (September 1944), as well as troops engaged in the assault across the Rhine River (March 1945).

From January 1949 to May 1951, in West Germany it participated in numerous training exercises. Activated in Apr 1953, it remained unmanned and existed in name until moving in March 1954 to Dhahran Airfield, Saudi Arabia where it remained until the Saudi government terminated US rights to the field in 1962.

Organized at Tan Son Nhut AB, South Vietnam in Oct 1962 to control USAF operations there. From Dec 1962, it controlled all activities and units in Southeast Asia, initially, USAF tactical forces FARM GATE C-47, B-26, T-28, and U-10 counterinsurgency forces, and MULE TRAIN C-123 assault airlift forces. Forces assigned and attached to the 2d Air Division trained Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) and Royal Thai Air Force personnel, flew reconnaissance, airlift, and defoliation missions, and operated a tactical control system. Escalation of fighting in South Vietnam in early 1965 brought new offensive assignments. On 8 February USAF and VNAF aircraft assaulted targets north of the demilitarized zone in the first of a series of continuing strikes. On 19 February, USAF F-100s and B-57s attacked the Viet Cong inside South Vietnam the first use of jets for such offensive actions. In July 1965, a major reorganization of the division saw tactical fighter wings established at Bien Hoa AB and Danang AB, and five separate combat support groups at other South Vietnamese bases. The rapid expansion of the division's personnel and

facilities continued well into 1966, with a matching expansion in both the volume and variety of air operations. On 1 April 1966, the division's resources were absorbed by the newly activated Seventh Air Force.

From Mar 1983 to Feb 1987, 2d Air Division forces, with worldwide responsibilities and assignments, engaged in deployment, exercise and training programs. Subordinate units flew drug interdiction missions under Operation BAT.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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