

43 AIR DIVISION



MISSION

LINEAGE

43 Air Division (Defense) designated and organized, 1 Mar 1952
Redesignated 43 Air Division, 18 Mar 1955
Discontinue and inactivated, 1 Oct 1957

STATIONS

Itazuke AB, Japan, 1 Mar 1952-1 Oct 1957

ASSIGNMENTS

Japan Air Defense Force, 1 Mar 1952
Fifth Air Force, 1 Sep 1954-1 Oct 1957

COMMANDERS

Col Charles W. Stark, 1 Mar 1952
Col Edward N. Backus, 1954
Col Samuel J. Gormly Jr., by 31 Dec 1954
Col James M. Smelley, 9 Jul 1956
Col Ladson G. Eskridge Jr., 13 Aug 1956-1 Oct 1957

HONORS

Service Streamers

Korean Service

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



A shield argent on a bend azure three futuramic aircraft, in bend, or, between two lightning bolts in saltire gules and a magnetic field of the last with cardinal compass points and pylon of the last. (Approved, 19 Dec 1956)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Mar 1952, the division assumed responsibility for the air defense of Southwestern Japan (Kyushu, the western part of Honshu, and most of Shikoku), using radar, fighter aircraft, and ground weapons to prevent or disrupt enemy air attacks. It supported numerous exercises, some involving U.S. and British naval vessels, and training for the Japan Air Self Defense Force. The division also supervised ECM, and weather reconnaissance missions. In the summer of 1957, when the Nagasaki area suffered severe flooding, the 43d assisted Japanese authorities and people by flying numerous airlift missions with helicopters and fixed wing aircraft.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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