

## 3960 STRATEGIG WING



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

3960 Air Base Wing  
3960 Air Base Group  
3960 Combat Support Group  
3960 Strategic Wing

### STATIONS

Andersen AFB, Guam, 1 Apr 1955-1 Apr 1970

### ASSIGNMENTS

### COMMANDERS

### HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

## Decorations

## EMBLEM

## MOTTO

## OPERATIONS

3960th Strategic Wing Activated at Andersen AFB, Guam 1 April 1955, assigned to 3d Air Division. Underwent short-lived changes of designation to Air Base Wing and Combat Support Group. Inactivated 31 March 1970, replaced by 43d Strategic Wing.

Col Edward C. Unger	Apr 1964	21 Jul 1964
Col Edward D. Gaitley, Jr.	22 Jul 1964	9 Jul 1965
Col Joseph J. Semanek	10 Jul 1965	11 Jul 1967
Col James M. Smith	12 Jul 1967	6 Jul 1969
Col Lawrence E. Stephens	7 Jul 1969	31 Mar 1970

Activated at Andersen AFB, Guam on 1/4/55. Inactivated on 31/3/70 and replaced by 43 SW on 1/4/70. Also known as 3960 AB\W and 3960 CSG for brief periods. Possible this organisation played a role in control of B-52s deployed to Andersen between April 1964 and February' 1966, when the 4133 BW(P) was established. Precise details of variants deployed during that period are vague, but it is known that B-52Fs from four ConUS based Bomb Wings were here at different times between 2/65 and 2/66 - these were the 2 BW (20 BS circa 12/2-circa 5/5/65); 7 BW (9 BS circa 6/5-1/12/65 and 20 BS circa 1/8-1/12/65); 320 BW (441 BS 11/2-circa 1/7/65 and 1/12/65-circa 21/3/66) and 454 BW (736 BS 16/11/65-31/3/66). Jets from the 9 BS/7 BW and 441 BS/320 BW took part in the first Arc Light bombing mission to Vietnam on 18/6/65.

As its major subordinate unit, the 3d Air Division had the 3960th Strategic Wing (SW), likewise located at Andersen AFB, Guam, with the mission of furnishing logistical and administrative support to the division. The 3d Air Division also operated Detachment 1 at Yokota AB, Japan, and Detachment 2 at Kadena AB, Okinawa. Detachment 1 had responsibility for supporting 3d Air Division's communications in Japan, SAC flights transiting the country and the like. The responsibilities of Detachment 2 involved communications, too, as well as 3d Air Division's contacts with 313th Air Division (Fifth Air Force, Pacific Air Forces) host unit at Kadena AB. Now, with formation of the new wing, the 4252d also became a subordinate unit of 3d Air Division as envisioned in the Tamale Pete planning. For the first time, 3d Air Division was going to become responsible for KC-135 operations of its own, as contrasted with rendering support for tankers routed through its locations by its higher headquarters.

Activated on 12 January, the new 4252d routinely flew its first operational mission on 25 January. In fact, for just about the first

This unit was designated the 3960th Combat Support Group (CSG) for a while from 1964 until early 1965.

It was while this arrangement was in effect that far-reaching changes occurred in Strategic Air Command's organization in the Western Pacific area. On 1 April 1970, Headquarters 3d Air Division was replaced on Guam by Headquarters Eighth Air Force, formerly located at Westover Air Force Base, Massachusetts. On the same day the 3d's former subordinate units were also renamed, the 4252d Strategic Wing became the 376th Strategic Wing at Kadena; the 4258th Strategic Wing became the 307th Strategic Wing at U-Tapao; and the 3960th Strategic Wing became the 43d Strategic Wing at Andersen. All the new units succeeded to the personnel, missions and bases of their respective predecessors. Now, plans rapidly matured to take Arc Light bomber operations not only out of Kadena but also out of Andersen.

---

USAF Unit Histories  
Created: 26 Mar 2022  
Updated:

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