

4713 DEFENSE SYSTEMS EVALUATION SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

4713 Defensive Systems Evaluation Squadron
Inactivated, 15 Apr 1974

STATIONS

Stewart AFB, NY
Otis AFB, MA
Westover AFB, MA, 15 Sep 1972-15 Apr 1974

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-57

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

In addition to the Radar Evaluation Squadrons, Air Defense Command had two Canberra units dedicated to the jamming training mission: the 4677th Defense Systems Evaluation Squadron at Hill AFB, and the 4713rd DSES at Otis AFB. Both units operated TB-57Es.

Units operating these specially equipped EB-57s were Defense Systems Evaluation Squadrons (DSES), in theory replacements for tow target units, giving better training against ground and airborne defense systems, realistically simulating an ECM supported attack. Throughout the 1960s there were a number of these units based around the US and a few overseas locations. Eventually most were absorbed into two squadrons of the Aerospace Defense Command. The 4713th DSES in the northeast U.S. was stationed at Stewart AFB, NY, Otis AFB, Mass, and finally Westover AFB, Mass.

Aircraft of this unit were often seen in Europe in support of USAF fighter activities. The other unit was the 4677th DSES originating at Hill AFB, Utah, and later moved to Malmstrom AFB, Montana. Its area of interest was primarily Fighter Interceptor Squadron (FIS) training for units guarding the Canadian approaches to the US. In 1974, the 4713th DSES at Westover was inactivated and the aircraft were divided between two Air National Guard units, and the 4677th DSES was redesignated the 17th DSES.

Operating EB-57Es exclusively, this unit was inactivated in July 1979 and was the last to fly Canberras in the USAF. It shared the Defense Systems Evaluation mission with the Kansas and Vermont Air National Guard units, those being the 190th DSEG at Topeka, and the 158th DSEG at Burlington, both flying EB-57Bs. In 1978, the 190th phased into another aircraft and mission, and the 158th DSEG became the last U.S. military unit to fly B-57s. While operating as the last to fly the EB-57s as well, the 158th DSES supported ADC fighter squadron training and all major NORAD exercises throughout the U.S. and Canada.

In 1958, the 4713th Defense Systems Evaluation Squadron, flying B-57 was activated. The pilots and electronic warfare officers of the 4713th tested the effectiveness of the NORAD (North American Air Defense Command) Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) system by substituting for an attacking enemy over Greenland, Alaska, the continental U.S. and its seaward approaches. The B-57s were equipped with well over a ton and a half of electronic countermeasures equipment used in attempting to jam NORAD's various electronic defense systems.

USAF Unit Histories

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Sources

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

Per AFHRA; unit does not have a lineage and honors statement, Jun 2013