

# 87<sup>th</sup> AIR SERVICE GROUP

## MISSION

## LINEAGE

87<sup>th</sup> Air Base Group  
Redesignated 87<sup>th</sup> Service Group  
Inactivated, Aug 43  
Redesignated 87<sup>th</sup> Air Service Group  
Activated  
Inactivated  
Disbanded, 8 Oct 1948

## STATIONS

Ft. Dix AAB, NJ, 15 Dec 1942-6 Aug 1943  
Chakulia  
Dudhkundi, India  
Tinian Island, 4 Apr 1945  
West Field, Tinian, Apr 1945-Dec 1945  
Fort Worth, TX, Jan 1946  
Roswell, NM, 9 Jan 1946

Charra, India  
West Field, Tinian

## ASSIGNMENTS

XX Bomber Command  
Fourth Air Force  
Second Air Force

## COMMANDERS

## HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

87th was charged with duties that were more involved & required specific technical training. This included servicing radio & radar equipment, as well as base utility systems. The 87th also took care of procurement, storage, and issue of supplies and ordnance in support of their two B-29 combat units. Also included in the 87th were the 58th BW Signal units.

The B-29 was a very sophisticated and complicated aircraft that had not yet been combat tested. This task, although very difficult, was performed with the up-most skill by the members of the 58th BW. Prone to crashes at takeoff, and coupled with severe engine problems, the aircrews came to understand that the ground support units often loved and cared for their "Birds" as much as they did. They also understood that without proper maintenance, the majestic yet always overloaded B-29's, would never get off the ground. The 444th's Group Liaison Officer, Scotty McCall, had this to say about the 87th: "We who flew the old '29s can never thank our mechanics enough for their efforts (to) keep us flying under the most difficult times and conditions. They worked in the extreme heat of India, the primitive conditions in China, and finally when we reached Tinian they performed a superior job there."

The 87th moved with the 58th BW to West Field Tinian in April 1945, with advance units arriving in January & February.

87th Air Service Group  
355th Air Engineering Squadron  
589th Air Material Squadron

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