

97 MISSION SUPPORT GROUP



MISSION

The largest team at Altus Air Force Base comprised of more than 1,173 military and civilian personnel across six Squadrons. Our six units embody the “Sleeves Up...Hands Dirty” motto and provide mission support for our nation's air mobility training mission and decisive combat capabilities. The Group supports the installation’s C-17, KC-135 and KC-46 aircraft operational and training missions as well as base wide infrastructure support activities to include communications, civil engineering, law enforcement, force/fire protection, contracting, disaster response, environmental services, lodging, transportation, recreation, supply, education, mobility, food service as well as family and personnel support.

LINEAGE

97 Airdrome Group established, 11 Sep 1947

Organized, 1 Dec 1947

Discontinued, 12 Jul 1948

97 Air Base Group established, 28 May 1948

Activated, 12 Jul 1948

Inactivated, 16 Jun 1952

Redesignated 97 Combat Support Group, 22 Apr 1959

Activated, 1 Jul 1959

97 Airdrome Group and 97 Combat Support Group consolidated, 1 Oct 1984. Consolidated

organization designated 97 Combat Support Group

Redesignated 97 Support Group, 1 Sep 1991

Inactivated, 1 Oct 1992

Activated, 1 Oct 1992

Redesignated 97 Mission Support Group, 30 Aug 2002

STATIONS

Mile 26 Field (later, Eielson) AFB, AK, 1 Dec 1947-12 Mar 1948

Smoky Hill AFB, KS, 21 Mar 1948

Biggs AFB, TX, 17 May 1948-16 Jun 1952

Blytheville (later, Eaker) AFB, AR, 1 Jul 1959-1 Oct 1992

Altus AFB, OK, 1 Oct 1992

ASSIGNMENTS

97 Bombardment Wing, 1 Dec 1947-12 Jul 1948

97 Bombardment Wing, 12 Jul 1948-16 Jun 1952

97 Bombardment (later, 97) Wing, 1 Jul 1959-1 Oct 1992

97 Air Mobility Wing, 1 Oct 1992

COMMANDERS

Col John R. Thompson, Jr., #1964

Col Charles E. Bryant, 20 Apr 1998

Col Johann Kinsey

Col Tammy Hollister

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

23 Oct-22 Nov 1962

1 Jul 1975-30 Jun 1977

1 Jul 1977-30 Jun 1978

1 Jul 1978-30 Jun 1980

1 Jul 1986-30 Jun 1988

1 Oct 1992-30 Jun 1993

1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1994

1 Jul 1995-30 Jun 1996

1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998

1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 1999
1 Jul 2000-30 Jun 2001
1 Jul 2000-30 Jun 2002
1 Jul 2002-30 Jun 2004
1 Jul 2004-30 Jun 2006
1 Jul 2006-30 Jun 2007
1 Jul 2007-30 Jun 2008
1 Jul 2008-30 Jun 2009
1 Jul 2009-30 Jun 2010
1 Jul 2010-30 Jun 2011
1 Jul 2011-30 Jun 2012
1 Jul 2012-30 Jun 2013
1 Jul 2014 - 30 Jun 2016
1 Jul 2016-30 Jun 2017
1 Jul 2017-30 Jun 2019
1 Jul 2019-30 Jun 2021

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 97 Mission Support Group was originally created as the 97 Airdrome Group on 11 September 1947 along with its higher headquarters unit, the 97 Bombardment Wing, now the 97 Air Mobility Wing. Both the group and wing were activated on 1 December 1947 at Mile 26 Army Air Field (later Eielson AFB), Alaska where it absorbed the support and administrated units at the field.

On 17 March 1948, the group moved to Smoky Hill AFB, Kansas, where it was temporarily assigned to the 301st Bombardment Wing then the 97 Bombardment Wing. Within 2 months, on 16 May 1948, the airdrome moved, with the wing, to Biggs AFB, Texas, a Tactical Air Command installation.

On 28 May 1948, the 97 Airdrome Group was redesignated the 97 Air Base Group. Later the same year, 1 December, Biggs AFB became a Strategic Air Command (SAC) base and, accordingly, the wing assumed operational control while the group provided its traditional support role.

On 16 June 1952, the group inactivated when the two SAC wings that shared Biggs AFB were placed under the 810th Air Division, which provided the host unit duties. This allowed the wings to concentrate solely on flying. The group remained inactive until the 97 Bombardment Group relocated to Blytheville (later Eaker) AFB, Arkansas. Subsequently, with only one wing on the base, the need for a group to handle the support functions brought about the need for a group. Thus, on 1 July 1959, SAC reactivated the group under a new name, the 97 Combat Support Group. The group was redesignated the 97 Support Group on 1 September 1991. The group remained at Eaker AFB and oversaw the closure of Eaker AFB and transfer of the wing to Altus AFB, Oklahoma.

On 1 October 1992, the group transferred to Altus AFB to support the 97 Air Mobility Wing, the successor of the 97 Bombardment Wing and first air mobility wing of its kind in the Air Force. The most recent change for the group occurred on 30 August 2003 when it inherited the 97 Contracting Squadron and the new 97 Logistics Support Squadron creating one "super group." On the same day, the group was again redesignated, the 97 Mission Support Group.

USAF UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 23 Nov 2010

Updated: 7 Jul 2019

Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *Blytheville AFB, AR. 1964.*