

72 AIR BASE WING



MISSION

The 72 Air Base Wing is the host organization for Tinker Air Force Base. The wing provides base installation and support services for the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center and more than 45 associate units assigned to six major commands, the Navy's Strategic Communications Wing ONE and several Defense agencies.

Organizations assigned to the Wing include: 72 Medical Group, 72 Mission Support Group, 72 Operations Support Squadron, Civil Engineer Directorate, 72 Logistics Directorate, the Base Chapel, Base Response Planning, Military Equal Opportunity, Legal Services, Public Affairs and Financial Services.

LINEAGE

72 Observation Group, established, 21 Aug 1941

Activated, 26 Sep 1941

Redesignated 72 Reconnaissance Group (Special), 25 Jun 1943

Disestablished, 1 Nov 1943

Reestablished 72 Reconnaissance Group, 13 May 1947

Activated in the Reserve, 12 Jun 1947

Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

72 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, Heavy established, 4 Jun 1952

Activated, 16 Jun 1952

Redesignated 72 Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 1 Oct 1955

Inactivated, 30 Jun 1971

72 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, Heavy and 72 Reconnaissance Group, consolidated, 31 Jan

1984. Consolidated wing remained inactive.

Redesignated 72 Air Base Wing, 16 Sep 1994

Activated, 1 Oct 1994

STATIONS

Shreveport Municipal Airport, LA, 26 Sep 1941

Adams Field, AR, 2 Oct 1941

Marshall Field, KS, 11-27 Dec 1941

Howard Field, CZ, 18 Jan 1942-1 Nov 1943

Hamilton Field (later, AFB), CA, 12 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949

Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico, 16 Jun 1952-30 Jun 1971

Tinker AFB, OK, 1 Oct 1994

ASSIGNMENTS

2 Air Service Command, 26 Sep 1941

Service Command, Caribbean Air Force (later, 6 Air Force Base Command

VI Air Force Base Command; VI Air Force Service Command), Jan 1942

VI Air Force Ground Support Command, 15 Oct 1942

VI Air Force Service Command, 21 Aug-1 Nov 1943

325 Reconnaissance Wing (later, 325 Air Division, Reconnaissance), 12 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949

Second Air Force, 16 Jun 1952

Eighth Air Force, 1 Jan 1959

823 Air Division, 1 Oct 1962-30 Jun 1971

Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center, 1 Oct 1994

WEAPON SYSTEMS

O-47, 1941-1943

O-49, 1941-1943

L-4, 1942-1943

B-18, 1942-1943

P-39, 1943

Unkn, 1947-1949

RB-36, 1952-1958

KC-135, 1958-1971

B-52, 1959-1970

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Col Jasper K. McDuffie, 16 Oct 1941

Col Perry B. Griffith, 1 Feb 1942

Col Vernon C. Smith, 19 May-1 Nov 1943

Unkn, 12 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949

Brig Gen Alfred F. Kalberer, 16 Jun 1952 (additional duty), 1 Oct 1952 (permanent)

Col Virgil M. Cloyd, 29 Apr 1953

Col William E. Ruark, Jr., 22 May 1953
Brig Gen Alfred F. Kalberer, 24 May 1953
Col Virgil M. Cloyd, 10 Jun 1953
Col Frederick T. Prasse, 30 Jun 1953
Col Virgil M. Cloyd, 7 Jul 1953
Brig Gen Alfred F. Kalberer, 11 Jul 1953
Brig Gen Bertram C. Harrison, 2 Jul 1955
Brig Gen Henry R. Sullivan, Jr., 14 Sep 1957
Maj Gen William K. Martin, 28 Jun 1958
Brig Gen Joseph J. Preston, 13 Jul 1959
Col Samuel G. Porterfield, 20 Aug 1959
Maj Gen Joseph J. Preston, 12 Oct 1959
Brig Gen William E. Creer, 28 Sep 1960
Brig Gen Howard A. Davis, 6 Aug 1962
Col William H. Reddell, 27 Jul 1963
Brig Gen Roland A. Campbell, 1 May 1964
Col Madison M. McBrayer, 21 Jul 1965
Brig Gen Timothy J. Dacey, Jr., 1 Aug 1965
Col James M. Keck, 14 Jul 1966
Col George H. McKee, 6 Jul 1967
Col Clifford W. Hargrove, 1 Jul 1968
Col Frank L. Voigtmann, 6 May 1969
Col Kenneth E. Wehrman, 20 Mar 1970-30 Jun 1971
Col Randy W. Mills, 1 Oct 1994
Col Robert L. Smolen, 26 Jul 1996
Col Gary W. Davis, 27 Jan 1998
Col Robert L. Gambrell, Jr., 30 Jul 1999
Col Dennis M. Kaan, 9 Jul 2001
Col Roy A. Cleland, 25 Jun 2003
Col Joan M Cunningham, 14 Sep 2004
Col Mark Correll, 2005
Col Allen J. Jamerson 18 Jul 2008
Col Bob LaBrutta, #2013

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Antisubmarine, American Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Oct 1957-1 Jun 1958

1 Jul 1968- 30 Jun 1969

1 Jan 1995-31 Dec 1996

1 Jan 1997-31 Dec 1998

EMBLEM





Approved, 29 Jun 1954; modified, 13 Oct 1995

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Activated during the summer-fall 1941 maneuvers in Louisiana. Manned from its component Observation Squadrons: 1st, 108th, and 124th. In the Panama Canal Zone, the group flew antisubmarine patrol missions, carried mail, searched for missing aircraft, provided reconnaissance support to ground forces, and occasionally did photographic mapping work until late 1943.

Activated again as part of the reserve forces of Fourth Air Force, the organization participated in routine reserve training.

Activated on paper in 1952, but not operational until it absorbed residual resources of 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing in Oct 1952.

Conducted global strategic reconnaissance 1953-1955, gradually shifting to a bombardment training mission beginning in 1954. Added air refueling to its global mission in 1958.

Provided services and support for the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center and its tenant organizations, 1 Oct 1994.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

Created: 10 May 2025

Updated:

Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. *Tinker AFB, OK, Vol 4, 2002 Yearbook*. 2002.