

78 AIR BASE WING



MISSION

78 Air Base Wing provides host services and support for the Warner-Robins Air Logistics Center and base tenant organizations.

LINEAGE

78 Fighter Wing established, 24 Sep 1948
Activated, 16 Nov 1948
Redesignated 78 Fighter Interceptor Wing, 20 Jan 1950
Inactivated, 6 Feb 1952
Redesignated 78 Fighter Wing (Air Defense), 14 Sep 1956
Activated, 18 Oct 1956
Inactivated, 31 Dec 1969
Redesignated 78 Flying Training Wing, 14 Apr 1972
Activated, 1 Dec 1972
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1977
Redesignated 78 Air Base Wing, 16 Sep 1994
Activated, 1 Oct 1994

STATIONS

Hamilton AFB, CA, 16 Nov 1948-6 Feb 1952
Hamilton AFB, CA, 18 Oct 1956-31 Dec 1969
Webb AFB, TX, 1 Dec 1972-30 Sep 1977
Robins AFB, GA, 1 Oct 1994

ASSIGNMENTS

Fourth Air Force, 16 Nov 1948

Western Air Defense Force, 1 Aug 1950-6 Feb 1952
28 Air Division, 18 Oct 1956
San Francisco Air Defense Sector, 1 Jul 1960
28 Air Division, 1 Aug 1963
26 Air Division, 1 Apr 1966
27 Air Division, 15 Sep 1969
Tenth Air Force, 19 Nov-31 Dec 1969
Air Training Command, 1 Dec 1972-30 Sep 1977
Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, 1 Oct 1994

ATTACHMENTS

Western Air Defense Force, 10 Nov 1949-31 Jul 1950

WEAPON SYSTEMS

F-51, 1949-1952
F-84, 1949-1952
F-89, 1951-1952
F-86, 1956-1958
F-89, 1956-1959
F-102, 1957-1960
F-104, 1958-1960
F-101, 1959- 1960, 1960-1968
F-106, 1959-1960, 1968-1969
T-37, 1972-1977
T-38, 1972-1977
T-41, 1972-1973.

COMMANDERS

Col George L. Usher, 16 Nov 1948
Col George H. Steel, 1 Apr 1950
Col Brian O'Neill, 12 Mar 1951
Col James W. Andrew, 1 Jul 1951-6 Feb 1952
Col Wilton H. Earle, 18 Oct 1956
Col George F. Ceuleers, 27 Jul 1957
Col Benjamin B. Cassidy Jr., 16 Jul 1960
Col Harvey E. Henderson, 28 Jul 1960
Col William F. Barns, 12 May 1962
Col William S. Harrell, 1 Jul 1962
Col William C. Miller, 15 Jul 1964
Col Charles D. Chitty Jr., 30 Jul 1964
Col Harry W. Shoup, 23 Jun 1965
Col Donald H. Lynch, 17 Jun 1968-1969
Brig Gen Stanley M. Umstead Jr., 1 Dec 1972
Col Robert G. Liotta, 21 Aug 1973

Col Robert A. Owens, 19 Jul 1974
Col Harry A. Spannaus, 8 Jun 1976-30 Sep 1977
Col Jack D. Ward, 1 Oct 1994
Col William J. Evans Jr., 12 Jul 1996
Col James J. Meccsics, 30 Jun 1998
Col Jay E. Seward II, 24 Feb 2000
Col Bonnie C. Cirrincione, 1 Mar 2002
Col Marvin T. Smoot, 27 Jan 2003
Col Greg F. Patterson, 2 Jul 2004
Col Theresa C. Carter, 12 Jan 2006
Col Warren Berry, 11 Jan 2008
Col Carl A. Buhler, 8 Jul 2009
Col Lyle K. Drew
Col Mitchel H. Butikofer, 1 July 2011
Col Christopher D. Hill, 5 July 2013
Col Jeffrey R. King, Jun 2015
Col Lyle K. Drew, 26 Jul 2017
Col Brian R. Moore, 10 Jul 2019

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
1 Jul 1968-30 Jun 1969
[1 Oct]-31 Dec 1994

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 78th Fighter Group prior to 16 Nov 1948

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe
Air Combat EAME Theater

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Holland, 17-23 Sep 1944

Czechoslovakia, 16 Apr 1945

EMBLEM



Per pale indented Azure and Gules in chief five chain lengths fess wise conjoined in fess (jagged middle line), all within a diminished bordure of the like. Red the blood we shed to protect and defend our fellow airmen and our nation.



Per pale indented Azure and Gules in chief five chain lengths fess wise conjoined in fess (jagged middle line), all within a diminished bordure of the like. The colors are: Red the blood we shed to protect and defend our fellow airmen and our nation; Azure (blue) for the sky where the Air Force fights and wins; and Goldenrod (yellow) which refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. (Approved for 78 Group, 26 Sep 1942 and for 78 Wing, 19 Mar 1958, Approved, 26 Dec 1995)

MOTTO

ABOVE THE FOE

OPERATIONS

On 24 September 1948 the 78 Fighter Wing was established at Hamilton AFB, California by the Hobson reorganization plan, with the 78 FG becoming a component of the wing, controlling its flying resources Redesignated the 78 Fighter-Interceptor Wing in January 1950 as part of ADC.

The group's squadrons (82, 83, 84 FIS) flew numerous interceptors for West Coast air defense. Inactivated on 6 February 1952 as part of a reorganization of ADC, its operational element was replaced by the 4702 DW. Its support elements were replaced at Hamilton by the 566th Air Base Group the same day.

In 1956, it was decided to elevate the operational units at Hamilton back to a Wing level, and the wing was activated, with its operational squadrons still controlled by the 78 FG. The group component of the wing was considered to be a redundant level of organization by the late 1950s, and the 78 FIG was inactivated on 1 February 1961, with its flying units being directly assigned to the Wing. The 78 Fighter Wing was the host unit at Hamilton until it was inactivated in 1969 in another effort by the Air Force to close the facility, as well as the lessened need for aircraft air defense in an age of ICBMs.

The 78 Flying Training Wing replaced and absorbed resources of the 3560th Pilot Training Wing at Webb AFB, Texas, on 1 December 1972. Squadrons were 82, 83, 3389 Flying Training Sqdns. The wing performed pilot training for both USAF and allied officers.

In 1977 the end of the Vietnam War meant a decrease in the need for Air Force pilots and Webb AFB was closed. The 78 FTW was inactivated.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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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.