

## 137 TACTICAL AIRLIFT GROUP



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

404 Bombardment Group (Dive) constituted, 25 Jan 1943  
Activated, 4 Feb 1943  
Redesignated 404 Fighter-Bomber Group, Aug 1943  
Inactivated, 9 Nov 1945  
Redesignated 137 Fighter Group and Allotted to ANG (OK), 24 May 1946  
Extended federal recognition, 18 Dec 1947  
Ordered to active duty, 10 Oct 1950  
Redesignated 137 Fighter-Bomber Group  
Redesignated 137 Tactical Airlift Group  
Inactivated, 9 Feb 1975

### STATIONS

Key Field, MS, 4 Feb 1943  
Congaree AAFld, SC, 5 Jul 1943  
Burns AAFld, OR, 4 Sep 1943  
Myrtle Beach AAFld, SC, 13 Nov 1943-12 Mar 1944  
Winkton, England, 4 Apr 1944  
Chapelle, France, 6 Jul 1944  
Bretigny, France, 29 Aug 1944

Juvincourt, France, 13 Sep 1944  
St-Trond, Belgium, 1 Oct 1944  
Keltz, Germany, 30 Mar 1945  
Fritzlar, Germany, 12 Apr 1945  
Stuttgart, Germany, 23 Jun-2 Aug 1945  
Drew Field, FL, Sep-9 Nov 1945  
Will Rogers Field, OK, 10 Oct 1950  
Alexandria Mun Aprt, LA, 27 Nov 1950-4 May 1952  
Chaumont, France, 13 May-10 Jul 1952  
Norman, OK  
Oklahoma City, OK,

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Ninth AF  
United States Air Forces in Europe

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

P-39  
P-47  
F-84

### **COMMANDERS**

LTC Lucius G Drafts, 4 Feb 1943  
LTC James Van G Wilson, 6 May 1943  
Col Carroll W McColpin, 27 Jan 1944  
LTC Leo C Moon, 25 Nov 1944  
LTC John R Murphy, 23 Apr 1945-unkn  
LTC Joseph W Turner, 10 Oct 1950  
LTC Roger B Ludeman, 27 Dec 1950  
Col Chesley G Peterson, 8 Aug 1951-10 Jul 1952

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

American Theater  
Air Offensive, Europe  
Normandy  
Northern France  
Rhineland  
Ardennes-Alsace  
Central Europe

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation  
Germany, 10 Sep 1944

French Croix de Guerre with Palm  
29, 30, and 31 Jul 1944

Cited in the Order of the Day, Belgian Army  
6 Jun-30 Sep 1944  
1 Oct 1944  
18 Dec 1944-15 Jan 1945

Belgian Fourragere

## **EMBLEM**

Azure, three lightning bolts, or, issuing from a cloud, proper, indexter chief, all within a diminutive bordure, gules. (Approved, 6 Jun 1952)

## **MOTTO**

IGNE FERROQUE HOSTEM ARMATUM CONTERE--With Fire And Steel Crush The Armored Foe  
TONITRUS E CAELO—Thunder from the Sky

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Helped to prepare for the Normandy invasion by bombing and strafing targets in France. Provided top cover for landings in Normandy on 6 and 7 Jun 1944 and continued operations from England until Jul 1944. Moved to the Continent and operated in close support of ground troops until the end of the war, supporting the Allied breakthrough at St Lo in Jul 1944, the drive through Holland in Sep 1944, Allied operations during the Battle of the Bulge (Dec 1944-Jan 1945), and the establishment of the Remagen bridgehead and the subsequent crossing of the Rhine in Mar 1945. Also flew interdiction and escort missions, strafing and bombing such targets as troop concentrations, railroads, highways, bridges, ammunition and fuel dumps, armored vehicles, docks, and tunnels, and covering the operations of G-17's, B-24s, and B-26's that bombed factories, airdromes, marshalling yards, and other targets. Received a DUG for three armed reconnaissance missions flown on 10 Sep 1944 when, despite bad weather and anti-aircraft fire, the group attacked enemy factories, rolling stock, and communications centers to aid the advance of ground forces. Received a French Croix de Guerre with Palm for assisting First Army at St Lo on 29, 30, and 31 Jul 1944 when the group, although suffering severe losses from flak, continuously provided cover for four armored divisions. Also cited by the Belgian government for operations contributing to the liberation of its people. After V-E Day, aided in disarming the German Air Force and in dismantling the enemy's aircraft industry.

The 137th Fighter Group was founded on 21 Nov 1946 at Norman, OK, and received its Federal recognition on 18 Dec 1947. In April 1949, a tornado struck the base at Norman. The damage was considered too extensive for economical repair and the decision was made to move the 137th to its present location at Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City. The move was accomplished on 6 Sep 1949.

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USAF Unit Histories  
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.