

400th AERO SQUADRON

LINEAGE

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

CALL SIGN

OPERATIONS

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
1st Combat Evaluation Group
Barksdale AFB, Louisiana

09 November 1983

RADAR BOMB SCORING HISTORICAL SUMMARY RBS COMES OF AGE

During World War II, allied bomber crews soon discovered that radar was an indispensable aid for strategic bombing. The British employed their bomber forces primarily at night. Thus a means of sighting independent of visibility was required. The American forces also required such a system even though they bombed in daylight. The weather in Europe was so consistently bad during the winter months that strategic bombing could only be accomplished with a radar system. The British were the pioneers in developing such systems while the industrial complex of the U.S. refined and improved their initial efforts.

When victory in Europe seemed assured, military efforts focused in the Pacific. Here it became clear that training procedures for radar bombing were in their infant stages and severely lacking. To correct this, staff work began to develop a training system which would improve crew proficiency in radar bombing through better scoring techniques. Under the jurisdiction of the Army Air Force Tactical Center, an experimental station was established in Jacksonville, Florida to test the training system. These tests proved the value of radar bomb scoring as a means of improving bombing training.

Soon thereafter, the Second Air Force took actions to establish a radar bomb scoring station at Kansas City, Missouri, and later, a scoring detachment at Fort Worth, Texas. HQ Second Air Force originally had jurisdiction over this operation but as it grew in size and scope, it became clear that a formal organization was needed to control and manage the new training detachment. This need gave birth to the organization of which you are part now.

On 6 June 1945, the 206th Army Air Force Base Unit (RBS) (206th AAFBU), was activated at Colorado Springs, Colorado under the command of Colonel Robert W. Burns. He assumed operational control of the two SCR-584 radar detachments located at Kansas City and Fort Worth, Texas. New detachments were also established at Denver, Chicago, Omaha, Albuquerque and Los Angeles. On 24 July 1945, the 206th was redesignated the 63rd AAFBU (RBS) and three weeks later was moved to Mitchell Field, New York, and placed under the command of the Continental Air Force. On 5 March 1946, the organization moved back to Colorado Springs and on 8 March of the same year was redesignated the 263* AAFBU.

With the activation of the 8th Air Force the demand for radar bomb scoring training increased greatly. The 263rd was relieved from assignment to 15th Air Force and assigned directly to Headquarters Strategic Air Command. The increase in RBS activity could be seen in the statistics for RBS runs over the years. During 1947 a total of 2,499 runs were scored as compared to 880 runs scored in 1946. During 1948, 12,084 runs were scored. This number increased to 28,049, a

tremendous gain over previous years and became a real measure of the effectiveness and popularity of this type training.

On 21 July 1948, the 263rd was redesignated the 3903rd Radar Bomb Scoring Squadron with an effective date of 1 August 1948. On 19 January 1951, this squadron was redesignated the 3903rd Radar Bomb Scoring Group. At this point the Group commanded 12 detachments reporting to three radar bomb scoring squadrons.

During the Korean Conflict RBS Detachments provided a service unique in military annals. Three detachments from the 3903rd Radar Bomb Scoring Squadron were used for tactical air support of USAF aircraft in direct action against enemy forces. These detachments provided radar controlled ground direction to aircraft engaged in bombing targets at critical locations. Mobile vans and specially trained crews directed B-26, C-47, B-29, F-80, and F-84 aircraft on all-weather missions against enemy airfields, troop concentrations, key buildings, and other difficult targets.

These units also worked closely with ground forces in Korea from their arrival the last week in August 1950 to their departure in early October 1951. During the next three years the Group underwent various organizational shuffles, but none to match the activities on 10 August 1954.

On 10 August 1945, the 3903rd Radar Bomb Scoring Group, its three squadrons, and all detachments were discontinued. Simultaneously, the 1st Radar Bomb Scoring Group was activated. This new organization absorbed all personnel and equipment of the 3903rd. By March 1956 the Group consisted of 28 detachments. The numbers of missions scored increased as the size of the organization grew. For example, in 1956 the Group recorded 140,919 attacks against sites. Of these some 127,070 were successfully scored.

The next several years brought few organizational or other changes to the Group. The personnel assigned continued to provide the Command sophisticated and effective radar bomb scoring training.

On 1 August 1961, a major organizational change came to fruition when the Department of the Air Force activated the 1st Combat Evaluation Group at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana. With this action the 1st Radar Bomb Scoring Group and the 3908th Strategic Evaluation Group were merged into one organization. This new organization then had the dual mission of providing radar bomb scoring services as well as standardization and evaluation services. This is the organization of which you are a part today.

With the advent of B-52 bombing in Southeast Asia in 1965, it soon became apparent that a requisite number of suitable offset aiming points were not available. Secretary of Defense McNamara stated: We are faced with very, very heavy jungle in certain portions of South Vietnam, jungle so heavily that is impossible to find a good aiming point in it. We know some of these jungles are used by the Vietcong for base camps and for storage areas.... You can imagine that without an ability to find an aiming point, There is only one way of bombing it and that is with a random pattern...With the force we had (B-52s) trained as it was in pattern bombing...the military commanders felt-and I believe this was a proper use of the weapons-that these strikes would

destroy certain of the Viet Cong base areas, and, as a matter of fact, they did...There is no other way of doing it. We propose to continue.

In October 1965 the Air Force began further modification of its B-52 force to increase the internal loading from 27 to 84 of the 500 or 750-pound bombs. In March 1966 the modified bombs went into operation. Concurrent with the deployment of the modified B-52, the Air Force installed Combat Skyspot; a ground directed bombing system, in South Vietnam. The system employed existing (1 CEVG) mobile ground radar control units and permitted Military Assistance Commander Vietnam (MACV) considerably more latitude because the selection of targets would no longer depend on nearby, prominent geographical features; they had only to be within range of Combat Skyspot equipment.

Using radar, 1CEVG personnel would direct the bombers along a designated route to a bomb drop point, providing enroute corrected headings and speed as needed. Then, at the proper moment, the pilot received a signal to release his bombs. Combat Skyspot not only provided flexibility in targeting, but its accuracy soon surpassed that of the previously used radar synchronous bombing. In time, practically all combat areas of Southeast Asia were within range of one or more of the growing number of Combat Skyspot facilities. Six 1CEVG personnel lost their lives during the construction phase when they were ambushed and killed near Dong Ha Air Base while conducting a site location survey. Within 1CEVG headquarters today a memorial room has been established to honor the memory of those lost in combat.

The original name for Combat Skyspot was simply Skyspot in 1965. In October of that year the name was changed to Combat Proof. In January 1967 the name was again changed to its final designation, Combat Skyspot.

On 15 August 1973, with the cessation of bombing in Southeast Asia, the last Combat Skyspot sortie was flown. In the seven years and six months of Combat Skyspot operations, 1 CEVG personnel manned ground radar sites on a 24-hour per day basis in such locations as Bien Hoa, Binh Thuy, Pleiku, Thuy, Pleiku, Dalat, Hue, Phu Bai, Son Tray, Da Nang, Quang Tri, and Dong Ha South Vietnam. In Thailand, the locations included, Nakhon Phanom, Udorn, and Ubon.

The Combat Skyspot mission was not limited to all-weather weapons delivery however. These sites also directed Commando Vault missions, the deployment of helicopter landing sites zones by releasing 10,000 and 15,000-pound bombs from C-130 aircraft in support of ground forces. Further, Combat Skyspot sites aided in search and rescue missions and provided navigation fixes for a variety of aircraft.

During the 90-month period of service in Southeast Asia, Combat Skyspot crews directed 75 percent of the B-52 strikes in that conflict. Under Combat Skyspot over 300,000 USAF, Navy and Marine sorties were controlled. Additionally, Combat Skyspot members were responsible for more than 150,000 tactical air strikes.

In August 1966, the Third Air Division gave the 1st Combat Evaluation Group the Top Three Award for their outstanding contribution to the war effort through the Combat Skyspot program.

The following years saw few dramatic changes within the Group. The focus of the Group turned to the development and acquisition of the new and improved radar bomb scoring equipment. In 1977, for example, the Multiple Threat Emitter System (MUTES) prototype underwent initial operational evaluation. Efforts to improve TLQ-11 jamming capabilities were underway the following year. In October 1978 the MUTES was officially welcomed into the SAC training program.

Into 1979 Group members continued to work on new equipment with the completion of a prototype study and the advent of conceptual tests for a new radar receiver, the Threat Reaction Analysis Indicator System (TRAINS). This new radar receiver would analyze how the crews and their equipment reacted to ground-based threats such as air-to-air missile systems. The development of SEEK SCORE, an improved radar scoring system, was also underway.

Into the 1980's the personnel of the 1st Combat Evaluation Group continued to provide the best radar bomb scoring services in existence. This, combined with the development and acquisition of new and sophisticated equipment, plays a major role in the readiness of the Strategic Air Command and the security of the United States.

263rd Radar Bomb Scoring
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Redesignated: 263rd AAFB Unit (Radar Bomb Scoring) from 63rd AAFB Unit (Radar Bomb Scoring) 8 March 1947

Reassigned: SAC (date unknown)

Redesignated: 3903rd Radar Bomb Scoring Squadron (SAC) on 21 Jul 1948 Effective Date: 01 Aug 1948

Detachment 263rd Army Air Force Base Unit
WDS: Kansas City, Missouri

Detachment 263rd Army Air Force Base Unit
Fort Worth, Texas

Detachment 263rd Army Air Force Base Unit
Denver, Colorado

Detachment 263rd Army Air Force Base Unit
Chicago, Illinois

Detachment 263rd Army Air Force Base Unit
Omaha, Nebraska

Detachment 263rd Army Air Force Base Unit
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Detachment 263rd Army Air Force Base Unit
Los Angeles, California

***263rd Radar Bomb Scoring
Colorado Springs, Colorado***

Redesignated: 263rd AAFB Unit (Radar Bomb Scoring) from 63rd AAFB Unit (Radar Bomb Scoring) 8 March 1947

460903	AT-6D	42-85364	263AAFBU	Peterson Fld, CO	SAC	GL	Staley, Harry A	Peterson AAF
440505	RP-47C	41-6123	263BU	72FW	Harding Field, LA	FLoG	Bingham, Percy	2 mi SW Of Harding Field, LA
440507	P-47D	42-74897	263BU		Harding Field, LA	FLEF	Gamble, Richard C	30 yds SE od Harding Field, LA
440507	L-3C	43-1584	263BU		Harding Field, LA	GAC	Wenger, Francis M	Harding Field, LA
440508	P-47D	42-23053	263BU		Harding Field, LA	FLEF	Guyot, William E	Baker. LA
440509	P-47D	42-22349	263BU		Harding Field, LA	FLMF	Childs, A. David	Hahnville, LA
440510	P-47D	42-8277	263BU		Harding Field, LA	BOMAC	Gilmore, Gordon G	20 mi NE of New Orleans, LA
440510	P-47D	42-23096	263BU		Harding Field, LA	MAC	Raebel, James B	20 mi NE of New Orleans, LA
440510	P-47D	43-25373	263BU		Harding Field, LA	TOAMF	Griffith, Quentin G	Harding Field, LA
440512	P-47D	43-25377	263BU		Harding Field, LA	LAC	Koons, Royal E	Harding Field, LA
440516	P-47D	43-25381	263BU		Harding Field, LA	TAC	Macari, Antony	Harding Field, LA
440517	P-47D	42-23102	263BU		Harding Field, LA	TAC	Christian, Roy	Harding Field, LA
440523	P-47D	43-25375	263BU		Harding Field, LA	KMAC	Johnson, Joseph P	10 mi NW of Harding Field, LA

440523	P-47D	43-25384	263BU		Harding Field, LA	BOMAC	Mahon, William J	10 mi NW of Harding Field, LA
440525	P-47D	43-25352	263BU		Harding Field, LA	BOEX	Bryant, Willis W, Jr	10 mi SE of Harding Field, LA
440529	P-47D	43-25378	263BU		Harding Field, LA	LACMF	Perry, Alfred O	Harding Field, LA
440601	P-47D	42-35102	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	BOMAC	Carmichael, Thomas L	2 mi NW of Harding Field, LA
440601	P-47D	43-25374	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	KMAC	Baber, James H	2 mi NW of Harding Field, LA
440601	P-47D	42-23087	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	LAC	Chilcott, Richard H	Harding Field, LA
440601	P-47D	43-25355	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	LAC	Fields, Robert L	Harding Field, LA
440619	P-47D	42-23057	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	MACT	Massie, Jack K	11,000 ft over Lake Ponchartrain, LA
440623	RA-25A	42-80136	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	TAC	Solko, Joseph C	Harding Field, LA
440624	P-47D	42-23098	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	FLMF	St John, Ernest H	10 yds SE of Rwy 31, Harding Field, LA
440626	P-47D	42-22395	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	FLEF	Dean, Billy Q	1.5 mi NW of Harding Field, LA
440626	P-47D	43-25345	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	KFLoG	Mello, Gilbert J	150 yds from Rwy 4, Harding Field, LA
440704	P-47D	42-28247	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	TOA	McKinsey, Herbert L	Harding Field, LA
440710	RA-25A	42-79883	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	TOA	Raebel, James B	Harding Field, LA

440710	P-47D	42-23283	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	TOA	Woodward, Robert A	Harding Field, LA
440712	P-47D	43-25263	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	FLF	Earleston, John H, Jr	1/2 mi SE of Harding Field, LA
440716	P-47D	42-8351	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	BOF	Passafume, Philip W	Near Gulfport, MS
440716	P-47C	41-6642	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	MAC	Ettinger, Cesil R	Near Gulfport, MS
440716	P-47D	42-74894	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	KMAC	Fulks, Samuel A	Near Gulfport, MS
440810	P-47D	42-28737	263BU		Harding AAF, Baton Rouge, LA	FLoG	Propst, William J, Jr	15 mi NW of Harding Field, LA
440814	P-47G	42-25237	263BU		Harding AAF, Baton Rouge, LA	TOAMF	Jones, George D	Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA
440823	A-34/R-37	AJ-218	263BU		Palacios AAB, Palacios, TX	TOAEF	White, Rufus R	Palacios AAB, Palacios, TX
440902	P-47D	42-74766	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	BOSSP	McAninch, George E	Clinton, LA
440911	P-47D	43-25260	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	LAC	Ferrand, Adam E	Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA
440930	P-47D	42-74911	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	FLEF	Bean, Willis E	300 yds SW of Harding Field, LA
441003	BT-13B	42-89725	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	LAC	Forst, Porter B	Morganza, LA
441003	P-47C	41-6588	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	FLEF	Catron, Joel S	300 yds SW of Harding Field, LA

441016	P-47D	42-28745	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	MACT	Clement, James W	Lake Pontchartrain, LA
440609	P-47D	43-23258	263CCTS		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	KCRGC	Bauer, James K	Hammond Straffing Range, Hammond, LA
440614	P-47D	42-22568	263CCTS		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	BOMAC	Patrick, Charles B	2 mi NW of Harding Field, LA
440614	P-47D	43-25365	263CCTS		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	BOMAC	Perry, Martin L	2 mi NW of Harding Field, LA

440403	PT-13D	42-17295	263AAFBU		Harding Fld	LAC	Hall, Arthur S	Barksdale Fld
441127	BT-13A	42-89879	263AAFBU		Harding Fld	TAC	Caldwell, Harry L	Harding Fld (Baton Rouge)
441127	BT-13A	42-89740	263AAFBU		Harding Fld	TAC	Hoylman, Kenneth C	Harding Fld (Baton Rouge)
440403	RB-24E	41-20953	263ABU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	BOFLEF	Latiolais, Stanley P	Covington, LA
440403	PT-19A	42-83534	263ABU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	CRTEF	Hyde, Norman R	200 yds SE Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA
440403	B-17G	42-38166	263ABU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	CBLoG	Scanlon, Leo F	1/2 Mi S Port Hudson, La
440403	AT-9A	42-56961	263ABU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	CBLEF	Addison, Max C	Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA
440403	PT-19B	42-83166	263ABU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	LAC	Scanlon, Leo F	Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA
440404	UC-36A	42-56639	263ABU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	CBLoG	McMahon, John K	1 Mi W Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA

440404	PT-19B	42-82905	263ABU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	CRGC	Bracken, William C Jr	50 Me NW Harding Field, LA
440723	P-47D	42-74898	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	BOSSP	Poeton, Richard R	4.5 mi NE of Harding Field, LA
440724	P-47D	42-23108	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	LAC	Duvall, Charles R	Harding Field, LA
440803	P-47D	42-23222	263BU		Harding AAF, Baton Rouge, LA	MACT	Ellis, Curtis H	Over Lake Pontchartrain, LA
440809	P-47D	43-25373	263BU		Harding AAF, Baton Rouge, LA	FLMF	Howell, Robert R	500 yds NW of Harding Field, LA
440817	P-47D	42-28237	263BU		Harding AAF, Baton Rouge, LA	TOA	Horan, Jphn P	Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA
440818	P-47D	42-28751	263BU		Harding AAF, Baton Rouge, LA	BOSSP	Kuhla, George j. C.	1/2 mi N of Lake Maurepas, LA
440827	P-47D	42-28747	263BU		Harding AAF, Baton Rouge, LA	KSSP	Kerr, William A, Jr	2 mi NW of Vinton, LA
440907	P-47D	42-28759	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	TAC	Taquinto, Philip D	Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA
440907	UC-78	43-31900	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	TAC	Horowitz, Aaron	Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA
441001	P-47D	43-25260	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	MACT	Elder, Vance N	Over Lake Pontchartrain, LA
441002	P-47D	42-28753	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	TACNU	Messerly, Robert N	Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA
441003	P-47D	42-23057	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	KLAC	Yearwood, Albert B	300 yds NW of Harding Field, LA

441003	P-47D	42-28191	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	KMAC	Tiffreau, Edward M	3 mi W of Morganza, LA
441003	P-47D	42-8362	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	BOMAC	Alexander, Earnest R	3 mi W of Morganza, LA
441004	P-47D	42-8352	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	BOMAC	Howard, B. H. (I.O.), Jr	20 mi NW of Harding Field, LA
441004	P-47D	43-25347	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	KMAC	Knighton, John P	20 mi NW of Harding Field, LA
441011	P-40N	44-7627	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	TACNU	Winternitz, David R	Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA
441012	P-47D	42-23222	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	KCRGC	Farrar, Marion C, Jr	1 mi W of Chamberlin, LA
441012	P-47D	42-74767	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	SF	Deschand, Leo M	10 mi W of Harding Field, LA
441012	A-36A	42-83711	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	LACNU	Schranz, Walter J	Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA
441019	P-47D	42-22995	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	FLEF	Woodward, Robert A	Grass besides NW Rwy, Harding Field, LA
441021	P-47D	42-28742	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	TOAEF	Carter, Raymond L	Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA
441021	P-47D	42-28781	263BU		Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA	LACSSP	Gurganus, Cecil M	Harding Field, Baton Rouge, LA

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

