

17 TRAINING WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

17 Bombardment Wing, Light established, 8 May 1952

Activated, 10 May 1952

Redesignated 17 Bombardment Wing, Tactical, 1 Oct 1955

Inactivated, 25 Jun 1958

Redesignated 17 Bombardment Wing, Heavy and activated, 15 Nov 1962

Organized, 1 Feb 1963

Inactivated, 30 Sep 1976

Redesignated 17 Reconnaissance Wing, 20 Jan 1982

Activated, 1 Oct 1982

Inactivated, 30 Jun 1991

Redesignated 17 Training Wing, and activated, 1 Jul 1993

STATIONS

Pusan-East AB, South Korea, 10 May 1952

Miho AB, Japan, 10 Oct 1954-20 Mar 1955

Eglin Air Force Auxiliary Field No. 9 (Hurlburt Field), FL, 1 Apr 1955-25 Jun 1958

Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, 1 Feb 1963

Beale AFB, CA, 30 Sep 1975-30 Sep 1976

RAF Alconbury, England, 1 Oct 1982-30 Jun 1991

Goodfellow AFB, TX, 1 Jul 1993

ASSIGNMENTS

Fifth Air Force, 10 May 1952

Ninth Air Force, 1 Apr 1955-25 Jun 1958

Strategic Air Command, 15 Nov 1962
40 Air Division, 1 Feb 1963
6 Air Division, 1 Jul 1963
57 Air Division, 1 Jul 1965
817 Air Division, 2 Jul 1968
45 Air Division, 2 Jul 1969
40 Air Division, 1 Jul 1971
42 Air Division, 1 Jul 1973
14 Air Division, 30 Sep 1975-30 Sep 1976
7 Air Division, 1 Oct 1982-30 Jun 1991
Second Air Force, 1 Jul 1993

ATTACHMENTS

Nineteenth Air Force, 15 Dec 1956-15 Dec 1957

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-26, 1952-1956
B-57, 1955-1956
B-66, 1956-1958
B-52, 1963
KC-135, 1963-1975, 1975-1976
TR-1, 1982-1991

COMMANDERS

Col Albert W. Fletcher, 10 May 1952
Col Glen C. Nye, 3 Jun 1952
Col William C. Lindley Jr., 7 Oct 1952
Col Clinton C. Wasem, 10 Oct 1952
Col Murdoch W. Campbell, Aug 1953
Col Daniel F. Tatum, Sep 1953
Col George D. Hughes, 8 Jul 1954
Col Walter H. Williamson, 4 Aug 1954
Col George D. Hughes, 4 Sep 1954
Col Howard F. Bronson Jr., 10 Sep 1954
Col Carroll H. Bolender, 9 May 1956
Col Reginald J. Clizbe, 25 Jun 1956
Col Kenneth C. Dempster, 31 Mar-25 Jun 1958
None (not manned), 15 Nov 1962-31 Jan 1963
Col George H. Fulcher, 1 Feb 1963
Col Mason A. Dula, 1 Jun 1965
Col Clifford W. Hargrove, 1 Jan 1967
Col Raymond P. Lowman, 17 Jul 1967
Col James B. Vogler Jr., 20 Nov 1968
Col Alfred R. Grimm, 12 Jan 1970

Brig Gen Ray B. Sitton, 26 Jun 1970
Col Thomas F. Rew, 24 May 1971
Col John D. Mash, 8 Jun 1972
Col Thomas P. Conlin, 12 Jun 1972
Col Andrew Pringle Jr., 12 Feb 1973
Col Henry W. Boardman, 3 Jun 1974
Col George R. Savage, 8 Jul 1975
Lt Col Ovidio Pugnale, 4 Aug 1975
Col Philip A. Brennan, 30 Sep 1975
Col John J. Tobin, 6 Apr-30 Sep 1976
Col George V. Freese, 1 Oct 1982
Col Thomas C. Lesan, 28 Jul 1983
Col James E. Wrenn, 16 Aug 1985
Col Arthur Saboski, 16 Jul 1987
Col John L. Sander, 6 Jun 1989
Col Charles W. Hinkle, 20 Feb-30 Jun 1991
Col Joseph H. Wehrle Jr., 1 Jul 1993
Col Ronald D. Tabor, 27 Jul 1994
Col Kelvin R. Coppock, 26 Aug 1996
Col Toreaser A. Steele, 25 Sep 1998
Col Kay C. McClain, 4 Aug 2000
Col Martin Neubauer, 23 Jul 2002
Col Lori J. Robinson, 12 Aug 2004
Col Lori J. Robinson, 12 Aug 2004
Col Scott A. Bethel, 12 Aug 2005
Col Richard R. Ayres, 9 Mar 2007
Col Thomas W. Geary, 22 Jul 2009
Col Mark T. Damiano, 23 Jun 2011
Col Kimberlee P. Joos, 29 May 2013
Col Michael L. Downs, 14 Jul 2015
Col Ricky L. Mills, 21 Jul 17
Col Andres R. Nazario, 28 Jul 19

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Korea

Korea, Summer-Fall, 1952

Third Korean Winter

Korea, Summer, 1953

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia

Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1963-31 Mar 1964

1 Jul 1971-30 Jun 1973

1 Jul 1985-30 Jun 1987

1 Jul 1988-30 Jun 1990

1 Jul 1995-30 Jun 1997

1 Jul 1997-30 Jun 1999

1 Jul 2003-30 Jun 2005

1 Jul 2007-30 Jun 2009

1 Jul 2009-30 Jun 2011

1 Jul 2011-30 Jun 2013

1 Jul 2013-30 Jun 2015

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation

24 May 1952-31 Mar 1953

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by 17 Bombardment Group prior to 10 May 1952

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Antisubmarine, American Theater

Tunisia

Sicily

Naples-Foggia

Anzio

Rome-Arno

Southern France

North Apennines

Rhineland

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Italy, 13 Jan 1944

Schweinfurt, Germany, 10 Apr 1945

French Croix de Guerre with Palm
Apr, May, and Jun 1944

EMBLEM



17 Bombardment Wing, Light emblem: Or, seven crosses pattee in pale sable. The shield is gold, one of the colors of the Air Force. The seven crosses represent the battle honors of the group during the World War. The griffin is a mythological figure symbolic of menace. (Approved, 27 May 1952)

On its face it describes a gold (Or) field on which is aligned a vertical row (pale) of seven black (sable) pointed (pattee) crosses. But those seven crosses say much more. Our wing today traces its heritage back to the 17 Pursuit Group, activated at March Field, California, in 1931. It was during this era that the Army Air Corps first began crafting groups as the basic air organizational element by pulling together squadrons. In the case of the new 17 Pursuit Group, three

squadrons were brought together. One of the three, the 95th Aero Squadron, had fought in seven of the major campaigns in which the United States participated during World War I. In a practice common at the time, the 17th recognized that achievement by placing seven black crosses on its new emblem. It was also common at the time to adopt a Latin or French motto and place it in the scroll.

Approved for 17 Group, 2 Nov 1937, and for 17 Wing, 27 May 1952. Modified for wing, 18 Sep 1995

MOTTO

TOLUOURS All DANGER—Ever into Danger

OPERATIONS

Replaced 452 Bombardment Wing, Light, in South Korea. Conducted combat operations in Korean War, 10 May 1952-27 Jul 1953, including night intruder light bombardment missions against enemy supply centers, communications and transportation facilities; interdiction of North Korean railroads; armed reconnaissance; and close air support for ground forces.

Replaced 4043 Strategic Wing in Feb 1963. Furnished B-52 aircrews and KC-135 aircraft and crews to SAC units involved in combat operations in Southeast Asia, 1965-1975. Moved without personnel or equipment to Beale AFB, CA, on 30 Sep 1975 and absorbed resources of 456 Bombardment Wing, including B-52G and KC-135Q aircraft.

On July 1, 1968, the Wing converted to the B-52H, which came to Wright-Patterson from Homestead AFB, Florida. Between 1968 and 1973, the 17 Bomb Wing deployed 70 B-52 strategic bomber crews to Southeast Asia in support of the ARC LIGHT program. Over 125 KC-135 aerial tankers and crews also participated in YOUNG TIGER or COMBAT LIGHTNING operations in Southeast Asia.

Following closely on the reassignment of the 2750th ABW aircraft, another era in Wright-Patterson's long history ended in September 1975, with the planned transfer of the 17 Bombardment Wing (Heavy). On September 30, the Bomb Wing was transferred in name only, without personnel or equipment, to Beale AFB, California. The Wing's 14 B-52 bombers and 15 KC-135 tankers were dispersed to other SAC bases and to the Ohio Air National Guard. As the 17 Bomb Wing vacated its facilities on the West Ramp in Area C, the buildings were reassigned one by one to the 4950th Test Wing. Reassignment of facilities began July 23 and was complete by September 15. Approximately one-third of the Wing's 1,200 military members remained at Wright-Patterson and were assigned to other base units such as AFLC, ASD, and the 2750th ABW.

Between 1982 and 1991 flew tactical and strategic surveillance missions over Western Europe. Received the Cullen Trophy for providing "the greatest contribution to the intelligence gathering efforts of SAC" in 1989 and 1990.

During 1990-91, wing assets and personnel supported operations in Southwest Asia by ferrying aircraft and equipment from Alconbury, England, to Taif, Saudi Arabia.

Beginning in 1993, developed and delivered cryptologic, intelligence, and other training to US and allied military and US government students.

USAF Unit Histories

Created: 12 Dec 2010

Updated: 11 Jul 2021

Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. *17 Bombardment Wing, The Black Knights, Hurlburt Field, FL, 1956*. Army and Navy Publishing Co. Baton Rouge, LA.

Unit yearbook. *17 Bombardment Wing (H), The Golden Griffins*. 1964.