

23 BOMB SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE¹

18 Aero Squadron Organized, 16 Jun 1917
Redesignated 23 Aero Squadron (Repair), 22 Jun 1917
Demobilized, 22 Mar 1919

23 Squadron, which was authorized, 30 Aug 1921
Organized, 1 Oct 1921
Redesignated 23 Bombardment Squadron, 25 Jan 1923

23 Aero Squadron (Repair), reconstituted and consolidated with 23 Bombardment Squadron,
1924

Redesignated 23 Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 6 Dec 1939
Redesignated 23 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 20 Nov 1940
Redesignated 23 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 6 Mar 1944
Redesignated 23 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 30 Apr 1946
Inactivated, 10 Mar 1947
Redesignated 23 Reconnaissance Squadron, Very Long Range, Photographic, 16 Sep 1947
Activated, 20 Oct 1947
Redesignated 23 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, Photographic, 16 Jun 1949
Redesignated 23 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, Heavy, 14 Nov 1950

¹ 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.

Redesignated 23 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 1 Oct 1955
Redesignated 23 Bomb Squadron, 1 Sep 1991

STATIONS

Camp Kelly, Texas, 16 Jun 1917
Hazelhurst Field, New York, 5 Sep 1917–6 Jul 1918
Thetford, England, 25 Jul 1918 (detachments at Hucknall Torkard and Salisbury, 18 Aug–5 Nov 1918)
Duxford, England, 2 Sep 1918
Codford, England, 5 Nov 1918
Cherbourg, France, 11 Nov 1918
St Maixent, France, 18 Nov 1918
St Nazaire, France, 29 Jan–20 Feb 1919
Garden City, New York, 8–22 Mar 1919
March Field, California, 1 Oct 1921–21 Mar 1922
Luke Field, Territory of Hawaii, 29 Mar 1922
Hickam Field, Territory of Hawaii, 1 Jan 1939
Mokuleia, Territory of Hawaii, 24 Mar–3 Nov 1942
Espiritu Santo, 1 Dec 1942–3 Jan 1944 (air echelon operated from Guadalcanal, 31 Mar–24 Aug 1943, and 21 Oct–7 Dec 1943)
Munda, New Georgia, 9 Jan 1944
Momote Airfield, Los Negros, 16 Apr 1944
Wakde, 20 Aug 1944
Noemfoor, 30 Sep 1944
Morotai, 16 Oct 1944
Samar, 20 Feb 1945
Clark Field, Luzon, Dec 1945–10 Mar 1947
Clark Field, Luzon, 20 Oct 1947
Kadena AB, Okinawa, 15 May 1948
Yokota AB, Japan, 16 Mar–2 May 1949
Fairfield–Suisun AFB, California, 19 May 1949
Topeka (later, Forbes) AFB, Kansas, 1 Jun 1949
Mountain Home, Idaho, 25 Jun 1949
Fairfield–Suisun (later, Travis) AFB, California, 1 Nov 1949
Minot AFB, North Dakota, 25 Jul 1968

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Andersen AFB, Guam, 14 Jan–12 Apr 1955

ASSIGNMENTS

Unkn, 16 Jun 1917–22 Mar 1919
Ninth Corps Area, 1 Oct 1921
5 Group (Observation) (later, 5 Group [Pursuit and Bombardment])
5 Group [Composite]

5 Composite Group), 29 Mar 1922
19 Bombardment Group, 8 May 1929
5 Bombardment Group, 12 Oct 1938–10 Mar 1947
5 Reconnaissance, (later, 5th Strategic Reconnaissance) Group, 20 Oct 1947
5 Strategic Reconnaissance, (later, 5th Bombardment) Wing, 16 Jun 1952
5 Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991

ATTACHMENTS

5 Composite [later, 5 Bombardment] Group, 8 May 1929–11 Oct 1938
71 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 18–24 Aug 1948
32 Composite Wing, 24 Aug 1948–16 Mar 1949
55 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 1–17 Jun 1949
5 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 10 Feb 1951–15 Jun 1952

COMMANDERS

None, 16-21 Jun 1917
Capt Jack W. Heard, 22 Jun 1917
Capt W. P. Jernigan, 20 Jul 1917
Maj H. M. Clarke, 23 Aug 1917
1st Lt Clarke Thompson, 2 Sep 1917
Capt Frank T. Coffyn, 9 Sep 1917
Capt Andrew J. Macelroy, 23 Nov 1917
1st Lt Paul S. Duenweg, 14 Feb 1918
1st Lt Charles F. Littlejohn, 12 Mar 1918
2nd Lt James J. Penny, 19 Apr 1918
Lt Ray D. Wells, 23-30 Jun 1918
None (Not Manned), 1 Jul-17 Sep 1918
1st Lt Paul S. Duenweg, 18 Sep 1918
2nd Lt C. M. Hamilton, 10 Nov 1918-Unkn
Capt Armin F. Herold, 1 Oct 1921
1st Lt Albert B. Pitts, 28 Feb 22
Capt Richard J. Kirkpatrick, May 1922
1st Lt Frederick A. Johnson, 16 Jan 1923
Maj Karl H. Gorman, 13 Aug 1923
Capt Donald P. Muse, 23 Nov 1925
1st Lt Grandison Gardner, 30 Nov 1925
Maj Henry J. Miller, 9 Apr 1926
1st Lt Leo F. Post, 26 May 1926
Maj Henry J. Miller, 26 Aug 1926
Capt Lloyd L. Harvey, 1 Dec 1926
Capt George P. Johnson, 6 Nov 1928
Capt Frank H. Pritchard, 25 Apr 1930
1st Lt Angier H. Foster, 1 Nov 1930
1st Lt John W. Warren, 1 Apr 1931

Capt Raphael Baez, Jr., 17 Feb 1932
1st Lt Jack W. Wood, 12 Feb 1935
Maj Arthur G. Liggett, 1 Mar 1935
1st Lt Maurice C. Bisson, 7 Jul 1936
1st Lt Ford J. Lauer, 7 Aug 1936
Unknown, Dec 1936
Maj Harold W. Benton, Oct 1938
Maj Laverne G. Saunders, 21 Dec 1938
Lt Col George A. Blakey, 1 Jul 1942
Maj Russell C. Dellinger, 1 Sep 1944
Maj James A. Saalfield, 1 Dec 1944
Capt C. Goldsbury, 1 Jan 1945
Capt A. L. Leslie, By Apr 1945
Capt J. E. Mills Jr., By Jun 1945
Capt Richard W. Boyd, 10 Aug 1945-Unkn
Unkn, Through 10 Mar 1947
Unkn, 20 Oct 1947-31 Dec 1949
Lt Col Fitzburgh A. Whitfield, Jan 1950
Lt Col Earl L. Johnson, 10 Feb 1951
Lt Col Robert E. Walber, By Jan 1953
Lt Col Peter J. O'carroll, By Feb 1953
Lt Col Thomas F. Doyle Jr., 30 Apr 1955
Lt Col Carleton W. Hansen, 1 Feb 1957
Lt Col Robert E. Busch, By May 1958
Maj Jean G. Pratt, By Jun 1958
Lt Col Keith A. Whitaker, By Jul 1958
Lt Col Steedly P. Hawkins, By Jun 1960
Lt Col Clarence M. Nunneley, By Jun 1963
Lt Col Harold W. Petree, By Aug 1963
Lt Col Harry W. Barrett, Jan 1965-Unkn
Unkn, 1966-30 Jun 1968
Lt Col Harlan E. Mclean, Jul 1968
Lt Col James L. Carr, Dec 1969
Lt Col William J. Anderson, Nov 1970
Lt Col Donald L. Sprague, Aug 1972
Lt Col Robert W. Lamb, Nov 1974
Lt Col Loring R. Astorino, Sep 1976
Lt Col Thomas E. Coblentz, Sep 1977
Lt Col Wallace C. Jacobson, 16 Apr 1979
Lt Col William M. Harley, 30 May 1980
Lt Col Glen R. Schaumberg, 31 Aug 1981
Lt Col Joseph Wilson, 9 Jul 1982
Lt Col Frederick M. Anderson, 1 Jul 1983
Lt Col Ronald W. Bashant, 15 Jun 1984

Lt Col Charles R. Henderson, 15 Apr 1985
Lt Col Douglas D. Scraper, 20 Jun 1986
Lt Col Joseph P. Stein, 16 May 1988
Lt Col James Hawkins, 21 Aug 1989
Lt Col Mark Holmes, 9 Jan 1991
Lt Col Randall W. Spetman, 28 Feb 1992
Lt Col James W. Ewing, 2 Jul 1993
Lt Col Stephen D. Schmidt, 11 Jul 1994
Lt Col Theodore T. Laplante, 31 May 1996
Lt Col Douglas C. Hayner, 4 May 1997
Lt Col Tom Gilbert, 23 Apr 1999
Lt Col Bruce Emig, 24 Feb 2001

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War I
Theater of Operations

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Central Pacific
Guadalcanal
China Defensive
New Guinea
Northern Solomons
Eastern Mandates
Bismarck Archipelago
Western Pacific
Leyte
Luzon
Southern Philippines
China Offensive
Air Combat, Asiatic-Pacific Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Woleai Island, 18 Apr–15 May 1944
Borneo, 30 Sep 1944

Presidential Unit Citation (Navy)
Southwest Pacific, [1–9 Dec] 1942

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1977–30 Jun 1979

1 Jul 1983–30 Jun 1984

1 Jul 1985–30 Jun 1986

1 Jul 1986–30 Jun 1988

1 Jul 1989–30 Jun 1991

1 Jul 1991–30 Jun 1993

1 Jun 2002–31 May 2004

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

EMBLEM





On a Blue disc a volcano in Black silhouette with Red lava flowing from the crater, extending upward therefrom and intermingled with clouds, futuristic vari-colored rays from Yellow to Red, on front thereof five Black drop bombs, two on the dexter and three on the sinister side. (Approved, 30 Sep 1931 and reinstated, 13 Jan 1994; replaced emblem approved, 12 May 1952)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Repaired and maintained aircraft and engines, 1917–1918.

Organized on 1 October 1921 at March Field, CA. Departed from the port of San Francisco 21 March 1922 on the U.S.A.T. Buford and arrived at Honolulu, TH, on 29 March 1922. Transferred to Luke Field, TH, the same day and assigned to the 5th Group (Observation).

Bombed lava flowing from Mauna Loa, diverting it from the city of Hilo, 27 Dec 1935.

Patrols over the Pacific, 8 Dec 1941–Nov 1942; 26 Aug–18 Oct 1943.

Combat in South, Southwest, and Western Pacific, 27 Apr–16 Aug 1943, 22 Oct–6 Dec 1943, 22 Jan–1 Mar 1944, 18 Apr 1944–12 Aug 1945.

Non-operational, 1946–1947. Photo-mapping in the Philippines. Formosa, and Southwest Pacific, Nov 1947–Mar 1949.

Performed strategic reconnaissance, 1949–1952.

Assumed a strategic bombardment mission, 1953.

From 1968 to 1975 provided qualified B-52 aircrews to other SAC units involved in combat operations in Southeast Asia.

B-52s from the 23 Expeditionary Bomb Squadron at Andersen AFB, Guam, flew 12 sorties down to Australia over a 10-day period this month to conduct close air support training with Australian joint terminal attack controllers. These activities were part of Exercise Hamel 2010, a large Australian military drill in Queensland that brought together Australian, New Zealand, and US forces. The B-52s flew missions ranging from 11 hours to 13 hours to get to the Australian training areas and back. The bombers in this expeditionary unit are assigned to the 5th Bomb Wing at Minot AFB, N.D., but are currently deployed to Guam as part of the United States' continual, rotational bomber presence in the Pacific region. USAF officials said this was the sixth time that US bombers have participated in Exercise Hamel since July 2006. 2010

A contingent of airmen and six B-52 bombers from the 23 Bomb Squadron at Minot AFB, N.D., has deployed to Andersen AFB, Guam, replacing an equally sized expeditionary unit of B-52s, operators, and maintainers from Barksdale AFB, La., that was present on the strategic Pacific hub the past four months. The more than 300 airmen of Barksdale's 20th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron honed their expertise while on Guam, where the United States has maintained a continuous presence of bombers since 2003 by rotating units in from stateside bases for months at a time. "While here, we integrated with the USS Stennis Navy carrier strike group, trained with joint terminal air controllers from Australia, flew multiple missions in Red Flag-Alaska, and engaged with regional partners in Australia, Japan, and [South] Korea," said Lt. Col. Mike Miller, who led the 20th EBS, in describing some of the unit's activities during the 176 sorties of their deployment. 2011