

## 37 BOMB SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

37 Aero Squadron organized, 13 Jun 1917

Demobilized, 15 Apr 1919

Reconstituted and redesignated 37 Pursuit Squadron, 24 Mar 1923

Activated, 1 Sep 1933

Redesignated 37 Attack Squadron, 1 Mar 1935

Inactivated, 31 Jan 1938

Redesignated 37 Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 6 Dec 1939

Activated, 1 Feb 1940

Redesignated 37 Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 9 Oct 1944

Inactivated, 26 Nov 1945

Redesignated 37 Bombardment Squadron, Light, 29 Apr 1947

Activated, 19 May 1947

Inactivated, 10 Sep 1948

Redesignated 37 Bombardment Squadron, Light, Night Intruder, 8 May 1952

Activated, 10 May 1952

Redesignated 37 Bombardment Squadron, Tactical, 1 Oct 1955

Inactivated, 25 Jun 1958

Redesignated 37 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 16 Jun 1977

Activated, 1 Jul 1977

Inactivated, 1 Oct 1982

Activated, 1 Jan 1987

Redesignated 37 Bomb Squadron, 1 Sep 1991

### **STATIONS**

Camp Kelly, TX, 13 Jun–11 Aug 1917  
Etampes, France, 18 Sep 1917  
Issoudun, France, 23 Sep 1917  
Bordeaux, France, c. 6 Jan–18 Mar 1919  
Mitchel Field, NY, c. 5–15 Apr 1919  
Langley Field, VA, 1 Sep 1933–31 Jan 1938  
Barksdale Field, LA, 1 Feb 1940  
Lowry Field, CO, 10 Jul 1940  
Pendleton, OR, 29 Jun 1941  
Lexington County Aprt, SC, 16 Feb 1942  
Barksdale Field, LA, 24 Jun–18 Nov 1942  
Telergma, Algeria, 21 Dec 1942  
Sedrata, Algeria, 13 May 1943  
Djedeida, Tunisia, 25 Jun 1943  
Villacidro, Sardinia, 5 Dec 1943  
Poretta, Corsica, 21 Sep 1944  
Dijon, France, 20 Nov 1944  
Linz, Austria, 16 Jun 1945  
Horsching, Austria, 6 Jul 1945  
Clastres, France, 3 Oct–c. 17 Nov 1945  
Camp Myles Standish, MA, 25–26 Nov 1945  
Langley Field (later, AFB), VA, 19 May 1947–10 Sep 1948  
Pusan AB, Korea, 10 May 1952  
Miho AB, Japan, 9 Oct 1954–19 Mar 1955  
Eglin AF Aux Field No. 9, FL, 1 Apr 1955  
RAF Alconbury, England, 11 May 1958  
Eglin AF Aux Field No. 9, FL, 12 May–25 Jun 1958  
Ellsworth AFB, SD, 1 Jul 1977–1 Oct 1982  
Ellsworth AFB, SD, 1 Jan 1987

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Unkn, 13 Jun–Sep 1917  
Third Aviation Instruction Center, Sep 1917–Jan 1919  
Unkn, Jan–15 Apr 1919  
18 Pursuit Group (attached to 8 Pursuit Group), 1 Sep 1933  
2 Wing (attached to 8 Pursuit Group), 1 Mar 1935–31 Jan 1938  
28 Composite Group, 1 Feb 1940  
17 Bombardment Group, 23 Apr 1941–26 Nov 1945  
17 Bombardment Group, 19 May 1947–10 Sep 1948  
17 Bombardment Group, 10 May 1952–25 Jun 1958  
28 Bombardment Wing, 1 Jul 1977–1 Oct 1982

28 Bombardment Wing, 1 Jan 1987  
28 Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991

### **ATTACHMENTS**

17 Bombardment Wing, 8 Jun 1957–25 Jun 1958

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

Avro 504–K  
Sopwith F–1 Camel  
DH–4  
Nieuport 27, 1918  
P–6E, 1933–1935  
A–8, 1935–1936  
A–17, 1936–1938  
B–18, 1940–1941  
B–25, 1941–1942  
B–26, 1942–1945  
B–26, 1952–1956  
B–66, 1956–1958  
B–52, 1977–1982  
B–1, 1987

### **COMMANDERS**

Sgt Monroe Reynolds, 13 Jun 1917 (acting)  
Cpl Cody Dalton, 15 Jun 1917 (acting)  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Joseph C. Trees, 27 Jul 1917  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Patterson, 13 Nov 1917  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Frederick C. Bowne, 25 Nov 1917  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt William W. Nolting, 10 Dec 1917  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Richard H. Merkel, 28 Dec 1917  
Capt Lester T. Gayle, 9 Jun 1918  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Richard S. Davis, 22 Aug 1918  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Richard H. Merkel, Sep 1918  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Malcolm C. Wall, Nov 1918  
Unkn, Nov 1918–15 Apr 1919  
Capt Caleb V. Haynes, 1 Sep 1933  
Capt Ned Schramm, 18 Jul 1935–Jul 1936  
Maj William C. Goldsborough, 7 Jul 1936  
Capt David M. Ramsey, 3 Aug 1937  
Maj Russell L. Maughn, 16 Aug 1937  
Inactive, 31 Jan 1938–1 Feb 1940  
1Lt Karl E. Bannister, 1 Feb 1940  
Capt William. C. Mills, 10 Jul 1940–unkn  
Maj Ferrell L. Bowen, 28 Jun 1942

Maj Robert A. Zaiser, 3 Jun 1943  
Maj Audie S. Wright, 12 Jul 1943  
Maj Raymond J. Downey, 24 Sep 1943  
Maj Harold L. McKean, 15 Oct 1943  
Capt Rodney S. Wright, 21 Jul 1944  
Maj George H. Gibbens, 27 Aug 1944  
Maj Eugene J. McCarthy, 10 Apr 1945  
Maj Randle J. Dedeaux, 25 May 1945  
Unkn, Jun-26 Nov 1945  
Unkn, 19 May 1947-10 Sep 1948  
LT COL Albert C. Hegenberger, 10 May 1952  
LT COL Rhodes M. Elam, May 1952  
Maj Alfred A. Beckner Jr., 22 Nov 1952  
Unkn, 1 Jan 1953-29 Jun 1955  
Lt Col George J. Nied, 30 Jun 1955  
Lt Col Raymond A. Fulton, 30 Oct 1956-25 Jun 1958  
Lt Col Leroy A. Myers, 1 Jul 1977  
Lt Col James S. Dillon, 26 Jul 1978  
Lt Col Stanley O. Smith, 16 May 1980  
Lt Col William R. Lennard, 3 Apr 1981-1 Oct 1982  
Lt Col Thomas A. O'riordan, 1 Jan 1987  
Lt Col Joseph P. Stein, 9 Nov 1989  
Lt Col Kermit V. Boschert, 14 Dec 1990  
Lt Col George A. Vidrine Jr., 1 Jun 1992  
Lt Col Thomas C. Owskey, 11 Jun 1993  
Lt Col Christopher Miller, 14 Jun 1994  
Lt Col Richard E. Smith, 28 Jun 1996  
Lt Col Stephen L. Wolborsky, 3 Oct 1997  
Lt Col Jeffry F. Smith, 16 Jul 1999  
Lt Col Todd C. Westhauser, Jun 2001  
Lt Col Gary A. Mausolf, 25 Jun 2003  
Lt Col David B. Been, 3 Jun 2005  
Lt Col Kirk W. Hunsaker, 24 May 2007  
Lt Col Steven W. Biggs, 2 Apr 2009  
Lt Col Brian E. Meade, 1 Nov 2010  
Lt Col Stuart W. Newberry, 4 May 2012  
Lt Col Joseph L. Sheffield, 4 Apr 2014  
Lt Col Daniel C. Diehl, 4 Mar 2016

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

World War I

Theater of Operations

## **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

Korea  
Korea Summer-Fall 1952  
Third Korean Winter  
Korea, Summer 1953

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
Italy, 13 Jan 1944  
Schweinfurt, Germany, 10 Apr 1945  
Korea, 1 Dec 1952–30 Apr 1953

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device  
1 Jun 2001-31 May 2003

Meritorious Unit Awards  
1 Jun 2009-31 May 2011  
1 Jun 2011-31 May 2013  
1 Jun 2013-31 May 2015

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards  
1 Jul 1977–30 Jun 1978  
1 Jul 1978–30 Jun 1980  
1 Jul 1988–30 Jun 1990  
1 Sep 1991–1 Jul 1993  
1 Jun-30 Nov 1994  
1 Jun 1997-31 May 1999  
1 Jun 2003-31 May 2005

1 Jun 2007-31 May 2009

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

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation  
24 May 1952–31 Mar 1953

**EMBLEM**



37 Bombardment Squadron



37 Bombardment Squadron, Light, Night Intruder





37 Bombardment Squadron, Tactical emblem



37 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy emblems



37 Bomb Squadron emblem: On a White disc outlined in Black a roaring lion crouched affronte proper. (Approved, 25 Jul 1934; reinstated Feb 1994)



37 Bomb Squadron emblem: On a disc Gules, a tiger's head erased Proper, all within a narrow border Blue. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "37 BOMB SQUADRON" in Blue letters. Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The Royal Bengal Tiger exemplifies the prowess and alertness of the unit's jet and its aircrew. Emblematically, the tiger has represented the Squadron's virtues since the Korean combat tour. The tiger also symbolizes the Squadron's high degree of proficiency and accuracy in striking power, together with the unit's jet precision weapon capabilities, ability to rapidly deploy anywhere in the world and to bring about unmatched firepower, persistence and flexibility. (Approved, 27 Dec 1956; reinstated)

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Construction, 1917–1918; flying training, 1918.

Demobilized on 15 April 1919 at Mitchel Field, NY, as the 37 Aero Squadron. Reconstituted in the Regular Army on 24 March 1923 as the 37 Pursuit Squadron and assigned to the 16th Pursuit Group. Designated Active Associate was the 16th Observation Squadron 1923–27. Allotted to the Seventh Corps Area on 28 February 1927. Withdrawn from the Seventh Corps Area on 1 September 1928 and allotted to the Eighth Corps Area. Kelly Field, TX, designated as headquarters location on organization, but the unit was never organized at that location. Relieved from assignment to the 16th Pursuit Group on 15 June 1932 and assigned to the 18th Pursuit Group. Activated on 1 September 1933 at Langley Field, VA. Reorganized and redesignated 37 Attack Squadron on 1 March 1935, relieved from the 18th Pursuit Group, and attached to the 8th Pursuit Group. Inactivated on 31 January 1938 at Langley Field, VA, and allotted to the Fourth Corps Area. Shreveport, LA, designated as headquarters location on organization, but the unit was never organized at that location. Redesignated as the 37 Bombardment Squadron (Medium) on 1 December 1939 and assigned to the 17th



Bombardment Group. Relieved from assignment to the 17th Bombardment Group on 1 February 1940, activated at Barksdale Field, LA, and assigned to the 28th Composite Group. Transferred on 10 July 1940 to Lowry Field, CO. Transferred on 29 January 1941 to Pendleton, OR.

Antisubmarine patrols, Dec 1941–Mar 1942. Contributed aircrews for the Doolittle raid on Tokyo, Japan, 6 Apr 1942. Combat in MTO and ETO, 31 Dec 1942–1 May 1945.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL 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.

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. 1956.