

## 37 FLYING TRAINING SQUADRON



### MISSION

“The 37 Flying Training Squadron conducts primary flight training in the T-6 Texan II. After completing extensive simulator and ground training, each student receives about 100 hours of training in this aircraft. Students learn basic aircraft characteristics, control, takeoff and landing techniques, aerobatics, night flying operations, instrument and formation flying.”

### LINEAGE

37 Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) constituted, 20 Nov 1940  
Activated, 15 Jan 1941  
Redesignated 37 Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) (Twin Engine), 31 Jan 1942  
Redesignated 37 Fighter Squadron (Twin Engine), 15 May 1942  
Redesignated 37 Fighter Squadron, Two Engine, 28 Feb 1944  
Inactivated, 9 Sep 1945  
Redesignated 37 Fighter Squadron, Jet Propelled and activated, 20 Nov 1946  
Redesignated 37 Fighter Squadron, Jet, 20 May 1948  
Inactivated, 2 Oct 1949  
Redesignated 37 Fighter Interceptor Squadron, 11 Sep 1952  
Activated, 1 Nov 1952  
Discontinued, 1 May 1960  
Redesignated 37 Flying Training Squadron, 22 Mar 1972  
Activated, 1 Jun 1972

### STATIONS

Hamilton Field, CA, 15 Jan 1941

Portland, OR, 21 May 1941 (operated from Paine Field, WA, 7–24 Dec 1941)  
Olympia, WA, 24 Dec 1941  
McChord Field, WA, 8–18 Jan 1943  
La Senia, Algeria, 27 Feb 1943  
Mediouna, French Morocco, 17 Mar 1943  
Telergma, Algeria, 5 May 1943  
El Bathan, Tunisia, 4 Jul 1943  
Ste-Marie-du-Zit, Tunisia, 26 Jul 1943  
Triolo Airfield, Italy, 12 Dec 1943 (operated from Corsica, 10–21 Aug 1944)  
Lesina, Italy, Sep–9 Sep 1945  
Dow Field (later, AFB), ME, 20 Nov 1946–2 Oct 1949  
Ethan Allen AFB, VT, 1 Nov 1952–1 May 1960  
Columbus AFB, MS, 1 Jun 1972

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

55 Pursuit (later, 55 Fighter) Group, 15 Jan 1941  
14 Fighter Group, 1 Mar 1943–9 Sep 1945  
14 Fighter Group, 20 Nov 1946–2 Oct 1949  
4711 Defense Wing, 1 Nov 1952  
517 Air Defense Group, 16 Feb 1953  
14 Fighter Group, 18 Aug 1955–1 May 1960  
14 Flying Training Wing, 1 Jun 1972  
14 Operations Group, 15 Dec 1991

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

P-43, 1941–1942  
P-38, 1942–1945  
P-47, 1946–1949  
P-84, 1947–1949  
F-51, 1952–1953  
F-86, 1953–1958  
F-102, 1957–1960  
T-37, 1972  
T-6

### **COMMANDERS**

1st Lt Charles H. McDonald, 15 Jan 1941  
1st Lt H. D. Aynsworth, 18 Feb 1941  
1st Lt Jack S. Jenkins, May 1941  
1st Lt Robert T. Romine, 1941  
Capt Jack S. Jenkins, Sep 1941  
Capt Kenneth S. Wade, 1941  
Maj Jack S. Jenkins, Sep 1942  
Capt Wendell J. Kelley, Jun 1942

Maj John G. Bright, 16 Jan 1943  
Maj Carl F. Rudder, 4 Jun 1943  
Maj Forrest H. Barker, 19 Sep 1943  
Lt Col William L. Leverette, 29 Sep 1943  
Maj Forrest H. Barker, 27 Apr 1944  
Lt Col Kenneth A. Gaskin, 1 May 1944  
Maj Charles R. Mcintire, 6 Feb 1945  
Maj Robert E. Hullsiek, 22 Apr 1945-1945  
Lt Col William T, Samways, C1947  
Maj Francis J. Vetort, 20 Jul 1949-1949  
Lt Col Richard E. Turner, 1 Nov 1952  
Maj Raymond R. Stewart, 1953  
Lt Col Donald E. Songer, 1955  
Lt Col Richard H. Burnor, 1956  
Maj Francis D. Peters Jr., 1957  
Maj Curtis L. Utterback, 1959  
Lt Col Roy D. Carlson, 1959-1960  
Lt Col Hall, Jul 1972  
Lt Col David J. Pennington, Jan 1973  
Lt Col Jack E. Terry, 10 Feb 1975  
Lt Col James C. Poole Jr., Jan 1978  
Lt Col Terry G. Isaacson, 30 Jun 1979  
Lt Col Robert K. Mcleod, 6 Mar 1981  
Lt Col George E. Throckmorton, 15 Jul 1982  
Lt Col Wallis D. Cone Jr., 1 Mar 1983  
Lt Col William M. F. Phillips, 11 Jan 1985  
Lt Col Richard H. Estes, 19 Jun 1987  
Lt Col Chris W. Shaw, 7 Jul 1989  
Lt Col Bruce C. Grant, 29 Oct 1990  
Lt Col Frank L. Belote Jr., 10 Jan 1991  
Lt Col Ronald J. Vaughn, 25 Feb 1991  
Lt Col William H. Barker Jr., 1 Oct 1992  
Lt Col Stefan Eisen Jr., 12 Mar 1993  
Lt Col Kris D. Gianakos, 24 Jun 1994  
Lt Col Mark K. Hefferly, 19 Jan 1996  
Lt Col Richard C. Davidage, 9 Jan 1998  
Lt Col Christopher B. King, 7 Jan 2000  
Lt Col Anthony J. Smith, 12 Dec 2001  
Lt Col William D. Millonig, 11 Oct 2003  
Lt. Col. Peter Hince

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

World War II American Theater

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

Air Offensive, Europe

Tunisia

Sicily

Naples-Foggia

Rome-Arno

Normandy

Northern France

Southern France

North Apennines

Rhineland

Central Europe

Po Valley

Air Combat, EAME Theater

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation

Austria, 2 Apr 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan–31 Dec 1974

1 Mar 1978–29 Feb 1980

1 Apr 1985–31 Mar 1987

1 Jul 1992–30 Jun 1994

1 Jul 1999–30 Jun 2001

1 Jul 2001–30 Jun 2002

1 Jul 2002–30 Jun 2004

1 Jul 2004–30 Jun 2006

### **EMBLEM**



37 Pursuit Squadron



37 Fighter Interceptor Squadron emblem



37 Fighter Interceptor Squadron emblem: On a gray delta, edged white, within an Air Force blue border, an Air Force blue oblique triangle in base charged with two white stars in dexter and three white stars in sinister; overall an Air Force golden yellow stylized sun surmounted by an American Indian runner, flesh tones reddish brown, wearing red loin cloth and winged moccasins trimmed white; on his head a red feathered headband; in his arms a white missile, outlines and details blue. (Approved, 9 Sep 1958)



37 Flying Training Squadron emblem: On a Blue disc edged Yellow, issuing from sinister a tiger, grasping in its mouth a cub by the neck in base, both Yellow, garnished White and detailed Black, with Red noses and tongues. (Approved, 10 Nov 1972)

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Air defense, 7–24 Dec 1941. Combat in ETO and MTO, 6 May 1943–4 May 1945. Air defense, 1946–1949 and 1952–1960. Undergraduate Pilot Training, 1 Jun 1972–. The 37 Flying Training Squadron conducts primary flight training in the twin-engine Cessna T-37. Seated alongside an instructor, each student receives about 81 hours of training in this aircraft. Students learn basic aircraft characteristics and control, takeoff and landing techniques, aerobatics, and night, instrument and formation flying.

Pilot Error Cited in T-6 Crash: A student pilot's loss of situational awareness while practicing aerobatics in the skies near Columbus AFB, Miss., last July, caused him to eject from his T-6 trainer aircraft, resulting in the aircraft's loss, Air Education and Training Command announced Monday. AETC's accident investigation board determined that 2nd Lt. Falah Al-Obaidi, an international student pilot assigned to Columbus' 37 Flying Training Squadron, had incorrect airspeed while performing aerobatic loops during his July 9, 2009 flight. On his final loop, he chose to eject from the aircraft after it began a steep right bank dive from which he believed that he could not recover. He suffered minor injuries, while the T-6 was completely destroyed.

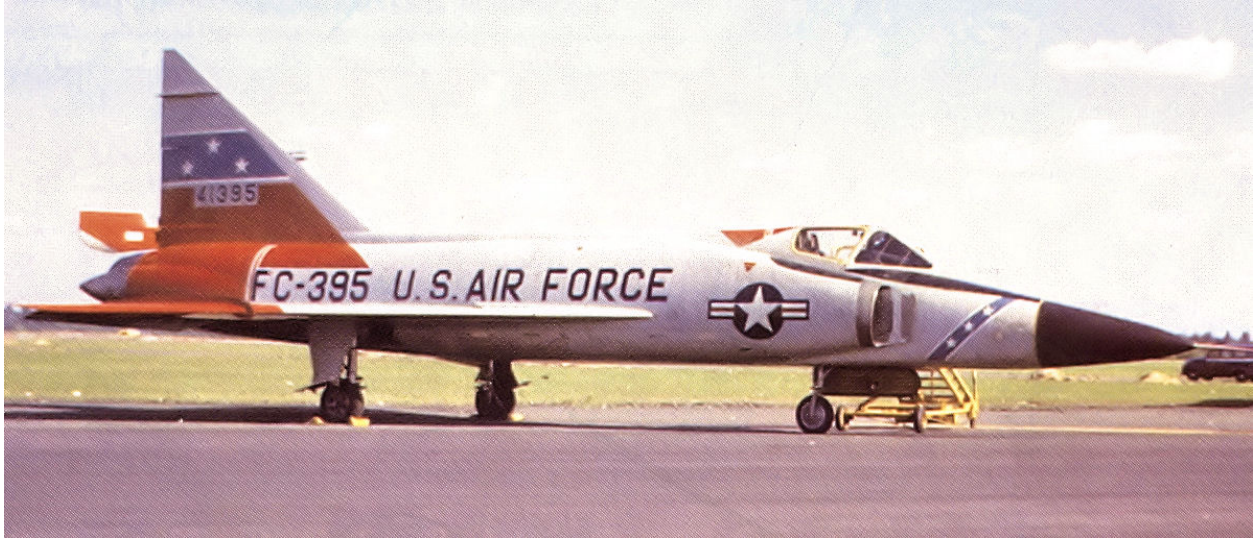
2009/2010



37 Fighter Squadron, Jet F-84



37 Fighter Interceptor Squadron F-86



37 Fighter Interceptor Squadron F-102



Squadron mascot outside of 37 Flying Training Squadron operations, Columbus AFB, Mississippi.



---

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

Created: 28 Aug 2010

Updated: 29 Jun 2024

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. *32<sup>nd</sup> Air Division. 1955.*