

39th COMBAT CREW TRAINING SCHOOL

Personnel of Davis-Monthan Field were organized under the Combat Crew Training School Plan. Accordingly, the 39th Bombardment Group was redesignated as the 39th Combat Crew Training School. 1 Dec 1943

The 307th Airdrome Squadron was transferred. 25 Dec 1943

A B-24D, assigned to the 39th CCTS, crashed while attempting an emergency landing without landing lights. The plane struck the top of a residence near the end of the landing strip, continued low to the ground for several hundred yards, and then crashed near the end of the runway. The aircraft was almost a total loss and two crew members were killed instantly. 17 Jan 1944

A change in the command function occurred when the Base Commander was placed under the direct supervision of the Second Air Force Commander. The wings, greatly reduced in strength, became supervisory and inspection units. The 39th Combat Crew Training School was redesignated as the 233rd Army Air Force Base Unit. Mar 1944

An RB-24E, assigned to the 233rd AAF Base Unit Combat Crew Training Squadron, attempted a forced landing after the #1 engine failed. Four crew members were killed and five received minor injuries. 20 Mar 1944

Command control over Davis-Monthan Field was returned to the 16th Bombardment Wing in line with a general reorganization of Combat crew training wings in Second Air Force. 8 Feb 1945

MAJOR UNITS ASSIGNED DM

1st Bombardment Wing 1 May 1941

Headquarters, 16th Bombardment Wing 1 June 1943

39th Combat Crew Training School 1 December 1943

233rd Army Air Force Base Unit c March 1944

4105th Army Air Force Base Unit (Air Base) 15 November 1945

4270th Army Air Force Base Unit (Separation Base) 15 November 1945

248th Army Air Force Base Unit 31 March 1946

3040th Aircraft Storage Depot 20 August 1948

3040th Aircraft Storage Squadron 5 October 1949

Arizona Aircraft Storage Branch 1 June 1956

2704th Air Force Aircraft Storage and Disposition Group 1 August 1959

2704th Air Force Storage and Disposition Group 1 April 1960

4080th Strategic Wing 1 July 1963

4453rd Combat Crew Training Wing 1 July 1964
Military Aircraft Storage and Disposition Center 1 February 1965

Jurisdiction over Davis-Monthan Field was transferred from the Fourth Air Force to the Second Air Force on 26 January 1942. The following month, the 39th Bombardment Group arrived from Geiger Field, Washington, and immediately began training B-17 and B-24 units and crews; first as an Operational Training Unit (OTU) and later as a Replacement Training Unit (RTU). The Willcox Playa Lake and Sahuarita Bombing Ranges were opened shortly after the Group's arrival.

Brigadier General Robert Olds, the then newly appointed Commander of Second Air Force, paid an official visit to Davis-Monthan Field on 20 May 1942. During his stay, the general made a point of emphasizing his desire to set a new standard of perfection for flyers trained in the western area.

The American flyer is noted for his daring, ingenuity, and intelligence. Add to that the complete coordination which teaches him to function automatically with all other members of the crew, and you have a flight combination which is unbeatable.

Each man must be perfectly trained, not only in his particular job, but as a component part of the whole crew if maximum efficiency is to be obtained.

As air action in the combat theaters increased, so did the need for replacements. Correspondingly, the mission of Davis-Monthan's 39th Bombardment Group changed replacement training. Under that concept, flying personnel were placed under the tutelage of instructor crews; many of whom had vast combat experience. First, the trainees worked at achieving proficiency in individual skills, became familiar with equipment and techniques, and learned to work together as coherent teams

During those years, changes were also apparent in the organization of the base in relation to its training mission. For instance, the 16th Bombardment Wing was transferred to Davis-Monthan from El Paso, Texas, early in 1943; but was moved back to El Paso in October of that year as the result of the dissolution of the XX Bomber Command. The designation of the 39th Bombardment Group was changed to the 39th Combat Crew Training School (CCTS) on 1 December 1943. By the end of that month, there was a total of 150 combat crews in training at Davis-Monthan. That figure declined steadily until February 1944 when the last OTU group departed the base.

Over the next several months, the 39th served only as a training school until March 1944 when a modification to the previous command function placed the Base Commander under the direct supervision of the Second Air Force Commander. Consequently, the strength of the wings was greatly reduced and they became mainly supervisory and inspection units. For the 39th CCTS, the change resulted in it being redesignated as the 233rd Air Force Base Unit.

450122	PT-13D	42-17253	39CCTS		Davis Month Field, Tucson,	EFF	Mc Pherson, John B	Runway 30, Davis Monthan
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450122	L-5	42-98692	39CCTS		Davis Monthan AAF, Tucson, AZ	GAC	Hoops, William J	Davis Monthan AAF, Tucson, AZ
450122	PT-13D	42-17376	39CCTS		Davis Monthan Field, AZ	FLEF	Hart, Thomas L.	1 1/2 Mi S Davis Monthan Field, AZ
450122	TP-40N	42-105812	39CCTS		Davis Monthan Field, AZ	FLEF	Hart, Thomas L.	1 1/2 Mi S Davis Monthan Field, AZ
450122	AT-6D	44-81283	39CCTS		Davis Monthan Field, Tucson, AZ	TOA	Burton, John C	Runway 12, Davis Month Field, Tucson, AZ
450122	PT-13D	42-17421	39CCTS		Davis Monthan Field, Tucson, AZ	TAC	Trumper, Charles G	Davis Monthan Field, Tucson, AZ
450123	P-61A	42-5572	39CCTS		Davis Monthan Field, Tucson, AZ	KCREF	Hayden, Gerard F	Dos Cabezos, AZ
450123	AT-6D	42-85747	39CCTS		Davis Monthan Field, Tucson, AZ	FLEF	Klein, John S	Runway 30r, Tucson, AZ
431229	RB-24E	42-7449	39CCTS		Davis Monthan Field, AZ	TOA	Young, John N	½ mi SE of Rwy 12L, Davis Monthan Fld, AZ

LINEAGE

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS