

43 AIRLIFT WING



MISSION

The wing operated two squadrons of C-130 Hercules. Capable of deploying a self-sustaining war fighting package anywhere in the world at the moment's notice, the 43d team with the major elements of nearby Fort Bragg, formed our nation's premiere forced entry capability with the United States Army. To carry out these missions, the wing employed two operational squadrons: the 2nd and 41st Airlift Squadrons, flying the C-130 capable of delivering troops, supplies, and equipment directly to the battlefield in all weather conditions. It could also provide theater airlift for other contingencies and humanitarian missions around the world.

The 43 AW consisted of four groups: the 43 Operations Group; the 43 Maintenance Group; the 43 Mission Support Group; and the 43 Medical Group.

LINEAGE

43 Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy established, 3 Nov 1947
Organized, 17 Nov 1947
Redesignated 43 Bombardment Wing, Medium, 1 Aug 1948
Inactivated, 31 Jan 1970
Redesignated 43 Strategic Wing, 4 Feb 1970
Activated, 1 Apr 1970
Redesignated 43 Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 4 Nov 1986
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1990
Redesignated 43 Air Refueling Wing, and activated, 1 Jun 1992
Redesignated 43 Air Refueling Group, 1 Jul 1994
Inactivated, 1 Oct 1996
Redesignated 43 Airlift Wing, 31 Mar 1997

Activated, 1 Apr 1997
Inactivated, 1 Mar 2011

STATIONS

Davis-Monthan Field (later, AFB), AZ, 17 Nov 1947
Carswell AFB, TX, 15 Mar 1960
Little Rock AFB, AR, 1 Sep 1964-31 Jan 1970
Andersen AFB, Guam, 1 Apr 1970-30 Sep 1990
Malmstrom AFB, MT, 1 Jun 1992
MacDill AFB, FL, 1 Oct 1996
Pope AFB, NC, 1 Apr 1997

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Brize Norton RAF Sta, England, 10 Mar-5 Jun 1953
Fairford RAF Sta, England, 5 Sep-10 Dec 1954
Fairford, England, 18 Sep 1954-9 Dec 1954
Andersen AFB, Guam, 1 Jul-1 Oct 1957

ASSIGNMENTS

Eighth Air Force, 17 Nov 1947
Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Apr 1950
36 Air Division, 4 Sep 1951
19 Air Division, 15 Mar 1960
825 Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Sep 1964
42 Air Division, 1-31 Jan 1970
Eighth Air Force, 1 Apr 1970
3 Air Division, 1 Jan 1975-30 Sep 1990
Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Jun 1992-1 Oct 1996
Twenty-First Air Force, 1 Apr 1997
Eighteenth Air Force, 1 Oct 2003

ATTACHMENT

7 Air Division, 10 Mar-5 Jun 1953 and 5 Sep-10 Dec 1954
3 Air Division, 1 Jul-1 Oct 1957
825 Strategic Aerospace Division, 19-31 Aug 1964
Air Division, Provisional, 57, 1 Jun 1972-14 Nov 1973

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-29, 1947-1950
B-50, 1948-1954
KB-29, 1949-1953
KC-97, 1953-1955, 1955-1960
B-47, 1954-1960
YRB-58, 1960

B/TB-58, 1960-1970
TF-102, 1960-1962
KC-135, 1964-1970
B-52D, 1970-1990
KC-135, 1970-1972 1973-1990
KC-10, 1986-1990
C-97, 1970-1972
C-118, 1973-1974
KC-135, 1992-1996
C-12, 1994
C-130, 1997

COMMANDERS

Col James C. Selser, Jr., 17 Nov 1947
Col Lawrence M. Thomas, 15 Aug 1949
Col James C. Selser, Jr., 15 Sep 1949
Col William P. Fisher, 7 Jan 1950
Col Lawrence M. Thomas, 29 Aug 1950
Col William P. Fisher, 28 Sep 1950
Col John S. Hardy, 4 Sep 1951
Col Delmore P. Wood, Oct 1951
Col John K. Hester, 16 Oct 1951
Col Delmore P. Wood, 9 Nov 1951
Col John S. Hardy, 15 Nov 1951
Col Nils O. Ohman, 6 Sep 1952
Col Joseph D. White, 30 Aug 1953
Col Sam J. Byerley, Oct 1953
Brig Gen Nils O. Ohman, 30 Oct 1953
Col Jean B. Miller Jr., 6 Nov 1953
Col David A. Burchinal, 4 Jan 1954
Col Jack J. Catton, 26 Jul 1955
Col Louis M. Sowers, 30 Apr 1956
Col Jack J. Catton, 2 Jun 1956
Col Louis M. Sowers, 8 Jun 1956
Col Roger M. Crow, 6 Jul 1956
Col Herbert I. Shingler Jr., 1 Jul 1958
Col Thomas G. Netcher, 2 Apr 1959
Col Jean B. Miller Jr., 13 Apr 1959
Col Reuben A. Baxter, 27 Feb 1960
Col James K. Johnson, 15 Mar 1960
Brig Gen Everett W. Holstrom, 19 Jun 1961
Col Howard J. Fry, 19 Aug 1964
Col Frank L. Voightmann, 1 Jul 1966
Col Hugh B. Robertson Jr., 24 Jul 1967

Col Sherwin G. Desens, 12 Jul 1968
Col Roy L. Harris Jr., 8-31 Jan 1970
Col Lawrence E. Stephens, 1 Apr 1970
Col Glen R. Dunlap, 1 Jul 1970
Col William P. Armstrong, 28 Apr 1972
Col James H. Mcgrath, 15 Jun 1972
Col James R. Mccarthy, 1 Dec 1972
Col Morris E. Shiver, 25 May 1973
Col Lawton W. Magee, 25 Aug 1973
Col James R. Mccarthy, 9 Nov 1973
Col Andrew Pringle Jr., 15 Jun 1974
Col Donald C. Bass, 14 Jun 1975
Col David L. Patton, 27 Mar 1976
Col William F. Moses Jr., 27 Jun 1977
Col James A. Kelly, 6 Mar 1978 (Acting)
Col Lyman E. Buzard, 21 Mar 1978
Col Wilfred E. Evans, 8 Jun 1979
Col Curtis D. Moore, 30 May 1980
Col Edward J. Lockwood, 15 Apr 1981
Col Jose E. Stuntz, 5 Apr 1982
Col Dudley M. Moorhous, 10 Jan 1983
Col Ronnie W. Beezley, 30 Mar 1984
Col Robert J. Isaak, 13 May 1985
Col Grover R. Southerland, 19 May 1986
Col Benard W. Gann, 2 Aug 1988
Col Julian B. Hall, 8 Aug 1989
Col Richard B. Duwel, 2 Jul-30 Sep 1990
Col Richard C. Marr, 1 Jun 1992
Brig Gen Gary A. Voellger, 2 Aug 1993
Col Kenneth Mills, 1 Jul 1994
Col Thomas M. Chester, 20 Jul 1994
Col Vern M. Findley Ii, 12 Jul-1 Oct 1996
Brig Gen Paul R. Dordal, 1 Apr 1997
Brig Gen David L. Johnson, 1 May 1997
Brig Gen Richard J. Casey, 29 Jun 1999
Brig Gen Winfield W. Scott Iii, 17 Nov 2001
Brig Gen Winfield W. Scott Iii, Nov 2001
Col Frank J. Kisner, Nov 2003
Brig Gen Darren W. Mcdew, Jan 2005
Col Timothy M. Zadalis, Jul 2006

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Vietnam
Southwest Monsoon
Commando Hunt VII
Vietnam Ceasefire

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device
1 Apr 1972-28 Jan 1973
29 Jan-15 Nov 1973

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Aug 1960-1 Aug 1962
1 May 1975-30 Apr 1977
1 Jul 1984-30 Jun 1985
1 Jul 1985-30 Jun 1986
[1 Jun 1992]-30 Jun 1993
1 Jul 1994-30 Jun 1996
1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 2000
1 Jun 2002-31 May 2004
1 Sep 2011-31 Aug 2012

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
1 Apr 1970-28 Jan 1973

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 43 Bombardment Group prior to 17 Nov 1947

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Antisubmarine, American Theater
Air Offensive, Japan
China Defensive
Papua
Guadalcanal
Northern Solomons
New Guinea
Bismarck Archipelago
Western Pacific

Leyte
Luzon
Southern Philippines
China Offensive

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Papua, [Aug] 1942-23 Jan 1943
Bismarck Sea, 2-4 Mar 1943

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WW II)

EMBLEM





Per fess nebuly or and azure, all within a dimished bordure argent (silver gray). **SIGIFICANCE:** Blue and 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 nebuly fess reflects the Wing's interlocking of personnel and mission. (Approved, 18 Nov 1993)

MOTTO

Willing, Able, Ready

OPERATIONS

Strategic bombardment training, 1947-1960, and air refueling, 1949-1960.

During 1948 the 43d Bombardment Wing became the first Air Force Unit to be equipped with the new Boeing B-50 bomber. Ground schools and air training were the order of the day as combat crews and maintenance personnel became acquainted with their new weapon. The transition to the new aircraft was a matter of great interest to all, particularly to the flying personnel who were much impressed by the performance of the B-50.

In January 1954 the 43d Bomb Wing received its first B-47 Stratojet. A B-47 from the 43d Bomb Wing, between 17-19 November 1954 completed the longest jet flight on record covering a distance of 21,163 miles.

A decision by Headquarters USAF in December 1959 called for the 43d Bomb Wing to become the first B-58 equipped wing in SAC and the first supersonic bombardment wing in USAF.

On 1 August 1960, SAC assumed executive control of the B-58 program and the Category III Test Phase of the B-58 program was begun. The Category III Testing terminated on 31 July 1961 and on 1 August 1961 the B-58 Operational Engineering Section (OES) assumed the responsibility for all future evaluations of the B-58. The B-58 OES was officially terminated on 1 June 1962. With the termination of the Category III Testing on 31 July 1961 the mission of the 43d Bomb

Wing changed. As of 1 August 1961 the mission of the 43d Bomb Wing was to conduct a combat crew training program and to support the B-58 Test Program.

With the forthcoming activation of the 43 Bomb Wing at Carswell as the first operational B-58 unit, the AF began actively to recruit crew members. Requirements, due to the aircraft's unique performance characteristics and maintenance needs, were among the highest for any aircraft in the AF inventory. Additionally, due to the dimensional limitations of the crew accommodations (which were later compounded by the addition of the encapsulated ejection seats) there were strict physical limitations on crew member height and weight. Ground crews tended to be hand-picked, and per the recommendation of the June, 1960, accident committee, they usually represented personnel with exceptionally high skill levels and lengthy service careers.

Approximately 1,500 personnel were eventually assigned to the maintenance activities of each of the two B-58 wings (43 and 305). Because of the unique structural aspects of the B-58, field maintenance required a high percentage of fully qualified personnel. Three maintenance men were assigned to each aircraft. The special problems emerging from the aircraft's unique fuel and weapons pod were assigned to a separate Munition Maintenance Squadron. The complex subsystems and unusual configuration of the B-58 called for a variety of special ground support equipment.

Maintenance of the B-58's armament and electronics was especially critical because of the fine tolerances required for proper operation of its Doppler-inertial navigation and guidance systems and advanced bombing systems.

In Apr 1970, the wing replaced the 3960 Strategic Wing at Andersen AFB, Guam. On 1 Jul 1970, the 43d also assumed tasks formerly handled by the Bombardment Wing Provisional, 4133, including a combat mission. Employed attached aircraft and aircrews of other Strategic Air Command units to participate in "Arc Light" combat missions in Southeast Asia from 1 Jul to mid-Aug 1970, and again from Feb 1972 to Aug 1973. Following the end of combat operations, provided routing training and ground alert with B-52 and KC-135 aircraft, the latter provided by other Strategic Air Command units on loan.

During 1975, provided logistical and medical support to thousands of Vietnamese refugees evacuated from their homeland and located temporarily at Guam awaiting resettlement in the United States. Trained to remain proficient in strategic and conventional warfare capabilities. Beginning in 1974, controlled TDY tankers and crews participating in the Pacific (formerly Andersen) Tanker Task Force that supported Strategic Air Command operations in the western Pacific.

Assumed an airlift role in Apr 1997. Crews and aircraft deployed to Europe and Southwest Asia for expeditionary rotations and contingency operations such as the enforcement of no-fly zones over Iraq. Took part in humanitarian airlift operations and training exercises, often with U.S. Army airborne organizations stationed at nearby Fort Bragg. After terrorist attacks on the United States on 11 Sep 2001, elements deployed in support of the global War on Terror.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. 43 Bombardment Wing, Davis Monthan AFB, Tucson AZ. 1948.

Unit yearbook. 43 Bombardment Wing, Medium, Carswell AFB, TX, The World's First Supersonic Bomb Wing. 1964.