

## 43 FLYING TRAINING SQUADRON



### MISSION

The 43 Flying Training Squadron administers and executes the AETC/AFRC Associate Instructor Pilot (IP) Program and provides Active Guard Reserve (AGR) and Traditional Reserve (TR) IPs to augment the cadre of active duty pilots conducting pilot training. During wartime, or in the event of hostilities, the unit is mobilized to offset anticipated losses of experienced active duty pilot contributions to the instructor pilot training programs

### LINEAGE

29 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 22 Dec 1939  
Activated, 1 Feb 1940  
Redesignated 43 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 13 Mar 1940  
Inactivated, 1 Apr 1944  
Redesignated 43 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy and activated, 1 Apr 1944  
Inactivated, 20 May 1946  
Redesignated 43 Flying Training Squadron, 22 Mar 1972  
Activated, 1 Jul 1972  
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1977  
Activated, 25 Jun 1990  
Inactivated, 1 Oct 1992  
Redesignated 43 Flying Training Flight and activated in the Reserve, 1 Apr 1997  
Redesignated 43 Flying Training Squadron, 1 Apr 1998

### STATIONS

Langley Field, VA, 1 Feb 1940  
MacDill Field, FL, 21 May 1940

Pope Field, NC, 7 Dec 1941  
MacDill Field, FL, 1 Jan 1942  
Gowen Field, ID, 25 Jun 1942-1 Apr 1944  
Pratt AAFld, KS, 1 Apr 1944  
Dalhart AAFld, TX, 25 May 1944  
Pratt AAFld, KS, 17 Jul (ground echelon only to 21 Aug)-7 Dec 1944  
North Field, Guam, 17 Jan 1945-20 May 1946  
Craig AFB, AL, 1 Jul 1972-30 Sep 1977  
Columbus AFB, MS, 25 Jun 1990-1 Oct 1992  
Columbus AFB, MS, 1 Apr 1997

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

29 Bombardment Group, 1 Feb 1940-1 Apr 1944  
29 Bombardment Group, 1 Apr 1944-20 May 1946  
29 Flying Training Wing, 1 Jul 1972-30 Sep 1977  
14 Flying Training Wing, 25 Jun 1990-1 Oct 1992  
610 Regional Support Group, 1 Apr 1997  
340 Flying Training Group, 1 Apr 1998

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-18, 1940-1941  
B-17, 1940-1943  
B-24, 1943-1944  
B-17, 1944  
B-29, 1944-1946  
T-37, 1972-1977  
T-37, 1990-1992  
T-37, 1998  
T-38, 1998  
T-1, 1998

### **COMMANDERS**

Capt Frank H. Robinson, 1 Feb 1940  
Maj William D. Old, 13 Mar 1940  
Maj Robert F. Travis, May 1941  
Capt James H. Walsh, 21 Oct 1941  
Maj C.W. Bicking, Mar 1942  
Maj Roland J. Bernick, Jul 1942  
Capt Chester C. Cox, 30 Jan 1943  
Maj George H. Blasé, 2 Apr 1943  
Capt Robert T. Marland, 16 Apr 1943  
Maj Everett C. Wessman, 29 Sep 1943-Mar 1944  
None (Not Manned), 1 Apr-3 May 1944  
Capt William J. Barter, 4 May 1944

Maj James D. Baird, 25 May 1944  
Lt Col Joseph G. Perry, 30 Jun 1944  
Maj William Marchesi, Sep 1945-Jan 1946  
None (Not Manned) Feb-20 May 1946  
Lt Col William M. Pugh, 1 Jul 1972  
Lt Col Robert L. Oliver, Dec 1973  
Lt Col William F. Hoelt, Jun 1976  
Lt Col Max L. Hearn, 13 Dec 1976-Jun 1977  
Unkn, Jul-30 Sep 1977  
Lt Col Gregory H. Landers, 25 Jun 1990  
Lt Col William H. Barker, 31 Jan-1 Oct 1992  
Unkn, 1 Apr 1997-Mar 1998  
Col Leonard R. Kight, 1 Apr 1998  
Lt Col Roger L. Henry, 1 Aug 1998  
Lt Col Dean F. Matcheck, 6 Dec 2002  
Lt Col Gerard A. Rowe, 9 Dec 2004  
Lt Col Michael J. Gibbons, 9 Dec 2006  
Lt Col Brian S. Bowman, 8 Jan 2009

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Antisubmarine, American Theater  
Western Pacific  
Air Offensive, Japan

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
31 Mar 1945  
19-26 Jun 1945

### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Award**

1 Jan-31 Dec 1973  
1 Oct 2001-30 Sep 2003  
1 Oct 2003-30 Sep 2004

## **EMBLEM**



43 Bombardment Squadron emblem: On a white disc edged in black a white and gray condor with black outlines, rising and grasping in both claws a red aerial bomb with black markings. (Approved, 18 Apr 1942)



43 Flying Training Squadron emblem approved, 30 May 1973

**MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Antisubmarine patrols, Dec 1941-Jun 1942; operational and later replacement training unit, 1942-1944. Combat in Western Pacific, 16 Feb-15 Aug 1945.

Conducted undergraduate pilot training, 1972-1977 and 1990-1992.

Flying Training Squadrons Inactivated. With pilot production down dramatically, the command reassessed the need for four flying training squadrons at each UPT base and concluded two would do. Accordingly, on 1 October 1992, ATC inactivated the following units: the 43d and 49th Flying Training Squadrons at Columbus AFB, Mississippi; the 84th and 86th Flying Training Squadrons at Laughlin AFB, Texas; the 7th and 26th at Vance AFB, Oklahoma; and the 33d at Reese AFB, Texas. That left one T-37 squadron and one T-38 squadron at each UPT wing. As each wing implemented specialized undergraduate pilot training, ATC intended to reactivate one of the squadrons to serve as the T-1A squadron. 1992

Trained Air Force pilots and instructor pilots, 1997.

Pilots Named in Fatal Trainer Crash: The Air Force has released the names of the two pilots killed April 23 when their T-38C crashed at Columbus AFB, Miss. They were Maj Blair Faulkner, 43rd FTS instructor pilot, and 2LT Matthew Emmons, a student pilot in SUPT class 08-14. The aircraft crashed on initial take-off. The last fatal crash at the Mississippi pilot training base was 24 years ago. An accident investigation board is investigating the April 23 crash. 2008



43 Flying Training Squadron T-1

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

Created: 13 Jul 2024

Updated:

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.