

7th AIR DIVISION



LINEAGE

7th Fighter Wing established, 31 Mar 1944
Activated, 21 Apr 1944
Redesignated 7th Air Division, 15 Dec 1947
Inactivated, 1 May 1948
Organized, 1 May 1948
Discontinued, 3 Sep 1948
Activated, 20 Mar 1951
Inactivated, 16 Jun 1952
Organized, 16 Jun 1952
Discontinued, 30 Jun 1965
Activated, 1 Jul 1978
Inactivated, 1 Feb 1992

This 7th Fighter Wing should not be confused with an earlier 7th Fighter Wing which participated in combat in North Africa, was later redesignated as the 47th Bombardment Wing, and existed as the 47th Air Division.

STATIONS

Fort Shafter, TH, 21 Apr 1944
Wheeler Field (later, AAB; AFB), TH, 18 Nov 1946-1 May 1948
Hickam AFB, TH, 1 May 1948-3 Sep 1948
South Ruislip, England, 20 Mar 1951-16 Jun 1952
South Ruislip, England, 16 Jun 1952
U.S. Air Base High Wycombe (later, High Wycombe Air Station), England, 1 Jul 1958-30 Jun 1965
Ramstein AB, Germany, 1 Jul 1978-1 Feb 1992

ASSIGNMENTS

Seventh Air Force, 21 Apr 1944
Army Air Forces (AAF), Pacific Ocean Area, 15 Aug 1944
Provisional Army Air Forces, Middle Pacific, attached 1 Jul 1945 and assigned, 22 Nov 1945
Seventh Air Force (later, Pacific Air Command), 1 Jan 1946-1 May 1948

Pacific Air Command, 1 May-3 Sep 1948
Strategic Air Command, 20 Mar 1951-16 Jun 1952
Strategic Air Command, 16 Jun 1952-30 Jun 1965
Strategic Air Command, 1 Jul 1978
Eighth Air Force, 31 Jan 1982-1 Feb 1992

ATTACHMENTS

VII Fighter Command, 24 Apr-15 Aug 1944

COMMANDERS

BG Robert W. Douglass Jr., 21 Apr 1944 (additional duty)
Col Ernest Moore, 31 May 1944 (additional duty)
Col John M. Weikert, 1 Jul 1944
Col Orrin L. Grover, 24 Nov 1944
BG John M. Weikert, 15 Dec 1944
Col Orrin L. Grover, 23 Jun 1945
Brig Gen John M. Weikert, 5 Jul 1945
Col Richard A. Grussendorf, 22 Apr 1946
Col Earl H. Jacobsen, 10 Jun 1947
Col Thomas W. Blackburn, 26 Aug 1947-1 May 1948
BG Robert F. Travis, 1 May-31 Aug 1948 (permanent), and 1-3 Sep 1948 (additional duty)
None (not manned), 20 Mar-25 Apr 1951
MG Archie J. Old Jr., 26 Apr 1951
MG John P. McConnell, 23 May 1951-16 Jun 1952
MG John P. McConnell, 16 Jun 1952
MG James C. Selser Jr., 14 Mar 1953
BG Thomas C. Musgrave Jr., 20 Jul 1954
BG James H. Walsh, 10 Jul 1955
MG William H. Blanchard, 25 Feb 1957
MG Charles B. Westover, 19 Jan 1960
MG Edwin B. Broadhurst, 1 Aug 1961
MG Charles M. Eisenhart, 18 Sep 1962
MG Delmar E. Wilson, 28 Jul 1964
Col Ervin Wursten, 9 Oct 1964-1965
Col Doyle F. Reynolds, 1 Jul 1978
BG Jerome R. Barnes Jr., 17 Jul 1978
BG Robert D. Beckel, 26 Jun 1979
BG John J. Doran Jr., 13 Feb 1981
BG Wayne W. Lambert, 31 Jan 1983
BG Loring R. Astorino, 21 Jun 1986
BG Kenneth L. Hagemann, 1 Mar 1990-1 Feb 1992

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II Asiatic Pacific Theater

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award: 1 Jul 1985-30 Jun 1987

EMBLEM

On a blue shield with a narrow yellow border, a vertical white sword partially sheathed, point down, the hilt in the shape of wings, the handle diagonally striped blue and yellow, the sword interlaced with a red seven terminating in a pointed foot between two smaller red flashes, all three outlined in white; interlaced with the flashes and behind the sword a spray of yellow laurel leaves. (Approved, 16 Sep 1954)

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 7th Air Division was initially constituted and activated as the 7th Fighter Wing at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, on 21 April 1944. The wing's original mission was air defense of the Hawaiian Islands. Following the war, the wing rapidly demobilized until only two radar stations remained open in early 1946. By mid-year, rebuilding efforts began and training exercises resumed on a regular basis. The 7th Fighter Wing became the 7th Air Division when the Seventh Air Force was redesignated the Pacific Air Command (PAC) on 15 December 1947. On 1 May 1948, the division inactivated and its resources passed to the 81st Fighter Wing. The same day, the 7th was organized at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, with new personnel and a new mission as the major component of PAC. The 7th was discontinued on 1 September 1948, when the PAC's expansion plans failed to materialize.

The 7th Air Division was activated on 20 March 1951, stationed at Victoria Park Estate, South Ruislip, England, and assigned to SAC. It exercised control over SAC forces deployed to the United Kingdom in response to the Berlin Blockade, and the Korean War. On 16 June 1952, the division inactivated and reorganized the same day. The new organization permitted more flexibility for expansion and contraction as needs dictated. The 7th was discontinued on 30 June 1965, but was activated at Ramstein AB, Germany, and assigned to SAC on 1 July 1978. The division activated with only one subordinate unit assigned, the 306th Strategic Wing stationed at RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom. A second unit was added on 13 November 1978, when the 11th Strategic Group was activated at RAF Fairford, United Kingdom. The 19th Surveillance Squadron located on Pirinçlik Installation in Turkey became the third 7th AD unit on 1 December 1979, began reporting to 8th AF instead of SAC.

On 31 January 1982, the 7th The fourth and last unit assigned to the division was the 17th Reconnaissance Wing, activated at RAF Alconbury, United Kingdom, on 1 October 1982. Seven

months later, the division lost the 19th when it transferred to Space Command, leaving the 306th, 11th, and 17th to form the current organization of the 7th.

The division activities focused on the role of SAC assets in support of United States and NATO interests in the European theater. The 7th managed the European tanker force, consisting of KC-135A/E/R and KC-10 aircraft temporarily assigned to the 11th and 306th. This force provided refueling support to a variety of United States and NATO aircraft. The division closely monitored all reconnaissance activity in the theater, especially the permanently assigned TR-1 aircraft of the 17th and the RC-135U/V/W aircraft temporarily assigned to the 306th.

Additionally, the division was very involved in scheduling and coordinating B-52 operations in the theater, even though none of its units have the bomber assigned either permanently or temporarily. Activity in this area increased significantly in 1987 due to the expansion of the conventional role of the B-52 in Europe. Finally, the 7th was instrumental in updating and coordinating the numerous operations plans that cover the wartime employment of SAC resources in support of NATO.



Air Force Order of Battle

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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.