

97 MAINTENANCE SQUADRON



MISSION

The 97th Maintenance Squadron provides on and off-equipment aircraft and component maintenance to ensure safe, reliable aircraft for the Air Force's mobility aircrew formal training mission. The squadron is comprised of five flights: Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory, Fabrication, Accessories, Maintenance, and Aerospace Ground Equipment. These diverse work centers interact seamlessly to create C-17, KC-135, and KC-46 aircraft availability for mobility aircrews.

LINEAGE

Maintenance Squadron, 97 Maintenance and Supply Group designed, 11 Sep 1947

Organized, 1 Dec 1947

Discontinued, 12 Jul 1948

97 Maintenance Squadron, Bombardment, Medium constituted, 28 May 1948

Activated, 12 Jul 1948

Redesignated 97 Maintenance Squadron, 16 Mar 1950

Redesignated 97 Field Maintenance Squadron, 16 Jun 1952

Maintenance Squadron, 97 Maintenance and Supply Group and 97 Field Maintenance Squadron consolidated, 22 Oct 1984. Consolidated unit designated 97 Field Maintenance Squadron

Inactivated, 31 May 1992

Redesignated as 97 Equipment Maintenance Squadron, 21 Aug 1992

Activated, 1 Oct 1992

Redesignated 97 Maintenance Squadron, 1 Jul 1993
Inactivated on 31 Jan 1997
Activated, 5 Aug 1999
Inactivated, 13 May 2002
Activated, 1 Nov 2017

STATIONS

Mile 26 Field (later, Eielson AFB), AK, 1 Dec 1947-12 Mar 1948
Smoky Hill AFB, KS, 21 Mar 1948
Biggs AFB, TX, 17 May 1948-12 Jul 1948
Blytheville (later, Eaker) AFB, AR, 1 Jul 1959-31 May 1992
Altus AFB, OK, 1 Oct 1992-31 Jan 1997
Altus AFB, OK, 5 Aug 1999

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Upper Heyford, England, 5 May 1956-4 Jul 1956

ASSIGNMENTS

97 Maintenance and Supply Group, 1 Dec 1947-12 Jul 1948
97 Maintenance and Supply Group, 12 July 1948
97 Bombardment Group, Medium, 10 Feb 1951
97 Bombardment Wing, Medium (later, 97 Bombardment Wing, Heavy), 16 Jun 1952
97 Logistics Group, 1 Sep 1991
97 Support Group, 1 Apr-31 May 1992
97 Logistics Group, 1 Oct 1992-31 Jan 1997
97 Logistics Group, 5 Aug 1999-13 May 2002
97 Maintenance Group, 1 Nov 2017

COMMANDERS

Capt W. L. Lloyd, 1949
Maj Henry E. Hinnant, 1954
Lt Col L. P. Plummer, #1964

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
2 Jul-3 Nov 1957
23 Oct-22 Nov 1962

1 Jul 1974-30 Jun 1976
1 Jul 1976-30 Jun 1977
1 Jul 1977-30 Jun 1978
1 Jul 1978-30 Jun 1980
1 Jul 1986-30 Jun 1988
1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1994
1 Jul 1994-30 Jun 1995
1 Jul 1995-30 Jun 1996
1 Jul 1999-30 Jun 2000
1 Jul 2000-30 Jun 2002

EMBLEM



On a disc Azure, in dexter chief four mullets in bend sinister Argent, each issuing a contrail fesswise and flexed to base conjoining at the sinister end of a double open end wrench Silver Gray, grasped bendwise by a bald eagle Proper stooping, affronté it's sinister wing debruising the contrail in sinister, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "97TH MAINTENANCE SQ" in White letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "SUSTENTO PER PRAESTANTIA" (To Maintain Through Excellence) in White letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force 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 eagle clutching the wrench represents safe flight of the parent unit's aircraft through quality maintenance by the unit. The stars stand for applied maintenance procedures by the Squadron and its ability to advance with new technologies. (Approved, 3 Apr 2000; newest rendition approved, 30 Dec 2019)

MOTTO

SUSTENTO PER PRAESTANTIA--Maintain Through Excellence

OPERATIONS



Typewriter repair, 97th Maintenance Squadron, Biggs AFB, TX. (USAF photo)

On July 1, 1996, the 97th Logistics Group began transition from a military to a civil service organization that ultimately became today's 97th Maintenance Group. At that time, what is now the 97th Maintenance Squadron consisted only of Accessories and Fabrication Flights, aligned under the 97th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

On August 30, 2002, the 97th Logistics Group inactivated and the 97th Air Mobility Wing Maintenance Directorate formed. As part of that organizational action, Accessories and Fabrication Flights were renamed Component Repair and Equipment Maintenance Divisions, two of five divisions under the Maintenance Directorate. On October 1, 2005, Component Repair and Equipment Maintenance Divisions combined to form the Maintenance Division.

Over the years, the 97th Maintenance Division continued to change. On January 1, 2011, the current-day Maintenance Flight transferred from the Aircraft Maintenance Division to the Maintenance Division. In 2016, the Munitions Flight was reassigned from the Maintenance Operations Division to the Maintenance Division. In November of 2017, the 97th Maintenance Division was officially replaced by the 97th Maintenance Squadron

USAF UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 18 Nov 2010

Updated: 11 Apr 2022

Sources

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

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

Unit yearbook. *Biggs AFB, TX*, El Paso, TX. 1949.

Unit yearbook. *810th Air Division, Biggs AFB, TX*. 1954

Unit yearbook. *Blytheville AFB, AR*, 1964