

## 3 WING



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

3 Bombardment Wing, Light established, 10 Aug 1948  
Activated, 18 Aug 1948  
Redesignated 3 Bombardment Wing, Tactical, 1 Oct 1955  
Redesignated 3 Tactical Fighter Wing, 8 Jan 1964  
Redesignated 3 Wing, 19 Dec 1991

#### STATIONS

Yokota AB, Japan, 18 Aug 1948  
Johnson AB, Japan, 1 Apr 1950  
Yokota AB, Japan, 14 Aug 1950  
Iwakuni AB, Japan, 1 Dec 1950  
Kunsan AB, South Korea, 22 Aug 1951  
Johnson AB, Japan, 1 Oct 1954  
Yokota AB, Japan, 18 Nov 1960-8 Jan 1964  
England AFB, LA, 8 Jan 1964-Nov 1965  
Bien Hoa AB, South Vietnam, 8 Nov 1965  
Kunsan AB, South Korea, 15 Mar 1971  
Clark AB, Philippines, 16 Sep 1974-19 Dec 1991  
Elmendorf AFB, AK, 19 Dec 1991

#### ASSIGNMENTS

314 Air Division, 18 Aug 1948

Fifth Air Force, 1 Mar 1950  
41 Air Division, 1 Mar 1955  
Fifth Air Force, 1 Feb 1957  
41 Air Division, 10 Nov 1958  
Twelfth Air Force, 8 Jan 1964  
834 Air Division, 1 Jul 1964  
2 Air Division, 8 Nov 1965  
Seventh Air Force, 1 Apr 1966  
Fifth Air Force, 15 Mar 1971  
314 Air Division, 15 Mar 1971  
Thirteenth Air Force, 16 Sep 1974  
Eleventh Air Force, 19 Dec 1991

### **ATTACHMENTS**

4481 Air Division, Provisional, 8 Jan-30 Jun 1964

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-26, 1948-1950, 1950-1956  
F-15, 1949  
RF-80, 1949-1950  
C-47, 1951  
B-57, 1956-1963  
RB-50, 1960-1961  
KB-50, 1960-1962  
C-130, 1961-1962  
F-102, 1961-1962  
F-100, 1964-1970  
F-5, 1965-1967  
A-1, 1965-1966  
U-10, 1965-1966  
C/AC/HC-47, 1965-1966  
A-37, 1967-1970  
F-4, 1971-1974, 1974-1991  
T-33, 1974-1987  
C-9, 1974-1975  
CH-3, 1974-1975  
T-38, 1976-1980  
F-5, 1977-1988  
MC-130, 1980-1983  
UH-1, 1991  
F-15, 1991  
C-12, 1992  
C-130, 1992  
E-3, 1993

F-22, 2007  
C-17, 2007

### **COMMANDERS**

Col James R. Gunn Jr., 18 Aug 1948  
Col Gerry L. Mason, 16 Jun 1949  
Lt Col Wilmer A. Hardesty, 17 Jun 1949  
Col Robert W. Witty, 24 Jun 1949  
Col Lawrence C. Coddington, 1 Apr 1950  
Col Thomas B. Hall, Jun 1950  
Col Strother B. Hardwick Jr., Jul 1950  
Col Virgil L. Zoller, 14 Aug 1950  
Col Donald L. Clark, 23 Aug 1950  
Col Virgil L. Zoller, 1 Dec 1950  
Col Nils O. Ohman, 24 Jul 1951  
Col Marshall R. Gray, 4 Mar 1952  
Col Eugene B. Lebailly, 14 Aug 1952  
Col Roger E. Phelan, 12 Aug 1953  
Col William H. Matthews, 2 Feb 1954  
Col Edwin A. Doss, 22 Feb 1954  
Col William B. Reed, 2 Apr 1954  
Col Homer C. Munsan, 1 Aug 1954  
Col Howard F. Bronson Jr., 6 Aug 1954  
Col Cecil P. Lessig, 10 Sep 1954  
Col Anthony V. Grossetta, 1 Mar 1955  
Col Edward R. Casey, 3 May 1955  
Col Rufus H. Holloway, 9 Jun 1955  
Col George Y. Jumper, 16 Aug 1955  
Col Clarence L. Elder, 10 Jun 1958  
Col James B. Tipton, 10 Jul 1958  
Col Robert J. Ahern, 22 Jun 1959  
Col Leo Hawel Jr., 22 Jun 1961  
Col Carl R. Norton, 28 Jun 1962  
Col Francis E. Timlin, 1 Aug 1962  
Col Charles S. Overstreet Jr., 3 Sep 1963-8 Jan 1964 (Additional Duty)  
Unkn, 9 Jan-18 Feb 1964  
Col Philip Brooks, 19 Feb 1964  
Col Waring W. Wilson, 28 May 1965  
Col Robert A. Ackerly, 19 Jul 1965  
Col Richard C. Catledge, 1 Nov 1966  
Col George W. McLaughlin, 30 Sep 1967  
Col Homer K. Hansen, 5 May 1968  
Col Howard M. Lane, 1 Apr 1969  
Col William E. Charlson, 11 Apr-31 Oct 1970

None (Not Manned), 1 Nov 1970-14 Mar 1971  
Col Abner M. Aust Jr., 15 Mar 1971  
Col Charles A. Watry, 17 Nov 1971  
Col Paul A. Kauttu, 5 Oct 1972  
Col Harry W. Schurr, 19 Nov 1973  
Col George L. Schulstad, 16 Sep 1974  
Col Lacy W. Breckenridge, 14 Mar 1975  
Col Alfred M. Miller Jr., 25 Mar 1975  
Col James R. Brown, 13 Oct 1976  
Col Thomas S. Swalm, 1 Aug 1978  
Col Martin H. Mahrt, 20 Feb 1979  
Col Thomas G. Mcinerney, 31 Mar 1979  
Brig Gen John A. Corder, 6 Feb 1981  
Col Willard R. Macfarlane, 5 Aug 1983  
Col Charles F. Luigs, 25 May 1985  
Col Ronald W. Iverson, 27 Mar 1986  
Col Frank D. Garza, 25 Feb 1988  
Col Jeffrey R. Grime, 26 Jan 1990  
Col Bruce M. Freeman, 7 Aug 1991  
Col Rodney P. Kelly, 19 Dec 1991  
Brig Gen Thomas R. Case, 23 Jul 1993  
Brig Gen Hugh C. Cameron, 27 Mar 1995  
Brig Gen William J. Lake, 4 Nov 1996  
Brig Gen Jonathon S. Gration, 8 Jun 1998  
Col Douglas M. Fraser, 20 Jan 2000  
Brig Gen Robertus Remkes, 5 Apr 2002  
Brig Gen Michael A. Snodgrass, 26 Jan 2004  
Brig Gen Herbert H. Carlisle, 20 May 2005  
Brig Gen Thomas L. Tinsley 11 May 2007  
Col Richard Walberg 27 Jul 2008 (Acting)  
Brig Gen Thomas Bergeson 18 Aug 2008  
Col John K. McMullen 16 Jun 2010  
Col Dirk D. Smith 26 Aug 2011  
Col Charles Corcoran

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

Korea: UN Defensive

CCF Intervention

First UN Counteroffensive

CCF Spring Offensive

UN Summer-Fall Offensive  
Second Korean Winter  
Korea Summer-Fall, 1952  
Third Korean Winter  
Korea Summer, 1953

Vietnam  
Vietnam Defensive  
Vietnam Air  
Vietnam Air Offensive  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II  
Vietnam Air/Ground  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV  
TET 69/Counteroffensive  
Vietnam Summer-Fall, 1969  
Vietnam Winter-Spring, 1970  
Sanctuary Counteroffensive  
Southwest Monsoon

Southwest Asia  
Defense of Saudi Arabia  
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Presidential Unit Citations (Vietnam)  
8 Jun 1966-16 Apr 1967  
6 Mar 1968-31 Jul 1969

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device  
31 Jan-5 Mar 1968  
1 Aug 1969-20 Jan 1970  
21 Jan-31 Oct 1970

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards  
1 Jun 1958-30 Jun 1960  
1 Jul 1960-31 Mar 1962  
1 May 1964-16 Jul 1965  
1 Jul 1972-31 Dec 1973  
1 May 1980-30 Apr 1982  
22 Mar-1 Apr 1986

1 Jan 1989-1 Jun 1990  
1 Jan 1994-31 Dec 1995  
1 Jan 1996-30 Sep 1998  
1 Jan 2000-31 Dec 2001  
1 Jan 2002-30 Sep 2003  
1 Oct 2003-30 Sep 2005

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation  
27 Jun-31 Jul 1950

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Crosses with Palm  
25 Nov 1965-19 May 1969  
1 Apr 1966-31 Oct 1970  
1 May-30 Sep 1970

### **Bestowed Honors**

Authorized to display honors earned by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Operations Group prior to 18 Aug 1948

### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Antisubmarine, American Theater  
East Indies  
Air Offensive, Japan  
Papua  
New Guinea  
Bismarck Archipelago  
Western Pacific  
Leyte; Luzon  
Southern Philippines

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
Papua, 23 Jul 1942-23 Jan 1943  
New Guinea, 17 Aug 1943

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

### **EMBLEM**









3 Wing emblem: Party per bend Vert and Sable a bend fimbriated Or in sinister Chief a prickly pear cactus of the like, all within a bordure Argent semi of nineteen crosses patee Black and fimbriated yellow. The shield is divided diagonally into the original colors of the Air Service, green and black. Over the dividing line is a band of the Air Force's, present colors, ultramarine blue and golden yellow representative of the Rio Grande River dividing the US and Mexico. On the green field is a yellow cactus commemorating the group's first patrols along the Mexican border. Around the shield is a white border with black German crosses equal to the number of aerial victories credited to the group's original squadrons during the Great War. (Approved for 3d Group, 17 Jan 1922, and for 3d Wing, 22 Dec 1952)

#### **MOTTO**

NON SOLUM ARMIS--Not by Arms Alone

#### **OPERATIONS**

Trained as a bombardment and reconnaissance wing prior to Korean War.

Performed reconnaissance and interdiction combat missions from Iwakuni AB, Japan, at the beginning of the Korean War, 1-19 Jul 1950. From 20 Jul to 1 Dec 1950 the tactical group and its squadrons served under operational control of another organization. The wing assumed a supporting role, initially from Johnson AB, Japan, but later from Yokota AB, Japan.

On the first day of the war, the 3d BW's tactical units flew B-26s from Iwakuni AB, Japan, on combat missions in Korea. On 20 Jul 1950, the group was detached, and the wing assumed a supporting role at Yokota AB, Japan, until December 1. It then regained control of its combat units at Iwakuni AB and began night intruder missions to Korea. The 3d B W moved to South Korea in Aug 1951 and attacked main supply routes in western North Korea until the war's end. In the summer and autumn of 1952, the wing devised a "hunter-killer" B-26 tactic for nighttime interdiction of transportation targets.

The Wing returned to Iwakuni AB on 1 Dec 1950, regained control of its combat units and performed night intruder combat missions.

In 1951, the 3rd Bombardment Wing moved to Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea, where it remained for the duration of the war. The 3rd Wing, one of the first air units to intervene on the side of the United Nations in 1950 was also the last air unit to drop ordnance on the North on 27 July 1953. After the cease-fire, the wing moved back to Iwakuni where it underwent a slight mission realignment in the mid-1950s and was redesignated the 3rd Bombardment Wing, Tactical. There, the wing flew its final missions with the propeller driven B-26s in 1956 with the arrival of their new aircraft, B-57 Canberra medium bombers.

After the Korean War, the wing transitioned to B-57 in 1955-56. The wing stood nuclear alert in Japan and Korea for 10 years during the height of the Cold War. As the conflict in Southeast Asia escalated in 1964, the 3rd Wing transformed into a light attack unit flying primarily F-100 along with other attack aircraft from Bien Hoa AB, South Vietnam.

Moved to the United States without personnel or equipment in Jan 1964, then trained and rotated its squadrons in detached status to Southeast Asia for combat duty. Moved in Nov 1965 to Bien Hoa AB, South Vietnam, a forward operating base, which frequently came under enemy mortar and rocket fire. Missions included close air support, counterinsurgency, forward air control, interdiction, and radar-controlled bombing. Supported numerous ground operations with strike missions against enemy fortifications, supply areas, lines of communication and personnel, in addition to suppressing fire in landing areas. Detached elements of the wing were involved in the conflict from almost the beginning and the wing physically moved to Bien Hoa Air Base, South Vietnam on 25 November 1965. The headquarters and operational elements of the wing engaged in furious combat throughout Southeast Asia, flying more than 200,000 operational sorties while often coming under attack from insurgents.

All 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing operations in Vietnam ceased on 31 October 1970 and personnel and equipment were reassigned to other units in preparation for the wing's departure to Korea the following spring.

On 15 March 1971, the wing moved to Kunsan Air Base, Korea where it assimilated the equipment and personnel from the 475th Tactical Fighter Wing. Thousands of people witnessed the wing's rebirth as a formation of F-4Ds formed a three during a fly over. After becoming a proficient F-4 combat wing, the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing moved to Clark AB, Republic of the Philippines on 18 September, 1974 replacing the 405th Fighter Wing, where it remained for 17 years.

Participated in frequent operational exercises and evaluations. Between 5 Apr and 31 May 1975, wing used its facilities as a staging area for Operations Baby Lift (evacuation of Vietnamese orphans from South Vietnam to the United States) and New Life (evacuation of Vietnamese adults to the United States for resettlement).

The first order of business for the wing in the Philippines was establishing an orderly transit point for personnel and equipment returning from Vietnam, as that conflict wound down. During the evacuation of Saigon, the wing supported the "Operation Babylift" and "Operation Newlife" evacuations and received an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its tireless actions for the period from 5 April to 31 May 1975.

The wing focused on an air superiority role during the late 1970s. Its various aircraft sported shark's mouth markings--the most colorful in the Pacific Air Forces (PACAF). Beginning in 1976, the wing hosted the PACAF Cope Thunder exercises at the Crow Valley Range and other weapons ranges in the Philippines. These were the premier tactical weapons exercises in the Pacific at that time.

Performed fighter aggressor training operations using T-38 and later F-5E from 1976 to 1988; deployed throughout Pacific Air Forces to provide dissimilar aircraft combat training to US and allied fighter units. Deployed aircraft from the Philippines to Korea annually to participate in multinational joint-service combined forces exercises, 1978-1991.

With addition of the F-4G in 1979, the wing acquired dual role capabilities of air-to-air/air-to-ground and defense suppression/electronic countermeasures. Assignment of the 1st Special Operations Squadron, equipped with MC-130, provided the wing with an unconventional warfare capability, Jan 1981-Mar 1983.

Political instability in the Philippines became increasingly acute in the 1980s and governmental turmoil caused the wing to maintain a constant vigil. In 1986, the wing won another Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for supporting the Air Force mission during the transition of power from Ferdinand Marcos to the newly installed democratic government. After the fall of the Marcos regime, bases in the Philippines came under increased pressure from the newly elected government. Nationalists wanted an end to the American presence. Others wanted to renew the base treaties with the United States, but at an extremely high price. Negotiations with the Philippine Government plodded on for many months. The tension was palpable as increased terrorist activity began to restrict the free movement of U.S. personnel.

Operated UH-1N, 1988-1991, for drone recovery, VIP airlift, range support, Philippine air defense site support, and medical evacuation.

In Nov 1990, the Air Force decided to withdraw all flying units from Clark. By Apr 1991, only a handful of the 3 TFW's jets remained, and the last of those was flown out 4 Jun. Throughout the first months of 1991, the proud war birds flew by twos and threes back to Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, there to be decommissioned and interred in the bone yard for excess Air Force equipment. The flight out of Clark that morning was led by the 3 TFW vice wing commander, Col Dick Anderegg, and his back-seater, Maj Hugh Riley, in F-4E tail number 1085. Maintenance crews had buffed the jet to a high sheen, and as Anderegg taxied slowly out of the aircraft's protective shelter, they were greeted by waving American flags and waving people along one side of the taxiway. On the other side of the taxiway, maintenance troops stood at

rigid attention, shoulder to shoulder. Each snapped off sharp hand salutes as the flight leader and the other two jets moved slowly through the cordon of well-wishers. The flight leader's call sign was Clan 11. In Clan 12 were Capt Mike Trinchitella and his backseater, Capt Robert Ricarte; and Clan 13 was flown by Maj Howard Hendricks and his backseater, Maj Jimmy Miyamoto. The jets thundered down the new runway one by one, then as the leader made a gentle left turn to the north, the wingmen joined up in close formation. After another left turn to align with the runway, Clan 11 flight flew by the base and departed to the southeast. There was not a dry eye in the house. Six days after the last F-4 departure, Mount Pinatubo erupted, ending the usefulness of Clark AB.

The Wing deployed six F-4Es to Turkey for Operation Desert Storm in early 1991 where they flew some of that aircraft's last combat sorties. The wing remained at Clark AB, though it was decided to move the 3rd Wing beginning in 1992-93. The Mt Pinatubo eruption in Jun 1991 changed these plans and forced the wing's hasty relocation to Elmendorf on 19 Dec 1991

Wing was not operational from Jun 1991 until it moved on paper to Elmendorf AFB on 19 Dec 1991, replacing the 21st Tactical Fighter Wing.

Elmendorf AFB, near Anchorage, Alaska, the premier base of the Eleventh Air Force, proved to be the perfect location. Billy Mitchell considered Alaska the most strategic place in the world due to its proximity to the arctic air routes that greatly speeded travel to points around the globe. From its new home, the relocated wing could rapidly answer the call to move anywhere it was required. Re-designated the 3rd Wing in the months prior to its relocation to Alaska, the new name indicated a general mission carried out by many types of aircraft. Since 19 December 1991, the 3rd Wing has maintained vigil over the North Pacific.

When the wing activated in Alaska, it included the 43rd and 54th Fighter Squadrons flying F-15 C/Ds, and the 90th Fighter Squadron with F-15Es. Shortly thereafter, the wing added the 517th Airlift Squadron (C-130s) and the 962nd Airborne Air Control Squadron (E-3s), making it a truly composite wing. In the ensuing years, while the wing continued to operate F-15s at Elmendorf, the only fighter squadron that remained unchanged was the 90th Fighter Squadron.

The 19th Fighter Squadron replaced the 43rd Fighter and the 12th Fighter Squadron took over for the 54th, all flying F-15s. Then, in 2007 the 517th Airlift Squadron exchanged its C-130s, the only aircraft the squadron flew since activating in Alaska in 1964, with a fleet of C-17s, and the wing added a new squadron, the 525th Fighter Squadron to join the 90th flying the Air Force's fifth-generation fighter, the F-22. An era officially came to an end in September 2010 when the last F-15 assigned to the wing departed.

It was a historic day for Elmendorf as the base officially welcomed the first of its F-22 fleet during a ceremony here 8 Aug. Elmendorf became the second operational base and the first Pacific Air Forces installation to receive the Air Force's new superiority fighter. "These incredible airframes are ushering in a new day in the Land of the Midnight Sun," said Gen Paul Hester, PACAF commander. "The unmatched capabilities of this superb airplane are simply

unbelievable. It furnishes our Airmen with unrivaled air supremacy and provides us with the most lopsided and unfair advantages ever seen in the air power age." The F-22s will join the 3rd Wing and Air Force Reserve Command's 477th Fighter Group here. The 477th FG is a classic associate unit, in that the aircraft are the property of the active duty Air Force, but are flown and maintained by Air Force reservists as well. The 477th FG becomes the first Air Force Reserve unit to operate and maintain the F-22. "Elmendorf Airmen are not strangers to new aircraft and missions. The difference this time is we are teamed with our unrivaled wingmen of the Air Force Reserve," said Col. Tom Tinsley, 3rd Wing commander. "These professional Airmen will be integrated into every part of F-22 operations and are bringing Total Force Integration to a new level, a level where we can truly say we are no longer working toward Total Force Integration, but rather we are a total force." Approximately 40 aircraft are scheduled to be delivered to Elmendorf, with 20 aircraft designated for the 90th Fighter Squadron and the other 20 to the 525th Fighter Squadron which will be activated later this year. The Air Force Reserve will fly the F-22 as part of the 302nd Fighter Squadron. 8/8/2007

The greatest single change to the wing in more than 50 years occurred in June 2010, when the Mission Support and Medical Groups inactivated as part of the joint base initiative as directed by Congress. When Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson stood up, the 3rd Wing became a tenant organization on the base, supported by the 673rd Air Base Wing. This move left only the Operations and Maintenance Groups active within the wing but kept its mission essentially unchanged allowing the wing commander to focus on that mission.

At the end of 2011 the wing included five operational squadrons flying C-12s, C-17s, C-130s, E-3s and F-22s with both Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Associate Squadrons. The 302nd Fighter Squadron, assigned to the 477th Fighter Group (Air Force Reserve), flew 3rd Wing F-22s, and members of that organization deployed along with their active duty counterparts for the first time in 2010. The 249th Airlift Squadron provided people to work on and fly C-17s from the 517th Airlift Squadron, and many missions included crews with representatives from each squadron working together. In 2011 the 176th Wing (Air National Guard) moved to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson from Kulis Air National Guard Base at the Anchorage International Airport, and the 3rd Wing activated the 537th Airlift Squadron as an active duty reverse associate unit with the 144th Airlift Squadron. They recently deployed to Korea and Japan where they provided airlift support to the headquarters Pacific Air Forces inspector General during inspections in Korea and Japan.

Since moving to Alaska, The wing enjoyed many successful years, with deployments to Operations NORTHERNWATCH, SOUTHERN WATCH, ALLIED FORCE, and ENDURING FREEDOM, counter-drug operations in Panama, and humanitarian assistance missions throughout the world. It also began playing a greater role in theater stabilization efforts in the western Pacific. 2011 marked the third consecutive year that saw one or more 3rd Wing squadron deployed in support of the Commander, US Pacific Command's Theater Support Program to increase the US military presence in the western Pacific. The wing remained active in humanitarian operations

as well, deploying people and aircraft for airlift support to Haiti in 2010 and Japan in 2011 following devastating earthquakes in those countries and the subsequent tsunami in Japan.

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USAF Unit Histories

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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.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit history. *A Brief History of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wing*. 673<sup>rd</sup> Air Base Wing History Office. Elmendorf AFB, AK. 2012.