

340th WEAPONS SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

340th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 28 Jan 1942
Activated, 3 Feb 1942
Redesignated 340th Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 6 Mar 1944
Inactivated, 29 Oct 1945
Redesignated 340th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 15 Jul 1946
Activated, 4 Aug 1946
Redesignated 340th Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 28 May 1948
Redesignated 340th Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 1 Oct 1959
Redesignated 340th Bomb Squadron, 1 Sep 1991
Inactivated, 7 Jan 1992
Redesignated 340th Weapons Squadron, 24 Jan 2003
Activated, 3 Feb 2003

STATIONS

MacDill Field, FL, 3 Feb 1942
Sarasota, FL, 29 Mar-16 May 1942
Polebrook, England, 11 Jun-10 Nov 1942
Maison Blanche, Algeria, 13 Nov 1942
Tafaraoui, Algeria, 22 Nov 1942
Bizkra, Algeria, 26 Dec 1942
Chateaudun-du-Rhumel, Algeria, 8 Feb 1943
Pont-du-Fahs, Tunisia, 12 Aug 1943
Depienne, Tunisia, 14 Aug 1943
Carignola, Italy, 14 Dec 1943

Amendola, Italy, 17 Jan 1944
Marcianise, Italy, c. Oct-29 Oct 1945
Smoky Hill AAFld, KS, 4 Aug 1946
Biggs AFB, TX, 17 May 1948
Blytheville (later, Eaker) AFB, AR, 1 Jul 1959-7 Jan 1992
Barksdale AFB, LA, 3 Feb 2003

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Mile 26 Airfield [later, Eielson AFB], AK, 4 Nov 1947-12 Mar 1948
Lakenheath RAF Station, England, 5 Mar-4 Jun 1952
Andersen AFB, Guam, 16 Dec 1953-c. 15 Mar 1954
Detachments at Lakenheath RAF Station, England, and Yokota AB, Japan, Apr 1954-1 Apr 1955
RAF Upper Heyford, England, 5 May-4 Jul 1956
Eielson AFB, AK, 24 Sep-2 Nov 1957

ASSIGNMENTS

97th Bombardment Group, 3 Feb 1942-29 Oct 1945
97th Bombardment Group, 4 Aug 1946
97th Bombardment Wing, attached 10 Feb 1952, assigned 16 Jun 1952
97th Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991-7 Jan 1992
USAF Weapons School, 3 Feb 2003

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17, 1942-1945
B-17E
B-17F
B-17G
B-29, 1946-1950
B-50, 1950-1954
B-50D
RB-50
KB-29
ERB-29, 1954-1955
B-47, 1955-1959
B-52, 1960-1991
B-52G

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 3 Feb-28 Mar 1942
Maj Paul W. Tibbets, 29 Mar 1942
Maj Robert E. Coulter, 9 Sep 1942
Maj C. David Hoffman, 2 Feb 1943
LTC Frank Allen, c. Sep 1943
Maj James C. Hamilton, 20 Nov 1943

Maj John R. Delapp, 8 May 1944
Cpt Rush R. Spradley, 1 Jun 1944
Maj Robert E. Shafer, 17 Jun 1944
Cpt Kenneth W. Whitehorn, Jun-29 Oct 1945
Unkn, 4 Aug-16 Sep 1946
LTC Robert E. Flesher, 17 Sep 1946
LTC Jack D. Whidden, 6 Nov 1946
Maj Ira V. Matthews, 1 May 1947
Maj Virgil R. Sewell, 27 Jun 1947
Maj Gordon A. Dressler, Aug 1948
Maj Joseph V. Adams, Jr., 1949
LTC Charles B. Paxson, 1950
LTC Frank L. Davis, 9 Jul 1951
LTC Joe L. Simmons, 1952
LTC Walter Callahan, Mar 1953
LTC Cameron B. Benson, Apr 1954
LTC William R. Conger, Apr 1955
LTC Malcolm C. Simmons, Apr 1957
LTC Warren D. Johnson, by Jul 59
LTC George E. Burch, c. 17 Jun 1960
LTC Elmond H. Abbot, 1 Dec 1960
LTC William M. Wood, 17 Jul 1961
LTC Chester K. Ballengee, Dec 1961
LTC Norman A. MacLean, c. Jul 1963
LTC William F. Lane, Aug 1964
LTC Allen W. Azeltine, by Sep 1966
LTC William M. Nash, 15 Aug 1967
LTC William J. Heath, 1 Jul 68
LTC Charles P. Birch, Aug 1970
LTC William R. Valach, Sep 1971
LTC Joe S. Smith, Jun 1972
LTC Paul A. Cameron Jr., Jun 1973
LTC Robert A. Hahn, 1 Jun 1974
LTC Roger E. McClure, by Feb 1976
LTC John G. Corbett, 29 Dec 1976
LTC Peter C. Kelly, 6 Sep 1977
LTC Richard L. Bousman, 20 Dec 1978
LTC James R. Ames, 7 Jul 1979
LTC James L. Vick, 22 Sep 1980
LTC James E. Lentz, 21 Sep 1981
LTC Richard D. Martin, 1 Nov 1982
LTC William H. Campbell Jr., 16 Dec 1983
LTC George B. Smith, 24 Oct 1985
LTC Robert L. Ostrander Jr., 26 Feb 1987

LTC Cloyce W. Scheer, 30 Aug 1988
LTC James C. Berg, 10 Aug 1989
LTC David A. McDermott, 15 Apr 1990
LTC Thomas G. Sullivan, 11 Jan 1991
None (not manned), 16 Dec 1991-7 Jan 1992

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Antisubmarine, American Theater
Egypt-Libya
Air Offensive, Europe
Tunisia
Sicily
Naples-Foggia
Anzio
Rome-Arno
Normandy
Northern France
Southern France
North Apennines
Rhineland
Central Europe
Po Valley
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Southwest Asia
Defense of Saudi Arabia
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Steyr, Austria, 24 Feb 1944
Ploesti, Rumania, 18 Aug 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
[Apr 1954-1 Apr 1955]

2 Jul-3 Nov 1957
23 Oct-22 Nov 1962
1 Jul 1975-30 Jun 1977
1 Jul 1977-30 Jun 1978
1 Jul 1978-30 Jun 1980
1 Jul 1986-30 Jun 1988

EMBLEM



340th Bombardment Squadron emblem

340th Weapons Squadron emblem: On a disc Azure, in dexter chief a gauntlet grasping a sword in pale, point to base Proper, detailed Sable, winged hilt and pommel Or, enflamed from point, of the same and garnished Gules, all between two concave lightning flashes, one in dexter and one in sinister, emanating from point of the last, all within a narrow border Black. Attached above the disc, a Gray scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "PARATI TUNC SIMUS" in Black letters. Attached below the disc, a Gray scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "340TH WEAPONS SQUADRON" in Black 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 gauntlet and winged sword symbolize the air striking power and strength of the Squadron, which provides the knowledge and training for the forces, represented by the lightning flashes. The Latin motto, "PARATI TUNC SIMUS," translates in English to "Let Us Then Be Prepared." (Approved, 16 Mar 1956)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

On 3 February 1942, Captain Paul Tibbets (of Enola Gay fame) was given command of a new squadron that would later become the 340th Bombardment Squadron. The 340th Bomb Squadron was involved in combat missions in both the European and Mediterranean theaters from 1942 through 1945. The most notable of these were the raids on Hitler's largest oil refinery in Ploesti, Romania. Crews from the 340th BS participated in the LINEBACKER offensives over the skies of North Vietnam. In August 1990 the 340th deployed aircrews for Operation DESERT STORM. After the war, the 340th was inactivated at Eaker AFB, AR on 1 April 1992.

Antisubmarine operations, Mar-Apr 1942; combat in ETO and MTO, 17 Aug 1942-26 Apr 1945.

Electronic reconnaissance, Apr 1954-1 Apr 1955.

Supported SAC combat operations in Southeast Asia, mid and late 1960s and early 1970s by providing aircraft and crews on loan to other SAC units; by mid 1972 to Oct 1973, all aircraft and a large part of its personnel were on loan to other units for operations in SEA, the Far East, and other locations.

Deployed personnel and equipment to Diego Garcia, 1990-1991; combat operations in Southwest Asia, Jan-Feb 1991.

The Weapons School B-52 Division was originally activated on 1 October 1989 as the Strategic Weapons School, graduating the first class in April 1990. In 1992, with the activation of Air Combat Command, the B-52 Division was reborn as part of the USAF Weapons School, eventually becoming Detachment 2, USAF Weapons School. The 340th Bomb Squadron was reactivated as the 340th Weapons Squadron, USAF Weapons School. The 340th has graduated 204 B-52 Weapons Officers.

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.
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.
Unit yearbook. *Blytheville AFB, AR, 1964.*
Unit yearbook. *Biggs AFB, TX, El Paso, TX. 1949.*