

## 347<sup>h</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, HEAVY



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

347 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 28 Jan 1942

Activated, 1 Jun 1942

Inactivated, 8 Nov 1945

Redesignated 347 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 13 May 1947

Activated in the reserve, 29 May 1947

Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

Redesignated 347 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, Heavy and activated, 1 Jan 1953

Redesignated 347 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 1 Oct 1955

Inactivated

### STATIONS

Orlando AB, FL, 1 Jun 1942

MacDill Field, FL, 1 Jun 1942

Pendleton Field, OR, 29 Jun 1942

Gowen Field, ID, 28 Aug 1942

Walla Walla, WA, c. 22 Sep 1942

Sioux City AAB, IA, 15 Nov 1942-5 Jan 1943

Navarin, Algeria, c. 26 Mar 1943

Oudna, Tunisia, 4 Aug 1943

Tortorella Airfield, Italy, 13 Dec 1943

Marcianise, Italy, c. 27 Oct-8 Nov 1945

Birmingham Mun Aprt, AL, 29 May 1947-27 Jun 1949

Travis AFB, CA, 1 Jan 1953

Fairchild AFB, WA, 12 Sep 1953

Westover AFB, MA, 4 Sep 1956  
McCoy AFB, FL, 1 Sep 1961

### **DEPLOYED STATIONS**

Andersen AFB, Guam, 29 Jan 1956-25 Apr 1956

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

99 Bombardment Group, 1 Jun 1942-8 Nov 1945.  
99 Bombardment Group, 29 May 1947-27 Jun 1949  
99 Strategic Reconnaissance (later Bombardment) Wing, 1 Jan 1953  
4047 Strategic Wing, 1 Sep 1961

### **ATTACHMENTS**

5 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 1 Jan-12 Sep 1953

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-17, 1942-1945  
B/RB-36, 1953-1956  
B-52, 19567

### **COMMANDERS**

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

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

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations

Sicily, 5 Jul 1943

Austria, 23 Apr 1944

## **EMBLEM**



347 Bombardment Squadron

347 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy: On a disc white, outlined Air Force blue, the stylized aperture of a camera light green, all outlined of the second, over the upper right [dexter] part of the disc a globe, light blue shaded, land markings of Air Force blue; over all in saltire, a stylized futuramic aircraft proper, and a bolt of lightning red. (Approved, 11 May 1954)

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Combat in MTO and ETO, 31 Mar 1943-26 Apr 1945

Although the 4047th Strategic Wing's history dates back only to 1 July 1961, its tactical squadron, the 347 Bomb Squadron was active during World War II. It is interesting to note that after 12 stateside, four overseas stations of assignments and 20 years later the 347 Bomb Squadron has returned to its place of birth. On 1 June 1942 it was activated at the Orlando Army Air Field, Florida. The following six months were spent at various bases in the United States training air and ground personnel. On 22 January 1943 the aircrews picked up their B-17 aircraft at DeRitter Army Air Base, Louisiana and departed for Navarin Air Base in Algeria one week later. The ground echelon followed later and by the time it reached Navarin on 26 May the squadron was credited with 22 combat missions.

The first strike was against the enemy held airdrome at Villacidaro, Sardinia on 31 March 1943. On 5 July 1943 the 347 participated in the bombing of Gerbini Airdrome in Sicily with other units of the

99th Bomb Group. For this action it shared in the Distinguished Unit Citation award for demolition of the airdrome and destruction of airborne enemy aircraft. The squadron was awarded a second Distinguished Unit Citation for its mission against the aircraft factory at Wiener-Neustadt, Austria on 23 April 1944. The 347 flew its last mission of the war on 26 April 1945. This was mission number 395. Aside from the two Distinguished Unit Citations, the 347 has ten battle credits for offensives against targets in two continents and 11 countries.

The 347 Bomb Squadron was inactivated at Camp Marcianise, Italy, on 8 November 1945. In May 1947 it was activated as a Class C Reserve unit at Birmingham, Alabama, and remained in this status until June 1949 when the 347 was again inactivated. On 1 January 1953 the unit was redesignated the 347 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, Heavy, and was returned to active service in the Air Force at Travis AFB, California. It was assigned to the 99th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing. The unit was equipped with the giant RB-36 type aircraft. During the latter part of August 1953 the squadron was transferred to Fairchild AFB, Washington. In May 1956 the 99th Bomb Wing entered a conversion program designed to replace the B-36's in the 347 and the other squadrons with B-52's. At the same time the entire wing was scheduled to move to Westover AFB. The move was accomplished and the B-36's phased out by early September 1956.

However, the first B-52's were not assigned until about three months later. The squadron remained at Westover AFB as a unit of the 99th Bomb Wing until it was officially transferred to McCoy AFB and the 4047th Strategic Wing on 1 September 1961. On the effective date of assignment of the 347 Bomb Squadron, the 4047th Strategic Wing initiated a ground alert force composed of B-52 aircraft. This force was poised and ready for immediate retaliation of any hostile attacks against the United States or any of its allies in the Free World.



347 BMS B-52 at McCoy AFB, FL

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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.