

347th RESCUE WING



MISSION

The mission of the 347th Rescue Wing is to organize, train and employ a combat-ready, HC-130 and HH-60 rescue wing consisting of approximately 4,054 military and civilian personnel including GSUs in Nevada and Arizona. The wing executes worldwide peacetime and combat search and rescue operations in support of humanitarian and U.S. national security interests, and in support of the global war on terrorism.

LINEAGE

347th Fighter Wing, All Weather, established, 10 Aug 1948
Activated, 18 Aug 1948
Redesignated 347th Fighter All Weather Wing, 20 Jan 1950
Inactivated, 24 Jun 1950
Redesignated 347th Tactical Fighter Wing and activated, 21 Dec 1967
Organized, 15 Jan 1968
Inactivated, 31 Oct 1972
Activated, 30 Jul 1973
Inactivated, 30 Jun 1975
Activated, 30 Sep 1975
Redesignated 347th Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 1991
Redesignated 347th Wing, 1 Jul 1994
Redesignated 347 Rescue Wing, 1 May 2001

STATIONS

Itazuke, Japan, 18 Aug 1948
Bofu Afd, Japan, 15 Oct 1948
Ashiya Afd (later, AB), Japan, 3 May 1949

Nagoya AB, Japan, 1 Apr–24 Jun 1950
Yokota AB, Japan, 15 Jan 1968–15 May 1971
Mountain Home AFB, ID, 15 May 1971–31 Oct 1972
Takhli RTAFB, Thailand, 30 Jul 1973
Korat RTAFB, Thailand, 12 Jul 1974–30 Jun 1975
Moody AFB, GA, 30 Sep 1975

ASSIGNMENTS

315th Air Division, 18 Aug 1948
Fifth Air Force, 1 Mar–24 Jun 1950
Pacific Air Forces, 21 Dec 1967
Fifth Air Force, 15 Jan 1968
Tactical Air Command, 15 May 1971
832nd Air Division, 15 May 1971–31 Oct 1972
Thirteenth Air Force, 30 Jul 1973–30 Jun 1975
Ninth Air Force, 30 Sep 1975
Air Force Special Operations Command, 1 Oct 2003

ATTACHMENTS

Seventh Air Force, 30 Jul 1973–c. 14 Feb 1974
United States Support Activities Group/ Seventh Air Force, 14 Feb 1974–30 Jun 1975

WEAPON SYSTEMS

F-51, 1948
F-61, 1948–1950
F-82, 1949–1950
F-105, 1968
F-4, 1968– 1971
C-130, 1968–1971
EB-57, 1968–1971
RB-57, 1968
F-111, 1971– 1972
F-111, 1973–1975
F-4, 1975–1988
F-16, 1987-2001
C-130, 1994
A/OA-10, 1995-2000
HC-130, 1997
HH-60, 1997

COMMANDERS

Col Daniel A. Cooper, 18 Aug 1948
Col Robert D. McCarten, 21 Jan 1949
Col Daniel A. Cooper, 3 May 1949

Col Virgil L. Zoller, 23 Jun 1949
Col Walter C. White, 1 Apr–24 Jun 1950
None (not manned), 21 Dec 1967– 14 Jan 1968
Col Paul P. Douglas, Jr., 15 Jan 1968
Col Allen K. McDonald, 23 Jan 1968
Col Thomas M. Carhart, 29 Jan 1968
Col Irby B. Jarvis, Jr., 3 Sep 1969
Col William L. Craig, 5 Jul 1970
BG Donald H. Ross, 15 Jul 1970
BG Henry L. Warren, 15 May 1971 (additional duty to 15 Jul 1971)
Col Lynwood E. Clark, 10 Dec 1971–31 Oct 1972
Col Thomas E. Lacy, 30 Jul 1973
Col Cecil D. Crabb, 9 Mar 1974
Col Maurice E. Seaver, Jr., 21 Sep 1974
Col Russell E. Thoburn, 22 Mar 1975
Col James D. Covington, 21–30 Jun 1975
Col Robert L. Cass, 30 Sep 1975
Col Jack I. Gregory, 17 Aug 1976
Col William T. Tolbert, 5 Oct 1978
Col Bradley C. Hosmer, 30 Aug 1979
Col Eugene L. Vosika, 4 Aug 1981
Col Harald G. Hermes, 31 May 1983
Col Buster C. Glosson, 13 Feb 1985
Col David Oakes, 9 Jun 1986
Col Gladstone J. Prater, Jr., 2 Jun 1988
Col Marvin R. Esmond, 20 Jul 1990
BG James I. Mathers, 31 Aug 1992
BG Timothy A. Kinnan, 19 Aug 1994
BG Lawrence D. Johnston, 3 Apr 1996
BG Victor E. Renuart Jr., 20 Jul 1998
BG John W. Rosa Jr., 24 Mar 2000
BG John H. Folkerts, 8 Aug 2001
Col Bradley H. Heithold, 24 Apr 2003

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia

Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device
30 Jul 1973– 15 May 1975

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

15 Apr 1969–15 Apr 1971

1 Jan 1977–30 Apr 1978

1 May 1978–31 May 1979

1 Apr 1987–31 Mar 1989

23 Feb 1991– 22 Feb 1993

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 347th Operations Group prior to 18 Aug 1948

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Guadalcanal

Northern Solomons

Bismarck Archipelago

New Guinea

Leyte

Luzon

Southern Philippines

Western Pacific

China Defensive

China Offensive

Air Combat

Asiatic-Pacific Theater

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

Netherlands East Indies, 7, 20, and 22 Nov 1944

Presidential Unit Citation (Navy): [3 Oct]–9 Dec 1942

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device

30 Jul 1973-15 May 1975

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

15 Apr 1969-15 Apr 1971

1 Jan 1977-30 Apr 1978

1 May 1978-31 May 1979

1 Apr 1987-31 Mar 1989

23 Feb 1991-22 Feb 1993

1 Jun 1994-31 May 1996

1 Jun 1997-31 May 1999

1 Jun 2001-31 May 2003

1 Oct 2003-31 Oct 2004

EMBLEM



Per bend Argent and Sable, on the first a silhouette of a knight in armor palewise, armed with a shield and lance all of the second, overall issuing from base in pale a demi-sphere checky of the first and of the second, supporting three knights (chess pieces) of the first mounted on a base of three arcs palewise Or, Gules and Azure, all within a diminished bordure Or. (Approved, 26 Mar 1967)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Provided air defense while stationed at Nagoya AB, Japan, Aug 1948– Mar 1950. Following inactivation on 24 Jun 1950, former 347th personnel and equipment were assigned to understrength units in Korea. Activated at Yokota AB, Japan, on 15 Jan 1968, and performed air defense and reconnaissance missions over Japan and South Korea through early May 1971. Not operational, 15 May–14 Jul 1971. Trained to achieve proficiency in F–111 aircraft, Jul 1971–Oct

1972. Conducted combat operations over Cambodia, 30 Jul–15 Aug 1973, then remained in Southeast Asia through May 1975 to undertake an air strike mission in the event of further contingency operations. Participated in numerous exercises and firepower demonstrations, and, during Jan–May 1975, flew sea surveillance missions. Participated in the recovery of the American merchantman SS Mayaguez from Cambodian forces, 13–14 May 1975. Phased down and inactivated on 30 Jun 1975. Upon activation on 30 Sep 1975, replaced Det. 1, 363d Combat Support Group at Moody AFB, GA, and trained to become proficient in F–4E aircraft. Assumed responsibility for operating Moody AFB in Dec 1975, and was declared combat-ready on 1 Apr 1977. Thereafter, conducted frequent exercise deployments in the US and overseas to maintain capabilities specializing in air-to-ground attack using precision-guided weapons. Transitioned to F–16A/B aircraft, 1988–1989, and oriented mission planning toward NATO requirements by conducting squadron-strength deployments to Europe. Began upgrading to F–16C/D in Jan 1990 and in Aug 1990 became first operational TAC unit to employ the LANTIRN all-weather/night navigation and bombing system. Sent support personnel to Southwest Asia in Aug 1990, and on 5 Jan 1991 deployed one fighter squadron (the 69th) to fly combat missions. Following the ceasefire, continued to support peace-keeping operations with periodic aircraft deployments to Saudi Arabia. As a result of hurricane damage at Homestead AFB, FL, two fighter squadrons from there moved to Moody AFB, GA, in Aug 1992, and in Nov 1992 were assigned to the 347th, making it the largest F–16 wing in the USAF. The 347th continued proficiency training through participation in joint service and multinational exercises.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

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.