

456 BOMBARDMENT WING, HEAVY



MISSION

LINEAGE

456 Troop Carrier Wing, Medium Established, 15 Oct 1952
Activated, 1 Dec 1952
Inactivated, 9 Jul 1956
Redesignated 456 Strategic Aerospace Wing and activated, 15 Nov 1962
Organized, 1 Feb 1963
Redesignated 456 Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 1 Jul 1972
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1975

STATIONS

Miami Intl Aprt, FL, 1 Dec 1952
Charleston AFB, SC, 25 Jul 1953-16 Oct 1955
Shiroi AB, Japan, 10 Nov 1955-10 May 1956
Ardmore AFB, OK, 25 May-9 Jul 1956
Beale AFB, CA, 1 Feb 1963-30 Sep 1975

ASSIGNMENTS

Eighteenth Air Force, 1 Dec 1952-9 Jul 1956
Strategic Air Command, 15 Nov 1962
14 Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Feb 1963
47 Air Division, 30 Jun 1971
14 Air Division, 1 Oct 1972-30 Sep 1975

ATTACHMENTS

1 Air Division [Meteorological Survey], 22 Apr 1955-26 Mar 1956

463 Troop Carrier Wing, 10 May-9 Jul 1956

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-119, 1952-1956

B-52, 1963-1975

Titan I, 1963-1965

KC-135, 1963-1975

B-52G, 1963-1975

COMMANDERS

Maj William J. Frazier, Jr., 1 Dec 1952

Col James L. Daniel, Jr., c. 10 Dec 1952-9 Jul 1956

None (not manned), 15 Nov 1962-31 Jan 1963

Col Sam J. Byerley, 1 Feb 1963

Col William L. Reynolds, 20 Feb 1963

Col Rowland H. Worrell, Jr., 19 Jun 1965

Col Jack D. Templin, 26 Aug 1966

Col Richard G. Wilkinson, 22 Sep 1966

Col Wendell W. Sanders, (by 26) Jul 1968

Col George E. Burch, 23 Sep 1968

Col Carlton J. Koncz, 1 Jun 1970

Col Charles D. Youree, Jr., .17 Mar 1972

Col Vernon R. Huber, 23 Apr 1973

Col Philip A. Brennan, 11 Sep 1973

Col Vernon R. Huber, 22 Nov 1973

Col Philip A. Brennan, 30 Jun-30 Sep 1975

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Apr 1955-20 Mar 1956

EMBLEM

Azure, within a diminished bordure argent, in bend a flight symbol throughout arched to chief dark blue fimbriated of the second, between in chief an atom symbol of the third garnished gules and in base superimposed upon a lightning flash bendwise of the last highlighted or, a laurel branch bend sinisterwise of the like. (Approved, 23 Aug 1972)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Replaced 435th Troop Carrier Wing, a Reserve unit released from active duty, in Dec 1952. From then until early 1955, participated in numerous tactical exercises in the United States and overseas, mostly in conjunction with Army airborne forces. Reorganized on 1 Mar 1955. The tactical group and all support components inactivated and the wing assumed control over three tactical squadrons plus three squadron-size detachments, each squadron/detachment having eight specially modified C-119s and manned for self-sufficient operations. Participated in Project Drag Net, part of Project C-119L. The wing's task was to perform air recovery of balloon-borne instrument packages. From c. 22 Apr 1955 to 26 Mar 1956 the wing was controlled by the 1st Air Division (Meteorological Survey) in support of the high-altitude research program. Wing headquarters moved to Shiroi AB, Japan, and components were located at other points in Japan, the Aleutian Islands, Alaska, and Okinawa. On 26 Mar 1956 the wing was released from its attachment to the 1st Air Division and on 10 May began its return to the United States. At Ardmore AFB, Okla, the 456 Wing was attached to the 463d Troop Carrier Wing until the 456 inactivated in Jul 1956. Eight years later the 456, redesignated as a strategic aerospace wing, replaced the 4126th Strategic Wing at Beale AFB, Calif, and assumed a mission of strategic bombardment training and air refueling. It also controlled a Titan I strategic missile squadron until early 1965. The wing's bombardment and air refueling squadrons frequently deployed aircraft and crews to meet USAF requirements, often having nearly all of their resources scattered around the world at various operating locations. Inactivated in Sep 1975 and replaced by the 17th Bombardment Wing.

Even before being activated on 1 Dec 1952, at which time it absorbed all resources of the 435 Troop Carrier Wing, a Reserve unit being released from active service, the 456 TCW tactical organization had been combined with similar tactical components of the 64, 314 and 443 Troop Carrier Wings, forming the Troop Carrier Force which was involved in Exercise Warm Wind in Alaska. These resources returned to their respective wings by 10 Dec 1952. From activation until early 1955, the 456 TCW participated in an almost continuous stream of tactical exercises, both in the US and overseas, Alaska, Puerto Rico, etc, most of them in conjunction within US Army Airborne forces. On 1 Mar 1955, the wing was reorganized in preparation for special mission; at this time all support organizations as well as the tactical group were inactivated and the wing assumed direct control over the three tactical squadrons as well as over three squadron sized detachments, each squadron/detachment having eight specially modified C-119s and each being manned for more or less self sufficient operations. Even prior to this reorganization, the wing had begun training to meet the requirements of Project Drag Net part of Project C-119L. The wing's task was to become proficient in aerial recovery of balloon-borne instrument packages. From 22 Apr 1955 to 26 Mar 1956, the wing was attached for operational control to SAC's 1 Air Division (Meteorological Survey) to perform the Project Drag Net requirements in support of the high-altitude meteorological research program. An advanced party of the wing and Det 1, 746 TCS, departed Charleston AFB, SC, on 2 Aug 1955 and reached their operating locations four days later, led by the wing commander. Wing headquarters closed at Charleston on 16 Oct 1955 and opened at Shiroi AB, Japan, on 10 Nov 1955.

On 26 Mar 1956, the wing was released from attachment to the 1 Air Division and on 10 May, the wing began its return to the US, arriving at Ardmore AFB, OK on 25 May. There, attached to the 463 TCW, the 456 TCW phased out, and on 9 Jul 1956 it was inactivated together with its three squadrons and three detachments. On 1 Feb 1963, the 456th was brought out of retirement as the 456 Strategic Aerospace Wing. It absorbed the resources of the inactivated 4126 Strategic Wing at Beale AFB, CA. As part of SAC's Fifteenth Air Force, the revived 456th had a B-52 squadron, a Titan I missile squadron and a KC-135 air refueling squadron plus numerous support organizations.

From 1 Feb 1963 served as an important component of SAC and Fifteenth Air Force. The strategic missile squadron was phased out early in 1965, not long after the 456th lost responsibilities as base operator of Beale AFB, but a second air refueling squadron was gained in Jan 1970. The wing's bombardment and air refueling squadrons frequently deployed aircraft and crews to meet USAF requirements on a world-wide basis, often having nearly all of their resources scattered around the world at various operating locations.

USAF Unit histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.