

715 WEAPONS SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

715 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy constituted, 6 Apr 1943
Activated, 1 May 1943
Redesignated 715 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 5 Aug 1945
Redesignated 715 Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 2 Jul 1948
Discontinued, and inactivated, 25 Jun 1966
Activated, 1 Jan 1970
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1990
Redesignated 715 Weapons Squadron, 11 Aug 2003
Activated, 13 Aug 2003

STATIONS

Gowen Field, ID, 1 May 1943
Wendover Field, UT, 4 Jul 1943
Sioux City AAB, IA, 16 Sep-9 Nov 1943
Seething, England, 29 Nov 1943-5 Jul 1945
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 15 Jul 1945
McCook AAFld, NE, 25 Jul 1945
Biggs Field, TX, 23 Aug 1945
McCook AAFld, NE, 8 Sep 1945
Fort Worth AAFld, TX, 12 Dec 1945
Rome NY, 15 Dec 1945-23 Jun 1946
Roswell AAFld (later, Walker AFB), NM, 26 Jun 1946
Pease AFB, NH, 1 Jul 1958-25 Jun 1966

Pease AFB, NH, 1 Jan 1970-30 Sep 1990
Whiteman AFB, MO, 13 Aug 2003

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Lakenheath, England, 4 Jun 1952-3 Sep 1952
Andersen AFB, Guam, 10 Jul 1954-8 Oct 1954
Upper Heyford, England, 26 Jan 1956-30 Apr 1956

ASSIGNMENTS

448 Bombardment Group, 1 May 1943
509 Composite (later, 509 Bombardment) Group, 6 May 1946
509 Bombardment Wing, 16 Jun 1952-25 Jun 1966
509 Bombardment Wing, 1 Jan 1970-30 Sep 1990
USAF Weapons School, 13 Aug 2003

ATTACHMENTS

509 Bombardment Wing, 17 Nov 1947-14 Sep 1948 and 1 Feb 1951-15 Jun 1952

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24, 1943-1945
B-29, 1945-1951
B-50, 1950-1955
B-47, 1955-1965
FB-111, 1971-1990

COMMANDERS

Cpt Kenneth D. Squyres, May 1943
Cpt Jack P. Edwards, 1943
Maj Chester B. Hackett Jr., 18 Mar 1944
Maj James D. Conrad, Jun 1944
Maj John Grable Jr., 11 Jul 1944
LTC Walter C. Stroud, Oct 1944
Unkn. c. Jul-Sep 1945
Maj Martin S. Schofield Jr., 4 Oct 1945
2Lt Jack E. Butterfield, c. Jun 1946
LTC Walter Y. Lucas, Aug 1946
LTC Woodrow P. Swancutt, 1 Jul 1948
LTC Clarence C. McPherson, 19 Sep 1949
Col Wilson R. Wood, 1 Dec 1951
LTC Edward E. Campbell, 9 Sep 1952
LTC Norman L. Harvey, May 1953
LTC Charles Spieth Jr., May 1954
Maj Robert H. Gaughan, 26 Oct 1955
LTC Richard T. Arnold, 22 Jul 1957

LTC Thomas B. Carter, 1 Mar 1959
LTC Donald W. Fuerestein, 1 Aug 1963
LTC John G. Callahan, 20 Jul 1964
LTC John C. Caram, 31 May 1965-25 Jun 1966
LTC Paul B. Martin, 1 Jan 1970
LTC Robert L. Anderson, 24 Jul 1971
LTC Robert D. Phoenix, 1 May 1972
LTC Guy D. Luke, Apr 1973
LTC Alton P. Keith, c. Apr 1974
LTC Harold Cummings, 22 Jul 1975
LTC Terry A. Gettelman, 15 Apr 1977
LTC Stephen B. Croker, 15 Dec 1977
LTC Charles R. Barr, 12 Mar 1979
LTC Robert J. Wielatz, 4 Jan 1980
LTC Charles R. Waterman, 2 Jul 1981
LTC Dennis L. Cole, 8 Jul 1982
LTC David V. Nowlin, 19 Sep 1983
LTC David E. Cormack, 28 Sep 1984
LTC Robert J. Marsch Jr., 4 Apr 1986
LTC Stephen P. Luebbert, 6 Mar 1987
LTC Craig P. Rasmussen, 28 Nov 1988
LTC Robert A. Osterholtz, 14 Nov 1989-30 Sep 1990

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II
American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Jul 1981-30 Jun 1982

1 Jul 1982-30 Jun 1984
1 Jul 1986-30 Jun 1988
1 Jul 1988-30 Jun 1990

EMBLEM



On a sky blue disc spattered with fifteen white stars and bordered deep blue, an American bald eagle in natural colors, in-flight, his wings extending beyond the disc; carrying in his talons a bomb, gray with black tail fins flanked with two red lightning flashes edged white. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ours is a proud flying combat organization, whose primary mission is the defense of our homeland, through long-range offensive bombing capability. We maintain ourselves in readiness to strike in immediate retaliation against any enemy, attempting to destroy our country's peace. The eagle, representing the military strength and flying power of our Squadron, carries a bomb which signifies the powerful capability of our organization. The fifteen stars represent the numbered Air Force of which this unit is a member. The stars and the sky blue background, together, symbolizes the unlimited global range of our unity. The lightning flashes indicate the suddenness with which the unit is capable of acting to protect and defend freedom and liberty. The carry the motto of our parent Wing. (Approved, 6 Jun 1956)

MOTTO

DEFENSOR VINDEXX--Defender of Liberty

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Operational FB-111 squadron and continued in that role until it was again deactivated in 1990. Combat in ETO, 22 Dec 1943-25 Apr 1945. Trained for strategic bombardment operations, 1947-1965 and 1971-1990; briefly trained for conventional bombardment role, Aug 1988-Dec 1989;

maintained alert force, Dec 1957-Nov 1965 and Jul 1971-Jul 1990.

A number of factors the end of the cold war, the SALT Treaty, the B-1B and B-2, and most of all a decreasing military budget, spelled the end of the FB-111 A. The 509th Bomb Wing began giving up FB-111 As (many being converted to F 111G configuration) in June 1990, with the last FB-111 As leaving on September 30, 1990. The Wing's two Bomb Squadrons, the 393rd and the 715th were inactivated on September 30, 1990. The 393rd BS was activated three years later, as part of the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman AFB, as the first B-2 squadron. The 380th Bomb Wing began giving up its FB-111 As in mid-1991 with the 528th BS being inactivated on July 1, 1991, and the 529th inactivated on September 30, 1991.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 19 Nov 2010

Updated: 1 Jun 2012

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.