

17th DEFENSE SYSTEMS EVALUATION SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE¹

17th Tow Target Detachment constituted, 29 May 1941

Activated, 1 Jun 1941

Redesignated 17th Tow Target Squadron, 9 Jul 1942

Disbanded, 31 Mar 1944

Reconstituted, 8 Nov 1954

Activated, 8 Jan 1955

Discontinued, 15 Jun 1960

Redesignated 17th Defense Systems Evaluation Squadron, 8 Mar 1974

Activated, 1 Jul 1974

Inactivated, 13 Jul 1979

STATIONS

Yuma County Aprt (later Vincent AFB), Arizona, 8 Jan 1955

MacDill AFB, Florida, 11 Jun 1959-15 Jun 1960

¹ Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. *4750th Air Defense Wing (Defense)*, Vincent AFB, AZ. 1958.

Malmstrom AFB, Montana, 1 Jul 1974-13 Jul 1979

ASSIGNMENTS

4th Air Support Command. Reassigned to
4th Air Force Base Command on 14 Mar 1942
Commanding General March Field, CA, 20 May 1942
IV Ground Air Support Command on 9 Jul 1942
2nd Air Force on 21 Aug 1942
IV Ground Air Support Command, 7 Sep 1942
3rd Air Force, 25 Jan 1943
II Air Support Command, 1 May 1943
II Tactical Air Division, 25 Sep 1943
Fourth Air Force, 4 Nov 1943
4th Provisional Tow Target Group, 24 Nov 1943-31 Mar 1944
4750th Air Defense Group, 8 Jan 1955
4750th Air Defense Wing, 1 Oct 1958
73rd Air Division, 11 Jun 1959-15 Jun 1960

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-57E
AT-6C
B-25H
CQ-3 (UC-45)
PQ-14A
RA-24B
TB-26C

COMMANDERS

Capt Walter R. Collins, #1958

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II
American Theater Service

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Meritorious Unit Citation
20 Apr 1944-22 Mar 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Sep 1953-1 Nov 1957
1 Jan-31 Dec 1975
1 Jan 1978-30 Jun 1979

EMBLEM



17th Tow Target Squadron

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Units operating specially equipped EB-57s were Defense Systems Evaluation Squadrons (DSES), in theory replacements for tow target units, giving better training against ground and airborne defence systems, realistically simulating an ECM supported attack.

The B-57Es were assigned at bases close to large restricted areas, and fighter interceptor squadrons deployed to these air-to-air ranges for this type of 'hot-fire' training. The first unit to receive B-57Es was the 17th TTS at Yuma AFB, Arizona, for use on their large air-to-air firing range. The Squadron later moved to MacDill AFB, Florida, where this type of training continued for East Coast fighter interceptor squadrons.