

17 TRAINING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE¹

17th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy constituted, 28 Mar 1944
Activated, 1 Apr 1944
Inactivated, 15 Apr 1946

17th Tactical Missile Squadron constituted, 4 May 1955
Activated, 8 Sep 1955
Inactivated, 8 Jul 1958

17th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy and 17th Tactical Missile Squadron consolidated, 19 Sep 1985. Consolidated squadron retained 17th Tactical Missile Squadron.

3613th Combat Crew Training Squadron (Water) designated and activated, 27 Jun 1971

17th Tactical Missile Squadron and 3613th Combat Crew Training Squadron (Water) consolidated, 1 Jan 1993

Redesignated 17th Crew Training Squadron, 8 Jan 1993
Redesignated 17th Training Squadron, 1 Apr 1994
Inactivated, 2 Jan 1997

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

STATIONS

Dalhart AAF, Texas, 1 Apr 1944
Fairmont AAF, Nebraska, 15 Aug 1944-7 Mar 1945
Northwest Fld, Guam, 15 Apr 1945-15 Apr 1946
Orlando AFB, Florida, 8 Sep 1955-2 Feb 1958
Tainan AB, Taiwan, 6 Feb-8 Jul 1958
Homestead AFB, Florida, 27 Jun 1971
Tyndall AFB, Florida, 1 Nov 1992
Pensacola NAS, Florida, 17 Jun 1994-2 Jan 1997

ASSIGNMENTS

16th Bombardment Group, 1 Apr 1944-15 Apr 1946
Ninth Air Force, 8 Sep 1955
588th Tactical Missile Group, 8 Jan 1957
Thirteenth Air Force, 1 Feb-8 Jul 1958
3636th Combat Crew Training Wing (later, 336th Crew Training Group; 336th Training Group), 27 Jun 1971-2 Jan 1997

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17, 1944-1945
B-29, 1944-1946
T-33, 1956-1958
Matador, 1956-1958
TM-61 Matador 1955-1958

COMMANDERS

Lt Col John J. Kittle, 25 Apr 1987
Lt Col Gary E. Rattray

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Asiatic-Pacific Theater
Western Pacific, 1944-1945
Air Offensive, Japan, 1942-1945

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
Japan, 29 Jul-6 Aug 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan-31 Dec 1972

1 Jan-31 Dec 1974

1 Jan 1978-30 Apr 1979

1 May 1982-30 Apr 1984

1 May 1984-30 Apr 1986

1 May 1986-30 Sep 1987

1 May 1987-30 Apr 1988

1 May 1988-30 Apr 1989

1 May 1989-30 Apr 1990

1 May 1990-30 Apr 1991

1 Jul 1991-30 Jun 1993

1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1995

EMBLEM



17th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy emblem: on a grayed emerald green disc, border gray, edged red, a silhouette, light green aerial bomb bendwise, surmounted by a white sword, winged gold, hilt, pommel, and guard of the last, set with a square red jewel at the guard, all between gray speed lines arched toward rear. (Approved, 30 Jun 1945)



17th Tactical Missile Squadron emblem: Over a light sky blue disc with concentric white rings from a base mound green, a silhouetted blue missile, shooting upward, with fire-trail exhaust red and golden yellow; the nose of the missile entwined with a red nuclear symbol; over all in base two lightning bolts radiating of the last, all within a border Air Force blue, charged with 17 white stars. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The 17 white stars denote the squadron's numerical designation. The blue border signifies the squadron's capability to operate in any part of the world. The guided missile denotes the mission. The nuclear symbol denotes our nuclear capabilities. The missile being fired from the green earth signifies the tactical use of the missile as a ground-to-ground guided missile. The white rings on the light blue sky represent the principal guidance system of the missile. An auxiliary guidance system is represented by the lightning bolts. The light blue background stands for round-the-clock operations of the squadron in any kind of weather. (Approved, 11 June 1956)²



²The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

3613 Combat Crew Training Squadron emblem: blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and excellence of personnel in assigned tasks. The parachute represents the aircrew member's transition from cockpit to survival situation. The flight-suited individual depicts the many aircrew members who have or will parachute from crippled aircraft. The light blue background signifies the atmosphere through which aircrew members travel in their aircraft. The golden hands represent the protection from the ocean environment afforded by the knowledge gleaned from the techniques taught by the instructors of the United States Air Force Water Survival School. The blue and green sea represents the many types of marine environments the students may be subjected to during their survival experience.



17 Crew Training Squadron emblem

MOTTO

PER SCIENTIAM VINCIMUS-Through Knowledge We Conquer

OPERATIONS

The 17 began ground training at Dalhart Army Air Field, Texas; moved to Fairmont Army Air Field, Nebraska, in August 1944; and received B-29s in October but did not begin flying training until 5 December 1944. It also flew B-17s in training. Deployed to Guam in 1945, the unit flew its B-29s on bombing missions against Japan. After the war, the 17 Bombardment Squadron dropped supplies to Allied prisoner of war camps in Japan and Manchuria. The squadron was inactivated on 15 April 1946.

The 17 Tactical Missile Squadron was activated on 8 September 1955. Assigned to the 588th Tactical Missile Group, the squadron operated the TM-61 Matador tactical guided missile.

The 17 Tactical Missile Squadron began its last series of training exercises at Cape Canaveral on April 10, 1957, and completed its program by launching four missiles by the middle of May. While

the 17 Tactical Missile Squadron lead element deployment actually started arriving in April, a month before the official announcement, the remainder of the unit wasn't fully deployed to Taiwan until November of 1957.

The 3613th Combat Crew Training Squadron conducts the Water Survival Course (Water Survival Training Course Parachuting S-V86-A) for aircrew members of ejection seat aircraft on Biscayne Bay, 12 miles south of Homestead Air Force Base, Florida. The course objective is to ensure that each student is equipped to survive a bailout at sea. Hands-on experience is emphasized, and a "stepping stone" approach is used to gradually bring the students up to proficiency in using their equipment. Attendance is a one-time requirement for Air Force flyers assigned to parachute equipped aircraft. Its effectiveness has been repeatedly proven over the years. The course lasts three days and includes instruction in parachute equipment procedures, raft familiarization, and parasailing. Day one of the Water Survival Course consists of academics and laboratory training. Day two consists of on-the-water training in multi-person rafts and the students' first parasail ride. Day three consists of on-the-water training in one-person life rafts and a second parasail ride with graduation in the afternoon.