

37th TACTICAL MISSILE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

537th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 28 Oct 1942

Activated, 3 Nov 1942

Inactivated, 31 Mar 1944

680th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy constituted, 25 Nov 1944

Activated, 4 Dec 1944

Inactivated, 15 Jun 1946

37th Air Defense Missile Squadron (BOMARC) constituted, 23 Sep 1959

Activated, 1 Mar 1960

Inactivated, 31 Jul 1972

537th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 680th Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy) and 37th Air Defense Missile Squadron consolidated, and redesignated 37th Tactical Missile Squadron, 19 Sep 1985

Unit remains inactive

STATIONS

Salt Lake City AAB, UT, 3 Nov 1942
Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 23 Jan 1943
Pocatello AAFld, ID, 5 Apr 1943
Muroc AAFld, CA, 5 Dec 1943-31 Mar 1944
Alamogordo AAFld, NM, 4 Dec 1944-10 May 1945
North Field, Tinian, 15 Jun 1945
Clark Field, Luzon, 13 Mar-15 Jun 1946
Kincheloe AFB, MI, 1 Mar 1960-31 Jul 1972

ASSIGNMENTS

382nd Bombardment Group, 3 Nov 1942-31 Mar 1944
Second Air Force, 4 Dec 1944
504th Bombardment Group: attached, 15 Jun 1945; assigned 14 Nov 1945-15 Jun 1946
30th Air Division, 1 Mar 1960
Sault St Marie ADA, 1 Apr 1960
Duluth ADS, 1 Oct 1963
29th Air Division, 1 Apr 1966
23rd Air Division, 19 Nov 1969-31 Jul 1972

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24, 1943-1944
B-24D
B-24E
B-29, 1945-1946
BOMARC CIM-10 1960-1972

COMMANDERS

Maj William E Strathern, 23 Jan 1943
Maj Burnham L Batson, 9 Oct 1943 (temporary)
Cpt William L Perry, 9 Nov 1943-unkn
LTC Robert C McBride, 8 Jan 1945
Cpt Thomas M Glassburner, (by Aug) 1945
Cpt Lee D Glass, Jan 1946
Cpt Wayne M Frarie Jr, Mar-15 Jun 1946
Cpt Gail G Currie Jr, 1 Mar 1960 (temporary)
LTC Robert E Kaempfer, 20 Feb 1961
LTC John H Keene, 23 Nov 1965
Maj Fred S Dudley Jr, 1 Jan 1969
LTC Mitchell A Jacque, 8 Jan 1970-31 Jul 1972

HONORS

Service Streamers

American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Japan

Western Pacific

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Yokohama, Japan, 28 May 1945

Japan and Korea, 27 Jul-14 Aug 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

30 Aug 1965-3 Mar 1967

31 Mar 1971-31 Mar 1972

EMBLEM

537th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) emblem: Over and through a light yellow disc, border light green, a black panther striking, proper, in front of two red aerial bombs in saltire. (Approved, 23 Nov 1943)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Operational training unit, Feb-Mar 1943; replacement training, Apr-Nov 1943. On 3 Dec 1943, the 382d Bombardment Group reassigned the squadron's personnel and equipment to other units to conform with Fourth Air Force policy reducing the number of bomb squadrons in a group from four to three.

Activated on 4 Dec 1944 at Alamogordo AAFld, New Mexico, the 680th Bombardment Squadron immediately began training for B-29 operations against Japan. The squadron departed Alamogordo AAFld on 10 May 1945, arriving at Seattle, Washington on 14 May. Left Seattle aboard S.S. Zoella Lykes on 19 May 1945, arriving on Tinian Island in the Mariana Islands Group on 15 Jun. Entered combat on 22 Jun 1945, striking the Kawasaki Aircraft Plant at Kagamigahara. Subsequent missions involved aerial minelaying over Japanese and Korean waters. After Japanese surrender, the squadron dropped food and medicine to allied POWs. Moved to Clark Field, the Philippine Islands on 13 Mar 1946, inactivated there on 15 Jun.

The 37th Air Defense Missile Squadron (BOMARC) activated on 1 Mar 1960 at Kincheloe AFB,

Michigan. From Headquarters at Kincheloe AFB, monitored construction of facilities for Bomarc pilotless interceptors at Raco, Michigan. Moved 32 Miles to Raco Missile Site, a detached facility, of Kincheloe AFB, during the first half of 1961 and was operational by 1 Jun. By 31 Dec 1961 squadron was maintaining its full complement of 28 missiles on operational alert. During Oct 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, the 37th Squadron remained on full alert for 27 days. Over the next ten years the squadron provided long-range air defense to portions of the Northern United States and Canada. As the strategic bomber threat to North America waned in the early 1970s, the need for the BOMARC missile declined proportionately. As a consequence, the 37th Squadron inactivated on 31 Jul 1972 as part of the phase out of the BOMARC B weapon system.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 3 Aug 2011

Updated: 10 Apr 2016

Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *WADS. 1960.*