

37th TRAINING WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

37 Fighter-Bomber Wing established, 3 Mar 1953
Activated, 8 Apr 1953
Inactivated, 25 Jun 1953
Redesignated 37 Tactical Fighter Wing and activated, 26 Oct 1966
Organized, 1 Mar 1967
Inactivated, 31 Mar 1970
Activated, 30 Mar 1981
Redesignated 37 Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 1991
Inactivated, 8 Jul 1992
Redesignated 37 Training Wing and activated, 1 Jul 1993

STATIONS

Clovis AFB, NM, 8 Apr-25 Jun 1953
Phu Cat AB, South Vietnam, 1 Mar 1967-31 Mar 1970
George AFB, CA, 30 Mar 1981
Tonopah Test Range, NV, 5 Oct 1989-8 Jul 1992
Lackland AFB, TX, 1 Jul 1993

ASSIGNMENTS

Ninth Air Force, 8 Apr-25 Jun 1953
Pacific Air Forces, 26 Oct 1966

Seventh Air Force, 1 Mar 1967-31 Mar 1970
831 Air Division, 30 Mar 1981
Twelfth Air Force, 5 Oct 1989-8 Jul 1992
Second Air Force, 1 Jul 1993

WEAPON SYSTEMS

F-100, 1967-1969
F-4, 1969-1970
F-4, 1981-1989
T-38, 1989-1992
F-117, 1989-1992

COMMANDERS

LTC George W. Bacon, 8 Apr 1953
Col Wallace E. Hopkins, 27 Apr 1953
Col Stephen B. Mack, 4 May-25 Jun 1953
None (not manned), 26 Oct 1966-28 Feb 1967
Unkn, 1 Mar-5 May 1967
Col Raymond C. Lee Jr., 6 May 1967
Col Edwin A. Schneider, 15 May 1967
Col Leroy J. Manor, 15 May 1968
Col Harry B. Trimble, 1 May 1969-31 Mar 1970
Col Luther E. Thweatt, 30 Mar 1981
Col Joseph W. Ashy, 10 Aug 1982
Col Ronald C. Spivey, 7 May 1984
BG Larry L. Henry, 12 May 1986
Col Russell A. Everts, 17 May 1988
Col Anthony J. Tolin, 5 Oct 1989
Col Alton C. Whitley, 17 Aug 1990-8 Jul 1992
MG Billy G. McCoy, 1 Jul 1993
MG Henry M. Hobgood, 5 Aug 1993
BG Robert J. Courter Jr., 10 Jun 1995
BG Barry W. Barksdale, 2 Jul 1997
BG Michael N. Farage, 21 May 1999
BG Frederick D. Van Valkenburg Jr., 5 Oct 2001
Col Eric Axelbank
Col Roy Collins

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Vietnam

Vietnam Air Offensive
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III
Vietnam Air/Ground
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV
TET 69/Counteroffensive
Vietnam Summer-Fall, 1969
Vietnam Winter-Spring, 1970

Southwest Asia
Defense of Saudi Arabia
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Presidential Unit Citation
Vietnam, 1 Jul-31 Dec 1968

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device
1 Apr 1967-30 Jun 1968
1 Apr 1969-31 Mar 1970

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Jun 1985-31 May 1987
16 Mar 1990-15 Mar 1992
1 Jul 1994-30 Jun 1996
1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998
1 Jul 2000-30 Jun 2002
1 Jul 2002-30 Jun 2003

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
1 Mar 1967-30 Mar 1970

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 37th Operations Group prior to 8 Apr 1953

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Decorations

None

EMBLEM



37th Fighter Wing emblem: A black Nighthawk in flight, poised in an attack position, refers to the wing's ability with the F-117A Stealth Fighter to meet world-wide commitments with swiftness, strength, and sagacity. The white highlights around the hawk suggest the aircraft's spectral nature, while the white-outlined feathers allude to the F-117A's mastery over a silent approach to its intended target. The background element--a cross of Air Force yellow--denotes the 37th heritage as the "Defender of the Crossroads." The ultramarine blue border between the oriental blue areas and the arms of the yellow cross depicts the 37th's membership in the Air Force and Tactical Air Command community. The transition from oriental blue to ultramarine blue insinuates the Air Force's new capability to operate effectively in both day and evening skies. The three red lightning bolts surging from the hawk's claws imply that three

operational squadrons are ready to carry out the 37th's mission with strength and zeal for the Air Force. The hawk's red eye denotes its ability to find and track its prey.

37th Training Wing emblem: Azure, a saltire within a diminished border Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "37TH TRAINING WING" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The crossroads represent the honors bestowed on the Wing by the 37th Pursuit Group--honors the Group earned in WWII serving as the "Defenders of the Crossroads," the Panama Canal.

MOTTO

DEFENDERS OF THE CROSSROADS

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Not tactically operational, 1953.

Combat in Southeast Asia, 15 Apr 1967- 31 Mar 1970. Flew interdiction, bombardment, escort, and close air support missions. From Jun 1967 to May 1969, also used F-100F two-place aircraft for visual and weather reconnaissance and forward air control operations.

When activated in 1981, gained assets of 35th Tactical Fighter Wing at George AFB, CA. Equipped with F-4G "Wild Weasel" radar suppression aircraft. As the Air Force's only "Wild Weasel" training wing, it provided instructor pilots and qualified aircrews for the other two "Wild Weasel" wings in the Philippines and Germany. Participated in numerous tactical, maritime, and electronic warfare exercises emphasizing hunter/killer tactics, suppression of enemy air defenses, force escort operations and dissimilar air combat training with US Armed Forces, Air National Guard and Reserves, and various allies.

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Turned over F-4G aircraft to 35th TFW and moved to Tonopah Test Range, NV, without personnel and equipment on 5 Oct 1989, absorbing the manpower, equipment, and the world's first Stealth fighter, the F-117A, of the former 4450th Tactical Group. Trained to integrate stealth technology with more conventional methods of combat operations. Dropped the first bombs in invasion of Panama on 20 Dec 1989. Began deploying to Southwest Asia in Aug 1990. On 17 Jan 1991, Stealth fighters hit 26 high-value Iraqi targets in and around Baghdad. Continued interdiction missions throughout the war. Served as a member of Central Air Forces' (CENTAF) post-Desert Storm task force in Southwest Asia.

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After departure of the F-117 Stealth Fighters in May-Jul 1992, the 37th Fighter Wing inactivated. A year later, the 37th Training Wing replaced Lackland Training Center, TX, to

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conduct all Air Force basic military training.

USAF Unit Histories

Updated:

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit History. *History and Lineage of the F-117A Stealth Fighter; Organizations*. Office of History HQ 37 TFW.
Special Study HO-91-2. Dec 1991.