

43rd AIR DIVISION



MISSION

LINEAGE

43rd Air Division (Defense) designated and organized, 1 Mar 1952

Redesignated 43rd Air Division, 18 Mar 1955

Discontinue and inactivated, 1 Oct 1957

STATIONS

Itazuke AB, Japan, 1 Mar 1952-1 Oct 1957

ASSIGNMENTS

Japan Air Defense Force, 1 Mar 1952

Fifth Air Force, 1 Sep 1954-1 Oct 1957

COMMANDERS

Col Charles W. Stark, 1 Mar 1952

Col Edward N. Backus, 1954

Col Samuel J. Gormly Jr., by 31 Dec 1954

Col James M. Smelley, 9 Jul 1956

Col Ladson G. Eskridge Jr., 13 Aug 1956-1 Oct 1957

HONORS

Service Streamers

Korean Service

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

None

EMBLEM

A shield argent on a bend azure three futuramic aircraft, in bend, or, between two lightning bolts in saltire gules and a magnetic field of the last with cardinal compass points and pylon of the last. (Approved, 19 Dec 1956)

MOTTO**NICKNAME****OPERATIONS**

Mar 1952, the division assumed responsibility for the air defense of Southwestern Japan (Kyushu, the western part of Honshu, and most of Shikoku), using radar, fighter aircraft, and ground weapons to prevent or disrupt enemy air attacks. It supported numerous exercises, some involving U.S. and British naval vessels, and training for the Japan Air Self Defense Force. The division also supervised ECM, and weather reconnaissance missions. In the summer of 1957, when the Nagasaki area

suffered severe flooding, the 43d assisted Japanese authorities and people by flying numerous airlift missions with helicopters and fixed wing aircraft.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 25 Aug 2010

Updated:

Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.