

47 AIR DIVISION



MISSION

LINEAGE

7 Pursuit Wing established, 19 Oct 1940
Activated, 18 Dec 1940
Inactivated, 31 Aug 1941
Redesignated 7 Fighter Wing, 30 May 1942
Activated, 7 Jun 1942
Redesignated 47 Bombardment Wing (Medium), 23 Feb 1943
Redesignated 47 Bombardment Wing, Medium, 20 Aug 1943
Redesignated 47 Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 9 Apr 1945
Redesignated 47 Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy, 23 May 1945
Inactivated, 15 Oct 1945
Redesignated 47 Air Division, 1 Feb 1951
Organized, 10 Feb 1951
Discontinued, 16 Jun 1952
Activated, 16 Jun 1952
Redesignated 47 Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 May 1962
Redesignated 47 Air Division, 1 Jul 1963
Inactivated, 27 Feb 1987

STATIONS

Mitchel Field, NY, 18 Dec 1940-31 Aug 1941
Harrisburg Municipal Airport, PA, 7 Jun 1942

Langley Field, VA, 17-24 Oct 1942
Casablanca, French Morocco, 11 Nov 1942
Chateaudun, Algeria, 11 Jan 1943
El Guerrah, Algeria, 1 Mar 1943
Souk el Arba, Tunisia, 8 Jun 1943
Hammamet, Tunisia, 7 Aug 1943
Manduria, Italy, 1 Oct 1943 (advance echelon) and 11 Nov 1943-15 May 1945 (main body)
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 29 May 1945
Sioux City AAB, IA, 10 Jul-15 Oct 1945
Walker AFB, NM, 10 Feb 1951-16 Jun 1952
Walker AFB, NM, 16 Jun 1952
Castle AFB, CA, 11 Jul 1959
Fairchild AFB, WA, 30 Jun 1971-27 Feb 1987

ASSIGNMENTS

GHQ Air Force (further assigned to Northeast Air District [later, 1st Air Force], 16 Jan 1941 1
 Interceptor Command, 5 Jun-31 Aug 1941), 18 Dec 1940-31 Aug 1941
Eighth Air Force, 7 Jun 1942
XII Ground Air (later, XII Air) Support Command, 27 Sep 1942
XII Bomber Command, 7 Jan 1943
Northwest African Strategic Air Force, 18 Feb 1943
XII Bomber Command, 1 Sep 1943
Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Nov 1943-15 May 1945
Army Service Forces, 16-25 May 1945
Second Air Force, 26 May-15 Oct 1945
Eighth Air Force, 10 Feb 1951-16 Jun 1952
Eighth Air Force, 16 Jun 1952
Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Apr 1955
Second Air Force, 31 Mar 1970
Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Jul 1971-27 Feb 1987

ATTACHMENTS

First Air Force, 7 Jun 1942-17 Oct 1942
Task Force A, 17 Oct-8 Nov 1942
Moroccan Composite Wing [Provisional], 31 Dec 1942-6 Jan 1943

COMMANDERS

None (Not Manned), 18 Dec 1940-18 Dec 1940
Brig Gen John C. McDonnell 18 Dec 1940
Col Thomas L. Handley Apr 1941-31 Aug 1941
Unkn, 10 Apr-May 1941
Maj Frederic H. Smith Jr., May 1941
Lt Col Edward M. Morris, Unkn-1941
Maj Eugene M. Berglund, 7 Jun 1942

Col John C. Crosthwaite, 14 Sep 1942
Brig Gen Carlyle H. Ridenour, 14 Jan 1943
Brig Gen Joseph H. Atkinson, 25 Feb 1944
Brig Gen Hugo P. Rush, 5 Mar 1944
Col George H. Blase, 1 May 1945
Lt Col Robert V. Brown, 26 May 1945
Brig Gen Hugo P. Rush, 4 Jun-6 Sep 1945
None (Not Manned), 7 Sep-15 Oct 1945
Brig Gen Hunter Harris Jr., 10 Feb 1951
Col William H. Blanchard, 15 Jan 1952
Brig Gen Thomas C. Musgrave Jr., 7 Apr-16 Jun 1952
Brig Gen Thomas C. Musgrave Jr., 16 Jun 1952
Brig Gen William H. Blanchard, 12 Feb 1953
Brig Gen Thomas C. Musgrave Jr., 29 May 1953
Col William K. Martin, 31 May 1954
Brig Gen Charles W. Schott, 7 Jun 1954
Brig Gen Glenn W. Martin, 21 Sep 1956
Col James V. Reardon, 15 Jul 1957
Col Clifford F. Macomber, 17 Jul 1957
Brig Gen William C. Kingsbury, 1 Aug 1957
Col Clifford F. Macomber, 17 Oct 1957
Brig Gen William C. Kingsbury, 26 Nov 1957
Col Everett W. Best, 8 Aug 1958
Maj Gen William C. Kingsbury, 19 Sep 1958
Brig Gen William R. Yancey, 3 Jul 1961-2 Feb 1965
Unkn, 3-7 Feb 1965
Brig Gen William B. Kyes, 8 Feb 1965
Brig Gen James F. Kirkendall, 1 Jul 1966
Col Charles Abbuhl Jr., 2 Dec 1966
Brig Gen John A. Desportes, 12 Dec 1966
Brig Gen Alex W. Talmant, 1 Aug 1968
Col Colin C. Hamilton Jr., 1 Dec 1970
Brig Gen Charles I. Bennett Jr., 24 Feb 1971
Brig Gen Alan C. Edmunds, 30 Jun 1971
Brig Gen Donald E. Stout, 1 Sep 1972
Brig Gen Thomas M. Ryan Jr., 28 Jun 1973
Col Raymond J. Bryan, 17 Jan 1971
Brig Gen Martin C. Fulcher, 1 Feb 1974
Col Rex L. Poutre, 10 Feb 1975
Brig Gen Eugene D. Scott, 16 Feb 1975
Col Philip A. Brennan, 16 Jul 1976
Maj Gen David L. Gray, 28 Jul 1976
Brig Gen Irving B. Reed, 14 Nov 1977
Brig Gen John A. Shaud, 16 Jun 1980

Brig Gen Regis F. A. Urschler, 10 Aug 1980
Brig Gen Robert L. Kirtley, 7 May 1982
Brig Gen W. John Soper, 20 Jul 1984
Col Kenneth A. Anderson, Sep 1986-Unk

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II

European African Middle Eastern Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM





On a shield sable, an atomic cloud proper (shades of red, orange and yellow) rising from base to chief, surmounted by a bend argent charged with a sword proper (blade silver, hilt and pommel gold), the blade entwined with a branch of olive vert. (Approved, 6 Sep 1956.)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

After activation, the 7th Pursuit Wing concentrated on training three pursuit groups and in participating in field maneuvers. It completed training in the United States as a fighter wing and moved to North Africa in Nov 1942. Although earmarked for Eighth Air Force, it served instead with the Twelfth, and later, Fifteenth Air Forces, first as a fighter wing, then as a medium bomb wing, and finally as a heavy bomb wing. In the 1942 early 1943 period many of its assigned components did

not actually operate under wing control, while other components were temporarily attached. Its components supported the bombing of Pantelleria Island and the invasions of Sicily, Italy, and southern France in 1943-1944. Wing aircraft also flew missions to the Balkans, Austria, France, and Germany, with the Rumanian oil fields as primary targets from Apr-Aug 1944. The final mission on 25 Apr 1945 struck marshalling yards at Linz, Austria. It returned to the United States in May 1945 to prepare for bombardment operations in the Pacific as a very heavy bombardment wing. On 7 Sep 1945, the wing became a paper unit and in mid Oct inactivated at Sioux City, Iowa. Redesignated as an Air Division, the 47th served as an intermediate echelon between Strategic Air Command's Eighth Air Force and operational units in the field. From Apr 1955 to Mar 1970, it filled the same role for the Fifteenth Air Force and from Mar 1970 to Jul 1971, for the Second Air Force. In Jul 1971 the 47th returned to Fifteenth Air Force control where it continued to supervise subordinate unit training and other activities. The eruption of Mount St Helens in the state of Washington in May 1980 seriously affected division operations. Aircraft were dispersed to various bases while around the clock shifts removed the volcanic ash.



Brig Gen Charles W. Schott



Brig Gen William R. Yancey

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 25 Aug 2010

Updated: 6 Feb 2024

Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *6 Bombardment Wing (H)*. 1954.