

## 7 AIR DIVISION



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

7 Fighter Wing established, 31 Mar 1944  
Activated, 21 Apr 1944  
Redesignated 7 Air Division, 15 Dec 1947  
Inactivated, 1 May 1948  
Organized, 1 May 1948  
Discontinued, 3 Sep 1948  
Activated, 20 Mar 1951  
Inactivated, 16 Jun 1952  
Organized, 16 Jun 1952  
Discontinued, 30 Jun 1965  
Activated, 1 Jul 1978  
Inactivated, 1 Feb 1992

#### STATIONS

Fort Shafter, TH, 21 Apr 1944  
Wheeler Field (later, AAB; AFB), TH, 18 Nov 1946-1 May 1948  
Hickam AFB, TH, 1 May 1948-3 Sep 1948  
South Ruislip, England, 20 Mar 1951-16 Jun 1952  
South Ruislip, England, 16 Jun 1952  
U.S. Air Base High Wycombe (later, High Wycombe Air Station), England, 1 Jul 1958-30 Jun 1965  
Ramstein AB, Germany, 1 Jul 1978-1 Feb 1992

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

Seventh Air Force, 21 Apr 1944

Army Air Forces (AAF), Pacific Ocean Area, 15 Aug 1944

Provisional Army Air Forces, Middle Pacific, attached 1 Jul 1945 and assigned, 22 Nov 1945

Seventh Air Force (later, Pacific Air Command), 1 Jan 1946-1 May 1948

Pacific Air Command, 1 May-3 Sep 1948

Strategic Air Command, 20 Mar 1951-16 Jun 1952

Strategic Air Command, 16 Jun 1952-30 Jun 1965

Strategic Air Command, 1 Jul 1978

Eighth Air Force, 31 Jan 1982-1 Feb 1992

## **ATTACHMENTS**

VII Fighter Command, 24 Apr-15 Aug 1944

## **COMMANDERS**

Brig Gen Robert W. Douglass Jr., 21 Apr 1944 (Additional Duty)

Col Ernest Moore, 31 May 1944 (Additional Duty)

Col John M. Weikert, 1 Jul 1944

Col Orrin L. Grover, 24 Nov 1944

Brig Gen John M. Weikert, 15 Dec 1944

Col Orrin L. Grover, 23 Jun 1945

Brig Gen John M. Weikert, 5 Jul 1945

Col Richard A. Grussendorf, 22 Apr 1946

Col Earl H. Jacobsen, 10 Jun 1947

Col Thomas W. Blackburn, 26 Aug 1947-1 May 1948

Brig Gen Robert F. Travis, 1 May-31 Aug 1948 (Permanent), And 1-3 Sep 1948 (Additional Duty)

None (Not Manned), 20 Mar-25 Apr 1951

Maj Gen Archie J. Old Jr., 26 Apr 1951

Maj Gen John P. Mcconnell, 23 May 1951-16 Jun 1952

Maj Gen John P. Mcconnell, 16 Jun 1952

Maj Gen James C. Selser Jr., 14 Mar 1953

Brig Gen Thomas C. Musgrave Jr., 20 Jul 1954

Brig Gen James H. Walsh, 10 Jul 1955

Maj Gen William H. Blanchard, 25 Feb 1957

Maj Gen Charles B. Westover, 19 Jan 1960

Maj Gen Edwin B. Broadhurst, 1 Aug 1961

Maj Gen Charles M. Eisenhart, 18 Sep 1962

Maj Gen Delmar E. Wilson, 28 Jul 1964

Col Ervin Wursten, 9 Oct 1964-1965

Col Doyle F. Reynolds, 1 Jul 1978

Brig Gen Jerome R. Barnes Jr., 17 Jul 1978

Brig Gen Robert D. Beckel, 26 Jun 1979

Brig Gen John J. Doran Jr., 13 Feb 1981

Brig Gen Wayne W. Lambert, 31 Jan 1983  
Brig Gen Loring R. Astorino, 21 Jun 1986  
Brig Gen Kenneth L. Hagemann, 1 Mar 1990-1 Feb 1992

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

World War II Asiatic Pacific Theater

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award  
1 Jul 1985-30 Jun 1987

## **EMBLEM**



On a blue shield with a narrow yellow border, a vertical white sword partially sheathed, point down, the hilt in the shape of wings, the handle diagonally striped blue and yellow, the sword interlaced with a red seven terminating in a pointed foot between two smaller red flashes, all three outlined in white; interlaced with the flashes and behind the sword a spray of yellow laurel leaves. (Approved, 16 Sep 1954)

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 7th Air Division was initially constituted and activated as the 7th Fighter Wing at Fort

Shafter, Hawaii, on 21 April 1944. The wing's original mission was air defense of the Hawaiian Islands. Following the war, the wing rapidly demobilized until only two radar stations remained open in early 1946. By mid-year, rebuilding efforts began and training exercises resumed on a regular basis. The 7th Fighter Wing became the 7th Air Division when the Seventh Air Force was redesignated the Pacific Air Command (PAC) on 15 December 1947. On 1 May 1948, the division inactivated and its resources passed to the 81st Fighter Wing. The same day, the 7th was organized at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, with new personnel and a new mission as the major component of PAC. The 7th was discontinued on 1 September 1948, when the PAC's expansion plans failed to materialize.

The 7th Air Division was activated on 20 March 1951, stationed at Victoria Park Estate, South Ruislip, England, and assigned to SAC. It exercised control over SAC forces deployed to the United Kingdom in response to the Berlin Blockade, and the Korean War. On 16 June 1952, the division inactivated and reorganized the same day. The new organization permitted more flexibility for expansion and contraction as needs dictated. The 7th was discontinued on 30 June 1965, but was activated at Ramstein AB, Germany, and assigned to SAC on 1 July 1978. The division activated with only one subordinate unit assigned, the 306th Strategic Wing stationed at RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom. A second unit was added on 13 November 1978, when the 11th Strategic Group was activated at RAF Fairford, United Kingdom. The 19th Surveillance Squadron located on Pirinlik Installation in Turkey became the third 7th AD unit on 1 December 1979, began reporting to 8th AF instead of SAC.

The division activities focused on the role of SAC assets in support of United States and NATO interests in the European theater. The 7th managed the European tanker force, consisting of KC-135A/E/R and KC-10 temporarily assigned to the 11th and 306th. This force provided refueling support to a variety of United States and NATO aircraft. The division closely monitored all reconnaissance activity in the theater, especially the permanently assigned TR-1 of the 17th and the RC-135U/V/W temporarily assigned to the 306th.

Additionally, the division was involved in scheduling and coordinating B-52 operations in the theater, even though none of its units have the bomber assigned either permanently or temporarily. Activity in this area increased significantly in 1987 due to the expansion of the conventional role of the B-52 in Europe. Finally, the 7th was instrumental in updating and coordinating the numerous operations plans that cover the wartime employment of SAC resources in support of NATO.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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