

58 AIR DIVISION (DEFENSE)



MISSION

LINEAGE

58 Bombardment Operational Training Wing (Heavy) established, 22 Apr 1943

Activated, 1 May 1943

Redesignated 58 Bombardment Wing (Heavy), 12 Jul 1943

Redesignated 58 Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy, 19 Nov 1943

Redesignated 58 Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy, Special, 13 Jan 1944

Disestablished, 12 Oct 1944

Reestablished as 58 Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy, 1 Feb 1945

Activated, 8 Feb 1945

Redesignated 58 Air Division, Bombardment, 16 Apr 1948

Inactivated, 16 Oct 1948

Redesignated 58 Air Division (Defense), 3 May 1955

Activated, 8 Sep 1955

Inactivated, 1 Feb 1959

STATIONS

Smoky Hill AAFld, KS, 1 May 1943

Cobb County AAFld, GA, 15 Jun 1943

Smoky Hill AAFld, KS, 15 Sep 1943-12 Mar 1944

Chakulia, India, 2 Apr 1944

Kharagpur, India, 23 Apr 12 Oct 1944

Hijli Base Area, India, 8-24 Feb 1945

West Field, Tinian, 29 Mar-15 Nov 1945

March Field, CA, 2 Dec 1945

Fort Worth AAFld, TX, 9 May 1946

Andrews AFB, MD, 1 Mar-16 Oct 1948
Wright Patterson AFB, OH, 8 Sep 1955-1 Feb 1959

ASSIGNMENTS

Second Air Force, 1 May 1943
II Bomber Command, 15 May 1943
Army Air Forces, 8 Jun 1943
Second Air Force, 15 Oct 1943
XX Bomber Command, 20 Nov 1943
Twentieth Air Force, 29 Jun-12 Oct 1944
XX Bomber Command, 8 Feb 1945
XXI Bomber Command, 29 Mar 1945
Twentieth Air Force, 16 Jul 1945
Army Service Forces, c. 15 Nov 1945
Fourth Air Force, 7 Dec 1945
Second Air Force, 29 Mar 1946
Fifteenth Air Force, 31 Mar 1946
Eighth Air Force, 1 Nov 1946
Strategic Air Command, 1 Mar-16 Oct 1948
Eastern Air Defense Force, 8 Sep 1955-1 Feb 1959

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 1 May-20 Jun 1943
BG Kenneth B. Wolf, 21 Jun 1943
Col Leonard F. Harmon, 27 Nov 1943
BG LaVern G. Saunders, by 31 Mar 1944-unkn
Col Dwight O. Monteith, 8 Feb 1945
BG Roger M. Ramey, 24 Apr 1945-1 Nov 1946
Unkn, 1 Nov 1946-16 Oct 1948
BG Von R. Shores Jr., 8 Sep 1955
Col William E. Elder, by 30 Jun 1957-14 Sep 1958
Unkn, 15 Sep 1958-1 Feb 1959

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II Asiatic-Pacific Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



58 Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy



58 Air Division emblem: A shield per bend argent and checky of the first and sable in chief an escutcheon gules charged with a cross or between four stylized arrowheads, tips to center, of the last. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The figured portion of black and white represents the day and night all-weather operation of the Air Division. The upper portion of white containing a diminutive shield represents the geographical area over which the Division has air defense responsibilities. The small red shield, representing Defense Mission, is quartered by bars of gold, the segments of which indicate the basic mission functions of detection, identification, interception, and destruction. The four quarters of the shield represent the Air Force, Army Navy, and Civilian Ground Observer Corps working together in the Air Division's mission. Each quadrant contains a gold polygon symbol signifying the four major elements of our defensive capability: radar, personnel, aircraft, and missiles. The color red in the small shield signifies courage in the accomplishment of the air defense mission, while the gold color the bars and polygon symbols indicates continuing progress in improvement of our ability to perform the mission. (Approved, 11 Jan 1956)

MOTTO

PRIMUS INTER PARES--First Among Equals

NICKNAME**OPERATIONS**

The 58 wing's units transported supplies over the Himalaya Mountains to staging bases in China in 1944. Operating later from bases in India, and at times staging through fields in China, the subordinate units struck such Japanese targets as transportation centers, naval installations, iron works, and aircraft plants in Burma, Thailand, China, Japan, Indonesia, and Formosa. The wing moved to Tinian in early 1945 and continued Bombardment operations against Japan. Its units made daylight attacks from high altitudes on strategic targets, participated in incendiary raids on urban areas, and dropped mines in Japanese shipping lanes.

After the Japanese surrender, they dropped food and supplies to Allied prisoners of war in Japan, Korea, and Formosa, and took part in show of force missions.

Inactive for seven years, the 58 activated as an Air Division (defense) in Sep 1955 and assumed responsibility for the defense of parts of Illinois, Indiana, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia, and supported operations, when necessary, of other commands. It supervised training programs for its subordinate units and supported exercises such as Hour Hand, Blue Light, Red Cap, Iron Bar, and Surefire. 58 Air Division was activated with an authorized personnel strength of 75 officers, 24 airmen, and 14 civilians. It was one of four such divisions activated. Buildings 1419, 1420, and 1421 in the Sherwood Area of WPAFB were modified for use as headquarters for the new division.

The 58 remained at Wright-Patterson for three years. On August 11, 1958, both the 58 Air Division and the associated 4717th Ground Observer Squadron were inactivated there.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.