

64 AIR DIVISION (DEFENSE)



MISSION

LINEAGE

3 Air Defense Wing established, 12 Dec 1942
Activated, 12 Dec 1942
Redesignated 64 Fighter Wing, 24 Jul 1943
Inactivated, 5 Jun 1947
Redesignated 64 Air Division (Defense), 17 Mar 1952
Activated, 8 Apr 1952
Inactivated, 20 Dec 1952
Organized, 20 Dec 1952
Discontinued and inactivated, 1 Jul 1963

STATIONS

Mitchel Field, NY, 12 Dec 1942-23 Jan 1943
Oran, Algeria, 22 Feb 1943
Thelepte, Tunisia, 1 Mar 1943
Sbeitla, Tunisia, 18 Mar 1943
Le Sers, Tunisia, 12 Apr 1943
Korba, Tunisia, 18 May 1943
Gela, Sicily, 12 Jul 1943
Milazzo, Sicily, 1 Sep 1943
Fratnamaggiore, Italy, 7 Oct 1943
San Felice de Circeo, Italy, 1 Jun 1944
Rocca di Papa, Italy, 7 Jun 1944

Orbetello Airfield, Italy, 19 Jun 1944
Santa Maria di Capua, Italy, 19 Jul 1944
St Tropez, France, 15 Aug 1944
Dole, France, 19 Sep 1944
Ludres, France, 3 Nov 1944
Nancy, France, 15 Jan 1945
Edenkoben, Germany, 1 Apr 1945
Schwabisch Hall, Germany, 29 Apr 1945
Darmstadt, Germany, 7 Jul 1945
Bad Kissingen, Germany, 1 Dec 1945-5 Jun 1947
Pepperrell AFB, Newfoundland, 20 Dec 1952
Stewart AFB, NY, 1 Jul 1960-1 Jul 1963

ASSIGNMENTS

I Fighter Command, 12 Dec 1942-7 Feb 1943
Army Service Forces, 7 Feb 1943
XII Fighter Command, 22 Feb 1943
XII Air Support Command (later, XII Tactical Air Command) 9 Mar 1943-5 Jun 1947
Northeast Air Command, 8 Apr-20 Dec 1952
Northeast Air Command, 20 Dec 1952
Air Defense Command, 1 Apr 1957-1 Jul 1963

ATTACHMENTS

First Tactical Air Force [Provisional], 27 Nov 1944-May 1945

COMMANDERS

Col Robert S. Israel Jr., 12 Dec 1942
Brig Gen John R. Hawkins, 24 Jul 1943
Brig Gen Glenn O. Barcus, 30 Apr 1944
Col Nelson P. Jackson, 29 Jan 1945
Brig Gen Ned Schramm, by 30 Sep 1945
Col Henry W. Dorr, 2 Jun 1946-5 Jun 1947
Col William S. Magalhaes, 8 Apr 1952
Col Charles R. Bonds Jr., 12 Sep-20 Dec 1952
Col Charles R. Bonds Jr., 20 Dec 1952
Col Charles B. Downer, 20 May 1954
Col Joseph Myers, by 30 Jun 1955
Col Carroll W. McColpin, 23 Jul 1955
Brig Gen Frederick R. Terrell, 11 Jul 1958
Brig Gen Harold L. Neely, 1 Jul 1960-1 Jul 1963

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Tunisia

Naples-Foggia

Sicily, Northern France

Rhineland

Rome-Arno

Southern France with Arrowhead

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



64th Air Division (Defense) emblem



On a shield or, issuing from base a demi sphere with line markings azure, snow capped, and surmounted with a radar antenna, proper; in front of a representation of the Aurora Borealis argent, edges gules, in chief, surmounting the Aurora Borealis a stylized aircraft azure, in bend, with trailing flames proper. (Approved, 8 Aug 1952)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The wing moved to North Africa in Feb 1943 to support combat operations in North Africa with a warning and control system, and, occasionally, augmenting the operations section of the XII Air Support Command in the Tunisian campaign. During the Sicilian and Italian campaigns (1943-1944), it administered fighter and fighter-bomber support to ground forces in a wide range of operations that included cover patrols, battle-area patrols, invasion coverage, escort missions, dive bombing missions, and reconnaissance. In Italy, the 64th directed close air support operations against enemy objectives in advance of Allied troops. Its primary targets included enemy gun positions, road junctions, traffic concentrations, assembly areas, bridges, and targets of opportunity.

In Aug 1944 during the invasion of southern France, wing personnel, applying techniques developed in the invasion of Sicily and Italy, controlled air operations while aboard ships patrolling the assault beaches. With the landing of troops, a beachhead control unit directed aircraft to hit enemy strong points, ammunition dumps, troop concentrations, road intersections, supply lines, and communications. As Allied forces advanced northward along the Rhone valley, the wing implemented a plan to give more rapid support to the ground troops. Forward control units, equipped with the latest in air ground communications, directed sector air ground support. During the operations in France and Germany (1944-1945), the 64th continued to coordinate the close air-ground support of its fighter aircraft. After the end of hostilities in May 1945, the wing served in the occupation of Germany.

Redesignated as an Air Division in Apr 1952, it administered, trained, and provided air defense combat ready forces within its designated geographic area of responsibility, which included eastern Canada and later the northeastern United States. It exercised command jurisdiction over assigned units, installations, and facilities. In addition, the division and its subordinate units participated in numerous exercises until 1 Jul 1963.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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

Unit history. *64 Fighter Wing, 1942-1945*. 1945.