

97 AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON



MISSION

The 97th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron provides safe, reliable aircraft for the Air Force's mobility aircrew formal training mission, generating over 5,000 sorties and 23,000 flying hours annually. The Squadron is comprised of four flights, the KC-135, C-17 and KC-46 Aircraft Maintenance Units, and Support Flight.

LINEAGE

97 Periodic Maintenance Squadron constituted, 4 Jun 1952
Activated, 16 Jun 1952
Redesignated 97 Organizational Maintenance Squadron, 1 Jan 1959
Inactivated, 1 May 1992
Redesignated 97 Aircraft Generation Squadron, 21 Aug 1992
Activated, 1 Oct 1992
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1993
Redesignated 97 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 24 Aug 2017
Activated, 1 Nov 2017

STATIONS

Biggs AFB, TX, 16 Jun 1952 (deployed at RAF Upper Heyford, England, 5 May-4 Jul 1956)
Blytheville (later, Eaker) AFB, AR, 1 Jul 1959-1 May 1992
Altus AFB, OK, 1 Oct 1992-1 Jul 1993
Altus AFB, OK, 1 Nov 2017

Biggs AFB, TX
Blytheville AFB, AR, 1 Jul 1959

DEPLOYED STATION

RAF Upper Heyford, 5 May 1956-4 Jul 1956

ASSIGNMENTS

97 Bombardment Wing, 16 Jun 1952
97 Logistics Group, 1 Sep 1991
97 Support Group, 1 Apr-1 May 1992
97 Logistics Group, 1 Oct 1992
97 Operations Group, 1 Feb-1 Jul 1993
97 Maintenance Group, 1 Nov 2017

COMMANDERS

Maj Edward H. Risher, 1954
Lt Col T. J. Gildea, #1964

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
2 Jul-3 Nov 1957
23 Oct-22 Nov 1962
1 Jul 1975-30 Jun 1977
1 Jul 1977-30 Jun 1978
1 Jul 1978-30 Jun 1980
1 Jul 1982-30 Jun 1984
1 Jul 1986-30 Jun 1988
1 Oct 1992-30 Jun 1993

EMBLEM

Approved, 15 Aug 1985

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The squadron began its modern organizational history when Military Airlift Command's 443rd Military Airlift Wing and Strategic Air Command's 340th Air Refueling Wing combined on October 1, 1992, to create the 97th Air Mobility Wing under Air Mobility Command. On July 1, 1993, the 97th Air Mobility Wing realigned under Air Education and Training Command. The predecessor of

today's 97th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron was then designated the 97th Aircraft Generation Squadron, aligned under the 97th Logistics Group, and maintaining the wing's C-5, C-141 and KC-135 fleets. In January 1996, the organization also began maintaining the newly delivered C-17 fleet. In July of the same year, military aircraft maintenance assigned to the 97th Logistics Group began conversion to civil service. By February 1997, civil service aircraft maintainers had assumed primary responsibility for all C-5, C-141 and KC-135 maintenance.

In August 2002, the 97th Logistics Group was inactivated and the 97th Air Mobility Wing Maintenance Directorate formed, to include Tanker and Airlift Aircraft Maintenance Divisions. Additionally, C-17 maintenance then fully converted from military to civilian maintainers. In January 2007, the Tanker and Airlift Maintenance Divisions combined to form the 97th Aircraft Maintenance Division. A decade later, in November 2017, the 97th Aircraft Maintenance Division was re-designated to today's 97th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. The KC-46 was added to the aircraft maintained by the organization in February 2018.

USAF UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 18 Nov 2010

Updated: 11 Apr 2022

Sources

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

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

Unit yearbook. *810th Air Division, Biggs AFB, TX. 1954.*