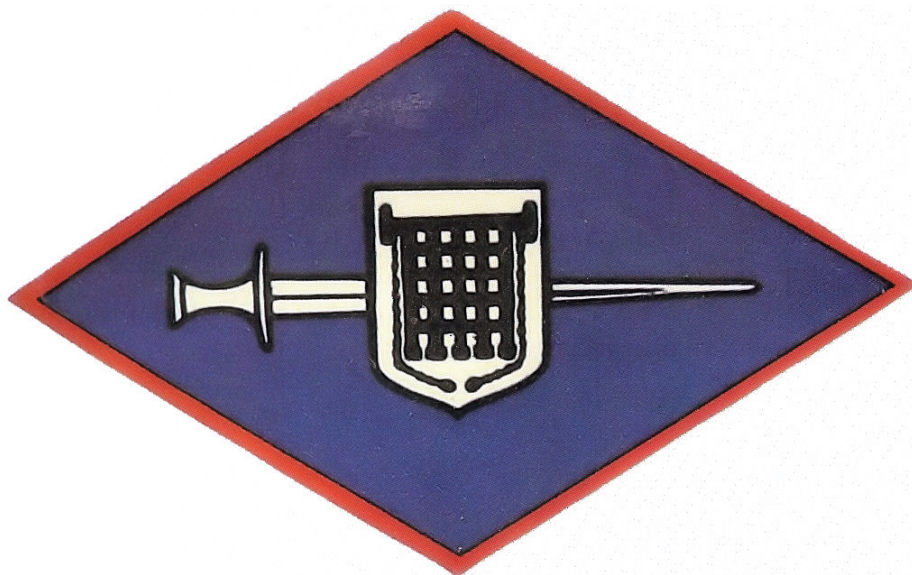


397 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, HEAVY



MISSION

LINEAGE

7 Aero Squadron organized, 29 Mar 1917
Redesignated 7 Squadron, 14 Mar 1921
Redesignated 7 Observation Squadron, 25 Jan 1925
Redesignated 7 Reconnaissance Squadron, 1 Sep 1937
Redesignated 7 Reconnaissance Squadron (Medium Range), 6 Dec 1939
Redesignated 7 Reconnaissance Squadron (Heavy), 20 Nov 1940
Redesignated 397 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 22 April 1942
Redesignated 397 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy
Inactivated, 1 Nov 1946

STATIONS

Ancon, CZ, 29 Mar 1917
Corozal, CZ, 16 Apr 1917
Empire, CZ, May 1917
Ft Sherman, CZ, 29 Aug 1917
Cristobal, CZ, Mar 1918
COCO Walk (later France Field), CZ, May 1918
Howard Field, CZ, 26 Nov 1941
David, Panama, 11 Dec 1941
Talara, Peru, 18 Aug 1942
Rio Hato, Panama, 4 May 1943
Galapagos Islands, 7 Apr 1944
Rio Hato, Panama, 6 Feb 1945-1 Nov 1946

ASSIGNMENTS

Panama Canal Department, 29 Mar 1917

3 Observation (later 6 Observation, later 6 Composite, later 6 Bombardment) Group, assigned
on 30 Sep 1919, attached, 1 Feb 1940, and assigned, 25 Feb 1942

VI Bomber Command, 1 Nov 1943-1 Nov 1946

WEAPON SYSTEMS

JN-4

R-3 (R-9)

R-4

DH-4

JN-4

HS2L

OA-1

O-2

O-19

OA-4

B-10, 1936-1939

B-18, 1938-1942

B-17, 1941-1942

LB-30, 1942-1944

A-17, 1943

RB-17, 1943

B-24, 1943-1946

DH-4B

OA-1A

COA-1

DH-4M

O-19C

OA-4A

B-6A

B-10B

L-4A

L-4E

RA-17

B-24J

B-17G

COMMANDERS

Capt Alfred O. George, Dec 1920

1st Lt Arthur L. Foster, 18 Oct 1921

Capt Orlo H. Quinn, 19 Jul 1922

Capt Charles E. Rust, 17 Dec 1923

1st Lt Roderick N. Ott, 29 Nov 1925
1st Lt Samuel C. Skemp, 10 Sep 1926
Capt Armin F. Harold, 4 May 1927
Capt Samuel C. Skemp, 15 Sep 1927
Capt Harold H. George, 14 May 1930
Capt Robert D. Knapp, 23 Dec 1931
Capt Alvin C. Kincaid, 23 Oct 1933
1st Lt Clifford P. Bradley, 22 May 1934
Capt Homer B. Chandler, 8 Sep 1934
Maj Willis R. Taylor, 8 Aug 1936
Capt Thurston H. Baxter, 15 Apr 1937
Capt Guy F. Hix, Dec 1939
Capt Henry K. Mooney, 11 Jun 1940-Sep 1941
Unknown, Sep 1941-7 Dec 1941

HONORS

Service Streamers

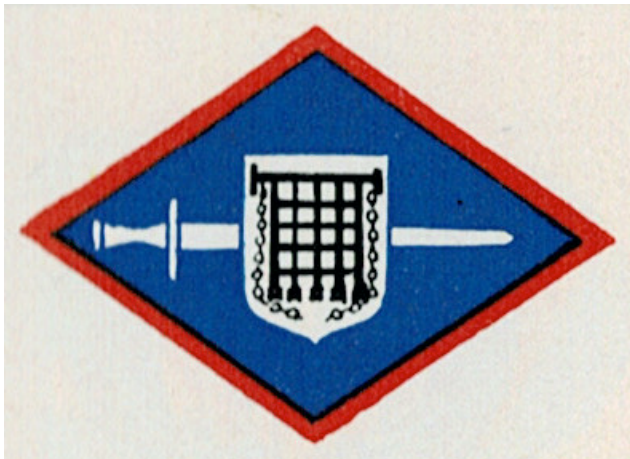
Campaign Streamers

Antisubmarine, American Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



7 Reconnaissance Squadron

7 Squadron emblem: On a blue diamond piped with red with its long axis horizontal a white sword pointing to the dexter behind a white shield displaying a black portcullis. (Approved, 5 May 1924)



7 Observation Squadron emblem

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Participated in the "Goodwill Flights" to El Salvador and Nicaragua 13-19 March 1935, to Columbia 14-18 December 1936, to Guatemala 8-11 February 1938 and El Salvador 19-22 April 1938. Flew mercy missions to support earthquake relief efforts in and near Santiago, Chile, 28 January-13 February 1939. Reorganized and redesignated 7th Reconnaissance Squadron (Medium Range) on 6 December 1939. Redesignated as the 7th Reconnaissance Squadron (Heavy) on 20 November 1940. Transferred on 26 November 1941 to Howard Field, CZ.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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