37 OPERATIONS GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE
37 Pursuit Group (Interceptor) constituted, 22 Dec 1939
Activated, 1 Feb 1940
Redesignated 37 Fighter Group, May 1942
Disbanded, 1 Nov 1943
Reconstituted and redesignated 37 Fighter-Bomber Group, 3 Mar 1953
Activated, 8 Apr 1953
Inactivated, 25 Jun 1953
Redesignated 37 Operations Group
Activated, 1 Nov 1991

STATIONS
Albrook Field, Canal Zone, 1 Feb 40
Howard Field, Canal Zone, 30 Sep-1 Nov 43
Clovis AFB, NM, 8 Apr-25 Jun 1953
Clovis AFB, NM, 1-25 Jun 53
Tonopah Test Range, NV, 1 Nov 91

ASSIGNMENTS
37 Fighter Bomber Wing, 3 Mar 1953

37 Fighter Wing, 1 Nov 1991

WEAPON SYSTEMS
P-26
P-40
P-39
F-117

COMMANDERS
Capt Russell E. Randall, 1 Feb 1940
Maj Milo N. Clark, 27 May 1940
Lt Col Morley F. Slaght, 1942
Maj Ernest H. Beverly, 2 Sep 42-unkn
Col George W. Larson, 1953
Col Raleigh T. Harrington, 1 Nov 1991

HONORS
Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers
American Theater, World War II

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

During its activation in the 1940s, the 37th group used a simple emblem--the Air Force yellow cross on an Air Force blue shield — that signified its history as the "Defender of the Crossroads." That motto referred to the 37th Pursuit Group's defense of the Panama Canal Zone during World War II. The group's emblem then differed slightly from its emblem today. It had the same yellow cross on

a blue field, but within an Army shield. A purple and yellow Griffin—with the head of an eagle, and body and legs of a lion to represent the swiftness, strength, and sagacity of the unit in performing its mission —also sat on top of this emblem.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS
Constituted as the 37th Pursuit Group (Interceptor) on 22 December 1939 as part of the USAAC's 54 Group Program, and activated in the Panama Canal Zone 1 February 1940, this unit was one more element in the growing defense posture for the Canal.

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