

## 37 TACTICAL MISSILE SQUADRON



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

537 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 28 Oct 1942

Activated, 3 Nov 1942

Inactivated, 31 Mar 1944

680 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy constituted, 25 Nov 1944

Activated, 4 Dec 1944

Inactivated, 15 Jun 1946

37 Air Defense Missile Squadron (BOMARC) constituted, 23 Sep 1959

Activated, 1 Mar 1960

Inactivated, 31 Jul 1972

537 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 680 Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy) and 37<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Missile Squadron consolidated and redesignated 37 Tactical Missile Squadron, 19 Sep 1985

Unit remains inactive

### **STATIONS**

Salt Lake City AAB, UT, 3 Nov 1942  
Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 23 Jan 1943  
Pocatello AAFld, ID, 5 Apr 1943  
Muroc AAFld, CA, 5 Dec 1943-31 Mar 1944  
Alamogordo AAFld, NM, 4 Dec 1944-10 May 1945  
North Field, Tinian, 15 Jun 1945  
Clark Field, Luzon, 13 Mar-15 Jun 1946  
Kincheloe AFB, MI, 1 Mar 1960-31 Jul 1972

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

382 Bombardment Group, 3 Nov 1942-31 Mar 1944  
Second Air Force, 4 Dec 1944  
504 Bombardment Group: attached, 15 Jun 1945; assigned 14 Nov 1945-15 Jun 1946  
30 Air Division, 1 Mar 1960  
Sault St Marie ADA, 1 Apr 1960  
Duluth ADS, 1 Oct 1963  
29 Air Division, 1 Apr 1966  
23 Air Division, 19 Nov 1969-31 Jul 1972

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-24, 1943-1944  
B-29, 1945-1946  
BOMARC CIM-10 1960-1972

### **COMMANDERS**

Maj William E Strathern, 23 Jan 1943  
Maj Burnham L Batson, 9 Oct 1943 (temporary)  
Capt William L Perry, 9 Nov 1943-unkn  
Lt Col Robert C McBride, 8 Jan 1945  
Capt Thomas M Glassburner, (by Aug) 1945  
Capt Lee D Glass, Jan 1946  
Capt Wayne M Frarie Jr, Mar-15 Jun 1946  
Capt Gail G Currie Jr, 1 Mar 1960 (temporary)  
Lt Col Robert E Kaempfer, 20 Feb 1961  
Lt Col John H Keene, 23 Nov 1965  
Maj Fred S Dudley Jr, 1 Jan 1969  
Lt Col Mitchell A Jacque, 8 Jan 1970-31 Jul 1972

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

American Theater

### **Campaign Streamers**

Air Offensive, Japan

Western Pacific

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations

Yokohama, Japan, 28 May 1945

Japan and Korea, 27 Jul-14 Aug 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

30 Aug 1965-3 Mar 1967

31 Mar 1971-31 Mar 1972



### **EMBLEM**

537<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) emblem: Over and through a light yellow disc, border light green, a black panther striking, proper, in front of two red aerial bombs in saltire. (Approved, 23 Nov 1943)



37 Air Defense Missile Squadron (BOMARC) On a sector of a circle, its apex upward AF golden yellow, bordered AF blue, two red lightning flashes in saltire throughout surmounted by a medium blue globe, land areas red; all surmounted by a black missile in pale pointing upward details white; outlines and details black throughout. Motto: On a red scroll, edged and inscribed black, SEMPER VIGILANS (Always Vigilant). **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. Against a background of the AF colors, ultramarine blue and golden yellow, two lightning bolts, crossed represent the electronic control of the defense weapons system. The globe and land mass indicate the land area to be defended from air attack. The missile-shaped figure dominating the emblem is symbolic of the potential power for defense contained within the assigned BOMARC weapon. (Approved, 26 Oct 1960)

#### **MOTTO**

SEMPER VIGILANS--Always Vigilant

#### **OPERATIONS**

Operational training unit, Feb-Mar 1943; replacement training, Apr-Nov 1943. On 3 Dec 1943, the 382d Bombardment Group reassigned the squadron's personnel and equipment to other units to conform with Fourth Air Force policy reducing the number of bomb squadrons in a group from four to three.

Activated on 4 Dec 1944 at Alamogordo AAFld, New Mexico, the 680th Bombardment Squadron immediately began training for B-29 operations against Japan. The squadron departed

Alamogordo AAFld on 10 May 1945, arriving at Seattle, Washington on 14 May. Left Seattle aboard S.S. Zoella Lykes on 19 May 1945, arriving on Tinian Island in the Mariana Islands Group on 15 Jun. Entered combat on 22 Jun 1945, striking the Kawasaki Aircraft Plant at Kagamigahara. Subsequent missions involved aerial minelaying over Japanese and Korean waters. After Japanese surrender, the squadron dropped food and medicine to allied POWs. Moved to Clark Field, the Philippine Islands on 13 Mar 1946, inactivated there on 15 Jun.

The 37th Air Defense Missile Squadron (BOMARC) activated on 1 Mar 1960 at Kincheloe AFB, Michigan. From Headquarters at Kincheloe AFB, monitored construction of facilities for Bomarc pilotless interceptors at Raco, Michigan. Moved 32 Miles to Raco Missile Site, a detached facility, of Kincheloe AFB, during the first half of 1961 and was operational by 1 Jun. By 31 Dec 1961 squadron was maintaining its full complement of 28 missiles on operational alert. During Oct 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, the 37th Squadron remained on full alert for 27 days. Over the next ten years the squadron provided long-range air defense to portions of the Northern United States and Canada. As the strategic bomber threat to North America waned in the early 1970s, the need for the BOMARC missile declined proportionately. As a consequence, the 37th Squadron inactivated on 31 Jul 1972 as part of the phase out of the BOMARC B weapon system.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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

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

Unit yearbook. *WADS*. 1960.