

4080 STRATEGIC WING



MISSION

The 4080 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing's mission was to conduct strategic reconnaissance operations on a global scale, either independently or in co-operation with other forces, to fulfill requirements for completed reconnaissance reports, target material, and weather data for operational forecasting.

LINEAGE

4080 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing
4080 Strategic Wing
Inactivated, 25 Jun 1966

STATIONS

Lockbourne AFB, OH

Turner AFB, GA

Laughlin AFB, TX, 1 Apr 1957-1 Jul 1963

Davis Monthan AFB, AZ, 1 Jul 1963-25 Jun 1966

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

COMMANDERS

Col Hubert Zemke, #1957

Col John A. Des Portes, 1 Jul 1963

Col Julius H. Baughn, 10 Jun 1965

Col William D. Kyle, Jr., 12 Feb 1966

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Original unit activated on April 1, 1956 at Turner AFB, Georgia as the 4080th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing (Light).

First RB-57 Delivered - On 31 May, the first RB-57 (a "D" model, Serial Number 53-3973), the reconnaissance version of the British-designed B-57 Canberra light bomber, was delivered to the 4080th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing at Turner Air Force Base, Georgia. The 4080th had received a B-57 (a "C" model, Serial Number 53-3842) for a trainer on 1 May. 1956

Delivery of First U-2 - On 11 June, the first U-2, Serial Number 56-6696, was delivered to the 4080th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. 1957

On October 9th of 1962, the 4080th SRW would receive its' initial orders to prepare for Operation "Brass Knob", an intensified aerial surveillance of the island of Cuba. With the authority of the

President of The United States, the Strategic Air Command would assume this task from the previous tasking of the Central Intelligence Agency. Initially, one flight was approved from south to north over the western end of Cuba, a mission flown by Major Richard S. Heyser on October 14th. Then two more flights were authorized and flown by Major Rudolf Anderson, Jr. and Major Heyser on October 15th. The results of the first mission indicated that total coverage of the island was necessary, and on October 17th, four pilots from Laughlin launched into a terrible thunderstorm and joined Heyser and Anderson in an effort which covered 95% of Cuba. By early November, over one million feet of film had been exposed. All eleven pilots had been fired upon with only one combat casualty, Major Anderson. The Wing would receive the personal plaudits and awards from the President for its' efforts!

The most significant event in 1962 involved the Cuban crisis operation. As a result of the presence of offensive Soviet medium range ballistic missile sites on the island of Cuba, several Second Air Force units were alerted on stand - by alert status. Second Air Force's 4080th Strategic Wing, SAC's only U-2 equipped wing, was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation by President Kennedy for its contribution during the Cuban crisis.

On 1 July 1963, the 4080th Strategic Wing (SW) was transferred from Laughlin AFB, Texas, to Davis-Monthan. The relocation, involving 23 WU-2 high-altitude aircraft and 1,050 people, was accomplished smoothly. This added a new dimension to the base's strategic importance. The primary mission of the 4080th SW was to conduct strategic reconnaissance operations on a global scale. It was a unique organization in that it was the only SAC unit assigned the high-flying U -2. With this move, Davis-Monthan became a three-wing station.

Davis-Monthan's only reconnaissance outfit, the 4080th SW, began to deploy WU-2 aircraft and associated personnel to Southeast Asia in the spring of 1964. The following year, the 4080th was assigned DC- 130A aircraft, CH-3C helicopters, and an assortment of remotely piloted vehicles called drones. Soon after, on 25 June 1966, the 4080th was inactivated and its personnel and equipment were assigned to the newly activated 100th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing (SRW).

The 4080th Strategic Wing was assigned DC-130A aircraft and 2 CH-3 helicopters for its drone reconnaissance operations. 1 Jul 1965

The 4080th Strategic Wing was inactivated. Concurrently, the 100th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing was activated and the personnel and equipment of the 4080th were transferred to the 100th. 25 Jun 1966

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.