

54 MAINTENANCE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

4 Repair Squadron constituted, 26 Mar 1941
Activated, 1 Apr 1941
Redesignated 4 Depot Repair Squadron, 1 Jul 1941
Redesignated 4 Air Repair Squadron, 26 Jun 1946
Inactivated, 22 Jul 1949
Redesignated 4 Maintenance Squadron, Mobile and activated in the Reserve, 3 May 1966
Organized, 1 Jul 1966
Inactivated, 1 Oct 1978
Redesignated 54 Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 22 Oct 1984
Redesignated 54 Maintenance Squadron, 20 Feb 2014
Activated, 1 Mar 2014.

STATIONS

Patterson Field, OH, 1 Apr-15 Dec 1941
Bacchus Marsh, Australia, 1 Feb 1942
Geelong, Australia, 4 Feb 1942
Wagga Wagga, Australia, 15 Apr 1942
Tocumwal, Australia, 3 Jul 1942
Townsville, Australia, 28 Oct 1942-2 Dec 1944
Tacloban, Leyte, 9 Jan-18 Mar 1945
Nichols Field, Luzon, 24 Mar 1945
Clark Field, Luzon, Jan 1947

Tachikawa AB, Japan, 13 May 1947-22 Jul 1949
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, 8 Jul 1966-1 Oct 1978
Holloman AFB, NM, 1 Mar 2014

ASSIGNMENTS

4 Air Depot Group (later, 4 Air Depot), 1 Apr 1941
Philippine Air Materiel Area, Dec 1946
Japan Air Materiel Area, 13 May 1947
Far East Air Materiel Command, 1-22 Jul 1949
Continental Air Command, 3 May 1966
First Air Force Reserve Region, 1 Jul 1966
Eastern Air Force Reserve Region, 31 Dec 1969
302 Tactical Airlift Wing, 8 Oct 1976-1 Oct 1978
54 Fighter Group, 1 Mar 2014

COMMANDERS

Unknown, 1 Apr 1941-31 May 1941
Unknown, 1 Jul 1941-25 Jun 1946
Unknown, 26 Jun 1946-22 Jul 1949
Unknown, 1 Jul 1966-1 Oct 1978
Lt Col Dominick J. Martin, 1 Mar 2014

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II Asiatic-Pacific Theater
Leyte [1944-1945]
Luzon [1944-1945]

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
1 Jan 1977-30 Sep 19781
Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

EMBLEM

Approved, 26 Jun 1970

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 54th Maintenance Squadron's lineage makes it one of the oldest units in the wing. Constituted on 26 March 1941, the 4th Repair Squadron was activated on 1 April 1941 at Patterson Field, Ohio, as part of the 4th Air Depot Group (later, 4th Air Depot). On 1 July 1941, the squadron was redesignated as the 4th Depot Repair Squadron. As such the squadron performed aircraft maintenance jobs, officially called fourth echelon maintenance, for multiple combat flying squadrons. Assigned to the Pacific theater, the unit arrived at Bacchus Marsh, outside of Melbourne, in southern Australia, on 1 February 1942. At that time, many expected the Japanese would soon invade Australia. To protect one of the few units with its capabilities, planners placed the squadron and its group well outside of the enemy's range of operations. Three days later, it moved about 30 miles south to Geelong, Australia. On 15 April 1942, the squadron relocated to Wagga Wagga, approximately half way to Sydney, Australia. On 3 July 1942, it moved back about half the distance toward Bacchus Marsh, locating at Tocumwal, Australia. As the Allies began to counter attack in the summer of 1942, planners wanted the depot to be closer to the combat forces it supported.

On 28 October 1942, the squadron moved to Townsville, on the northeast coast near Cairns, Australia. Due to General Douglas MacArthur's island hopping campaign, the depot moved two more times to be closer to the units they were supporting. Due to the size and weight of the heavy equipment the depot used and the tons of supplies it needed, moving it became more and more difficult. Therefore, the squadron left Townsville on 2 December 1944 and arrived at Tacloban on the island of Leyte on 9 January 1945. Just over two months later, it moved again to Nichols Field, Luzon. For its efforts in the Pacific Theater, the squadron earned a Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, and two campaign ribbons. In December 1946, it reassigned to the Philippine Air Materiel Area. A month later, it moved to Clark Field on Luzon. Around 13 May 1947, the squadron moved to Tachikawa AB, Japan, and was reassigned to the Japan Air Materiel Area. On 1 July 1949, the unit was reassigned to the Far East Air Materiel Command and inactivated 21 days later.

On 3 May 1966, the unit was redesignated the 4th Maintenance Squadron, Mobile and activated in the Reserve at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, as part Continental Air Command. Two months later, it was reassigned to the First Air Force Reserve Region. On 31 December 1969, it was assigned to the Eastern Air Force Reserve Region. On 8 October 1976, the squadron was again reassigned to the 302d Tactical Airlift Wing. The unit inactivated on 1 October 1978.

On 22 October 1984, the unit was redesignated as 54th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, but not activated. On 20 February 2014, the unit was designated as the 54th Maintenance Squadron. On 1 March 2014, squadron reactivated in the active force at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, under the 54th Fighter Group. Its current mission is to accomplish primarily off-equipment with some on-equipment maintenance in support of the group's mission of training the best F-16 pilots in the world.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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

Steven E. Clay. *US Army Order of Battle 1919-1941*. Combat Studies Institute Press. US Army Combined Arms Center. Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Nd.