

137th FIGHTER BOMER GROUP

LINEAGE

404th Bombardment Group (Dive) constituted, 25 Jan 1943
Activated, 4 Feb 1943
Redesignated 404th Fighter Bomber Group, Aug 1943
Inactivated, 9 Nov 1945
Redesignated 137th Fighter Group and Allotted to ANG (OK), 24 May 1946
Extended federal recognition, 18 Dec 1947
Ordered to active duty, 10 Oct 1950
Redesignated 137th Fighter Bomber Group
Redesignated 137th Tactical Airlift Group
Inactivated, 9 Feb 1975

STATIONS

Key Field, MS, 4 Feb 1943
Congaree AAFld, SC, 5 Jul 1943
Burns AAFld, OR, 4 Sep 1943
Myrtle Beach AAFld, SC, 13 Nov 1943-12 Mar 1944
Winkton, England, 4 Apr 1944
Chapelle, France, 6 Jul 1944
Bretigny, France, 29 Aug 1944
Juvincourt, France, 13 Sep 1944
St-Trond, Belgium, 1 Oct 1944
Keltz, Germany, 30 Mar 1945
Fritzlar, Germany, 12 Apr 1945
Stuttgart, Germany, 23 Jun-2 Aug 1945
Drew Field, FL, Sep-9 Nov 1945
Will Rogers Field, OK, 10 Oct 1950
Alexandria Mun Aprt, LA, 27 Nov 1950-4 May 1952
Chaumont, France, 13 May-10 Jul 1952
Norman, OK
Oklahoma City, OK,

ASSIGNMENTS

Ninth AF
United States Air Forces in Europe

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-39

P-47

F-84

COMMANDERS

LTC Lucius G Drafts, 4 Feb 1943

LTC James Van G Wilson, 6 May 1943

Col Carroll W McColpin, 27 Jan 1944

LTC Leo C Moon, 25 Nov 1944

LTC John R Murphy, 23 Apr 1945-unkn

LTC Joseph W Turner, 10 Oct 1950

LTC Roger B Ludeman, 27 Dec 1950

Col Chesley G Peterson, 8 Aug 1951-10 Jul 1952

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

American Theater

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

Germany, 10 Sep 1944

French Croix de Guerre with Palm

29, 30, and 31 Jul 1944

Cited in the Order of the Day, Belgian Army

6 Jun-30 Sep 1944

1 Oct 1944

18 Dec 1944-15 Jan 1945

Belgian Fourragere

EMBLEM

Azure, three lightning bolts, or, issuing from a cloud, proper, indexter chief, all within a

diminutive bordure, gules. (Approved, 6 Jun 1952)

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

TONITRUS E CAELO—Thunder from the Sky

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Helped to prepare for the Normandy invasion by bombing and strafing targets in France. Provided top cover for landings in Normandy on 6 and 7 Jun 1944 and continued operations from England until Jul 1944. Moved to the Continent and operated in close support of ground troops until the end of the war, supporting the Allied breakthrough at St Lo in Jul 1944, the drive through Holland in Sep 1944, Allied operations during the Battle of the Bulge (Dec 1944-Jan 1945), and the establishment of the Remagen bridgehead and the subsequent crossing of the Rhine in Mar 1945. Also flew interdiction and escort missions, strafing and bombing such targets as troop concentrations, railroads, highways, bridges, ammunition and fuel dumps, armored vehicles, docks, and tunnels, and covering the operations of 6-17's, B-24s, and B-26's that bombed factories, airdromes, marshalling yards, and other targets. Received a DUG for three armed reconnaissance missions flown on 10 Sep 1944 when, despite bad weather and anti-aircraft fire, the group attacked enemy factories, rolling stock, and communications centers to aid the advance of ground forces. Received a French Croix de Guerre with Palm for assisting First Army at St Lo on 29, 30, and 31 Jul 1944 when the group, although suffering severe losses from flak, continuously provided cover for four armored divisions. Also cited by the Belgian government for operations contributing to the liberation of its people. After V-E Day, aided in disarming the German Air Force and in dismantling the enemy's aircraft industry.

The 137th Fighter Group was founded on 21 Nov 1946 at Norman, OK, and received its Federal recognition on 18 Dec 1947. In April 1949, a tornado struck the base at Norman. The damage was considered too extensive for economical repair and the decision was made to move the 137th to its present location at Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City. The move was accomplished on 6 Sep 1949.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources