

2nd AIR DIVISION



LINEAGE

2nd Bombardment Division established, 30 Aug 1943

Activated, 13 Sep 1943

Redesignated 2nd Air Division, 19 Dec 1944

Disestablished, 28 Aug 1945

Reestablished, 14 Jan 1949

Organized, 1 Jun 1949

Discontinued, 7 May 1951

Activated, 20 Apr 1953

Discontinued and inactivated, 1 Apr 1962

Activated, 10 Sep 1962

Organized, 8 Oct 1962

Discontinued and inactivated, 1 Apr 1966

Activated, 1 Mar 1983

Inactivated, 1 Feb 1987

STATIONS

Horsham St Faith, England, 13 Sep 1943

Ketteringham Hall, England, 10 Dec 1943

London, England, 22-24 Jun 1945

Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 3 Jul-28 Aug 1945

Wiesbaden Air Base, West Germany, 1 Jun 1949

Landsberg Air Ammunition Depot (later, Landsberg AFB; Landsberg AB), West Germany, 10 Jun 1949-7 May 1951

Ramstein (later, Ramstein AB), West Germany, 20 Apr 1953-1 Mar 1954

Dhahran Airfield (later, Dhahran AB; Dhahran Air Field), Saudi Arabia, 1 Mar 1954-1 Apr 1962

Tan Son Nhut Airfield (later, Tan Son Nhut AB), South Vietnam, 8 Oct 1962-1 Apr 1966

Hurlburt Field, FL, 1 Mar 1983-1 Feb 1987

ASSIGNMENTS

VIII Bomber Command (later, Eighth Air Force), 13 Sep 1943

Army Service Forces, 25 Jun-2 Jul 1945

Second Air Force, 3 Jul-28 Aug 1945

United States Air Forces in Europe, 1 Jun 1949
Twelfth Air Force, 21 Jan-7 May 1951
Twelfth Air Force, 20 Apr 1953
Seventeenth Air Force, 1 Mar 1954
United States Air Forces in Europe, 15 Apr 1955-1 Apr 1962
Pacific Air Forces, 10 Sep 1962
Thirteenth Air Force, 8 Oct 1962
Pacific Air Forces, 8 Jul 1965-1 Apr 1966
Twenty-Third Air Force, 1 Mar 1983-1 Feb 1987

ATTACHMENTS

96th Combat Bombardment Wing, 1-24 Jun 1945

COMMANDERS

BG James P. Hodges, 13 Sep 1943
BG Edward J. Timberlake Jr., 16 Sep 1943
MG James P. Hodges, 4 Oct 1943
MG William E. Kepner, 1 Aug 1944
BG Walter R. Peck, 10 May 1945
Col Harry W. McGee, 1 Jun 1945-unkn
BG Thomas C. Darcy, 1 Jun 1949-7 May 1951
None (not manned), 20 Apr 1953-28 Feb 1954
BG Orrin L. Grover, 1 Mar 1954
Col George W. Humbrecht, 13 Apr 1955
BG George F. Schlatter, 27 Jun 1955
Col Richard L. Temple, 5 Mar 1956
Col Frederick J. Sutterlin, 26 Sep 1956
BG Dale O. Smith, 1 Jul 1957
BG Albert P. Clark, Nov 1957
Col Boyd Hubbard Jr., 21 Jul 1959
BG James C. McGehee, 4 Aug 1959
LTC Robert B. Irwin, 23 Jul 1961
Col George W. Kinney, 10 Aug 1961
Col Willard W. Wilson, 9 Sep 1961-1 Apr 1962
None (not manned), 10 Sep-7 Oct 1962
MG Rollen H. Anthis, 8 Oct 1962
BG Milton B. Adams, 20 Dec 1963
LTG Joseph H. Moore Jr., 21 Jan 1964-1 Apr 1966
Col Hugh L. Cox III, 1 Mar 1983
Col William J. Kornitzer Jr., 20 Apr 1984
Col William R. Mainord, 9 Jun 1986-1 Feb 1987

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II

European African Middle Eastern Theater

Campaign Streamers

Southeast Asia
Vietnam Advisory
Vietnam Defense
Vietnam Air

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device
1 Apr 1964-31 Mar 1966

EMBLEM

On a shield azure double bordered or and of the first a stylized wing of the second, charged with two Doric Columns, architrave and base all outlined of the first. (Approved, 14 Oct 1954)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Conducted strategic bombardment of Axis targets in Europe, but between 29 August and 2 October 1944 division aircraft dropped food to the French population in liberated areas. It also airdropped food, equipment, and supplies to Allied forces engaged in the airborne attack on Holland (September 1944), as well as troops engaged in the assault across the Rhine River (March 1945).

From January 1949 to May 1951, in West Germany it participated in numerous training exercises. Activated in Apr 1953, it remained unmanned and existed in name until moving in March 1954 to Dhahran Airfield, Saudi Arabia where it remained until the Saudi government terminated US rights to the field in 1962.

Organized at Tan Son Nhut AB, South Vietnam in Oct 1962 to control USAF operations there. From Dec 1962, it controlled all activities and units in Southeast Asia, initially, USAF tactical forces FARM GATE C-47, B-26, T-28, and U-10 counterinsurgency forces, and MULE TRAIN C-123 assault airlift forces. Forces assigned and attached to the 2d Air Division trained Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) and Royal Thai Air Force personnel, flew reconnaissance, airlift, and defoliation missions, and operated a tactical control system. Escalation of fighting in South Vietnam in early 1965 brought new offensive assignments. On 8 February USAF and VNAF aircraft assaulted targets north of the demilitarized zone in the first of a series of continuing strikes. On 19 February, USAF F-100s and B-57s attacked the Viet Cong inside South Vietnam the first use of jets for such offensive actions. In July 1965, a major reorganization of the division saw tactical fighter wings established at Bien Hoa AB and Danang AB, and five separate combat support groups at other South Vietnamese bases. The rapid expansion of the division's personnel and facilities continued well into 1966, with a matching expansion in both the volume and variety of air operations. On 1 April 1966, the division's resources were absorbed

by the newly activated Seventh Air Force.

From Mar 1983 to Feb 1987, 2d Air Division forces, with worldwide responsibilities and assignments, engaged in deployment, exercise and training programs. Subordinate units flew drug interdiction missions under Operation BAT.



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Sources

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