

## 23<sup>rd</sup> BOMB SQUADRON



### LINEAGE

18<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron Organized, 16 Jun 1917  
Redesignated 23<sup>rd</sup> Aero Squadron (Repair), 22 Jun 1917  
Demobilized, 22 Mar 1919

23<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, which was authorized, 30 Aug 1921  
Organized, 1 Oct 1921  
Redesignated 23<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Squadron, 25 Jan 1923

23<sup>rd</sup> Aero Squadron (Repair), reconstituted and consolidated with 23<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Squadron,  
1924

Redesignated 23<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 6 Dec 1939  
Redesignated 23<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 20 Nov 1940  
Redesignated 23<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 6 Mar 1944  
Redesignated 23<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 30 Apr 1946  
Inactivated, 10 Mar 1947  
Redesignated 23<sup>rd</sup> Reconnaissance Squadron, Very Long Range, Photographic, 16 Sep 1947  
Activated, 20 Oct 1947  
Redesignated 23<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, Photographic, 16 Jun 1949  
Redesignated 23<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, Heavy, 14 Nov 1950  
Redesignated 23<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 1 Oct 1955  
Redesignated 23<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Squadron, 1 Sep 1991

### STATIONS

Camp Kelly, TX, 16 Jun 1917

Hazelhurst Field, NY, 5 Sep 1917–6 Jul 1918  
Thetford, England, c. 25 Jul 1918 (detachments at Hucknall Torkard and Salisbury, c. 18 Aug–c. 5 Nov 1918)  
Duxford, England, 2 Sep 1918  
Codford, England, 5 Nov 1918  
Cherbourg, France, 11 Nov 1918  
St Maixent, France, 18 Nov 1918  
St Nazaire, France, c. 29 Jan–20 Feb 1919  
Garden City, NY, c. 8–22 Mar 1919  
March Field, CA, 1 Oct 1921–21 Mar 1922  
Luke Field, TH, 29 Mar 1922  
Hickam Field, TH, 1 Jan 1939  
Mokuleia, TH, 24 Mar–3 Nov 1942  
Espiritu Santo, 1 Dec 1942–3 Jan 1944 (air echelon operated from Guadalcanal, 31 Mar–24 Aug 1943, and 21 Oct–7 Dec 1943)  
Munda, New Georgia, 9 Jan 1944  
Momote Airfield, Los Negros, 16 Apr 1944  
Wakde, 20 Aug 1944  
Noemfoor, 30 Sep 1944  
Moratai, 16 Oct 1944  
Samar, 20 Feb 1945  
Clark Field, Luzon, Dec 1945–10 Mar 1947  
Clark Field, Luzon, 20 Oct 1947  
Kadena AB, Okinawa, 15 May 1948  
Yokota AB, Japan, 16 Mar–2 May 1949  
Fairfield–Suisun AFB, CA, 19 May 1949  
Topeka (later, Forbes) AFB, KS, 1 Jun 1949  
Mountain Home, ID, 25 Jun 1949  
Fairfield–Suisun (later, Travis) AFB, CA, 1 Nov 1949  
Minot AFB, ND, 25 Jul 1968

#### **DEPLOYED STATIONS**

Andersen AFB, Guam, 14 Jan–12 Apr 1955

#### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Unkn, 16 Jun 1917–22 Mar 1919  
Ninth Corps Area, 1 Oct 1921  
5<sup>th</sup> Group (Observation) (later, 5<sup>th</sup> Group [Pursuit and Bombardment]  
5<sup>th</sup> Group [Composite]  
5<sup>th</sup> Composite Group), 29 Mar 1922  
19<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 8 May 1929  
5<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 12 Oct 1938–10 Mar 1947  
5<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance, (later, 5<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance) Group, 20 Oct 1947  
5<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance, (later, 5<sup>th</sup> Bombardment) Wing, 16 Jun 1952  
5<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991

## **ATTACHMENTS**

5<sup>th</sup> Composite [later, 5<sup>th</sup> Bombardment] Group, 8 May 1929–11 Oct 1938  
71<sup>st</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 18–24 Aug 1948  
32<sup>nd</sup> Composite Wing, 24 Aug 1948–16 Mar 1949  
55<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 1–17 Jun 1949  
5<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 10 Feb 1951–15 Jun 1952

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

NBS-1  
JN-6  
DH-4  
B-4  
B-5  
LB-6  
B-12, 1937–1939  
B-18, 1938–1942  
B-17, 1941–1943  
B-24, 1943–1945  
C-46, 1947–1948  
B/FB-17, 1947–1948  
F-2, 1947–1948  
RB-29, 1948–1951  
RB-36, 1951–1955  
B/RB-36, 1955–1958  
B-52, 1959

## **ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS**

B-52G: 76487, 76493, 76500, 76507, 76517, 80158, 80164, 80169, 80171, 80181, 80190, 80199, 80236, 92575, 92591, 92595, 92602

## **ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES**

## **UNIT COLORS**

## **COMMANDERS**

Capt. Armin F. Herold 1 Oct 21-28 Feb 22  
1st Lt. Albert B. Pitts 28 Feb 22-May 22  
Capt. Richard J. Kirkpatrick May 22-16 Jan 23  
1st Lt. Frederick A. Johnson 16 Jan 23-13 Aug 23  
Maj. Karl H. Gorman 13 Aug 23-23 Nov 25  
Capt. Donald P. Muse 23 Nov 25-30 Nov 25  
1st Lt. Grandison Gardner 30 Nov 25-9 Apr 26  
Maj. Henry J. Miller 9 Apr 26-26 May 26  
1st Lt. Leo F. Post 26 May 26-26 Aug 26  
Maj. Henry J. Miller 26 Aug 26-1 Dec 26  
Capt. Lloyd L. Harvey 1 Dec 26-1 Mar 28

Capt. George P. Johnson 6 Nov 28-25 Apr 30  
Capt. Frank H. Pritchard 25 Apr 30-1 Nov 30  
1st Lt. Angier H. Foster 1 Nov 30-1 Apr 31  
1st Lt. John W. Warren 1 Apr 31-17 Feb 32  
Capt. Raphael Baez, Jr. 17 Feb 32-12 Feb 35  
1st Lt. Jack W. Wood 12 Feb 35-1 Mar 35  
Maj. Arthur G. Liggett 1 Mar 35-7 Jul 36  
1st Lt. Maurice C. Bisson 7 Jul 36-7 Aug 36  
1st Lt. Ford J. Lauer 7 Aug 36-ao Dec 36  
Unknown ao Dec 36-ao Oct 38  
Maj. Harold W. Benton ao Oct 38-21 Dec 38  
Maj. LaVerne G. Saunders 21 Dec 38-Jan 42

None, 16-21 Jun 1917  
Cpt Jack W. Heard, 22 Jun 1917  
Cpt W. P. Jernigan, 20 Jul 1917  
Maj H. M. Clarke, 23 Aug 1917  
1Lt Clarke Thompson, 2 Sep 1917  
Cpt Frank T. Coffyn, 9 Sep 1917  
Cpt Andrew J. MacElroy, 23 Nov 1917  
1Lt Paul S. Duenweg, 14 Feb 1918  
1Lt Charles F. Littlejohn, 12 Mar 1918  
2Lt James J. Penny, 19 Apr 1918  
Lt Ray D. Wells, 23-30 Jun 1918  
None (not manned), 1 Jul-17 Sep 1918  
1Lt Paul S. Duenweg, 18 Sep 1918  
2Lt C. M. Hamilton, 10 Nov 1918-unkn  
Cpt A. F. Harold, 1 Oct 1921  
1Lt Harold Brand, 1 Mar 1922  
Cpt R. J. Kirkpatrick, 19 Mar 1922  
1Lt Frederick A. Johnson, 24 Aug 1922  
1Lt Grandison Gardner, 14 Nov 1923  
1Lt Merrill D. Mann, 11 Dec 1923  
Cpt Karl H. Gorman, 10 Mar 1924  
1Lt Grandison Gardner, 23 Nov 1925  
Lt Post, 13 Apr 1926-unkn  
Unkn, 1926-30 Jun 1942  
LTC George A. Blakey, 1 Jul 1942-unkn  
Maj Russell C. Dellinger, 1 Sep 1944  
Maj James A. Saalfield, 1 Dec 1944  
Cpt C. Goldsbury, 1 Jan 1945  
Cpt A. L. Leslie, by Apr 1945  
Cpt J. E. Mills Jr., by Jun 1945  
Cpt Richard W. Boyd, 10 Aug 1945-unkn  
Unkn, through 10 Mar 1947

Unkn, 20 Oct 1947-31 Dec 1949  
LTC Fitzburgh A. Whitfield, Jan 1950  
LTC Earl L. Johnson, 10 Feb 1951  
LTC Robert E. Walber, by Jan 1953  
LTC Peter J. O'Carroll, by Feb 1953  
LTC Thomas F. Doyle Jr., 30 Apr 1955  
LTC Carleton W. Hansen, 1 Feb 1957  
LTC Robert E. Busch, by May 1958  
Maj Jean G. Pratt, by Jun 1958  
LTC Keith A. Whitaker, by Jul 1958  
LTC Steedly P. Hawkins, by Jun 1960  
LTC Clarence M. Nunneley, by Jun 1963  
LTC Harold W. Petree, by Aug 1963  
LTC Harry W. Barrett, Jan 1965-unkn  
Unkn, 1966-30 Jun 1968  
LTC Harlan E. McLean, Jul 1968  
LTC James L. Carr, Dec 1969  
LTC William J. Anderson, Nov 1970  
LTC Donald L. Sprague, Aug 1972  
LTC Robert W. Lamb, Nov 1974  
LTC Loring R. Astorino, Sep 1976  
LTC Thomas E. Coblenz, Sep 1977  
LTC Wallace C. Jacobson, 16 Apr 1979  
LTC William M. Harley, 30 May 1980  
LTC Glen R. Schaumberg, 31 Aug 1981  
LTC Joseph Wilson, 9 Jul 1982  
LTC Frederick M. Anderson, 1 Jul 1983  
LTC Ronald W. Bashant, 15 Jun 1984  
LTC Charles R. Henderson, 15 Apr 1985  
LTC Douglas D. Scraper, 20 Jun 1986  
LTC Joseph P. Stein, 16 May 1988  
LTC James Hawkins, 21 Aug 1989  
LTC Mark Holmes, 9 Jan 1991  
LTC Randall W. Spetman, 28 Feb 1992  
LTC James W. Ewing, 2 Jul 1993  
LTC Stephen D. Schmidt, 11 Jul 1994  
LTC Theodore T. LaPlante, 31 May 1996  
LTC Douglas C. Hayner, 4 May 1997  
LTC Tom Gilbert, 23 Apr 1999  
LTC Bruce Emig, 24 Feb 2001

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

World War I

Theater of Operations

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Central Pacific  
Guadalcanal  
China Defensive  
New Guinea  
Northern Solomons  
Eastern Mandates  
Bismarck Archipelago  
Western Pacific  
Leyte  
Luzon  
Southern Philippines  
China Offensive  
Air Combat, Asiatic-Pacific Theater

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
Woleai Island, 18 Apr–15 May 1944  
Borneo, 30 Sep 1944

Presidential Unit Citation (Navy)  
Southwest Pacific, [1–9 Dec] 1942

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards  
1 Jul 1977–30 Jun 1979  
1 Jul 1983–30 Jun 1984  
1 Jul 1985–30 Jun 1986  
1 Jul 1986–30 Jun 1988  
1 Jul 1989–30 Jun 1991  
1 Jul 1991–30 Jun 1993  
1 Jun 2002–31 May 2004

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

### **EMBLEM**

On a Blue disc a volcano in Black silhouette with Red lava flowing from the crater, extending upward therefrom and intermingled with clouds, futuristic vari-colored rays from Yellow to Red, on front thereof five Black drop bombs, two on the dexter and three on the sinister side. (Approved, 30 Sep 1931 and reinstated, 13 Jan 1994; replaced emblem approved, 12 May 1952)

### **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Repaired and maintained aircraft and engines, 1917–1918. Bombed lava flowing from Mauna Loa, diverting it from the city of Hilo, 27 Dec 1935. Patrols over the Pacific, 8 Dec 1941–Nov 1942; 26 Aug–18 Oct 1943. Combat in South, Southwest, and Western Pacific, 27 Apr–16 Aug 1943, 22 Oct–6 Dec 1943, 22 Jan–1 Mar 1944, 18 Apr 1944–12 Aug 1945. Non-operational, 1946–1947. Photo-mapping in the Philippines, Formosa, and Southwest Pacific, Nov 1947–Mar 1949. Performed strategic reconnaissance, 1949–1952. Assumed a strategic bombardment mission, 1953. From 1968 to 1975 provided qualified B-52 aircrews to other SAC units involved in combat operations in Southeast Asia.

23rd BS Equipped with B-52G from 2/59 and utilised this model until 1968. Transferred to Minot AFB, North Dakota, on 25/7/68 and acquired B-52H aircraft previously flown by the 720 BS/450 BW. Currently active with B-52H as part of 5 BW.

Within six weeks, plans were made for disposing of March Field's assets. Most of the training detachment was sent to Kelly on June 30th, with just enough personnel remaining to complete the last cadet class by August. These instructors were then transferred to Scott Field, Illinois. Many of the officers and men were assigned to the 19th Pursuit Squadron and the 23rd Bombardment Squadron, both attached to the 5th Bombardment Group at Luke Field, Hawaii. On August 30th, all training and forest fire patrols terminated as the War Department ordered the phase down of the installation, A detachment of 100 men set about the task of closing buildings and disposing of equipment.

12/3/2010 - ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam (AFNS) -- More than 200 Airmen and two B-52H Stratofortress aircraft arrived here recently to replace the 23rd Expeditionary Bomb Squadron. The Airman are assigned to the 69th Bomb Squadron from Minot Air Force Base, N.D., and are supporting U.S. Pacific Command's continuous bomber presence. "Our number one priority is to support theater objectives and maintain peace and stability in the region," said Lt. Col. Michael Cardoza, the 69th EBS commander. "After that, we are looking forward to honing our combat skills in a variety of conventional mission sets. "We have spent the last year primarily focused on perfecting our nuclear mission. Now we are able to shift our focus somewhat and are very motivated to support the Andersen AFB CBP mission," he said. "This deployment will give us a lot of outstanding training opportunities throughout the Pacific area of responsibility." The swap out is historic for several reasons.

The 69th and 23rd EBS are units from the 5th Bomb Wing at Minot AFB, and the swap out marks the first time the wing will have two units on back-to-back deployments in support of the CBP in Guam, officials said. The 69th EBS, which was recently reactivated at Minot AFB Sept. 4, 2009, will be on its first deployment back here since the Vietnam War. "It is a great milestone in a year full of milestones for the newest B-52 squadron," Colonel Cardoza said. "Deploying to Andersen and supporting the CPB mission allows us to show our allies and enemies that (69th

EBS members) are open for business and ready to execute the mission worldwide."

The 23rd EBS is scheduled to depart Andersen AFB later this month after its nearly six month deployment here. "Being able to replace our fellow Minot (AFB) squadron has been a huge advantage," Colonel Cardoza said. "The 23rd EBS continuously fed us lessons learned throughout their deployment and built a very strong foundation for us to work from. It also allowed us to swap personnel without having to move large amounts of equipment and airplanes." During their deployment here, the 23rd EBS members had the opportunity to get unique training they couldn't get anywhere else, officials said. Logging more than 1,400 hours of flight time, dropping more than 700 bombs and performing 200 sorties, both aircrew members and maintainers had to be on their toes to meet their flight schedule.

"This deployment has been so dynamic," said 1st Lt. Corrine Hester, a 69th EBS dual-seat navigator. "From working with multinational and joint forces, to sinking a boat in the middle of the ocean, this has been the best training we could get for what we do. It's been a great time and we will be back, but for now, it's time to go home and give our brothers and sisters a chance to take advantage of what a deployment here has to offer."

**B-52s Train in Australia:** B-52s from the 23rd Expeditionary Bomb Squadron at Andersen AFB, Guam, flew 12 sorties down to Australia over a 10-day period this month to conduct close air support training with Australian joint terminal attack controllers. These activities were part of Exercise Hamel 2010, a large Australian military drill in Queensland that brought together Australian, New Zealand, and US forces. The B-52s flew missions ranging from 11 hours to 13 hours to get to the Australian training areas and back. The bombers in this expeditionary unit are assigned to the 5th Bomb Wing at Minot AFB, N.D., but are currently deployed to Guam as part of the United States' continual, rotational bomber presence in the Pacific region. USAF officials said this was the sixth time that US bombers have participated in Exercise Hamel since July 2006. 2010

Organized on 1 October 1921 at March Field, CA. Departed from the port of San Francisco 21 March 1922 on the U.S.A.T. Buford and arrived at Honolulu, TH, on 29 March 1922. Transferred to Luke Field, TH, the same day and assigned to the 5th Group (Observation) (later redesignated 5th Composite Group). Redesignated as the 23rd Bombardment Squadron on 25 January 1923. Consolidated on 8 April 1924 with the 23rd Aero Squadron (a WWI unit organized on 16 June 1917 as the 18th Aero Squadron at Kelly Field, TX; redesignated as the 23rd Aero Squadron (Repair) on 22 June 1917; demobilized on 23 March 1919 at Garden City, NY; reconstituted on 8 April 1924). Relieved from assignment to the 5th Composite Group on 8 May 1929 and assigned to the 19th Bombardment Group. Squadron remained attached to the 5th Composite Group for administrative purposes until December 1930. Conducted bombing missions on lava flows from the Mauna Loa volcano to divert them from the city of Hilo, TH, 27 December 1935. Relieved from assignment to the 19th Bombardment Group on 12 October 1938 and assigned to the 5th Bombardment Group. Transferred on 1 January 1939 to Hickam Field, TH.



## 23 Aero Squadron

Type: Service (Observation or Repair)

Service Period: July 17, 1918 to November 5, 1918

Locations: Duxford, Huckuall, Lake Down, Old Sarum, Sedgeford, Thetford (Snare Hill Camp)  
Shipped to France on November 10, 1918 from Codford. War Department records list this unit as a repair squadron which is in conflict with the history submitted by the unit.

Bomber Rotation at Andersen: A contingent of airmen and six B-52 bombers from the 23rd Bomb Squadron at Minot AFB, N.D., has deployed to Andersen AFB, Guam, replacing an equally sized expeditionary unit of B-52s, operators, and maintainers from Barksdale AFB, La., that was present on the strategic Pacific hub the past four months. The more than 300 airmen of Barksdale's 20th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron honed their expertise while on Guam, where the United States has maintained a continuous presence of bombers since 2003 by rotating units in from stateside bases for months at a time. "While here, we integrated with the USS Stennis Navy carrier strike group, trained with joint terminal air controllers from Australia, flew multiple missions in Red Flag-Alaska, and engaged with regional partners in Australia, Japan, and [South] Korea," said Lt. Col. Mike Miller, who led the 20th EBS, in describing some of the unit's activities during the 176 sorties of their deployment. 2011

270311	NBS-1	AC-68454	23BS	5CG	Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	FLEF	Polk, George W., Jr	In Water off Ford Island, Oahu, HI
221211	HS-2L	AS-42125	23BS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	TOAEF	Kirkpatrick, Richard J.	Water of Pearl Harbor, Oahu, HI
240327	NBS-1	AS-68448	23BS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	KTOADF	Moore, W. G.	Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI
241004	NBS-1	AS-68444	23BS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	LACMF	Langmeade, Edmund C.	Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI
250414	NBS-1	AS-68442	23BS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	FLEF	Craig, Howard A	Landed in Lock "C", Pearl Harbor, HI
251123	NBS-1	AS-68461	23BS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	KFLEF	Gorman, Carl H	Waimea Bay, Oahu, HI
291224	DH-4M	AC-32172	23BS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	FLEF	Brown, Raymond R	Into water at Pearl Harbor, Oahu, HI
300820	DH-4M	31-483	23BS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	FLEFNO	Stanley, Joseph	Between Wahiawa & Haleiwa, Oahu, HI
310226	LB-6	29-25	23BS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	LACNOW	Anderson Theodore B	Kahuka Point Field, Oahu, HI
320226	B-5A	30-341	23BS		Luke Field, Ford Island,	LACMF	Baez, Raphael, Jr	Luke Field, Oahu, HI

					Oahu, HI			
330309	B-5A	30-340	23BS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	TOAGL	Muenter, Hilbert F.	Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI
331007	FP-1(C-21)	32-280	23BS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	LAC	Weyland, Otto P.	Maalea Airport, Maui, HI
350429	B-4A	32-125	23BS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	TAC	Asher, James	Luke Field, Oahu, HI
350823	B-5A	30-339	23BS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	KFLEF	Liggett, Arthur G.	Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI
351029	B-4A	32-128	23BS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	TAC	Capp, William C	Kahuku Point, Oahu, HI
351211	B-4A	32-128	23BS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	MACO	Chickette, David N	Lanai City Airport, HI
360124	B-4A	32-118	23BS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	KMAC	Fisher, Charles E.	1200 ft over Luke Field, HI
371201	C-33	36-73	23BS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	LAC	Beaton, Harold W	Burns Field, Kauai, HI
371203	B-12A	33-260	23BS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	LAC	Fisher, Charles E.	Burns Field, Kauai, HI
380812	B-18	36-441	23BS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	LAC	Schmidt, Clarence L.	Bellows Field, Waimanalo, Oahu, HI
381209	B-18	36-338	23BS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	MACT	Kelly, Robert H.	5 mi off Kepuhi Point, HI
401018	B-18	36-338	23BS		Hickam Field, Oahu, HI	LAC	Saunders, LaVerne G.	Bellows Field, Oahu, HI





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Air Force Order of Battle  
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Sources  
AFHRA