

## 27<sup>th</sup> AIR DIVISION



### LINEAGE

Established as 27<sup>th</sup> Air Division (Defense), 7 Sep 1950  
Activated, 20 Sep 1950  
Inactivated, 1 Feb 1952  
Organized, 1 Feb 1952  
Inactivated, 1 Oct 1959  
Redesignated 27<sup>th</sup> Air Division, and activated, 20 Jan 1966  
Organized, 1 Apr 1966  
Inactivated, 19 Nov 1969

### STATIONS

Norton AFB, CA, 20 Sep 1950-1 Feb 1952  
Norton AFB, CA, 1 Feb 1952-1 Oct 1959  
Luke AFB, AZ, 1 Apr 1966-19 Nov 1969

### ASSIGNMENTS

Western Air Defense Force, 20 Sep 1950-1 Feb 1952  
Western Air Defense Force, 1 Feb 1952-1 Oct 1959  
Air Defense Command, 20 Jan 1966  
Fourth Air Force, 1 Apr 1966  
Tenth Air Force, 15 Sep 1969-19 Nov 1969

### COMMANDERS

Col Philip C. Loofbourrow, 20 Sep 1950  
BG Donald R. Hutchinson, 13 Oct 1950-1 Feb 1952  
BG Donald R. Hutchinson, 1 Feb 1952  
BG James W. Andrew, c. 5 Apr 1954  
BG Frank E. Rouse, 30 Sep 1956  
Col Brian O'Neill, 16 Jun 1958  
BG Prescott M. Spicer, 10 Jul 1958-1 Oct 1959  
Col Leon W. Gray, 1 Apr 1966  
Col William C. Sullivan, 5 Sep 1967  
Col Dean W. Dutrack, 30 Jul 1968-19 Nov 1969.

### HONORS

**Service Streamers**

None

**Campaign Streamers**

None

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

**Decorations**

None

**EMBLEM**

Azure, an aircraft gray, carrying two rockets sable, the nose in the form of an eagle's head (white with yellow beak) between four lightning flashes or, two in chief on a cloud issuing argent and two in base; all within a diminished bordure of distinctive outline gules that part on the first fimbriated of the fourth. (Approved 23 Jul 1953)

**EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE****MOTTO****NICKNAME****OPERATIONS**

The division assumed responsibility for the air defense of southern California in Sep 1950 and later southern Nevada. By 1953, its area of control included a small portion of Arizona. In Jan 1966, it gained responsibility for the air defense of southern California, southern Nevada, all of Arizona, and parts of New Mexico. The 27<sup>th</sup> administered and trained subordinate units, and participated in numerous air defense training exercises. In addition, during the 1960's it supervised training of Air National Guard units with a pertinent mobilization assignment.

MAKE SURE THE FOLLOWING INFO IS PUT INTO THE INDIVIDUAL AFOBS: NOT DONE WHEN ADDED TO THIS AFOB, 22 SEP 2009

The 27th Air Division (Defense) was founded on 20 November 1950, under the command of Brigadier General DONALD R. HUTCHINSON, at Norton Air Force Base, California.

On 30 May 1954, Brigadier General HUTCHINSON, was relieved from Command and assigned to Iceland. On that date Brigadier General JAMES W. ANDREW assumed command of the 27th Air Division (Defense).

In 1949 a need was recognized by higher command for a fighter-interceptor base for the Los Angeles, California vicinity. The industrial potential for the Southern California area served as a

basis for this protect ional need. The thoughts and studies of higher command culminated in the sending of a sighting team to the area for the purpose of surveying a feasible location for such a base. The survey resulted in the selection of a civilian flight strip leased from the Air Force by Ventura County, California, located between Oxnard and Camarillo, California.

On 25 October 1951, Major RICHARD HAWLEY, an Air Installations Officer from the 27th Air Division (Defense), was assigned to Oxnard Air Force Base, California, to work in conjunction with the base construction program, which was being designed to accommodate a newly organized fighter-interceptor unit.

In November 1951, information was received that the 1st Fighter-Interceptor Wing, George Air Force Base, California would proceed to Norton Air Force Base, California, to operate with the 27th Air Division (Defense). The move was completed on 30 November

1951, and the 1st Fighter-Interceptor Wing was established at Norton Air Force Base on 1 December 1951. Upon arrival, all assigned units of the 1st Fighter-Interceptor Wing, with the exception of the Wing staff and its tactical flying units, were placed on a '1-1' status.

In January 1952, the 1st Fighter-Interceptor Wing received orders to inactivate, effective 6 February 1952, thus ending the history of one of the oldest tactical units of the United States Air Force. The personnel assigned to this wing were integrated into the 27th Air Division (Defense).

Effective 1 February 1952, the 4705th Defense Wing was organized at Norton Air Force Base, California, and assumed control of Air Force facilities at Oxnard Air Force Base, California, with the mission of training and maintaining tactical flying units to be assigned.

On 1 March 1952, the 4705th Defense Wing was discontinued and its units, the 94th and 188th Fighter-Interceptor Squadrons, were assigned directly to the 27th Air Division (Defense), and the 4750th Air Base Squadron (Gunnery Training) was assigned to Headquarters Western Air Defense Force.

On 1 March 1952, the 4734th Air Base Squadron began operations at Oxnard Air Force Base, California, under the command jurisdiction of the 27th Air Division (Defense). Major RICHARD HAWLEY, who had been assigned to oversee construction activities at that base, was designated as Commander of this Squadron which, in effect, made him Commander of Oxnard Air Force Base.

By May 1952, construction of the buildings, which was begun in August 1951, was nearly completed, and a decision was reached at Headquarters 27th Air Division (Defense) to begin manning the squadron. A movement of personnel, assigned the 4734th, but stationed at Long Beach, California, was begun. On 1 July 1952 the 4734th was designated as the 90th Air Base Squadron. This unit was entitled to the history, battle honors and colors belonging to the 90th Base Headquarters and Air Base Squadron, which disbanded on 30 April 1944.

By July 1952, permanently assigned personnel began to arrive, and by the end of December

1952, approximately seven million dollars had been allocated Oxnard Air Force Base, with a main portion of the base construction program having been completed.

Primarily, it was the task of the 90th Air Base Squadron to prepare the base for the arrival of the 354th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, which was founded at Long Beach Municipal Airport, Long Beach, California, and assigned to the 27th Air Division (Defense), effective 1 November 1952. On 16 February 1953, considerable reorganization was effected within the organizational structure of Oxnard Air Force Base, California. The 90th Air Base Squadron was inactivated and the personnel was absorbed by the 533rd Air Defense Group, which was activated at Oxnard Air Force Base on that same date. Activated at the same time was the 533rd Air Base Squadron. These units were further assigned to the 533rd Air Defense Group.

Concurrent with beginning of the 533rd Air Defense Group, the newly activated 354th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron was relieved from direct assignment to the 27th Air Division (Defense) and was assigned to the 533rd Air Defense Group at Oxnard Air Force Base, California.

The culmination of these reorganization activities resulted in the permanent establishment of the two presently assigned jet fighter units, the 94th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, tenant unit at George Air Force Base, California, and the 354th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, with its own parent group and support units at Oxnard Air Force Base, California. These two fighter-interceptor units, augmented by other units of Army, Navy, Marine and other tactical units of the Regular, Reserve and Air National Guard, stand ready to repel any possible air attack of the Southwestern Area by unfriendly forces.

On 20 November 1950, the 669th ACW Squadron, Fort Mac-Arthur, California, and the 670th ACW Squadron, Camp Cooke, California, were relieved from assignment to the 542nd Aircraft Control and Warning Group, Southern California Air Defense Sector (Provisional), and were attached to the 27th Air Division (Defense) for operational control.

On 27 November 1950, the 544th Aircraft Control and Warning Group was organized and assigned to the 27th Air Division (Defense). On the same date, the 685th ACW Squadron, Norton Air Force Base, California, the 750 ACW Squadron, Edwards Air Force Base, California, and the 751st ACW Squadron, Port Hueneme, California, were assigned to the 544th ACW Group under the jurisdiction of the 27th Air Division (Defense). Concurrently, the 669th and 670th ACW Squadrons were relieved from assignment to the 542nd ACW Group, attached to the 27th Air Division (Defense), and were assigned to the 544th ACW Group under the jurisdiction of the 27th Air Division (Defense).

The 544th ACW Group, in itself, did not function as such; the personnel assigned thereto actually operated with Headquarters 27th Air Division (Defense), with the exception of personnel retained therein to carry out administrative activities for Group personnel. The Group Commander, Colonel PHILIP C. LOOFBOURROW, was assigned as "Commandant of Troops" for Headquarters 27th Air Division (Defense) and 544th ACW Group personnel, in addition to performing the duties of Division Vice Commander.

Effective 6 February 1952, the 544th ACW Group was inactivated and its personnel were absorbed by other Western Air Defense

Force Units. The 750th ACW Squadron was relieved from an attached status and was assigned to the 27th Air Division (Defense) on 28 January 1952, moving from Edwards Air Force Base, California, to its present desert site at Boron, California, on 6 February 1952. The 751st ACW Squadron was assigned to the 27th Air Division (Defense) on 6 February 1952, from Port Hueneme, California, to its present mountain site at Mount Laguna, California. | The 669th ACW Squadron was assigned to the 27th Air Division (Defense) on 6 February 1952, moving from Fort MacArthur, California, to Port Hueneme, California, on 13 February 1952. The 670th ACW Squadron was assigned to the 27th Air Division (Defense) on 6 February 1952, moving from Camp Cooke, California, I to San Pedro, California.

On 16 April 1951, the 4771st Ground Observer Squadron, Norton Air Force Base, California, was attached to the 27th Air Division (Defense) for operational control, administration and logistical support, and on 6 February 1952, was relieved from attached status and assigned to the Division.

By 1954 the 4771st Ground Observer Squadron, and its two detachments at Pasadena and Santa Ana, California, had increased their civil defense activities to such an extent that civilian volunteer workers at their 246 observation posts and the two filter centers in the Pasadena and Santa Ana, California area totaled 9,397.

In less than four years the 27th Air Division (Defense) has evolved from a nucleus of 17 officers and 27 airmen, with no assigned units, to a widely expanded defense unit, numbering over 3,000 military personnel engaged in prosecuting the Military Air Defense Mission with up-to-date jet fighters and the latest radar, radio and teletype equipment for basic weapons, and over 9,000 civilian volunteer Ground Observer Corps workers, complementing the radar system. The fighter pilots number among themselves veterans of both World War II and Korea, who divide their time between practice in raising their own fighting proficiency, and training the younger men fresh from technical and flying schools. The people who comprise the Aircraft Control and Warning Units and the GOC are the eyes and ears of the entire defense system for the southwest sector of the United States. The safety of the nation rests with them.

The ACW personnel are located at remote, and sometimes isolated sites, with little opportunity for community or family life, but the worth of their protective watchfulness far outweighs the personal sacrifices endured. The civilian GOC volunteers engaged in "Operation Skywatch", instigated on 14 July 1952, are from all walks of life. They wear the distinctive silver wings of the Ground Observer Corps with pride.



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Air Force Order of Battle  
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Sources  
AFHRA