

703 TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

703 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), constituted 20 Mar 1943

Activated, 1 Apr 1943

Inactivated, 12 Sep 1945

Redesignated 703 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 13 May 1947

Activated in the reserve, 1 Jan 1948

Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

703 Tactical Air Support Squadron constituted, 13 Feb 1967

Activated, 3 Apr 1967

Redesignated 703 Special Operations Squadron, 1 Apr 1969

Redesignated 703 Tactical Air Support Squadron (Helicopter), 1 Nov 1971

703 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy and 703 Tactical Air Support Squadron (Helicopter)

Consolidated, 19 Sep 1985. Consolidated organization designated 703 Tactical Air Support Squadron

Inactivated, 1 Jun 1988

STATIONS

Gowen Field, ID, 1 Apr 1943

Wendover Field, UT, 8 Jun 1943

Sioux City AAB, IA, 8 Jul-20 Oct 1943

Tibbenham, England, 2 Nov 1943-30 May 1945

Ft Dix AAB, NJ, 9 Jun-12 Sep 1945

McChord Field, WA, 1 Jan 1948

Fresno, CA, 6 Jul 1948-27 Jun 1949

Shaw AFB, SC, 3 Apr 1967-1 Jun 1988

ASSIGNMENTS

445 Bombardment Group, 1 Apr 1943-12 Sep 1945

445 Bombardment Group, 1 Jan 1948

452 Bombardment Group, 28 May 1948-27 Jun 1949

507 Tactical Control Group, 3 Apr 1967

507 Tactical Control Group, 1 Apr 1969

4471 Tactical Air Support Group, 1 Jul 1969

68Tactical Air Support Group, 1 Jan 1970

507 Tactical Air Control Group (later 507 Tactical Air Control Wing), 1 Jun 1974 – 1 Jun 1988

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24, 1943-1944

CH-3

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

Gotha, Germany, 24 Feb 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

10 Feb 1972-14 Feb 1972

16 Jun 1975-31 May 1976

1 May 1981-30 April 1983

1 May 1983-30 April 1985

1 May 1985-30 April 1987

French Croix de Guerre with Palm
Dec 1943-Feb 1945

EMBLEM



703 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy emblem: Over and through a pastel blue disc, wide border ultramarine blue, a caricatured black aerial bomb, trimmed medium blue and white, in flight, having face, expressing ferocity, trimmed yellow, with red violet spinner for nose, and yellow arms with black boxing gloves thereon. (Approved, 10 Nov 1944)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Combat in ETO, 13 Dec 1943-25 Apr 1945.

The 703 Special Operations Squadron (SOS) was the first Tactical Air Command (TAC) unit to receive the new Sikorsky CH-53C helicopter. Known affectionately as the BUFF (Big Ugly Fat Fucker), it was used by the 703rd SOS for training helicopter crews scheduled for duty in Southeast Asia.

The 703 TASS began operations with its new O-2A Forward Air Control aircraft. The O-2A was the military version of the Cessna 337 Super Skymaster and was used to replace the O-2 Birddog. It had unique center line mounted twin engines, one forward and one pusher propeller in back of the cabin between the twin tail booms to provide better handling under varied power conditions. The O-2A was used in forward air control and observation operations in support of ground forces.

CH-3s assigned to the 703rd Tactical Air Support Squadron took to the skies for the last time April 28, 1985. The CH-3s were sent to Air Force and Navy Installations In Florida. The 703rd was

inactivated May 26, 1985.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 18 Nov 2010

Updated:

Sources

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

Unit history. *Shaw AFB, SC, 50th Anniversary, 1941-1991*. 363 Tactical Fighter Wing History Office. Shaw AFB, SC. 1992.