

## 37 TRAINING WING



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

37 Fighter-Bomber Wing established, 3 Mar 1953  
Activated, 8 Apr 1953  
Inactivated, 25 Jun 1953  
Redesignated 37 Tactical Fighter Wing and activated, 26 Oct 1966  
Organized, 1 Mar 1967  
Inactivated, 31 Mar 1970  
Activated, 30 Mar 1981  
Redesignated 37 Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 1991  
Inactivated, 8 Jul 1992  
Redesignated 37 Training Wing and activated, 1 Jul 1993

### STATIONS

Clovis AFB, NM, 8 Apr-25 Jun 1953  
Phu Cat AB, South Vietnam, 1 Mar 1967-31 Mar 1970  
George AFB, CA, 30 Mar 1981  
Tonopah Test Range, NV, 5 Oct 1989-8 Jul 1992  
Lackland AFB, TX, 1 Jul 1993

### ASSIGNMENTS

Ninth Air Force, 8 Apr-25 Jun 1953

Pacific Air Forces, 26 Oct 1966  
Seventh Air Force, 1 Mar 1967-31 Mar 1970  
831 Air Division, 30 Mar 1981  
Twelfth Air Force, 5 Oct 1989-8 Jul 1992  
Second Air Force, 1 Jul 1993

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

F-100, 1967-1969  
F-4, 1969-1970  
F-4, 1981-1989  
T-38, 1989-1992  
F-117, 1989-1992

### **COMMANDERS**

Lt Col George W. Bacon, 8 Apr 1953  
Col Wallace E. Hopkins, 27 Apr 1953  
Col Stephen B. Mack, 4 May-25 Jun 1953  
None (not manned), 26 Oct 1966-28 Feb 1967  
Unkn, 1 Mar-5 May 1967  
Col Raymond C. Lee Jr., 6 May 1967  
Col Edwin A. Schneider, 15 May 1967  
Col Leroy J. Manor, 15 May 1968  
Col Harry B. Trimble, 1 May 1969-31 Mar 1970  
Col Luther E. Thweatt, 30 Mar 1981  
Col Joseph W. Ashy, 10 Aug 1982  
Col Ronald C. Spivey, 7 May 1984  
Brig Gen Larry L. Henry, 12 May 1986  
Col Russell A. Everts, 17 May 1988  
Col Anthony J. Tolin, 5 Oct 1989  
Col Alton C. Whitley, 17 Aug 1990-8 Jul 1992  
Maj Gen Billy G. McCoy, 1 Jul 1993  
Maj Gen Henry M. Hobgood, 5 Aug 1993  
Brig Gen Robert J. Courter Jr., 10 Jun 1995  
Brig Gen Barry W. Barksdale, 2 Jul 1997  
Brig Gen Michael N. Farage, 21 May 1999  
Brig Gen Frederick D. Van Valkenburg Jr., 5 Oct 2001  
Col Robert H. Holmes, 18 Jul 2003  
Brig Gen Mary Kay Hertog, 11 Jun 2004  
Brig Gen Darrel Jones, 16 Jun 2006  
Brig Gen Leonard Patrick, 25 Jan 2008  
Col William H. Mott, 24 Jul 2009  
Col Eric Axelbank, 6 Jun 2011  
Brig Gen Mark D. Camerer, Sep 2012  
Col Roy Collins

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

Vietnam

Vietnam Air Offensive

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III

Vietnam Air/Ground

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV

TET 69/Counteroffensive

Vietnam Summer-Fall, 1969

Vietnam Winter-Spring, 1970

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia

Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Presidential Unit Citation

Vietnam, 1 Jul-31 Dec 1968

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device

1 Apr 1967-30 Jun 1968

1 Apr 1969-31 Mar 1970

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jun 1985-31 May 1987

16 Mar 1990-15 Mar 1992

1 Jul 1994-30 Jun 1996

1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998

1 Jul 2000-30 Jun 2002

1 Jul 2002-30 Jun 2003

1 Jul 2003-30 Jun 2004

1 Jul 2005-30 Jun 2007

1 Jul 2009-30 Jun 2010

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Mar 1967-30 Mar 1970

## Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 37 Operations Group prior to 8 Apr 1953

## Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

## Campaign Streamers

## Decorations

## EMBLEM



37 Fighter-Bomber-Wing Azure, a saltire or. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Yellow and blue are the colors of the Air Force. The griffin, the head of an eagle, body and legs of a lion, and wings represent the

swiftness, strength, and sagacity of the wing and groups in performing their mission.

37 Tactical Fighter Wing emblem: Celeste, a saltire or fimbriated azure, overall to sinister, a Nighthawk, stooping sable, garnished argent, with eyes gules, emitting three lightning flashes of the like, radiating from dexter claw to base, all within a diminished bordure of the second. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sun, the primary theater of Air Force operation. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The Nighthawk is indicative of the wing's swiftness, strength, and sagacity in deployment of the F-117A Stealth Fighter. The Nighthawk also embodies the F-117A's ability to approach its target undetected. The red eye denotes the wing's ability to find and track its target represented by the satire. The light and dark blue area suggests the unit's day-night capability, and along with the yellow area represent the wing's membership in the Air Force and Tactical Air Command. The three lightning flashes reflect the three squadrons which support the wing's mission.

37 Fighter Wing emblem: A black Nighthawk in flight, poised in an attack position, refers to the wing's ability with the F-117A Stealth Fighter to meet world-wide commitments with swiftness, strength, and sagacity. The white highlights around the hawk suggest the aircraft's spectral nature, while the white-outlined feathers allude to the F-117A's mastery over a silent approach to its intended target. The background element--a cross of Air Force yellow—denotes the 37 heritage as the "Defender of the Crossroads." The ultramarine blue border between the oriental blue areas and the arms of the yellow cross depicts the 37's membership in the Air Force and Tactical Air Command community. The transition from oriental blue to ultramarine blue insinuates the Air Force's new capability to operate effectively in both day and evening skies. The three red lightning bolts surging from the hawk's claws imply that three operational squadrons are ready to carry out the 37's mission with strength and zeal for the Air Force. The hawk's red eye denotes its ability to find and track its prey.



37 Training Wing emblem: Azure, a saltire within a diminished border Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "37 TRAINING WING" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue

alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The crossroads represent the honors bestowed on the Wing by the 37 Pursuit Group--honors the Group earned in WWII serving as the "Defenders of the Crossroads," the Panama Canal.

Approved for 37 Group on 23 Jun 1941 and for 37 Wing on 4 Aug 1953; reinstated on 10 Mar 1992; replaced emblem approved on 23 Mar 1990; newest rendition approved on 28 Mar 2013.

## **MOTTO**

DEFENDERS OF THE CROSSROADS

## **OPERATIONS**

Not tactically operational, 1953.

Combat in Southeast Asia, 15 Apr 1967- 31 Mar 1970. Flew interdiction, bombardment, escort, and close air support missions. From Jun 1967 to May 1969, also used F-100F two-place aircraft for visual and weather reconnaissance and forward air control operations.

When activated in 1981, gained assets of 35th Tactical Fighter Wing at George AFB, CA. Equipped with F-4G "Wild Weasel" radar suppression aircraft. As the Air Force's only "Wild Weasel" training wing, it provided instructor pilots and qualified aircrews for the other two "Wild Weasel" wings in the Philippines and Germany. Participated in numerous tactical, maritime, and electronic warfare exercises emphasizing hunter/killer tactics, suppression of enemy air defenses, force escort operations and dissimilar air combat training with US Armed Forces, Air National Guard and Reserves, and various allies.

Served as an advisor to Air National Guard units, 30 Mar 1981-30 Mar 1984. Won the United States Air Force Worldwide Fighter gunnery meet, 1985 and 1987.

Turned over F-4G aircraft to 35th TFW and moved to Tonopah Test Range, NV, without personnel and equipment on 5 Oct 1989, absorbing the manpower, equipment, and the world's first Stealth fighter, the F-117A, of the former 4450th Tactical Group. Trained to integrate stealth technology with more conventional methods of combat operations. Dropped the first bombs in invasion of Panama on 20 Dec 1989. Began deploying to Southwest Asia in Aug 1990. On 17 Jan 1991, Stealth fighters hit 26 high-value Iraqi targets in and around Baghdad. Continued interdiction missions throughout the war. Served as a member of Central Air Forces' (CENTAF) post-Desert Storm task force in Southwest Asia.

After departure of the F-117 Stealth Fighters in May-Jul 1992, the 37 Fighter Wing inactivated. A year later, the 37 Training Wing replaced Lackland Training Center, TX, to conduct all Air Force basic military training.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

*History and Lineage of the F-117A Stealth Fighter; Organizations.* Office of History HQ 37 TFW. Special Study HO-91-2. Dec 1991.