

72 TEST AND EVALUATION SQUADRON



MISSION

The 72 Test and Evaluation Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., is the focal point for executing operational test and evaluation of the \$44.6 billion B-2 weapon system. The squadron evaluates the ability of the B-2 weapons system to support all major requirements and reports weapon system capabilities. The unit provides experienced operations, maintenance, engineering, and analysis personnel who plan and conduct ground and flight tests, and analyze, evaluate, and report on the effectiveness and suitability of B-2 logistics support, tactics and survivability, foreign military exploitation, weapons and mission planning. The squadron reports results and conclusions to support DoD acquisition, deployment and employment decisions.

LINEAGE

72 Aero Squadron organized, 18 Feb 1918
Demobilized, 11 Jul 1919

72 Bombardment Squadron constituted, 6 Feb 1923
Activated, 1 May 1923

72 Aero Squadron reconstituted and consolidated with the 72 Bombardment Squadron,
1924. Consolidated organization designated 72 Bombardment Squadron

Redesignated 72 Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 6 Dec 1939

Redesignated 72 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 20 Nov 1940

Redesignated 72 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 6 Mar 1944

Redesignated 72 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 30 Apr 1946

Inactivated, 10 Mar 1947

Redesignated 72 Reconnaissance Squadron, Very Long Range, Photographic, 16 Sep 1947

Activated, 13 Oct 1947
Redesignated 72 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, Photographic, 23 Feb 1949
Redesignated 72 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, Heavy, 14 Nov 1950
Redesignated 72 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 1 Oct 1955
Discontinued and inactivated, 1 Feb 1963
Redesignated 72 Bomb Squadron, 30 Nov 1994
Activated, 1 Dec 1994
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1996
Redesignated 72 Test and Evaluation Squadron, 1 Nov 1998
Activated, 20 Nov 1998

STATIONS

Waco, TX, 18 Feb 1918
Rich Field, TX, 23 Feb 1918
Garden City, NY, 16 Jul-13 Aug 1918
St Maixent, France, 4 Sep 1918
Delouze, France, 20 Sep 1918
Colombey-les-Belles, France, 30 Sep 1918-Jun 1919 (detachment at Bar-le-Duc, 4 Oct-1 Dec 1918)
Mitchel Field, NY, 29 Jun-11 Jul 1919
Luke Field, TH, 1 May 1923
Hickam Field, TH, 4 Jan 1939
Bellows Field, TH, 11 Dec 1941-18 Sep 1942
Espiritu Santo, 24 Sep 1942 (operated from Guadalcanal, 4 Oct 1942-8 Aug 1943; 7 Oct-15 Nov 1943; 13 Dec 1943-27 Jan 1944)
Munda, New Georgia, 9 Jan 1944
Momote Airfield, Los Negros, 15 Apr 1944
Wadke, 19 Aug 1944
Noemfoor, 27 Sep 1944
Morotai, 24 Oct 1944
Samar, 20 Mar 1945
Clark Field, Luzon, Dec 1945-10 Mar 1947
Ladd Field, AK, 13 Oct 1947
Mountain Home AFB, ID, 28 Jun 1949
Fairfield-Suisun (later, Travis) AFB, CA, 9 Nov 1949
Mather AFB, CA, 1 Jul 1958-1 Feb 1963
Minot AFB, ND, 1 Dec 1994-1 Jul 1996
Whiteman AFB, MO, 20 Nov 1998

DEPLOYED STATIONS

RAF Station Sculthorpe, England, 31 May-15 Nov 1950
Andersen AFB, Guam, 14 Jan-12 Apr 1955

ASSIGNMENTS

Unkn, 18 Feb-Sep 1918
1st Air Depot, Sep 1918-Jun 1919
Unkn, Jun-11 Jul 1919
5th Composite Group, 1 May 1923
19th Bombardment Group, 24 Jun 1932
5th Bombardment (later, 5th Reconnaissance) Group, 12 Oct 1938-10 Mar 1947
Alaskan Air Command, 13 Oct 1947
311th Air Division, 1 Apr 1949
5th Strategic Reconnaissance Group, 28 Jun 1949
5th Strategic Reconnaissance (later, 5th Bombardment) Wing, 16 Jun 1952
4134th Strategic Wing, 1 Jul 1958-1 Feb 1963
5th Operations Group, 1 Dec 1994-1 Jul 1996
53rd Test and Evaluation Group, 20 Nov 1998

ATTACHMENTS

5th Composite Group
5th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 10 Feb 1951-15 Jun 1952

WEAPON SYSTEMS

DH-4
DH-4M
NBS-1
LB-5
B-4
B-4A
B-5
B-5A
LB-6
B-12, 1936-1938



72 Bombardment Squadron B-18 (USAAC photo)

B-18, 1938-1942

B-17, 1941, 1942-1943
B-24, 1943-1945
B-24J
B-29, 1947-1951
F-13, 1947-1948
RB-36, 1951-1955
B/RB-36, 1955-1958
B-52, 1958-1963
B-52, 1995-1996
A-3B
B-18
B-4A
B-5A
B-24J
DH-4M
LB-5A
LB-6
F-13A
RB-29A
RB-36E

COMMANDERS

Lt William Henel, Jr., 18 Feb 1918
Lt George L. Twigg, 20 Jul 1918
Unkn, Jan-11 Jul 1919
Cpt Ross G. Hoyt, 1 May 1923
Cpt Richard J. Kirkpatrick, 25 Jan 1934
1Lt Clyde V. Finter, 24 Oct 1925
Cpt Lorenzo L. Snow, 13 Apr 1926
1Lt Clyde V. Finter, 17 May 1926
Cpt Henry Pascale, 30 Jul 1926
Cpt John W. Signer, 1 Aug 1927
Cpt Harry C. Drayton, 2 Sep 1927
Cpt Horace N. Heisen, 12 Jun 1930
2Lt Edgar F. Cheatle, 28 Mar 1931
1Lt William B. Clark, 16 Dec 1931
1Lt David M. Ramsay, 21 Apr 1931
Maj John V. Hart, 2 Mar 1932
Cpt Ford J. Laur, 3 Sep 1935
Maj Idwald H. Edwards, 23 Oct 1935
Lt Paul E. Ruestow, Jul 1937
Maj Oliver P. Gothlin, Jr., 4 Sep 1937
Cpt Robert F. Travis, Jun 1939
Cpt A. W. Meehan

Maj W. R. Morgan
Maj Archibald Hanna; by Dec 1941
Maj Jay D. Rutledge Jr., Jan 1942
Maj Donald E. Ridings, 23 Mar 1942
Maj Marshall R. Gray, 26 Jun 1942
LTC Donald E. Ridings, by Sep 1942
Maj Narce Whitaker, 1 Dec 1942
Unkn, 12 Apr-14 Jun 1943
Maj Byron M. Sansom Jr., 15 Jun 1943
Maj Charles L. Peirce, 15 Nov 1943
Maj Gerald M. Cass, 4 Feb 1944
Maj Leo L. Hunt, 5 May 1944
Cpt D. G. Dougherty, 14 Aug 1944
Maj Norman C. Wahlstron, 4 Nov 1944
Maj Christopher Goldsbury, 21 Feb 1945
Maj Lee R. Williams, 26 Apr 1945
Unkn, Oct-Dec 1945
None (not manned), Jan 1946-10 Mar 1947
Maj Maynard E. White, 13 Oct 1947
LTC Charles S. Overstreet, 12 Aug 1948
Cpt William R. Vaughan, 3 Apr 1949
LTC Donald M. Hyland, 3 May 1949
LTC Martin B. Schofield, 2 Dec 1949
LTC Clarence E. Becker, 1 Jun 1952
LTC Robert J. Ray, 3 Jan 1954
LTC Holly W. Anderson, c. 30 Sep 1955
Maj Rowan M. Perkins, 3 Apr 1957
LTC Ray M. Watkins, 1 Jul 1957
LTC Harry D. Gilpin, by Dec 1961-1 Feb 1963
None (not manned), 1 Dec 1994-Jan 1995
LTC Edward T. Dixon, 6 Jan 1995-1 Jul 1996

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)

[1942]

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

13 Oct 1947-1 Jun 1949

6 Jan 1995-31 May 1996

EMBLEM





Approved, 14 Feb 1924

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Constituted in the Regular Army on 6 February 1923, assigned to the 5th Composite Group, and allotted to the Hawaiian Department.

Conducted bombing missions on lava flows from the Mauna Loa volcano to divert them from the city of Hilo, TH, 27 December 1935.

Combat in South and Southwest Pacific, 26 Sep 1942-6 Aug 1943; 4 Oct-15 Nov 1943; 24 Dec 1943-2 Apr 1944; and in Southwest and Western Pacific, 18 Apr 1944-12 Aug 1945. Flew mapping reconnaissance missions over Arctic frontiers, 1947-1949 and long range strategic reconnaissance missions, 1950-1954.

Following the trail-blazing missions around Siberia by "The Sitting Duck", the task of flying ELINT sorties in that area passed to the 72 Reconnaissance Squadron which also operated from Ladd AFB. This unit's F-13 photo reconnaissance planes (modified B-29s) carried additional fuel tanks in the bomb bay and two ELINT operators' positions in the rear pressure cabin. The 72 flew operational ELINT missions at about three-week intervals. As the missions became routine Soviet fighters would sometimes intercept the planes, and on at least one occasion a fighter fired its guns past the nose of the F-13. When intercepted, the standard procedure was for the F-13 to enter a shallow descent, build up speed and head due north or out to sea. The Soviet fighter would seldom follow for long.

Maintained capability to deliver nuclear or conventional bombs worldwide, 1955-1963 and 1995-1996.





USAF UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.