

77 AERONAUTICAL SYSTEMS WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

77 Observation Group, established, 5 Feb 1942

Activated, 2 Mar 1942

Redesignated 77 Reconnaissance Group, 2 Apr 1943

Redesignated 77 Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 11 Aug 1943

Disestablished, 30 Nov 1943

Reestablished, and redesignated 77 Tactical Intelligence Wing, 31 Jul 1985

2852 Air Base Wing established and organized, 1 Aug 1953

Redesignated 2852 Air Base Group, 16 Oct 1964

Redesignated 652 Support Group, 1 Oct 1992

Redesignated 652 Air Base Group, 1 Oct 1993

77 Tactical Intelligence Wing and 652 Air Base Group Consolidated, 16 Sep 1994

Redesignated 77 Air Base Wing, 1 Oct 1994

Inactivated, 13 Jul 2001

Agile Combat Support Systems Wing established, 23 Nov 2004

Activated, 18 Jan 2005

77 Air Base Wing and Agile Combat Support Systems Wing consolidated, 23 June 2006

Redesignated 77 Aeronautical Systems Wing, 14 July 2006

STATIONS

Salinas AAB, CA, 2 Mar 1942

Brownwood, TX, 22 Mar 1942
DeRidder AAB, LA, 25 Jul 1942
Alamo Airfield, TX, 28 Sep 1942
Abilene AAFld, TX, 6 Apr 1943
Esler Field, LA, 13 Sep 1943
Birmingham AAFld, AL, 14–30 Nov 1943
McClellan AFB, CA, 1 Aug 1953
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, 18 Jan 2005

ASSIGNMENTS

Air Force Combat Command, 2 Mar 1942
2 Air Support Command, 12 Mar 1942
III Ground Air Support Command, 24 May 1942
2 Air Force, 21 Aug 1942
II Ground Air Support Command, 7 Sep 1942
III Air Support (later, III Reconnaissance) Command, 6 Aug–30 Nov 1943
Sacramento Air Materiel Area (later, Sacramento Air Logistics Center), 1 Aug 1953
Aeronautical Systems Center, 18 Jan 2005

ATTACHMENTS

III Ground Air [later, III Air] Support Command, 7 Sep 1942–5 Aug 1943

WEAPON SYSTEMS

O–47, 1942–1943
O–38, 1942–1943
O–52, 1942–1943
L–5, 1942–1943
O–46, 1942
O–43, 1942
A–18, 1942
L–1, 1942–1943
L–4, 1942–1943
L–3, 1942–1943
L–6, 1942–1943
B–18, 1942–1943
O–49, 1942
P–39, 1942–1943
B–25, 1943
A–20, 1943
C-21, 1993

COMMANDERS

Maj Harrison W. Wellman, Mar 1942
Lt Col Christopher C. Scott, 3 Apr 1942

Col Jack C. Kennedy, c. Jun 1942
Lt Col Joseph E. Barzynski, 19 Apr–30 Nov 1943
Col Russell G. Pankey, 1 Aug 1953
Col Johnnie R. Dyer, 2 Jun 1954
Lt Col Gervais G. Coyle, 4 Apr 1958
Col Sam M. Smith, 18 Aug 1958
Col Nicholas T. Perkins, 19 Sep 1960
Col Ralph Canter, 1 Jul 1961
Col Orin H. Rigley, Jr., 1 Sep 1961
Col Charles D. Birdsall, 20 Oct 1962
Col Richard J. White, 29 Sep 1966
Col Beverley E. Davis, Jr., 1 May 1970
Col Averill F. Holman, 1 Nov 1971
Col John J. Voll, 31 Oct 1973
Col Charles C. Heckel, 31 Jul 1974
Col Frederick C. Freeman, 27 Aug 1975
Col William Campfield, Jr., 20 Jul 1979
Col John K. Davidson, 1 Aug 1982
Col Arthur C. Weiner, 30 Aug 1982
Col John D. Wood, 29 Apr 1984
Col David S. Whitman, 4 Aug 1985
Col James F. Wilson, 31 Aug 1988
Col Christopher F. Russo, 25 Aug 1992
Col Carter A. Borland, 18 Aug 1995
Col William P. Ard, 11 Jul 1997
Col Charles A. Cotter, 4 Jun 1999
Col Keith H. Caudle, 27 Nov 2000–13 Jul 2001
Col Bruce A. Litchfield, 18 Jan 2005
Ms Lynda K. Waring, 9 Jan 2006

HONORS

Service Streamers

American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jan 1969–31 Dec 1970

1 Jan 1973– 31 Dec 1974

14 Jul 1999–13 Jul 2001

EMBLEM



2852 Air Base Group emblem



77 Air Base Wing emblem

77 Aeronautical Systems Wing: Or, a broad-winged hawk volant Proper, radiating from behind its head seven flashes Gules, issuant from base a mountain range of seven peaks Azure, all within a diminished bordure of the first. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "77 AERONAUTICAL SYSTEMS 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 flying hawk represents swiftness and decisiveness, its alertness emphasized by the flashes from behind its head. The mountains in the background represent the Sierra Nevada mountain range. The Wing's numerical designation is indicated by the seven flashes emitting from behind the hawk's head and from the seven peaks in the background. (Approved, 28 Feb 1943 and

slightly modified, 15 Jun 1994; replaced emblem approved, 15 Jun 1955)

MOTTO

ALL SEEING

OPERATIONS

Supported ground units in training by flying reconnaissance, artillery adjustment, fighter, and bomber missions, and in the process trained reconnaissance personnel who later served overseas. One squadron flew antisubmarine patrols over the Gulf of Mexico from Mar until Jun 1942 when it was relieved by another squadron. Still another squadron patrolled the Mexican border, Mar–Jul 1942. A detachment of the 77 served in India from Feb until Jul 1943.

Provided services and support for McClellan AFB with its satellite installations and the Sacramento Air Logistics Center with its tenant organizations, 1 Aug 1953.

Provided services and support for McClellan AFB with its satellite installations and the Sacramento Air Logistics Center and its tenant organizations, Aug 1953-Jul 2001.

Although the Sacramento Air Logistics Center has most of the people on base and clearly has the largest role operating the business of the depot, it is still just a tenant at McClellan. The actual responsibility for running the base as host falls to the commander, 77 Air Base Wing, and his staff: a considerable task, since McClellan is the Air Force's seventh largest base.

The 77 ABW consists of three groups, a logistics directorate, a flight operations support squadron, and key staff offices. It has over 2000 military and civilian personnel and a \$62 million operating budget (FY96). The wing provides security and law enforcement, transportation, airfield management, depot and base level supply support, services activities, a consolidated command post, and upkeep for over 800 base facilities. The wing commander also has responsibility for civilian and military personnel offices, the communications squadron, social actions, chaplain's office, the aviation museum, the base's readiness exercise program, and more.

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, Virginia.

Unit history. *McClellan AFB, CA, A Pictorial History*. 1982.