A Brief History of the 3rd Wing

Activation and Early Aviation

In the aftermath of World War I, as the fledgling air service struggled for peacetime legitimacy, the first predecessor unit of the 3rd Wing was born. Activated as the Army Surveillance Group on 1 July 1919, the group was a loosely organized band of World War I veterans and newcomers serving on detached duty at scattered outposts along the Rio Grande—from Brownsville, Texas, to Nogales, Arizona. The group patrolled the U.S. Mexican border following several cross-border incidents instigated by unrest in northern Mexico. Though activated on 1 July, the group did not coalesce into a recognizable unit until its headquarters element activated as the 1st Army Surveillance Group on 15 August 1919. The group joined two other operational groups to form the 1st Wing—a composite organization of bombers, scouts, and pursuit planes.

Of the three original groups that formed the 1st Wing at Kelly Field, Texas, only the 1st Army Surveillance Group did not see action as in World War I. However, the group's initial complement of squadrons—the 8th, 12th, 13th (formerly the 104th), and 90th Observation Squadrons—each saw action in World War I and the 19 Maltese victory crosses that grace the border of the 3rd Wing emblem represent their aerial victories from that war. The missions flown by the observation squadrons were considered paramount in World War I. They apprised commanders of enemy ground movements and troop concentrations—certainly a hazardous and somewhat tenuous arrangement as many of the aerial battles were fought to keep that information from the ground commanders. During the last great offensive of the war, the observation squadrons expanded their usefulness by taking on close air support missions, firing their machine guns against German ground positions just in front of Allied troops.

From its humble and scattered beginnings the group wrote important chapters of airpower history over the course of 90-plus years. Flying the unreliable DeHavilland DH-4, the original surveillance mission did not hold much glamour or relevance by the early 1920s. The days of Pancho Villa and Mexican border guerrillas had largely ended by the time the group was in place and on 15 September 1921, the 1st Army Surveillance Group passed into history. Thereafter the group became the 3rd Attack Group—the numerical designation and mission that remains intact today.

The 3rd Attack Group became an important experimental organization, and its squadrons contributed resources and personnel to noteworthy aviation firsts, such as Lieutenant Jimmy Doolittle's transcontinental flight in 1922—the first to take place in under 24-hours. Pictures of the 3rd Attack Group aircraft in the interwar period highlight the experimental and highly transitory nature of its op-
In 1927, the 3rd Attack Group flew mail to Calvin Coolidge's "Summer White House" in the Black Hills of South Dakota. After a revolution in Mexico in 1929, the group began to fly its old border patrol missions again, though only briefly. By 1934, the group had begun to fly mail again, this time taking over for commercial contractors. The group’s route was from Casper, Wyoming to Chicago, Illinois, and lasted from February to May, 1934.

By the mid-1930s, worldwide tensions were clearly on the rise. From Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, the group played an important role in training the air leaders of World War II. Indeed, the tactics of dive bombing and medium altitude light bombing were in a revolutionary period. From 1939 to 1941, the group rapidly dispersed its alumni around the greatly expanding Air Force, including future Generals Nathan Twining, Hoyt Vandenberg, and Earl Partridge. While stationed at Barksdale, the group also participated heavily in the famous prewar Louisiana Maneuvers, a series of exercises designed to test US military capabilities in the months just prior to the US entry into World War II.

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
World War II

At the start of World War II, the 3rd Attack Group flew the revolutionary A-20 attack bomber, however that plane was not available in sufficient quantities to outfit its four squadrons. In addition to lacking equipment, when the war started, most of the group’s senior leadership transferred to other assignments, leaving the group under the command of 1st Lieutenant Robert F. Strickland. After flying a few antisubmarine patrols over the Gulf of Mexico from its base near Savannah, Georgia, the group received orders to move en masse without planes or equipment, to San Francisco, California. On 19 January 1942, they left Georgia for a cross-country train ride to Fort Mason, California where they awaited transportation to an undisclosed destination. On 23 January they boarded the U.S.S. Ancon, bound for Brisbane Australia. They travelled over land to their final destination, Charters Towers, Australia, arriving there on 25 February 1942, becoming the first US air-based unit to arrive in that country following the US entry into the war.

The 3rd Attack Group took part in the desperate early fighting against the Japanese. As was generally the case in the very early days of World War II, the 3rd Attack Group conducted very hazardous operations against a superior force in spite of being under manned and very poorly equipped. Outnumbered and often unescorted, the group suffered high losses but soldiered on, having always been known for its esprit d’corps. They began calling themselves “the Grim Reapers,” a reference to the emblem of the 13th Bombardment Squadron, one of the group’s original squadrons that briefly flew missions against the Japanese from a secret base in Mindanao before the Philippines fell.

In September 1942, the Army changed the group’s designation to the 3rd Bombardment Group (Dive), and shortly thereafter, changed it once more to the 3rd Bombardment Group (Light). The group was still short of supplies and aircraft--they only had enough equipment to outfit a single squadron--but through the employment of innovation and creative acquisition of aircraft and supplies, the group soon began wartime operations with A-20s, A-24s and B-25s. The A-24 Dauntless proved unsatisfactory; almost all of the group's complement became operational losses. Thereafter, the group flew the A-20 and B-25 medium bombers exclusively.

By March 1943, the group was a taut, warfighting organization that attacked the Japanese in the tense battle for New Guinea with as much strength as it could muster. In attacks on a convoy of ships entering the Bismarck Sea, 3rd Bombardment Group A-20s and B-25s decimated the enemy fleet. This Battle of the Bismarck Sea changed the complexion of the war. No longer able to supply its forward bases at Lae, New Guinea, the Japanese retreated into a series of unsuccessful holding operations. The 3 March 1943 battle was considered one of the most decisive of all time for airpower. The 90th Bombardment Squadron had been experimenting with low level "skip bombing" for many weeks on a rusting merchant hulk near their airfield. Also, Maj Paul "Pappy" Gunn devised an ingenious field modification of a B-25C that involved replacing the forward bombardier with four forward
firing .50 caliber machine guns, supplemented with two twin .50 caliber gun packages side mounted on the fuselage. The rear machine gun and lower turret were discarded. This change made the B-25 into a fearsome low-level attack plane. During the Bismarck Sea operations, pilots attacked ships from just above mast height, firing the forward firing machine guns to silence the ship’s antiaircraft fire. This allowed the 90th Bombardment Squadron to score the most impressive hits of the battle with eleven of the twelve attacking B-25s scoring direct hits on Japanese ships. Later that afternoon, the 90th was one of the few squadrons that beat the weather to find the remnants of the convoy and claimed another eight hits on enemy ships. At least 12 Japanese ships were sunk and any pretenses they retained toward air superiority inexorably vanished.

Figure 2: An A-20 from the 3rd Bombardment Group barely hit the mast of a Japanese freighter after a low-level skip bomb attack. This photo was taken during an attack on Japanese ships in the harbor at Rabaul, New Guinea. Major Raymond Wilkins was killed during the battle while exposing his aircraft to Japanese guns in order to allow the rest of his squadron to get clear of the heavy fire. He is one of two Medal of Honor recipients in the 3rd Wing’s history.

The 3rd Bomb Group helped to reduce the Japanese bastion at Rabaul, New Britain, in 1943 and 1944. The group spearheaded low-level assaults on surrounding enemy airfields and later led attacks against enemy shipping. In an attack on Rabaul Harbor on 2 November 1943, the 3rd Group

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
led the striking force which eventually claimed 95,000 tons of shipping. In the process, Maj Ray-
mond H. Wilkins—a veteran of the group's darkest days, a former A-24 pilot and Commander of the
8th Bombardment Squadron, lost his life drawing enemy cruiser fire away from other bombers under
his command. They had established a choke-point at the neck of the harbor and shot a withering vari-
ety of anti-aircraft artillery and large caliber ammunition in an attempt to break up the attacks. Major
Wilkins subsequently received a posthumous award of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The 3rd Bombardment Group continued to serve with distinction throughout the remainder of
the Pacific campaign, helping to permanently reduce Japanese air capacity at Wewak, New Guinea,
and acquiring new A-26 Invader aircraft for the final assault on the Japanese mainland. Acquisition
of the A-26 had future significance for the group. For the better part of the next decade, the group
flew the A-26 as their primary aircraft.

Post War and Korea

After the end of World War II, the 3rd Bombardment Group moved to Iwakuni Air Base, Ja-
pan as part of the US occupation force. The group took on new peacetime missions in addition to its
attack mission in the A-26, especially that of photographic reconnaissance in a motley assortment of
aircraft from the F-2 (C-45 Expediter) to the F-9 (Photographic version of the B-17). On 18 August
1948, the new Air Force organizational configuration was in place, and the 3rd Wing was activated.
Wings in the new Air Force were configured very closely to the organization of the old groups and
the Air Force perpetuated the history of the 3rd Bombardment Group by bestowing its combat record
and history on the newly formed 3rd Bombardment Wing.

Figure 3: 3rd Bombardment Wing B-26s are prepared for the next night's missions at Kunsan Air Base, Korea dur-
ing the Korean War.

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
Still flying the Invader (which had been redesignated "B-26" after the active retirement of Marauders from the inventory, confounding aircraft purists ever since) from Iwakuni Air Base, the wing was in position to intervene on the Korean Peninsula when hostilities began in June 1950. The first aerial victory over North Korea came at the hands of Sergeant Nyle Mickly, a B-26 gunner assigned to the 3rd Bombardment Wing, when he shot down a North Korean YAK-3 on 30 June 1950. As in World War II, the group built a distinguished record of service in Korea. Its gloss-black Invaders flew night interdiction missions and became specialists in the art of locomotive busting (destroying over 300 engines during the war). On one such mission, 14 September 1951, Capt John S. Walmsley of the 8th Bombardment Squadron, attacked a train until he ran out of ammunition. He radioed for a follow-up strike and remained in the target area, illuminating the train with a spotlight for the subsequent strikes. His aircraft naturally came under intense fire as he illuminated the target, but he bravely persisted until he was shot down, but the target was destroyed. Like Major Wilkins, Captain Walmsley received a posthumous Medal of Honor.

In 1951, the 3rd Bombardment Wing moved to Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea, where it remained for the duration of the war. The 3rd Wing, one of the first air units to intervene on the side of the United Nations in 1950 was also the last air unit to drop ordnance on the North on 27 July 1953. After the cease-fire, the wing moved back to Iwakuni where it underwent a slight mission realignment in the mid-1950s and was redesignated the 3rd Bombardment Wing, Tactical. There, the wing flew its final missions with the propeller driven B-26s in 1956 with the arrival of their new aircraft, B-57 Canberra medium bombers.

Vietnam

By 1964, the 3rd Bombardment Wing as it had previously existed slipped away and the Air Force gave it a new designation, the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing. It also moved, without personnel or equipment, to England AFB, Louisiana, where the wing assumed a multi-dimensional attack mission, flying the B-57, F-100, A-1, and F-5 aircraft. As it had done at Barksdale before World War II, the wing trained and equipped for an escalating conflict, this time the war in Southeast Asia. Detached elements of the wing were involved in the conflict from almost the beginning and the wing physically moved to Bien Hoa Air Base, South Vietnam on 25 November 1965. The headquarters and operational elements of the wing engaged in furious combat throughout Southeast Asia, flying more than 200,000 operational sorties while often coming under attack from insurgents.

During one such attack during the infamous Tet Offensive, the airfield came under intense fire from Viet Cong forces intent on capturing the base. Unlike other air bases in South Vietnam, the ground defense of Bein Hoa was totally in the hands of the 3rd Security Police Squadron and 100 Airmen on security augmentee duty, with no heavy artillery backup. The only obstacle standing between the Viet Cong and the flightline was Bunker Hill 10, a reinforced concrete bunker built by the French in the late 1940s, manned by two security police and a security augmentee. No one knows exactly how many Viet Cong attacked the base, but the outstanding efforts of the defenders,
especially those of two members of the wing, typified the actions of the base defense team. Captain Reginald V. Maisey directed the defense from Bunker Hill 10 during the most intense early stages of the attack, often exposing himself to enemy fire in order to communicate with the Security Command Post and to direct the efforts of the defenders in the bunker until he was hit and killed by the enemy. He received the Air Force Cross and Bronze Star with “V” device for his valor in keeping the base from falling. Staff Sergeant William Piazza, the NCO in charge of four ammunition resupply teams on duty at the time of the attack, drove through enemy positions to resupply the troops defending the base. He joined the battle, engaging the enemy with his M-16 and a 40 mm grenade launcher. Attack helicopters and gunships joined the battle and provided flares to help defenders see the attacking force. When the helicopters ran out of flairs, SSgt Piazza threw out handheld flares and directed fire from outside the bunker. His efforts resulted in his award of the Silver Star.

At the end of the attack, the official reports disagreed on the number of enemy casualties—one said 139 attackers were killed while another said 153 with 25 prisoners—but only two Airmen died in the attack, Captain Massey and a sentry caught out in the open in the initial assault. All 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing operations in Vietnam ceased on 31 October 1970 and personnel and equipment were reassigned to other units in preparation for the wing's departure to Korea the following spring.

Figure 4: Col Homer K. Hansen, 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing Commander, sits in his cockpit after flying the wing’s 100,000th combat mission at Bien Hoa Air Base near Saigon, South Vietnam.
Clark Air Base, Philippines

On 15 March 1971, the wing moved to Kunsan Air Base, Korea where it assimilated the equipment and personnel from the 475th Tactical Fighter Wing. Thousands of people witnessed the wing's rebirth as a formation of F-4Ds formed a three during a fly over. After becoming a proficient F-4 combat wing, the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing moved to Clark AB, Republic of the Philippines on 18 September, 1974 replacing the 405th Fighter Wing, where it remained for 17 tumultuous years.

The first order of business for the wing in the Philippines was establishing an orderly transit point for personnel and equipment returning from Vietnam, as that conflict wound down. During the evacuation of Saigon, the wing supported the "Operation Babylift" and "Operation Newlife" evacuations and received an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its tireless actions for the period from 5 April to 31 May 1975.

The 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing became synonymous with Clark Air Base in the ensuing years. The wing focused on an air superiority role during the late 1970s. Its various aircraft sported shark's mouth markings--the most colorful in the Pacific Air Forces (PACAF). Beginning in 1976, the wing

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
hosted the PACAF Cope Thunder exercises at the Crow Valley Range and other weapons ranges in the Philippines. These were the premier tactical weapons exercises in the Pacific at that time.

Political instability in the Republic became increasingly acute in the 1980s and governmental turmoil caused the wing to maintain a constant vigil. In 1986, the wing won another Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for supporting the Air Force mission during the tenuous transition of power from Ferdinand Marcos to the newly installed democratic government. After the fall of the Marcos regime, bases in the Philippines came under increased pressure from the newly elected government. Nationalists wanted an end to the American presence. Others wanted to renew the base treaties with the United States, but at an extremely high price. Negotiations with the Philippine Government plodded on for many months. The tension was palpable as increased terrorist activity began to restrict the free movement of U.S. personnel. This general instability required the wing to stand pat--sending only a detachment of F-4G Wild Weasel personnel, but no planes, to Operation Desert Storm.

When Mount Pinatubo erupted on 14 June 1991, the wing's future in the Philippines was decided by nature. Clark AB, covered with debris, was hastily evacuated and the extended American presence in the Philippines, dearly won in 1944, summarily ended. The wing, the longest continuously serving unit of its kind in the Air Force, needed a new home.
North to Alaska

Elmendorf AFB, near Anchorage, Alaska, the premier base of the Eleventh Air Force, proved to be the perfect location. Billy Mitchell considered Alaska the most strategic place in the world due to its proximity to the arctic air routes that greatly speeded travel to points around the globe. From its new home, the relocated wing could rapidly answer the call to move anywhere it was required. Re-designated the 3rd Wing in the months prior to its relocation to Alaska, the new name indicated a general mission carried out by many types of aircraft. Since 19 December 1991, the 3rd Wing has maintained vigil over the North Pacific.

When the wing activated in Alaska, it included the 43rd and 54th Fighter Squadrons flying F-15 C/Ds, and the 90th Fighter Squadron with F-15Es. Shortly thereafter, the wing added the 517th Airlift Squadron (C-130s) and the 962nd Airborne Air Control Squadron (E-3s), making it a truly composite wing. In the ensuing years, while the wing continued to operate F-15s at Elmendorf, the only fighter squadron that remained unchanged was the 90th Fighter Squadron. The 19th Fighter Squadron replaced the 43rd Fighter and the 12th Fighter Squadron took over for the 54th, all flying F-15 s. Then, in 2007 the 517th Airlift Squadron exchanged its C-130s, the only aircraft the squadron flew since activating in Alaska in 1964, with a fleet of C-17s, and the wing added a new squadron, the 525th Fighter Squadron to join the 90th flying the Air Force’s fifth-generation fighter, the F-22. An era officially came to an end in September 2010 when the last F-15 assigned to the wing departed.

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
At the end of 2011 the wing included five operational squadrons flying C-12s, C-17s, C-130s, E-3s and F-22s with both Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Associate Squadrons. The 302nd Fighter Squadron, assigned to the 477th Fighter Group (Air Force Reserve), flew 3rd Wing F-22s, and members of that organization deployed along with their active duty counterparts for the first time in 2010. The 249th Airlift Squadron provided people to work on and fly C-17s from the 517th Airlift Squadron, and many missions included crews with representatives from each squadron working together. In 2011 the 176th Wing (Air National Guard) moved to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson from Kulis Air National Guard Base at the Anchorage International Airport, and the 3rd Wing activated the 537th Airlift Squadron as an active duty reverse associate unit with the 144th Airlift Squadron. They recently deployed to Korea and Japan where they provided airlift support to the headquarters Pacific Air Forces inspector General during inspections in Korea and Japan.

The greatest single change to the wing in more than 50 years occurred in June 2010, when the Mission Support and Medical Groups inactivated as part of the joint base initiative as directed by Congress. When Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson stood up, the 3rd Wing became a tenant organization on the base, supported by the 673rd Air Base Wing. This move left only the Operations and Maintenance Groups active within the wing but kept its mission essentially unchanged allowing the wing commander to focus on that mission.

Since moving to Alaska, The wing enjoyed many successful years, with deployments to Operations NORTHERN WATCH, SOUTHERN WATCH, ALLIED FORCE, and ENDURING FREEDOM, counter-drug operations in Panama, and humanitarian assistance missions throughout the world. It also began playing a greater role in theater stabilization efforts in the western Pacific. 2011 marked the

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
third consecutive year that saw one or more 3rd Wing squadron deployed in support of the Commander, US Pacific Command’s Theater Support Program to increase the US military presence in the western Pacific. The wing remained active in humanitarian operations as well, deploying people and aircraft for airlift support to Haiti in 2010 and Japan in 2011 following devastating earthquakes in those countries and the subsequent tsunami in Japan.

The 3rd Wing’s time in Alaska has not been without tragedy. On 22 September 1995 an E-3B, call-sign YUKLA 27, crashed on takeoff from Elmendorf AFB, claimed the lives of all 24 crewmembers. The 3rd Wing later built a memorial in their honor near its headquarters. On 26 July 1998, Lt Gen. David McCloud, the visionary Commander of the Eleventh Air Force, died when the private aircraft he was flying crashed on Fort Richardson near Elmendorf AFB. In 2008, the wing commander, Brigadier General Thomas Tinsley, died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. In 2010, the wing suffered two more fatal aircraft crashes; a C-17 operated by a mixed crew from the 517th and 249th Airlift Squadrons crashed on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson while practicing an aerial demonstration program for an upcoming airshow, and an F-22 assigned to the 525th Fighter Squadron crashed north of Anchorage in a remote, mountainous region near Cantwell, Alaska.

Remarkably, through strong leadership and with the involvement of many people throughout the wing, these tragedies were dealt with and people recovered and moved on. No matter the situation, whether a tragedy or some other major change faced by the wing over the years, the 3rd Wing's legacy presents an ongoing challenge to its membership to uphold the traditions rooted in past achievements while remaining ever mindful that potential adversaries old and new remember the wing well.

The wing's motto was approved in January 1922 and is one of the oldest in the Air Force. Non Solum Armis is Latin for "Not By Arms Alone." This phrase harkens back to the wing's many missions during its storied past. The wing's unique emblem is a collection of elements from its days on the Rio Grande. The cactus represents the region's desolate character and the blue stripe the river itself (and the Air Force's principal operating area--the limitless sky). The wing has never been inactivated.
3rd Wing Lineage and Honors

List of Commanders

Army Surveillance Group
Maj B.B. Butler 1 Jul 1919

1st Surveillance Group
Maj B.B. Butler 15 Aug 1919
Maj William G. Schaufller, Jr. 1 Sep 1919
Lt Col Henry B. Clagett 27 Sep 1919
Maj Leo A. Walton 20 Nov 1919

3rd Group (Attack)
Maj Leo A. Walton 15 Sep 1921
Maj Leo G. Heffernan 10 Oct 1921
Lt Col Seth W. Cook 22 Aug 1922

3rd Attack Group
Lt Col Seth W. Cook 25 Jan 1923
Maj Lewis H. Brereton 5 Feb 1923
Maj Harvey B.S. Burwell 25 Jun 1924
Capt Joseph H. Davidson Feb 1926
Maj Frank D. Lackland 26 Jun 1926
Maj John H. Jouett 15 Aug 1928
Maj Davenport Johnson 27 Feb 1930
Lt Col Horace M. Hickam 18 Jun 1932
Lt Col Earl L. Naiden 5 Nov 1934
Col J.A. Rader Jul 1937
Maj O.S. Ferson Aug 1938
Col John C. McDonnell Sep 1938

3 Bombardment Group (Light)
Col John C. McDonnell 15 Sep 1939
Lt Col R.G. Breen Nov 1940
Lt Col Paul L. Williams Dec 1940
Lt Col Phillips Melville 18 Aug 1941
1st Lt Robert F. Strickland 19 Jan 1942
Col John H. Davies 2 Apr 1942

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
3rd Wing Lineage and Honors

3 Bombardment Group (Dive)
Col John H. Davies 28 Sep 1942
Lt Col Robert F. Strickland 26 Oct 1942
Maj Donald P. Hall 28 Apr 1943

3 Bombardment Group (Light)
Maj Donald P. Hall 25 May 1943
Lt Col James A. Downs 20 Oct 1943
Col John P. Henebry 7 Nov 1943

3 Bombardment Group, Light
Col John P. Henebry 14 Feb 1944
Lt Col Richard H. Ellis 27 Jun 1944
Col John P. Henebry 30 Oct 1944
Col Richard H. Ellis 28 Dec 1944
Col Charles W. Howe 1 May 1945
Lt Col James E. Sweeney 7 Dec 1945
Maj L.B. Weigold Feb 1946
Col Edward H. Underhill 23 Apr 1946
Lt Col John P. Crocker 3 Jan 1947
Col Edward H. Underhill 28 Mar 1947

3rd Bombardment Wing, Light
Col James R. Gunn 18 Aug 1948
Col Gerry L. Mason 16 Jun 1949
Lt Col Wilmer A. Hardesty 17 Jun 1949
Col Robert W. Witty 24 Jun 1949
Col Lawrence C. Coddington 1 Apr 1950
Col Thomas B. Hall c. Jun 1950
Col Strother B. Hardwick, Jr. c. July 1950
Col Virgil L. Zoller 14 Aug 1950
Col Donald L. Clark 23 Aug 1950
Col Virgil L. Zoller 1 Dec 1950
Col Nils O. Ohman 24 Jul 1951
Col Marshall R. Gray 4 Mar 1952
Col Eugene B. LeBailly 14 Aug 1952
Col Roger E. Phelan 12 Aug 1953
Col William H. Matthews 2 Feb 1954
Col Edwin A. Doss 22 Feb 1954
Col William B. Reed 2 Apr 1954

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
<table>
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<th>Colonel</th>
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<td>Homer C. Munsan</td>
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<td>Robert J. Ahern</td>
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<td>Carl R. Norton</td>
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<td>Charles S. Overstreet</td>
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<td><strong>3rd Tactical Fighter Wing</strong></td>
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<td>9 Jan-18 Feb 1964</td>
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<td>Phillip Brooks</td>
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<td>Waring W. Wilson</td>
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<td>Robert A. Ackerly</td>
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<td>William E. Charleston</td>
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<td>Abner M. Aust, Jr.</td>
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<td>Charles A. Watry</td>
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<td>Paul A. Kauttu</td>
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<td>Harry W. Schurr</td>
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<td>Lacy W. Breckenridge</td>
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<td>Alfred M. Miller, Jr.</td>
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<td>James R. Brown</td>
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<td>Thomas S. Swalm</td>
<td>1 Aug 1978</td>
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<td>Martin H. Mahrt</td>
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<td>Thomas G. McInerney</td>
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3rd Wing Lineage and Honors

Brig Gen John A. Corder 6 Feb 1981
Col Willard R. MacFarlane 5 Aug 1983
Col Charles F. Luigs 25 May 1985
Col Ronald W. Iverson 27 Mar 1986
Col Frank D. Garza 25 Feb 1988
Col Jeffrey R. Grime 26 Jan 1990
Col Bruce M. Freeman 7 Aug 1991

3rd Wing
Col Rodney P. Kelly 19 Dec 1991
Brig Gen Thomas R. Case 23 Jul 1993
Brig Gen Hugh C. Cameron 27 Mar 1995
Brig Gen William J. Lake 4 Nov 1996
Brig Gen Jonathan S. Gration 8 Jun 1998
Brig Gen Douglas M. Fraser 20 Jan 2000
Brig Gen Robertus C.N. Remkes 5 Apr 2002
Brig Gen Michael A. Snodgrass 26 Jan 2004
Brig Gen Herbert H. Carlisle 20 May 2005
Brig Gen Thomas L. Tinsley 11 May 2007
Col Richard Walberg 27 Jul 2008 (Acting)
Brig Gen Thomas Bergeson 18 Aug 2008
Col John K. McMullen 16 Jun 2010
Col Dirk D. Smith 26 Aug 2011
Col David S. Nahom 20 Mar 2013

List of Command Chiefs

CMSgt William G. Johnson 20 Sep 1973
CMSgt James L. Anderson, Jr. 1 Oct 1979
CMSgt Thomas F.C. Carrender 1 Jul 1985
CMSgt William F. Nelson 1 Oct 1989
CMSgt John J. Eldridge 19 Dec 1991
CMSgt Earl C. Strang 1 Jul 1992
CMSgt Jerry D. LeBeau 27 Jul 1993
CMSgt Richard Foster 23 Sep 1996
CMSgt Timothy Dickens 27 Nov 1998
CMSgt Leo Semmler 1 Oct 2001
CMSgt Ramsay Pryce (Interim) 27 Feb 2003
CMSgt Robert Tapanna 26 Jun 2003
CMSgt Benjamin R. Van Vleet (Interim) 25 Nov 2005

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
3rd Wing Lineage and Honors

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>CMSgt Timothy P. Carroll</td>
<td>3 Jan 2006</td>
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<td>CMSgt Gerard Cappello</td>
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<td>CMSgt Dean Mclean (Interim)</td>
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<td>CMSgt Tom Baker</td>
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<td>CMSgt Eric Light (Interim)</td>
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<td>CMSgt Jose A. Barraza</td>
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3rd Wing Lineage and Honors

3rd Wing


**Assignments**

- 314 Air Division, 18 Aug 1948
- Fifth Air Force, 1 Mar 1950
- 41 Air Division, 1 Mar 1955
- Fifth Air Force, 1 Feb 1957
- 41 Air Division, 10 Nov 1958
- Twelfth Air Force, 8 Jan 1964 (attached to 4481 Air Division, Provisional, 8 Jan-30 Jun 1964)
- 834 Air Division, 1 Jul 1964
- 2 Air Division, 8 Nov 1965
- Seventh Air Force, 1 Apr 1966
- Fifth Air Force, 15 Mar 1971
- 314 Air Division, 15 Mar 1971
- Thirteenth Air Force, 16 Sep 1974
- Eleventh Air Force, 19 Dec 1991-

**Stations.** Yokota AB, Japan, 18 Aug 1948; Johnson AB, Japan, 1 Apr 1950; Yokota AB, Japan, 14 Aug 1950; Iwakuni AB, Japan, 1 Dec 1950; Kunsan AB, South Korea, 22 Aug 1951; Johnson AB, Japan, 1 Oct 1954; Yokota AB, Japan, 18 Nov 1960-8 Jan 1964; England AFB, LA, 8 Jan 1964-Nov 1965; Bien Hoa AB, South Vietnam, 8 Nov 1965; Kunsan AB, South Korea, 15 Mar 1971; Clark AB, Philippines, 16 Sep 1974-19 Dec 1991; Elmendorf AFB, AK, 19 Dec 1991-

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
3rd Wing Lineage and Honors

Operational Components

Groups:


Squadrons:

7th Airborne Command and Control: 31 Mar-14 Aug 1975 (detached)
8th Tactical Reconnaissance: attached 18 Apr 1949-1 Apr 1950
10th Fighter: 8 Apr 1966-17 Apr 1967
20th Operations: 16 Sep 1974-31 Mar 1975
25th Tactical Fighter: 18-19 Dec 1975
26th Tactical Fighter (later, 26 Tactical Fighter Training; 26 Tactical Fighter Training Aggressor; 26 Aggressor): 16 Sep 1974-1 Oct 1988
35th Tactical Fighter: 15 Mar 1971-16 Sep 1974 (detached 1 Apr-12 Oct 1972)
36th Tactical Fighter: 15 May 1971-16 Sep 1974
40th Fighter-Interceptor: attached 1 Dec 1961-31 May 1962
44th Tactical Fighter: attached 3 Apr-2 Jun 1972 and 28 Jul-8 Sep 1972
67th Tactical Fighter: attached 2 Jun-28 Jul 1972 and 8 Sep-16 Oct 1972
68th Tactical Fighter: 16 Sep 1974-30 Sep 1975
80th Tactical Fighter: 15 Mar 1971-16 Sep 1974
307th Tactical Fighter: attached 21 Nov-6 Dec 1965

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
3rd Wing Lineage and Honors

310th Attack: 15-30 Nov 1969
311th Attack: 15 Nov-15 Dec 1969
421st Air Refueling: attached 21 Nov 1960-1 Jun 1962
429th Tactical Fighter: attached c. 21 Nov-14 Dec 1965
602nd Fighter: attached 21 Nov 1965-8 Mar 1966
731st Bombardment: attached 1 Dec 1950-25 Jun 1951


Honors.

Service Streamers. None

Campaign Streamers.

Korea: UN Defensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953

Vietnam: Vietnam Defensive; Vietnam Air; 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; Sanctuary Counteroffensive; Southwest Monsoon

Southwest Asia: Defense of Saudi Arabia; Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers.

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
None

Decorations.


Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation: 27 Jun-31 Jul 1950


Bestowed Honors. Authorized to display honors earned by the 3rd Bombardment Group prior to 18 Aug 1948

Service Streamers. None

Campaign Streamers.

World War II:

American Campaign: Antisubmarine

Asiatic Pacific Campaign: East Indies; Air Offensive, Japan; Papua; New Guinea; Bismarck Archipelago; Western Pacific; Leyte; Luzon; Southern Philippines

Decorations.

Distinguished Unit Citations: Papua, 23 Jul 1942-23 Jan 1943; New Guinea, 17 Aug 1943 Philippine Presidential Unit Citation


Description. Party per bend vert and sable in chief a cactus (prickly pear) or, a bend azure fimbriated of the third, all within a bordure argent charged with nineteen crosses patee of the second.
3rd Wing Lineage and Honors

Significance. The shield is divided diagonally into the original colors of the Air Service, green and black. Over the dividing line is a band of the Air Force’s present colors, ultramarine blue and golden yellow representative of the Rio Grande River dividing the US and Mexico. On the green field is a yellow cactus commemorating the group’s first patrols along the Mexican border. Around the shield is a white border with black German crosses equal to the number of aerial victories credited to the group’s original squadrons during the great war.

Motto. Non Solum Armis – Not by Arms Alone
Subordinate Units Lineage and Honors

3rd Operations Group


Assignments.

Unkn, 1 Jul 1919-1929 (attached to 1st Wing [Provisional], 1 Jul 1922-unkn)
3rd Attack Wing, c. 8 May 1929-unkn
3rd Wing, 1 Mar 1935
17th Bombardment Wing, 16 Jan 1941
III Air Support Command, 1 Sep 1941
III Bomber Command, 8 Dec 1941
III Air Support Command, 2 Jan 1942
United States Army Forces in Australia, Feb 1942
Allied Air Forces, Southwest Pacific Area, 18 Apr 1942
V Bomber Command, 5 Sep 1942
314th Composite Wing, 31 May 1946
3rd Wing, 19 Dec 1991-
Subordinate Units Lineage and Honors

**Stations.** Kelly Field, TX, 1 Jul 1919; Ft Bliss, TX, 12 Nov 1919; Kelly Field, TX, 2 Jul 1921; Ft Crockett, TX, 1 Jul 1926; Barksdale Field, LA, 28 Feb 1935; Savannah, GA, 6 Oct 1940-19 Jan 1942; Brisbane, Australia, 25 Feb 1942; Charters Towers, Australia, 10 Mar 1942; Port Moresby, New Guinea, 28 Jan 1943; Dobodura, New Guinea, 20 May 1943; Nadzab, New Guinea, 3 Feb 1944; Hollandia, New Guinea, 12 May 1944; Dulag, Leyte, 16 Nov 1944; San Jose, Mindoro, c. 30 Dec 1944; Okinawa, 6 Aug 1945; Atsugi, Japan, c. 8 Sep 1945; Yokota AB, Japan, 1 Sep 1946; Johnson AB, Japan c. 15 Mar 1950; Iwakuni AB, Japan, , 1 Jul 1950; Kunsan AB, South Korea, 22 Aug 1951; Johnson AB, Japan, c. 5 Oct 1954-25 Oct 1957; Elmendorf AFB, AK, 19 Dec 1991-

**Operational Components.**

**Groups:**


**Squadrons:**

6th Night Fighter: attached 7 Sep 1946-31 Jan 1947
9th Reconnaissance, Very Long Range, Photographic: attached 25 Sep 1946-22 Apr 1947
10th Reconnaissance (Light) (later, 89 Bombardment): 15 Jan 1941-10 Apr 1946 (not operational c. 1 Jan-10 Apr 1946)
12th Fighter: 28 Apr 2000-30 Sep 2007
19th Fighter: 1 Jan 1994-1 Oct 1010
26th (later 26th Attack): 15 Sep 1921-27 Jun 1924
43rd Fighter: 19 Dec 1991-1 Jan 1994
51st Attack: Jan 1935-1 Sep 1936
54th Fighter: 19 Dec 1991-28 Apr 2000
82nd Reconnaissance: attached 1 Feb-c. 31 Oct 1947
96th Aero: attached 12 Nov 1919-10 Jan 1921
104th Aero (later, 13th Squadron; 13th Attack;
Subordinate Units Lineage and Honors


517th Airlift: 1 Apr 1992-

525th Fighter Squadron: 30 Sep 2007-

731st Bombardment: attached Nov 1950-25 Jun 1951

962nd Airborne Warning and Control (later, 962nd Airborne Air Control): 1 May 1993-


Honors.

Service Streamers. None

Campaign Streamers.

World War II: Antisubmarine, American Theater; East Indies; Air Offensive, Japan; Papua; New Guinea; Bismarck Archipelago; Western Pacific; Leyte; Luzon; Southern Philippines

Korea: UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers. None

Decorations.


Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
Subordinate Units Lineage and Honors


Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation: 27 Jun-31 Jul 1950

Emblem. Group will use the wing emblem with group designation in the scroll.
3rd Operations Support Squadron


Assignments.

Air Service Command, 2 Dec 1942
Third Air Force, 28 Dec 1942
III Bomber Command, 3 Jan 1943
V Air Force Service Command, c. 4 Jun 1943 (attached to 81 Air Depot Group, c. 4 Jun-c. 8 Oct 1943)
2 Air Task Force, c. 8 Nov 1943-unknown
308 Bombardment Wing, c. 10 Dec 1944-unknown
309 Bombardment Wing, by Apr-31 Oct 1944
46 Service Group, 16 Nov 1944-15 Feb 1945
59 Service Group, 15 Feb-Mar 1945
7 Air Service Group, Mar-Jul 1945
63 Air Service Group, 23 Jul 1945-unknown
Fifth Air Force, 12 Apr – 20 May 1946
308 Bombardment Wing, 15 Jan 1947
475 Fighter Group, 22 Mar 1947 – 20 Aug 1948
3 Operations Group, 19 Dec 1991 –

Stations. Lockbourne AAB, OH, 2 Dec 1942; Myrtle Beach, SC, 14 Jan 1943; Hunter Fld, GA, 2 Mar-27 Apr 1943; Brisbane, Australia, 4 Jun 1943; Oro Bay, New Guinea, 19 Oct 1943; Lae, New Guinea, 8 Nov 1943; Saidor, New Guinea, 9 Jan 1944; San Pablo, Leyte, 16 Nov 1944; Tanauan, Leyte, 10 Dec 1944; Floriblanca, Luzon, 28 Mar 1945; Ie Shima, Ryukyus, 23 Jul 1945; Atsugi, Japan, 28 Aug 1945-20 May 1946; Kimpo, South Korea, 15 Jan 1947-20 Aug 1948; Elmendorf AFB, AK, 29 May 1991 –
Subordinate Units Lineage and Honors

Honors.

Service Streamers. None

Campaign Streamers.

World War II: New Guinea, 1943-1944; Leyte, 1944-1945; Luzon, 1944-1945

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers. None

Decorations.


Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

Emblem. Emblem Package Submitted July 1992, Disapproved at PACAF.
**90th Fighter Squadron**


**Assignments.**

- Unkn, 20 Aug-Nov 1917
- I Air Depot, c. 20 Nov 1917
- I Corps Observation Group, 19 Apr 1918
- IV Corps Observation Group, 13 Jun 1918
- III Corps Observation Group, 21 Sep 1918
- I Corps Observation Group, 30 Nov-Dec 1918
- Unkn, Dec 1918-1 Jul 1919
- Army Surveillance (later 1 Surveillance; 3rd Attack; 3rd Bombardment) Group, 1 Jul 1919-1 Oct 1949

**Source:** 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
Subordinate Units Lineage and Honors

3rd Bombardment Wing, 25 Oct 1957 (attached to 41st Air Division, 1 Sep 1963-7 Jan 1964)
41st Air Division, 8 Jan 1964
Tactical Air Command, 8 Jun 1964
3rd Tactical Fighter Wing, 9 Jun 1964 (attached to 405th Fighter Wing, 7 Feb-10 May 1965; 39 Air Division, 8 Aug 1965)
834 Air Division, 19 Nov 1965 (remained attached to 39 Air Division to 5 Dec 1965; attached to 401 Tactical Fighter Wing, c. 5 Dec 1965 – c. 7 Feb 1966)
3 Tactical Fighter Wing, c. 8 Feb 1966
14 Special Operations Wing, 31 Oct 1970
483 Tactical Airlift Wing, 1 Sep 1971
18 Tactical Fighter Wing, 15 Apr 1972
405 Fighter Wing, 15 Dec 1972
3 Tactical Fighter Wing, 16 Sep 1974
21 Tactical Fighter Wing, 29 May 1991
21 Operations Group, 26 Sep 1991
3 Operations Group, 19 Dec 1991

**Stations.** Kelly Field, TX, 20 Aug 1917; Garden City, NY, 5-27 Oct 1917; Colombey-les-Belles, France, 20 Nov 1917; Amanty, France, 19 Apr 1918; Ourches, France, 13 Jun 1918; Souilly, France, 20 Sep 1918; Bethelainville, France, 29 Oct 1918; Belrain, France, 15 Jan 1919; Colombey-les-Belles, France, 18 Jan 1919; Libourne, France, 25 Jan 1919; St. Denis-de-Piles, France, 29 Jan 1919; Libourne, France, 2 Feb 1919; Bordeaux, France, 10-19 Apr 1919; Hazelhurst Field, NY, 5 May 1919; Kelly Field, TX, c. May 1919 (Flight A operated from Eagle Pass, TX, 27 Aug 1919; Flight B operated from Kelly Field No. 2, TX, 30 Sep-29 Nov 1919); Sanderson, TX, 29 Nov 1919 (Flight A operated from Eagle Pass, TX, to 12 Jun 1920 and from Del Rio, TX, 12 Jun 1920-30 Jun 1921); Kelly Field, TX, 2 Jul 1921; Ft Crockett, TX, 1 Jul 1926 (detachment operated from Ft Huachuca, AZ, 7 Apr-12 May 1929); Barksdale Field, LA, 27 Feb 1935 (deployed at Bakersfield, CA, 3-23 May 1937); Savannah, GA, 9 Oct 1940-19 Jan 1942; Brisbane, Australia, 25 Feb 1942; Charters Towers, Australia, 8 Mar 1942; Port Moresby, New Guinea, 28 Jan 1943; Dobodura, New Guinea, 21 May 1943; Nadzab, New Guinea, 5 Feb 1944; Hollandia, New Guinea, c. 7 May 1944; Dulag, Leyte, 16 Nov 1944; San Jose, Mindoro, 30 Dec 1944; Sobe, Okinawa, 6 Aug 1945; Atsugi, Japan, c. 8 Sep 1945; Yokota AB, Japan, 10 Oct 1946-1 Oct 1949; Iwakuni AB, Japan, 25 Jun 1951; Kunsan AB, South Korea, c. 20 Aug 1951 (deployed at Pusan AB, South Korea, 25 Apr-17 May 1952); Johnson AB, Japan, 5 Oct 1954 (deployed at Itazuke AB, Japan, 18 Jan-2 Feb 1957); Yokota AB, Japan, 18 Nov 1960-9 Jun 1964; England AFB, LA, 9 Jun 1964-8

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK


**Honors.**

*Service Streamers.* None

*Campaign Streamers.*

World War I: Lorraine; St Mihiel; Meuse-Argonne

World War II: Antisubmarine, American Theater; East Indies; Air Offensive, Japan; Papua; New Guinea; Bismarck Archipelago; Western Pacific; Leyte; Luzon; Southern Philippines

Korea: CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea Summer-Fall, 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953

Vietnam: Vietnam Air; 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; Sanctuary Counteroffensive; Southwest Monsoon; Commando Hunt V; Commando Hunt VI; Commando Hunt VII; Vietnam Ceasefire

*Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers.* None

*Decorations.*

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
Distinguished Unit Citations: Papua, 23 Jul 1942 – 23 Jan 1943; Bismarck Sea, 3-4 Mar 1943; New Guinea, 17 Aug 1943; Korea, [25 Jun]-9 Jul 1951; Korea, 1 May-27 Jul 1953


Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)


**Emblem.** Originally approved on 14 Feb 1924. Approved 23 Feb 1999.

**Description.** Azure, a pair of dice in fess arraswise the dexter showing 4, 1, 5 and the sinister showing 3, 1, 2, Gules fimbriated Argent dots of the like, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached above the disc a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed “PAIR-O-DICE” in Blue letters. Attached below the disc a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed “90TH FIGHTER SQ” in Blue letters.

**Significance.** Blue and 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 pair of cocked dice, tilted to show corresponding faces of “natural sevens,” are symbolic of the squadron personnel’s petition for luck aloft. The digit “seven” is also representative of the number of victories scored in France during World War I.
517th Airlift Squadron


**Assignments.**

- 64th Transport (later Troop Carrier) Group, 11 Dec 1940-31 Jul 1945
- 64th Troop Carrier Group, 19 May 1947-10 Sep 1948
- 64th Troop Carrier Group, 14 Jul 1952-21 Jul 1954
- Tactical Air Command, 24 Oct 1960
- 64th Troop Carrier Wing, 8 Feb 1961
- 516th Troop Carrier Wing, 1 Jan 1963
- 5040th Air Base Wing, 15 Jun 1964
- 21st Composite Wing, 8 Jul 1966
- Twenty-second Air Force, 31 Mar 1975
- 616th Military Airlift Group, 1 Nov 1975
- 3rd Operations Group, 1 Apr 1992

**Stations.** McClellan Field, CA, 11 Jul 1940; Hamilton Field, CA, 11 Jul 1941; Westover Field, MA, 13 Jun-31 Jul 1942; Ramsbury, England, 18 Aug 1942; Greenham Common Airdrome, Eng-

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
Subordinate Units Lineage and Honors

land, 26 Sep 1942; Blida, Algeria, 27 Nov 1942 (air echelon operated from Nouvion, Algeria, 6-27 Jun 1943 and Kairouan, Tunisia, 27 Jun-26 Jul 1943); Kairouan, Tunisia, 29 Jun 1943; El Djem, Tunisia, 26 Jul 1943; Milo/Trapani Airdrome, Sicily, 1 Sep 1943; Comiso, Sicily, 4 Sep 1943 (air echelon operated from Lalmia, India, 7 Apr-9 Jun 1944); Ciampino, Italy, 8 Jul 1944 (operated from Istres, France, 8 Sep-11 Nov 1944); Rosignano Airfield, Italy, 10 Jan-23 May 1945; Waller Field, Trinidad, 4 Jun-31 Jul 1945; Langley Field, VA, 19 May 1947-10 Sep 1948; Donaldson AFB, SC, 14 Jul 1952-21 Jul 1954; Dyess AFB, TX, 8 Feb 1961; Elmendorf AFB, AK, 15 Jun 1964.


Honors.

Service Streamers. World War II American Theatre

Campaign Streamers.

World War II: Algeria-French Morocco; Tunisia; Sicily; Naples-Foggia; Rome-Arno; Southern France; North Apennines; Po Valley; India-Burma

Vietnam: Vietnam Air Offensive; Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers. None

Decorations.

Distinguished Unit Citation: CBI Theater, 7 Apr -15 Jun 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat “V” Device: 2 May 1967-1 Jan 1968


Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm: 1 Sep 1966 – 1 Jan 1968


**Description.** Argent, a stylized eagle (firebird) Volant traversed wings to chief Gules. All within a diminished bordure of the Second. Attached above the disc a White scroll edged with a narrow Red border and inscribed “FIREBIRDS” in Red letters. Attached below the disc a White scroll edged with a narrow Red border and inscribed “517TH AIRLIFT SQ” in Red letters.

**Significance.** The eagle in flight symbolizes the mythical firebird renowned for its strength and reflects the Squadron’s strength, speed and tenacity with which the unit performs its mission. The unit’s versatility with equipment and flexibility.
525th Fighter Squadron


Assignments.

86th Bombardment (later 86th Fighter-Bomber; 86th Fighter) Group, 10 Feb 1942-31 Mar 1946
86th Fighter (later 86th Composite; 86th Fighter; 86th Fighter-Bomber; 86th Fighter-Interceptor) Group, 20 Aug 1946 (attached to 86th Fighter-Interceptor Wing 22 May 1947 to 7 Oct 1955 and 10 Aug 1956 to 7 Mar 1958)
86th Fighter-Interceptor Wing (later 86th Air Division [Defense], 8 Mar 1958
36th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Nov 1968-31 Mar 1992
3rd Operations Group, 30 Sep 2007

Stations. Will Rogers Field, OK, 10 Feb 1942; Hunter Field, GA, 15 Jun 1942; Key Field, MS, 7 Aug 1942-19 Mar 1943; La Senia, Algeria, 12 May 1943; Mediouna, French Morocco, 15 May 1943; Marnia, French Morocco, 3 Jun 1943; Tafaraoui, Algeria, 11 Jun 1943; Gela, Sicily, 20 Jul 1943; Barcelona, Sicily, 27 Jul 1943; Sele Airfield, Italy, 23 Sep 1943; Serretella Airfield, Italy, 14 Oct 1943; Pomigliano, Italy, 19 Nov 1943; Marcianise, Italy, 30 Apr 1944; Ciampino, Italy, c. 11 Jun 1944; Orbetello, Italy, c. 18 Jun 1944; Poretta, Corsica, c. 12 Jun 1944; Grosseto, Italy, c. 18

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
Sep 1944; Pisa, Italy, c. 1 Nov 1944; Tantonville, France, c. 23 Feb 1945; Braunschardt, Germany, 18 Apr 1945; Schweinfurt, Germany, c. 23 Oct 1945-15 Feb 1946; Bolling Field, DC, 15 Feb 1946-31 Mar 1946; Nordholz, Germany, 20 Aug 1946; Lechfeld, Germany, c. 13 Nov 1946; Bad Kissingen, Germany, 5 Mar 1946; Neubiberg AB, Germany, 12 Jun 1946; Landstuhl AB, Germany, 20 Nov 1952; Bitburg AB, Germany, 12 Feb 1957-31 Mar 1992; Elmendorf AFB, AK, 30 Sep 2007.


**Honors.**

*Service Streamers.* American Theater

*Campaign Streamers.*

World War II: Sicily; Naples-Foggia; Rome-Arno; North Appenines; Southern France; Rheinland; Central Europe; European-African-Middle Eastern Theater

Southwest Asia: Defense of Saudi Arabia; Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

*Decorations.*

Distinguished Unit Citations: Italy, 25 May 1944; Germany, 20 Apr 1945


**Description.** On a white disc, edged in Air Force reflex blue, the full face of a caricatured bulldog, in shades of light brown and tan, detail and outlines black, eyeballs, and patch on his head white, iris black, pupils green, wearing a blue collar, spiked white. Two teeth, one white, one Air Force yellow. White scroll with Air Force reflex blue edge and script, reading "525thFighter Sq", for unit designation.

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
Significance. The bulldog is a fighter. The dog's expression, with broken Air Force yellow tooth, white patch on head, and spiked collar, symbolizes an experienced, battle-hardened FIGHTER, without specifically showing aircraft, wings, flame, jets or armament, giving the emblem a long range suitability to a tactical fighter outfit. The eyes are green, maintaining a link to the squadron's original Bulldog patch approved by the CSAF for the 525th Tactical Fighter Squadron in 1955. The scroll and unit designation are Air Force blue, symbolizing the sky, the theater in which this bulldog fights. The collar is Air Force blue, and is the squadron's color.
962nd Airborne Air Control Squadron


**Assignments.**
- 493rd Bombardment Group, 1 Nov 1943–28 Aug 1945 (attached to 3 Air Division, 17 Feb-7 May 1945)
- 551st Airborne Early Warning and Control Wing, 8 Jul 1955-31 Dec 1969
- 28th Air Division, 1 Jul 1986
- 552nd Operations Group, 29 May 1992
- 3rd Operations Group, 1 May 1993


Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
Honors.

Service Streamers. None

Campaign Streamers.

World War II: Normandy; Northern France; Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace; Central Europe; Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers. None

Decorations.


Description. Vert, an eagle issuant from sinister chief volant Proper and grasping in its sinister foot a lightning flash bendwise sinister, all within a diminished bordure Sable. Attached above the disc a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border inscribed “962 AACS” in Black letters. Attached below the disc a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed “EYES OF THE EAGLE” in Black letters.

Significance. The eagle is symbolic of the United States of America and denotes strength. It carries in its talon the lightning bolt, the icon for communications and radar.
3rd Maintenance Group


Assignments.

3 Wing, 19 Dec 1991


Assigned Units.

Squadrons.

3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron: 30 Sep 2002-
Subordinate Units Lineage and Honors

3rd Munitions Squadron: 27 Jul 2011
703d Aircraft Maintenance Squadron: 10 Jan 2003-

Honors.

Service Streamers. None

Campaign Streamers.

Korea: UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers. None

Decorations.


Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation: 27 Jun-31 Jul 1950

Emblem. Group will use the wing emblem with the group designation in the scroll.
3rd Munitions Squadron


**ASSIGNMENTS.**

- USAF Special Reporting Agency (later, 1090th USAF Special Reporting Wing), 16 Nov 1950
- Fifteenth Air Force, 27 May 1951
- 3rd Air Division, 16 Jul 1954 (attached to 3960th Air Base Wing, 1 Apr-1 Oct 1955; 3960th Air Base Wing [later, 3960th Air Base Group; 3960th Combat Support Group], 16 Jan 1956-ca. 1 Oct 1959; 3960th Combat Support Group, 1 Apr 1960-1 Apr 1961)
- 3960th Combat Support Group (later, 3960th Strategic Wing), 1 Apr 1961
- 3rd Air Division, 1 Aug 1964
- 3960th Strategic Wing, 15 Apr 1965
- 43rd Strategic Wing, 1 Apr 1970-30 Sep 1972 (attached to Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Wing, Provisional, 303, 15 Jun-30 Sep 1972)


Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
Subordinate Units Lineage and Honors


Honors.

Service Streamers. Korean Theater (Korean War)

Campaign Streamers. None

Decorations.


Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm: 1 Apr 1966-30 Sep 1972

EMBLEM. Approved on 11 Mar 1959. Updated 27 Jun 2013

Description. On a disc, the upper half Air Force Blue, the lower half light blue edged white, within a narrow Air Force blue border, a red lightening flash fimbriated light blue in chief, dark blue in base, between three white stars arched in chief and an Air Force golden yellow olive branch in the base, outlined Air Force blue.

Motto. COMPLIANT LETHAL READY.

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 divided background of light and dark represents the unit’s twenty-four hour operations. The stars depict the unit’s numerical designation. The lightning bolt represents the lethal devices with which the Squadron works. The olive branch symbolizes peace, the ultimate goal. The motto, “COMPLIANT LETHAL READY,” indicates the unit’s willingness and preparedness to flawlessly execute the assigned mission.

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
3rd Maintenance Squadron


Assignments.

3rd Maintenance and Supply Group, 18 Aug 1948
3rd Bombardment Wing, 25 Oct 1957-8 Jan 1964
3rd Tactical Fighter Wing, 9 Jan 1964-19 Dec 1991
3rd Logistics Group, 19 Dec 1991
3rd Maintenance Group, 30 Sep 2002


Honors.

Service Streamers. None

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
Subordinate Units Lineage and Honors

Campaign Streamers.

Korea: UN Summer-Fall Offensive 1951; Second Korean Winter 1951-1952; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter 1952-1953; Korea, Summer 1953.


Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers. None

Decorations.


Emblem. Approved on 17 Jan 1978.

Description. A disc edged with a narrow blue border, the upper portion divided vertically into two halves, dark blue to dexter and light blue to sinister; on the dark blue portion a white moon above three red flight symbols in a diagonal ascent each trailing three light blue trails; on the light blue issuing from sinister a yellow rayed sun surmounted by two white missiles in saltire, detailed dark blue; overall issuing from base a stylized mountain surmounted by a screwdriver and wrench in saltire beneath a gear, all white detailed dark blue. Attached above the disc, a
blue scroll edged with a narrow yellow border and inscribed “BETTER STRONGER FASTER” in yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a blue scroll edged with a narrow yellow border and inscribed “3RD MAINTENANCE SQ” in yellow letters.

**Significance.** Our emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its primary mission and indicates a deterrent force for peace. The divided background of light and dark blue with corresponding moon and sun represents the unit’s 24 hour capability. The three symbols of flight represent the numerical designation of the wing and the three maintenance squadrons under the wing. The crossed missiles represent the primary objective of the squadron and the wing. The lower foreground of Mt. Arayat symbolizes the maintenance effort of the squadron. The motto indicates willingness and preparedness to execute the assigned mission.
3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron


Assignments:

3rd Bombardment Wing, 8 Sep 1962-8 Jan 1964 (attached to 41 Air Division, 1 Sep 1963-8 Jan 1964)
3rd Maintenance Group, 30 Sep 2002


Honors.

Service Streamers. None

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
Subordinate Units Lineage and Honors

Campaign Streamers.


Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers. None

Decorations.

Presidential Unit Citation: Vietnam, 8-[18 Jun 1966]


Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm: 1 Apr – 18 Jun 1966

Emblem. Approved on 19 Sep 2003.

Description. On a disc Azure, issuing from base a sphere Vert, grid lined of the field surmounted by an American Bald Eagle displayed with head lowered to dexter Proper and grasping in dexter claw a missile bendwise nose upward Argent, an in sinister claw an aerial bomb bendwise sinister nose upward, all below seven mullets arranged as the “Big Dipper” constellation and one large mulled “North Star” Or, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed “WARRIORS” in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed “3 AMXS” in Yellow letters.

Significance. Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operation. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The stars in the sky represent the State of Alaska. The eagle, our national symbol, depicts air power. The missile and bomb in the clasp of the eagle represent our weapons to deploy. The globe is our ability to react to any place in the world. The motto ‘Warriors’ describes the core function to the US Air Force combat capability that is: professional warriors of arms.

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
703rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron


**Assignments.**

- 65th Service Group, May 1944
- 3rd Maintenance Group, 10 Jan 2003

**Stations.** Tinker Field, OK, May 1944; Isley Field, Saipan, Sep 1944; Elmendorf AFB, AK, 10 Jan 2003

**Honors.**

- *Service Streamers.* Western Pacific Theatre
- *Campaign Streamers.* None
- *Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers.* None

Source: 673 ABW History Office, JBER, AK
Decorations.


Emblem: Approved 3 Nov 2003

Description. On a disc Or, a bend sinister Azure, overall a horse forcene Sable bridled of the second, caparisoned of the like, crenellated of the first, thereon a knight in armor Proper, plumed Yellow, the dexter hand grasping a lance palewise Argent (Silver Gray) while bearing on sinister arm a shield blazoned: “Or, a four-bladed propeller in saltire Gules”, all within a narrow border Black. Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed “HEAVY METAL” in Black letters. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "703 AMXS" in Black 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 knight on horseback represents bravery and strength, as well as, the 703rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and the troops who deploy to support and defend the United States of America. The propeller on the shield stands for the unit’s history, dating back to World War II.