

A
BRIEF HISTORY
OF



COLUMBUS AFB
and
THE 14TH FLYING
TRAINING WING

November 2012

Emblem (front cover): Approved 11 December 2007. Earlier revisions approved 16 September 1994 and 16 September 1994.

Blazon: Azure, in chief an escutcheon per bend Argent and Sable, over two laurel branches in saltire Or, above in bend two flight symbols ascending one Argent, surmounting one Gules, encircled by five mullets, one in sinister chief and four in dexter base of the fourth. All within a diminished bordure Or.

Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed “14TH FLYING 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 two flight symbols ascending symbolize the unit’s training mission. The stars allude to essential expertise needed by assigned personnel to complete required tasks. The escutcheon commemorates the World War II battle credits carried by the unit.

Motto: Day and Night - Peace and War (approved on 19 June 1967).

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A SHORT HISTORY OF COLUMBUS AFB, MISSISSIPPI

The installation's history began 26 June 1941, when the War Department approved establishment of an Army Air Field for the Columbus area. Behind this approval were months of concerted efforts by the local citizens. On the afternoon of 14 February 1941, 100 of the area's leading citizens banded together to organize an association to secure defense industries.

The citizens' efforts bore fruit. Six months before Pearl Harbor the War Department announced that a pilot training base would be established in Columbus. On 12 August 1941, Columbus officials leased the tract of land to the United States for \$1 per year.



Columbus used AT-10s in its flying training program in World War II.

The base began as a training facility for fighters and bombers. Planned as a twin-engine advanced flying school, the new air base came under the control of the Southeastern Air Corps Training Center at Maxwell Field, Alabama. The Mion Company began construction on 12 September 1941. On 13 January 1942, 100 enlisted men arrived to form the first skeleton organizations on the base.

No one designated or suggested a name for the new base until 22 January 1942. On that date, the War Department announced the installation would be named Kaye Field, in honor of Capt Sam Kaye, a World War I flying ace from Columbus. That designation went into effect on 24 February. However, the name issue soon became one of confusion because another nearby base--Key Field, Meridian, Mississippi,--had a similar sounding name. To correct the problem, in March 1942, the War Department changed the name of the base from Kaye Field to Columbus Army Flying School.

The Columbus flying school received its first aircraft--nine Lockheed AT-10s and twenty-one AT-8s--in early 1942. Barksdale Field, Louisiana, provided the first students. Twenty-five cadets arrived at Columbus in February 1942. They had already completed a considerable part of their training when the Air Corps moved them. The cadets entered training at Columbus on 9 February and graduated on 6 March.

During World War II, the training load gradually increased until Columbus was graduating 195 pilots per month. A total of 7,766 students came to Columbus for pilot training during the war. Of these, 7,412 graduated and received their wings and commissions.

The school used a number of trainers, including the AT-8, AT-9, AT-10, and B-25. For administrative travel, Columbus used the AT-6 and BC-1A.

Due to the efforts of Lt Col Joseph B. Duckworth, the Columbus Army Flying School developed and perfected two systems of training, which was adopted by the command. The first was the Flying Evaluation Board. This board instituted tough new criteria to evaluate an instructor's proficiency. The second was the "full panel" attitude system of instrument flying, which is credited with revolutionizing training in blind flying. In addition to the three instruments already used, students were taught to use two gyro instruments, the magnetic compass, the rate-of-climb indicator, and the clock.

When the war ended in 1945, the base strength had reached a peak of 2,300 enlisted men, 300 officers, and an average of 250 pilot cadets per class. The end of hostilities significantly slowed training activities, so in 1946 the War Department directed the inactivation of the base.

Columbus was void of activity for four years until communist troops violated South Korea's borders and fighting broke out in 1950. To handle

increased pilot requirements for the Korean War, Air Training Command activated Columbus AFB on 20 December to be used as a station for a contract flying school. To manage the base, ATC established the 3301st Training Squadron (Contract Flying) on 1 March 1951. The contractor who provided pilot training was California Eastern Airways. That training continued until 1954, when ATC directed that the mission be moved by early 1955 to Moore Air Base, Texas.

On 1 April 1955, HQ USAF transferred Columbus AFB from ATC control to Strategic Air Command (SAC) and Second Air Force. The base began an active building program to support its new mission, to be part of SAC's base dispersal system. City fathers deeded an additional 3,600 acres to the base so that a northwest-southeast runway could be built, along with a 480-unit family housing project. It was not until December 1957, however, that officials at HQ SAC announced the base would become the home of a B-52 squadron and a KC-135 jet refueling tanker squadron. To manage these units, on 1 July 1958, Strategic Air Command activated the 4228th Strategic Wing.

The first Stratotanker, piloted by the wing commander, landed on the new runway on 7 January 1959. Then on 28 May, the first B-52 arrived. In February 1963, SAC inactivated the 4228th Strategic Wing and activated the 454th Bombardment Wing, Heavy, in its place. The 454th conducted air refueling operations and trained in bombardment operations. Beginning in the summer of 1965, the wing's headquarters staff, tactical aircraft and crews, and maintenance personnel became a part of SAC combat forces in the Pacific and Southeast Asia. During their involvement in the Vietnam War, the 454th Combat Support Group operated Columbus AFB.



A B-52 touches down at Columbus.

After 14 years as a SAC base, on 1 July 1969, HQ USAF transferred Columbus back to Air Training Command and to its original mission of training pilots. In preparation for this transfer, Air Training Command had activated the 3650th Pilot Training Wing at Columbus on 15 February. The first undergraduate pilot training (UPT) class--71-01--entered school on 17 July.

Three years later, on 1 June 1972, Air Training Command discontinued the 3650th and activated the 14th Flying Training Wing in its place. The 14th continues today as the host organization at Columbus and as the trainer of the best pilots in the world.

BASE COMMANDERS

Col Louie C. Mallory.....	6 Jun 41
Lt Col Wilmer A. Hardesty	5 Apr 45
Lt Col James R. Dubose, Jr.	9 Jul 45
Col Karl S. Axtater	9 Aug 45
Lt Col James R. Dubose, Jr.	18 Aug 45
Col Louie P. Turner	8 Nov 45
Lt Col James R. Dubose, Jr.	12 Jan 46

Col Louie P. Turner	16 Apr 46
Lt Col Don H. Rogers.....	3 Jul 46
Col Garnet B. Palmer.....	Mar 51
Maj John S. Buckwalter	6 Jan 53
Lt Col Ethel B. Branham.....	4 Jan 54
Lt Col Alexander H. Parrish.....	1 Apr 55
Col John C. Watson	1 Jul 55
Col William H. Cleveland.....	12 Mar 58
Col William Marchesi	1 Jul 58
Col Laurence J. Ellert	18 Aug 58
Lt Col Walter T. Eisenbrown	15 May 60
Lt Col Robert T. Larkin.....	6 Dec 62
Col Samuel P. Jordan.....	22 Jun 63
Unknown.....	1 Jun 66
Col William A. Adams, Jr.	11 Jul 66
Col John H. Archer, Jr.	5 May 68
Col Edward M. Jones	1 Jul 69
Col David H. Buss	24 Sep 69
Col Jack January, Jr.	9 Nov 70
Col Monte Ballew, Jr.....	1 May 72
Col Arthur J. Halverson.....	21 Jun 74
Col Horace W. Miller	22 Jul 75
Col Clarence E. Whinery.....	8 Mar 76
Col George R. Billington.....	22 Aug 78
Lt Col Susan L. Lundstrom	31 May 80
Col Alexander Zakrzewski, Jr.	25 Jun 80
Col Remo J. Nicoli	4 Jun 81
Lt Col Michael H. Harris.....	24 Sep 82
Col Louis A. Silvestri, Jr.	20 Oct 82
Col Donald W. Neff.....	1 Apr 85
Col Bernard Stecklein.....	4 Jun 87
Lt Col James W. Prouty.....	6 Apr 88
Col John E. Marr.....	2 Jun 88
Lt Col David P. Fairclo.....	27 Nov 89
Col Richard W. Rice.....	3 Jan 90
Col Thomas M. Pratt	29 Jul 90
Col Thomas S. Lampley	15 Jan 93
Col Johnny Whitaker	22 Jan 95
Col David R. Hankins.....	15 Jan 97
Col Ernest E. Felts	16 Feb 99
Col William M. Hudson	4 Aug 00

Col James L. Playford	29 Jan 02
Col Keith A. Keck	12 Aug 03
Col T. Eugene Willett.....	27 Jun 05
Col Mark A. Brown.....	15 Jun 07
Col Kenryu M. Bryson	1 Jul 09

CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR EVENTS



Local dignitaries met with Brig Gen Walter R. Weaver, Commanding General, Army Air Forces Southeast Training Center, when he visited the area in March 1941. The Army Air Forces was considering Columbus as the possible site of an air base.

- 14 Feb 41 One hundred of the leading citizens from the Columbus area banded together to organize an association to secure defense industries for Columbus.

- 26 Jun 41 The War Department approved an Army air field for the Columbus area.

- 23 Jul 41 Work began on the Columbus installation.

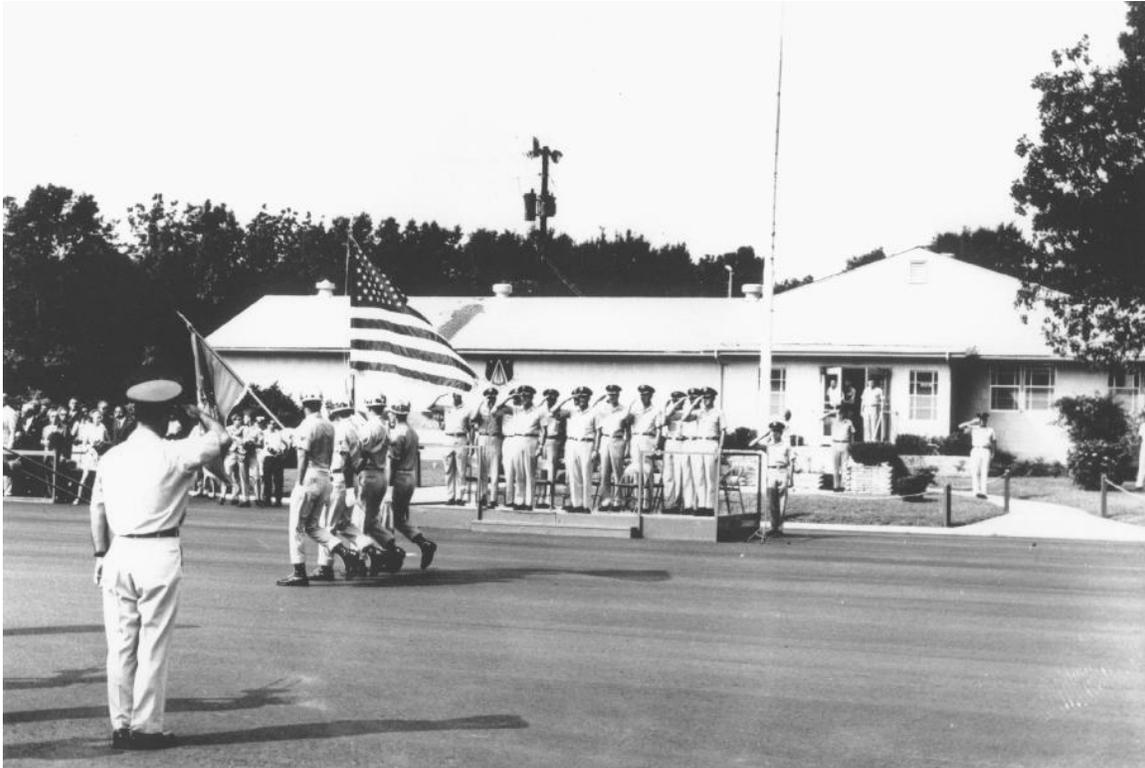
- 13 Jan 42 One hundred enlisted men arrived to form the skeleton organization of the base.
- 22 Jan 42 The War Department announced that the installation's designation would be Kaye Field, in honor of Capt Sam Kaye, a World War I flying ace from the local area.
- 6 Mar 42 The flying school at Columbus graduated its first class of pilots.
- 27 Mar 42 The base changed its name from Kaye Field to Columbus Army Flying School.
- 1946-1950 The base was inactive.



In the early 1950s, this sign greeted visitors as they passed through the main gate at Columbus AFB.

- 1951-1955 Columbus Air Force Base reopened as a contract flying school operated by California Eastern Airways, Inc.

- 1955 California Eastern Airways, Inc. phased out its operation. Air Training Command moved the contract flying school to Moore Air Base, Texas.
- 1 Apr 55 Air Training Command relinquished the base to Strategic Air Command's Second Air Force.
- 1 Jul 58 Strategic Air Command established the 4228th Strategic Wing at Columbus.
- Jul 58 The base became home to a B-52 bomber squadron and a KC-135 refueling tanker squadron.
- Feb 63 Strategic Air Command discontinued its 4228th Strategic Wing and activated a new host unit at Columbus, the 454th Bombardment Wing (BW), Heavy.
- Sep 65 The 736th Bombardment Squadron won the coveted Fairchild Trophy bombing competition.
- 1965 The 454th Bomb Wing deployed to the Pacific area to support operations in Vietnam.
- 15 Feb 69 In preparation for the transfer of Columbus from Strategic Air Command to Air Training Command, ATC activated the 3650th Pilot Training Wing at Columbus.
- 1 Jul 69 HQ USAF reassigned Columbus from SAC to ATC, and the 3650th Pilot Training Wing became the host unit at the base.
- 1 Jun 72 The 14th Flying Training Wing replaced the 3650th as the host organization at Columbus. Air Training Command inactivated the 3650th and activated the 14th FTW.



In ceremonies held on 1 July 1969, Strategic Air Command passed control of Columbus AFB to Air Training Command.

- 15 Mar 75 A major flood covered much of the SAC alert area and segments of the northern runway at Columbus.
- 1 Apr 88 Columbus became the first ATC base in more than 20 years to convert from military to contract aircraft maintenance.
- Jul 89 The 37th Flying Training Squadron completed 240 months of accident-free flying.
- 29 Oct 89 A NASA 747 aircraft carrying the space shuttle "Atlantis" landed at Columbus on its return flight to the Kennedy Space Center because of bad weather. This was the first visit to Columbus by the shuttle.
- 25 Jun 90 The flying training program converted to a five-squadron concept in lieu of the three-squadron concept. Thus, in addition to the 37th and 50th Flying Training Squadrons, the 42d, 43d, and 49th Flying Training Squadrons were activated. The 14th Student Squadron was inactivated. The 42d FTS served as the student squadron.

1 Oct 90 The 3588th Flying Training Squadron at Fort Rucker, Alabama, was assigned to the 14th Flying Training Wing, Deputy Commander for Operations.

As a result of reorganization within the communications community, Air Force Communications Command reassigned the 1948th Communications Squadron at Columbus to the 14th Flying Training Wing.

Detachment 8, 3314th Management Engineering Squadron was inactivated. Air Training Command assigned responsibility for management engineering to the 14th Flying Training Wing, Deputy Commander for Resource Management.

1 Apr 91 The 1948th Communications Squadron was re-designated the 14th Communications Squadron.

15 Dec 91 As a result of General Merrill McPeak's Air Force restructuring, Air Training Command replaced the wing's tri-deputy organization (deputy commanders for operations, maintenance, and resource management) with an "objective wing" structure of "one base, one wing, one boss" concept. Three Groups (operations, support and medical) worked directly for the wing commander.

At the same time, ATC inactivated the 42d Flying Training Squadron, leaving the wing with four flying training squadrons. The 14th Operations Support Squadron also activated.

1 Oct 92 With pilot production dropping dramatically, there was no need for four flying training squadrons. Therefore, ATC inactivated the 43d (T-37) and 49th (T-38) Flying Training Squadrons.

Jan 93 ATC transitioned to specialized undergraduate pilot training (SUPT), which consisted of three phases and four, specialized tracks. The T-1A aircraft would be used for the airlift/tanker portion of SUPT. Columbus would not receive its first T-1A aircraft until 1996.

- 1 Jul 93 Columbus AFB began its new mission of training fighter pilots in the Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals (IFF) course. Air Training Command reactivated the 49th Flying Training Squadron to support the new IFF mission.
- Aug 93 The first AT-38s arrived on base for the IFF course.
- 1 Sep 94 The 14th Medical Group activated four squadrons: the 14th Dental Squadron, the 14th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, the 14th Medical Support Squadron, and the 14th Medical Operations Squadron.
- 1 Jun 95 All functions of the Defense Accounting Office of Columbus transferred to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service at Limestone, Maine.
- 25 Jan 96 The first T-1A aircraft arrived on base to support Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training.
- 19 Apr 96 The first SUPT class, Class 97-08, entered training.
- 1 Jun 96 The 14th Services Squadron inactivated and became the Services Division.
- 1 Jul 96 The 48th Flying Training Squadron activated.
- The base broke ground for the new 1+1 enlisted dormitory, dedicated the dormitories to Congressman Sonny Montgomery, and named it "Montgomery Village."
- 1 Sep 96 The 14th Communications Squadron and the Information Management Flight merged.
- 22 Sep 96 The base completed a major self-help project to renovate Freedom Park.
- 30 Sep 96 Columbus' Airman Leadership School closed.
- 25 Oct 96 Lt Col Bruce Busler (48 FTS/CC) and 1Lt James Bruce flew the first T-1A student sortie.

- 2 May 97 SUPT Class 97-08, the first SUPT class, graduated.
- 1 Jun 97 The 14th Aerospace Medicine Squadron inactivated.
- 19 Jun 97 The 43d Flying Training Flight activated as a reserve flight.
- 1 Jul 97 The 14th Security Police Squadron was redesignated the 14th Security Forces Squadron.
- 1 Oct 97 The base connected to city water.
- 17 Apr 98 Due to the A-76 study, the 14th Logistics Squadron inactivated and became the Logistics Division.
- 5 Jun 98 The 43d Flying Training Flight activated as the 43d Flying Training Squadron (Reserve).
- 17 Jun 98 The 14th Dental Squadron inactivated.
- 1 Oct 98 The 41st Flying Training Squadron (the second T-37 squadron at Columbus) activated.
- 31 Jul 99 AETC designated Columbus as the test base for the T-38C avionics upgrade program. The first two T-38C test aircraft arrived.
- 10 Oct 00 As a result of the IFF mission moving to Moody AFB, Georgia, the 49th Flying Training Squadron inactivated at Columbus and activated at Moody.
- 10 Oct 00 Detachment 1, 14th Operations Group activated until all aircraft and personnel supporting the IFF mission transferred to Moody.
- 20 Dec 00 The last AT-38 aircraft and remaining personnel supporting IFF transferred to Moody AFB, Georgia.
- 16 Jul 02 The base's first operational T-38C arrived on base.
- 22 Apr 03 The \$4.8M corrosion control facility was completed.

- 28 Mar 04 The \$5M state-of-the-art radar approach control facility was completed.
- 21 Jun 04 The 14th Comptroller Flight was redesignated the 14th Comptroller Squadron.
- 1 Oct 04 The Manpower Office merged with the Mission Support Squadron and became the Manpower and Organization Flight.
- 12 Nov 04 The new military working dog facility was completed.
- 1 Jan 05 SecTek DynCorp began working as the new security service contractor for the base.
- 13 May 05 The base learned it was not on the initial BRAC base closure list.
- 15 Jul 05 The new air traffic control tower was completed.
- 29 Aug 05 Hurricane Katrina hit the base as a Category 1 hurricane.
- 18 Nov 05 2Lt Kelly Nettleblad, class 06-02, became the base's 10,000th pilot graduate.
- Oct 06 The base received its first T-6A Texan II.
- 15 Dec 06 The first T-6 student sortie was flown.
- 18 Jan 07 A T-38 mishap occurred near Batesville, Mississippi. Both pilots ejected safely.
- 16 Feb 07 The first T-38C to be used for IFF training arrived from Moody AFB, Georgia, to conduct IFF training.
- 10 May 07 Due to BRAC realignment, the 49 FTS returned to Columbus from Moody AFB, Georgia, to conduct IFF training.
- 3 Jul 07 The base held the ribbon cutting for the new, \$8M fire crash rescue station.
- Sep 07 The base held its 65th anniversary celebration.

- 21 Sep 07 The newly renovated base theater was renamed Kaye Auditorium after Columbus-born World War I aviator Captain Sam Kaye.
- 1 Oct 07 Columbus began privatized base housing with Pinnacle-Hunt Communities, LLC, as the housing developer.
- 28 Nov 07 Two T-6 aircraft collided in mid-air near Gunshy Auxiliary Airfield during a routine training mission. All four pilots ejected safely.
- 18 Jan 08 The medical clinic was named Koritz Clinic after Major Thomas Koritz, a Columbus AFB graduate and Air Force physician, killed in Iraq in January 1991.
- 31 Mar 08 The final T-37 student sortie was flown.
- 3 Apr 08 The T-37 was formally retired.
- 16 Apr 08 The Mission Support Squadron and Services Division merged to form the 14th Force Support Squadron.
- 23 Apr 08 A T-38C crashed on initial takeoff and resulted in the death of both pilots.
- 16 Jul 08 The 14th Comptroller and Contracting Squadron activated as a provisional unit.
- 1 Oct 08 The contract security forces were converted to DoD civilians.
- 12 Nov 08 The base held the ribbon cutting for Phase I of the new \$10M Mission Support Group complex and the ground breaking ceremony for Phase II of the complex.
- 16 Jan 09 Airman from Columbus AFB attended AETC Symposium held at Randolph AFB, TX.
- 2-6 Mar 09 AETC Commanders and Command Chief Leadership Conference was held.
- 24 Apr 09 T-6 Flyover was executed for the annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life event.

- 21 May 09 The base held a dedication ceremony for 14 FTW Civil Engineer Fire Department.
- 29 Jul 09 Pinnacle-Hunt held a ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of 145 new housing units in State and Magnolia Villages.
- 1 Oct 09 A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the opening of the base's new security enhanced South Gate.
- 18 Feb 10 The 14th Comptroller and Contracting Squadron was inactivated as a provisional unit.
- 26 Mar 10 A dedication ceremony for George "Happy" Irby Parkway was conducted roadside near the intersection of Mississippi Highway 786, also known as the Main Gate Road. Irby was a longtime employee and volunteer at Columbus AFB.
- 30 Apr 10 Columbus AFB held ribbon cutting ceremony for the state of the art main entrance gate.
- 8 Jul 10 Newly refurbished Shuqualak Auxiliary Airfield Fire Station held an Open House.
- 27 Aug 10 The Officer's Spouses Club officially amended its name to the Columbus Spouses Club.
- 21 Oct 10 The grand re-opening of the Columbus AFB Exchange.
- 8 Nov 10 A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to commemorate the grand opening of the new Child Development Center.
- 20 Jan 11 The City of Columbus received the first ever AETC Community Support Award (Altus Trophy) for their support of Columbus AFB.
- 12 May 11 CSC held its grand opening of the new Thrift Shop.

- 10 Aug 11 General Edward Rice, Commander, Air Education and Training Command and AETC Command Chief Master Sgt. Jim Cody visited Columbus AFB for the first time.
- 13 Jan 12 The Whispering Pines Golf Course Pro Shop on base had a ribbon cutting ceremony after its first renovation since 1994.
- 9 Mar 12 Columbus AFB celebrated its 70th Anniversary, with a banquet that included memorabilia and, U.S. Senator Roger Wicker (MS) as a guest speaker.
- 24 Sep 12 AETC Director of Logistics, Installations and Mission Support, Barbra Sisson as well as Deputy to the Command Civil Engineer, James Fitzpatrick, visited Columbus AFB to receive briefings on the runway supervisory units.
- 6 Oct 12 The first UPT class, 71-01, also known as the “First of the finest” returned to the Columbus AFB for a reunion event. Members of the class attended the 12-15 graduating ceremony as well as their own banquet at the Columbus Club.
- 1 Nov 12 Royal Saudi Air Force Maj. Gen. Ali Bin Juwayr Ali Alhamad visited the 14th Operations Group to gain a better understanding of the international pilot training program at Columbus AFB.

HISTORY OF THE 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING

Bestowed History

In an effort to maintain the illustrious histories of the various combat organizations active during World War II and earlier, the Air Force established a policy in the early 1950s where wings could have bestowed upon them the history and honors of groups with the same numerical designations. In the case of the 14th Fighter Wing, which was first established as a temporary organization in July 1947, the Air Force temporarily bestowed on the wing the lineage and honors of the 14th Pursuit (later Fighter) Group for the period prior to 15 August 1947 and from 18 August 1955 to 25 June 1960.

The War Department activated the 14th Pursuit Group (Fighter) on 15 January 1941 and redesignated it as a fighter group in May 1942. The group moved to England and began operations in October 1942 escorting bombers to targets in France. The 14th Fighter Group moved to North Africa in November 1942 and remained in the Mediterranean theater until the end of the war, being assigned first to Twelfth Air Force and later to Fifteenth Air Force.

The group flew escort, strafing, and reconnaissance missions from November 1942 to January 1943 and then temporarily withdrew from combat until May 1943. Air crews flew bombing missions during the Allied assault on Pantelleria; supported the invasions of Sicily and Italy; and escorted bombers engaged in long-range operations in Italy, France, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Austria, Yugoslavia, Rumania, and Bulgaria.

During this time, the 14th Fighter Group received a Distinguished Unit Citation for a mission on 2 April 1944 in which the group, by warding off attacks by enemy fighters, enabled bombers to strike an important ball bearing works in Austria. The group also escorted reconnaissance planes during the invasion of Southern France in August 1944. In addition, the 14th Fighter Group flew long-range missions to strafe and bomb motor vehicles, trains, bridges, supply areas, and troops from France to the Balkans. On 9 September 1945, the War Department inactivated the group.

The 14th Fighter Group returned to active service at Dow Field, Maine, on 20 November 1946. It was equipped with P-47 aircraft. When the

Air Force activated the 14th Fighter Wing, also at Dow Field, on 29 July 1947, the group became a subordinate component of the 14th Fighter Wing.

The Air Force established the 14th Fighter Wing as a temporary organization to take part in a service-wide test of a new organizational structure known as wing-base. On 26 July 1948, the USAF discontinued the temporary wing and activated a permanent 14th Fighter Wing in its place.

Wing History

The mission of the 14th Fighter Wing was to provide air defense for the northeastern United States. That was the function it performed until it was inactivated on 2 October 1949.

During the Vietnam War, HQ USAF redesignated the 14th Fighter Wing as the 14th Air Commando Wing and activated it on 28 February 1966 at Nha Trang Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. It was assigned to the Pacific Air Forces and performed combat operations in Southeast Asia, operating from numerous locations in South Vietnam and Thailand.

On 1 August 1968, the 14th Air Commando Wing was redesignated the 14th Special Operations Wing. In addition to such traditional missions as close air and direct air support, interdiction, combat airlift, aerial resupply, and reconnaissance, wing operations included unconventional warfare, counter-insurgency operations, psychological warfare, forward air control operations, search and rescue, flare drops, civic actions, and humanitarian actions. Colonel Conrad Allman flew the wing's 150,000th combat mission in a AC-47 assigned to the 3d Special Operations Squadron. Two days later, the wing became the first USAF unit to receive the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

Under the American policy of "Vietnamization," the 14th transferred its "Spookies," the AC-47 gunships, from its 3d Special Operations Squadron to the Vietnamese Air Force. The squadron flew its last mission on 7 August and inactivated on 1 September. By the end of the year, the wing had transferred all of its AC-47s to either the Vietnamese Air Force or the Royal Laotian Air Force. In their place, the 14th received AC-119s.

The 14th Special Operations Wing was inactivated on 30 September 1971. Three men assigned to elements of the 14th Wing received the Medal of Honor for outstanding actions in Southeast Asia. They were Major Bernard F.

Fisher (1st Air Commandos), First Lieutenant James P. Fleming (20th Special Operations Squadron), and Airman First Class John L. Levitow (3d Special Operations Squadron).

HQ USAF redesignated the 14th Special Operations Wing as the 14th Flying Training Wing on 22 March 1972 and assigned the wing to Air Training Command. On 1 June ATC activated the wing at Columbus. It replaced and absorbed the resources of the 3650th Pilot Training Wing, which ATC had inactivated at Columbus the same day. Besides serving as the host unit at Columbus, the 14th also had responsibility for conducting undergraduate pilot training.

In the early 1990s, HQ ATC directed a significant organizational change in its undergraduate pilot training wings. As a result, the flying training program converted to a five-squadron concept in lieu of the three-squadron concept. Thus, in addition to the 37th and 50th Flying Training Squadrons, the 42d, 43d, and 49th Flying Training Squadrons were activated. The 14th Student Squadron was inactivated, and the 42d now served as the student squadron.

In September 1991, Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen Merrill A. McPeak, announced a major change in the Air Force structure to meet future airpower needs. It would be the most significant change since the Air Force became a separate service in 1947. The change consolidated Strategic Air Command, Tactical Air Command, and the Military Airlift Command into the Air Combat Command and Air Mobility Command.

As a result of this downsizing of the Air Force and the need for a reduction in pilot production, ATC announced in 1991 that “zero loading” of classes would begin with class 92-08, which meant every other class had no students assigned to it.

However, the five- squadron concept was short-lived. After only two years, AETC conducted an organizational review, which considered changes to the out year UPT program, development of the merit assignment system and a desire to strengthen responsibility and accountability for commanders at all echelons. ATC determined the single squadron per aircraft system would more effectively meet these goals. ATC received approval from Air Staff to make the change. As a result, the 49 FTS was inactivated on September 18, 1992, and the 43 FTS was inactivated on October 1, 1992.

An Air Force-wide objective hospital restructuring resulted in the 14th Medical Squadron being re-designated the 14th Medical Group on 1 November 1993. Shortly thereafter, the 14th Medical Group activated four squadrons: the 14th Dental Squadron, the 14th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, the 14th Medical Support Squadron, and the 14th Medical Operations Squadron. A few years later, Medical Group downsizing, based on total authorizations and special mission requirements, resulted in the Aerospace Medicine and Dental Squadrons being inactivated on 1 June 1997 and 17 June 1998, respectively.

On 1 July 1993, Columbus AFB began a new mission of training fighter pilots in the Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals (IFF) course. ATC reactivated the 49th Flying Training Squadron to support the new mission. The first AT-38s arrived on base in August 1993 to support IFF.

Another result of the restructure occurred on 1 July 1993 when HQ USAF re-designated Air Training Command as Air Education and Training Command (AETC). At the same time, Air University became a subordinate component of the command, and AETC activated two numbered air forces, Second and Nineteenth, to manage technical and flying training, respectively. As a part of that restructuring, AETC reassigned 14th Flying Training Wing to Nineteenth Air Force.

The introduction to specialized undergraduate pilot training (SUPT) in 1993 was not a new concept but a return to a system similar to the one used for some 20 years prior to the switch to generalized UPT in 1959. SUPT consisted of three phases: Phase I - preflight, Phase II - primary training in the T-37, and Phase III—one of four specialized tracks. After Phase II, students progressed to either the T-38C for fighter/bomber training, the T-1A for tanker/transport training, the T-44 at Corpus Christi, Texas, for C-130 training, or UH-1 helicopter training at Ft. Rucker, Alabama. The Air Force had purchased the T-1A to support tanker/transport training in SUPT. Of the four SUPT bases, Columbus was the last to receive the T-1A. The first T-1A arrived on base on 25 January 1996. In addition, the 48th Flying Training Squadron activated on 1 July 1996 to support the new mission. The first SUPT class, class 97-08, entered training on 19 April 1996 and graduated on 2 May 1997.

In 1996, an Air Force-wide pilot shortage caused by a downsizing of the total force, high ops tempo, frequent moves, and the civilian airline market vying for their skills resulted in a need for increased pilot training.

To alleviate the situation, AETC implemented a program to use Air Force reserve personnel as instructor pilots. As a result, the 43d Flying Training Fight (reserve) activated at Columbus on 19 June 1997 and later was re-designated the 43d Flying Training Squadron on 5 June 1998.

Due to the demands of the increased pilot training, AETC ended “zero-loaded” classes in April 1997. Classes began graduating every three weeks versus every six weeks. Therefore, pilot graduates at Columbus nearly doubled from 1997 to 2000 with 191 and 320, respectively.

To increase the span of control in the over-crowded T-37 squadron, Columbus activated a second T-37 squadron, the 41st Flying Training Squadron, on 1 October 1998. The addition of the new squadron brought the wing back to five flying training squadrons: the 37 FTS, 41 FTS, 48 FTS, 49 FTS and the 50 FTS. However, more mission changes, the need to increase efficiency, and a response to meet Congressional directives resulted in changes to the force structure, which were part of the Air Force’s Quadrennial Defense Review. One initiative involved consolidating the IFF missions at Columbus and Randolph AFBs to Moody AFB, Georgia. On 10 October 2000, the 49 FTS inactivated at Columbus and transferred its personnel and aircraft to Moody AFB.

In January 2000, a site survey team from AETC evaluated Columbus’ infrastructure to determine its ability to bed down the new Joint Primary Aircraft Training System (JPATS) and the new T-38C. JPATS included replacing the aging T-37 aircraft with the new T-6A “Texan II.” Delivery to Columbus began in 2006. In addition, Columbus had become the test base for the upgraded T-38Cs. The T-38C avionics upgrade program consisted of upgrading the T-38A and B model aircraft with new avionics and cockpit displays, which would become the T-38C. As a result of the upgrade, future SUPT graduates would be better prepared for the transition to training in follow-on fighter aircraft. The first two upgraded T-38C ‘test’ aircraft arrived at Columbus on 31 July 1999. The evaluators provided the contractor, McDonnell-Douglas Corporation, and AETC with feedback on deficiencies and software problems prior to the entire fleet being modified. The first operational T-38C arrived at Columbus on 16 July 2002. The base would eventually receive a total of 67 T-38Cs in FY 02 and FY 03.

Another Air Force reorganization initiative in September 2002 resulted in the 14th Support Group being redesignated the 14th Mission Support Group.

In addition, maintenance was realigned under the Wing versus the operations group.

The 2005 BRAC process realigned Department of Defense assets and closed select bases. As a result, Columbus gained 14 T-38C aircraft used for IFF training, and the 49th Fighter Training Squadron was activated on 10 May 2007. IFF provided training to all pilots and weapons systems officers entering assignments for fighter aircraft.

In 2006, the Chief of Staff approved the merger of Personnel and Services functions. At base level, the program action directive required installations to merge the resources of the Mission Support Squadron and Services Squadron, which resulted in the 14th Force Support Squadron activating on 1 April 2008.

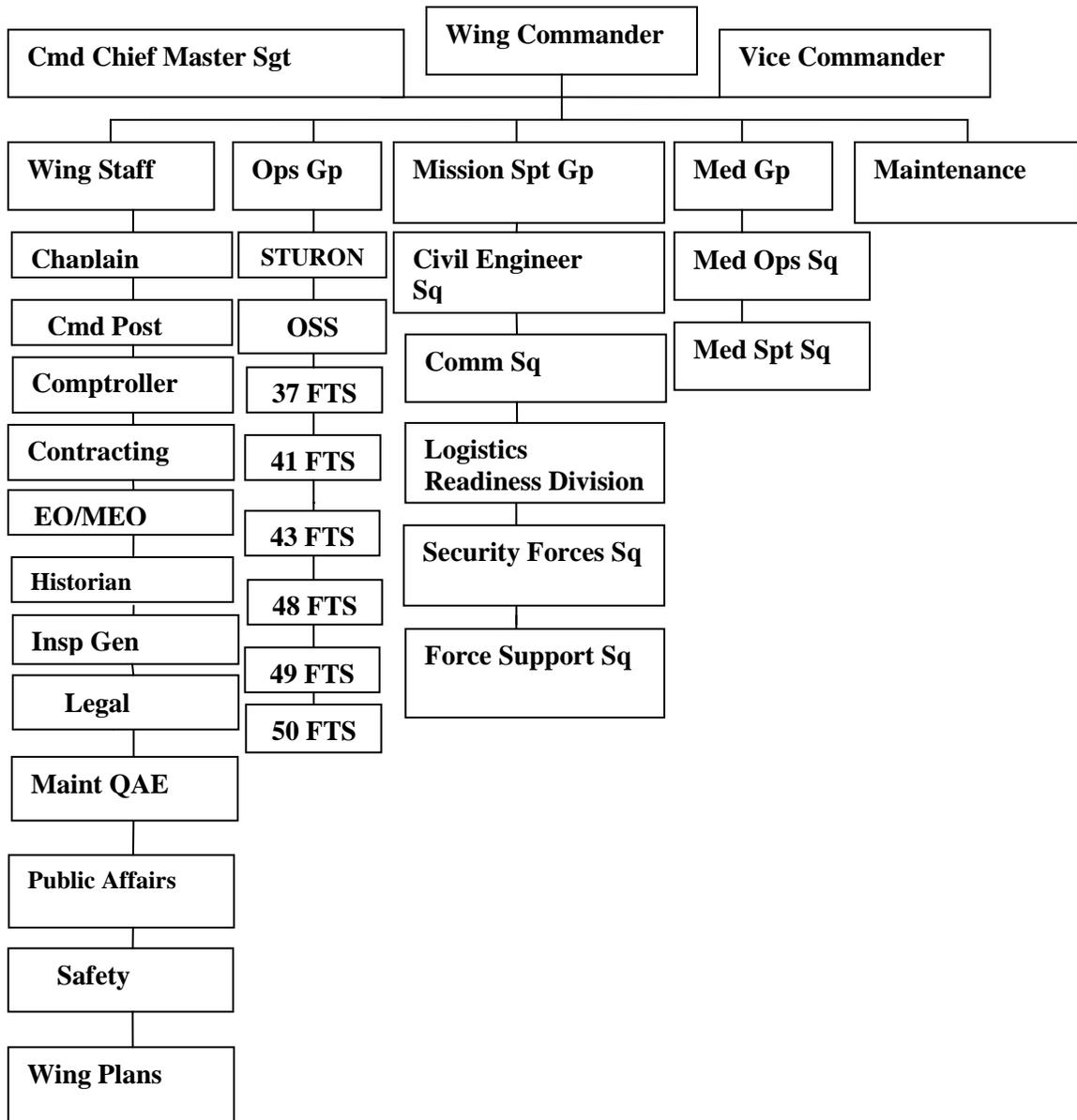
In line with the Air Force's push to downsize and restructure, SAF/FM and SAF/AQC introduced an initiative to increase efficiency and streamline operations by merging the comptroller and contracting squadrons. The initiative included a two-year test program beginning in July 2008. Effective 16 July 2008, the 14th Comptroller and Contracting Squadron (Provisional) activated.

After 39 years of service, and being known as the gateway to the sky for over 10, 000 Columbus-based trainees, the T-37 was formally retired on 3 April 2008. The final T-37 student sortie was flown on 31 March 2008.

In March, 2012, the base celebrated its 70th Anniversary, with a banquet that included memorabilia and U.S. Senator Roger Wicker (MS) as a guest speaker. The base has kept a proud tradition of producing pilots while also playing an integral role in the Columbus, MS community.

The 14th Flying Training Wing experienced many changes throughout the years. Since its activation in 1972, the Wing continues its mission to Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, and Feed the Fight.

Organizational Chart



LINEAGE AND HONORS Commanders

14th Fighter Group

1Lt Troy Keith.....	15 Jan 41
Col Thayer S. Olds	18 Apr 41
Lt Col Troy Keith.....	28 Jan 43
Col Oliver B. Taylor	26 Sep 43
Col Daniel S. Campbell	18 Jul 44
Col Thomas B. Whitehouse	Mar 45
Lt Col Lewis W. Chick	24 Dec 46

14th Fighter Wing

Col Loring F. Stetson, Jr.	29 Jul 47
Col George A. McHenry	7 Jan 47
Col Arvid E. Olson, Jr.	30 Sep 49
Inactivated	2 Oct 49
Activated (not manned).....	28 Feb 66

14th Air Commando Wing

Col Robert J. Jones.....	8 Mar 66
Col Gordon F. Bradburn	17 Apr 66
Col Forest L. Rauscher.....	10 Apr 67
Col John M. Patton.....	21 Nov 67
Col Conrad S. Allman	3 Jun 68

14th Special Operations Wing

Col William K. Bush.....	5 Mar 69
Col Clyde S. Cherry	2 Sep 69
Col William H. Fairbrother	3 Apr 70
Col Alfred F. Eaton	13 Sep 70
Col Mark W. Magnan	14 Mar 71
Col Malcolm L. Nurnburg	13 Sep 71
Inactivated	30 Sep 71

14th Flying Training Wing

Col William A. Boutwell	1 Jun 72
Col Robert B. Tanguy	9 Jun 72
Col James S. Creedon	18 Jul 73
Col Horace W. Miller.....	8 Mar 76
Col Winfield S. Harpe.....	10 Jul 78
Col Richard A. Pierson	4 Jun 80
Col Alexander Zakrzewski, Jr.....	4 Jun 81
Col Chester W. Griffin, Jr.....	5 Nov 82
Col James P. Ulm.....	8 Aug 84
Col Charles R. Edwards	8 Jan 87
Col James L. Higham.....	6 Jan 89
Col Nick P. Ardillo, Jr.....	12 Sep 91
Col Robert H. Foglesong	5 Apr 93
Col Garry R. Trexler	8 Dec 93
Col Michael G. Lee	18 Aug 95
Col John J. Catton, Jr	21 Jul 97
Col Teresa M. Peterson.....	10 Jul 98
Col Thomas J. Quelly.....	19 Jun 00
Col Stephen D. Schmidt.....	9 Aug 02
Col Stephen W. Wilson.....	24 Mar 04
Col David K. Gerber	9 Jun 06
Col Roger H. Watkins	25 Jun 08
Col Barre R. Seguin.....	28 Jul 10
Col James R. Sears, Jr.	27 Jun 12

Aircraft Assigned

14th Group

P-40	1940-1942	P-38.....	1941-1945
P-43	1940-1942	P-47.....	1946-1947
F-86.....	1955-1960		

14th Wing

P-47	1947-1948	UH-1	1967-1971
P-84	1947-1948	C-130	1968-1971
F-47	1948-1949	C-123	1968-1971
F-84	1948-1949	AC-130	1968
A-1	1966-1968	AC-119	1968-1971
AC-47.....	1966-1969	T-41.....	1969-1973
C-47.....	1966-1971	T-37B.....	1969-2008
HC-47.....	1966-1969	T-38A.....	1969-2003
U-10	1966-1969	UH-1	1990-1994
CH-3.....	1966-1969	AT-38.....	1993-2000
O-2	1967-1971	T-1A.....	1996-Present
		T-38C.....	2002-Present
		T-6A.....	2006-Present

Lineage

14th Group

20 Nov 40:	Constituted as 14th Pursuit Group (Fighter).
15 Jan 41:	Activated.
May 42:	Redesignated as 14th Fighter Group.
9 Sep 45:	Inactivated.
20 Nov 46:	Activated.

14th Wing

29 Jul 47:	Established as 14th Fighter Wing, a temporary wing.
15 Aug 47:	Organized.
26 Jul 48:	Discontinued the temporary wing.
26 Jul 48:	Activated 14th Fighter Wing as a permanent wing.
2 Oct 49:	Inactivated.
28 Feb 66:	Redesignated as the 14th Air Commando Wing and activated.
8 Mar 66:	Organized.
1 Aug 68:	Redesignated as 14th Special Operations Wing.
30 Sep 71:	Inactivated.
22 Mar 72:	Redesignated as 14th Flying Training Wing.
1 Jun 72:	Activated.

Assignments

14th Group

Eighth Air Force.....	ca Jul 42
Twelfth Air Force.....	ca Oct 42
Fifteenth Air Force	Nov 43
Inactivated	9 Sep 45
Air Defense Command.....	Aug 55-Jun 60

14th Wing

First Air Force	15 Aug 47
Inactive	2 Oct 49
Pacific Air Forces.....	28 Feb 66
2d Air Division.....	8 Mar 66
Seventh Air Force.....	1 Apr 66
Inactive	30 Sep 71
Air Training Command.....	1 Jun 72
Nineteenth Air Force.....	1 Jul 93

Stations

14th Group

Hamilton Field, California.....	15 Jan 41
March Field, California	ca 10 Jun 41
Hamilton Field, California.....	7 Feb 42
Atcham, England	18 Aug 42
Tafaraoui, Algeria.....	15 Nov 42
Maison Blanche, Algeria.....	18 Nov 42
Youks-les-Bains, Algeria	22 Nov 42
Berteaux, Algeria.....	9 Jan 43
Mediouna, French Morocco	5 Mar 43
Telergma, Algeria.....	5 May 43
El Bathan, Tunisia	3 Jun 43
Ste-Marie-du-Zit, Tunisia.....	25 Jul 43
Triolo Airfield, Italy	12 Dec 43
Lesina, Italy	Sep 45
Dow Field, Maine	20 Nov 46

14th Wing

Dow Field (later, AFB), Maine 15 Aug 47 - 2 Oct 49
Nha Trang Air Base, South Vietnam 8 Mar 66 - Oct 69
Phan Rang Air Base, South Vietnam 15 Oct 69 - 30 Sep 71
Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi..... 1 Jun 72 - Present

Bestowed Honors

(Earned by the 14th Group)

Campaign Streamers (World War II):

Air Combat, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater	
Air Offensive Europe	Northern France
Tunisia	Southern France
Sicily	North Apennines
Naples-Foggia	Rhineland
Rome-Arno	Central Europe
Normandy	Po Valley

Decorations:

Distinguished Unit Citation (Austria), 2 Apr 44

Wing Honors

(Earned by the 14th Wing)

Campaign Streamers:

Vietnam Air	Vietnam Summer-Fall 1969
Vietnam Air Offensive	Vietnam Winter-Spring 1970
Vietnam Air Offensive Ph II	Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Vietnam Air Offensive Ph III	Southwest Monsoon
Vietnam Air/Ground	Commando Hunt V
Vietnam Air Offensive Ph IV	Commando Hunt VI
Tet 69 Counteroffensive	

Decorations:

Presidential Unit Citation (SE Asia) 8 Mar 66-7 Mar 67
Presidential Unit Citation (SE Asia) 21 Jun 68-30 Jun 69
Meritorious Unit Commendation 1 Jan 68-31 Dec 68

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross (with Palm):

1 Apr 66 - 30 Sep 71
1 Jan 68 - 30 Aug 68

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards:

16 Jun 67 - 20 Jun 68 (with Combat "V" Device)
1 Jul 70 - 30 Jun 71 (with Combat "V" Device)
1 Jan 74 - 31 Dec 74
1 Apr 85 - 31 Mar 87
1 Jul 92 - 30 Jun 94
1 Jul 00 - 30 Jun 02
1 Jul 04 - 30 Jun 06
1 Jul 06 - 30 Jun 07
1 Jul 07 - 30 Jun 09
1 Jul 09 - 30 Jun 10
1 Jul 10 - 30 Jun 11

Components

14th Flying Training Wing

14th Field Maintenance Sq 1 Jun 72 - 31 Mar 88
14th Organizational Maintenance Sq..... 1 Jun 72 - 31 Mar 88
United States Air Force Hospital 1 Jun 72 - Jul 90
 Redesignated 14th FTW Hospital Jul 90 - 15 Dec 91
 Redesignated 14th Medical Sq 15 Dec 91 - 1 Nov 93
 Redesignated 14th Medical Gp 1 Nov 93 - Present
14th Medical Operations Sq..... 1 Sep 94 - Present
14th Medical Support Sq..... 1 Sep 94 - Present
14th Dental Sq 1 Sep 94 - 17 Jul 98
14th Aerospace Medicine Sq 1 Sep 94 - 1 Jun 97

14th Air Base Group 1 Jun 72 - 15 Dec 91
 Redesignated 14th Support Gp..... 15 Dec 91 – 12 Sep 02
 Redesignated 14th Mission Support Gp.....13 Sep 02 - Present
 14th Supply Sq 1 Jul 81 - 15 Dec 91
 14th Logistics Sq15 Dec 91 - 17 Apr 98
 Redesignated Logistics Division17 Apr 98 – 12 Sep 02
 Redesignated Logistics Readiness Division.....13 Sep 02 - Present
 14th Mission Support Sq..... 1 Aug 86 – 31 Mar 08
 Redesignated 14th Force Support Squadron 1 Apr 08-Present
 14th Civil Engineer Sq 31 Dec 73 - Present
 14th Security Police Sq 1 Jul 84 - 1 Jul 97
 Redesignated 14th Security Forces Sq 1 Jul 97 - Present
 14th Communications Sq 1 Apr 91 - Present
 (formerly 1948th Communications Sq)..... 1 Oct 90 - 1 Apr 91)
 14th Contracting Sq15 Dec 91 – 15 Jul 08
 Redesignated 14 Comptroller/Contracting16 Jul 08-17 Feb 10
 Squadron (Provisional)
 14th Comptroller Sq..... 18 Feb 10 – Present
 (formerly 14th Comptroller/Contracting Squadron (Provisional)
 14th Contracting Sq.....18 Feb 10 - Present
 (formerly 14th Comptroller/Contracting Squadron (Provisional)
 14th Services Sq 1 Jan 94 - 1 Jun 96
 (formerly 14th MWR&S Sq)..... 1 Sep 92 - 1 Jan 94
 Redesignated Services Division 1 Jun 96 – 31 Mar 08
 (Merged with 14 MSS to form 14 FSS)
 14th Operations Group..... 15 Dec 91 - Present
 14th Student Sq 1 Jun 72 - 25 Jun 90
 Reactivated 2 Dec 11- Present
 14th Operations Support Sq..... 15 Dec 91 - Present
 37th Flying Training Sq..... 1 Jun 72 - Present
 41st Flying Training Sq 1 Oct 98 - Present
 42d Flying Training Sq (formerly 14 Student Sq)25 Jun 90 - 15 Dec 91
 43d Flying Training Sq (T-37) 25 Jun 90 - 1 Oct 92
 43d Flying Training Flt (Reserve)..... 19 Jun 97 - 5 Jun 98
 Reactivated as 43d Flying Training Sq (Reserve)5 Jun 98 - Present
 48th Flying Training Sq (T-1A) 1 Jul 96 - Present
 49th Flying Training Sq (T-38)25 Jun 90 - 18 Sep 92
 Reactivated (AT-38 IFF)..... 1 Jul 93 - 10 Oct 00
 Reactivated (T-38C IFF) 10 May 07-Present
 Detachment 1, 14 Operations Group (IFF) 10 Oct 00 - 20 Dec 00

Detachment 1, 14 Operations Group (IFF)10 Jan 09-9 May 07
50th Flying Training Sq (T-38 then T-38C) 1 Jun 72 - Present
3588th Flying Training Sq (Helicopter).....1 Oct 90 - 18 Oct 91