

*"Skyblazers"*



*"Fightin' 36"*



**1955**



**1968**



**1994**

# **36TH WING, ANDERSEN AFB, GUAM**

## **2014—2016 HERITAGE PAMPHLET**



**Take a look at over six decades of heritage from one of the most historical wings and well-known active bases of the United States Air Force.**

Compiled and written by Jeffrey Meyer, 36th Wing Historian, June 2014

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## EARLY AVIATION ON GUAM, 1921-1943

Guam's aviation history began with U.S. Marine Corps and Pan American Airways seaplanes. When World War II first arrived on the island, Japanese aircraft bombed Sumay from Saipan. After the Japanese took possession, they constructed the first two airfields on Guam.



*Pfc Art Price of the USMC's Air Squadron photographed this flight over Apra Harbor*

**19 Sep 21:** The first recorded flight of any aircraft from Guam was a seaplane at 0835, this date. The US Marine Corps Flight Log for that day simply states, "N-9 2335 launched." It is possible that earlier flights occurred. The military maintained an aviation presence of approximately six aircraft on Guam until 1931.

**27 Mar 35:** The steamer S.S. North Haven set sail from Pan American Airways' (Pan Am) San Francisco Bay base at Alameda, CA to establish seaplane bases in Hawaii, Midway, Wake Island, Guam, and Manila. On Guam they occupied the old USMC's Sumay seaplane facilities.

**5 Oct 35:** Pan Am's *Hong Kong Clipper*, a Sikorsky S-42, seaplane landed at Apra Harbor, Guam for the first time and taxied into the newly completed seaplane base at the seaside village of Sumay.

**22 Nov 35:** Amid much fanfare, the first Pan Am Martin M-130 seaplane called the *China Clipper* took off from Alameda, CA with 1,837 pounds of mail. This officially opened the Trans-Pacific route.



*A Pan Am Martin M-130 Seaplane in Sumay, Guam circa 1935-1936.*

**21 Oct 36:** the *China Clipper*, again made history by carrying the first nine paying passengers across the Pacific Ocean; California to Manila and back in 15 days. Those passengers paid \$1,438.20 (+\$24K today) each for a round trip ticket.

**2 Jul 37:** Famous woman aviator Amelia Earhart disappeared while circumnavigating the globe. The last airfield she took off from was Lae, Papua New Guinea approximately 1,400 miles south of Guam.

Her guide, Fred Noonan was an experienced Pacific Ocean navigator of the Pan Am Clippers and passed through Guam many times.

**29 Jul 38:** At 0608, the Pan Am's *Hawaiian Clipper* took off from Apra Harbor, Guam to Manila, Philippines with 15 souls onboard and was never seen again. After an extensive search nothing was ever found of the seaplane. Its disappearance remains a mystery to this day.

**8 Dec 41:** The Sumay Pan Am facilities were bombed from the Japanese aircraft, taking out the Libugon radio and Standard Oil fuel depot. The Marine Barracks and Piti Navy Yard were also hit. Ten Chamorro Pan Am employees were killed, and 32 others on Guam and Wake island were interred for the duration of the war.



*Pan Am's 1930s Logo*  
(pamamair.org)

**8 Dec 41:** The *Philippine Clipper* was on a routine flight, from Wake Island to Guam carrying a Flying Tiger pilot and cargo full of airplane tires all bound for China when it heard that Guam had been attacked. The seaplane returned to Wake Island where it sustained 60 bullet holes from a Japanese strafing attacks, it still managed to return safely to Hawaii. The start of WWII ended Pan Am's seaplane Trans-Pacific route and the Clippers were transferred to the U.S. Navy.



*Pan Am Facilities at Sumay, Guam c. 1935-41.*

**c. 1942-1943:** Japanese constructed two airfields using Chamorro and Korean labor. These airfields were called Chamorro Dai Ichi (Guam No.1) located at the Orote Peninsula and Guamu Dai Ni (Guam No. 2) located at Tiyan.

## Guam's WWII Aviation History, 1944-1946

*In less than nine months after Operation STEVEDORE, the U.S. liberation of Guam, the island became a growing runway complex with five airfields; two Navy (USN) and three Army Air Forces (AAF). The three AAF B-29 Superfortress airfields were Guam Depot Field (Later Harmon AFB), North Field (Later Andersen AFB), and Northwest Field.*

**25 Apr 44:** The fight to retake Guam started with the 7th Air Force's (7 AF) bombing and photo reconnaissance mission of the island.

**19–20 Jun 44:** Battle of the Philippine Sea, "The Marianas Turkey Shoot," the final major carrier battle of WWII was fought just west of Guam. Most of the Japanese aircraft were lost in the battle, including those from airfields Guam Dai Ichi, Orote and Guamu Dai Ni, Tiyan.

**21 Jul 44:** American forces began their invasion at Asan and Agat. This date is now celebrated on Guam as "Liberation Day."

**8-10 Aug 44:** The last tank engagement took place on the Salisbury-Tarague Trail on the road leading to today's "Sander's Slope" on the future Andersen AFB. Seven Japanese tanks were either destroyed by Sherman tanks or abandoned by their crews.

**11 Aug 44:** Guam was declared secure after last tank engagement the day before. However, Lt Gen Hideyoshi Obata's headquarters at Mt. Mataguac, Yigo, didn't fall until the following day. The Peace Memorial is located at the same location today.

**6 Sep 44:** Construction at **Guam Depot Field** (Known as Harmon today) commenced.



*Marines moving up Salisbury-Tarague Trail during the last tank engagement on Guam, 8-10 August 1945. (USMC)*



*B-29s and bulldozers at North Field (AAFB) or Northwest Field, Guam circa early-mid 1945. (USAF)*

**21 Oct 44:** B-24 *Liberators* of the 11th Bomb Group (11 BG) arrived on Guam. Temporarily assigned to the Navy's **Agana Field**, Tiyan, later called Naval Air Station (NAS) Agana and today's Won Pat Guam International Airport, began bombing missions against nearby Japanese-held islands. **The 11 BG was the first US Army Air Force unit assigned to Guam.**

**c. Nov 44:** Four men of the 854th Airfield Construction Battalion stood at a drafting table under a tent at Pati Point adding lines to a blueprint representing runways, taxiways and parking aprons designed for B-29 bombers to what would be called **North Field, (Andersen AFB)** Guam. Little did they know that those lines would help shorten WWII and remain the focal point for US presence in the Pacific well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

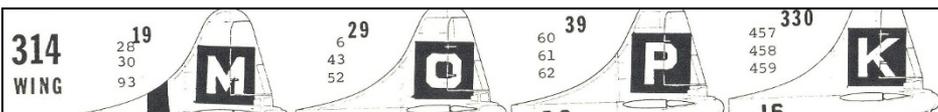
**c. 1 Dec 44:** Construction commenced at North Field (AAFB). The base was built by segregated units of the all-Black 1895th Engineer Aviation Construction Battalion and the all-White 854th Engineer Aviation Construction Battalion. The only base constructed in the Mariana Islands in that matter.

**4 December 1944:** Brig Gen Haywood Hansell moved the XXI Bomber Command, from Isley Field, Saipan to Guam Depot Field (Later Harmon Field), near Two Lover's Point. Later that week the advanced echelon of the 314th Bomb Wing (314 BW), North Field (AAFB), Guam arrived.

**1 Jan 45:** B-24s of the 11 BG moved from NAS Agana to Guam Depot Field.

**8 Jan 45:** Construction commenced at North Field's sister base **Northwest Field**, Guam where the progress was much slower.

**17 Jan 45:** Asphalt started to be laid on the south runway and hardstands, North Field (AAFB).



*Tail flashes of the 314th Bomb Wing, North Field, (AAFB) Guam, 1945-1946 (20 AF Anniversary Album)*

**3 Feb 45:** After over two months of 24/7 construction, North Field's south runway was declared operational when the 314 BW's administrative C-87/B-24 *Liberator* (Photo) was the first aircraft to land on the runway. The real celebration happened when Maj Gen Lemay, commander XXI Bomber Command, landed a F-13 *Superfortress* (Reconnaissance modified B-29) from the 3d Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron (3 PRS). Both aircraft were located at Guam Depot (Harmon) Field prior to the ceremony.



*The 314 BW's admin C-87/B-24 Liberator, nose art "Maximum Goose" was the first aircraft to ever land at North Field/Andersen AFB on 3 Feb 45. (36 WG/HO Archives)*

**25 Feb 45:** The earliest combat mission from North Field was led by 314th Bomb Wing Commander Brig Gen Thomas Power, the future Chief of Staff of the Strategic Air Command (SAC). The 314 BW's trademark black square tail insignias (Above), continued to bomb Japanese targets until the end of the war.

**26 Feb 45:** Lt Gen Willard Harmon's C-87 *Liberator* took off from Guam Depot Field and the next day disappeared without a trace while enroute to Hawaii. Also onboard was his Chief of Staff Brig Gen James Roy Andersen. Both of these generals were instrumental in the building the airfields that would later bare their names.



*Lt Gen Millard F. Harmon, Commander Army Air Forces Pacific Ocean Area. (36 WG/HO Archives)*

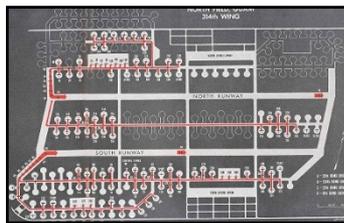
**9-10 Mar 45:** 334 B-29 *Superfortresses* from the Mariana Islands, including the 314th Bomb Wing, dropped incendiary bombs destroying over 267,000 buildings over 16 square miles of Tokyo in one night during Operation MEETINGHOUSE.

**6 Apr 45:** Although history maintains USN submarines discovered the Japanese super-battleship IJN *Yamato* first, an argument could be made that the 3 PRS assigned to Harmon Field and flew its missions out of North Field (AAFB) may seen the battleship's movement first. In accordance with the 3 PRS History, Mission No. 121, an F-13 (B-29) recorded the *Yamato* and her escorts near Tokuyama. Then less than 36 hours later it was destroyed by USN carrier aircraft.

**12 Apr 45:** Radio Operator MSgt Henry "Red" Erwin of the 330th Bomb Group was severely burned when a phosphorus smoke ignited inside his B-29 the *City of Los Angeles*. He was burned when he carried the burning object to the cockpit and threw it out the co-pilot's window saving the crew and aircraft. "Red" is the only Medal of Honor recipient from WWII B-29 operations and in Andersen AFB's Heritage. The current 36th Contingency Response Group (36 CRG) headquarters was dedicated in his name in 1997.

**26 May 45:** On 13 Apr 45, Lt Col Doyno Turner was the 458th Bomb Squadron Commander (458 BS), 330th Bomb Group (330 BG), North Field (AAFB), on Mission No. 2 when he was shot down over Tokyo Bay. His unit thought both he and the crew were killed or missing. They did not know he and his crew were actually a prisoners of war (POW). While a POWs, they were killed during in another incendiary bombing mission by their 330 BG that burned Yoyoge Army Prison on 26 May 1945. In 1946, the Turner Memorial (Outdoor) Theater was dedicated to him (736th SFS building).

**1 Jun 45:** Northwest Field dedication ceremony, attended by many AAF and USN distinguished visitors including, Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz and Maj Gen Curtis LeMay. The 315th Bomb Wing Commander Brig Gen Frank Armstrong commanded a force



*Diagram of North Field in March 1945 (36 WG/HO Archives)*



*Tail flashes of the 315th Bomb Wing, Northwest Field, (AFB) Guam, 1945-1946. (20 AF Anniversary Album)*

of special B-29Bs sometimes called *Eagles* because of the Eagle Radar that allowed the bombers to attack Japanese targets at night.

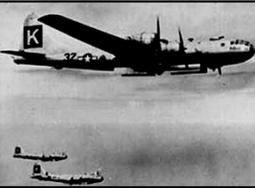
**13 Jun 45 - 4 Jan 1946:** (Also 15 Apr - 17 Jun 1946), the 41st Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron (41 PRS) equipped with F-5G (Photo Recon version of the P-38) Lightnings were assigned to Northwest Field.



*View from the cockpit of a B-29 landing Northwest Field, Guam.*

**22 Jun 45:** Pilot Capt Bauer accidentally crashed the B-29, nose art *Colleen*, while attempting an emergency landing. The crash happened over the northwest side of Pati Point in the early morning hours. The tail gunner was the only survivor. In 1997, a couple of Airmen investigating the crash site discovered the remains of Bauer and his co-pilot. Those remains were recovered and a ceremony was held at the Arc Light Memorial in 1998.

**26 Jun 45:** The first mission of the 315th Bomb Wing, Northwest Field, did not get off the ground until less than two months before the end of WWII. The 315 BW would complete 15 combat missions.



*B-29 Colleen, K-32, flies in formation. Colleen was named after the pilot's one year old daughter who visited the crash site in 2002. (36 W6GH0 Archives)*

**1 Aug 45:** 836 B-29 bombers from all Marianas based bomb wings attacked several locations in Japan. This was the largest bombing attack during WW II in the Pacific.

**6 Aug 45:** The Silver-plate B-29 *Enola Gay* piloted by Col Paul W. Tibbets, 509 Composite Group (509 CG), 313 BW, **North Field, Tinian** dropped the first Atomic Bomb "Little Boy" on Hiroshima.

**9 Aug 45:** Another Silver-plate B-29 *Bocks car* piloted by Lt Col Charles W. Sweeney, also assigned to the 509 CG, 313 BW, North Field, Tinian dropped the second Atomic Bomb "Fat Man" on Nagasaki.

**9—14 Aug 45:** All Mariana Islands based B-29 wings continued their bombing attacks of several strategic locations in Japan until the end of the war

(1,023 B-29 bomber sorties in 10 missions).

**15 Aug 45:** The 315 BW's B-29Bs returned to Northwest Field, Guam in the morning from their night mission to bomb Nippon Oil near Akita, Japan. When they landed, Japan had already surrendered. The 315 BW's mission was the last bombing mission, they dropped the last bomb, and were the last to land. The blackout caused by this mission along with other bomb wings that night helped to prevent a coup' in Tokyo.

**2 Sep 45:** Over 400 B-29s conducted a flyover of Tokyo Bay during the surrender signings aboard the USS Missouri (BB-63). Although it was "Surrender Day" in Tokyo Bay it was a somber day at Northwest Field. A B-29B crashed on the field after developing engine problems while attempting a POW "Mercy Mission," 10 of the 12 crewmen died.

**2 Sep 45:** Another B-29 from North Field, Guam flew the surrender photos to Washington D.C.

A B-17 took them from Tokyo to Iwo Jima, then a 330 BG B-29 from Iwo to Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. A train took the photos the rest of the way to D.C. \*Note: One other B-29 from North Field, Tinian might have also took part in this mission.



*F-13 on hardstand Harmon Field c. 1945-46. (36 W6GH0 Archives)*



## Brigadier General James "Jimmie" Roy Andersen

Born on 10 May 1904 in Racine, WI. Gen Andersen graduated in the top 4th of his class from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the infantry in 1926. Married his high school sweetheart after his graduation from West Point and went on to served as an infantry officer at Ft. Sheridan, IL, 1927-1929. He then served as an infantry officer with the 27th Infantry Regiment at Schofield Barracks in HI, 1929-1931.

In 1931-1933, he transferred to the Ordnance Department serving at Watertown Arsenal, Aberdeen, Md. Proving Ground Command; while there he studied at M.I.T. In 1934, after eight years as a second lieutenant he was promoted to First Lieutenant. Transferred to Picatinny Arsenal, NJ then to Selfridge Field, Michigan, 1934-1936.

By 1936, he applied for and began training as an Aviation Cadet at Randolph Field, TX. At advanced Training, Kelly Field, Texas; he received his wings as a member of the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1937. The newly promoted Captain then served as part of the defense force for the Hawaiian Islands from 1937 – 1939 with the 72D Bombardment Squadron (72 BS), 5th Bombardment Group (5 BG), 18th Composite Wing at Hickam Field, HI. He flew the Martin B-12A bomber until 1938 and then the Douglas B-18 *Bolo* until his departure. The commander of the 5 BG at the time was Col Millard F. Harmon.

1940 - 1942, he served as an instructor first in the Ordnance Department, then the Department of Chemistry and Electricity at the US Military Academy West Point. He was promoted to Major in 1940 and Lt Col in 1942. The went on to serve as the Director of Training at the Army Air Force Basic - Advanced Flying School for USMA Cadets, Stewart Field, NY where he helped implement the first ever flight training class for Army cadets. It was during this time he was promotion to Colonel, 1942 – 1943. Assigned 1943 – 1944, to the Strategy Section of the Operations Division of the War Department General Staff, Washington, D.C.

In 1944, Lt Gen Millard F. Harmon, Commander US Army Air Forces Pacific Ocean Areas (AAFPOA), the most senior AAF General Officer in the Pacific, personally selected Col Andersen to be his Chief of Staff. As Harmon's Chief of Staff, during the last six months of 1944, he assisted in the final planning and coordination for construction of the six B-29 bases in the Marianas, and the initial bombings of Japan. He also distinguished himself as the principal planner for the move of their headquarters to Guam, which was accomplished in January 1945. He was promoted to brigadier general just six weeks before his disappearance.

## POST WWII USAAF/USAF GUAM

*Of the six B-29 bases in the Marianas, only those on Guam remained active in the postwar period. North Field became Andersen AFB, the lone B-29 heavy bomber base in the Western Pacific. Construction began of permanent base structures in anticipation of the Air Force becoming a separate service. The construction of Building 21000, called "The Pentagon of the Pacific" was followed by installation of dorms and the first permanent housing of Fleming Heights. Harmon Field became Harmon AFB and continued its logistical and maintenance mission. Northwest Field became a fighter base until 1949.*

**19-20 Nov 45:** Col. Clarence S. Irvine and Lt. Col. G. R. Stanley flew the YB-29J Superfortress *Pacusan Dreamboat* #44-84061 to a new world distance record of 7,916 miles from Northwest Field, Guam to Washington, D.C., in 35 hours and 5 minutes.

**27 Nov 1945:** 54th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (54 WRS) arrived at North Field, specialized in typhoon chasing. The 54th would come and go under different designations until 1987.

**17 Apr 46 - 3 Apr 49:** Northwest Field becomes a fighter base. The 21st and the famous 23d Fighter Groups "Flying Tigers" were assigned there at different times equipped with P-47 *Thunderbolts* responsible for Marianas defense.

**9 May 1946:** North Field's first redesignation, Northfield Air Base Command.

**Master Sergeant Henry “Red” Erwin**

Citation: “Staff Sergeant Henry E. Erwin was the radio operator of a B-29 airplane leading a group formation to attack Koriyama, Japan, on April 12, 1945. He was charged with the additional duty of dropping phosphorous smoke bombs to aid in assembling the group when the rendezvous point was reached. Upon entering the assembly area, antiaircraft fire and enemy fighter opposition was encountered. Among the phosphorous bombs launched by Sergeant Erwin, one proved faulty, exploded in the launching chute, and shot back into the interior of the aircraft, striking him in the face. Smoke filled the plane, obscuring the vision of the pilot. Sergeant Erwin realized that the aircraft and crew would be lost if the burning bomb remained in the plane. Without regard for his own safety, he picked it up and, feeling his way, instinctively crawled around the gun turret and headed for the copilot's window. He found the navigator's table obstructing his passage. Grasping the burning bomb between his forearm and body, he unlatched the spring lock and raised the table. Struggling through the narrow passage he stumbled forward into the smoke-filled pilot's compartment. Groping with burning hands, he located the window and threw the bomb out. Completely aflame, he fell back upon the floor. The smoke cleared and the pilot at 300 feet pulled the airplane out of its dive. Sergeant Erwin's gallantry and heroism above and beyond the call of duty saved the lives of his comrades.”



**20 Jun 46:** 20 F-5G's (modified P-38 fighters) Lightnings were destroyed by Typhoon Dolly while in storage at Harmon Field.

**1 Mar 48:** North Field was redesignated a second time as North AFB.

**22 Apr 48:** North Field was redesignated a third time as North Guam AFB.

**12 Oct 48:** Building 21000 was opened, nicknamed “The Little Pentagon in the Pacific” it was the first completely concrete building on Guam. Parts of the building began to be demolished in 2013.



*19th Bomb Wing Airmen's Club, 1952 (Bruce Young Collection)*

**1 Feb 49:** North Field was redesignated a fourth time as North Field AFB, Guam, only to be changed again in March to North Guam AFB.

**15 May 49:** The 20 AF moved from Harmon AFB to Kadena AFB, Okinawa. The 19th Bomb Wing would briefly assume area control.

**7 Oct 49:** North Field is redesignated, for the final time, as Andersen AFB (AAFB).



*19 BG B-29 “No Sweat” over Korea, 1950 (Frank Farrell)*

**15 Nov 49:** Typhoon Allyn struck Guam and destroyed most of Harmon Field's structures, and the base was subsequently closed. Harmon's Cliff line housing continued to be used until the 1960's. Northwest Field was effectively abandoned and absorbed into a greater Andersen AFB.

**KOREAN WAR ERA**

**28 Jun 50:** After the outbreak of the Korean War, the 19th BG sent its entire bomber fleet to Okinawa. During that war AAFB played a chiefly logistical role in the war.

**6 Aug 50:** Strategic Air Command's (SAC) B-29 and B-50 bomb units began rotating through AAFB. The base supported and maintained these transient aircraft and operated ammunition storage areas.

**2 Sep 50:** Capt Charles Cloniger, 54 WRS, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for actions on this date. He continued to monitor the strength and position of “Typhoon Jane” while flying with one

engine shut down, aboard the WB-29 nose art *Typhoon Goon*. Capt Cloniger's information was very important for Gen MacArthur's Amphibious Force who where loading in Japan at the time for the famous Inchon Landings.

**25 Apr 52:** Airmen from the 54th WRS smuggled two women from McCellan Field, CA to AAFB onboard a B-29. The two women were offered jobs on Guam, but opted to pay their own way back home.

**14 Nov 52:** 79th Air Rescue Squadron activated on AAFB.

**c. 1952:** Tradition holds that the Annual Christmas Drop, began this year when an Airmen on a WB-29, *Superfortress*, 54th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (54 WRS) dropped some goodies to the people of Kapingamarangi island. Christmas Drop is the longest running Humanitarian effort in the DoD.



## COLD WAR & SAC ERA



*Distinguished Visitors and Airmen from the 36th Airlift Squadron (36 AS), Yokota AB, Japan wave to Micronesian Islanders from the back of a C-130 Hercules during Christmas Drop 2013.*  
(USAF, 36 WG/PA)

**17 Dec 53:** A B-29 suffered engine failure and crashed into Jennings Manor housing near the current Marine Corps Drive gate while attempting to land, killing nine of the crew and passengers; and 10 men, women, and children in the housing area.

**17 Jan 54:** Work started to lengthen and strengthen the runways at AAFB to accommodate SAC's new and larger aircraft the B-52 *Stratofortress* and KC-135 *Stratotanker*.

**28 Jan 54:** The last executions in the USAF occurred when two Airmen were hung by an old abandoned hangar at Northwest Field. They were convicted of the 1948 rape and murder of Ruth Farnsworth.

**18 Jun 54:** SAC established the 3d Air Division (3 AD) at AAFB as a tenant unit.

**16 Oct 54:** The 92d Bomb Wing (92 BW), Fairchild AFB, deployed to Guam. This marked the first time an entire B-36 *Peacemaker* wing deployed overseas. The giant B-36s would deploy only twice to AAFB, 16 Oct 54 - 12 Jan 55 and 26 Apr - 6 Jul 56 before the B-52 *Stratofortress* replaced them in the USAF (Photo Right).



*The first B-36 arrives on 1 Oct 54, the rest would arrive on 16 Oct 54, marking the start of the 92d Bombardment Wing's deployment to Andersen AFB. (U.S. Air Force photo)*

**1 Apr 55:** SAC took over the base completely when the 3 AD assumed area control and the 6319th Air Base Wing inactivated and the 3960 ABW activated. The Cold War had arrived to the Mariana Islands to stay.

**1 Mar 56:** The first air-conditioned theater on Guam "Meehan Theater" opened its doors to much fanfare on AAFB. Many distinguished visitors including Governor Ford Q. Elvidge attended the first movie "Strategic Air Command" starring Jimmy Stewart. Officially dedicated 12 Jun 57, Meehan Theater was named after Col Arthur W. Meehan, 90th Bomb Group Commander who disappeared during a WWII combat mission from Australia, 14-15 Nov 43.

**5 Aug 56:** Fighter aircraft returned to Guam for defensive purposes when the 41st Fighter Interceptor Squadron (41 FIS) arrived from Misawa, Japan. 41 FIS was equipped with F-86 *Sabrejets* and remained integral part of AAFB until inactivation in March 1960.



*15 B-47s lined up on the South Ramp, AAFB, circa 1956-1963.*  
(USAF)

**5 Oct 56:** Operation LUMBER JACK, first B-47 *Stratojets* arrived at AAFB. Now with two jet powered aircraft units (F-86 *Saberjets*), Airmen focused extreme attention on Foreign Object Debris (FOD) awareness.

**22 Jan 57:** The last B-29 departed AAFB after almost 12 years in the Marianas. The aircraft was an WB-29 from the 54 WRS.

## Building Permanent Structures



*Quonset and prefab housing, circa 1957 (USAF)*



ing much of the base's remaining WWII-era infrastructure.

The post-Karen rebuild project of 1963-64 resulted in the construction of fifteen major buildings including Chapel Two, NCO Club (now Top of the Rock), and the Bowling Alley complex.

Following the Karen Rebuild, apart from upgrades and beautification projects, Andersen saw very little new construction until the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Andersen AFB was originally comprised of rows of temporary wartime structures called Quonset Huts (Q-Huts). Then from the late 1940s through 1964 the base was under almost perpetual construction, transforming the environment with permanent, typhoon-proof, concrete structures.

One especially important area was housing — until 1960 the majority of Andersen's Airmen and families lived in Quonset Huts or wooden prefabricated units, located on base or in detached AF housing areas at Northwest Field, Harmon, Marbo, or in private rentals.

The completion of Capehart Housing's 1050 units on 2 Aug 60, ended most of the Air Force's housing problems. Fortunately it was just in time for 11 Nov 62, Super-typhoon Karen which destroyed most non-concrete structures on Guam, including



*Super-typhoon Karen's total destruction of Guam's villages prompted the construction of buildings in concrete. (36 WG/HO Archives)*

**14 Aug 57:** Brig Gen James V. Edmundson, SAC's Deputy Director of Operations, flew a 321 BW B-47 nonstop from Andersen AFB to Sidi Slimane, Morocco, North Africa. He set a B-47 record for distance and time aloft: 11,450 miles in 22 hours 50 minutes.

**3 Oct 57:** Fiction novelist James Michener famous for the book "Tales of the South Pacific" visited Guam while researching for his new book about SAC. Later, his C-47 ditched about two miles from the island of Iwo Jima. He was rescued, but all his notes were lost and he never finished the book.

**c. Dec 57:** Bob Hope's performed his first of nine Christmas USO Shows at AAFB. He would later return in 1962 and for his famous wartime shows during the Vietnam Era: 1964, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, and 1972.

**30 May 58,** The first visit to AAFB by the B-52 *Stratofortress* and the KC-135 *Stratotanker*. They stayed for a weekend visit as part of the base open house event. This started over five decades of relationship between the B-52/KC-135 combination and AAFB.

**18 Nov 59:** Numerous UFO sighting around AAFB on this date. So many reports that it ended up being written in the annual 1959, 3d Air Division History.

**8 Mar 60:** 41 FIS, the last fighter squadron assigned to AAFB, departed.

**19 Sep 60:** "The forgotten Crash" a C-118/DC-6, leaving the MAC Terminal at NAS Agana crashed into Barrigada Heights and killed 80 of 94 mostly military and dependents. This was the worst recorded crash on Guam until Korean Airlines Flight 007 in 1997.

**26-31 Jan 61:** Operation HAPPY HOUR, Martin TM-61 *Matador* Missiles were test fired from Northwest Field to the island of Farllon de Medinilla (FDM).

**14 – 28 Oct 62:** AAFB was in high alert in response to the Cuban Missile Crisis.

**11 Nov 62:** Super Typhoon Karen struck Guam with Category 5 winds up to 175 mph and gusts over 185 mph. 11 people were killed and approximately 45,000 were left homeless. 13 - 17 Nov 62, PACAFBASECOM agencies at Hickam AFB operated 24-hours-a-day to support military dependents evacuated from Guam. Most of the 600 evacuees were processed through Hickam en route to Travis AFB. In addition, the Air Forces joined other military and civilian agencies in Operation HANDCLASP, which consisted of collecting donations of food, clothing, and other items to be flown or shipped to Guam.



**29 Mar 64:** The first B-52 squadrons from 95th and 22d Bomb Wings arrived for "Alert Duty" as first Reflex Operation.

**15 Jun 64:** The 1507th Support Squadron and the MATS terminal moved from NAS Agana to AAFB.



DISCUSSING MISSION — Brig. Gen. James M. Stewart (L), discusses B-52 operations with Maj. Gen. W. J. Cronin (C), 2d Air Division commander and Col. William T. Cumbsey (R), commander of 64-250th Bombardment Wing. The discussion took place following a B-52 mission over South Vietnam in which General Stewart, noted Hollywood actor participated.

## VIETNAM WAR

*Base operations began to evolve significantly with the arrival of the first B-52 units to take over SAC's alert mission in 1964. As America's involvement in Southeast Asia escalated more B-52s arrived on Guam as part of an eight-year campaign called Operation ARC LIGHT.*

**23 May 65:** The first B-52 mission over Vietnam was called Operation SHORT SPRINT. A single B-52 flew over Kontum Province in S. Vietnam for photo and radar reconnaissance in preparation for Operation ARC LIGHT missions.

**18 Jun 65:** ARC LIGHT One, the first B-52 bombing mission over Vietnam. 30 B-52Fs took off from AAFB, tragically two of the BUFFs collided in midair and eight crewmen were lost. Yet the Air Force was undeterred, and it was during this time that Andersen AFB became synonymous with the B-52.

Beginning in June 1965, Strategic Air Command B-52s attacked communist positions in South Vietnam under the code name Operation Arc Light. Gradually, they also hit enemy strongholds in Laos, Cambodia and southern North Vietnam. Flying at altitudes where they could not be heard on the ground, the B-52s gave the enemy little warning. Often, the first the communists knew they were under attack was when bombs exploded around them. If the B-52s hit enemy forces concentrated for an attack, like during the siege of Khe Sanh and the North Vietnamese invasion of South Vietnam in April 1972, the results were devastating. The first Arc Light B-52s were deployed to Andersen AFB on Guam, but the 2,600-mile flight from Guam to South Vietnam took six to seven hours. This distance made it difficult to attack the mobile enemy forces, and the aircraft required aerial refueling. To reduce the response time and lessen the need for aerial tankers, B-52s were also stationed at the U-Tapao Royal Thai Navy Airfield, Thailand. Throughout the war, the Strategic Air Command (SAC) had to provide B-52s for operations in Southeast Asia while also keeping B-52s on nuclear alert duties. To meet both requirements, SAC rotated B-52 aircrews into Guam and Thailand on temporary duty status, which meant the aircrews did not receive official credit for combat missions. Still, when Arc Light operations ended in August 1973, B-52 aircrews had flown about 125,000 sorties (one sortie equals one aircraft on one mission) and dropped almost 3.5 million tons of bombs. Over half of all Arc Light missions were flown over South Vietnam, and the rest struck targets in Cambodia, Laos and North Vietnam.

- USAF Fact Sheet

**Operation ARC LIGHT**

**B-52F 1965-66**



**B-52D 1966-73**



**B-52G 1972-73**



**29 Jun 65**, the last B-47 *Stratojet* departed AAFB. It was a weather WB-47E version from the 54 WRS.

**17 Sep 65**: Part of the “Corona Project”, the Guam Tracking Station became operational at Northwest Field, where Detachment 2, 21st Space Operations Squadron operates today almost 50 years later.

**21 Feb 66**: Famous Actor and Airmen Brig Gen Jimmy Stewart came to AAFB and flew a combat mission on a B-52F. (See photo on prior page)

**2 Jul 66**: Rabies outbreak on Guam. Importation of all animals was halted for a year.

**c. Dec 66**: Operation PURPLE DRAGON, Operational Security (OPSEC) in its infancy, started at AAFB and in other SAC units operating in the Vietnam area.



*Maj Gen William J. Crumm, Commander 3d Air Div, AAFB, 1965-67. (USAF)*

**21 Mar 67**: “Super DV Day” President Johnson, South Vietnam President Nguyen Van Thieu and Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky; Ambassador to South Vietnam Henry Cabot Lodge, Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen Earle Wheeler, and Commanding General Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) William Westmoreland. The President awarded 12 B-52 Crewmen medals in front of the current 36 WG Headquarters in the rain. First time Andersen Radio broadcasted an event live to AFRT and around the world.



*HONOR FLIGHT – President Johnson receives the 3600th Central Defense Sq. Honor Flight at Andersen.*

**10 Apr 67**: Operation POKER DICE, 3 AD sent three B-52s from AAFB to U-Tapao, Thailand to open that base for B-52 operations.

**7 Jul 67**: Maj Gen William J Crumm, Commander 3d Air Div, AAFB was lost when his B-52D collided with another and both crashed about 20 miles of the Vietnam coast. Maj Gen Crumm is the highest ranking U.S. military officer still missing in action, but is presumed dead.

**23 Jan 68**: Operation PORT BOW, after the USS Pueblo was seized by N. Korea, nine more B-52Ds were added to AAFB and 15 stateside B-52Ds were sent to Kadena AB, Okinawa, as part of the 4252 SW. This brought more bombers closer in support of Marines during the Siege of Khe Sanh.



*Operation BULLET SHOT, besides the B-52G in the foreground there are 17 BUFF tails in this photo. (36 WG/HO)*

**1 Apr 70**: The 8th Air Force replaced the 3d Air Division, the 43d Bomb Wing replaced the 3960th Strategic Wing, and the 4133d Strategic Wing (Provisional) inactivated at AAFB.



*KC-135s present awesome sight along Perimeter Rd*

**10 Jul 70**: The first C-5 *Galaxy* landed at AAFB

**c. Aug 70**: Hollywood Movie “Noon Sunday” was filmed at Tarague Beach and other locations around Guam.

**8 Feb 72**: A B-52 build-up began at AAFB called Operation BULLET SHOT. A five



*Tropicana Service Club, 1971 (36 WG/HO)*

phase plan to bring more B-52s into Southeast Asia in response to intelligence reports that North Vietnam planned to invade South Vietnam. Large numbers of B-52s, crews, and maintainers rotated through Guam and U-Tapao for the next 18 months.

**8 May 72:** Operation LINEBACKER I, bombing in N. Vietnam, was authorized by President Nixon to push back the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Easter Offensive. B-52s from AAFB and U-Tapao participated in this operation.

**8-9 Jul 72:** Two USN submarines rescued a B-52G crew that bailed out of their aircraft in the path of Typhoon Rita

approximately 300 miles west of Guam. Aircraft from AAFB kept overhead watch, but no surface ships could reach the crew because of the approximately 40 foot seas and typhoon force winds. Amazingly, all but one crewmen were rescued.

**12 Jul 72:** AAFB's current tower officially opened, its 168.5 feet tall with 223 steps. When it was built it was the tallest tower in the Air Force.

**25 Oct 72:** The largest movement of aircraft in AAFB history. Typhoon Olga was bearing down on Guam, all of the Operation BULLET SHOT +/- 175 aircraft had to evacuate to other locations in the Pacific Region. The typhoon never hit Guam.



*MUNS Airman prepping a bomb for an ARC LIGHT mission (36 WG/HO)*

**18 Dec 72:** When North Vietnam showed its unwillingness to negotiate, the Air Force unleashed Operation LINEBACKER II out of AAFB and U-Tapao. During this "11-Day War" there were over 153 B-52s on the ramp supported by an estimated 15,000 Airmen (a third of whom were maintainers). It was a defining moment for the base, and North Vietnam was effectively brought back to the negotiating table allowing for America's full withdrawal from Vietnam.

**15 Aug 73:** Last ARC LIGHT mission, B-52s bombed locations in Cambodia prior to the cease fire order.

**26-29 Oct 73,** 86 B-52G and & D models redeployed to the states during the 1973 Oil Embargo. The Oil Embargo also stopped the Annual Operation Christmas Drop from happening in 1973. The only time since c. 1952.

**12 Feb 74:** Dedication of Arc Light Memorial was held exactly one year after the release of the Vietnam War POWs. The memorial honors the 75 B-52 crewman who were killed during Operation ARC LIGHT. It was originally proposed by Lt Gen George H. McKee in tribute to Maj Gen Crumm, but the idea was expanded to honor all those lost during the Arc Light missions into Vietnam.

**23 Apr 75:** The repercussions of America's withdrawal came in less than three years when a re-strengthened North Vietnam invaded the south. This event caused a major refugee crisis called Operation NEW LIFE during which AAFB received more than 40,000 of the 112,000 refugees who arrived on Guam. Over 109,000 of them were eventually processed and departed out of AAFB to bases in the U.S. by August.

**23 Dec 75:** The last Vietnam era operation ceased on AAFB when the last KC-135 "Young Tigers" aircraft departed.



*Super Typhoon destruction, 1976 (36 WG/HO)*





*U.S. Military—Mt Pinatubo refugees from the Philippines being processed in one of the old hangars at AAFB during Operation Fiery Vigil. (36 WG/HO Archives)*

**6 Oct 87:** A B-52G was shot at and damaged by M-14 rifle shots causing hydraulic/electric problems. The aircraft managed to land safely at AAFB.

**15 May 88:** The first visit to AAFB by an B-1B *Lancer*. The B-1B's tail number was 85-0072, nose art "Polarized."

**c. Oct 88:** The host 43d Bombardment Wing traded its nuclear deterrent role for a conventional mission, and in the next year began redeploying to stateside bases. The 43rd would see inactivation on 30 Sept 1990.

**1989:** With the thawing of the Cold War, AAFB became part of PACAF and saw the activation of the 633rd Air Base Wing (633 ABW). SAC's 60 BS

continued to fly B-52s out of Guam until early 1990. The 633rd Air Base Wing's life on Andersen was relatively short, inactivating on 1 Oct 1994.

**1990–2011:** AAFB was designated as an emergency space shuttle landing site.

**27 Mar 90:** The last B-52 ever permanently assigned to AAFB (60 BS) departed to the Australian Aviation Heritage Centre, Darwin.

**17 Jan 91:** Operation DESERT STORM began on this date. 34 Airmen from AAFB were deployed to Middle East in support. On 1 Oct 90, the 1500th Strategic Wing (Provisional) stood up with B-52s less than a year after the 60 BS departed. The 1500th Strategic Wing (P) sent six B-52Gs to Diego Garcia to replace BUFFs that flew combat missions the first day of air operations.



*Airmen deployed from AAFB return a heroes welcome after Operation DESERT SHIELD & STORM, 1991. (36 WG/HO Archives)*

**12 Jun 91:** Mt Pinatubo erupted in the Philippines. Since the volcano was located only 12 miles from Clark AB the evacuation had already started on 10 June. In the wake of the eruption and then a typhoon more than 18,000 American refugees from military bases in the Philippines arrived at AAFB in Operation FIERY VIGIL.

**20 Aug 91:** Airman Laurie Lucas dies from wounds sustained during Midnight Trail training exercises.

**2 Dec 91:** An official flag raising and change of command ceremony was held for the 13th Air Force who moved from Clark AB to AAFB in the wake of Mt Pinatubo.

**29 Dec 91:** SSgt Stacey Levay is murdered while escorting the Commissary cash box to be deposited. Jose Simoy, a fellow Security Forces member, was given the death penalty.

**23 Jan 92:** An Operation DESERT STORM damaged B-52G #58-0234 was blown up and scrapped at AAFB.

**21-29 Jul 92:** Potts Junction entrance to Northwest Field and NAS Agana were sites of protests by future Guam Senator Angel Santos and the Nasion Chamoru Activist Group.



**Bombs away!**  
Ammo troops restack bombs shaken loose by earthquake

**8 Aug 93:** A 8.1 Earthquake struck Guam resulting in various damages to Guam and AAFB. In spite of the damage, AAFB declared ready for Air Operations within 14 hours after the quake.

**1 Oct 94:** The 633d Air Base Wing (633 ABW) inactivated.

*(See the rest of AAFB History 1994-Present in the 36th Wing Heritage Section pages 28-29)*





# Andersen Air Force Base History Trail

1. **Arc Light Memorial:** Sitting on the site of the original WWII and Korean War Wing HQ building, the monument lists the names of all B-52 crewmen who lost their lives during the Operation ARC LIGHT bombing campaign (1965-1973), including LINEBACKER II.
2. **B-52:** The original “Old 100” B-52 that was placed at this location flew more than 5,000 hours in the war over Vietnam, and was the aircraft always shown by the press as the B-52 file photo. “Old 100” was one of the last three aircraft to bomb North Vietnam and flew its final mission 29 Dec 1972. Due to severe corrosion that plane was removed and replaced in 1983 by B-52D tail number 56-586, which was also taken down April 2014.



3. **Revetment Memorial:** Although the revetment was blown away by Typhoon Omar in 1992, this memorial plaque reminds us of an important aspect of Vietnam wartime operations on Andersen.
4. **Combat Skyspot Memorial:** In memory of the ground radar network used in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, and the 18 Skyspot men who gave their lives, one of whom is was a Medal of Honor recipient. The Skyspot antenna rested here until destroyed by Typhoon Pongsona, but the base and plaque still remain.
5. **Munitions Memorial:** The bomb static displays and memorial are a poignant reminder of the munitions Airmen and the their hard work here during the Vietnam War.



*Sister Village huts, 1971*

6. **Outdoor Stage:** Until the early 1960s, this was the location of the rotational bomb wing headquarters. During the 1970s and 1980s, the area was used Sister Village huts, traditional Chamorro buildings constructed in miniature to commemorate the Sister Village sponsorship program. It is now a focal point for various outdoor events.

7. **Heritage Hall:** Located in the AMC Terminal, a timeline of the Air Force presence in the Pacific is illustrated with displays. You can also find a large collection of model airplanes, and trivia for kids.
8. **Old and New Control Towers:** The structure on the left opened in 1971 and is the tallest freestanding control tower in the AF. At one point it was also the tallest building on Guam. The cylindrical structure on the right, now used for hanging parachutes was the old control tower with its top removed built in 1954.



9. **Building 21000:** Called “the little Pentagon of the Pacific” when opened on 12 October 1948, it is

*Control Towers, Early 1970s*

the largest and oldest building on Andersen. Currently home of the base library and the banks. 21000 was originally built as a barracks (and still occasionally used as such). Its all concrete construction indicated that the USAF was planning to stay on Guam after WWII.

10. **Tropicana:** This building is currently used by deployed squadrons, but was originally a service club built in the mid 1950's as part of SAC's build up on the base.



*Col Adlai H Gilkeson*

11. **Old Gilkeson Field:** In honor of Brig Gen Adlai H Gilkeson, who had a long and distinguished career in the Pacific Theater. Currently the base's running track, this field at one time had bleachers where Andersenites watched the Bombers football team. The field

was also used for Bob Hope's regular USO visits in the 1960's and early 1970's.



*A crowd of 17,000 to see Bob Hope's USO show at Gilkeson Field, 1970*

12. **Meehan Theater:** Opened 1 Mar 56, this theatre has been the center of AAFB's and hosts films, plays, shows, talks and briefings. It is named for Col Meehan, 90th Bomb Group commander who disappeared in 1942.

13. **Chapel 1:** Built in 1955, this unique structure has served the spiritual needs of Andersenites

14. **Latte Stone Point:** Located in front of the HQ building, these two authentic Latte Stones have been at this location since the late 1959 after being excavated from the Maagas River, Fena area, in south-central Guam.



*Latte Stone Point, 1960*



*James Roy Jr and Ester Andersen, 1950.*

15. **AAFB Monument:** On 25 Apr 50, Brig Gen Andersen's son and widow, James Roy Jr and Mrs. Ester Andersen, were present for the dedication ceremony of Andersen AFB. The plaque was originally placed in front of the 19th Wing Headquarters, the current site of the Arc Light Memorial. In September 2007, marking the AF's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it was installed at the 36th Wing HQ and the base was re-dedicated by Brig Gen Owens, 36 WG/CC.

16. **Henry "Red" Erwin Building:** The current 36 CRG building commemorates WWII hero and Medal

**Andersen Air Force Base History Trail**

## Andersen Air Force Base History Trail

- of Honor recipient MSgt (ret) Henry Erwin. Inside the building are plaques for all Air Force Medal of Honor winners, with the exception of two most recent recipients AIC William H. Pitsenbarger and CMSgt Richard L. Etchberger
17. **Lucas-LeVay Building:** On December 17, 2004, the new 36th Security Forces Building was dedicated to two fallen security forces personnel. Both Airman Laurie Lucas and Sergeant Stacy LeVay lost their lives in the line of duty on Andersen AFB (See Chronology).
  18. **Lafferty Hall and Plaque:** This dorm across from 36th Wing Headquarters is where SAC's 60th Bomb Squadron crews lived while on alert. In 1984, B-52 navigator 1Lt Michael Lafferty was killed off base, and in early 1985 the building was dedicated in his honor. A small plaque can be found on the outside stairwell facing the parking lot.
  19. **Tin City Steps:** Going down into a grassy field, this small flight of steps is the last remnant of a vast metal barracks complex built for deployed maintenance crews during the Vietnam War. Ironically, the barracks also housed hundreds of Vietnamese refugees in 1975, during Operation NEW LIFE. The units were largely destroyed by Typhoon Pamela in 1976.
  20. **Top of the Rock:** This facility was built in 1963 as the base's NCO club, as part of the Typhoon Karen Rebuild project.
  21. **F-4E Static Display:** Mounted 1991, on the grounds of the old Skyview outdoor theatre, this memorial commemorates AAFB's role as an important stopover point for thousands of jets on their way to and from Southeast Asia in the 1960's and early 1970's. It was repainted as the 36th WG's flagship in late 2007.
  22. **Fleming Heights Housing:** Nicknamed "Flintstones" houses, Fleming Heights was the first permanent concrete housing constructed at AAFB. Built in the late 1940's, the small but significantly upgraded structures have withstood multiple typhoons and earthquakes over the last half century.
  23. **Chapel II:** This striking structure's completion in 1964 marked the end of the post-Typhoon Karen Rebuild at Andersen.
  24. **B-52E "Grey Ghost" Relic:** Three B-52s shared the same nickname "Grey Ghost" from 1966-1980. An actual tail section of the second "Grey Ghost" B-52E #56-0637 still remains where Super Typhoon Pamela placed it in 1976.
  25. **Tarague Embayment Monument and Overlook:** The monument at this overlook explains the ecology of the area. It is also the best spot on base for photographing Guam's natural beauty.
  26. **Sander's Slope:** The site of the last tank engagement on Guam during WWII.

## Andersen Street Names

|                  |                                   |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| SPAATZ AVENUE    | General Carl A. Spaatz            |
| CRUMM AVENUE     | Major General William J. Crumm    |
| LEMAY LANE       | Brigadier General Curtis E. LeMay |
| TWINING AVENUE   | General Nathan F. Twining         |
| KENNEY AVENUE    | General George C. Kenney          |
| VANDEBURG AVENUE | General Hoyt S. Vandenburg        |
| O'MALLEY AVENUE  | General Jerome F. O'Malley        |
| DOOLITTLE AVENUE | General James H. Doolittle        |
| MITCHELL AVENUE  | Colonel Billy Mitchell            |

*For more information on these honored individuals, stop by our Heritage Hall!*

## Other Heritage on Andersen AFB



*Brig Gen Andersen's general officer's flag is on display in the HQ small conference room wall and has been a part of AAFB heritage for many years. In 1988, Mrs. Andersen, the general's widow, passed away and she willed it to the base.*



*The wreckage of the B-29 "Colleen" crash site is located down the cliff line on northwest side of Pati Point. The whole crash site was disturbed during the search for the crew remains and their personal items in 1998. The B-29's remnants are very deteriorated after being exposed to the Guam climate for almost 70 years.*



*The "Last Mission" Memorial at Northwest Field commemorates the last bombing mission of WWII by the 315th Bomb Wing, Northwest Field, Guam 14 - 15 August 1945. Additionally, the following bomb wings were also on missions that night: 73 BW, Saipan; 313 BW, Tinian; and 314 BW, Guam.*

## 36th Wing Heritage

*The 36th Wing is one of the most historic wings in the Air Force. Its heritage started in World War II as the "Fightin' 36" and continued through the Cold War in West Germany. The 36th was constantly upgraded to the Air Force's most cutting edge airframes from the F-80 Shooting Star to the F-15 Eagle. Today the 36th Wing stands as a legacy for all who served in Europe, and continue to serve on the island of Guam.*



**22 Dec 39:** The history of the 36th Wing started on paper when the Headquarters U.S. Army Air Corps (AAC) constituted the **36th Pursuit Group** (Interceptor).

**1 Feb 40:** Headquarters U.S. Army Air Corps activated the **36th Pursuit Group** (36 PG) at Langley Field, VA, with three squadrons, 22 PS, 23 PS, and 32 PS. Initially, the unit was equipped with P-36 *Mohawks*.

**29 Jul 41:** Ceremony held for President Franklin D. Roosevelt's visit to Langley Field.

**14 Jan 41:** The group personnel and aircraft arrived at Ponce Air Field (Later Losey Field), Puerto Rico with 17 P-36s, 2 AT-6 *Texans*, and one B-10B *Bolo* bomber where they flew anti-submarine patrols over the Caribbean.



*36th Pursuit Group P-36 Mohawks at Langley Field c. 1940. (USAF)*

**C. May 41:** The 36th began receiving the newest pursuit planes in the Army Air Corps' inventory the P-39 *Airacobra* and the P-40 *Warhawk*.

**20 Jun 41:** Army Air Corps became a part of the new expanded Army Air Forces (AAF).

## World War II



*The 36th Fighter Group, poses in Western France with bottles of Champagne, gifts from Lt Gen Patton after supporting him in September 1944. (36 WGHQ)*

**7 Dec 41:** Following the attack on Pearl Harbor the group was dispersed throughout the Caribbean and expanded its anti-submarine patrols to include the Panama Canal Zone.

**15 May 42:** Headquarters U.S. Army Air Forces redesignated the 36th to the **36th Fighter Group** (Single Engine).

**22 June 1943:** The 36th Fighter Group (36 FG) arrived in

Charleston, SC and received the new P-47 *Thunderbolts* and began training in bombing and aerial gunnery at many different locations throughout the U.S. The 32 FS stayed behind in the Caribbean.

**22 June 1943:** The 53d Fighter Squadron joined the 36 FG and would remain part of the 36th for over 50 years.

**22 Mar 44:** After a brief stay in New York the 36 FG boarded the HMT *Stirling Castle* bound for the European Theatre of Operations (ETO).

**4 Apr 44:** Personnel and equipment arrived at Station 418, Kingsnorth, Kent, England after a brief stop in Liverpool.

**8 May 44:** Assigned to the 9th Air Force (9 AF), the 36 FG flew its first combat mission with a fighter sweep over the French coast with 2 P-47Cs and 37 P-47Ds. No target was designated and none attacked. The goal of the P-47 units at the time was to hit specific targets such as bridges, heavy gun emplacements, railroad supplies, and destroy the flak guns.





*Skyblazers' F-84s over West Germany, 1951.*  
(1952 36 FBW Yearbook)

In 1949, Major Harry K Evans, leading pilot in a group of three Lockheed F-80B Shooting Star aircrafts returning from Malta, suggested the pilots try some aerobatics on the way back to the base. The identical twins Lieutenants C. A. "Bill" and Charles C. "Buck" Pattillo, as right and left wing, agreed. The idea for the aerial expedition team was born.

USAFE headquarters was looking for an aerobatic team in order to show case the might of the Air Force to friends and potential foes in the European theatre. With the addition of pilot Lt. Lawrence D. Damewood and spare pilot John Patrick O'Brien (Obie) the Skyblazers were ready to fill their demand. The composition of four aircraft remained constant until the disbandment of the team in Jan 1962.

**13 May 44:** Capt Cortner made the 36th's first kill - a Focke-Wulf 190, while escorting B-26 Marauders near Pontoise, France.

**21 May 44:** The 36th's suffered its first casualty when Maj Debler, 53 FS, didn't return from a sweep over France.

**6 Jun 44:** The 36th provided convoy and beachhead fighter cover, bombed and strafed in support of ground troops, and provided visual reconnaissance reports during the D-Day landing at Normandy.

**4 Jul 44:** The 36th personnel transferred material, equipment, and aircraft to Site A-16, near Brucheville, Normandy, France.

**25-31 Jul 44:** 36th Fighter Group's P-47 Thunderbolts supported the First Army Corps during their breakout of Saint-Lô after they were ensnared in the hedgerows of Normandy.

**Aug -Sep 44:** The 36 FG kept pace with Lt Gen George S. Patton's fast-moving Third Army throughout his advance deep into enemy territory. The group's efficiency and endurance earned it the nickname, the "**Fightin' 36th**".



*Republic P-47Ds of the 22 FS, 36 FG, at RAF Kingsnorth, England. Later, tail no. 44-19864 (Bottom Left) was lost to flank during the Battle of the Bulge with pilot 1lt Charles Loring who became a POW. (USAF)*

**25 Aug 44:** The 36th moved again to Site A-35, near Le Mans, Sarthe, France.

**1-2 Sep 44:** Awarded its first Distinguished Unit Citation for outstanding performance of duty when elements of the retreating German Army were caught near Poitiers, France, with 311 motor transports and 97 tanks and armor vehicles destroyed.

**30 Sep 44:** The 36th again transferred air operations to Site A-68, Juvincourt, Reims, France.

**1 Oct 44:** The 36th received the Citation in the Order of the Day, Belgian Army.

**22 Oct 44:** The 36th spent the winter of 1944-45 at their new landing strip at Site A-89, Le Coulet, Belgium.

**Nov 44:** The 36th flew 978 sorties in 19 days in support of the Ninth Army. The "Fightin' 36th" destroyed 36 locomotives, 46 railcars, 38 motor transports, 53 buildings, 22 gun emplacements, two ammo dumps, and a hangar.

**16-25 Dec 44:** The Fightin' 36th participated in the Battle of the Bulge and played a major role in the defense of Bastogne, Belgium. Maj Charles Joseph Loring a pilot from the 22d Fighter Squadron was shot down on 24 Dec 44, and became a POW in Germany until 6 May 45. During the Korean War, Maj Loring





would later be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor after he deliberately crashed his F-80 Shooting Star into an enemy artillery position on 22 November 1952 saving many U.N. troops. Former B-52 base at Loring AFB, Maine was named after him.

**10 Mar 45:** A P-47N from the Fightin' 36th landed in Aachen, Germany (Site Y-46); Maj. LaRoque piloted the first U.S. aircraft to voluntarily land in Germany since c. 1940.

**30 Mar 45:** The 36th moved again 20 days later, Site Y-62n, near Koblenz, Germany.

**12 April 1945:** The Fightin' 36th was awarded its second Distinguished Unit Citation for extra-ordinary heroism in action against the enemy when their P-47s destroyed 73 aircraft and damaged 19 on the ground near Leipzig.

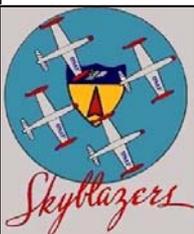
**30 Apr 45:** Arrived at Site R-12, Rothwessen, Kassel, Germany. This signified the final transfer for the Fightin' 36th during WWII.

**8 May 45:** V-E Day, WW II was over in Europe exactly one year after the 36th's first combat mission. In that time the group flew 1,060 missions, 6,947 sorties, and moved airfields eight times. The Fightin' 36 also suffered 85 casualties: 48 missing in action (MIA), 25 killed in action (KIA), and 12 prisoners of war (POW). In addition, the 36th laid claim to a great deal of battle damage including: 42 aircraft destroyed in the air, 250 aircraft destroyed on the ground, 262 armored vehicles, 420 locomotives, 2,868 railcars, 4,882 motor transports, 848 buildings, 309 gun emplacements, and 129 vessels.



*Col Henry Spicer, the first 36th Wing Commander*

### COLD WAR, GROUP to WING



*Skyblazer original emblem c. 1950-52 (36 WG/HO)*

**15 Feb 46:** The 36 FG, less personnel and equipment, departed Europe and moved to Bolling Field, Washington, D.C.

**21 Mar 46:** The 36th moved again to Peterson Field, CO. less personnel and equipment.

**9 Sep 46:** The group once again had personnel and equipment reassigned to Howard Field, Canal Zone, Panama.

**13 Oct 47:** Conversion began from the P-47 to F-80 *Shooting Star*.

**2 Jul 48:** Increased tensions in Europe caused by the Soviet Berlin blockade and subsequent Berlin Airlift, the **36th Fighter Wing** (36 FW) was activated at Howard Field, Panama under the command of Col Henry Spicer who was the 36 FG commander at the time. (The later Maj Gen Spicer's P-51 *Mustang* was shot down during WWII and became well known for his legendary leadership in a German POW Camp.)

**15 Jul 48:** The 36th assembled aboard the USS *Sicity* on transfer notification to USAFE's 12th Air Force to return to Europe.

**7 Aug 48:** All of the aircraft, pilots, and most of the maintenance personnel and equipment arrived in Glasgow, Scotland. The aircraft were towed from the docks to RAF Renfrew where they were readied for the trip to the 36th new home at Fürstenfeldbruck (Fursty), West Germany.

**13 Aug 48:** Ferry flights began and all 82 F-80s were in place at "Fursty" by 20 August. The wing became the first US jet fighter-equipped unit stationed in Europe.

**9 Jun 49:** The first official trans-Atlantic jet ferry flight concluded when 11 F-80s and four T-33s arrived at Fursty.



*Three squadrons of the 36 FW F-80 Shooting Stars over W. Germany c. 1948-49. (36 WG/HO)*

**1 Oct 49:** While at Fürstenfeldbruck AB, the 22d Fighter Squadron formed the “**Skyblazers**” USAF’s aerial demonstration team, and conducted their first official show at Gutersloh Royal Air Base. Their first unofficial aerial show was on the one year Anniversary of the USAF, 17 Sep 48. The Pattillo Twins (Left & Right Wingmen) would go on to help form the “**Thunderbirds**” in 1953. Additionally, Lt Gen Charles C. “Buck” Pattillo, would later return to the 36th as its commander 12 May 67– 26 Mar 68 and finished his career as the PACAF Vice Commander 1975–1979.



*F-84 Thunderjets arrived at the 36th in 1950, the first in Europe. (USAF)*

**20 Jan 50:** The 36th was redesignated the **Fighter-Bomber Wing (36 FBW)** and received the new F-84 *Thunderjets* on 20 January. The first in Europe.

**1 Mar 51:** Brig Gen Robert Lee Scott, Jr. became the 36 FBW/CC. A pilot for the WWII famous 23d Fighter Group “Flying Tigers” in China and wrote the book “God is My Co-Pilot.”

**11 Aug 51:** The group provided 44 aircraft for a group display and a Skyblazer demonstration to future president Gen Dwight D. Eisenhower.

**21 May 52:** Capt John P. O’Brien, a member of the Skyblazer team died in an aircraft accident near London.

**24 Jul 52:** The 53d Fighter-Bomber Squadron (53 FBS) began flying operations at the newly constructed Bitburg, Air Base, West Germany the future home of the 36th.



*Skyblazer Emblem c. 1956-62 (36 WGHO)*

**30 Aug 52:** The original Skyblazer team disbanded after performing its final show at the International Aviation Exposition in Detroit, Michigan. From 1952—1956 the Skyblazer team continued to perform while assigned to the 48th and 86th Fighter-Day Squadrons.

**17 Nov 52:** The 36th completed their move Bitburg AB where it would stay until 1994.

**10 Mar 53:** 36th’s international incident; two 53 FBS’s F-84Gs were scrambled from Fursty to intercept two unidentified aircraft near the Czechoslovakian border. One of the Czechoslovakian MiG-15s opened fire damaging one of the F-84s enough for the pilot to bail out and the aircraft crashed.

**8 May 53:** Dedication ceremonies officially open Bitburg AB

**1 Aug 53:** The F-86 *Sabrejet* arrived at Bitburg to replace the F-84s. The first in Europe.

**20 Mar 54:** First ever overseas USAF missile deployment was the 1st Pilotless Bomber Squadron (1 PBS) equipped with the BM-1 *Matador* missile at 36th Fighter-Bomber Wing. The MCM-13 *Mace* Missile, followed the *Matador* at Bitburg AB, W. Germany, 1962-69.

**8 Aug 54:** The 36th was redesignated a Fighter-Day Wing (36 FDW) comprised of the 22nd, 23rd, and



*53d Fighter Day Squadron F-86F Sabrejet*

53d Fighter-Day Squadrons,

**11 Jan 55:** The 36 FDW Commander, Col Roy R. Brischetto was killed while piloting his F-86 that crashed on takeoff from Bitburg AB.

**8 Sep 55:** The 32d Fighter-Day Squadron at Landstuhl AB, West Germany, was assigned to the 36th.

**8 Feb 56:** The 461st Fighter-Day Squadron at Landstuhl AB, West Germany, was assigned to the 36th which meant five fighter squadrons assigned.

**13 Mar 56:** Newly equipped with F-100 *Supersabres* the 36th became the first wing in USAFE outfitted with supersonic jet aircraft.

**29 Sep 56:** The Skyblazers were transferred back in the sponsorship of the 36 FDW. The team was lead by future General, Capt Wilbur L. Cheech.

**c. 1956 - 58:** Two future NASA astronauts were assigned to the 36th. The 22d FDS's Fight Commander Col Edwin Buzz Aldrin, famously the second man to walk on the moon, 20 Jul 69. Lt Col Edward H. White, II, who was the first American to walk in space on 3 Jun 65, but sadly was killed in the Apollo One accident at Cape Canaveral, 27 Jan 67.



*"Eifel Parrot" the 36 TFW/CC's F-100C #999 in the 22 TFS area at Bitburg, circa 1958. The 22nd maintained this aircraft for the 36 TFW.*  
(Photo Courtesy of Gary Schulz)

**12 Feb 57:** The 525th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron (525 FIS) arrived as a tenant unit, began flying operations at Bitburg originally equipped with the F-86H's and converted to the F-102A Delta Dagger in 1959.

**8 Jul 58:** Redesignation as the **36th Tactical Fighter Wing** (36 TFW).

**1 Aug 58:** The 461 TFS inactivated at Landstuhl AB, West Germany.

**15 Nov 59:** The 36th was assigned to the 17 AF.

**13 May 61:** The first F-105 *Thunderchiefs* in Europe are assigned to the 36th.

**12 Jan 62:** The Skyblazers disbanded as USAFE's aerial demonstration team for the final time. The 36th remembered Skyblazers by the naming the Bitburg Recreation Center "Skyblazer" and the base newspaper was named the "Skyblazer" c. 1950—1994.

**20 Mar 66:** The F-4D *Phantom II* fighter began to replace the *Thunderchiefs*.

**Jul-Nov 68:** The 36th moved all flying operations to nearby Spangdahlem AB during Operation GULLY JUMP.

**1 Nov 68:** The 525 FIS, still flying F-102s, were assigned to the 36th instead of being a tenant command at Bitburg.

**1 Apr 69:** A shift in the capabilities of the 36th occurred when the 39th Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (39 TEWS) was activated.

**30 Apr 69:** The 71st Tactical Missile Squadron deactivated with its MCM-13 *Mace* Missiles marking the end of missile operations at Bitburg AB.



*F-105 Thunderchief takes off from Bitburg c. 1961-1966. (USAF)*



*Members of the 22 FDS's 1957 Gunnery Team included pilots Capt Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. and 1st Lt Edward H. White, from left to right standing.*  
(36 EDW History)



**c. May 69 - Sep 70:** Maj Gen Marcelite Harris, then Capt Harris became the first woman Maintenance Officer in the USAF while assigned to the 36th. She would go on to make many firsts for women in the USAF including becoming the first Black Female General.

*Maj Gen Marcelite Harris was the first woman Maintenance Officer (Analysis) in the USAF while assigned to the 36th. (USAF)*

**c. Jul 69:** The 49 TFW transferred to Holloman AFB, NM, from Spangdahlem AB, leaving the 36th in control of Spangdahlem as well as Bitburg. The 36th would retain control until 31 December 1971 when the 52 TFW activated there. The 52 TFW's activation at Spangdahlem AB, left the 36th with only three squadrons, the 22d, 53d, and 525 TFSs.

**1 Oct 69:** The 525 FIS redesignated as a Tactical Fighter Squadron (TFW).

**31 Dec 73: 30 Sep 73:** All three flying squadrons completed the transition to the F-4E Phantom II fighter.



*36th's F-4s flying over a W. German Castle c. Early 1970s. (36 WG/HO Archives)*

**27 April 1977:** Arrival of the first F-15 Eagle squadron made the 36th the first wing outside the continental US to fly this fighter. The 525 TFS was the first squadron to bring F-15s to Europe.

**Oct 80 -Dec 81:** The 36th transitioned to the F-15C to D model Eagles.

**1981:** The 36th became the first USAFE unit to deploy to Nellis AFB, NV, and participate in Exercise RED FLAG.



*"Eifel Parrot" The 36 TFW/CC's F-15C #79-0036, painted in F-100 Skyblazer scheme at the Royal International Air Tattoo, RAF Alconbury, 27 Jul 86. (Photo courtesy of Mike Freer)*

**5 May 85:** President Ronald Reagan visited Bitburg AB during his controversial visit to Bitburg Cemetery. The 36th supported this visit with many of the base's Airmen.

**1 Sep 86:** The 36th assumed control and responsibility for the operation of the old French Caserne located next to the base and renamed it the Bitburg Caserne. Construction began on Survivable Collective Personnel Shelters (SCPS).

**13 Sep 87:** Construction began outside of the Trier Gate on a multi-million dollar complex to house the Patriot missile system.

## GULF WAR

**Dec 90-Jul 91:** Deployed 53d Fighter Squadron, additional pilots and aircraft from the 22d and 525th Fighter Squadrons, and support personnel to Southwest Asia, to assist in UN operations to liberate Kuwait. Wing pilots were credited with seventeen enemy combat aircraft destroyed, 14 air to air victories and three others.

**1 Oct 91:** 36 TFW redesignated to the 36th Fighter Wing for a second time.

**1 Oct 94:** 36th Fighter Wing inactivated at Bitburg AB, Germany.





**Two B-52Hs return to AAFB from Operation DESERT STRIKE against Iraq, Sep 97.**  
(36 WG/HO)

STRIKE commenced. The two B-52Hs from Barksdale AFB started and ended their mission at AAFB, fired 13 conventional air launched cruise missiles (CALCM) against Iraqi targets simultaneously with USN counterplans in the Persian Gulf.

**16 Sep 96 - 30 Apr 97:** 6,572 Kurdish refugees from Iraq, along with an additional 64 Kurdish babies born on Guam, processed through AAFB during Operation PACIFIC HAVEN.



**Cope North '99 ends in 'victory'**  
The 36th Air Base Wing (36 AWB) and the 36th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron (36 EBS) participated in the Cope North '99 exercise. The exercise was a joint effort between the 36 AWB and the 36 EBS. The exercise was a success and the 36 AWB and 36 EBS were praised for their performance. The exercise was a success and the 36 AWB and 36 EBS were praised for their performance.

**6 August 1997:** Boeing 747, Korean Air Flight 801 crashed on Nimitz Hill. 228 of the 254 passengers and crew onboard, were killed. Both the Navy and Air Force units on Guam assisted with emergency efforts.

**21 June 1999:** The first Cope North joint exercise at AAFB commenced, and marked the first time the JASDF had deployed outside of Japan since WWII.

## GERMANY to GUAM (AAFB continued)

**1 Oct 94:** The 36th Air Base Wing activated at Andersen AFB. Its still prevailing after 20 years.

**1 Oct 94:** USN Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 5 (HC-5) "Providers" begun moving from NAS Agana to AAFB equipped with HH-46A Sea Knights. On 21 Apr 05, HC-5 redesignated as HSC-25 "Island Knights."

**2-3 Sep 96:** Saddam Hussein attacked Kurds and seized the city of Irbil in a zone protected by the U.S. In response, Operation DESERT



**Kurdish refugees after arriving on Guam, 1996.**  
(36 WG/HO)

## ANDERSEN AFB IN THE 21st CENTURY

"Sleepy hollow" ended dramatically following the events of 9/11, as Andersen AFB became strategically important in the region.

**14 Sep 01:** Operation NOBLE EAGLE, the 36 ABW hosted VMFA-212 Lancers, Marine F/A-18 Hornets from MCAS Iwakuni flew combat air patrol missions over Guam. They were the first Marine Corps squadron to deploy after the September 11 attacks.

**Sep 01-July 02:** Andersen's flight line served as the epicenter for air bridge activity supporting and servicing 3,211 aircraft, 38,000 passengers and 60,000 tons of cargo during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

**5 Mar-Jun 03:** The 7th Air Expeditionary Wing (7 AEW) activated and was the first bomber wing assigned to AAFB since 1992. The deployment of 12 B-1Bs and 12 B-52Hs was the largest bomber deployment since the Vietnam War. (Photo right)

**22 Feb 04:** Continuous Bomber Presence (CBP), rotational bomber deployments began when the first three of six 23d Expeditionary Bomb Squadron (23 EBS) B-52's from Minot AFB arrived. (News photo below)

**2 Mar 05:** 393rd Expeditionary Bomb Squadron was the first B-2 Spirit squadron to conduct CBP deployment at AAFB.

**29 Apr 05:** AAFB hosted twelve F-15Es of the 391st Expeditionary Fighter Squadron (391 EFS). This was the first fighter unit assigned to AAFB as part of PACOM'S Theater Security Package (TSP).

**19 Aug 05:** Northwest Airlines' 747 nose gear collapsed during landing and blocked a runway at Won Pat International Airport. The 36 MXS assisted with emergency removal of the aircraft and landed nine civilian airliners at AAFB (Photo top of next page).



The first of six B-52 Stratofortresses taxis to its parking spot here after landing Feb. 22. The B-52s and about 300 people deployed here this week to support U.S. Pacific Command's request for a rotational bomber force on Guam.

**15 Sep 05:** 37 EBS, B-1B bomber #85-0066, burst into flames after landing at AAFB. It was repaired and flown back to Ellsworth AFB, SD on 11 Jun 08.

**19 Jan 06:** 36th Contingency Response Group (36 CRG) activated at AAFB. Also activating were two of eventually four 36 CRG's squadrons, the 36th Mobility Response Squadron (36 MRS) and the 736th Security Forces Squadron (736 SFS).

**The bombers have landed**  
B-52s arrive here for rotational deployment



**Andersen International Airport, 19 Aug 05.**  
(36 WG/HO)

**11 Oct 06:** 554th RED HORSE Squadron (554 RHS) held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new home and the Pacific Regional Training Center (PRTC) then called "Northwest Field Expeditionary Training Campus." (Photo below)

**12 Feb 07:** 36th Operations Group (36 OG) re-establishment ceremony was held. 36 OG became a permanent unit replacing the provisional 36th Expeditionary Operations Group (36 EOG) for all deployed flying units assigned to AAFB. The honors and lineage of the WWII 36th Fighter Group resides with the 36 OG.



**554 RHS PRTC groundbreaking at Northwest Field, 11 Oct 06.**  
(554 RHS Yearbook)

**10 May 07:** F-22 Raptors visited AAFB for the first time.

**19 Jul 07:** RQ-4 Global Hawk visited AAFB for the first time.

**1 Jan 08:** 644th Combat Communications Squadron (644 CBCS), reactivated at AAFB as third of the four eventual squadrons assigned to the 36 CRG.

**22 Feb 08:** Flag transfer ceremony of the 554th Red Horse (554 RHS) from 7th Air Force to 36 CRG. This transition marked the first time in USAF history, that a RED HORSE unit had been aligned under a wing.

**23 Feb 08:** 393 EBS, B-2 bomber "Spirit of Kansas" #87-0127, crashed while on take-off AAFB. The estimated \$1.4 billion accident was the most expensive aircraft crash in history, both pilots ejected safely with minor injuries. Moisture in the sensors was blamed.

**21 Jul 08:** Activation ceremony of the 36th Force Support Squadron (36 FSS). The 36th Services Squadron (36 SS) and 36th Mission Support Squadron (36 MSS) were both inactivated and combined to form the 36 FSS.

**21 Jul 08:** 20 EBS B-52H, #61-0053, call sign RAIDR 21 crashed while preparing for the annual Liberation Day Parade fly-over. All 6 Airmen onboard were killed.

**10 Sep 08:** Grand Opening ceremony for the new 181,000 square foot AAFB AAFES Base Exchange (BX).



**20 Sep 10:** A ceremony welcoming the RQ-4 Global Hawk to AAFB was held in Hangar #6. The 9th Operations Group, Det 3's Global Hawk's brought significant intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities to the Pacific theater. (Photo left)

**12 Mar - 4 May 11:** Operation TOMADACHI, after the 8.9 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami ravaged northern Honshu, Japan many 36 CRG Airmen deployed and the RQ-4 Global Hawk reconnaissance photos assisted the rescue and relief efforts.

**6 Oct 11:** AAFB hosted its first Aviation Training Relocation (ATR). Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 and Strike Fighter Squadron 94 conducted aerial and ground training in the Marianas. ATR is training located outside of Japan for USAF, USMC, USN, and JASDF aircraft. It enables increased operational readiness for maintainers, pilots, and support personnel, while managing the noise impacts of training in and around the local communities of Japan.

**11 - 24 Feb 12:** The first trilateral Exercise Cope North took place when the Australian (RAAF) joined USAF and JASDF.

**10 Nov - 4 Dec 13:** Operation DAMAYAN, 89 Airmen from the 36 CRG deployed to Tacloban, Philippines and the RQ-4 Global Hawk conducted reconnaissance in assisting the rescue and relief efforts after Super Typhoon Haiyan struck.

**14 - 28 Feb 14:** The Cope North was conducted for the first time with Republic of Korea Air Force (ROK AF) observing during the humanitarian assistance disaster relief (HA/DR) portion of the exercise. The exercise became real world when the island of Rota requested humanitarian assistance.

*Despite constant changes and challenges, the 36th Wing and "Team Andersen" continue to be "Prepared to Prevail."*

**c. Jun 06:** The 506th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron (506 EARS) activated at AAFB for the deployed active and reserve KC-135 tanker unit rotations in PACOM's Theater Security Package (TSP).

**19-24 Jun 06:** The first Exercise VALIANT SHIELD was held. Valiant Shield is an exercise that focuses on integration of joint training among U.S. forces in relation to current operational plans on or around the Mariana Islands.



**Exercise VALIANT SHIELD 2007, a B-52H Stratofortress leads a formation of USAF F-16 Fighting Falcons, F-15 Eagles, and USN F-18 Hornets over the USS Kitty Hawk, USS Nimitz and USS John C. Stennis Strike Groups. (USAF)**



**Raider 21 Memorial, Anigua, Guam honors the memory of the 6 Airmen lost on the B-52H, 21 Jul 08 (USAF)**

## 36th Wing Emblem



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**Description:** An arrowhead point upward gules, in a chief, azure, a demi wing argent

**Significance:** The shield is blue and gold, the colors for the Air Force. The arrowhead is a deadly swift weapon of offensive. The silver wing in the upper part of the shield is emblematic of aerial protection and vigilance.

**Motto:** Prepared to Prevail (Approved 14 August 1979)

**Approved:** 19 June 1940 for 36th Group and 17 June 1952 for 36th Wing

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## 36th Wing Honors

**Campaign Streamers.** Southwest Asia: Defense of Saudi Arabia; Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

**Decorations.** AF Outstanding Unit Awards: [1] May 56- May 58; [2] 1 Jan- 31 Dec 68; [3] 1 Dec 73 - 30 Apr 75; [4] 1 Jul 75 - 30 Jun 77; [5] 1 Jul 77 - 30 Jun 79; [6] 1 Jul 86 - 30 Jun 88; [7] 1 Jul 88 - 30 Jun 90; [8] 1 Sep 90 - 31 Jul 91; [9] 30 Jun 92 - 1 Jul 94; [10] 1 Oct 94 - 30 Sep 96; [11] 1 Oct 96 - 30 Sep 97; [13] 1 Oct 97 - 30 Sep 99; [14] 1 Sep 00 - 31 Aug 02; [15] 1 Oct 02 - 30 Sep 04; [16] 1 Oct 04 - 30 Sep 07; [17] 1 Oct 09 - 30 Sep 11.

**Bestowed Honors.** Authorized to display the following honors earned by the 36th Fighter Group prior to 2 Jul 48:

**Campaign Streamers.** WWII: Antisubmarine, American Theater; Air Offensive, Europe; Normandy; Northern France; Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace; Central Europe; Air Combat, EAME Theater.

**Decorations. Distinguished Unit Citations:** France, 1 Sep 44; Germany, 12 Apr 45. Cited in the Order of the Day, Belgian Army: 1 Oct - 17 Dec 44; 18 Dec 44 - 15 Jan 45. Belgian Fourragere. Luxembourg Croix de Guerre: [44] - 45.

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**DIVISIONS AND UNITS**

**NAFS and Divisions at AAFB**

|                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>3d Air Division (SAC)</b>  | <b>1 Apr 55 – 1 Jul 70</b>  |
| <b>8th Air Force (SAC)</b>    | <b>1 Jul 70 – 1 Jan 75</b>  |
| <b>3d Air Division (SAC)</b>  | <b>1 Jan 75 – 1 Oct 89</b>  |
| <b>13th Air Force (PACAF)</b> | <b>2 Dec 91 -- 1 Mar 05</b> |



**Base Operating Units at AAFB**

|                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>314th Bomb Wing</b>      | <b>17 Jan 45 – 15 Apr 46</b> |
| <b>19th Bomb Wing</b>       | <b>17 Aug 48 – 1 Jun 53</b>  |
| <b>6319th Air Base Wing</b> | <b>1 Jun 53 – 1 Apr 55</b>   |
| <b>3960th ABW/SW</b>        | <b>1 Apr 55 – 1 Jul 70</b>   |
| <b>43d BW/SW</b>            | <b>1 Jul 70 – 1 Oct 89</b>   |
| <b>633d Air Base Wing</b>   | <b>1 Oct 89 – 1 Oct 94</b>   |
| <b>36th ABW/AEW/WG</b>      | <b>1 Oct 94 -- Present</b>   |



Currently no emblem has been located



**36TH WING**

**36th ABW/AEW/WG Commanders**

|                                   |                              |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Col Dennis R. Larsen</b>       | <b>1 Oct 94 – 7 Aug 95</b>   |
| <b>Col John M. Deloney</b>        | <b>7 Aug 95 – 21 Feb 97</b>  |
| <b>Col William H. Hodges</b>      | <b>21 Feb 97 – 4 Feb 99</b>  |
| <b>Col Mark J.D. Gehri</b>        | <b>4 Feb 99 – 9 Jun 00</b>   |
| <b>Col Bernie H. Fullenkamp</b>   | <b>9 Jun 00 – 7 Jun 02</b>   |
| <b>Col Joseph F. Mudd, Jr.</b>    | <b>7 Jun 02 – 15 Jan 04</b>  |
| <b>Col Paul K. White</b>          | <b>15 Jan 04 – 30 Jun 05</b> |
| <b>Col Michael R. Boera</b>       | <b>30 Jun 05 – 25 Oct 06</b> |
| <b>Brig Gen Douglas H. Owens</b>  | <b>25 Oct 06 – 2 Sep 08</b>  |
| <b>Brig Gen Philip M. Ruhlman</b> | <b>2 Sep 08 – 25 Jun 10</b>  |
| <b>Brig Gen John W. Doucette</b>  | <b>25 Jun 10 - 26 Jun 12</b> |
| <b>Brig Gen Steven D. Garland</b> | <b>26 Jun 12 - 19 Jun 14</b> |
| <b>Brig Gen Andrew J. Toth</b>    | <b>19 Jun 14 - 6 May 16</b>  |
| <b>Brig Gen Douglas A. Cox</b>    | <b>6 May 16 - Present</b>    |

*Any questions concerning this Heritage Pamphlet please call:  
36th Wing Public Affairs Office (36 WG/PA) at 366-2228.*