

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE



1949



1955



1968



1994

80th Anniversary Special Edition GUAM'S AIR FORCE HERITAGE 1945 — 2025



Compiled by Jeffrey Meyer, 36th Wing Historian, Jun 2024
Includes the 36th Wing's Heritage since 1 Oct 1994.
Any questions concerning this Heritage Pamphlet please call:
36th Wing Public Affairs Office, 366-2228.

INTENTIONALLY BLANK

Cover Photographs Top: Andersen AFB's Main Gate signs through the years. (AAFB Archives)

Left: 42d Bomb Sq., 11th Bomb Group, B-24J *Liberator* takes off from Harmon Field, Guam, 1945. (USAAF)

Right: 19th Bomb Group returns to North Field, Guam (Andersen AFB) after combat mission, 1945. (USAAF)

EARLY AVIATION ON GUAM, 1921-1944

19 Sep 1921 — 8:35 am, the first recorded flight of any kind from Guam. The USMC seaplane's flight log simply stated, "N-9 2335 launched." It is possible that earlier flights occurred. The Marines maintained an aviation presence of six aircraft on Guam until 1931.

27 Mar 1935 — The steamer S.S. *North Haven* set sail from Pan American Airways' (Pan Am) San Francisco Bay base at Alameda, CA to establish flying boat bases in Hawaii, Midway, Wake Island, Guam, and Manila. On Guam they occupied the old USMC's Sumay seaplane facilities. (See Above)

13 Oct 1935 — A Pan Am flying boat, *Hong Kong Clipper*, Sikorsky S-42, on its first Trans-Pacific Survey Flight landed on Apra Harbor, Guam, and taxied into the newly completed flying boat base at the seaside village of Sumay.



PFC Art Price, USMC, photographed this flight over Apra Harbor, Guam, in 1923.



A Pan Am Martin M-130 flying boat, Village of Sumay, Guam circa 1935-1936.

22 Nov 1935 — Amid much fanfare, the first Pan Am Martin M-130 flying boat *China Clipper* launched from the waters of Alameda, CA with 1,837 pounds of mail; officially opened the Trans-Pacific route. This inaugural Trans-Pacific Airmail Flight passed through Guam, 27-28 Nov 1935.

21 Oct 1936 — *China Clipper* again made history by carrying the first nine paying passengers across the Pacific Ocean; round trip from California to Manila in 15 days. Those passengers paid \$1,438.20 (Approx. \$24K today) for the round trip ticket. This inaugural Trans-Pacific Passenger Flight passed through Guam, 26-27 Oct 1936.

2 Jul 1937 — "Iconic Aviatrix" Amelia Earhart disappeared while attempting to fly around the world. The last airfield she launched from was Lae, Papua New Guinea, approx. 1,400 miles south of Guam. Her navigator, Fred Noonan, was well known for the some of the earlier Pan Am Trans-Pacific firsts.

11 Jan 1938 — Pan Am's *Samoan Clipper*, a Sikorsky S-42, exploded near Pago Pago, American Samoa, while on an airmail flight to Auckland New Zealand. The incident killed Ed Musick, the most famous male pilot in the world at the time, and his crew of six. Musick was the pilot who flew all of the Pan Am's Trans-Pacific firsts through Guam, some with navigator Fred Noonan. On 2 Jan, he just completed another one of his 'firsts' the inaugural New Zealand to the U.S. airmail flight.

29 Jul 1938 — "The Lost Clipper", at 6:08 am, Pan Am's *Hawaii Clipper* launched from Apra Harbor, Guam to Manila, Philippines, with 15 people onboard, but was never seen again. After an extensive search nothing was ever found of the flying boat. Its disappearance remains a mystery to this day.

8 Dec 1941 — At 0827, just four hours after the Attack on Pearl Harbor, Sumay Guam's Pan Am facilities were destroyed by Japanese aircraft. The bombing destroyed the Libugon radio and the Standard Oil fuel depot. The Marine Barracks and Piti Navy Yard were also damaged. Ten Chamorro Pan Am employees were killed, and 32 others on Guam and Wake Island were interred for the duration of the war. At nearly the same time, the Pan Am *Hong Kong Clipper II* was strafed and destroyed in Hong Kong by Japanese airpower.

8 Dec 1941 — The Pan Am *Philippine Clipper* heard that Guam had been attacked. It was on a routine flight from Wake Island to Guam carrying a Flying Tiger pilot and cargo full of airplane tires bound for China. The *Clipper* returned to Wake Island where it sustained 60 bullet holes from Japanese strafing attacks. Then loaded with as many people possible and returned safely to Hawaii. The start of WWII ended Pan Am's Trans-Pacific routes. All Clippers were transferred to the US Navy.



Pan Am Facilities, Sumay, Guam, 1935-41.

10 Dec 1941 — Japanese captured Guam after a series of amphibious landings at different beaches around the island.

1942 - 1943 — Japanese military built the first two airfields on Guam, using Chamorro and Korean labor. These airfields were *Guamu Dai Ichi* (Guam No.1) at the Orote Peninsula; *Guamu Dai Ni* (Guam No. 2) at Tiyan. *Guamu Dai Ni*, later become Naval Air Station (NAS) Agaña and is now Guam's main airport called Antonio B. Won Pat, Guam International Airport, named in honor of Antonio Borja Won Pat (10 Dec 1908 - 1 May 1987), Guam's first Delegate to serve on the U.S. House of Representatives, 1973—1985.



Pan Am's 1930s Logo.
(pamanair.org)

Its disappearance remains a mystery to this day.

GUAM'S WWII AVIATION HISTORY, 1944-1946

After the Liberation of Guam, work immediately began construction of five large airfields. Three Army Air Forces (USAAF) and two Navy (USN). The three USAAF B-29 Superfortress airfields were Guam Depot Field (Later, Harmon AFB), North Field (Later, Andersen AFB), and Northwest Field.

25 Apr 1944 — The fight to retake Guam started when the 7th Air Force conducted a joint USAAF/USN bombing/photo reconnaissance mission over the island with very long range (VLR) B-24 *Liberators*.

19–20 Jun 1944 — Battle of the Philippine Sea, nicknamed “The Marianas Turkey Shoot,” was the last major battle between aircraft carrier forces. It was fought west of Guam. Most of the Japanese naval aircraft were lost during the battle, including aircraft from *Guamu Dai Ichi* & *Guamu Dai Ni* airfields.

21 Jul 1944 — “Liberation Day” American forces began the amphibious landings on Guam. The landings occurred at Asan and Agat Beaches. This day is celebrated with a parade down Marine Corps Drive annually.

3 Aug 1944 — First Air Force Aircraft to ever land in Guam. Lt Howard H. Barrett, USAAF, landed his P-47 *Thunderbolt* at Oroto Field on the current Naval Base Guam (NBG). The pilot and aircraft were assigned to the 318th Fighter Group (318 FG), East Field, Saipan. His P-47 was one of 16 others along with three B-25 *Mitchells* flying the AAF's first Close Air Support (CAS) mission over Guam.



Marines moving up Salisbury-Tarague Trail during the last week of engagements on Guam, Aug 1945. (USMC)



Guam assigned 98 BS, 11 BG, B-24J *Liberator*, S/N 42-109951, nose art, “Madam Pele.” Japanese-American high school students in Oahu, HI, raised & donated \$350k to have this B-24 built.

8-10 Aug 1944 — The Last Tank Battle on Guam took place on current Andersen AFB property. Marines first sighted Japanese medium tanks near pre-war Salisbury-Tarague Trail (Near today's Main Gate) and the chase/battle ended on the road that leads down Tarague Beach. Several M4 Sherman tanks fired on seven enemy medium tanks in a short exchange of fire. The crews abandoned the tanks and retreated over the cliff line.

11 Aug 1944 — Japanese Island Commander, Lt Gen Hideyoshi Obata's cave complex headquarters near Mt. Mataguac, Yigo, fell while under attack by US forces. It is the same location of today's “South Pacific Memorial Peace Park”.

6 Sep 1944 — Construction commenced at Guam Depot (Later, Harmon) Field, now known as Harmon Industrial Park. The runway paving was completed on 10 Nov 1944. The three AAF airfields and roads north of Tumon were constructed by the USAAF's Engineer Aviation Battalions (EAB) under the command of the 933d Engineer Aviation Regiment (EAR). Sadly, in the sign of those times, over half of the EABs in Guam were segregated units.



Insignia of the 11th Bomb Gp.

21 Oct 1944 — The first USAAF flying unit assigned to Guam. The 11th Bombardment Group (BG), 7th Air Force (7 AF), arrived on Guam, temporally assigned to the Navy's Agana Field. Their B-24 *Liberators* immediately conducted bombing missions against the Japanese-held island of Palau in support of Gen MacArthur's amphibious landings at Leyte, Philippines. The 11 BG would eventually move down the hill to Guam Depot (Harmon) Field.



Airman Charles D. Buchinsky was a gunner on a B-29, with the 61st Bomb Sq., 39th Bomb Gp., North Field (AAFB), Guam. He flew 25 combat missions & received a Purple Heart. He is more well-known as actor Charles Bronson (1921-2003). (IMDb)

13 Nov 1944 — Four Airmen of the 854 EAB began drafting in a tent at Pati Point, Guam. They braved the jungle, sword grass, Dengue Fever, and Japanese military stragglers to survey/blueprint the future North Field (Andersen AFB). The first asphalt was laid on the RWY 06R/24L and nearby hardstands on 17 Jan 1945.

1 Nov 1944 — First US aircraft over Tokyo since Doolittle's Raid in 1942. The 3d Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron (3 PRS), F-13A (B-29) *Superfortress*, S/N 42-93852, nose art “Tokyo Rose” flew the mission from Isely Field, Saipan.

4 Nov 1944 — First B-29 Superfortress bombing mission of Tokyo from the Mariana Islands. The 20th Air Force (20 AF), XXI Bomber Command (XXI BC), 73d Bombardment Wing (73 BW), Isely Field, Saipan, bombed Tokyo from high altitude. Remarkably, 18 of those B-29s landed at Guam Depot (Harmon) Field afterward, easing the strain of Saipan's one runway at dusk. These were the first B-29s to ever land on Guam.

4 Dec 1944 — Commander XXI Bomber Command (BC) moved from Saipan to Guam. Brig Gen Haywood “Possum” Hansell moved his command, from Isely Field, Saipan, to Guam Depot (Harmon) Field near Two Lover's Point. The same week marked the arrival of the 314th Bombardment Wing (314 BW) advanced echelon, the first command wing of North Field (Future Andersen AFB).



B-29s & bulldozer at North Field, Guam 1945.

Saipan, to Guam Depot (Harmon) Field near Two Lover's Point. The same week marked the arrival of the 314th Bombardment Wing (314 BW) advanced echelon, the first command wing of North Field (Future Andersen AFB).



8 Jan 1945 — Construction commenced at Northwest Field, Guam, where the progress was slow. Naval Construction Battalions (Seabees) helped get the base operational by its planned date.

17 Jan 1945 — The First Asphalt Laid at North Field, Guam. The 854th and the segregated 1895th Aviation Engineer Battalion's (EAB) began construction of what became Andersen AFB in mid-Dec 1944.

3 Feb 1945 — North Field's (AAFB) RWY 06R/24L was declared operational when the 314 BW's administrative C-87 (B-24) *Liberator Express* was the first aircraft to land on the runway. The real celebration began when Maj Gen Curtis LeMay, new commander of the XXI BC, landed a F-13A (B-29) *Superfortress* at the field.



314 BW's Administrative C-87 (B-24) *Liberator Express*, nose art "Maximum Goose" was the first aircraft to ever land at North Field (AAFB) on 3 Feb 45.



Lt Gen Millard "Miff" F. Harmon, Commander Army Air Forces Pacific Ocean Area (USAAFPPOA).

25 Feb 1945 — The 314 BW's first combat mission launched from North Field (AAFB), Guam, and participated in Operation MEETINGHOUSE #1, the first firebombing mission of Tokyo.

25 Feb 1945 — Generals Harmon & Andersen Disappear. Commander Army Air Forces Pacific Ocean Area (Basically, WWII's PACAF) Lt Gen Millard "Miff" Harmon's C-87 *Liberator Express* launched from Guam Depot (Harmon) Field. The next day his aircraft disappeared without a trace enroute from Kwajalein to Hawaii. Guam Depot Field was immediately renamed in Gen Harmon's honor. Also, onboard was his Chief of Staff, Brig Gen James R. Andersen. North Field, Guam, was renamed Andersen AFB in 1949.

9-10 Mar 1945 — Operation MEETINGHOUSE #2. 270 B-29s from three Mariana Islands' airfields dropped 1,667 tons of incendiary bombs from low altitudes, destroyed over 267,000 buildings, equivalent to 16 square miles of Tokyo in one night. Known as the most destructive single Airpower event in history. The mission was led by Brig Gen Thomas Power, 314 BW/CC, North Field (AAFB), Guam.

27 Mar 1945 — Operation STARVATION, the 313 BW, North Field, Tinian, began B-29 bombers commenced mining Japan's waterways. This operation proved to be the most efficient means of destroying enemy shipping the last five months of the war.

6 Apr 1945 — History maintains USN submarines discovered the Japanese super-battleship *IJN Yamato* first during its fateful sailing. According to the 3 PRS History, Mission No. 121 Report, the crew of a F-13A Recon Superfort from Guam recorded the movement of the *Yamato* & her escorts near Tokuyama first, about 36 hours later it was destroyed by USN carrier aircraft.

12 Apr 1945 — Only Medal of Honor of B-29 Operations. Radio Operator MSgt Henry "Red" Erwin of the 52d Bomb Sq., 29th Bomb Gp., North Field (AAFB), Guam, was severely burned when a phosphorus smoke ignited inside his B-29, *City of Los Angeles*. "Red" was able to save his crew and aircraft. He received the Medal of Honor for his sacrifice. The 36th Contingency Response Group (36 CRG) headquarters was dedicated in his name in 1997.



(Left to Right) Brig Gen Lauris Norstad, HQ 20 AF Deputy Commander; Maj Gen Curtis LeMay, XXI BC/CC; & Gen Thomas S. Power, 314 BW/CC; discuss the aftermath of MEETINGHOUSE on Guam.

13 Apr 1945 — POWs Airmen killed in B-29 Incendiary Raid. Lt Col Doynce Turner, Commander 458th Bomb Sq. 330th Bomb Gp., North Field (AAFB), Guam was on a bombing mission when his B-29 was shot down over Tokyo Bay. His unit thought the crew were killed in action (KIA). What they did not know until after the war was the crewmen actually survived the crash and became prisoners of war (POW). On **26 May**, those POWs were killed during an incendiary bombing mission by their own unit that burned down Yoyoge Army Prison. Japanese captors did not let any POWs out of their cells. In 1946, the old Turner Memorial Outdoor Theater was dedicated to him and his crew's honor.

5 May 1945 — B-29 Crewmen used in Experiments. The B-29, S/N 42-65305, 6th Bomb Sq., 29th Bomb Gp., took off from North Field (AAFB), Guam, on a bombing mission at Tachiarai Airfield, Empire of Japan. The bomber was rammed & crashed on Kyushu Island. Eight crewmen survived the bailout. Seven of them were used in medical experiments & killed at the Kyushu University Medical



Formation of 314th Bomb Wing B-29s in formation.



Insignia of the 315th Bomb Wing.

School along with other Airmen. The pilot 1Lt Marvin S. Watkins was taken to Tokyo for questioning, thus the only survivor of this crew.

5 May 1945 — B-29 Crewmen Executed. On the same day, the same squadron, on the same mission as the above, the B-29 S/N 42-93953, piloted by 1Lt Ralph B. Miller was shot down by an enemy fighter, then crashed in the sea near Kyushu. After the war, an investigation revealed five of the crew were executed on 20 Jun 1945. The rest were listed as MIA, only one Airmen remains were recovered and returned. The co-pilot 2Lt Joseph H. Finkelstein's parents published a book in memory of her son and 64 other Jewish 20th Air Force Airmen who were killed in B-29 actions over Japan.

11 May 1945 — Bomber Exploded. B-29, S/N 42-63571, 52d Bomb Sq., 29th Bomb Gp., call sign "Dracula 44", exploded and crashed in the ocean off RWY 06R/24L the crew was KIA. A ceremony was held over the location of the crash with family members onboard a USCG boat on the 60th Anniversary, 11 May 2005.

1 Jun 1945 — Northwest Field Guam Dedication Ceremony was attended by many USAAF and USN distinguished visitors including, Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz and Maj Gen LeMay. The 315 BW/CC, Brig Gen Frank Armstrong, commanded a force of special B-29Bs nicknamed "Eagles", the name of the top secret AN/APQ-7 Eagle Radar which allowed the bombardiers to 'precision' bomb at night.

13 Jun 1945 — 41st Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron (41 PRS) equipped with Photo Recon F-5G (P-38) Lightnings were assigned to Northwest Field.

22 Jun 1945 — B-29 Crash on Base. Capt Carl R. Bauer, accidentally crashed the B-29, S/N 42-93955, nose art "Colleen" 458 BS, 330 BG, 314 BW, North Field (AAFB), Guam. He attempted to land with a feathered propeller on a rainy night. The crash happened over the northwest cliff line of Pati Point. Only the tail gunner survived. In 1997, the remains of Bauer and co-pilot were found in the wreck. They were recovered and a ceremony was held at the Arc Light Memorial Park in 1998.

25-26 Jun 1945 — Longest Mission of WWII, the crew of B-29, S/N 44-69901, "Double Trouble", 60 BS, 39 BG, 314 BW, North Field (AAFB), Guam flew 23-

hours non-stop 4,650 mile reconnaissance sortie over Hokkaidō, Japan. The aircrew met with no opposition in spite of flying at "Dear John Speeds."

26 Jun 1945 — First Combat Mission of the 315 BW, Northwest Field, Guam. Although, it was less than two months before the end of WWII, the wing would complete 15 important combat missions on Japan's oil facilities at night.

16 Jul 1945 — 20th Air Force (AF) moved to Guam. From Gen Henry "Hap" Arnold's office in Washington D.C. to Harmon Field near Two Lovers Point. It was assigned to the United States Strategic Air Forces in the Pacific (USSTAF) along with the Gen Jimmy Doolittle's 8 AF, Okinawa, part of the Pacific reorganization.



B-29 "Colleen" flies in a 330 BG formation. Colleen was named for the pilot's one year old daughter. She visited the crash site in 2002.



315 BW B-29B inflight shows the AQN-7 "Eagle" radar antenna underneath the wings.

LEGENDARY AIRMEN ON GUAM LATE WWII

| GUAM AAF COMMANDS IN 1945 | AIRMEN | CAREERS AFTER WORLD WAR II |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 2 Jul, <u>Strategic Air Forces in the Pacific</u> (USASTAF) activated Harmon Fld. | Gen Carl Andrew "Tooney" SPAATZ | 1st Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF) 1947-1948 |
| 16 Jul – 1 Aug, <u>20th Air Force</u> 2 Aug-17 Sep, <u>Chief of Staff USASTAF</u> | Gen Curtis E. LEMAY | 5th Chief of Staff of the USAF (CSAF) 1961-1965 |
| 2 Aug – 14 Oct, <u>20th Air Force</u> (Note: 18 Jul, XXI BC inactivated) | Gen Nathan F. TWINING | 3rd Chief of Staff of the USAF (CSAF), 1953-1957; 3rd Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, (1st USAF Gen. CJCS), 1957-1960 |
| Until 31 Jul, <u>314 BW</u> , North Fld. (AAFB) After, Deputy Chief of Ops USASTAF | Gen Thomas S. POWER | Commander-in-Chief, Strategic Air Command (CINCSAC) 1957-1964 |
| Until Oct, <u>315th Bomb Wing</u> , Northwest Field (AAFB) | Lt Gen Frank A. ARMSTRONG | Alaskan Air Command, 1956-1961; inspiration for the intense version Brig Gen Savage in the novel (1948) & movie, "Twelve O'clock High" (1949). |
| <u>20th Air Force</u> Deputy Commander | Gen Lauris NORSTAD | Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, and Commander in Chief, U.S. European Command, 1956-1962. 1st Airman to hold those posts. |
| <u>20th Air Force</u> Statistics Branch | Lt Col Robert S. MCNAMARA | 8th Secretary of Defense (SECDEF), 1961-1968 |



ANDERSEN AFB'S NAMESAKE

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, MI, 1934-1936.

In 1936, he applied for and began training as an Aviation Cadet at Randolph Field, TX. At advanced Training, Kelly Field, TX, 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 Sq. (72 BS), 5th Bombardment Gp. (5 BG), 18th Composite Wing, Hickam Field. He flew the Martin B-12A bomber until 1938; 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. Also 1942 - 1943, he 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 flight training class for Army cadets. It was during this time he was promotion to Colonel. 1943 - 1944, assigned 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 senior AAF General Officer in the Pacific, personally selected Col Andersen to be his Chief of Staff. As Harmon's Chief of Staff, he assisted in the final planning and coordination in the construction of the six B-29 bases in the Marianas and their initial bombings of Japan. He also distinguished himself as the principal planner for the headquarters move to Guam, which was accomplished by Jan 1945. Promoted to brigadier general just six weeks prior to his death. Gen Harmon and Andersen's aircraft disappeared on 26 Feb 1945.



Col Tibbets waves from the cockpit of the B-29 "Enola Gay" while taxiing on North Field, Tinian, just before takeoff on the Atomic Bomb "Little Boy" Hiroshima mission.

1 Aug 1945 — Largest WWII Bombing Attack in the Pacific, when 836 B-29s from all Marianas based bomb wings attacked several locations in Japan.

6 Aug 1945 — First Atomic Bomb "Little Boy" Hiroshima, Japan. Silver-plate modified B-29 S/N 44-86292, nose art "Enola Gay" was flown by the commander of the 509th Composite Group (509 CG), Col Paul Tibbets, from North Field, Tinian,

9 Aug 1945 — Second Atomic Bomb "Fat Man" Nagasaki, Japan. Another Silver-plate B-29 S/N 44-27297, nose art "Bocks Car" piloted by the commander of the 393 BS, 509 CG, Lt Col Charles W. Sweeney.

9-14 Aug 1945 — Continued Attacks, many people might think WWII in the Pacific was over after the second atomic bomb was dropped. There were several starts and stops to missions as it looked like the war might be over, but all the B-29 bomb wings continued to bomb Japan until 15 Aug, totaling of 1,023 sorties.

14-15 Aug 1945 — "The Last Mission" when the 315 BW's B-29Bs returned to Northwest Field, Guam, from a night mission to Nippon Oil, Akita, the morning of 15 Aug, the Emperor of Japan had already surrendered. The 315 BW's mission was the last bombing mission, dropped the last bomb, and the last to land. The blackout caused by this mission along helped to prevent a military coup' in Tokyo.

17 Aug- 20 Sep 1945 — POW Supply Missions of Mercy. The next important mission was to supply the POW camps in Japan, China, Manchuria, and Korea until all the US and Allied prisoners could be evacuated. Gen Spaatz, USASTAF, ordered the 20 AF to conduct the airdrop mission and deliver supplies to 154 camps. The range and capacity of the B-29s made them perfect for the job.

2 Sep 1945 — "Show of Force" Over 400 B-29s conducted a flyover of Tokyo Bay during the surrender ceremony aboard the USS *Missouri* (BB-63). Although it was Surrender Day in Tokyo, it was a somber day at Northwest Field. A B-29B crashed on the field after developing engine problems while on a POW Supply Mission, 10 of the 12 crewmen were killed.



B-29s of the 58 BW, West Field, Tinian (Top) & 314 BW, North Field (AAFB), Guam, staged & loaded for the POW Supply Missions from Isley Field, Saipan.

MEDAL OF HONOR

MSgt Henry "Red" Erwin, received the Medal of Honor after flying a B-29 combat mission from North Field, Guam. Decoration's citation reads:

"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."



POST WWII ERA GUAM, 1945–1950

By mid-1946, the six heavy bomber bases in the Mariana Islands were reduced to just the three on Guam. Only North Field remained a heavy bomber base. Harmon Field became Harmon AFB and continued its logistical and maintenance mission. Northwest Field became a P-47 Thunderbolt fighter base. Both Harmon AFB and Northwest Fields closed in 1949. North Field, Guam, became Andersen AFB where construction of permanent structures was started.



Rare color photo of the 19 BW Airmen's Club in 1952. (Bruce Young)

AFTER WWII NORTH FIELD WAS THE RENAMED 6-TIMES IN 4-YEARS!

1. North Field redesignated on 9 May 1946, to Northfield Air Base Command (P)
2. Northfield Air Base Command redesignated on 1 Mar 1948 North Air Force Base
3. North Air Force Base redesignated on 22 Apr 1948, to North Guam AFB
4. North Guam AFB redesignated on 1 Feb 1949, to North Field AFB Guam
5. North Field AFB Guam redesignated on 15 March 1949, to North Guam AFB
6. North Guam AFB redesignated on 7 Oct 1949, to Andersen Air Force Base

2 Sep 1945 — Surrender Photos to CONUS. An eligible mixed crew and a B-29 from the 330 BG, 314 BW, North Field (AAFB), Guam, flew the surrender photos from Iwo Jima to Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. Then a train took the photos the rest of the way to D.C. *Note: Another B-29 from North Field, Tinian, may have taken the actual documents to the CONUS.

27 Sep 1945-28 Feb 1946 — SUNSET PROJECT, with the war over with Japan, it was time to return the crews and B-29s from the 8th and 20th Air Forces, and the B-24's from the Far East Air Force. The flights were flown by combat crews operating under Air Transport Command (ATC) control and carried passengers assigned as extra crew members, all Airmen required to be eligible for separation. The returning bombers passed through the Marianas, Kwajalein, Johnston Island, and John Rodgers Field (Oahu) to Mather Field, CA. The flow continued the rest of the year into 1946. By New Year's Day 1946, 653 B-29's and 601 B-24's had returned to CONUS. The SUNSET PROJECT flights would



Greeted upon arrival in Washington are Generals: Curtis LeMay (far left), Emmett O'Donnell & Barney Giles (far right) pose with "Hap" Arnold (in tie).



Col Irvine and the crew of the record breaking "PACUSAN Dreamboat." Capt Ruth Saltzman was the stenographer on every flight; sadly, is not pictured as part of the crew.

lead to many world record flight attempts as maintenance Airmen and aircrews tinkered with the newest & lightest B-29Bs from Northwest Field, Guam.

18-19 Sep 1945 — Generals' Record Flight, from Chitose Airfield, Sapporo, Hokkaidō, Japan, to Chicago IL. Three modified B-29B "Eagles" from the 315 BW, Northwest Field, Guam, with three Generals Barney M. Giles (USASTAF/DC), Curtis LeMay (USASTAF/COS), & Emmett O'Donnell Jr. (73 BW/CC) at the controls of each one. They broke several aviation records, including the greatest USAAF takeoff weight, the longest non-stop flight, and the first ever non-stop Japan-Chicago flight, known as the "Great Circle Route." This was the first such flight of its kind.

1 Nov 1945 — Forgotten Record Flight. Gen Armstrong, 315 BW/CC, led a flight of three more B-29B Superforts, assigned to Northwest Field, Guam,

They flew nonstop from Chitose Airfield, Sapporo, Hokkaidō, Japan, to Washington D.C. (The intended destination of the “General’s Record Flight). This flight was largely forgotten in history since it was sandwiched between the two more famous flights.

19-20 Nov 1945 — Record Flight from Guam. Col Clarence S. Irvine and Lt Col G. R. Stanley flew YB-29J *Superfortress*, S/N 44-84061, nose art “PACUSAN Dreamboat,” to the new world distance record of 7,916 miles from Northwest Field to Washington D.C. in 35 hours 5 minutes.

17 Apr 1946 - 3 Apr 1949 — Northwest Field (NWF) converted to a fighter base. First the 21st Fighter Group (FG) was assigned, then replaced by the famous 23 FG “Flying Tigers” from China. These Fighter Groups were equipped with P-47 *Thunderbolts* responsible for Marianas Air Defense. NWF became a storage for many access WWII aircraft from around the Pacific Theater.



P-47N Thunderbolts of the 21st Fighter Group lined up on the Northwest Field’s ramp circa May 1946. (315 BW/Ken Moore Collection)



31 May 1948 — Memorial Day ceremony for the lost crew of the B-29, S/N 44-61700 that disappeared on 20 Apr 1948.

15 May 1946 — The future 314th Air Division departed North Field, Guam, after the 29, 39, and 330 BGs and their squadrons inactivated. This left the 19 BG as the only heavy bomber group in the Western Pacific.

11 Jun 1946 — F-13A *Superfortress*, S/N 42-94114, 3 PRS, 311 RW, nose art “Wild Westy’s Wabbits” crashed in the ocean after takeoff from RWY 06R/24L, while on a Marianas mapping flight, the crew was killed.

20 Jun 1946 — The former 41 PRS’s 20 F-5G *Lightnings* (Recon P-38s) were destroyed by Typhoon DOLLY while in storage at either Harmon or Northwest Fields.

26 Jun 1947 — President Truman signed the National Security Act which called for Army, Navy, and Air Force to be equal within the new Department of Defense (DoD).

18 Jul 1947 – 21 Oct 1986 — Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI), under the terms of a United Nations (UN) trusteeship agreement the U.S. became responsible for administration of the former Japanese South Pacific Mandate (Nan’yō-chō) islands. AAFB’s Mission Support Branch’s motto was “U Call We Haul.” The history of the mission included: Mercy missions, search and rescue, US Gov’t sorties, parts/supply runs, and general support missions. In return, the

aircraft would bring back fresh fruits and vegetables etc. to Guam for the Commissary to sell.

2 Aug 1947 — 54th Reconnaissance Squadron (VLR) Weather (54 RSW) arrived at North Field, Guam. 54th specialized in early typhoon detection and monitoring. It would inactivate, active, and change designations of its long rich history.



The hulk of B-29A S/N 44-61789, being used as the Pati Point Gunnery School on Andersen AFB. It’s wreckage remains over the cliff line today. (Mann Collection)

never seen again. On 31 May 1948, Memorial Day, Maj Gen Francis H. Griswold, 20 AF/CC, presided over the dedication ceremony at the Memorial Field in honor of the crew of 11. It the same baseball field by the current Base Exchange.

14 Apr - 14 May 1948 — Operation SANDSTONE, 514 RSW provided eight WB-29 *Superfortresses* and crews for weather reconnaissance and radiation sampling for three nuclear tests conducted Eniwetok, Marshall Islands. The first penetration of a nuclear cloud by a manned aircraft was flown by Maj Paul H. Fackler, 514 RSW/CC.

12 Oct 1948 — Building 21000 was opened, nicknamed “The Little Pentagon in the Pacific” it was the first large completely concrete building constructed on Guam. It served many missions over the years, including as the Wing Headquarters. The building was demolished 2013-2020.

15 May 1949 — The 20 AF moved from Harmon AFB to Kadena AB, Okinawa. The 19th Bomb Wing assumed area control.

15 Nov 1949 — Typhoon ALLYN struck Guam and destroyed most of Harmon AFB’s structures, the base subsequently closed. Harmon’s Cliff line housing continued to be used until the early 1962. Northwest Field was also closed in 1949.

18 Sep 1947 — United States Air Force! All US Army air activities were transferred to the new US Air Force on this date.

15 Oct 1947 — 514th Reconnaissance Squadron (VLR) Weather (514 RSW). Designations of all of the weather squadrons were changed to 3-digit numbers. However, the 54 RSW inactivated and the 514 RSW activated in its place, using same personnel and equipment.

20 Apr 1948 — Bomber Disappeared. 19 BG’s B-29 S/

N 44-61700 launched from North Field, Guam, and was



Aerial view of Bldg. 21000 when it was the Headquarters of the 3960th Air Base Wing in 1955 (USAF)



Pre-fabricated housing unit, circa 1957.

PERMANENT STRUCTURES

Andersen AFB was originally comprised of rows of temporary wartime structures called Quonset Huts (Q-Huts). Then from the late 1940s through 1965 the base was under perpetual construction, transforming the environment with permanent, typhoon-proof concrete structures.

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

Slowly, the base housing areas became concrete. Fleming Heights nicknamed "Flintstones" houses were completed in 1949. Most of the dorms on the base were built 1950-1954. Roberts Terrace housing area was completed in 1956. Capehart Housing's 1050 units were completed on 2 Aug 1960, thus ended most of the Air Force's housing problems on Guam.

Fortunately, typhoon-proof housing was available before Super-typhoon KAREN struck on 11 Nov 1962. It destroyed most of the non-concrete structures on Guam, including much of the base's remaining WWII-era infrastructure.

Post-KAREN rebuild projects of 1963-1965 resulted in the construction of 15 new buildings including: AMC Terminal, Chapel Two, NCO Club (*Top of the Rock*), and the Bowling Alley/Hot Spot/Shoppette Arcade complex.

Following the KAREN Rebuild, apart from upgrades and beautification projects, AAFB saw very little new construction until after the 9/11 Attacks.



Super-Typhoon KAREN's total destruction of Guam's villages prompted the construction of buildings in concrete.



18 B-29s overhead & the 19 BW's Airmen marching in review during the dedication of AAFB. (AP)

15 Apr 1950 — Andersen Air Force Base. After the redesignation on 7 Oct 1949, the official dedication ceremony took place on this date. It was attended by Gen Andersen's widow Mrs. Esther Andersen and his son James Roy Andersen Jr., with many distinguished visitors and old friends.

KOREAN WAR ERA, 1950-1953

28 Jun 1950 — The Korean War. The 19th Bomb Group (19 BG) sent its entire bomber fleet from Andersen AFB to Kadena AB, Okinawa, while still administratively attached to the 19th Bomb Wing. Four B-29s were flown on combat missions the very first day. B-29 S/N 44-27288, nose art "Atomic Tom", was the first large bomber to drop bombs in the Korean War. The 19 BG flew 645 missions, 5,950 sorties, dropped 52k tons of bombs, lost 91

Airmen, and 20 B-29s, all statistics were the most of any B-29 Bomb Group of the war.

6 Aug 1950 — The First Rotational Bomber Deployment. Strategic Air Command's (SAC) began deploying B-29 and B-50D *Superfortress* to AAFB. The base wing supplied security forces and administrative support to the forward-based units.

2 Sep 1950 — 514 RSW Supported Inchon Landings. Typhoon JANE was bearing down on the loading of Gen MacArthur's Amphibious Force in Japan. Capt Charles Cloniger and crew flew WB-29 Superfort, nose art "Typhoon Goon" into JANE's eye many times to monitor the strength and position of the typhoon. Capt Cloniger dangerously accomplished this with only 3-engines ensuring the operation continued for the famous Inchon Landings. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.



19 BG, B-29 "No Sweat" over Korea, 1950. (Frank Farrell)



Two KB-29Ps of the 91st Air Refueling Squadron (91 ARS) during Operation FOX PETER ONE.

20 Feb 1951 — 54th Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron (Medium) Weather, reactivated and the 514 RSW inactivated at AAFB continued the typhoon chasing from Guam. Equipment and personnel stayed the same.

19 Mar 1951 — Last Tarzon Bomb Mission. Commander of the 19 BG, Col Payne Jennings and his crew were killed after jettisoning an ASM-A-1 *Tarzon* guided bomb in strike against Sinuiju, North Korea. The 12,000 lbs. bomb detonated prematurely and crashing the B-29. AAFB's old Officers Housing area near the main gate was possibly renamed "Jennings Manor" in his honor.

12 Apr 1951 — Black Thursday. (Yalu River Bridge Mission) 48 B-29s escorted by 76 fighter jets were attacked by 36 MiG-15s flown by top Soviet pilots. Seven B-29s were lost, five of them from the 19 BG. After which, B-29 gunners were sent to Pati Point Gunnery School on AAB's cliff line. The school used the hulk of a WWII veteran B-29A. On 23 Oct 1952, was another bad B-29 vs MiG day, known as "Black Tuesday."



Nose art "Typhoon Goon II" 54 SRS (W), WB-29 S/N 44-69970. (AWRA)



26 Feb 1952 — WB-29 Superfort Crash. No. 1 Engine exploded on a 54 SRS (W), WB-29, S/N 44-61640, 125 miles west of Saipan. The aircraft crashed into the ocean. Four Airmen survived by bailing out and parachuting to safety. Six others were killed.

25 Apr 1952 — Stowaways. 54 SRS (W) Airmen smuggled two women from McClellan Field, CA to AAFB onboard a WB-29. The two women were offered jobs on Guam, but opted to pay their own way back home.

4-16 Jul 1952 — Operation FOX PETER ONE (Fighters Pacific, Op No. 1). AAFB was one of the major hubs for the: First mass movement of jet fighters (60 F-84G *Thunderjets*, 31st Fighter Escort Wing) across the Pacific. First mass midair refueling movement of jet fighters (24 KB-29P *Superfortresses*, 91 ARS). Longest mass movement of a complete jet fighter wing by air, at the time. Longest mass nonstop over-water flight 1,860 nautical miles by jet fighters, at the time. First of what would become a regular occurrence for the USAF.

6 Oct 1952 — Weather Aircraft Lost. 54 SRS (W), WB-29 S/N 44-69970, nose art "Typhoon Goon II" and its crew were lost while penetrating the eye of Typhoon WILMA, 300 NM east of Leyte, Philippines. First loss of any USAF Weather Service aircraft while actively engaged with any type of cyclone.

14 Nov 1952 — The 79th Air Rescue Squadron (79 ARS) activated on AAFB. First equipped with SB-29 'Super Dumbo' *Superfortresses*; later with SC-54D *Rescuemasters* and SH-19B *Chickasaw* helicopters.

1952 — Operation CHRISTMAS DROP (OCD). The annual tradition and story began when a 54 SRS (W), WB-29, *Superfortress* Airmen airdropped some goodies with a dropsonde parachute down to the people of Kapingamarangi Island. The annual CHRISTMAS DROP is the longest running airdrop Humanitarian effort in the DoD and the world. (See later chronological entries for significant OCDs.)

19 May 1953 — B-50D *Superfortress*, S/N 49-0283, 830 BS, 509 BW, crashed while attempting an emergency landing on AAFB. The 79 ARS were praised for their quick response and were able to rescue 4 of the 6 crewmen from the fiery crash. Most of the wreck is still buried in the boonies.

27 Jul 1953 — An armistice was reached ending combat operations during the Korean War. A demilitarized zone is created along the 38th parallel.

Early – COLD WAR ERA, 1953-1964

17 Dec 1953 — Worst Accident in AAFB History. B-29MR *Superfortress*, S/N 44-87741, 9 BW, redeploying to Mountain Home AFB, ID, suffered engine failure and crashed into Jennings Manor Officers' Housing while attempting to land. The crash killed nine crewmembers and passengers. Additionally, 10 men, women, and children on the ground were killed.. Typhoon DOLLY occurred and two USN aircraft were lost the same week.



B-29 tail leaning against on a house after the 17 Dec 1953 Crash.

17 Jan 1954 — The Army's 809th Engineer Battalion started to lengthen and strengthen the runways, taxiways, and ramp to accommodate SAC's new and larger aircraft the B-36 *Peacemaker*, B-52 *Stratofortress*, and the KC-135 *Stratotanker*.

28 Jan 1954 — Last Executions in the USAF. Two Airmen were hung by an old abandoned hangar at

OPERATION ARC LIGHT

18 Jun 1965 — Strategic Air Command (SAC) B-52Fs 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 enemy 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, 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, on the Ho Chi Minh Trail, plus the bombers 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 Air Base, Thailand. Throughout the war, SAC provided B-52s & Airmen 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. When ARC LIGHT operations ended on 15 Aug 1973, B-52 aircrews had flown about 125,000 sorties 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 & North Vietnam. - **From USAF Fact Sheet**



B-52F 1965-1966



B-52D 1966-1973



B-52G 1972-1973



1st B-36J *Peacemaker* arrived at AAFB, 1 Oct 1954. It carried the 92 BW's ADVON team. The rest of the Wing arrived 16 Oct 1954.

Northwest Field. They were convicted of the 13 Dec 1948, rape and murder of Ruth Farnsworth.

18 Jun 1954 — SAC established the 3d Air Division (3 AD) at AAFB as a tenant unit.

16 Oct 1954 — B-36 *Peacemaker* Deployment. 92d Bomb Wing (92 BW), Fairchild AFB, deployed its entire wing overseas to AAFB. The giant B-36s would deploy to Guam, 1954 to 1956.

1 Apr 1955 — SAC took over the base completely when the 3d Air Division assumed area control and the 6319th Air Base Wing inactivated. The 3960 ABW activated. The Cold War had arrived to the Mariana Islands.

1 Mar 1956 — Meehan Theater Opened. The first air conditioned theater on Guam opened its doors to much fanfare at AAFB. Many distinguished visitors (DV) including GovGuam Ford Q. Elvidge attended the first movie "Strategic Air Command" starring Jimmy Stewart. It was rededicated on 12 Jun 1957, as the Meehan Theater in honor of Col Arthur W. Meehan, 90th Bomb Group "Jolly Rogers" Commander who disappeared during a WWII combat mission from Australia, 14-15 Nov 1943. The outdoor Turner Memorial Theater would close.

5 Aug 1956 — The 41st Fighter Interceptor Squadron (41 FIS) was reassigned from Misawa, Japan. The 41 FIS was equipped with F-86 *Sabres* and remained integral part of AAFB until inactivation in March 1960.

5 Oct 1956 — Operation LUMBER JACK. The first B-47E *Stratojets* arrived on Guam. AAFB's Airmen had to focus extreme attention on **Foreign Object Debris (FOD)** awareness thanks to two all-jet powered aircraft units. (See Cartoon)

22 Jan 1957 — Last Superfort. The last B-29 departed AAFB after almost 13 years in the Marianas. The aircraft a weather reconnaissance version from the 54 WRS.



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

14 Aug 1957 — B-47 Record. Brig Gen James V. Edmundson, SAC's Deputy Director of Operations, flew a 321 BW B-47 *Stratojet* nonstop from AAFB, Guam to Sidi Slimane, Morocco, North Africa. He set the B-47 record for distance and time aloft, 11,450 miles in 22 hours 50 minutes.



The first deployed B-52B to land was the "City of El Paso" S/N 53-0394.

3 Oct 1957 — 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 Iwo Jima. He was rescued, but all his notes were lost and he never finished the book.

15 Jan 1958 — Weather Aircraft Lost. WB-50 *Superfortress*, S/N 49-295, 54 WRS, AAFB, was lost with the crew of 10 Airmen in the Category 4 Typhoon OPHELIA, 500 miles west of Guam.

30 May 1958 — First Visit by both B-52 and KC-135. According to the base newspaper, a

Stratofortress and a Stratotanker, spent the weekend as part of the base open house event. This was the start over six decades of the partnership with the B-52, KC-135, and Andersen AFB.

18 Nov 1959 — Numerous UFO sighting around AAFB. There were so many reports that an entry was written into the annual 3d AD History.

8 Mar 1960 — 41 FIS with the last fighters assigned to Guam, departed.

19 Sep 1960 — The Forgotten Crash. A MATS DC-6 leaving the NAS Agana Terminal crashed into Barrigada Heights. The crash left 80 of 94 mostly military and dependents onboard dead. This was the worst crash on Guam until Korean Airlines (KAL) Flt 801 in 1997.

26-31 Jan 1961 — Operation HAPPY HOUR. Martin TM-61 *Matador* Missiles were test fired from Northwest Field, Guam, to the island of Farallon de Medinilla (FDM) in the Northern Mariana Islands.

14-28 Oct 1962 — Cuban Missile Crisis. SAC and the B-47s forward-based at AAFB were in high alert in response to the tensions in the



16 Mar 1966 — GEMINI 8 RESCUE. NASA mission went awry & landed 430 miles east of Okinawa, instead of the Atlantic Ocean. AAFB's own 79 ARRS, was assigned secondary recovery force at Naha, Okinawa. Luckily, the rescue pilot saw the capsules parachute on the first pass and 3 Pararescuemen (PJs) jumped from the aircraft & stood by the capsule until a USN destroyer arrived.

Caribbean.

11-12 Nov 1962 — Super-Typhoon KAREN. Category 5 winds struck Guam with veracity killing 11 people and approximately 45,000 were left homeless. Nearly everything not made of concrete was severely damaged or completely gone.

13-17 Nov 1962 — Operation HANDCLASP, as part of KAREN Relief, PACAFBASECOM agencies at Hickam AFB, HI, operated 24-hours-a-day to support military dependents evacuated from Guam. In addition, the USAF joined other military/civilian agencies collected donations of food, clothing, and other items to be flown or shipped to Guam.

4 Dec 1962 — Super 'Connie' Crash. USAF C-121G *Super Constellation*, S/N 54-4066, crashed on Nimitz Hill, Guam, while carrying humanitarian supplies for KAREN's recovery efforts. 3 of 8 Airmen were killed.

29 Mar 1964 — First B-52 Rotational Deployment. B-52B *Stratofortresses* from the 95th and 22d Bomb Wings arrived for 90-day deployment to replace the B-47s on SAC's Cold War REFLEX ALERT.

15 Jun 1964 — The 1507th Support Squadron and the MATS terminal moved from NAS Agana to AAFB.

VIETNAM WAR ERA, 1965-1975

Andersen AFB's operations evolved significantly with the arrival of the first B-52Bs in 1964. On 12 Feb 1965, 30 more B-52Fs arrived as the U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia escalated. Soon the eight-year campaign called Operation ARC LIGHT would begin. It was during this time that Andersen AFB, Guam, became synonymous with the B-52.

18 Jun 1965 — ARC LIGHT One. The first B-52 bombing mission over Vietnam. 30 B-52Fs launched from AAFB. Tragically two of the BUFFs collided in midair and eight crewmen were lost.

29 Jun 1965 — Last Stratojet. The 54 WRS's WB-47E departed, ending the *Stratojet*'s nine-year run.

17 Sep 1965 — CORONA PROJECT. Satellites were used for photographic surveillance of adversaries from 1959 to 1972. As part of CORONA, the Guam Tracking Station became operational, first as a mobile unit, at Northwest Field. Today, its part of the new U.S. Space Force; namely **Det. 2**, 21st Space Operations Squadron, Space Delta 6.



30 Dec 1965, Maj Gen Crumm presents comedian Bob Hope a plaque at AAFB. Bob Hope performed his USO Christmas Show on Guam nine times in the years 1957, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, and 1972.



(Top) B-52D S/N 55-0100 "Old 100" drops its ordnance over Vietnam c.1966. Arguably the most famous photograph of ARC LIGHT. (Bottom) "Old 100" became the centerpiece of the Arc Light Memorial, 1974-1983.

12 Apr 1966 — Operation ROLLING THUNDER. B-52Ds from Andersen AFB, Guam, struck North Vietnam for the first time. Although depicted as the symbol of Rolling Thunder, the B-52 flew less than one percent of all sorties.

c. Dec 1966 — Operation PURPLE DRAGON. During the early Vietnam War, it seemed the enemy knew when B-52 strikes from Guam were coming. PURPLE DRAGON was the investigation to find out why. Today's Airmen practice it, specifically Operational Security (OPSEC).

20 Mar 1967-5 Jul 1972 — Operation POPEYE. AAFB's tenant unit the 54 WRS operated/rotated three modified WC-130A *Hercules* from Udon AB, Thailand. The crews seeded clouds in an attempt to make it rain and to extend the monsoon season over the Ho Chi Minh Trail; in an effort to slow/stop the flow of war materials into South Vietnam. The 54 WRS's slogan was, "Make Mud, Not War." Nothing conclusive if it worked or not.

10 Apr 1967 — Operation POKER DICE. SAC sent three B-52Ds from AAFB to U-Tapao AB, Thailand, officially opening the base for B-52 combat operations. An important BUFF base during the Vietnam War, as it shortened the distances to target, with no in-flight refueling, compared to the grueling 2,600 mile sorties from Guam.

7 Jul 1967 — Crumm Tragedy. Maj Gen William J Crumm, 3 AD, commander, AAFB, was lost on his fini-flight when the B-52D call sign RED 1 collided with another B-52D call sign RED 2. Both bombers crashed about 20 miles off the Vietnam coast. Gen Crumm is the highest ranking US military officer missing in action from the Vietnam War, presumed dead.



21 Mar 1967 — Super DV Day. President Johnson, South Vietnam President Nguyen Van Thieu, & PM Nguyen Cao Ky; plus, all of the President's Cabinet visited AAFB. President awarded 12 B-52F Crew-dogs with medals & spoke in front of the current 36 WG HQ, in the rain. It was also the first time Andersen Radio broadcasted a live event to AFRT & around the world.



21 Feb 1966, Brig Gen Jimmy Stewart, USAFR, famous Actor (Left) flew a B-52F ARC LIGHT mission from AAFB during Vietnam. Gen Crumm is in the center of the photo. (AAFB Archives)

8 Jul 1967 — B-52 Misfortune Da Nang. B-52D, S/N 56-0601, attached to the 4133 BW (P), AAFB, diverted to Da Nang, South Vietnam, for an emergency landing because of electrical and hydraulic systems problems. Upon landing the bomber overran the end of the runway, broke up, and caught fire in a mine field. All forward crewman were killed. The gunner was the only survivor.

23 Jan 1968 — Operations PORT BOW & NIAGARA. After North Korea seized the USS *Pueblo*, SAC sent nine more B-52Ds to AAFB, then another 15 CONUS based B-52Ds were sent to Kadena AB, Okinawa. Although not used in North Korea, the extra BUFFs supported the close air support (CAS) during the "Siege of Khe Sanh."

24 Sept 1968 — KC-135 Major Accident. The Stratotanker, S/N 55-5133, crashed landed on Wake Island while returning deployers to Pease AFB, NH, from AAFB, Guam. A1C Allan S. Major, 509 Bomb Wing's Historian died with 10 other Airmen. Allan S. Major Award, recognizes an USAF historian assigned to a single-person history office.

28 April-18 June 1969 — Operation GROMET II. A severe drought in the Philippines 1968 and 1969 led their government to try cloud seeding (See POPEYE) to increase rainfall with the help of the U.S. military. 58 silver iodide cloud seeding missions were conducted over the islands. These sorties were conducted by the AAFB's 54 WRS, WC-130s. The only Airmen to be killed in either GROMET II or POPEYE operations was Capt Charles Booker, ARWO, on 16 May 1969, when the silver iodide seeding device exploded on WC-130E, S/N 64-0554, causing fatal injuries. Overall, the missions flown were considered highly successful.

10 May 1969 — B-52D Crash. B-52, S/N 56-0593, attached to the 4133 BW (P), AAFB, crashed into the ocean after takeoff from AAFB on a combat mission to Vietnam, no survivors.

27 Jul 1969 — B-52D Crash. BUFF, S/N 56-0630, attached to the 4133 BS (P), AAFB, suffered structural failure just after lift-off from AAFB and crashed into the ocean, no survivors.



12 Feb 1972 — Operation BULLET SHOT, SAC's 5-phase mission to bring more B-52s into Southeast Asia in response to intelligence reports North Vietnam planned to invade South Vietnam. Over 200 B-52s, crews, and maintainers rotated through Guam and U-Tapao AB, Thailand, for the next 18 months.



1972-1973 — Operation BULLET SHOT, there were so many large wing aircraft on AAFB's ramp that KC-135s were backed up on the old WWII B-29 hardstands with their tails hanging Arc Light Boulevard like trees!

1 Apr 1970 — 8AF moved to Guam. 8th Air Force replaced the 3d Air Division; the 43d Strategic Wing replaced the 3960th Strategic Wing; and the 4133d Strategic Wing (Provisional) inactivated at AAFB.

18 Apr 1970 — F-4 Phantom II Crash. The F-4D, S/N 65-0616, 12 TFW, transiting to the Vietnam War crashed on AAFB during take off. One of the crew was killed and one injured. On 12 Feb 2019, the wreckage was rediscovered by the 36WG/CC & CV!

10 Jul 1970 — The first C-5 *Galaxy* landed at AAFB

1-30 Aug 1970 — Hollywood Movie, "Noon Sunday" was filmed at Tarague Beach and other locations on

Guam.

8 May 1972 — Operation LINEBACKER I. President Nixon authorized bombings in North Vietnam to push back the North Vietnamese Army's (NVA) Easter Offensive. B-52s from AAFB and U-Tapao participated.

8-9 Jul 1972 — Crewdogs Bail Out in Typhoon's Path. The crew of B-52G S/N 59-2600, 72 BW, bailed out of their ailing aircraft approx. 300 miles west of AAFB after takeoff. Typhoon RITA was bearing down on them. Rescue and weather aircraft from Guam were overhead, but no surface ships could reach the crew because of the 40 foot seas and typhoon force winds. Amazingly, two USN submarines the USS *Barb* and USS *Gurnard* rescued all but one of the crewmen!

12 Jul 1972 — Air Traffic Control Tower Opened. AAFB's current tower officially began operations. Its 168.5 feet tall with 223 steps. When it was built it was the tallest structure in the AF.

25-26 Oct 1972 — Largest EVAC in AAFB History. Typhoon OLGA was bearing down on Guam, all of the Operation BULLET SHOT's over 175 aircraft evacuated to other locations in the Pacific Region. The typhoon never hit Guam.

18-29 Dec 1972 — Operation LINEBACKER II. When North Vietnam showed unwillingness to negotiate the end of the war, the Pres. Nixon unleashed the B-52s 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



Vietnamese refugees in a line at "Tin City" AAFB, Guam., 1975.

were maintainers). 15 B-52s lost, 8 from AAFB. The Paris Peace Accords were signed on 27 January 1973.

15 Aug 1973 — Last ARC LIGHT Mission. Three B-52Gs bombed locations in Cambodia prior to the cease fire order.

26-29 Oct 1973 — Oil Embargo Crisis. BULLET SHOT's 86 B-52s redeployed to the CONUS during the crisis. Annual Operation CHRISTMAS DROP was also canceled, the only time since 1952.

12 Feb 1974 — ARC LIGHT Memorial Dedication. The ceremony was held exactly one year after the release of the Vietnam War POWs. The memorial honored 75 B-52 crewdogs killed during the Vietnam War when 33 B-52s were lost.

20 Apr 1974 — C-130 Hercules Crash. S/N 62-1841 crashed on the base after takeoff on a flight to CONUS. The wreckage is still located below the cliff line.

12 Dec 1974 — B-52 in the Water. B-52D, S/N 55-0058, 43 SW, AAFB, crashed into the water after instrument malfunction, followed by loss of control. Two Airmen survived the bail out of the aircraft approximately 25 miles west of Andersen AFB.

23 Apr 1975 — Operation NEW LIFE. North Vietnam invaded the South, which caused a major refugee crisis. AAFB received more than 34,000 of the 112,000 refugees who arrived on Guam. By August, over 109,000 were processed through and departed out of AAFB to CONUS.

23 Dec 1975 — YOUNG TIGERS Ceased Ops. The last KC-135 *Stratotankers still operating* under the



Super Typhoon Pamela's destructive nature can be seen in this photo. In the background, all the windows, except one, were blown out of the tower.

Late-COLD WAR thru Early-PACAF Era, 1976-1994

*Andersen AFB quieted considerably after Operation NEW LIFE. The post-Vietnam period brought the return to routine operations. AAFB continued to be a vital overseas platform for carrying out SAC's global deterrence mission. Nonetheless, a new enemy surfaced the next 18 years; what was it? **Nature!** A major Earthquake, a Volcano Evacuation, and many Typhoons! Guess the Airmen won, since we are still here.*

Vietnam War Era moniker "Young Tigers" departed AAFB, Guam.

c. Jan 1976 — Military Housing in Andersen South started to be built.

21-22 May 1976 — Super Typhoon PAMELA, hit Guam with an estimated winds of 138 mph, gusts over 167 mph, and over 22 inches of rain in 24-hours. On AAFB, communication with the outside world was lost for 14 hours, the runways were flooded and buried under debris. 23 May - 9 June, the 605th Military Airlift Support Squadron (605 MASS) handled 2,652 tons of cargo from over 86 aircraft sorties.

21-25 Aug 1976 — Operation PAUL BUNYAN. B-52Ds from AAFB along with many other U.S. aircraft responded to the Korean DMZ. On 18 Aug 1976, "Axe Murder Incident" when two U.S. soldiers were killed by North Korean Army personnel over a disagreement about a tree being trimmed on the border. During PAUL BUNYAN the tree was completely cut down with no further incident.



Last B-52D "Tall Tail" takes off from AAFB in 1983..



March 1983 — Three Different Operational B-52 Models on the Same Ramp at the Same Time. This historic event was probably the first and last time three different operational B-52s were at the same operational base at the same time. (Left to Right) The B-52H, possibly the first time at AAFB, it was 1 of 3 returning from Australia. The B-52G was 1 of 4 at AAFB to augment the MINEX part of TEAM SPIRIT '83. The B-52D was assigned to the 43 BW, 1 of 14 assigned to AAFB. The B-52D's were going to fly off into the sunset later that year. The B-52G replaced them until they departed AAFB in 1990. (*Tropic Topics, Mar 1983*)

c. Sep 1977 — Guam Sister Village Program, began to promote community between AAFB & the villages of Guam. Squadrons assisted with community service, such as building bus stops & cleaning up debris after typhoons. Villages reciprocated by inviting squadrons to community events making the military feel welcome.

AF seeking shooting suspect



6 Oct 1987, A B-52G was almost shot down by someone shooting a M-14 at the aircraft! Bullets caused hydraulic system failures. The crew managed to emergency land at AAFB. (AAFB Archives)

26 Feb 1982 — "The BUFF & Pump House" B-52D, 55-0099, 43 SW, AAFB, was damaged beyond repair during engine maintenance run. It jumped chocks and collided with a concrete fuel pump house. The lower half forward fuselage was crushed from the tip of the chin radome to the

forward edge of the wheel well.

18 Feb 1983 — First visit to AAFB by a KC-10A *Extender*.

7 Mar 1983 — Largest B-52 Mining Exercise (MINEX) to date, TEAM SPIRIT '83, was conducted off the South Korean coast with seven B-52D's and four B-52G's, along with eight KC-135s all flew sorties from AAFB.

12 Oct 1983 — The Last Tall Tail. The last B-52D, known for their Vietnam Era black and camouflage paint scheme, departed AAFB. During Operation LINEBACKER II, the same B-52, S/N 56-0676, was the first B-52 to shoot down an enemy aircraft. It is currently on static display at Fairchild AFB, WA.



14 May 1988 — First Lancer. B-1B Lancer, S/N 85-0072, nose art "Polarized" landing at AAFB.

28 Feb 1986 — Former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos was exiled to the U.S., his first stop was AAFB, Guam.

2 May 1986 — President Ronald Reagan visited AAFB.

24 Dec 1986 — First Rota Walk. Although there were similar events during the holidays in years before, the 1986 Rota Walk was the genesis of how Holidays are celebrated on Rota Drive today. It even had a similar name, but was a tranquil event until the arrival of the 13th Air Force (13 AF) in 1991.

17 Sep 1987 — Thunderbirds. The first ever performance of the Thunderbirds at AAFB. It coincided with the 40th USAF birthday and AAFB's Open House.

c. Oct 1988 — The host 43d Bombardment Wing traded its nuclear deterrent role for a conventional mission, and in the next year began redeploying it B-



Airmen deployed from AAFB return to a Heroes' Welcome after Operation DESERT SHIELD & STORM in 1991.

52s to CONUS. The 43d would see inactivation on 30 Sept 1990.

1 Oct 1989 — 633rd Air Base Wing (633 ABW). The thawing of the Cold War, AAFB became part of Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) and saw the activation of 633 ABW. Although the 633d's life on Guam was relatively short, it would be an interesting 5-years.

1990-2011 — AAFB designated as emergency Space Shuttle landing site.

27 Mar 1990 — The Last B-52G, to ever permanently assigned to AAFB departed to Australian Aviation Heritage Centre, Darwin. The SAC's 60 BS continued to fly B-52s out of Guam until Mar 1990.

17 Jan 1991 — Operation DESERT STORM. 34 Airmen from Guam were deployed to Middle East in support. On 1 Oct 1990, the 1500th Strategic Wing (Provisional) activated with six B-52Gs less than a year after the 60 BS departed. The 1500 SW (P) sent the B-52Gs to Diego Garcia to replace BUFFs that flew combat missions the first day of air operations.

20 Aug 1991 — Amn Laurie Lucas, 633d Security Police Squadron (633 SPS), died from wounds sustained in MIDNIGHT TRAIL training exercises.

2 Dec 1991 — 13th Air Force (13 AF). An official flag raising ceremony was held at the current HQ Bldg. for the 13 AF who moved from the Philippines to Guam after Clark AB was closed. The Pinatubo eruption and non-renewal of RP-US Military Bases Agreement,

29 Dec 1991 — SSgt Stacey Levay, 633 SPS, was murdered while escorting the Commissary's cash box to be deposited at the old Bldg. 21000. Jose Simoy, a Security Forces Airman, was convicted in the murder.

23 Jan 1992 — B-52G Blown Up. A veteran DESERT STORM BUFF, S/N 58-0234, was blown up and scrapped at AAFB. After Depot Maintenance Airmen found an unrepairable unflyable condition.

21-29 Jul 1992 — Nasion Chamoru Protests. USAF's Potts Junction entrance to Northwest Field and NAS Agana were sites of protests by future Guam Senator Angel Santos and his Nasion Chamoru Activist Group.



12 Jun 1991 — Operation FIERY VIGIL. The volcano Mt. Pinatubo, RP., erupted in close proximity to Clark AB. In the wake of the eruption, then a typhoon; more than 21,000 U.S. Military, family members, and pets evacuated from the Philippines. Eventually, all the evacuees made it to AAFB, Guam, for processing to CONUS. **Photo:** FIERY VIGIL evacuees being processed in one of the old metal hangars at Andersen.

28-29 Aug 1992 — Super Typhoon OMAR. The strongest typhoon since 1976 (PAMELA). OMAR caused severe damage to AAFB and the surrounding areas. US Navy unit VRC-50's KC-130F B/N 149793 was crushed in a partially collapsed hangar. The *Hercules* was resurrected and flew again.

8 Aug 1993 — 8.1 Earthquake! Known as the "8.1", the USGS later reduced it to an 8.0 magnitude. There were four aftershocks over 5 magnitude. It caused various damages across Guam. On AAFB the damages included: 1) Tower swayed 8-10 feet and a fire broke out on the 15th floor; 2) Current 36 MXS Bldg. 18006 had to be abandoned until major repairs were completed; 3) Over 90,000 bombs fell off their racks; 4) Loss of power and water; and 5) two injuries. In spite of the damage, AAFB was declared ready for air ops within 14 hours after the quake.

Bombs away!

Ammo troops restack bombs shaken loose by earthquake



36TH WING ERA 1994 – CURRENT

On 1 Oct 1994, the 36th Air Base Wing (36 ABW) activated at Andersen AFB; the 633 ABW was inactivated. Prior to Guam, the 36th was a Fighter Wing (36 FW) at Bitburg AB, Germany. Other units also moved from USAFE and activated on Guam that day were the: 36 LG (now MXG), 36 MDG, 36 SPTG (now MSG), 36 CES, 36 CONS, 36 CS, 36 MDOS, 36 MDSS, 36 MSS (now FSS), 36 MXS, 36 OSS, 36 SFS, 36 SPTS (now LRS), & 36 CPTF (now CPTS). See 36th Wing Heritage Pamphlet for pre-1994 History.

1 Oct 1994 — USN Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 5 (HC-5). Not only did the 36 ABW activate on this date, but another unit moved to AAFB too. The HC-5 “Providers” moved from NAS Agana equipped with HH-46A *Sea Knights*. On 21 Apr 2005, HC-5 redesignated as the Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 25 “Island Knights” equipped with MH-60S *Sea Hawks*.



16 Sep 1996 - 30 Apr 1997 — Operation PACIFIC HAVEN. After Operation DESERT STRIKE, “Team Andersen” supported 6,572 Kurdish refugees for six months.

5 Feb 1996 — First B-2 Spirits. The first B-2 stealth bombers to land on Guam were the 509th Bomb Wing’s Spirit of Washington and Spirit of California. They were on a stopover for the Singapore Air Show.



B-52H’s First Combat Mission. Op DESERT STRIKE, 1 of 2 BUFFs shown here returning to AAFB, Guam, on 3 Sep 1996. (USAF)

2-3 Sep 1996 — Operation DESERT STRIKE. Saddam Hussein attacked Kurds and seized the city of Irbil in a zone protected by the U.S. In response, Operation DESERT 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 the USS *Carl Vinson* Battle Group in the Persian Gulf.

6 August 1997 — Korean Air Flt 801. The Boeing 747 crashed on Nimitz Hill killing 228 of the 254 passengers and crew onboard. All military

services on Guam assisted with emergency and the recovery efforts.

8 Nov 2000 — 613th Contingency Response Squadron (613 CRS) activated. Assigned to the 13th Air Force.

11 Apr 2001 — VALIANT RETURN. On 1 Apr 2001, an USN EP-3 *Aries II* was involved in the accidental collision with a Chinese fighter jet and it landed at Hainan Island, China. On 11 Apr 2001, a Continental Airlines jet retrieved the crew from China and flew them to their first U.S. soil, AAFB, Guam; where they spent a few hours before departing on an C-17 to Hickam AFB, HI.

21-23 May 2001 — Joint CAPEX. AAFB hosted PACAF sponsored Combat Ammunition Production Exercise (CAPEX) for the first time. It was also the first Joint Services CAPEX. 300 service members from three different branches of the military participated.

Cope North ‘99 ends in ‘victory’



21 June 1999 — First Cope North Guam. Exercise COPE NORTH ‘99 was the first time the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) deployed outside of Japan since WWII.

11 Sep 2001 — 9/11 Terrorist Attacks. At 2246L (Guam Time), American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center, NY. By early 12 Sep, the 36 ABW went into FPCON Delta in response to the terrorist attacks.

14 Sep 2001 — Operation NOBLE EAGLE. After the terrorist attacks in New York, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania, the 36 ABW hosted the VMFA-212 Lancers, USMC F/A-18 *Hornets*, MCAS Iwakuni. The VMFA-212 flew combat air patrol missions over Guam. They were the first USMC squadron to deploy after the 9/11 Attacks. At nearly the same time, the USN Aegis cruiser USS *Cowpens* (CG-63), from Yokosuka, Japan, stood naval air defense offshore of Guam.

Sep 2001—July 2002 — Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. AAFB’s flight



11 Apr 2001 — VALIANT RETURN at AAFB, Guam. (C/NV)



Rows of KC-135s and KC-10s on the North Ramp during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, 2001.

line served as the epicenter for air bridge activity supporting and servicing 3,211 aircraft, 38,000 passengers and 60,000 tons of cargo.

7 Oct 2001 — US Combat Operations began in Afghanistan. Det. 1, 13 AF (Det. 1, 36 MSG), Diego Garcia, BIOT, provided facilities, munitions, vehicles, ground equipment, supplies and fuel to sustain the deployed bomber and tanker combat operations of the 40th Air Expeditionary Wing (40 AEW).

30 Sep 2002 — USAF-Wide Changes. The following groups redesignated: 36th Logistics Group became the 36th Maintenance Group (36 MXG) and the 36th Support Group became the 36th Mission Support Group (36 MSG).



22 Feb 2004 — Continuous Bomber Presence (CBP), rotational bomber deployments began when six 23d Expeditionary Bomb Squadron (23 EBS) B-52Hs from Minot AFB arrived at AAFB.

8 Dec 2002 — Super Typhoon PONGSONA. AAFB endured typhoon strength winds for more than 17 hours. Sustained winds reached 120 mph and gusts were reported at 156 mph. The total rainfall came to over 17 inches. The widespread damage caused an estimated \$112.1 million.

28 March 2003 — 613th Contingency Response Group (613 CRG) activated on AAFB. Also activated under the 613 CRG were the 613th (613 MRS) and 613th Security

Mobility Response Squadron (613 SFS).

9 Jul 2004 — 36th Munitions Squadron (36 MUNS) reactivated. It had been inactive since 1979.

2 Mar 2005 — First B-2 Spirit CBP. 393rd Expeditionary Bomb Sq. (393 EBS) was the first B-2 *Spirit* unit to deploy in Continuous Bomber Presence (CBP).

29 Apr 2005 — Theater Security Package (TSP). AAFB hosted 12 F-15E *Eagles* of the 391st Expeditionary Fighter Squadron (391 EFS). This was the first TSP fighter unit deployed to Guam.

2 May 2005 — 13 AF Departed. The 13 AF transferred to Hickam AFB, HI. The NAF had been on Guam since Dec 1991.

15 Sep 2005 — Lancer Fire. 37 EBS's B-1B bomber, S/N 85-0066, burst into flames after landing at AAFB. It was repaired and flown back to Ellsworth AFB, SD, 11 Jun 2008.



19-24 June 2006 — First Exercise VALIANT SHIELD, formations of multi-service combat aircraft & three USN Carrier Strike groups, of the USS *Kitty Hawk*, USS *Ronald Reagan* and USS *Abraham Lincoln*, led by a B-2 *Spirit* of the 393 EBS. VALIANT SHIELD was an exercise that focused on integration of joint training among US forces. (USN)

19 Jan 2006 — CRG Swap. The 36 CRG activated at AAFB, replacing the 613 CRG, who inactivated. Also activated that day were the 36 MRS and 736 SFS.

c. Jun 2006 — 506th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron (506 EARS) activated at AAFB for the deployed active and reserve KC-135 *Stratotanker* unit rotations in PACOM's Theater Security Package (TSP).

12 Feb 2007 — 36th Operations Group (36 OG). The reestablishment ceremony was held for the 36 OG replacing the Provisional 36th Expeditionary Operations Group (36 EOG) for all deployed flying units assigned at AAFB.

10 May 2007 — F-22 *Raptors* visited AAFB for the first time.

19 Jul 2007 — RQ-4 *Global Hawk* visited Guam the first time.

1 Jan 2008 — 644th Combat Communications Squadron (644 CBCS), reactivated at AAFB as 3rd of 5 eventual squadrons assigned to the 36 CRG.

22 Feb 2008 — 554th RED HORSE (554 RHS). The flag transfer ceremony for the 554 RHS from 7th Air Force (to the 36 CRG) was held. Transition marked the first time in USAF history, a RED HORSE unit was aligned under a Wing.

1 Jul 2008 — 36th Mission Support Squadron (36 MSS) was redesignated as the 36th Force Support Squadron (36 FSS). The 36th Services Squadron (36 SVS) was inactivated. The missions of both the 36 MSS and 36 SVS were combined under the new 36 FSS umbrella.

10 Sep 2008 — New BX Grand Opening. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to open the new 181,000 square foot AAFB AAFES Base Exchange.



23 Feb 2008 — B-2 Crash. 393 EBS, B-2 "Spirit of Kansas" S/N 87-0127, crashed while taking off from AAFB. The estimated \$1.4 billion accident was the most expensive aircraft crash in history, both pilots ejected safely with minor injuries. (FAA)



5 Mar - Jun 2003, 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.



19 Aug 2005 — Andersen International Airport. A Northwest Airlines 747 nose gear collapsed while landing, blocking the runway at Guam's International Airport. The 36 MXS assisted with emergency removal of the aircraft and Team Andersen landed nine civilian airliners at the base.



21 Jul 2008 — RAIDER 21 Crash. 20 EBS B-52H, S/N 61-0053, nose art "Louisiana Fire" crashed into the Philippine Sea while maneuvering for the annual Liberation Day Parade fly-over. **RAIDER 21 Memorial** in Anigua, Guam, honors the memory of the six B-52H Airmen who lost their lives on Liberation Day 2008.

6 Feb 2009 — Joint Region Marianas (JRM) was established during the ground breaking ceremony of the new JRM HQ on Nimitz Hill. Brig Gen Ruhlman 36 WG/CC, attended the ceremony as the Deputy Commander of JRM. While bases in CONUS were becoming "Joint Bases", Guam's became "Joint Region" since the bases were geographically separated across the island.

5 Aug 2010 — 36th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (36 EAMXS), Provisional (P), activated for deployed aircraft maintenance.

12 Mar-4 May 2011 — Operation TOMADACHI. After the 8.9 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami ravaged northern Honshu, Japan. The 554 RHS, 644 CBCS, and 36 MRS, sent 27 Airmen and equipment for relief efforts. RQ-4 Global Hawks flew over 300 hours and were used to help the U.S. and Japanese governments to assess damages and helped to direct rescue teams.

6 Oct 2011 — First Aviation Training Relocation (ATR). Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 and Strike Fighter Squadron 94 conducted aerial and ground training in the Marianas. ATR was training located outside of Japan for USAF, USMC, USN, and JASDF aircraft. It enabled increased operational readiness for maintainers, pilots, and support personnel, while managing the noise impacts in and around the local communities of Japan.

14 Dec 2011 — CHRISTMAS DROP '11. C-130H *Hercules* aircrew from the 36th Airlift Squadron (36 AS), Yokota AB, Japan, delivered 25 boxes of life-saving IV fluids to the Micronesian Island of Fais from AAFB. The real-world emergency was an outbreak of dengue fever infecting 35 percent of the population of Fais which prompted a declaration of emergency.

11-24 Feb 2012 — First Trilateral COPE NORTH. CN 12 took place with Australian Air Force (RAAF) joining forces with USAF and JASDF for the exercise.



21 Apr 2009 — Stealths First OCONUS Deployment. The B-2 *Spirit* and F-22 *Raptor* conducted their first OCONUS deployment together at AAFB, Guam. (USAF)



20 Sep 2010 — RQ-4 Global Hawk Arrived. The Det. 3, 9 OG, brought significant intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities to the Pacific Theater. (USAF)

c Apr 2013 — Terminal High Altitude Area Defense. The first elements of the US Army's THAAD system arrived at Northwest Field. The anti-ballistic missile system under the name "Task Force Talon" was brought to Guam in response to North Korea's threats.

10 Nov – 4 Dec 2013 — 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 2014 — COPE NORTH '14. Turned real-world when the CNMI governor declared the island of Rota under a state of emergency due to shortage of food & other commodities. CN 14 participants provided humanitarian assistance.

20 Jun 2014 — SILVER FLAG. 554 RHS completed

the first mock course at PRTC, Northwest Field. In the past the course was held by Det.1, 554 RHS, Kadena AB, Japan until moved to Guam.

26 Jun 2015— The Last Blast. A 20 EBS B-52H dropped the last M117, 750-lbs bomb, from the PACAF (36 MUNS) stockpile. The last Vietnam War Era ordnance was dropped on Farallon de Medinilla Island (FDM).

29 Jul 2015— First Chamorro Airman General. Brig General Johnny Lizama, Guam Air National Guard (GUANG), became the first Chamorro Airman promoted to USAF general officer.



25 Apr 2015 — Operation SAHAYOGI HAAT. devastating magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Nepal. The 36 CRG responded to call. Photo: 4 May 2015, the 36 CRG boards a C-17 *Globemaster III*, AAFB, bound for Nepal. (USAF)

15 Aug 2016 — B-1B Returned CBP. The BONES of the 34 EBS returned in support of PACOM's Continuous Bomber Presence (CBP) mission. It was the first time B-1Bs were part of CBP rotation since 23 Apr 2006.



First Int'l Operation CHRISTMAS DROP 2015

2 Aug 2015 — Typhoon SOUDELOR, hit the island of Saipan, CNMI, and caused widespread damage to homes & the power systems. Numerous agencies contributed to the disaster relief efforts including: 36 CRG, HSC-25, & the USS *Ashland* (LSD-48).



Gen O'Shaughnessy, PACAF/CC, visits Soldiers of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command's **Task Force Talon, THAAD** on Northwest Field, 1 Feb 2017.



19 May 2016 — 69 EBS, B-52H, S/N 60-0047, Nose art “Neanderthaul” had a take off accident at AAFB. All seven Crewdogs egressed safely.

7 Dec 2017 — Northwest Field (NWF) Pacific Regional Training Center (PRTC). 11 years after ground-breaking, the 554 RHS held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the conclusion of more than 70 construction projects, valued at \$251 million, making up the new PRTC. Airmen used facilities to prepare for contingency and deployment missions.

11 Dec 2017 — Operation Christmas Drop ‘17, was the first to feature 374 AW’s new C-130J *Super Hercules* from Yokota AB, Japan.

c. Jan 2018 — 554 RHS deployed to South Korea. Airmen from the 554 RHS, 36 CRG, AAFB, deployed to assist the 7 AF in repairs and construction projects at multiple bases on the Korean Peninsula.

5–26 Oct 2018 — Operation DHARMA PALU. On 28 Sep, the 7.5 Magnitude SULAWESI earthquake struck north of Palu, Indonesia. It triggered a large tsunami that left 4,340 dead, 10,679 injured, and thousands displaced. INDOPACOM sent three C-130J *Super Hercules* from 374 AW, Yokota AB, Japan and 30 Airmen from the 36 CRG’s “911 Force” assisted USAID in Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HA/DR) efforts.

25 Oct 2018 — Super Typhoon YUTU, devastated the islands of Saipan and Tinian. The 36 CRG, 36 CES, and the tenant units 734 AMS, USN’s HSC-25, and Guam National Guard provided disaster relief from AAFB.

22-24 Feb 2019 — COPE NORTH ‘19 EVAC. CN 19’s 3,000 international Airmen demonstrated flexibility when Typhoon WUTIP’s closest point of approach (CPA) initiated inclement weather plans. Many of the 100 assigned exercise aircraft needed to evacuate from Guam, then later returned.



17 Aug 2016 — All three of AFGSC’s strategic bombers simultaneously conducted operations in the U.S. PACOM area of operations for the first time in history.

28 Mar 2019 — 36th Mobility Response Squadron (36 MRS) redesignated to 36th Contingency Response Sq. (36 CRS).

1 Jun 2019 — 36th Contingency Response Support Squadron (36 CRSS) activated on AAFB. It was the 5th Squadron assigned to the 36 CRG.

17 - 28 Jun 2019 — “Operation Christmas Drop” Movie. A movie about the annual Christmas Drop was filmed on AAFB and off-base Guam. Many of Team Andersen’s Airmen participated as extras. It was one of the first movies filmed on Guam to be widely distributed (*See 1-30 Aug 1970*). The movie was released on 5 Nov 2020.

10 Dec 2019 — Operation Christmas Drop ‘19. A fourth international partner, the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF), joined the humanitarian airdrop. The first multi-national OCD took place in 2015 when C-130 *Hercules*’ from the Japanese



Air Self
Defense Force
(JSDF), and the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) joined the USAF.

26 Jan 2020 — MQ-4C Triton. The USN’s version of the RQ-4 *Global Hawk* arrived at AAFB, Guam. Unmanned Patrol Squadron (VUP) 19, the first *Triton* squadron operated two aircraft. The MQ-4C conducted intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions; also, brought increased persistence, capability, and capacity through its multi-sensor mission payload.



13 Apr 2020 — Elephant Walk. USN MH-60S *Knighthawks*, USAF RQ-4 *Global Hawk*, USN MQ-4C *Triton*, B-52H *Stratofortresses*, & KC-135 *Stratotankers* assigned to Guam performed an “Elephant Walk”. During COVID-19, it showed Team Andersen’s ability to generate combat airpower at a moment’s notice to ensure regional stability throughout the Indo-Pacific.

7 Mar 2020 — Patriot Express. The AMC ‘rotator’ commercial charter flight began routine flights for passengers between AAFB, Guam, and the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, WA.



24 Nov 2020 — PACAF Agile Combat Employment (ACE). F-22s assigned to the 94 FS, 1 FW, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA, deployed to AAFB, Guam, conducted hot refuel during a Dynamic Force Employment on Palau. 36 AS’s C-130J *Super Hercules* refueled the *Raptors* using Aerial Bulk Fuel Delivery System which supports the ACE concept.

17 Mar 2020 — COVID-19. In response to the virus spreading around the world and on Guam, Brig Gen Gentry Boswell, 36 WG/CC, declared a Public Health Emergency. What was not known then was how long COVID would last. At the start of 2022, Guam seemed to be getting back to normal.

1 May 2020 — First Bomber Task Force (BTF)

Deployment. The Continuous Bomber Presence (CBP) ended in Apr 2020, after being on the “Forward Edge” for over 16 years. The new BTF rotation arrived in the form of Four B-1B *Lancers* of the 9 BS, 7 BW, Dyess AFB, TX. It was the first BTF on Guam since B-2 *Spirits*, Jan 2019.

30 Jun 2020 — C-17 Globemasters Airdrop. Paratroopers from the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army Alaska, parachuted onto AAFB as part of their Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

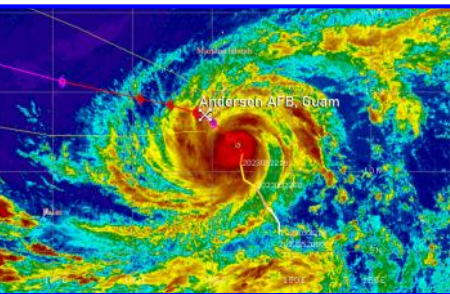


14 Dec 2021, **70th Operation Christmas Drop.** C-130J *Hercules* crew, call sign **SANTA 63**, 36 AS, 374 AW, Yokota AB, Japan, prepares to “Bring Love from Above.” 70th The DOD’s longest-running humanitarian airlift operation. (USAF)

23 Jul 2020 — **4th Reconnaissance Squadron.** The 319th Operations Group, Detachment 1 was a tenant unit at AAFB. Their RQ-4 *Global Hawks* deployed to Japan nearly every year since 2014. In 2020, the 319 OG, Det. 1. deactivated and the old 4th Reconnaissance Sq. reactivated. The 4 RS was assigned to the 319 OG, Grand Forks AFB, ND.

Jul 2021 — **PACIFIC IRON 21.** 35 Fighters, Mobility Aircraft, 800 Airmen, and support equipment operated from AAFB, Guam International Airport, Northwest Field, and Tinian International Airport to conduct ACE.

22 - 24 May 2023 — **Typhoon MAWAR** was a Category 4 typhoon, that produced winds of at least 130 miles per hour, making it the strongest typhoon to strike Guam in two decades. As it tore through the Rota Channel the southern portion of the eye wall passed over the northernmost parts of Guam, that being Pati Point on Andersen AFB and the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge near Northwest Field. An assessment of the base showed that nearly 500 facilities sustained some sort of damage and more than 100 needed significant repair. It was estimated that AAFB required nearly \$9.7 billion to rebuild and improve its facilities on the island.



(Left to Right) 24 May 2023, satellite image of Typhoon MAWAR just before striking Andersen AFB, Guam. On 26 May 2023, Airmen and dependents receive cases of water in the aftermath of MAWAR near an overturned vehicle outside the Magellan Dining Facility. A photograph shows the 36th Wing emblem torn off the Air Traffic Control tower. (USAF)



19 Jul 2023 — **Exercise Mobility Guardian 2023.** U.S. and Allied aircraft conduct an elephant walk on Andersen AFB less than two months after Typhoon MAWAR. Guam hosted part of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command’s exercise where more than 15,000 U.S. and Allied forces are participated in various exercises across the INDOPACOM area of responsibility to enhance readiness and interoperability. (USAF)



Operation Christmas Drop (OCD) 2023 — Featured a multinational formation flight for the first time. (L-R) A C-130J Super Hercules, 36th Airlift Sq., Royal Canadian Air Force C-130J Super Hercules assigned to the 436th Transport Sq., a Japan Air Self-Defense Force C-130H Hercules assigned to the 401st Tactical Airlift Sq., and a Republic of Korea Air Force C-130H Hercules assigned to the 251st Airlift Sq. fly in formation near Guam on 9 Dec 2023. (USAF)



5 Feb 2024 — **COPE NORTH ‘24 Elephant Walk.** U.S. and Allied aircraft conduct an elephant walk on Andersen AFB. CN24 aimed to further integrate ally and partner nations contributions towards enhancing security and stability to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific. (USAF)

Chronological List of the Most Senior Commanders, Andersen AFB

Each commander's highest rank achieved in the USAF

North Field, Guam, 03 February 1945

314th Bombardment Wing (Very Heavy), 17 January 1945

Gen Thomas S. Power, 29 Aug 1944
Col Carl R Storrie, 23 Jul 1945

19th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy), 15 May 1946

Col Vincent M Miles Jr, 1 Mar 1946
Col Elbert D Reynolds, 13 Apr 1946
Col David Wade, 26 Apr 1947
Col Francis C Shoemaker, 8 Nov 1947
Col Robert V DeShazo, 2 Dec 1947

19th Bombardment Wing (Medium), 17 August 1948

Lt Col Clarence G. Poff, 17 Aug 1948
Col Robert V. DeShazo, 24 Sep 1948
Maj Gen Alvan C. Kincaid, 16 May 1949
Brig Gen Alfred R. Maxwell, 1 Jun 1949

Andersen Air Force Base, 7 October 1949

Col Frederick E. Calhoun, 26 Nov 1949
Brig Gen Adlai H. Gilkeson, 29 Nov 1949
Brig Gen Robert W.C. Wamsatt, 27 May 1951

6319th Air Base Wing, 1 June 1953 - 18 Jun 1954

Brig Gen Robert W.C. Wamsatt, 1 June 1953
Col Edwin G. Simenson, 12 Jun 1953

3d Air Division, 18 Jun 1954 – 1 Apr 1970

(3960th Air Base/Strategic Wing, 1 Apr 1955 – 1 Jul 1970)

Maj Gen Joseph D. Caldara, 18 Jun 1954
Brig Gen Nils O. Ohman, 10 Feb 1955
Maj Gen Charles W. Schott, 1 Oct 1956
Lt Gen Richard M. Montgomery, 3 Sep 1958
Maj Gen John M. Reynolds, 2 Aug 1959
Maj General William C. Kingsbury, 7 Jul 1961
Brig General Harold W. Ohlke, 2 Jul 1963
Maj Gen William J. Crumm, 16 July 1965
Brig Gen John W. Kline, 7 Jul 1967
Lt Gen Selmon Willard Wells, 8 Jul 1967
Lt Gen Alvan C. Gillem II, 6 Jun 1968

8th Air Force, 1 Jul 1970 – 1 Jan 1975

(43d Strategic/Bomb Wing, 1 Jul 1970 – 1 Oct 1989)

Lt Gen Alvan C. Gillem II, 1 Apr 1970
Brig Gen Leo C. Lewis, 11 Jul 1970
Lt Gen Sam J. Byerley, 1 Aug 1970
Lt Gen Gerald W. Johnson, 14 Sep 1971
Lt Gen George H. McKee, 1 Oct 1973
Maj Gen Charles F. Minter Sr., 30 Aug 1974

3d Air Division, 1 Jan 1975 – 12 Sep 1988

Maj Gen Charles F. Minter Sr., 1 Jan 1975
Maj General Thomas F. Rew, Aug. 20, 1975
Maj Gen Hilding L. Jacobson Jr., Aug. 17, 1976
Maj Gen Andrew Pringle, 30 Apr 1978
Maj Gen Louis C. Buckman, 13 August 1979
Maj Gen Stanley C. Beck, 12 Aug 1980
Brig Gen Clarence R. Autery, 27 Aug 1982
Lt Gen E.G. "Buck" Shuler Jr, July 1984
Maj Gen Donald L. Marks, July 1986

3d Air Div departed AAFB to Hickam, 12 Sep 1988



314 BW



19 BG/BW



3 AD



3960 ABW



8 AF



43 SW/BW

INTENTIONALLY BLANK

13th Air Force, 2 Dec 1991 -- 1 May 2005*(633d Air Base Wing, 1 Oct 1989 – 1 Oct 1994)*

Maj Gen H. Hale Burr, Jr., 2 Dec 1991

Lt Gen Richard T. Swope, 21 Jul 1994

Maj Gen John R. Dallager, 22 Apr 1996

Lt Gen Thomas C. Waskow, 20 Aug 1998

Maj Gen Daniel M. Dick, May 1999

Maj Gen Theodore W. "Bill" Lay II, 14 Nov 2000

Lt Gen Dennis R. Larsen, 21 Sep 2002

Gen Edward A. Rice, Jr., 24 Jan 2005

**13 AF****13 AF departed AAFB to Hickam, 1 May 2005****36th Air Expeditionary Wing, 20 Feb 2004**

Col Paul K. White, 1 May 2005

Maj Gen Michael Boera, Jun 2005

**633 ABW****36th Wing, 15 Mar 2006 — Current**

Lt Gen Douglas H. Owens, 25 Oct 2006

Brig Gen Philip Rulhman, 2 Sep 2008

Brig Gen John W. Doucette, 25 Jun 2010

Brig Gen Steven D. Garland, 26 Jun 2012

Maj Gen Andrew J. Toth, 19 Jun 2014

Brig Gen Douglas A. Cox, 6 May 2016

Brig Gen Gentry W. Boswell, 8 Jun 2018

Brig Gen Jeremy T. Sloane, 8 Jul 2020

Brig Gen Paul R. Birch, 10 Jun 2022

Col Larry Fenner Jr., 21 Mar 2023

Brig Gen Paul R. Fast, 8 Apr 2023

Brig Gen Thomas B. Palenske, 30 Jun 2023

**36 ABW/WG****Quite the difference
80 years makes!**

(Top Photo) On 25 April 1944, a USN reconnaissance aircraft took this photo of the Japanese held Savana Grande, Guam, now Andersen AFB. (Bottom photo) A recent aerial view of Andersen AFB at dusk. (USAF)

