

377th Air Base Wing



Heritage Pamphlet



Caption: A missile test launch is conducted at Vandenberg Space Force Base, CA, by the 377 ABW's geographically separated unit, the 377th Test and Evaluation Group. (U.S. Air Force Photo)

1 January 2024

377 ABW History Office

Kirtland AFB, New Mexico

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Mission

Enable strategic capabilities for global strike.

Vision

Create the foundation for the future of global strike and global combat power.



Emblem



Approved 7 February 2019

Description: Celeste, in dexter base a sphere Argent, gridlined Azure, bearing a tiger's head affronté Proper, emitting from the sphere a contrail bend sinisterwise arching fesswise and terminating into a flight symbol of the third, fimbriated of the second, superimposed on the contrail a bend per bend Gules and of the third, surmounted by another of the second; all within a diminished border Or.

Significance: Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The tricolor bend suggests the colors of the flag of the United States and reflects the patriotism of the Wing's personnel. The flight symbol and globe denote the worldwide capabilities of the unit in support of combat engagements. The tiger's face symbolizes the Wing's aggressive spirit and reflects its heritage as one of the first units to perform in Vietnam. In the scroll, there is the 377 ABW motto:

“SERVING FREEDOM'S FINEST” in Blue letters.

Lineage



- ◆ Established as the 377th Combat Support Group, activated, and organized, on 8 Apr 1966.
- ◆ Redesignated as the 377th Air Base Wing on 17 Jan 1972. Inactivated on 28 Mar 1973.
- ◆ Redesignated as the 377th Combat Support Wing on 1 Jun 1985. Activated on 14 Jun 1985. Inactivated on 1 May 1991.
- ◆ Redesignated as 377 Air Base Wing, and activated, on 1 Jan 1993.

Heritage



The 377th Air Base Wing traces its origins to the 377th Combat Support Group (CSG), first activated at Ton Son Nhut Air Base, South Vietnam, on 8 April 1966.

The 377 CSG supported U.S. and South Vietnamese combat operations during the Vietnam War (1954 - 1975). In addition to aircraft, base and unit support, the unit's Air [Security] Police valiantly repelled several major North Vietnamese attacks before and during the infamous Tet Offensive of 1968.



Stations



Tan Son Nhut Air Base (AB)

South Vietnam
8 April 1966 to 28 March 1973

Ramstein AB

Germany
14 June 1985 to 1 May 1991

Kirtland Air Force Base (AFB)

New Mexico
1 January 1993 to Present



Kirtland Air Force Base



Located on the southeast side of the City of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Kirtland Air Force Base (AFB) was originally built as a series of civilian air fields in the late 1920s. It first came under the control of the U.S. government as Albuquerque Army Air Base in 1941. In 1942, at the direction of General Henry H. Arnold, it was renamed Kirtland Field, in honor of Colonel Roy C. Kirtland, one of Arnold's early mentors.



Col Roy C. Kirtland

In 1948, shortly after the establishment of the U.S. Air Force, Kirtland Field became Kirtland Air Force Base. During its long history it has hosted numerous units and agencies. For a complete history of the base see the Base History section of the Kirtland Air Force Base webpage.

Organization



The **377th Air Base Wing** serves as the host unit of Kirtland AFB and executes its diverse mission set via the concerted efforts of its key staff agencies and five major groups.

Wing Staff Agencies

Inspector General, Protocol, Command Post, Chaplain, Historian, Public Affairs, Safety, Wing Plans and Programs, Equal Opportunity, Judge Advocate, Information Protection, Installation Resilience Program, Drug Demand Reduction Program, Resident Advocate, Diversity and Affirmative Employment, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response and:

The 377th Comptroller Squadron



- Constituted on 31 December 1992 and re-activated on 1 Jun 1995. Emblem approved on 12 Sep 2011.

Organization



The 377th Test and Evaluation Group was constituted on 4 October 2022 and activated on 1 November 2022. The 377 TEG is stationed at Vandenberg SFB and conducts testing for missile wings within 20th Air Force. It is comprised of three component squadrons:

The 576th Flight Test Squadron



- Constituted on 15 January 1943 as the 576th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy)—and redesignated as its present iteration on 1 July 1994. Emblem approved on 2 March 1995.

The 377th Flight Test Missile Maintenance Squadron



- Constituted on 6 March 1958 as the 394th Missile Training Squadron—and redesignated as its present iteration on 4 October 2022. Emblem approval pending.

The 377th Test Support Squadron



- Constituted on 12 September 1942 as the 377th Service Support Squadron—and redesignated as its present iteration on 4 October 2022. Emblem approved on 13 November 2023.

Organization



The 377th Maintenance Group was originally established as the 377 Logistics Group on 31 December 1992—and redesignated as its present iteration on 1 October 2002. The MXG performs critical maintenance for Department of Defense assets. It is comprised of two component squadrons:

The 377th Maintenance Squadron



- Constituted on 14 February 2006 and activated on 31 March 2006. Emblem approved on 22 August 2019.

The 898th Munitions Squadron



- Designated 1 July 1971 as the 3089th Aviation Depot Squadron—and redesignated as its present iteration on 1 April 1994. Emblem approved on 29 October 2019.

Organization



The **377th Security Forces Group**, was originally established as the 377th Security Police Group on 1 June 1985—and redesignated as its present iteration on 2 August 2011. The SFG provides security and law enforcement capabilities for the installation and its numerous assets. It is composed of two component squadrons:

The 377th Security Forces Squadron



- Constituted on 8 April 1966 as the 377th Air Police Squadron—and redesignated as its present iteration on 1 July 1997. Emblem approved on 26 March 2019.

The 377th Weapons System Security Squadron



- Constituted on 2 August 2011—and activated on 15 August 2011. Emblem approved on 11 October 2017.

Organization



The **377th Mission Support Group** was originally established as the 377th Support Group on 31 December 1992—and redesignated as its present iteration on 1 October 2002. The MSG provides personnel, logistics and force support for Kirtland AFB and its many tenant organizations. It is comprised of two component squadrons:

The 377th Force Support Squadron



- Constituted on 8 April 1966 as the 377 Services Squadron—and redesignated as its present iteration on 1 July 2009. Emblem approved on 29 October 2018.

The 377th Logistics Readiness Squadron



- Constituted on 8 April 1966 as the 377th Transportation Squadron—and redesignated as its present iteration on 1 October 2002. Emblem approved on 4 October 2017.

Organization



The **377th Medical Group** was established on 9 July 1951. The MDG provides a wide range of medical services to Kirtland AFB personnel. It is comprised of two component squadrons:

The 377th Healthcare Operations Squadron



- Constituted on 16 September 1994 as the 377 Medical Operations Squadron—and redesignated as its present iteration on 17 July 2019. Emblem approved on 28 March 2013.

The 377th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron



- Constituted on 16 September 1994 as the 377 Aerospace Medicine Squadron—and redesignated as its present iteration on 17 July 2019. Emblem approved on 31 October 2018.

Commanders

* * *

377th Combat Support Group



(1966 – 1973)

Colonel George Budway, 8 Apr 1966
Col Grover K. Coe, 8 Oct 1966
Col Farley E. Peebles, 4 Oct 1967
Col Benjamin B. Shields, 26 Jul 1968
Col Frank E. Marek, by Sep 1969
Col Harold E. Hobbs, 31 Jul 1970
Col Charles D. Gunn Jr., 10 Jul 1971
Col David A. Odell, 27 Jun 1972–28 Mar 1973.

377th Combat Support Wing



(1985 – 1991)

Col Leslie A. Hobgood, 14 Jun 1985
Col Eugene A. Lupia, 28 Jul 1986
Col William D. Eckert, 15 Jun 1988
Col Adelbert W. Carpenter, 12 Jan 1990–1 May 1991.

Commanders

* * *

377th Air Base Wing



(1993 – Present)

Brigadier General James L. Higham, 1 Jan 1993

Col Felix Sanchez, 6 Nov 1993

Brig Gen Charles H. Perez, 14 Feb 1994

Col Elizabeth A. Harrell, 14 Jun 1995

Col Gary D. Dills, 18 Nov 1996

Col Polly A. Peyer, 2 Jun 1999

Col Jan D. Eakle, 20 Sep 2000

Col Kathleen D. Close, 25 Jan 2002

Col Henry L. Andrews Jr., 10 Jul 2003

Col Terrance Feehan, 7 Jul 2005

Col Robert E. Suminsby Jr., 24 Jul 2006

Col Michael S. Duvall, 22 Jul 2008

Col Robert L. Maness, 16 Apr 2010

Col David J. Hornyak, 30 Aug 2011

Col John C. Kubinec, 19 Dec 2011

Col Tom D. Miller, 11 Jul 2013

Col Eric H. Froehlich, 21 May 2015

Col Richard W. Gibbs, 16 Jun 2017

Col David S. Miller, 21 Jun 2019

Col Jason F. Vattioni, 22 June 2021

Col Michael J. Power, 20 June 2023 – Present.

Commander



Colonel Michael J. Power

20 June 2023 – Present

Deputy Commander



Colonel Elizabeth G. Keller

15 July 2022 – Present

Command Chief



Chief Master Sergeant Antonio L. Cooper

31 May 2023 – Present

Awards and Decorations

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm



8 Apr 1966-28 Jan 1973

* * *

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device



8 Apr 1966-31 May 1967; 31 Jan-31 Mar 1968; 1 Apr 1969-31 Mar 1971; 17 Jan 1972-28 Mar 1973.

* * *

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

14 Jun 1985-13 Jun 1987; 1 May 1989-30 Apr 1991; 1 Apr 2004-31 Mar 2006; 1 Jul 2011-30 Jun 2013; 1 Jan-31 Dec 2016; 1 Jan 2018-31 Dec 2019. 1 January 2016-31 December 2016; 1 January 2018-31 December 2019.

* * *

Global War on Terrorism Service Streamer (GWOT-S)



2001- Present

Chronology



The Vietnam War (1966–1973)

8 April 1966: Activated and organized as the 377th Combat Support Group (CSG) at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, South Vietnam. The 377 CSG replaced the 6250th Combat Support Group and took on responsibilities for housing tenant organizations, providing for base defense and working with the South Vietnamese Air Force.

Jun-Dec 1966: Provided support for Seventh Air Force flying operations involving the Douglas C-47 Skytrain, C-123 Globemaster II, and C-54 Skymaster.



**Airmen at Tan Son Nhut Air Base line up to receive their pay.
(USAF Photo)**

Chronology



The Vietnam War (1966–1973)

4 Dec 1966: The Tan Son Nhut AB perimeter was breached by approximately 180 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army soldiers targeting the flightline. The infiltration was ultimately repelled by the 377th Air Police Squadron (APS), with particular credit given to the efforts of several Military Working Dog teams. During the attack Airman Second Class George M. Bevich, Jr., was killed and became the first Air Force military dog handler to die in combat in Vietnam. A2C Bevich was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.



**A2C George M. Bevich, Jr., and his Military Working Dog, Rex.
(Photo courtesy of the Bevich family)**

Chronology



The Vietnam War (1966–1973)

31 Jan 1968: As North Vietnam executed its infamous Tet Offensive, Tan Son Nhut was assaulted by over 1,500 insurgents. Five 377 SPS Airmen located in Bunker 051 on the west perimeter, immediately engaged and raised the alarm. Although the bunker was eventually taken, and four of the five Airmen defending it were killed (including the famed Sgt. Louis H. Fischer) their stubborn defense provided vital time for quick reaction forces to deploy. All five defenders received the Silver Star for their actions.



**A 377 APS patrol jeep, 1966.
(USAF Photos)**



**Sgt. Louis Fischer
(USAF Photo)**

Chronology



The Vietnam War (1966–1973)

Sep 1971: The Group became responsible for supporting base flight operations for the T-39 Sabreliner, C-54, C-47, Douglas C-118 Liftmaster, and the Lockheed C-130 Hercules.

17 January 1972: As the Group took on an increasing number of complex roles including the addition of combat units, it was redesignated as the 377th Air Base Wing.

Jan-Oct 1972: Supported the 8th Special Operations Squadron as its Cessna A-37 Dragonflies conducted strikes against North Vietnamese targets.

Jan-Feb 1972: Supported the 9th Special Operations Squadron as its Cessna O-2 Skymasters and C-47s carried out psychological warfare operations.

Feb-Nov 1972: Operated the Southeast Asia Central Instructor Pilots School.

Feb-Nov 1972: The Wing's 360th Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron conducted airborne radio-direction finding operations.

14 Apr 1972: Established an operating location for the wing headquarters at Bien Hoa AB, South Vietnam, to provide turn-around service for McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom IIs.

Mar 1972-28 Jan 1973: The Wing's 21st Tactical Air Support Squadron (Light) conducted air liaison and forward air control operations for U.S. and South Vietnamese aircraft.

Mar-Oct 1972: Operated a Combat Crew Training School at Phu Cat, South Vietnam, utilizing C-7A Caribou transport planes.

Chronology



The Vietnam War (1966–1973)

Mar-Oct 1972: The Wing supported the 310th Tactical Airlift Squadron (C/UC-123s, Jan-Jun 1972 and C-7s, Mar-Oct 1972) as it performed airlift and airdrop missions.

28 Mar 1973: After transferring base operations and assets to South Vietnam, the 377 ABW was officially inactivated.

Vietnam Campaign Streamers

Vietnam Air

Vietnam Air Offensive

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV

TET 69/Counteroffensive

Vietnam Summer-Fall, 1969

Vietnam Winter-Spring, 1970

Sanctuary Counteroffensive

Southwest Monsoon

Commando Hunt V

Commando Hunt VI

Commando Hunt VII

Vietnam Ceasefire

Chronology



The Cold War (1985–1991)

1 Jun 1985: The 377th Combat Support Wing (CSW) was activated at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to provide support services for Ramstein and the base's new fleet of General Dynamics F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter jets, operated by the 86th Tactical Fighter Wing. Not only did the 377 CSW assume host installation responsibilities for the entire Kaiserslautern Military Community, but it also supported numerous geographically separated units throughout Europe.

1 May 1991: Following the end the Cold War and a general draw-down of U.S. forces globally, the 377 CSW was inactivated.



The Air Control Tower at Ramstein AB, ca. 1980s.
(USAF Photo)

Chronology



Post-Cold War (1991–Present)

1 Jan 1993: The 377th Air Base Wing was activated to assume host installation responsibilities for Kirtland Air Force Base, located on the southeast side of the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Since that time the 377 ABW has not only provided support and security for critical Department of Defense organizations such as the Nuclear Weapons Center and Sandia National Laboratories but also directly supports operations and testing for 20th Air Force.



The 377 ABW HQ Building, ca. 2020
(USAF Photo)

Sources



- ◆ (U) Don E. Alberts and Allan E. Putnam, "A History of Kirtland Air Force Base, 1928-1982," Albuquerque, NM: Kirtland Air Force Base, 1985.
- ◆ (U) Periodic Histories of the 377th Combat Support Group, 377th Air Base Wing (1972), 377th Combat Support Wing, 377th Air Base Wing, AFNWC. Air Force Historical Research Association (AFHRA): Maxwell AFB, AL, 1966-1973, 1985-1991, 1993-2015, 2020-2021.
- ◆ (U) 377 ABW Lineage and Honors Statement, AFHR, Maxwell AFB, 31 Aug 2020.

Published by the:

377th Air Base Wing History Office

(377 ABW/HO)

Jeremiah D. Foster

Historian

Office Phone: (505) 846-0170

Office Email: 377ABW.HO.Workflow@us.af.mil