

ROBINS AFB and 78 ABW Heritage Pamphlet

Part 4: A PHOTO HISTORY OF THE 78TH FIGHTER WING

On 24 September 1948 the 78th Fighter Wing was established at Hamilton AFB, California by the Hobson reorganization plan, with the 78 FG becoming a component of the wing, controlling its flying resources Re-designated the 78th Fighter-Interceptor Wing in January 1950 as part of ADC. The group's squadrons (82d, 83d, 84th FIS) flew numerous interceptors for West Coast air defense. Inactivated on 6 February 1952 as part of a reorganization of ADC, its operational element was replaced by the 4702 DW. Its support elements were replaced at Hamilton by the 566th Air Base Group the same day. This group was re-designated the 566 ADG and assumed operational responsibilities at Hamilton on 16 February 1953 when the Air Force was trying to close Hamilton. On 18 August 19455, the 566th Air Defense Group was replaced by a former element of the wing, the 78 FG (Air Defense).

In 1956, it was decided to elevate the operational units at Hamilton back to a Wing level, and the wing was reactivated, with its operational squadrons still controlled by the 78 FG. The group component of the wing was considered to be a redundant level of organization by the late 1950s, and the 78th FIG was inactivated on 1 February 1961, with its flying units being directly assigned to the Wing. The 78th Fighter Wing was the host unit at Hamilton until it was inactivated in 1969 in another effort by the Air Force to close the facility, as well as the lessened need for aircraft air defense in an age of ICBMs.

Air Training Command:

The 78th Flying Training Wing replaced and absorbed resources of the 3560th Pilot Training Wing at Webb AFB, Texas, on 1 December 1972. Squadrons were 82d, 83d, 3389th Flying Training Sqdns. The wing performed pilot training for both USAF and allied officers. In 1977 the end of the Vietnam War meant a decrease in the need for Air Force pilots and Webb AFB was closed. The 78th FTW was deactivated. In 1989 the Dutch government allowed USAF to upgrade its headquarters unit at Soesterberg AB from squadron to group status.

Robins AFB:

Since its reactivation in 1994, the 78th Air Base Wing has provided host services and support for the Warner-Robins Air Logistics Center/Complex and other mission partners.

AIRCRAFT FLOWN BY THE 78TH FIGHTER WING



P-51D



P-47 Thunderbolt



P-38 Lightning

Republic F-84B "Thunderjet"
USAF Museum Photo Archives



F-84 Thunderjets



F-86 Sabrejet



F-104 Starfighter



F-106 Delta Dart



F-89 Scorpion



F-102 Delta Dagger