

## *The 17th Training Wing Emblem*

### *TOUJOURS AU DANGER ...*

Living Dangerously ... if it's not the motto you normally associate with a training base, that may be so because the motto came here with the wing. On July 1, 1993, the Air Force activated the 17<sup>th</sup> Training Wing at Goodfellow. This was part of a larger attempt to recover precious Air Force heritage by restoring to active service the original 13 combat groups. As heir to the lineage and honors of the historic 17th, the new wing at Goodfellow also adopted its emblem.

Approved for the 17<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Group in 1934, the emblem had as its most striking feature a column of seven black pattee crosses running down the center of the shield. As was typical among air groups at the time, the 17th used the crosses to tally the campaigns in which one of its component units participated during World War I. This was the 95th Aero Squadron, today's 95th Reconnaissance Squadron (an RC-135 unit stationed at RAF Mildenhall, England). For the record, the seven World War I battles were the Aisne-Marne, Campagne-Marne, Oise-Aisne, Ile de France, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, and Lorraine campaigns.



Two years after adopting its emblem, the pursuit group was redesignated the 17<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group and went on to compile a remarkable combat record during World War II that included the famous Doolittle Raid. After the war the bomb group inactivated but the Air Force, in 1952, established the 17<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing and bestowed upon it the rich history and honors of the former group. The new wing also adopted the emblem of the old group and retained the wreath and griffin from the group's flag. A mythological animal having the body and legs of a lion and the head and wings of an eagle, the griffin symbolized the union of strength and agility and seemed to represent perfectly the bomb wing's interdiction mission in Korea.



Parked on the ramp at Pusan, Korea, in 1952, a B-26 Invader bears the emblem of the 17<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing. During the Korean War, the wing's squadrons of Invaders flew nighttime interdiction missions against enemy trains and trucks.

After the Korean War the wing flew B-52s from Wright-Patterson AFB and U-2/TR-1s from RAF Alconbury, England, before retiring in 1991. Arriving at Goodfellow two years later, the wing retained its distinctive emblem with the column of crosses but no longer displayed the griffin or even its motto, the tradition of expressing unit mottoes in French having lost some of the luster it commanded when memories of World War I still were fresh.