

Seventeenth Squadron

The present Seventeenth Squadron existed as the Twelfth until the autumn of 1961. Logically, its history is inseparable to a point, from that of the Twelfth. Perhaps the highest compliment that could be paid to this group - irrespective of its designation - is to admit to the exceptional number of outstanding cadets who have represented it.

Twelfth's Bob Beckel ('59), the first Cadet Wing Commander (fall '58) was both a varsity baseballer and also possibly the finest basketball player ever to represent the Academy. Jay Mitchell ('59) lined up with the best when 1958's fabled Falcons went to the Cotton Bowl. "Bob" Brickey ('61) a great Academy end, was also from the Twelfth, as was golfer Charles Croll ('61). Some other Twelfth (or Seventeenth) names which conjure up athletic memories are basketball's Tony Long ('60), football's Jim Hinkle ('61) and Nick Arshinkoff ('64), soccer's Jack Taylor ('61), Doug Catchings ('64), Cy Rickards ('63), and Dave Roe ('62) who also lettered in track, won a 1962 Rhodes Scholarship, and commanded the Wing during the spring of '62; skiing's J. D. Mills ('60), baseball's Ed Martinelli ('62), fencing's Bill Ebert ('63); and gymnastics' Randy Schamberger ('62).

Captain Charles A. Gabriel was the Twelfth's first AOC. To work with him in the fall of 1958, he selected Cadet Jay Mitchell as his Squadron Commander. At this time the Twelfth was adopted by the 509th Bomb Wing, which remained the sponsor of the Seventeenth until June '63. It is stationed at Pease AFB, New Hampshire. Cadet David Goodrich commanded the Twelfth during the 1958-59 spring semester.