

412th FLIGHT TEST SQUADRON



MISSION

The 412th Flight Test Squadron, commonly called Speckled Trout—a name synonymous with the organization and the aircraft—performs a dual mission: providing worldwide transportation to senior USAF and DoD leaders while, often at the same time, testing advanced avionics and communications. It performs this mission with one aircraft, a highly modified C-135C. With an interior similar to a civilian airliner, the Trout can comfortably transport 35 passengers and crew. And, because many of its missions are international, the long over-water flights make the aircraft ideally suited for testing a variety of navigation, communications and tracking systems in different regions of the world.

LINEAGE

412th Flight Test Squadron constituted, 22 Dec 1993

Activated, 1 Jan 1994

STATIONS

Edwards AFB, CA, 1 Jan 1994

ASSIGNMENTS

412th Operations Group, 1 Jan 1994

WEAPON SYSTEMS

COMMANDERS

LTC Kent Lund, 2001

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jan 2013-31 Dec 2013

EMBLEM

Azure a mullet in base Argent pierced Gules supporting a pair of wings elevated Or. (Approved, 23 Oct 1995)

MOTTO**NICKNAME****OPERATIONS**

The 412th Flight Test Squadron was activated at Edwards on 1 January 1994, although Project Speckled Trout as a unit dates to 1957 when General Curtis E. LeMay, then Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force, ordered the transfer of the last test bed KC-135 from Edwards to Andrews AFB, Maryland, to perform a mission of executive airlift. That aircraft served until 1974 when it was replaced with the current aircraft. The unit was named Speckled Trout in honor of its freckled-faced program manager, Faye Trout.

61-2669 NC-135C 412th Flight Test Squadron 412th Flight Test Wing Edwards AFB. This aircraft is alternately flown as executive transport for USAF Chief of Staff until March 2003 when it will be replaced with EC-135E 57-2589.

The 412th Flight Test Squadron at Edwards AFB, Calif., officially inactivated in a ceremony there earlier this month, bringing an end to the unit's combined senior leader airlift and test mission, officials announced. The squadron's single modified KC-135 "Speckled Trout" aircraft will shift solely to the test support role with Edwards' 418th FLTS, according to a May 20 release "It's the only KC-135 on base that's receiver capable, so we're planning on using it as part of the testing with the KC-46," said former 412th FLTS Commander Lt. Col. Michael Davis. Gen. Curtis LeMay directed the modification of a KC-135 to transport senior Air Force leaders in 1957 and "the Trout in its various forms and squadrons has transported 15 Chiefs of Staff over the years," Col. Rodney Todaro, 412th Operations Group commander said. The 412th FLTS stood up Jan. 1, 1994. 2015

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 11 Dec 2010

Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit History. *Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards Air Force Base, CA, 50th Anniversary*. 1951-2001.