

414th TACTICAL FIGHTER GROUP

LINEAGE

414th Fighter Group constituted, 5 Oct 1944

Activated, 15 Oct 1944

Inactivated, 30 Sep 1946

Redesignated 414th Fighter Group (Air Defense) and activated, 18 Aug 1955

Activated in the US on 18 Aug 1955.

Inactivated 31 Dec 69

Redesignated 414th Tactical Fighter Gp 31 Jul 85 (not active).

STATIONS

Seymour Johnson Field, NC, 15 Oct 1944

Selfridge Field, MI, 15 Nov 1944

Bluethenthal Field, NC, 19 Mar-n May 1945

North Field, Iwo Jima, 7 Jul 1945

Clark Field, Luzon, 23 Dec 1945-30 Sep 1946

Oxnard AFB, CA, 18 Aug 1955

ASSIGNMENTS

Twentieth AF

Thirteenth AF

Air Defense Command

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-47

F-94

F-89

COMMANDERS

LTC Robert C. Bagby, 28 Oct 1944

Col Henry G. Thome, Jr., 6 Dec 1944-unkn

Col Edwin F. Carey, Jr., 1955

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Japan
Eastern Mandates

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

Azure, a bend or, between two martlets volant argent, lightning bolts gules streaming from each of their tails. (Approved, 26 Jul 1956)

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The air echelon, based temporarily on Guam, attacked objectives in the Truk Islands on 13 and 22 Jul. The group began operations from Iwo Jima late that month with an attack against a radar station on Chichi Jima. Operations during Aug were directed primarily against enemy airfields in Japan, but the group also strafed hangars, barracks, ordnance dumps, trains, marshalling yards, and shipping.

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will decide their day-to-day duties," Colonel Fesler said. "The Air Force Reserve Command and Air Combat Command signed memorandums of agreement and understanding regarding the utilization of the personnel to maximize their experience within the 4th FW. The 414th FG will maintain administrative control for reporting, etc." Many of the Airmen had prior active-duty Air Force experience before transferring to the Reserves. Senior Airman Bobby Kerr, a 307th FS crew chief, is one of the first reservists assigned to the unit. "I had no learning curve coming here," he said. "I worked on the F-15 for four years at Langley (Air Force Base, Va.) before joining the Reserve." 2010

Airman Kerr is a traditional reservist, so he will spend one weekend a month and two weeks a year working hand-in-hand with the base's active-duty crew chiefs to generate aircraft. "I'm expected to carry my weight," he said. "I'm held to the same standards." Although the active-duty and Reserve crews have meshed well, there have been challenges in establishing the new group on base. "Any new venture meets the challenge of funding," Colonel Fesler said. "The Air Force as a whole has to fund each new initiative and prove the value over another great venture being pursued elsewhere; nothing is free. So, acquiring the required funding to bring in the manpower is a significant challenge." Despite this fact, the colonel has found his involvement in the 414th FG startup a rewarding experience. "(I've enjoyed) having the opportunity to be back in the F-15E community among the greatest warriors in the world and actively participating as a TFI organization that has grown from infancy to being on the cusp of becoming a fighter group," Colonel Fesler said. "It is also rewarding to offer personnel jobs and positions within our organization and watch those folks flourish as they are given increased responsibility." Standing up the total force integration organization required Colonel Fesler to work with many people from various units across the base. "The 4th FW has been tremendously receptive and supportive of the TFI initiatives here," he said. "TFI is a contentious subject across the Department of Defense and the Seymour Johnson expansion and association is seen as a success story, in no small part due to the vision of the leadership here." 2010

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Col. Kevin Fesler assumed command of the 414th Fighter Group from Col. Keith Acree in a change of command ceremony at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., July 13. Fesler comes to the 414th from Langley Air Force Base, Va., where he was the Air Force Reserve Advisor, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Director of Requirements. "I am thankful for this opportunity to command the first-rate Airman of the 414th Fighter Group," said Fesler. "I look forward to becoming a member of this team and serving alongside my Airmen as we continue the tradition this unit is establishing of proven performance." The 414th FG is part of the 482nd Fighter Wing at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. and is located at Seymour Johnson AFB as part of the Air Force Total Force Integration Program. The Air Force Total Force Integration Program encompasses active duty, guard and reserve, working together to reduce unnecessary costs, increase readiness and manning, ensure better use of government assets, and maintain a stronger, better equipped total force. The 414th FG includes both the 307th Fighter Squadron and the 414th Maintenance Squadron, which fly and maintain F-15E Strike Eagles of the 4th Fighter Wing and the F-16CJ Fighting Falcons of the 20th Fighter Wing at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. "Col. Fesler

has always been a number one performer, and Col. Acree can be confident he is handing off this unit to an exceptional commander,” said Col. Donald R. Lindberg, 482nd Fighter Wing commander. “The 414th Fighter Group is a flourishing model of the Air Force’s Total Force Integration Program and demonstrates the efficiency of a total force integration success.” After being assigned to Seymour Johnson AFB in 1995 as a student pilot, Fesler has left and returned to the base four times in his career for various leadership assignments. He has flown a range of military aircraft including the F-15E, F-15S and the F-22A, and has over 3,500 flight hours to include 764 combat flight hours. In 2010, Acree took command of the 414th which had less than 10 personnel assigned. He leaves the group after helping it grow to nearly 300 personnel and overseeing the inception of the 414th Maintenance Squadron. “I am honored and privileged to have led this outstanding unit,” said Acree. “The mission we set out to do here is a success.” 2012

414th Fighter Group: activated on 15 October 1944 at Seymour Johnson Field, NC; transferred to Selfridge Field, MI, 15 Nov 44; transferred to Bluethenthal Field, NC, 19 March 1945. Served in Asiatic-Pacific Theater June-August 1945 with the 20th. Air Force. Inactivated in the Philippines on 30 September 1946. Reactivated on 18 August 1955 at Oxnard AFB, CA, and assigned to the 27th Air Division; transferred to Los Angeles Air Defense Sector on 1 October 1959; transferred to 27th Air Division on 1 April 1966; reassigned to 26th Air Division on 19 November 1969; inactivated 31 December 1969.

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(Sergeant Moore is assigned to the 4th Fighter

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources