

476th TACTICAL FIGHTER SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

476th Fighter-Day Squadron established, 1 Oct 1957
Activated, 8 Oct 1957
Redesignated 476th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 1 Jul 1958
Inactivated, 18 Mar 1969

STATIONS

George AFB, CA, 8 Oct 1957-25 Sep 1968
Seymour Johnson AFB, NC, 25 Sep 1968-18 Mar 1969

ASSIGNMENTS

479th Fighter-Day (later Tactical Fighter) Wing, 8 Oct 1957 – 25 Sep 1968
4th Tactical Fighter Wing, 25 Sep 1968 – 18 Mar 1969

WEAPON SYSTEMS

F-100, 1957-1958
F-104
F-104C

COMMANDERS

Maj Robert O. Shimp, #1959

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Activated in October 1957 at George AFB, California. Initially equipped with F-100 Super Sabres, however was programmed to receive the new F-104C tactical strike version of the Lockheed Starfighter. Delays in development caused the squadron not to receive the F-104 until September 1958, when it was the first Tactical Air Command squadron to be equipped with the new aircraft. It was primarily intended for nuclear strike, but it could also carry out ground attack missions with conventional weapons.

After obtaining operational readiness with the Starfighter, was deployed to Spain for air defense missions over the SAC B-47 Reflex base at Moron AB. Also used by the USAF/Lockheed for demonstrations for NATO military sales to replace Republic F-84F Thunderstreak combat aircraft. Also deployed in this role to Hahn AB, West Germany in 1962.

Was deployed to Taiwan in 1968 to reinforce the ROC Air Force air defense mission. In April 1968 was forward deployed with regular rotations to Da Nang Air Base, South Vietnam. Their job was to fly MiG combat air patrol (MiGCAP) missions to protect American fighter bombers against attack by North Vietnamese fighters. They flew these missions armed with their single M61A1 20-mm cannon and four AIM-9 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles. During the entire deployment of the 476th only two fleeting encounters between F-104Cs and enemy fighters occurred.

Returned to the United States without aircraft in July 1968, the F-104Cs remaining in Taiwan and sold to the ROC Air Force. Was planned to be re-equipped with F-4C Phantom IIs as part of the phaseout of the F-104 from TAC, however budget reductions led to the squadron being placed on non-operational status; personnel were re-designated as the 4535th Combat Crew Training Squadron. Was reassigned to 4th TFW at Seymour Johnson AFB, but remained non-operational and inactivated in March 1969.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *831st Air Division, George AFB, CA. 1959.*