

## 479 OPERATIONS SUPPORT SQUADRON



### **MISSION**

479 Operations Support Squadron supports the primary and advanced phases of the undergraduate combat systems officer training. The squadron conducts academic training, scheduling, aviation resource management, communications, current operations, aircrew flight equipment, and flight physiology functions for the group.

### **LINEAGE**

479 School Squadron constituted and activated, 1 Aug 1941  
Redesignated 479 School Squadron (Special) 29 Dec 1941  
Redesignated 479 Flexible Gunnery Training Squadron 15 Oct 1942  
Disbanded 30 Apr 1944  
Reconstituted and redesignated 479 Training Support Squadron 13 Jun 2001  
Activated, 9 Jul 2001  
Redesignated 479 Operations Support Squadron 15 Jul 2003  
Inactivated, 30 Sep 2007  
Activated, 2 Oct 2009

### **STATIONS**

Kelly Field, TX, 1 Aug 1941  
Harlingen, TX, 2 Jan 1942-30 Apr 1944  
Moody AFB, GA, 9 Jul 2001-30 Sep 2007  
Pensacola NAS, FL, 2 Oct 2009

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Air Corps Advanced Flying School, 1 Aug 1941  
Army Air Forces Flexible Gunnery School, 15 Oct 1942-30 Apr 1944  
479 Flying Training Group, 9 Jul 2001

Nineteenth Air Force, 21 Jun-30 Sep 2007  
479 Flying Training Group, 2 Oct 2009

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

AT-6A

## **COMMANDERS**

Cpt John D. Devoy

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

World War II American Theater

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

[9 Jul] 2001-31 Dec 2002

1 Jan 2003-30 Jun 2004

1 Jul 2003-30 Jun 2005

1 Oct 2005-30 Sep 2007

## **EMBLEM**



479 Training Support Squadron emblem: On a disc Azure, between six mullets arced in chief Argent, a sword palewise point to base White, quillons and details Sable, enflamed throughout Gules, garnished Or, all within a narrow border Silver Gray. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Silver Gray border and inscribed "479 TRAINING SUPPORT SQ" in Silver Gray letters. Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky,

the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The sword represents the purity of the unit's commitment to the Nation. The flames signify the selfless sacrifice of those before and honor the unit in dedication to the future. The six stars are representative of the six campaigns the 479 Fighter Group fought during World War II.

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## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 479 was originally activated on 1 Sep 1941 at Kelly Field, Texas as the 479 School Squadron. It was assigned to the Air Corps Advanced Flying School as a maintenance squadron to support the rapidly expanding training command. The first commander, 2Lt. Edward H. Riggs, had in his charge 55 enlisted personnel.

On 2 January 1942, the 479 was moved to the Air Corps Flexible Gunnery School at Harlingen Army Air Field in Harlingen Texas. At that same time, it was redesignated the 479 School Squadron (Special). During this period the squadron's mission changed from maintenance to flexible gunnery training. Flexible gunnery, the term meaning to shoot from a moving platform, consisted of using most of the defensive armament carried on U.S. aircraft.

On 10 November 1942 the squadron was re-designated the 479 Flexible Gunnery Squadron. The 479 instructors taught soldiers to operate an enormous array of weapons, from .30 cal and .50 cal waist guns to ball turret guns. Their students consisted of all members of a bomber crew with the exception of the pilot and co-pilot.

The mission of the 479 changed again on 6 February 1943 when it became part of the Material Maintenance Group. This change did not last long. On 6 March 1943 the squadron re-organized its ranks to consist almost entirely of mess personnel with a few administrative posts at the headquarters section. The various cooks, bakers and meat cutters of the 479 ran the mess halls at Harlingen with dogged determination and wicked efficiency. Their time in the 479 was short lived, though, as another re-organization took place on 11 November 1943. During this time all

mess personnel were transferred out of the squadron and replaced by personnel from the 738th Women's Army Corps (WAC) Post Headquarters Detachment.

Even though the squadron kept its title, its main function was administrative duties. The women of the WAC served their country by filling administrative jobs so that the men could be re-assigned to combat operations. Their duties ranged from cooks to supply clerks to medical technicians and so on. The 479 served in this capacity until 30 April 1944 when it was disbanded and all personnel re-assigned.

After more than 47 years, lying dormant, the 479 was reconstituted and re-designated the 479 Training Support Squadron (TSS) at Moody AFB on 13 June 2001. It was then officially activated on 9 July 2001. The squadron became part of the 479 Flying Training Group (FTG) whose mission was to train Air Force officers in Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) and Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals (IFF). The squadron was inactivated along with the 479 FTG at Moody AFB in June 2007.

In October 2009, the 479 OSS was activated again as one of the three squadrons of the new 479 FTG Undergraduate Combat Systems Officer Training (UCT) at NAS Pensacola.

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USAF Unit Histories  
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#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.  
Unit yearbook. *Harlingen AAF*. Army and Navy Publishing Co. of Louisiana. Baton Rouge, LA. Nd.