

549th COMBAT TRAINING SQUADRON



MISSION

549th Combat Training Squadron provides the ultimate peacetime close air support training opportunity for Air Force close air support units and the aerospace power component of the U.S. Army's brigade combat training at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. Fighter units and theater air control system elements from the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and occasionally allied nations perform close-air-support missions at the NTC, a training area of almost 1,000 square miles. Similar to Red Flag, the realistic simulated combat scenarios provide valuable CAS training on a scale not available to units at or near their home stations. The friendly and enemy ground forces pit approximately 400 armored and support vehicles and more than 3,000 soldiers against each other in a dynamic and unscripted battle exercise.

These fast-paced battles, the intense real-time command, control and communications requirements and visual simulations of armor, anti-armor, artillery and air defense weapons systems combine to present a highly realistic training environment for fighter pilots, forward air controllers and air liaison officers.

LINEAGE

549th Night Fighter Squadron constituted, 19 Apr 1944

Activated, 1 May 1944

Inactivated, 5 Feb 1946

Activated, 25 Jun 1946

Inactivated, 19 Feb 1947
Redesignated 549th Tactical Air Support Training Squadron, 18 Aug 1969
Activated, 15 Oct 1969
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1988
Redesignated 549th Joint Training Squadron and activated, 1 Nov 1991
Redesignated 549th Combat Training Squadron, 1 Jul 1994

STATIONS

Hammer Field, CA, 1 May 1944
Bakersfield Muni Aprt, CA, 26 Jul 1944
Ft Lawton, WA, 6-13 Oct 1944
Kipapa Field, TH, 20 Oct 1944-19 Feb 1945
South Field, Iwo Jima, 14 Mar 1945-5 Feb 1946 (air echelon on Saipan, 20 Feb-20 Mar 1945)
Northwest AAB, Guam, 25 Jun 1946-19 Feb 1947
Eglin AF Aux Field No. 9 (Hurlburt Field), FL, 15 Oct 1969
Patrick AFB, FL, 15 Dec 1975-1 Jul 1988
Nellis AFB, NV, 1 Nov 1991

ASSIGNMENTS

Fourth Air Force, 1 May 1944
7th Fighter Wing, 20 Oct 1944
VII Fighter Command, 1 Nov 1944
Army Air Forces, Middle Pacific, 16 Jul 1945
Seventh Air Force, 1 Jan-5 Feb 1946
20th Fighter Wing, 25 Jun 1946-19 Feb 1947
1st Special Operations (later, 834th Tactical Composite; 1st Special Operations) Wing, 15 Oct 1969
549th Tactical Air Support Training Group, 15 Dec 1975-1 Jul 1988
57th Operations Group, 1 Nov 1991
USAF Air Ground Operations School, 3 Feb 1998-

ATTACHMENTS

319th Wing, 1 May-4 Oct 1944)
VII Fighter Command, 16 Jul-20 Nov 1945
Twentieth Air Force Combat Staging Center, 20 Nov-3 Dec 1945
Iwo Jima Base Command, Provisional, 3 Dec 1945
Iwo Jima Base Command, Provisional, to 5 Feb 1946
21st Fighter Group, 25 Jun 1946-19 Feb 1947

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-70, 1944
P-61, 1944-1946
P-61A
P-61B
None, 1946-1947

OV-10, 1969-1988

O-2, 1975-1986

A-10, 1991

F-16, 1991

COMMANDERS

Maj Hubbard K. Gayle Jr., 3 May 1944
LTC Joseph E. Payne, 22 Jul 1944
Cpt William R. Charlesworth, 25 Sep 1945
1Lt Raymond E. Rudkin, 17 Jan- 5 Feb 1946
1Lt Eldon P. Harvey, 25 Jun 1946
Cpt Lyall L. Frazier, 29 Jun 1946
2Lt James D. Morris, 7 Aug 1946
1Lt Thomas F. Mirabito, 1-19 Feb 1947
LTC Joseph B. Madden, 15 Oct 1969
LTC Hubert R. Martin, 30 Jun 1971
LTC Felix L. Sambogna, 25 May 1973
LTC John G. Schroeder, 28 Feb 1975
LTC Walter E. Ackerlund, by Mar 1976
LTC Winslow E. Reither, 8 Jul 1977
LTC Rand Brandt, 30 Jun 1978
LTC Paul H. Burbage, III, 1 Aug 1980
LTC Don A. Lyon, 30 Jul 1982
LTC Paul A. Taylor, 20 Jan 1984
LTC Robert A. Rohlfing, 3 Mar 1986
LTC David N. Talley III, 7 Jan-1 Jul 1988
Col Steven K. Ladd, 1 Nov 1991
LTC Gary L. Buis, 12 Aug 1994
Col Philip J. Frazee, 27 Aug 1996
LTC Walter D. Givhan, 19 Dec 1997
LTC James L. Rehm, 2 Jun 1999
LTC James A. Riess, 29 May 2001
LTC Lawrence W. Butler, 13 Dec 2002
LTC Douglas E. Young, 7 Sep 2004
LTC Phillip B. Barks, 18 May 2006

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Air Combat, Asiatic-Pacific Theater

Air Offensive, Japan

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

15 Dec 1975-31 Dec 1976

1 May 1981-30 Apr 1983

1 May 1983-30 Apr 1985

1 May 1985-30 Apr 1987

1 Jun 1995-31 May 1997

1 Jun 2001-31 May 2003

1 Jun 2004-31 May 2006

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award

11 Nov 1997-31 May 1999

1 Jun 1999-31 May 2000

1 Jun 2002-31 May 2004

EMBLEM





549th Combat Training Squadron emblem: On a disc Azure, bezant as a moon off-centered in dexter base, overall a caricature of a bat Grebe, wings displayed Sable, ribbed Gules and grasping two aerial machine guns of the last, detailed Argent. Displaying a look of ferocity on the face garnished White, brow line, eyes, mouth and teeth detailed of the third, while emitting a White flash edged of the fourth from each eye, all within a narrow border White. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow White border and inscribed "549TH CTS" in White letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow White border and inscribed "AIR WARRIOR" in White letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** 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 bat, a nocturnal raider, is armed with two aerial machine guns and, by his grim expression, indicates the Squadron is ready for a fight. The rays emanating from his eyes symbolize the device the Squadron uses to locate the enemy at night. (Approved, 17 Jul 1944)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Flew night fighter missions from Iwo Jima against the Japanese, 22 Mar-c. 5 Aug 1945.

First P-61 received: October 1944

First enemy aircraft destroyed by P-61 crew: June 23, 1945

Squadron total enemy aircraft destroyed by P-61 crews: 1

Trained forward air controller (FAC) and Strike Control and Reconnaissance (SCAR) pilots, 1969-1988.

Flew close air support sorties in "Air Warrior" exercises to train U.S. and allied fighter pilots, 1991-.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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