

1st FIGHTER WING



LINEAGE

1st Fighter Wing, established 28 Jul 1947
Organized, 15 Aug 1947
Redesignated 1st Fighter Interceptor Wing, 16 Apr 1950
Inactivated, 6 Feb 1952
Redesignated 1st Fighter Wing (Air Defense), 14 Sep 1956
Activated, 18 Oct 1956
Redesignated 1st Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 1970
Redesignated 1st Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 1991

STATIONS

March Field (later, AFB), CA, 15 Aug 1947
George AFB, CA, 18 Jul 1950
Norton AFB, CA, 1 Dec 1951-6 Feb 1952
Selfridge AFB, MI, 18 Oct 1956
Hamilton AFB, CA, 31 Dec 1969
MacDill AFB, FL, 1 Oct 1970
Langley AFB, VA, 30 Jun 1975

ASSIGNMENTS

Twelfth Air Force, 15 Aug 1947
Fourth Air Force, 20 Dec 1948
Fifteenth Air Force, 1 May 1949
Fourth Air Force, 1 Jul 1950
Western Air Defense Force, 1 Aug 1950-6 Feb 1952, 7 Aug-19 Sep 1950
27th Air Division, 20 Sep 1950-6 Feb 1952)
30th Air Division, 18 Oct 1956
Detroit Air Defense Sector, 1 Apr 1959
34th Air Division, 1 Apr 1966
23rd Air Division, 1 Dec 1969

26th Air Division, 31 Dec 1969
836th Air Division, 1 Oct 1970
Ninth Air Force, 30 Sep 1971

ATTACHMENTS

22nd Bombardment Wing, 1 Jul 1949-1 Apr 1950
Western Air Defense Force, 1-31 Jul 1950
Southern California Air Defense Sector [Provisional]

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P (later, F)-80, 1947-1949
RF-80, 1947-1949
FA (later, RB)-26, 1947-1949
L-13, 1947-1949
B-26, 1948-1949
L-4, 1948-1949
L-5, 1948-1949
F-86, 1949-1952
B-29, 1949
F-51, 1951-1952
F-86, 1956-1960
F-102, 1958-1960
TF-102
F-106, 1960-1969, 1969-1970
F-4, 1970-1975
B-57, 1970-1972
F-15, 1975
EC-135, 1976-1992
HH-3, 1993-1994
HC-130, 1993-1997
C-21, 1993-1997
HH-60, 1994-1997
F-22A

COMMANDERS

Col Carl J. Crane, 15 Aug 1947
Col Elvin F. Maughn, 19 Jan 1948
Col Clifford H. Rees, 17 May 1948
Col Joseph H. Davidson, 13 Jan 1949
Col George McCoy, Jr., 14 Jun 1949
Col William L. Lee, 19 Aug 1949
Col Wiley D. Ganey, 4 Jan 1950
Col George McCoy, Jr., 17 Feb 1950
BG Donald R. Hutchinson, 17 Oct 1950
Col Dolf E. Muehleisen, 14 Dec 1950
Col Robert F. Worley, Jun 1951-6 Feb 1952

Col Glenn E. Duncan, 18 Oct 1956
Col Charles D. Sonnkalb, Aug 1959
Col George J. LaBreche, Dec 1960
Col Ralph G. Taylor, Jr., 15 Jun 1962
Col Wallace B. Frank, 11 Sep 1963
Col Converse B. Kelly, 16 Sep 1963
Col Kenneth E. Rosebush, Aug 1966
Col Taras T. Popovich, 29 Apr 1968
Col Morris B. Pitts, 31 Oct 1969
Col Mervin M. Taylor, Jan 1970
Col Travis R. McNeil, 1 Oct 1970
Col Robert F. Titus, 1 Mar 1971
Col Howard W. Leaf, 6 May 1971
Col Walter D. Druen, Jr., 1 Nov 1971
Col Sydney L. Davis, 18 Apr 1972
Col Gerald J. Carey, Jr., 25 Jun 1973
Col Ernest A. Bedke, Jun 1975
LTC George H. Miller, 1 Jul 1975
BG Larry D. Welch, 1 Aug 1975
BG John T. Chain, Jr., 1 Aug 1977
Col Neil L. Eddins, 27 Mar 1978
Col Donald L. Miller, 15 May 1979
BG William T. Tolbert, 11 Aug 1980
BG Eugene H. Fischer, 29 Jan 1982
BG Henry Viccellio, Jr., 6 Apr 1983
BG Billy G. McCoy, 31 May 1985
Col Buster C. Glosson, 10 Jul 1986
Col Richard B. Myers, 11 Jun 1987
Col John M. McBroom, 24 Feb 1989
Col David J. McCloud, 27 Jun 1991
BGrig Gen Gregory S. Martin, 15 Jun 1993
BG William R. Looney III, 23 May 1995
Col Felix Dupre, 11 Apr 1996 (temporary)
BG William R. Looney III, 29 Jun 1996
BG Theodore W. Lay II, 10 Jul 1996
Col Gary R. Dylewski, 21 Oct 1997
Col Felix Dupre, 7 Apr 1999
BG Stephen M. Goldfein, 10 Apr 2000
Col Stephen J. Miller, 11 Jan 2002
Col Frank Gorenc, 2 Sep 2003
BG Burton M. Field, 15 Jun 2005
BG Mark A. Barrett, 30 Apr 2007
BG Matthew H. Molloy, 8 May 2009
Col Kevin J. Robbins, 23 May 2011

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia

Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1975-31 Oct 1976

15 Jun 1982-15 Jun 1984

16 Jun 1984-15 Jun 1986

1 Jun 1995-31 May 1997

1 Jun 1998-31 May 2000

1 Jun 2000-31 May 2001

1 Jun 2004-31 May 2006

1 Jun 2006-31 May 2008

1 Jun 2008-31 May 2010

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 1st Operations Group prior to 15 Aug 1947

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War I

Champagne-Marne

Aisne-Marne

Oise-Aisne

St Mihiel

Meuse-Argonne

Lorraine Defensive Sector

Champagne Defensive Sector

World War II

Air Offensive, Europe

Algeria-French Morocco

Tunisia

Sicily

Naples-Foggia

Anzio

Rome-Arno
Normandy
Northern France
Southern France
North Apennines
Rhineland
Central Europe
Po Valley
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Italy, 25 Aug 1943
Italy, 30 Aug 1943
Ploesti, Rumania, 18 May 1944

EMBLEM

Vert, five bendlets enhanced sable fimbriated or, as many crosses patee in bend debased three and two of the second fimbriated argent. On 21 Jan 1924, the Adjutant General approved the 1st Pursuit Group's emblem. The emblem was designed with the unit's history in mind. The green and black colors represented the colors of the Army Air Service, the five stripes signified the original five flying squadrons, and the five crosses symbolized the five major World War I campaigns credited to the Group. (Approved for 1st Group, 10 Feb 1924 and for 1st Wing, 22 May 1957)

MOTTO

MUT VINCERE AUT MORI-Conquer or Die

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 1st Fighter Wing was activated at March Field and assigned to Twelfth Air Force and TAC on 15 August 1947. Headquarters, 1st Fighter Group and the 27th, 71st, and 94th Fighter Squadrons were assigned to the wing as its tactical component on the same date. The wing's subordinate maintenance, supply, and support organizations were also organized on 15 August. These included Headquarters, 1st Maintenance & Supply Group; Maintenance Squadron, 1st Maintenance & Supply Group; Supply Squadron, 1st Maintenance & Supply Group; and Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 1st Airdrome Group, with six component squadrons, designated A-F, which handled communications, security, civil engineering, food services, transportation, and base services.

In early April 1948, Headquarters, Twelfth Air Force issued a mission statement for the 1st Fighter Wing. Its complexity reflected both the wide range of the wing's responsibilities and the experimental nature of its work with new aircraft and new organizational forms. The mission statement directed the wing to: Prepare and assign missions to all units of the 1st Fighter Wing. Attain and maintain the highest efficiency within the means available. Maintain a highly mobile

organization at all times. Provide units for demonstration missions in accordance with directives from higher headquarters. Cooperate with 12 AF, TAC, and other Air Force organizations in developing, testing, and improving the equipment, tactics, and techniques of fighter aviation. Assume direct responsibility for units assigned or attached to the 1st Fighter Wing. Aid in the development of air-ground cooperation techniques and doctrines, and to conduct training necessary for operation with ground and other Air Force units. Provide units for active support of other commands for defense missions. Prepare personnel designated by higher headquarters for overseas movement.

The wing supported Operation Haylift, a humanitarian effort to deliver food to snowbound cattle in the western United States, 1949.

After a winter notable only for a fire of suspicious origin that destroyed the group headquarters building on 25 February 1950, the wing embarked upon yet another series of organizational changes in the spring. Effective 16 April 1950 the 1st Fighter Wing was redesignated the 1st Fighter-Interceptor Wing, the same designation that was simultaneously applied to the group and its three squadrons. The wing had, some days previously, been relieved from its attachment to the 22d Bombardment Wing.

In October 1962 the wing responded to the Cuban Missile Crisis by deploying aircraft, support personnel, equipment and supplies to Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, and Volk Field, Wisconsin. From 19 October through 27 November wing aircraft flew 620 sorties and 1,274 hours, most from Patrick AFB, while maintaining a mission-ready rate of approximately eighty percent." Wing life reverted to more normal training routines at year's end, and the pattern continued through 1963 and 1964.

Beginning in about 1965 the wing began to transfer pilots to other units in or enroute to Vietnam. While the wing itself did not participate in the war, its units were soon manned by personnel who had completed tours in Southeast Asia. Wing dining-ins held periodically for the rest of the decade invariably featured a presentation ceremony where personnel received various awards and commendations they had earned overseas.

On 23 December 1970, TAC revised the primary mission of the 1st TFW from that of an operational wing to that of a replacement training unit (RTU). The war in Vietnam had strained TAC training assets, so the command decided that it needed to convert a line unit to augment its training program. The command selected the 1st because the climate and range facilities in the MacDill area were ideal for the type of flying involved. Colonel Travis R. McNeil, wing commander, concerned that the relegation to RTU status might affect morale, reminded wing personnel that "although in some ways it would seem that the First should be an operational unit, we . . . must approach it in the light that you go to the First and the best when you need help, as TAC does. We can do anything we are tasked to do."

On 1 October 1971, HQ TAC inactivated the 4530th Tactical Training Squadron, which, in addition to other duties, had trained Australian F-4 aircrew members and maintenance personnel during project Peace Reef. The 4501st Tactical Fighter Replacement Squadron, equipped with F-4s, assumed the 4530th's place in the wing's structure on the same date. The command

inactivated the 4424th Combat Crew Training Squadron, the wing's B-57 training unit, on 30 June 1972, leaving the wing with four flying squadrons. All conducted advanced F-4 tactical training.

On 22 May 1975, HQ PACAF directed the movement of the 56th SOW from Thailand to MacDill, without personnel or equipment, effective 30 June. On 6 June, HQ TAC directed Ninth Air Force to move HQ 1st TFW; the 27th, 71st, and 94th TFSs; and the 1st Avionics Maintenance, Field Maintenance, Munitions Maintenance, and Organizational Maintenance Squadrons (in active status but without personnel or equipment), from MacDill to Langley, effective 30 June 1975.

The 4500th Air Base Wing at Langley provided support services to the newly arrived wing. The personnel and equipment the 1st TFW left behind at MacDill belonged to the 56th Tactical Fighter Wing.

Wing personnel worked for the next six months to prepare facilities at Langley and to learn the skills necessary to bring the wing to fully operational status. Pilots selected to fly the F-15 completed conversion training at Luke AFB, Arizona, while the command built the wing's maintenance squadrons up to strength with personnel trained to support the aircraft. The wing, now under the command of Brigadier General Larry D. Welch, demonstrated flexibility and resilience in its response to the construction, maintenance, operational, and training problems that developed, and by the end of 1975 Langley was ready to begin receiving its Eagles. Lieutenant Colonel John Britt, operations officer of the 27th Tactical Fighter Squadron, flew aircraft 74-0137, a two-seat TF-15 (later designated F-15B), into Langley on 18 December 1975. The official welcoming ceremonies, dubbed "Eagle Day," were not held until 9 January 1976, when Lieutenant Colonel Larry Craft, commander of the 27th, arrived with a single-seat F-15, 74-0083. Aircraft and aircrews arriving throughout 1976, at a programmed rate of eight aircraft per month, enabled the wing to build toward its authorized strength of seventy-two aircraft in three twenty-four plane squadrons. The 27th Fighter Squadron became operationally ready in the F-15 in October 1976. The 71st TFS reached that status in December 1976. This left the 94th as the wing's only squadron not yet operationally ready. Both HQ TAC and the wing anticipated this situation, because once the first two squadrons reached operational status, the TAC pilot training pipeline and the wing and its organizations shifted gears to support operation Ready Eagle, a Tactical Air Command/United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) program to provide USAFE with its first operationally ready F-15 wing in the shortest possible time.

The USAFE wing selected to transition to the F-15, the 36th Tactical Fighter Wing, stationed at Bitburg Air Base, Germany, established an operating location at Langley to oversee the maintenance and operations training provided by 1st TFW organizations augmented for that purpose. The 1st provided the 36th with eighty-eight operationally ready pilots and 522 maintenance specialists, who later trained an additional 1,100 maintenance personnel at Bitburg. The Ready Eagle schedule called for the 36th to deploy its first squadron to Germany by 15 April 1977, its third by 30 September. The first squadron actually deployed on 27 April and Ready Eagle was completed by 23 September, when the last European-bound F-15s left Langley. The 94th then completed its build-up toward operationally ready status, reaching that point by December 1977. By the end of 1977, then, the 1st Tactical Fighter Wing had completed its own

transition to a new aircraft while simultaneously providing advanced tactical training for a second F-15 wing.

On 19 April 1976, HQ TAC relieved the 6th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, which flew Boeing EC-135 airborne command posts in support of the Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic Command, from its assignment to the 4500th Air Base Wing and assigned it to the 1st TFW. A year later, on 15 April 1977, the command activated Headquarters, 1st Combat Support Group, and the 1st Services, 1st Supply, 1st Civil Engineering, 1st Security Police, and 1st Transportation Squadrons at Langley. Personnel assigned to the newly activated squadrons came from 4500th ABW organizations inactivated on the same date. The 1st TFW became the host unit at Langley Air Force Base with the inactivation of the 4500th ABW.

Mobility became a cornerstone of the wing's mission as it built up its F-15 strength. Tactical Air Command mission regulations directed the wing to prepare to deploy and operate its aircraft from locations worldwide. As the Air Force's first F-15 wing, the 1st TFW found itself called upon to demonstrate its ability to deploy forces almost as soon as the wing had the required number of aircraft on hand.

After successfully completing several deployments within the United States, the wing was ready to try its hand at more demanding foreign deployments. The 94th Tactical Fighter Squadron deployed eight aircraft to Korea, Japan, and the Philippines from 21 January to 4 March 1978. The 94th and the 71st each deployed eighteen F-15s to the Netherlands from 13 September to 20 December 1978, with the 71st replacing the 94th on 27 October. Personnel from the 94th had barely unpacked their bags before they were off again, this time on a short-notice, sixteen-day, twelve-aircraft show-the-flag deployment to Saudi Arabia (Prized Eagle, 12-27 January 1979). The 27th deployed next, sending eight aircraft to Korea and Japan from 1-28 March 1979. Further deployments, to exercises within the continental United States, and to Europe, the Middle East, Southwest Asia, and the Pacific, have followed since then.

Since Mar 1991, continued deployments of full- and partial-squadron elements on a rotational basis primarily to Southwest Asia as part of peacekeeping forces.

The training and experience gained, especially from Prized Eagle, was called upon in the summer of 1990, when Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait. On 7 August 1990, the 27th and 71st Tactical Fighter Squadrons began deploying to Saudi Arabia in support of the defense of Saudi Arabia from further Iraqi aggression entitled Operation Desert Shield. In all, the Wing deployed 48 aircraft to the Persian Gulf. By 16 January 1991, when Desert Shield came to a close, the Wing amassed 4,207 sorties. At 0115 local Saudi Arabia time, on 17 January 1991, 16 wing F-15s departed King Abdul-Aziz Air Base and headed toward Iraq to participate in Operation Desert Storm, the liberation of Kuwait from the Iraqis.

On 15 March 1992, the 74th Air Control Squadron was transferred to the 1st Fighter Wing. The 74th provided command and control of air operations for worldwide operations. One year later, on 1 February 1993, the 41st and 71st Rescue Squadrons, and the 741st Maintenance Squadron were assigned to the 1st Fighter Wing. Stationed at Patrick AFB, Florida, the units provided search and rescue for NASA's space shuttle missions, and support of combat search and rescue

operations in Southwest Asia. Additionally, C-21 operational support aircraft were assigned to the Wing on 1 April 1993 with the establishment of Detachment 1, 1st Operations Group. On 1 May, the detachment inactivated and the 12th Airlift Flight, with the same mission, activated.

Two realignments ordered by Air Combat Command took effect on the same day, 1 April 1997. The most substantial one had been the 1st Rescue Group's reassignment to the 347th Wing at Moody Air Force Base. This move meant the loss of two types of aircraft, the HC-130P and the HH-60G. When the Air Force decided to transfer 12th Airlift Flight to Air Mobility Command, another type of aircraft, the C-21, was removed from the 1st Fighter Wing's possession exactly four years after it had been assigned.

Tested the Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) rapid deployment concept, Apr-Jun 1996. For several months following Sep 11, 2001, performed homeland defense operations, maintained aircraft on alert, and flew combat air patrol missions.

Deployed units and elements to support the war against terrorism. First wing to implement the Combat Wing Organization reorganization in 2003.

Received first F/A-22 Raptor aircraft in 2005. In 2010, discontinued flying F-15 aircraft after thirty-five years.

The Air Force will station seven T-38 Talons at Langley AFB, Va., for use as companion trainers for the F-22s of Langley's 1st Fighter Wing. They will give Langley's F-22 pilots additional flight hours and serve as Raptor adversaries in flight exercises. The T-38s are scheduled to arrive between March and September 2011. Dual-qualified F-22/T-38 pilots as well as pilots awaiting F-22 training will fly these T-38s. No additional pilots will be assigned to Langley. These Langley-bound aircraft are reported to be ex-South Korean T-38Bs and not Air Education and Training Command T-38Cs. M1 Support Services of Denton, Tex., will maintain them. 2010

Air Force Order of Battle
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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.
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.