

6 AIR MOBILITY WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

6 Bombardment Wing, Medium established, 20 Dec 1950
Activated, 2 Jan 1951
Redesignated 6 Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 16 Jun 1952
Redesignated 6 Strategic Aerospace Wing, 1 May 1962
Redesignated 6 Strategic Wing, 25 Mar 1967
Redesignated 6 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 1 Apr 1988
Inactivated, 1 Sep 1992
Redesignated 6 Air Base Wing, 22 Dec 1993
Activated, 4 Jan 1994
Redesignated 6 Air Refueling Wing, 1 Oct 1996
Redesignated 6 Air Mobility Wing, 1 Jan 2001
Redesignated 6 Air Refueling Wing on 30 Sep 2019

STATIONS

Walker AFB, NM, 2 Jan 1951
Eielson AFB, AK, 25 Mar 1967-1 Sep 1992
MacDill AFB, FL, 4 Jan 1994

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Andersen AFB, Guam, 31 Oct 1955-26 Jan 1956

ASSIGNMENTS

Eighth Air Force, 2 Jan 1951
47 Air (later, 47 Strategic Aerospace) Division, 10 Feb 1951

22 Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Jul 1963
12 Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Jul 1965
18 Strategic Aerospace Division, 25 Mar 1967
12 Strategic Aerospace Division, 2 Jul 1968
14 Strategic Aerospace Division, 30 Jun 1971
47 Air Division, 1 Oct 1976
14 Air Division, 1 Oct 1985
3 Air Division, 9 Aug 1990
Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Apr-1 Sep 1992
Ninth Air Force, 4 Jan 1994
Twenty-First Air Force, 1 Oct 1996
Eighteenth Air Force, 1 Oct 2003

ATTACHMENTS

3 Air Division, 31 Oct 1955-26 Jan 1956

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-29, 1951-1952
KB-29, 1951-1952
B-36, 1952-1957
B-52, 1957- 1967
Atlas F, 1962-1965
KC-135, 1958-1967, 1967-1992
RC-135, 1967- 1992
KC-135, 1985-1992
KC-135, 1996
EC-135, 1997
CT-43, 1997-2001
C-37, 2001

COMMANDERS

Col Thomas S. Jeffrey Jr., 2 Jan 1951
Col William K. Martin, 15 Jan 1951
Col Glen W. Martin, 20 May 1955
Col Everett W. Best, 21 Sep 1956
Col Daniel V. MacDonald, 3 Jun 1957
Lt Col Lewis R. Riley, 15 Aug 1957
Col Edwin C. Evans, 16 Sep 1957
Col Everett W. Best, 23 Sep 1957
Col Donald E. Hillman, 23 Feb 1960
Col Ernest C. Eddy, 18 Jul 1962
Col Floyd H. Haywood Jr., 15 Jul 1963
Col Richard M. Hoban, 15 Apr 1965
Col Lester F. Miller, 15 Jun 1965

Col George P. Cole, 9 Jul 1966
Col Rowland H. Worrell Jr., 2 Sep 1966
Col Martin E. Plocher, 25 Mar 1967
Col Ray M. Watkins, 11 Jul 1967
Col Leslie W. Brockwell, 4 Jun 1969
Col Melford W. Lewis, 23 Jun 1970
Col Doyle F. Reynolds, 5 Jun 1972
Col Joe L. Church, 6 Dec 1973
Col William J. Campbell, 11 Jul 1974
Col Donald M. Griffin, 7 Oct 1975
Col Jimmy S. Lassetter, 28 May 1976
Col John A. Dale, 4 Oct 1977
Col William R. Perry, 26 Nov 1979
Col Benjamin F. Schneider Jr., 20 Jul 1981
Col Mark J. Heller, 29 Jul 1983
Col James W. Morrow, Jr., 3 Oct 1984
Col Thomas W. Young, 14 Jul 1986
Col James L. Holmes Jr., 18 Nov 1987
Col George R. Warner, 10 Mar 1989
Col William G. Manire Jr., 18 Jun 1990
Col James E. Andrews, 13 Jun 1991-1 Sep 1992
Col Charles T. Ohlinger III, 4 Jan 1994
Brig Gen John D. Becker, 28 Jun 1996
Brig Gen James N. Soligan, 21 Nov 1997
Brig Gen Arthur F. Diehl III, 30 Jun 1999
Brig Gen William W. Hodges, 1 Aug 2001
Col David M. Snyder, 10 Jan 2003
Col Margaret H. Woodward, 5 Feb 2005
Col Robert D. Thomas, 26 Mar 2007
Col Lawrence M. Martin Jr., 8 Sep 2008
Col Lenny J. Richoux, 9 Jul 2011
Col Scott DeThomas, 28 Jul 2012
Col Daniel H. Tulley, 8 Aug 2014
Col April D. Vogel, 8 Jul 2016
Col Stephen P. Snelson, 29 Jun 2018
Col Benjamin S. Robins, 20 May 2020
Col Benjamin R. Jonsson, 4 Aug 2020

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 May 1960-31 May 1962

1 Jul 1971- 30 Jun 1973

1 Jul 1973-30 Jun 1975

1 Jul 1976-30 Jun 1978

1 Jul 1978- 30 Jun 1980

1 Jul 1981-30 Jun 1982

1 Jul 1986-30 Jun 1987

1 Jun 1994-31 May 1996

1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998

1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 2000

1 Jul 2004-30 Jun 2006

1 Jul 2007-30 Jun 2009

1 Jul 2009-30 Jun 2010

1 Jul 2013-30 Jun 2014

1 Jan 2016-30 Sep 2017

1 Oct 2017-30 Sep 2019

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 6 Operations Group prior to 2 Jan 1951

Service Streamer

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Antisubmarine, American Theater

Air Offensive, Japan

Eastern Mandates

Western Pacific

Decoration

Distinguished Unit Citations

Tokyo, Japan, 25 May 1945

Japanese Empire, 9-19 Jul 1945

EMBLEM



Approved for the 6 Group, 22 Jan 1924 and adopted by the 6 Wing, 18 Mar 1955



6 Strategic Wing emblem: Per fess abase or and azure, on the first thirteen rays pilewise throughout to chief gules, surmounted in fess by two cliffs one in dexter fess and one in sinister fess vert, overall issuing from the horizon, in a half spiral, a delta gray garnished sable above in dexter fess a falling mullet of five points of the fifth with three trails of the sixth all within a diminished bordure of the first.



Or, pily of twelve Gules, overall a base Azure supporting a sailing ship with sails set affronte Sable, sails Argent, between two mounts issuing from dexter and sinister Vert, below a shooting star in dexter chief and a bi-wing aircraft, viewed from below Argent, garnished Sable, in sinister chief; all within a diminished bordure of the first. Sun Rays - Symbolize peace maintained through vigilance and military strength, Falling Star - Symbolizes past bombardment mission Symbolizes current "Burning Star" mission Climbing Delta - Symbolizes a projection of aerospace strength Representative of the long and continuing progression of mission aircraft Water and Shore - Symbolize past mission protecting the Panama Canal Symbolize the Wing's World War II operations in the Pacific theater symbolize current worldwide reconnaissance commitment (Approved, 21 Oct 1980)

MOTTO

PARATI DEFENDERE - Ready to defend

OPERATIONS

The first scheduled mission of the new 6 was flown 12 February 1951. Personnel turnover was heavy due to the low manning priority assigned the Wing and the necessity of filling quotas for the Far East. As 1951 drew to a close, the 6 Bombardment Wing was again "Ready to Defend." Its crews were, for the most part, FEAF returnee crews who had completed their tours and missions over Korea, its maintenance personnel were proficient and experienced in keeping the aircraft ready to fly, and the Wing had assumed its place as an integral part of the striking force of the Strategic Air Command.



Col William K. Martin

In June 1952, Headquarters Strategic Air Command redesignated the 6 as a heavy bombardment wing, with conversion to B-36s to take place as aircraft became available. Training of both maintenance personnel and flight crews was feverishly underway with the bulk of the training being accomplished through the 4017th Training Squadron at Carswell Air Force Base, Texas. Personnel manning throughout the Wing remained high, although the turnover in personnel continued, being caused primarily by the loss of B-29 trained personnel and the gain

of B-36 trained maintenance and support personnel.

Achieving combat readiness in B-36s occupied all personnel of the Wing during the first few months of 1953. Operationally the emphasis was placed upon training of the combat crews. Maintenance emphasis was placed on training personnel to maintain the complicated B-36s.

Less than a year after conversion, the 6 Wing was again combat ready. In October, a maneuver to Thule Air Force Base, Greenland, was accomplished utilizing ten aircraft. The mission was successful, with all personnel gaining valuable experience in living and working in the extremely cold temperatures of the Arctic. A simulated combat mission was also executed as part of the maneuver with excellent results.

Deployed at Andersen AFB, Guam, Oct 1955-Jan 1956. Two bombardment squadrons (24th and 30th) joined the 4129th CCTS in Sep 1959, training B-52 and KC-135 crews.

From 10 Jun 1960 to 1 Dec 1961 the wing flew a few operational missions in a non-combat ready status. A missile squadron joined the wing's resources in Sep 1961.



Col Donald E. Hillman

On 1 May 1962, with the arrival of the wing's first Atlas-F SM65 intercontinental ballistic missile. The missile squadron phased out its Atlas operations in Feb 1965 and inactivated a month later. On 25 Mar 1967, the wing moved without personnel or equipment to Eielson AFB, AK, where it replaced the 4157th Strategic Wing and assumed resources and missions of that wing. In Alaska, the wing flew RC-135 strategic reconnaissance missions with an assigned squadron, and, with KC-135s deployed to Eielson from SAC, AFRES, and the ANG, conducted Alaska Task Force missions to support reconnaissance and numerous exercises for the Air Force and Navy.

From Apr 1968 to Jul 1972 the wing periodically served as the airborne monitor of the Alaskan ballistic missile early warning station. The wing maintained Detachment 1 at Shemya AFS, AK and operated from there, Feb-May 1975 and Jun-Sep 1976, when Eielson closed for repair of earthquake damage.

Wing became inoperational in Jul 1992 and inactivated in Sep of that year. After activation in Jan 1994, maintained MacDill AFB.

In Oct 1996, assumed an aerial refueling mission. Provided refueling support for global mobility requirements and later also for fighters flying homeland security missions over the southeastern United States. Deployed tanker aircraft and crews to Southwest Asia to support no-fly zone operations over northern Iraq in Jul 1998.

In Jan 2001, the wing added an airlift mission, providing airlift for leaders of U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE 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.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. *6 Bombardment Wing (H)*. 1954.