

## 8<sup>th</sup> FIGHTER WING



### LINEAGE

8<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing established, 10 Aug 1948  
Activated, 18 Aug 1948  
Redesignated 8<sup>th</sup> Fighter Bomber Wing, 20 Jan 1950  
Redesignated 8<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Jul 1958  
Redesignated 8<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, 3 Feb 1992

### STATIONS

Ashiya Air Field, Japan, 18 Aug 1948  
Itazuke Air Field, Japan, 25 Mar 1949  
Pyongyang, North Korea, 1 Dec 1950  
Seoul AB, South Korea, 9 Dec 1950  
Itazuke AB, Japan, 10 Dec 1950  
Kimp'o AB, South Korea, 25 Jun 1951  
Suwon AB, South Korea, 23 Aug 1951  
Itazuke AB, Japan, 20 Oct 1954- 10 Jul 1964  
George AFB, CA, 10 Jul 1964-6 Dec 1965  
Ubon Air Field, Thailand, 8 Dec 1965-16 Sep 1974  
Kunsan AB, South Korea, 16 Sep 1974

### DEPLOYED STATIONS

Kunsan AB, South Korea, 14-22 Oct 1955

### ASSIGNMENTS

315<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 18 Aug 1948  
Fifth Air Force, 1 Mar 1950  
43<sup>rd</sup> Air Division, 1 Mar 1955  
Fifth Air Force, 1 Feb 1957

41<sup>st</sup> Air Division, 10 Nov 1958  
Fifth Air Force, 1 Jun 1962  
Pacific Air Forces, 18 Jun 1964  
Tactical Air Command, 8 Jul 1964  
831<sup>st</sup> Air Division, 10 Jul 1964  
Thirteenth Air Force, 8 Dec 1965  
314<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 16 Sep 1974  
Seventh Air Force, 8 Sep 1986

### **ATTACHMENTS**

2<sup>nd</sup> Air Division, 8 Dec 1965-31 Mar 1966  
Seventh Air Force, 1 Apr 1966-15 Sep 1974

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

F-51, 1948-1950, 1950  
F-80, 1949-1950, 1950-1953  
F-82, 1950  
Meteor-8, 1951  
F-86, 1953-1957  
F-94, 1954  
F-84, 1956  
F-100, 1956-1963  
F-102, 1961-1964  
F-105, 1963-1964  
F-4, 1964-1974; 1974-1982  
F-104, 1966-1967  
AC-130, 1968-1974  
AC-123, 1969-1970  
B-57, 1970-1972  
F-16, 1981

### **COMMANDERS**

Col Charles T. Olmsted, 18 Aug 1948  
Col Daniel A. Cooper, 22 Jan 1949  
Col John M. Price, 1 Mar 1949  
Col Charles W. Stark, 9 Dec 1950  
Col James B. Tipton, 3 Apr 1951  
Col Raymond K. Gallagher, 20 Feb 1952  
Col James J. Stone Jr., 24 Jan 1953  
Col William E. Elder, 29 May 1953  
Col Ernest H. Beverly, 11 Sep 1953  
Col John B. Murphy, 11 Jul 1954  
Col William W. Momyer, 4 Aug 1954  
Col Orville H. Rehmann, 26 Feb 1955  
Col Robert P. Montgomery, 8 Jun 1957  
Col Raymond K. Gallagher, 8 Jul 1959

Col Chesley G. Peterson, 20 Jul 1959  
Col William A. Daniel, 23 May 1960  
Col John R. Roche, 16 May 1962  
Col William E. Buck Jr., 29 Jun 1962  
Col Jack G. Milne, 12-18 Jun 1964  
None (not manned), 19 Jun-24 Jul 1964  
Col John L. Gregory Jr., 25 Jul 1964  
Col Joseph G. Wilson, 8 Dec 1965  
Col Robin Olds, 30 Sep 1966  
Col Robert V. Spencer, 23 Sep 1967  
Col Charles C. Pattillo, 5 Jul 1968  
Col Donald N. Stanfield, 8 May 1969  
Col David J. Schmerbeck, 6 May 1970  
Col Lloyd R. Leavitt, Jr., 2 Oct 1970  
Col Larry M. Killpack, 4 Oct 1970  
Col James A. Young, 20 May 1971  
Col Carl S. Miller, 28 Feb 1972  
Col Francis A. Humphreys Jr., 25 Nov 1972  
Col Tom M. Arnold Jr., 25 Jan 1974  
Col Harry W. Schurr, 16 Sep 1974  
Col Alfred M. Miller Jr., 22 Nov 1974  
Col Charles R. Hamm, 12 Mar 1975  
Col Reginald R. Davis, 12 Mar 1976  
Col Thomas S. Swalm, 7 Mar 1977  
Col Charles M. Summers, 18 Mar 1978  
Col Robert C. Beyer Jr., 17 Mar 1979  
Col Robert P. McGroarty, 31 Mar 1980  
Col Donald Snyder, 30 Mar 1981  
Col James F. Record, 7 Jun 1982  
Col Burton R. Moore, 13 May 1983  
Col E. Daniel Cherry, 9 May 1984  
Col Ronald N. Running, 28 May 1985  
Col Sidney J. Wise, 10 Jun 1986  
Col Everett H. Pratt Jr., 15 Jun 1987  
Col Joseph E. Hurd, 7 Jun 1988  
Col Patrick K. Gamble, 16 Jun 1989  
Col John F. Miller Jr., 8 Jun 1990  
Col Edward B. Carter, 22 Jul 1991  
Col Steven R. Polk, 6 Jul 1992  
Col Stephen E. Trent, 25 Jun 1993  
Col Hugh C. Cameron, 5 Jul 1994  
Col Lawrence D. Johnston, 22 Mar 1995  
Col David L. Moody, 19 Mar 1996  
Col Mark A. Welsh III, 28 Apr 1997  
Col Stephen T. Sargeant, 4 May 1998  
Col Gary L. North, 14 May 1999

Col Philip Breedlove, 23 May 2000  
Col Burton M. Field, 1 May 2001  
Col Guy K Dahlbeck, 7 May 2002  
Col Robin Rand, 14 May 2003  
Col William W. Uhle Jr., 1 Jun 2004  
Col Brian T. Bishop, 31 May 2005  
Col John W. Pearse  
Col S. Clinton Hinote 10 May 2013

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

Korea  
UN Defensive  
UN Offensive  
CCF Intervention  
First UN Counteroffensive  
CCF Spring Offensive  
UN Summer-Fall Offensive  
Second Korean Winter  
Korea Summer-Fall, 1952  
Third Korean Winter  
Korea Summer, 1953

Vietnam  
Vietnam Defensive  
Vietnam Air  
Vietnam Air Offensive  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II  
Vietnam Air Offensive Phase III  
Vietnam Air/Ground  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV  
TET 69/ Counter offensive  
Vietnam Summer-Fall, 1969  
Vietnam Winter-Spring, 1970  
Sanctuary Counteroffensive  
Southwest Monsoon  
Commando Hunt V  
Commando Hunt VI  
Commando Hunt VII  
Vietnam Ceasefire

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

**Decorations**

Presidential Unit Citations (Vietnam)

16 Dec 1966-2 Jan 1967

1 Mar 1967-31 Mar 1968

1 Jan-1 Apr 1971

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device

16 Dec 1965-15 Dec 1966

1 Apr-30 Sep 1968

1 Jan-31 Dec 1970

1 Oct 1971-31 Mar 1972

1 Apr-22 Oct 1972

18 Dec 1972-15 Aug 1973

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

12 May 1963- 21 Mar 1964

1 Apr 1977-31 Mar 1978

1 Jun 1986-31 May 1988

1 Aug 1995-31 Jul 1997

1 Oct 2003-30 Sep 2005

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations

27 Jun 1950-31 Jan 1951

1 Feb 1951- 31 Mar 1953

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Apr 1966- 28 Jan 1973

**Bestowed Honors**

Authorized to display honors earned by the 8th Operations Group prior to 18 Aug 1948

**Service Streamers**

None

**Campaign Streamers**

World War II

East Indies

Air Offensive, Japan

China Defensive

Papua

New Guinea

Bismarck Archipelago

Western Pacific

Leyte

Luzon  
Southern Philippines  
China Offensive

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
Papua, [Sep] 1942-23 Jan 1943  
Philippine Islands, 26 Dec 1944  
Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

### **EMBLEM**

Azure, a chevron nebule Or, all within a diminished bordure of the last. The group's emblem is a simple chevron in the stylized shape of clouds. (Approved for 8th Group, 6 Sep 1934, and for 8th Wing, 3 Jul 1952)

### **MOTTO**

ATTAQUEZ ET CONQUEREZ-Attack and Conquer

### **NICKNAME**

Wolf Pack

### **OPERATIONS**

Air defense in Japan, Aug 1948-Jun 1950.

Stationed at Itazuke AB, Japan, at the beginning of the Korean War and assigned to the Fifth Air Force, the 8th FBW controlled combat groups and attached squadrons that conducted combat operations in Korea, flying mostly interdiction and close air support missions. The 8th FBG and its squadrons moved to South Korea on August 11, 1950, while the wing remained in Japan and assumed operational control of other combat units. The wing replaced the 6131st Tactical Support Wing and reunited with its tactical group in Korea in December 1950. On 1 Dec 1950, as U.S. forces pressed the attack on North Korean forces, the wing moved to Pyongyang, North Korea. Then only days later on 9 Dec, the wing moved to Seoul, South Korea, and then on to Itazuke Air Base, Japan. Until the end of the war, it remained in South Korea, performing a variety of missions, including some strategic bombardment, air cover for bombers, armed reconnaissance, and low-level bombing and strafing for interdiction and ground support.

Air defense in Japan, and maintenance of a quick-reaction strike force, Oct 1954-May 1964.

On 1 October 1957, the 8th Fighter-Bomber Group inactivated, with the flying squadrons then assigned directly to the wing. Less than a year later, on 1 July 1958, the Air Force redesignated the wing as the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing. During its tenure at Itazuke, the wing flew several different aircraft, including the F-86 Sabre, F-100 Super Sabre, F-102 Delta Dagger, and F-105 Thunderchief. All of the wing's components except the headquarters inactivated on 18 June 1964, and by 10 July the wing moved without personnel or equipment to George Air Force Base, California. Here the 8th absorbed the assets of the 32nd Tactical Fighter Wing. In the transfer, the wing gained all new personnel and units: the 431st, 433rd, and 497th Tactical Fighter Squadrons.

For the next year and a half, the wing trained at George in the F-4C Phantom II and participated in various exercises and inspections before deploying to Thailand in December 1965 to commence combat operations, including bombardment, ground support, air defense, interdiction, and armed reconnaissance.

In early Dec 1965, the 8th TFW moved to Ubon Airfield, Thailand. Once in Thailand, the wing began combat operations in Vietnam including bombardment, ground support, air defense, interdiction, and armed reconnaissance. The wing downed more enemy aircraft (38.5) during the war in Southeast Asia than any other wing. On 2 Jan 1967, the wing shot down seven enemy aircraft in 15 minutes as part of Operation BOLO. In May 1968, the wing was the first to employ laser-guided bombs in combat. In addition to the F-4, the wing also flew AC-130 and AC-123 and B-57. The aggressiveness and teamwork of the wing's pilots inspired then wing commander, Col. Robin Olds, to nickname the wing "The Wolf Pack." This nickname remains and has become synonymous with the 8th FW.

After North Vietnam invaded the Republic of Vietnam in Mar 1972, the 8th Wing was augmented by additional F-4 units. To make room for these forces, the B-57 squadron moved to the Philippines. The wing continued combat in Vietnam until mid-Jan 1973, in Laos until 22 Feb 1973, and in Cambodia until 15 Aug 1973. The last scheduled F-4 training flight occurred on 16 Jul 1974, and on 16 Sep the wing moved without personnel or equipment to Kunsan AB, South Korea, where it absorbed resources of the 3d TFW. The 8th became responsible for air defense of South Korea. Again the wing flew the F-4 Phantom, providing air defense over South Korea. Following the "tree-cutting incident," an August 1976 border confrontation involving the murder of two U.S. Army officers by North Koreans, tensions rose between North and South Korea. In response, the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing was placed on heightened alert and the 12th and 67th Tactical Fighter Squadrons from Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, temporarily joined the wing at Kunsan, bringing the strength of the 8 TFW to four squadrons of F-4 fighters. In September the tensions eased and the two augmenting squadrons returned to Kadena.

On 1 October 1978, the wing gained a third flying unit, the 497th Tactical Fighter Squadron, based at Taegu Air Base, South Korea. Operations continued unchanged for the next few years, until the wing transitioned from the F-4 to the newer F-16. The Wolf Pack's transition from the F-4 to the F-16 began with the arrival of the wing's first F-16 on 29 May 1981. The wing's first F-16 sortie was flown the following 18 September and, by 19 July 1982, the conversion of the 35th and 80th Fighter squadrons was complete as the last F-4 departed Kunsan. This aircraft conversion made the 8th the first active-duty overseas F-16 wing.

For the next ten years the wing used the F-16 to maintain combat readiness for the defense of Korea. While the overall mission remained unchanged, the wing reorganized on 3 February 1992. The wing became the 8th Fighter Wing. Further, the wing adopted a new organizational structure. Under the former tri-deputy system, the wing commander had three deputy commanders, one each for operations, maintenance, and resources. As well, the squadrons were assigned directly to the wing. In 1992, the wing adopted a multi-group structure. This reorganization re-activated the 8th Operations Group and assigned it and the 8th Logistics, Support, and Medical Groups directly to the wing. The squadrons were then assigned to their functionally aligned groups.

The 8th Fighter Wing entered a new era in November 2000. On 17 November, the 35th Fighter Squadron received its first Block 40 F-16s. The new aircraft carried Low-Altitude Navigation & Targeting Infrared for Night (LANTIRN) pods. The 35th completed its conversion in February 2001. The combination of LANTIRN and night-vision goggles has allowed the Wolf Pack to take the fight into the night.



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Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 28 Sep 2010

Updated: 5 Mar 2014

#### 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 history. *8<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing, Kunsan AB, Korea. 1976-1977.*