

58 SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING



MISSION

58 Special Operations Wing (58 SOW) serves as the premier training site for Air Force special operations and combat search and rescue aircrews. The wing provides undergraduate, graduate and refresher aircrew training for special operations, rescue, missile site support and distinguished visitor airlift helicopter, fixed-wing, and tilt-rotor operations.

The 58 SOW employs more than 1,800 personnel and trains over 2,000 students a year. The wing operates eight different weapon systems: UH-1H, UH-1N, HH-60G, MH-53J, HC-130P/N, MC-130P, MC-130H, and CV-22 totaling more than 60 assigned aircraft. The wing teaches more than 100 courses in 18 different crew positions including pilot, navigator, electronic warfare officer, flight engineer, communications system operator, loadmaster and aerial gunner. Additionally, the wing responds to worldwide contingencies and provides search and rescue support to the local community.

LINEAGE

58 Fighter-Bomber Wing, established, 25 Jun 1952

Activated, 10 Jul 1952

Inactivated, 1 Jul 1958

Redesignated 58 Tactical Fighter Training Wing, 22 Aug 1969

Activated, 15 Oct 1969

Redesignated 58 Tactical Training Wing, 1 Apr 1977

Redesignated 58 Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 1991

Redesignated 58 Special Operations Wing, 1 Apr 1994

STATIONS

Itazuke AB, Japan, 10 Jul 1952

Taegu AB, South Korea, Aug 1952

Osan-Ni (later, Osan) AB, South Korea, 15 Mar 1955-1 Jul 1958

Luke AFB, Arizona, 15 Oct 1969

Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, 1 Apr 1994

ASSIGNMENTS

Tactical Air Command, 10 Jul 1952

Far East Air Forces, 1 Jan 1957

314 Air Division, 1 Jan 1957-1 Jul 1958

Twelfth Air Force, 15 Oct 1969

Tactical Training, Luke, 1 Apr 1977

832 Air Division, 1 Dec 1980

Twelfth Air Force, 1 Oct 1991

Nineteenth Air Force, 1 Jul 1993

ATTACHMENTS

Fifth Air Force, 10 Jul 1952-28 Feb 1955

Korean Air Division, Provisional, 314, 1-14 Mar 1955

314 Air Division, 15 Mar 1955-31 Dec 1956

WEAPON SYSTEMS

A-7, 1969-1971

C-12, 1999-2002

CV-22

F-104, 1969-1983

F-15, 1974-1979, 1991-1994

F-100, 1969-1971

F-16, 1982-1994

F-4, 1971-1982

F-5, 1969-1979

F-84, 1952-1954

F-86, 1954-1958

HC-130, 1994-1997, 2000

HH-60, 1994

MC-130, 1994

MH-53, 1994

TH-53, 1994-2001

UH-1, 1994

COMMANDERS

Col James B. Buck, 10 Jul 1952

Col Victor E. Warford, 22 Jul 1952
Col Joseph Davis Jr., 1 Jul 1953
Col Arthur C. Agan Jr., 8 Aug 1953
Col Earl E. Bates Jr., c. Jul 1954
Col Neil A. Newman, 15 Mar 1955
Col Richard T. Carlisle, 2 Dec 1955
Col Clifford Nash, 13 Jun 1956
Col Wayne E. Rhynard, 1 Aug 1956
Col Horace A. Hanes, 1957
Col Ralph L. Merritt Jr., 1 Jun-1 Jul 1958
Col John J. Burns, 15 Oct 1969
Col John S. Clarke Jr., 26 Jun 1970
Brig Gen Albert L. Melton, 31 Aug 1972
Brig Gen Fred A. Haeffner, 15 Aug 1974
Col John F. O'Donnell, 1 Apr 1977
Col James P. Coyne, 10 Jun 1977
Col Edward Levell Jr., 4 Aug 1977
Col Peter T. Kempf, 27 Mar 1978
Col Alan P. Lurie, 29 Aug 1979
Col Malcolm F. Bolton, 5 Jun 1981
Col James F. Record, 23 May 1983
Col James M. Johnston III, 5 May 1984
Col Ralph T. Browning, 18 Sep 1985
Col Walter T. West, 16 Jul 1987
Col William F. Looke, 20 Apr 1988
Col William S. Hinton Jr., 7 Sep 1989
Col Steven R. Polk, 2 Jul 1991
Brig Gen Ralph T. Browning, 1 Oct 1991
Brig Gen Patrick K. Gamble, 21 Aug 1992
Brig Gen Stephen B. Plummer, 24 Jun 1993
Col Richard T. Jeffreys, 1 Apr 1994
Col Michael N. Farage, 30 Aug 1994
Col John H. Folkerts, 14 Feb 1997
Col Michael F. Planert, 13 Jul 1999
Col Michael B. Byers, 14 May 2001
Col Eric E. Fiel, 25 Apr 2003
Col Thomas J. Trask, 23 May 2005
Col Morris E. Hasse, 30 Jan 2007
Col Eric A. Kivi, 18 Jun 2008
Col James L. Cardoso, 15 July 2010

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Korea

Korea Summer-Fall, 1952

Third Korean Winter

Korea Summer, 1953

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

[15 Oct 1969]-31 Dec 1969

1 Jan 1971-31 Dec 1972

1 Jan 1975-31 Dec 1976

1 Jan 1978-31 Dec 1979

1 Aug 1982-31 May 1984

1 Jun 1986-31 May 1988

1 Apr 1992-31 Mar 1994

1 Jan 1993-30 Jun 1994

1 Jul 1994-31 Dec 1995

1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998

1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 2000

1 Jul 2001-30 Jun 2002

1 Jul 2002-30 Jun 2003

1 Jul 03 - 30 Jun 04

1 Jul 04 - 30 Jun 05

1 Jul 2006-30 Jul 2007

1 Jul 2007-30 Jun 2008

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation

10 Jul 1952-31 Mar 1953

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 58 Fighter Group prior to 10 Jul 1952

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Bismarck Archipelago

New Guinea

Leyte

Luzon

Southern Philippines
Western Pacific
Ryukyus
Air Offensive, Japan
China Offensive

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation: Philippines, 26 Dec 1944
Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

EMBLEM





Azure, on clouds in base a representation of the Greek mythological goddess Artemis with quiver and bow, in her chariot drawn by the two deer, all or. First approved on 10 August 1942 for use by the 58 Fighter Group. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The primary colors of the shield, ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow, are the colors of the United States Air Force. The goddess Diana or Artemis, the daughter of Jupiter, was the Olympian goddess of the hunt. She always returned successfully from her ventures. The goddess is symbolic of the functions of the wing. (Approved, 18 Nov 1952)

MOTTO

NON REVERTAR INULTUS—I Will Not Return Unavenged

OPERATIONS

In 1952 and early 1953, flew interdiction and close air support missions in Korea, but also attacked special strategic targets such as military schools, dams, and port facilities. After the armistice, provided air defense for South Korea.

From 15 Mar 1953 to 8 Nov 1954, service-tested a "reinforced" wing organization, exercising direct control of the tactical components of the attached wings. Conducted training of US, German Air Force, and other friendly foreign nation aircrew and support personnel.

Participated in numerous operations and tactical exercises and operated Luke AFB until Apr 1977. Managed Tactical Air Command's Central Instructor School, 1971-1981.

Began in early 1983 tactical fighter training for US and foreign aircrews in the F-16.

Deployed support personnel to Europe to augment USAFE units during the war against Iraq in 1991.

In the fall of 1991, its primary mission expanded to include tactical training in the F-15E all-weather strike fighter.

By 1994, the wing had trained pilots and support personnel from the Netherlands, South Korea,

Turkey, Pakistan, the Republic of Singapore, Norway, Greece, Egypt, Indonesia, and Venezuela.

In 1994, the wing's mission changed from the training of USAF and Allied fighter pilots to the training of USAF helicopter air crews.

Also trained crews in special operations aircraft, including helicopters and modified C-130s.

Performed pararescue training and search and rescue missions. Trained for missile site support and airlift for distinguished visitors. Deployed personnel worldwide for contingency and combat operations.

One squadron trained at Fort Rucker, AL, using U.S. Army aircraft.

On 11 Sep 2001, after terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners and crashed three of them into buildings in New York and Washington, the wing airlifted a federal task force to Pennsylvania to investigate the crash site of the fourth airliner.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

Created: 19 Feb 2025

Updated:

Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.