

523 FIGHTER SQUADRON



MISSION

The 523 Fighter Squadron maintains continuous ability to rapidly deploy to support unified commanders world-wide with day or night F-16 combat operations. The Squadron decisively employs the F-16C+ throughout the entire mission spectrum including interdiction, strategic attack, counter air, close air support, forward air control-airborne, killer scout, and combat search and rescue. The 523 FS delivers rapid global combat power through employment of unconventional and precision guided air-to-ground munitions.

The 523 is a mobile, self-contained, air combat unit of intelligence/operations specialists and fighter pilots. The Crusaders' mission is to rapidly deploy anywhere in the world and then employ and maintain the multi-role F-16C/D throughout a number of combat situations. These situations include: air-to-air combat, close air support of friendly forces engaged in battle, and interdiction/strike of strategic targets deep into enemy territory. The 523 maintains the capacity to perform these missions in any weather, day or night, using a variety of air-to-air and air-to-surface weaponry. The Crusaders train daily over New Mexico and deploy regularly throughout the U.S. and the world on scheduled deployments/contingencies.

LINEAGE¹

¹ 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.

Bergstrom Air Force Base, Austin, TX. @1950

27 Fighter Escort Wing, "Just Famous." Taylor Made Armed Forces Publications. Dallas, TX. @1952

27 Strategic Fighter Wing, Bergstrom AFB, TX. Army and Navy Publishing Co., Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1955.

17th Bombardment Squadron (Light) constituted, 22 Dec 1939
Activated, 1 Feb 1940
Redesignated 523d Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 23 Aug 1943
Redesignated 523d Fighter Squadron, Single-Engine, 30 May 1944
Inactivated, 7 Nov 1945
Activated, 20 Aug 1946
Redesignated 523d Fighter Squadron, Two-Engine, on 22 Jul 1947
Redesignated 523d Fighter Squadron, Jet, 1 Dec 1949
Redesignated 523d Fighter-Escort Squadron, 1 Feb 1950
Redesignated 523d Strategic Fighter Squadron, 20 Jan 1953
Redesignated 523d Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 1 Jul 1957
Redesignated 523d Tactical Fighter Squadron, 1 Jul 1958
Redesignated 523d Fighter Squadron, 1 Nov 1991
Inactivated, 30 Sep 2007

STATIONS

Barksdale Field, Louisiana, 1 Feb 1940
Hunter Field, Georgia, 7 Oct 1940–19 Oct 1941
Ft William McKinley, Luzon, 20 Nov 1941
San Fernando, Luzon, 22 Dec 1941
Cabcaban, Luzon, 24 Dec 1941 (air echelon operated from Brisbane, Australia, 24 Dec 1941
20 Feb 1942)
Limap, Luzon, 28 Dec 1941
Bataan, Luzon, 5 Jan 1942 (air echelon operated from Batchelor, Australia, 22 Feb–8 Mar 1942,
and from Brisbane, Australia, 10–25 Mar 1942)
Charters Towers, Australia, Apr–4 May 1942
Hunter Field, Georgia, 4 May 1942
Key Field, Mississippi, 14 Jul 1942
Hattiesburg, Mississippi, 11 Aug 1942
Harding Field, Louisiana, 23 Oct–17 Nov 1942
Ste-Barbe-du-Tlelat, Algeria, 26 Dec 1942
Nouvion, Algeria, 9 Jan 1943
Ras el Ma, French Morocco, 1 Apr 1943
Korba, Tunisia, 4 Jun 1943
Gela, Sicily, 18 Jul 1943
Barcelona, Sicily, 5 Sep 1943
Capaccio, Italy, 18 Sep 1943
Gaudo Airfield, Italy, 5 Nov 1943
Pomigliano, Italy, 19 Jan 1944
Castel Volturno, Italy, 10 Apr 1944

Santa Maria, Italy, 9 May 1944
Le Banca, Italy, 6 Jun 1944
Ciampino, Italy, 12 Jun 1944
Vultone, Italy, 4 Jul 1944
Serragia, Corsica, 10 Jul 1944
Le Luc, France, 25 Aug 1944
Salon, France, 30 Aug 1944
Loyettes, France, 12 Sep 1944
Tarquinia, Italy, 2 Oct 1944
Pontedera, Italy, 3 Dec 1944
St Dizier, France, 21 Feb 1945
Toul/Ochey, France, 19 Mar 1945
Biblis, Germany, 6 Apr 1945
Sandhofen, Germany, 24 Jun 1945
Echterdingen, Germany, 15 Sep–20 Oct 1945
Camp Shanks, NY, 6–7 Nov 1945
Fritzlar, Germany, 20 Aug 1946
Bad Kissingen, Germany, 25 Jun 1947
Andrews Field, Maryland, 25 Jun 1947
Kearney AAFld (later, AFB), Nebraska, 16 Jul 1947
Bergstrom AFB, Texas, 16 Mar 1949
Cannon AFB, New Mexico, 18 Feb 1959–Nov 1965
Clark AB, Philippines, 23 Nov 1965–31 Aug 1973
Cannon AFB, New Mexico, 31 Aug 1973

DEPLOYED STATIONS

McChord AFB, Washington, 28 Mar–26 Apr and 28 Apr–18 May 1948
Taegu AB, South Korea, 5 Dec 1950–30 Jan 1951
Itazuke AB, Japan, 31 Jan–3 Jul 1951
Misawa AB, Japan, 13 Oct 1952–13 Feb 1953
Sturgate RAF Station, England, 7 May–17 Aug 1955
Incirlik AB, Turkey, 24 Feb–17 Jun 1960
England AFB, Louisiana, 29 Mar–21 Apr 1961
Chamblay AB, France, 5 Sep–20 Nov 1961
Incirlik AB, Turkey, 12 Oct 1962–15 Jan 1963
Dhahran AB, Saudi Arabia, 17 Sep–20 Nov 1963
Misawa AB, Japan, 12 Jun–4 Sep 1964 [with detachment at Kunsan AB, South Korea, 17 Jun–c.
3 Sep 1964]
Misawa AB, Japan, 22 Mar–2 May 1965 [with detachment at Kunsan AB, South Korea, 22 Mar–
2 May 1965]
Kunsan AB, South Korea, 2 May–11 Jun 1965
Misawa AB, Japan, 11–30 Jun 1965 [with detachment at Kunsan AB, South Korea, 11–22 Jun
1965]
Tainan AB, Taiwan, 12 May–27 Jul 1966

Udorn RTAFB, Thailand, 9 Apr–24 Oct 1972

ASSIGNMENTS

27th Bombardment (later, 27th Fighter-Bomber; 27th Fighter) Group, 1 Feb 1940–7 Nov 1945
27th Fighter (later, 27th Fighter-Escort) Group, 20 Aug 1946
27th Fighter-Escort (later, 27th Strategic Fighter; 27th Fighter-Bomber; 27th Tactical Fighter)
Wing, 16 Jun 1952
405th Fighter Wing, 20 Nov 1965
27th Tactical Fighter (later, 27th Fighter) Wing, 31 Aug 1973
27th Operations Group, 1 Nov 1991

ATTACHMENTS

27th Fighter-Escort Wing, 6 Aug 1951–15 Jun 1952
TUSLOG, 11 Feb–20 Jun 1960
USAFE, 1 Sep–20 Nov 1961
4135th Strategic Wing, 12 Apr–6 Jun 1962
TUSLOG, 12 Oct 1962–12 Jan 1963
39th Air Division, 9 Jun–6 Sep 1964 and 22 Mar–30 Jun 1965
432d Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 9 Apr–24 Oct 1972

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-18, 1940–1941
A-24, 1941–1942
A-20, 1941, 1942–1943
A-36, 1943–1944
P-40, 1944
P-47, 1944–1945
P-47, 1946–1947
P (later F)-51, 1947–1948
F-82, 1948–1950
F-84, 1950–1957
F-101, 1957–1958
F-100, 1959–1968
F-4, 1967–1973
F-111, 1973
F-16, 1995

COMMANDER

Capt Hugh A. Parker 1 Feb 1940
Capt Render D. Denson, Jul 1940
1st Lt Herman F. Lowery, Jul 1941
2d Lt James H. Mangen, 11 Dec 1941
1st Lt Herman F. Lowery, 16 Dec 1941
2d Lt Warren G. Stirling (commanded ground echelon, 18 Dec 1941-9 Apr 1942)

Capt Herman F. Lowery (commanded air echelon, 18 Dec 1941-31 Mar 1942)
None (not manned), 1 Apr-13 Jul 1942
Capt Charles R. Renick, 14 Jul 1942
Maj Charles F. Wilson, 11 Apr 1943
Maj Richard C. Banbury, 16 Jul 1943
Maj George W. Holmquist, 25 Aug 1943
Lt Col William R. Nevitt, 14 May 1944
Capt Cecil A. Thomas, 1 Aug 1944
Capt Leslie W. Sokay, 6 Sep 1944
Maj Robert C. Brown, 9 Sep 1944
Capt Eloy H. Trujillo, 3 Jan 1945
Maj Robert C. Brown, 4 Feb 1945
Capt George A. Olson, 19 Apr 1945
Lt Col Robert C. Brown, 6 May 1945
Capt George A. Olson, 1 Jul 1945
Lt Col Robert C. Brown, 8 Jul 1945
Maj Roy L. Bowlin Jr., 23 Sep-7 Nov 1945
Maj Paul J. Hurley, 20 Aug 1946
Maj Ralph G. Taylor Jr., 28 Nov 1946-25 Jun 1947
None (not manned), 26 Jun-15 Jul 1947
Maj Grover J. Gardner, 16 Jul 1947
Lt Col Donald J. M. Blakeslee, Mar 1948
Unkn, Aug-Oct 1948
Lt Col Donald J. M. Blakeslee, Oct 1948-1950
Lt Col William E. Bertram, Nov 1950
Lt Col Albert W. Fell, 3 Mar 1951
Maj William R. Eichelberger, 2 Dec 1954-Jan 1959
None (not manned), Jan-17 Feb 1959
Maj Woodfin M. Sullivan, 18 Feb 1959
Lt Col Ray A. Robinson Jr., Aug 1959
Maj Herbert M. Carr, 24 Apr 1960
Maj Durwood B. Russell, Jul 1960
Col Clifford H. Meier, Feb 1961
Maj David O. Williams Jr., Mar 1963
Lt Col Rufus Woody Jr., 1 Aug 1963
Lt Col Ralph E. Craycraft, Sep 1965
Col William M. Gates, Oct 1965
Maj John E. Downey, 19 Nov 1966
Lt Col Albert P. Winkleman, 4 Dec 1967
Lt Col Charles E. Goodwin, 1 Jul 1969
Lt Col William D. Baggett, 30 Nov 1970
Lt Col Gene E. Taft, 1 May 1971
Lt Col George P. Kickliter, 1 Oct 1971
Lt Col Farrell J. Sullivan, 27 Nov 1971

Lt Col Richard B. Corbin Jr., 27 Jun 1972
Lt Col Harvey J. Stewart, 31 Aug 1973
Lt Col Richard A. Jones, 11 Mar 1974
Lt Col Henry K. Mills, 16 Jun 1975
Lt Col E. O. Westback, 12 Jan 1976
Lt Col Ray D. Leach, 8 Sep 1976
Lt Col Needham B. Jones, 29 Sep 1978
Lt Col Edward L. Chase, 23 Jun 1980
Lt Col David O. Scheiding, 30 Jun 1982
Lt Col Robert S. Pahl, 29 Jun 1984
Lt Col Dean Radueg, 23 Jul 1986
Lt Col William J. Corbett III, 16 Nov 1987
Lt Col Ronald C. Casey, 4 Dec 1989
Lt Col Robert J. Rausch, 12 Apr 1991
Lt Col Marc H. Lindsley, 26 Jun 1992
Lt Col Robert B. Brewster, 21 Jun 1994
Lt Col Thomas K. Kemp, 5 May 1996
Lt Col Thomas Breen, 15 May 1998
Lt Col Robert G. Wright Jr., 12 May 2000
Lt Col John Pearson, 31 May 2002

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Philippine Islands
East Indies
Sicily
Naples-Foggia
Anzio
Rome-Arno
Northern France
Southern France
North Apennines
Rhineland
Central Europe
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Korea
CCF Intervention
First UN Counteroffensive
CCF Spring Offensive

Vietnam
Vietnam Ceasefire

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Philippine Islands, 7 Dec 1941–[Apr] 1942
Philippine Islands, 8–22 Dec 1941
Philippine Islands, 6 Jan–8 Mar 1942
Italy, 10 Sep 1943
France, 4 Sep 1944
Korea, 26 Jan–21 Apr 1951

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 May 1975–31 Dec 1976
1 Jan 1981–30 Jun 1982
1 Jan 1988–31 Dec 1989
1 Jul 1992–15 Jul 1993
1 Jan 1988–31 Dec 1989
1 Jul 1992–15 Jul 1993
1 Jun 1996–31 May 1998
1 Jun 2002–31 May 2004

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation
9 Nov 1950–31 May 1951

Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation
21 Jul–15 Aug 1972

EMBLEM



17 Bombardment Squadron emblem approved, 4 Nov 1941



523 Fighter-Bomber Squadron emblem



523 Tactical Fighter Squadron emblems approved, 5 Jan 1951



523 Tactical Fighter Squadron emblem: On a Red disc edged with narrow Blue border between a White sword bendwise with blade to base in dexter and a White Crusader Cross in sinister, a Blue band bendwise fimbriated White, on which are three Yellow mullets of four points, one above and two below a White helmet affronte overall, garnished Gray. (Approved, 5 Feb 1974)

MOTTO

CRUSADERS

OPERATIONS

Constituted in the Regular Army on 22 December 1939 and assigned to the 27th Bombardment Group. Activated on 1 February 1940 at Barksdale Field, LA. Transferred on 7 October 1940 to Hunter Field, GA. Sailed from San Francisco on the U.S.A.T. President Coolidge and arrived at Manila, PI, 20 November 1941. Transferred to Nielson Field, PI, on the same day

Combat in Southwest Pacific, 8 Dec 1941–4 May 1942; ground echelon fought with infantry units in Philippine Islands, Jan–Apr 1942. Combat in MTO and ETO, 6 Jun 1943–8 May 1945.

Combat in Korea, c. 8 Dec 1950–c. 27 Jun 1951.

Maintained detachments on alert on Taiwan, Nov 1965–15 Feb 1972 and 15 Jul–31 Aug 1973.

Combat in Southeast Asia, 9 Apr–23 Oct 1972.

F-111 replacement training, 1 Nov 1976–Oct 1983.

F-111 68-0125 crashed on September 11, 1987, near Cannon AFB. The aircraft was returning to Cannon AFB with one engine shutdown. The remaining engine decelerated and the shutdown engine could not be restarted in time. The pilot was forced to eject the capsule. The crew ejected safely.

Lt Col Tom Kemp, squadron commander led the 1997 deployment to Keflavik, Iceland. The Five F-16s and sixty-seven personnel took over the commitment historically held by F-15s from various AF Bases. The deployment is the first time F-16s have been used to sit air defense alert at Keflavik. The Mission was to maintain around the clock air defense readiness as well as participating in training with USAF and NATO forces in the Icelandic theater of operations. During the deployment participated in the multinational exercise called Northern Viking. The 14 week deployment ended in October.

On 13 December 2000, an F-16C, S/N 86-0313, crashed into the Gulf of Mexico approximately 40 miles southeast of Tyndall AFB, Florida. The F-16C, assigned to the 523 Fighter Squadron, and on temporary duty to the 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron, Tyndall AFB, Florida, was part of a routine four-ship Dissimilar Air Combat Training sortie. The pilot ejected safely and sustained only minor injuries. The aircraft experienced catastrophic engine failure with an associated engine fire.



523 Tactical Fighter Squadron F-100, @1960



523 Fighter Squadron F-16