

301 FIGHTER WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

301 Fighter Wing established, 5 Oct 1944
Activated, 15 Oct 1944
Inactivated, 20 Jan 1949
Redesignated 301 Tactical Fighter Wing, 19 May 1972
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Jul 1972
Redesignated 301 Fighter Wing, 1 Feb 1992

STATIONS

Seymour Johnson Field, NC, 15 Oct 1944
Mitchel Field, NY, 1 Nov 1944-30 May 1945
Ie Shima, Ryukyus, 19 May 1945 (air echelon) and 31 Jul 1945 (ground echelon)
Kadena, Okinawa, 29 Nov 1945
Yontan, Okinawa, 1 Apr 1946
Bisha Gawa, Okinawa, Nov 1946
Naha AAB (later, AB), Okinawa, 12 May 1947-20 Jan 1949
Carswell AFB (later, ARS), TX, 1 Jul 1972
NAS JRB Fort Worth, TX

ASSIGNMENTS

First Air Force (attached to I Fighter Command), 15 Oct 1944
Twentieth Air Force, 21 May 1945
Eighth Air Force, 15 Aug 1945
1 Air Division, 7 Jun 1946
Thirteenth Air Force, 1 Dec 1948-20 Jan 1949

Central Air Force Reserve Region, 1 Jul 1972
Tenth Air Force, 8 Oct 1976

ATTACHMENTS

Army Air Forces, Pacific Ocean Area, 21 May 1945
Seventh Air Force, 1 Jun-14 Aug 1945

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-47, 1944-1948
P-61, 1945-1948
P-80, 1947-1948
F-105, 1972-1982
F-4, 1981-1991
F-16, 1990

COMMANDERS

Lt Col George H. Hollingsworth, 15 Oct 1944
Col Thayer S. Olds, 19 Oct 1944
Brig Gen Francis H. Griswold, 23 Aug 1945
Col Emmett F. Yost, 11 Sep 1945
Col Hanlon H. Van Auken, 1 Nov 1945
Col Mark E. Bradley Jr., 4 Feb 1946
Col Loring F. Stetson Jr., 30 Oct 1946
Brig Gen Robert C. Oliver, 1 Jan 1947
Col Loring F. Stetson Jr., 24 Mar 1947
Col Joseph E. Barzynski Jr., 21 Apr 1947
Brig Gen Hugo P. Rush, 1 May 1947-18 Aug 1948
none (not manned), 19 Aug 1948-20 Jan 1949
None (not manned), 1 Jul-31 Dec 1972
Brig Gen John E. Taylor Jr., 1 Jan 1973
Brig Gen Roger P. Scheer, 15 May 1978
Col Daly R. Bales Jr., 1 Apr 1983
Brig Gen Ralph D. Erwin, 16 May 1983
Brig Gen William H. Lawson, 30 Jun 1987
Brig Gen Bob L. Efferson, 15 Jul 1994
Brig Gen Neil Rohan
Col Kevin E. Pottinger, 8 Jul 2006
Col Richard W. Scobee, 4 Apr 2009
Col Mitchell A. Hanson, 3 Jun 2018
Colonel Allen E. Duckworth, Apr 2020

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Ryukyus

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

14 May 1992-13 May 1994

30 Jun 1995-1 Jul 1997

EMBLEM



Azure, two lightning bolts in saltire Or between in pale an Indian spear, head Argent, shaft of the second and feathered Proper, overall an annulet Argent, winged of the second and encircling a pomme, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "301 FIGHTER WING" in Blue letters. Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The two lightning bolts symbolize speed, while their position in saltire indicates strength. The Indian spear alludes to the unit's location as well as the "Thunder Chief" aircraft. The pair of wings, a flight symbol in conjunction with the white ring, suggests the Wing's striking ability. The disc symbolizes an island and represents the unit's World War II service in the Pacific Theater.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Trained to escort heavy bombers, 1944-1945. From Ryukyus Islands in the western Pacific Ocean, air echelon commenced combat operations in Jun 1945. Escorted B-29 and B-24

bombers and attacked shipping and Japanese lines of communication. Provided air defense of Ryukyus in the immediate post-war period.

Since 1972, trained in the Reserve for tactical air missions, including counter-air, interdiction, and close air support.

Participated in exercises, both within the United States and abroad. Deployed a security police flight to southwest Asia during Operation Desert Storm, Jan-Mar 1991.

Supported Operation Deny Flight in the Balkans in the mid-1990s.

The 301 has a long and rich tradition of leadership in the reserve component of the Air Force. It was the first such fighter unit to deploy to overseas bases for NATO exercises when it deployed to Norvenich Air Base, Germany in August 1977, and Cigli Air Base, Turkey in October 1982. A deployment to Sivrihisar Air Base, Turkey under bare base conditions in May 1985 was another AFRC first. The unit also deployed to Roosevelt Roads Naval Air Station in Puerto Rico, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada and Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. Many wing members were recalled to active duty during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, serving at locations throughout Southwest Asia, Germany, England, and the United States. During October and November of 1994, the wing deployed F-16s and crews to Darwin, Australia as the first Air Force Reserve fighter wing to participate in an Aces North exercise. Another major highlight was the six-week deployment of F-16s and crews during May and June 1997 to Karup Air Station, Denmark. The wing joined forces with three US Air Force units and foreign militaries in the Central Enterprise exercise.

The post-Cold War era has been characterized by an enormous increase in contingency operations. The 301 has participated in five of these, flying approximately 1,000 combat sorties over Bosnia, northern Iraq, and southern Iraq. These included Operation Deny Flight (November – December 1993), Operation Decisive Edge (December 1995 – January 1996), Operation Southern Watch (May 1998), and Operation Northern Watch (June 1999 and again in June 2000). 457th Fighter Squadron pilots, while flying in support of Operation Northern Watch, made history for the squadron when they dropped live laser guided bombs in a real-world combat environment. Numerous Iraqi military targets were destroyed using the precision weapons capability of the hometown-built and flown F-16.

The 301 Fighter Wing deployed to Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, for two weeks of training. Arriving May 21 with eight F-16 and more than 170 support personnel, the wing will participate in dissimilar missions with F-15 aircraft from the 3rd Wing at Elmendorf AFB. These Texas reservists, who are performing their annual training requirement, are engaging in combat flight missions and testing their capabilities over the picturesque Alaskan terrain. Officials chose Alaska for its cooler climate and flying area which provides F-16 pilots larger volumes of airspace to fly at supersonic speeds and perform more realistic air-to-air training. "This has been a great experience so far, not only for our pilots, but for everyone involved," said Lt. Col.

Bruce Cox, 301 FW detachment commander. "This deployment provides many opportunities for us which we couldn't do at our home station. The airspace issue and supersonic capability are two major areas, but we'll also interact with different aircraft systems and pilots, strengthening our overall performance capability." A few problems have cropped up during this visit, however, officials were quick to applaud the maintenance teams who have "really stepped up and adjusted to difficult situations, keeping everything running smoothly and on time." This is not the first trip to Alaska for the Texas team. The wing deployed to Elmendorf in August 2001 and, apparently liked it so much, wanted to comeback. The visit allows everyone to get great job experience as well as enjoy the Alaskan countryside and outdoor activities. "Most importantly, this mission has allowed us to escape the Texas heat and enjoy the cool and friendly climate shared in Alaska," Colonel Cox said. "Everyone has made us feel right at home – a great example of Air Force teamwork and camaraderie." 2005

The 301 Fighter Wing members can proudly add another ribbon or device to their current awards and decorations rack. On January 11, 2005, the Air Force Reserve Command announced the recipients of the 2004 Air Force Organizational Excellence Award (AFOEA) and Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA). The 301 FW was named 2004 Outstanding Unit for AFRC. "I am very pleased (with the announcement)," said Lt. Col. Patrick Walsh, 301 Mission Support Squadron commander. "A lot of great work was accomplished by all of the units during the last two years." This is the fourth time the wing has been honored with this prestigious recognition. The previous award dates included May 1992, June 1995 and October 2000. Colonel Walsh, who entered the submission for the period of October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2004, noted the wing supported every major activity and operation during this time period.

Some contingencies included Operations SOUTHERN WATCH, JOINT FORGE, NOBLE EAGLE, and IRAQI FREEDOM. During the support of these operations, wing personnel have been called upon to deploy worldwide to include Southwest Asia, Southeast Asia, Europe and the United States. Members of the 810th Civil Engineering Flight also received the AFOUA for the same time period. Their accomplishments spanned across many of the same contingencies. The formal presentation of the award is currently being organized and the announcement will be forthcoming. Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth personnel and volunteers responded August 31 in support of more than 220 displaced individuals following the destruction by Hurricane Katrina to the Gulf Coast region.

The 24-hour period of coordinated efforts, among this installation's Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps, saw the activation of the National Disaster Medical System. Federal Emergency Management Agency, Veterans Affairs and Fort Worth fire, police and ambulance services assembled here to provide medical assistance and counseling support to those who were being flown in by military aircraft. "This was a huge team effort by military, civilian [community], and base volunteers to support the NDMS," said Maj. Lee Jones, 301 Logistics Readiness Squadron commander. "As far as I know this is the first time the NDMS has ever been activated with one of its first locations being set up in Fort Worth. Master Sgt. Ruth Lewis, assistant noncommissioned officer in charge of 301 Fighter Wing logistics and plans, took the lead with the Navy to coordinate all Air Force medevac operations.

She performed tirelessly to ensure all actions were completed professionally and timely. Simply, she did an outstanding job." Major Jones said. The NDMS operations were set up in the

Navy's hangar 1049 where beds, tables, chairs, medical equipment, food and drinks were available during the around-the-clock operations. As the aircraft began to arrive, VA, fire fighters, paramedics, medical personnel and emergency response volunteers worked together to perform triage on patients who were dealing with everything from shock, cuts and bruises, broken bones, to one who apparently suffered a recent limb amputation. "Once the medical needs were determined, patients were transported by ambulances to local hospitals and shelters; those with critical emergency situations were airlifted by helicopters," Sergeant Lewis said. "One care-flight in particular involved someone who had not had dialysis for more than a week." According to officials, the medical evacuees that arrived on base were distraught and not talkative.

There were many elderly and mothers of newborns or young children who got out with the clothes on their backs or with their few possessions carried simply in their hands. In connection with the medivac operations, the Navy Emergency Operations Center also worked with the 301 FW to send five 73rd Aerial Port Squadron members to Navy New Orleans, La., for five days temporary duty to help load equipment and supplies, and transport evacuees to various locations. Some base volunteers also gave of their time during the relief effort by working with downtown agencies and shelters. Many evacuees came to Fort Worth by bus, traveling more than 18 hours. According to the volunteers, most evacuees seemed grateful for the outpouring of support; others were tired, while some were understandably frustrated. One individual in particular, when coming off the bus shouted, "God Bless Texas!" The 301 FW is continuing to respond to relief efforts. Currently, the 73rd APS has another contingent in the New Orleans area, some volunteering for a second time 2005

Maintainers assigned to the 44th Fighter Group at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., attended an open forum at the base Aug. 7 designed to answer questions about the future of the unit. The Air Force announced in July 2010 that Holloman's F-22 fleet is moving to Tyndall AFB, Fla. The move is scheduled to begin in January 2013. The 44th FG currently flies and maintains the F-22s under a total force integration relationship with the active-duty 49th Wing. With the move of the F-22s, the 49th will be transitioning to an F-16 training mission. Since it stood up in April 2010, the 44th has grown from a group of 10 Airmen to about 200 people assigned to six squadrons. Reservists who are in positions that will be moving have the option of going to Tyndall or staying at Holloman. Lt. Col. Scott Crogg, group commander, said the maintainers who plan on staying at Holloman face a lot of uncertainty. "Uncertainty is tough," Crogg said. "When one door closes, another one opens. ... but it's hell in the hallway."

For now, the maintainers are waiting in the hallway for another door to open. Two F-16 training squadrons from Luke AFB, Ariz., will move to Holloman, said Brig. Gen. Ronald Miller, 301 Fighter Wing commander. For administrative purposes, the 44th FG is attached to the 301 at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas. Miller said it may be possible for the maintainers to transition to the new mission at Holloman, but no decisions have been made yet. "The Reserve command has a history of change," said Miller, who, in 20 years as a Reservist, has served in two units that shut down and one unit that took on a new mission. "We are able to change, evolve and keep plugging along. As we are entering into a period of uncertainty, there will be change." Miller assured the Reservists, who packed the base theater for the forum, the Air Force Reserve Command leadership is advocating for the unit. "We see

the value and experience Reservists bring to the fight,” Miller said. “We also see the value in cost that we can save the Air Force. The Reserve unit works at one-third of the cost (in comparison to active duty). AFRC leadership is fully engaged in taking care of our Airmen.” Both Miller and Crogg conveyed the same message: “There are no promises or guarantees” for Reserve maintainers. There has been no “yes” or “no” given in response to proposals of continuing the “best total force integration in the Air Force” and allowing Reservists to continue with the new mission at Holloman, Crogg said.

The commander of the 49th WG has been committed to TFI and continues to fight to keep the Reservists there, he said. In the meantime, Reservists will continue waiting in the hallway for another door to open. Crogg said he anticipates an announcement to be made sometime next year. Even though uncertainty looms, both leaders pledged to provide Reservists with the tools they need to transition with the new mission or to transition into other jobs. 2011

Last of ‘New’ F-16s Arrives at 301 Fighter Wing The last of nine F-16 Fighting Falcons arrived at its new home with the 301 Fighter Wing at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, Oct. 8. The nine aircraft replaced eight older F-16s that were transferred to the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group, commonly referred to as the “Boneyard,” at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. They came to Fort Worth from the Air National Guard’s 177th Fighter Wing in Atlantic City, N.J. The transfer began with the arrival of the first F-16 July 31. “These moves help us keep our Air Force’s critical F-16 capability here in Fort Worth deep into the next decade,” said Brig. Gen. Ronald “Bruce” Miller, the 301 FW’s former commander. The jets arrived with about 10 percent fewer flying hours per airframe than the aircraft they replaced. “The aircraft we received have an average of 5,700 flying hours; the aircraft that we sent to AMARG averaged almost 6,300 flying hours,” said Chief Master Sgt. Scott Jongewaard, 301 Maintenance Group superintendent. “Swapping those nine aircraft provides the wing with more than 12 years average per aircraft,” Jongewaard said. “Our entire fleet is estimated to last now until the year 2030.” 2013

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.