

354th FIGHTER WING



MISSION

As the northernmost U.S. fighter wing in the world, the 354th Fighter Wing's A/OA-10 Thunderbolt II and F-16 provide our nation with combat ready forces capable of reaching anywhere in the Northern Hemisphere at a moment's notice.

LINEAGE

354th Fighter-Day Wing established, 26 Sep 1956
Activated, 19 Nov 1956
Redesignated 354th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Jul 1958
Redesignated 354th Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 1991
Inactivated, 31 Mar 1993
Activated, 20 Aug 1993

STATIONS

Myrtle Beach AFB, SC, 19 Nov 1956–2 Jul 1968
Kunsan AB, South Korea, 2 Jul 1968–14 Jun 1970
Myrtle Beach AFB, SC, 15 Jun 1970–31 Mar 1993
Eielson AFB AK, 20 Aug 1993

ASSIGNMENTS

Ninth Air Force, 19 Nov 1956
Twelfth Air Force, 1 Jul 1960
Ninth Air Force, 1 Jan 1962
833rd Air Division, 1 Oct 1964
Fifth Air Force, 5 Jul 1968

Ninth Air Force, 15 Jun 1970–31 Mar 1993
Eleventh Air Force, 20 Aug 1993

ATTACHMENTS

4th Tactical Fighter Wing, 5–24 Jul 1968

***Detachment 1, HQ Fifth Air Force [Fifth Air Force ADVON], 25 Jul 1968–14 Jun 1970
HQ 354th TFW (Advanced)]***

Thirteenth Air Force

Seventh Air Force, 14 Oct 1972–18 May 1974

WEAPON SYSTEMS

RF-80, 1956–1957

F-100, 1957–1969

H-21, 1959–1960

F-4, 1969–1970

T/AT-33, 1970–1976

A-7, 1970–1978

A-10, 1977–1992

COMMANDERS

Col Francis S. Gabreski, 19 Nov 1956

Col Robert L. Petit, 13 Jul 1960

BG Gen Gilbert L. Meyers, 3 Oct 1960

Col Joseph J. Kruzal, 1 Apr 1963

Col Franklin H. Scott, 12 Jan 1964

Col Herbert E. Ross, 15 May 1965

Col Harold L. Price, 27 Jul 1965

Col Warren R. Lewis, 29 Oct 1966

Col Edwin A. Schneider, 28 Nov 1966

Col William I. Williams, 1 May 1967

Col Wallace C. Bosworth, Jr., 19 Mar 1968

Col Waring W. Wilson, 22 Apr–2 Jul 1968 (additional duty)

None (not manned), 3–4 Jul 1968

Col Donald W. Forney, 5 Jul 1968

Col Henry W. Ritter, 5 Jun 1969;

Col Maurice G. Long, 14 Jun 1969

Col Albert R. Neville, Jr., 12 Jul 1969

Col Henry L. Warren, 25 Jan 1970

Col Evan W. Rosencrans, 15 Jun 1970

Col Thomas M. Knoles III, 21 Jun 1971

Col William D. Curry, Jr., 1 May 1973

Col Michael G. Filliman, 25 Oct 1974

Col Robert H. Reed, 5 Aug 1976

Col Michael P.C. Carns, 23 Mar 1979

Col Larry K. Barton, 7 Oct 1980
Col Roger A. Sorensen, 10 Jan 1983
BG Joel H. Hall, 6 Apr 1984
Col Joseph J. Redden, 7 Jan 1986
Col Robert G. Jenkins, 12 Feb 1988
Col Ervin C. Sharpe, Jr., 23 Feb 1990
Col John R. Dallager, 28 Aug 1991
Col Richard H. McDow, 8 Jul 1992
Col James A. Moen, 22 Sep 1992–31 Mar 1993
BG Tommy F. Crawford, 9 May 1997
BG Kenneth M. DeCuir, 28 May 1999
BG Robert D. DuLaney, 4 Apr 2001
BG Jan-Marc Jouas, 3 Oct 2002
BG Marke F. Gibson, 28 Jun 2004
Col Mark D. Kelly

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

Vietnam

Vietnam Ceasefire

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia

Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Presidential Unit Citation

Southeast Asia, 10 Oct 1972–30 Apr 1973

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Oct 1962–31 Dec 1963

15 Jun 1970– 31 May 1972

1 May 1974–30 Apr 1976

11 May 1976–31 May 1977

1 Jul 1985–30 Jun 1987

1 May 1990–15 Mar 1992

11 Sep 2000–10 Sep 2002

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 354th Operations Group prior to 19 Nov 1956

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

ETO, [Dec] 1943–15 May 1944

France, 25 Aug 1944

French Croix de Guerre with Palm

1 Dec 1943–31 Dec 1944

EMBLEM

Argent between four bendlets Azure, Or, Vert and Gules a demi-horse rampant of the last in chief, and in base two swords saltirewise, White garnished Sable hilts of the second all within a diminished bordure of the third. Argent, four bendlets azure, or, vert, and gules between a demi-horse rampant of the last and two swords saltirewise proper grip and guard of the second fimbriated or. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem is significant of the unit. The Air Force colors, ultramarine blue and golden yellow, as well as the National Colors, are used in the design. The color blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations, and yellow to the sun and excellence of personnel in assigned tasks. The diagonal stripes represent the components of the Wing. They symbolize a singleness of purpose to accomplish the Wing's mission - supremacy in the air. The red Pegasus is indicative of the fleetness and swift striking power of the Wing in battle. The crossed swords represent the tenacity, aggressiveness, and singular determination of the Wing for victory in combat. They also indicate preparedness, implying the Wing is ready to accomplish the objective.(Approved, 18 Oct 1957, slightly modified, 1 Jun 1971)

MOTTO

VALOR IN COMBAT

NICKNAME

OPERATION

Replaced the 342d Fighter-Day Wing in Nov 1956. Switched from Fighter-day to Fighter-bomber training in Jul 1958. From Jul 1958 through Apr 1966, had one or more squadrons constantly deployed overseas.

During the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, part of the wing manned a provisional air division at McCoy AFB, FL. During the Dominican Republic crisis of 1965, the 354th deployed more than 400 people and 18 F-100s to Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico, and San Isidro AB, Dominican Republic. The conflict in Southeast Asia drained wing strength; one squadron moved to Japan in Nov 1965, another to Spain in Apr 1966, and another to South Vietnam in Aug 1966, leaving the wing with a single flying unit.

This last squadron moved to South Vietnam in Apr 1968. The mobilized ANG 113th TFW moved to Myrtle Beach AFB, SC, in Apr 1968, absorbing resources of the 354th. The 354th had no units and existed primarily on paper until it moved to South Korea in early Jul 1968 to replace the 4th TFW.

There, it was remanned primarily by ANG people on active duty under 4th TFW control. When the 4th TFW departed, the 354th assumed active F-100 operations. Its two ANG squadrons returned to the United States in Jun 1969, and for 10 days in South Korea the wing was again without tactical components.

Several rotational squadrons provided the needed tactical force after this brief lapse. On 14 Jun 1970, the 354th passed its resources to the 54th TFW and returned to the United States without personnel or equipment, absorbing resources of the 4554th TFW at Myrtle Beach AFB, SC. Charged with T/AT-33 combat crew training and with becoming proficient with A-7 aircraft; on 10 Oct 1972 the wing split into Advance and Rear echelons; the Advance element moved to Thailand and commenced combat operations in Southeast Asia on 16 Oct 1972.

Interdicted lines of communications to halt the flow of North Vietnamese supplies to enemy units in the South; provided close air support to ground troops; and escorted surface ship convoys up the Mekong River to Phnom Penh. Continued combat in Vietnam until mid-Jan 1973, in Laos until 22 Feb 1973, and in Cambodia until 15 Aug 1973. The split-wing status continued until 23 May 1974; during this period, tactical units rotated between Thailand and the United States.

Recombined at Myrtle Beach, the 354th continued routine A-7 operations until 1977, when it converted to A-10 aircraft.

Participated in numerous tactical exercises in both the United States and overseas, focusing primarily on training for world contingencies. Elements of this wing participated in operations in Southwest Asia, 15 Aug 1990-25 Mar 1991, inflicting heavy damage to Iraqi armor and artillery emplacements, as well as cutting off enemy supply lines.

The 354th returned home from the Gulf in March 1991 and was re-designated the 354th Fighter Wing in October of that year. Because of the impending closure of Myrtle Beach AFB, the unit was inactivated in March 1993.

Less than five months later, on Aug. 20, 1993, the 354th Fighter Wing replaced the 343rd Wing as host-unit at Eielson AFB, Alaska. Since that time, the 354th Fighter Wing has been charged with providing forces to "fight and support the fight." Wing units have deployed to participate in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and practically every other exercise and contingency the United States has been involved in. Moreover, the wing is host to Red Flag - Alaska. This exercise, usually held three times annually, allows pilots from United States military assets work together and practice combat operations over 60,000 square miles of premier range land.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 28 Sep 2010

Updated: 8 Apr 2020

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. *Myrtle Beach AFB, SC, 354 Fighter-Day Wing, 1957*. Army and Navy Publishing Co, Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1957.