

## 355<sup>th</sup> WING



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

355<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group established and activated, 12 Nov 1942  
Inactivated, 20 Nov 1946  
Redesignated, 355<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group (Air Defense), 20 Jun 1955  
Activated, 18 Aug 1955  
Inactivated, 8 Jan 1958

355<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing established and activated, 13 Apr 1962  
Organized, 8 Jul 1962  
Inactivated, 10 Dec 1970  
Activated, 1 Jul 1971  
Redesignated 355<sup>th</sup> Tactical Training Wing, 1 Sep 1979

355<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group (Air Defense), and 355<sup>th</sup> Tactical Training Wing consolidated, 31 Jan 1984  
Redesignated 355<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 1991  
Redesignated 355<sup>th</sup> Wing, 1 May 1992

#### STATIONS

Orlando AB, FL, 12 Nov 1942  
Norfolk Municipal Airport, VA, 19 Feb 1943  
Philadelphia Municipal Airport, PA, 4 Mar–16 Jun 1943  
Steeple Morden, England, 6 Jul 1943  
Gablingen, Germany, 10 Jul 1945  
Schweinfurt, Germany, 15 Apr 1946  
Mitchel Field, NY, 1 Aug–20 Nov 1946  
McGhee–Tyson Airport, TN, 18 Aug 1955–8 Jan 1958  
George AFB, CA, 8 Jul 1962

McConnell AFB, KS, 21 Jul 1964–Oct 1965  
Takhli Royal Thai AFB, Thailand, 8 Nov 1965–10 Dec 1970  
Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, 1 Jul 1971

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

AAF School of Applied Tactics, 12 Nov 1942  
I Fighter Command, 18 Feb 1943  
VIII Fighter Command, 6 Jul 1943  
65<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing 9 Sep 1943  
Ninth Air Force, 10 Jul 1945  
XXIX Tactical Air Command, 18 Jul 1945  
70<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, 10 Aug 1945  
64<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, 15 Apr 1946  
First Air Force, 1 Aug–20 Nov 1946  
35<sup>th</sup> Air Division (Defense), 18 Aug 1955  
58<sup>th</sup> Air Division (Defense), 1 Mar 1956–8 Jan 1958  
Tactical Air Command, 13 Apr 1962  
831<sup>st</sup> Air Division, 8 Jul 1962  
835<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 21 Jul 1964  
Thirteenth Air Force, 8 Nov 1965–10 Dec 1970  
Twelfth Air Force, 1 Jul 1971  
Ninth Air Force, 1 Jul 1976  
Tactical Training, Davis-Monthan, 1 Apr 1977  
836<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 1 Jan 1981  
Twelfth Air Force, 1 May 1992

### **ATTACHMENTS**

2<sup>nd</sup> Air Division, 8 Nov 1965–31 Mar 1966  
Seventh Air Force, 1 Apr 1966–10 Dec 1970

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

P-47D, 1942–1944  
P-51B, 1944  
P-51D  
P-51K  
F-86, 1955–1957  
F-105, 1962–1970  
EB-66, 1967–1970  
RB-66, 1965–1966  
EB-66, 1966  
F-111, 1968  
F-4, 1971  
A-7, 1971–1979  
DC-130, 1971–1976

AQM-34 (drone), 1971-1976  
CH-3, 1972-1976  
BGM-34 (drone), 1974-1975  
RC-130, 1975-1976  
A-10, 1976

## **COMMANDERS**

Unkn, 12 Nov 1942-15 Jan 1943  
Col William J. Cummings, Jr., 16 Jan 1943  
Col Everett W. Stewart, 4 Nov 1944  
LTC Claiborne H. Kinnard, Jr., 21 Feb 1945  
LTC William D. Gilchrist, 30 May 1945 (temporary), 7 Jun 1945 (permanent)  
LTC Bert W. Marshall, Jr., 14 Sep 1945 (temporary)  
LTC John L. Elder, Jr., 7 Oct 1945  
Col Carroll W. McColpin, 14 Mar-31 Jul 1946  
None (not manned), 1 Aug-20 Nov 1946  
Col William A. Lanford, 18 Aug 1955  
Col George B. Simler IV, Jul 1956-Jul 1957  
Col John R. Kullhan, Jul 1957-unkn  
None (not manned), 13 Apr-7 Jul 1962  
LTC Adrian E. Drew, 8 Jul 1962  
Col Olin E. Gilbert, 12 Jul 1962  
Col Paul E. Adams, 20 Jul 1963  
Col Edward A. McGough III, 3 Sep 1963  
Col William H. Holt, 2 Aug 1965  
Col Robert R. Scott, 4 Aug 1966  
Col John C. Giraudo, 2 Aug 1967  
Col Michael C. Horgan, 30 Jun 1968  
Col Heath Bottomly, 27 Jun 1969  
Col Clarence E. Anderson, Jr., 22 Jun-10 Dec 1970  
Col John F. Barnes, 1 Jul 1971  
Col Fred A. Haeffner, 23 Aug 1972  
Col William J. Hosmer, 19 Jul 1974  
Col Alonzo L. Ferguson, 30 Jan 1976  
Brig Gen William D. Curry, Jr., 16 Aug 1976  
Col Alonzo L. Ferguson, 1 Apr 1977  
Col Ralph E. Adams, 11 Jul 1977  
Col Michael J. Dugan, 1 Feb 1979  
Col Arthur J. Bergman, 27 May 1980  
Col Rodney B. Beckman, 18 Jun 1980  
Col Paul K. Robinson, Jr., 18 Jun 1982  
Col Hal P. Henning, 11 Apr 1984  
Col Eben D. Jones, 17 Jan 1986  
Col Timothy F. McConnell, 8 Feb 1988

Col Michael C. Short, 11 Aug 1988  
Col Joe Degrande, Jr., 9 Jan 1990  
BG Eugene D. Santarelli, 1 Apr 1992  
BG Lansford E. Trapp Jr., 9 Sep 1993  
BG Roger R. Radcliff, 15 Aug 1994  
Col Barry W. Barksdale, 25 Sep 1995  
Col John D. W. Corley, 30 Jun 1997  
Col Bobby J. Wilkes, 15 May 1999  
Col Paul G. Schafer, 29 Jun 2001  
Col Lawrence A. Stutzriem, 28 Feb 2003  
Col Michael W. Spencer, 29 Jul 2004

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

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/Counteroffensive

Vietnam Summer-Fall, 1969

Vietnam Winter-Spring, 1970

Sanctuary Counteroffensive

Southwest Monsoon

Commando Hunt V

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia

Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

**Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation

Germany, 5 Apr 1944

Presidential Unit Citations (Vietnam)

1 Jan–10 Oct 1966

11–12 Aug and 24–28 Oct 1967

12 Apr 1968–30 Apr 1969

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device

12 Oct 1966–11 Apr 1967

12 Apr 1967–11 Apr 1968

1 Jul 1969–24 Nov 1970

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1956–30 Jun 1957

1 Jul 1971–1 Jun 1973

1 Oct 1976–31 May 1978

1 Jun 1995–31 May 1997

1 Jun 1998–31 May 2000

1 Jun 2002–31 May 2004

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

22 Apr 1966–10 Dec 1970

**EMBLEM**



Azure, on a pile issuant from sinister throughout Or, flames of fire proper charged with a dagger

fesswise point to dexter of the second, all within a diminished bordure of the last. (Approved, 16 Mar 1943; and in slightly altered format, Jul 1962)

### **MOTTO**

OUR MIGHT ALWAYS

### **NICKNAME**

Steeple Morden Strafery

### **OPERATIONS**

Prepared for combat with P-47s, 1942-1943.

Sailed on Queen Elizabeth 1 Jul. 1943, arriving in Clyde 6 Jul 1943.

Served primarily as escort for bombers. Also flew fighter sweeps, area patrols, and bombing missions, striking such targets as air parks, locomotives, bridges, radio stations, and armored cars. On 5 Apr 1944, shortly after converting from P-47s to P-51s, the group successfully bombed and strafed German airdromes during a snow squall, a mission for which the group was awarded a DUC. Continued operations until 25 Apr 1945 and remained in the theater after the war for duty with United States Air Forces in Europe. Moved to Germany in Jul 1945 as part of the army of occupation.

Transferred, without personnel and equipment, to the US on 1 Aug 1946 and inactivated on 20 Nov.

Assigned to Air Defense Command, 1955-1957, and equipped with F-86 aircraft. Provided fighter defense for the eastern part of the United States. Trained in tactical fighter operations, Jul 1962-Nov 1965 and deployed tactical squadrons overseas as required, primarily to combat duty in Southeast Asia.

Moved to Thailand in Nov 1965 and performed combat in Southeast Asia, 8 Nov 1965-6 Oct 1970, including air-to-air combat, strike missions, armed reconnaissance, close air support and electronic warfare. Primarily operated over Laos and North Vietnam, attacking strategic transportation centers and lines of communication connecting Hanoi with the industrial centers of southeast China.

Had operational control of an F-111 detachment of the 428<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Squadron, 17 Mar-19 Nov 1968. Began phasing down for inactivation on 7 Oct 1970. Final aircraft departed 10 Nov, and wing inactivated in place on 10 Dec.

Replaced the 4453d Combat Crew Training Wing at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, in Jul 1971. That wing and the 355th shared commanders and staff through 30 Sep 1971 and built up the 355th as an A-7D unit while phasing down the 4453<sup>rd</sup> as a F-4C unit. Ended F-4 training in mid-Oct 1971.

Began training with A-7Ds in a close air support role in Jul 1971. Conducted tactical drone reconnaissance operations, Jul 1971–Jun 1976. Became combat ready with A-7s on 22 Aug 1972. Participated in numerous tactical exercises in the United States and overseas. Trained A-7 pilots for other USAF units. Maintained an A-7 detachment at Howard AFB, Canal Zone, 15 Nov 1972–1 Feb 1974.

Augmented an advanced echelon of the 354 TFW at Korat RTAFB, Thailand, Oct 1972– Jul 1973 and Dec 1973–May 1974.

Began preparations early in 1975 for conversion to A-10s and received first of these close air support aircraft in Mar 1976.

Provided A-10 combat crew training for aircrew personnel of the United States military forces and for selected members of allied military services, 1 Sep 1979.

Served as a host wing at Davis-Monthan, 30 Sep 1976–31 Mar 1977, Sep 1979–1 Jan 1981, and May 1992 to present.

First Mission: 14 Sep 1943

Last Mission: 25 Apr 1945

Aircraft missing in action: 175

Enemy aircraft claims: 365.5 air, 502.5 ground

Selected for assignment to occupational air forces in Germany and moved to Gablingen (R-77) in early Jul 1945. Group gradually run down and 358FS absorbed by 56TRS in Dec. 1945. Moved Schweinfurt in Apr. 1946 but remnants transferred other groups during summer 1946. Group transferred less personnel and equipment to Mitchel Fd, NY. as of 1 Aug. 1946 and inactivated 20 Nov. 1946. Activated again in 1955 as F-86 wing in ADC. Later assigned TAC and became second wing equipped F-105. Took part in Vietnam war flying F-105s from Thailand.

The 355<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing had a very limited association with the F-4. The wing assumed control of its component units from the 4453rd CCTW on 30 Sep 1971 at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ. At that time the 4453rd CCTW/355th TFW was switching from the F-4C to the A-7D with the 58<sup>th</sup> TFW at Luke AFB, Arizona.

In Aug 1976, at Davis-Monthan AFB, the A-10 began its final operational test and evaluation hosted by the 355<sup>th</sup> TFW. In Sep 1976, the A-10 flew to England for the Farnborough Air Show, and continued on to the European Continent for a tour of key military installations. While in Europe, USAFE was able to confirm that the A-10 was fully compatible with NATO's Third Generation Aircraft Protective Shelters. It was tested in the European battle scenario, working with OV-10 FAC's, during Operation Reforger in Germany.

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Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 18 Nov 2010

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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. *58<sup>th</sup> Air Division (Defense) Wright Patterson AFB, Dayton, OH. 1957.*