

## 408<sup>th</sup> FIGHTER GROUP (AIR DEFENSE)



### MISSION

The 408th Fighter Group exercises command jurisdiction over all assigned units. It operates and maintains facilities necessary to accomplish the assigned mission by providing the highest precedence support to the air defense effort. It provides trained defense combat and support units for active air defense of the 25th NORAD Division area of responsibility.<sup>1</sup>

### LINEAGE<sup>2</sup>

408<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Dive) constituted, 23 Mar 1943

Activated, 5 Apr 1943

Redesignated 408<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber Group, Aug 1943

Disbanded, 1 Apr 1944

Reconstituted and redesignated 408<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group (Air Defense), 8 Jul 1955

Activated, 8 Apr 1956

Inactivated

### STATIONS

Key Field, MS, 5 Apr 1943

Drew Field, FL, 22 Sep 1943

Abilene AAFld, TX, 10 Nov 1943

DeRidder AAB, LA, 12 Feb 1944

Woodward AAFld, OK, 26 Mar-1Apr 1944

Klamath Falls Mun Aprt, OR, 8 Apr 1956

Kingsley Field, OR

### ASSIGNMENTS

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<sup>1</sup> *Guide to Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Oregon, 1960.* Armed Forces Directory Service. Tacoma, Washington.

<sup>2</sup> Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

Third Air Force  
Second Air Force  
Third Air Force, Feb 1944  
Air Defense Command

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

A-24  
A-26  
P-40  
P-47

## **COMMANDERS**

1<sup>st</sup> Lt Reynold H Ulick, 7 Apr 1943  
Maj John R Reynolds, 22 Jun 1943  
Maj Wyatt P Exum, 22 Sep 1943  
Lt Col Thomas Hitchcock, 26 Dec 1943  
Maj Wyatt P Exum, 1 Feb 1944  
Lt Col Harry L Galusha, 18 Mar-1 Apr 1944  
Lt Col Robert L Larson, Apr 1956  
Col Samuel Grashio  
Lt Col Raymond A. Thornton, Jul 1957  
Col Rupert C. Welch, Jul 1960<sup>3</sup>  
Col Edwin J. Wizenburger, #1963<sup>4</sup>

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

Azure, a lightning bolt, bendwise, or, between two jet-like eagles volant proper with trailing speed vapor proper. (Approved, 22 May 1957)

## **MOTTO**

DEFEND WITH VIGILANCE

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<sup>3</sup> *Guide to Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Oregon, 1960.* Armed Forces Directory Service. Tacoma, Washington.

<sup>4</sup> Unit yearbook. *25th NORAD Region. 1963.*

## **OPERATIONS**

The first commander of the 408th Fighter Group, Kingsley Field, was Colonel Samuel Grashio. In July, 1957, Lt. Col. Raymond A. Thornton assumed command when Colonel Grashio was reassigned to Paine AFB, Washington. The present base commander, Colonel Rupert C. Welch, assumed command in July, 1960, following the reassignment of Colonel Jack W. Williams to Adair Air Force Station, Corvallis, Oregon. In May, 1959, F-101B McDonnell-built "Voodoo" interceptors replaced the F-86L. These supersonic aircraft are flown by pilots of the 322nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron.



Col Rupert C. Welch