

416th FIGHTER SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

416th Night Fighter Squadron constituted, 17 Feb 1943
Activated, 20 Feb 1943
Inactivated, 9 Nov 1946
Redesignated 416th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 15 Nov 1952
Activated, 1 Jan 1953
Inactivated, 8 Feb 1958
Activated, 25 Mar 1958
Redesignated 416th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 1 Jul 1958
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1972
Redesignated 416th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, 8 Mar 1979
Activated, 15 Mar 1979
Inactivated, 15 Sep 1983
Redesignated 416th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 15 Sep 1989
Activated, 5 Oct 1989
Redesignated 416th Fighter Squadron, 1 Oct 1991

STATIONS

Orlando AB, FL, 20 Feb-26 Apr 1943
Honiley, England, 13 May 1943 (detachments at Cranfield, England, 13 May-10 Jun 1943; Usworth, England, 13 May-10 Jun 1943; Bath, England, 13 May-10 Jun 1943; Bristol, England 14 May-6 Jun 1943)
Acklington, England, 11 Jun- 4 Aug 1943
Algiers, Algeria, c.8 Aug 1943

Bone, Algeria, 17 Aug 1943
Bizerte, Tunisia, 15 Sep 1943
Catania, Sicily, 21 Sep 1943
Lecce, Italy, 27 Sep 1943
Grottaglie, Italy, 30 Sep 1943 (detachment at Rerhaia, Algeria, 27 Dec 1943-25 Jan 1944)
Pomigliano, Italy, 28 Jan 1944 (detachments at Tre Cancelli Landing Strip, Italy 14 Jun-8 Jul 1944; Tarquinia, Italy, 8 Jul-4 Sep 44; Alghero, Sicily, 14-22 Aug 44; Borgo, Corsica, 14-23 Aug 44)
Rosignano, Italy, c. 1 Sep 1944 (Det Pomigliano, Italy, 1-9 Sep 1944)
Pisa, Italy, 1 Oct 1944 (detachment at Etain, France, 4 Jan-20 Feb 1945)
Pontedera, Italy, 27 Mar 1945
Horsching, Austria, 13 Aug 1945
Schweinfurt, Germany, c. 20 Aug-9 Nov 1946
George AFB, CA, 1 Jan 1953-26 Nov 1954
Toul-Rosiere AB, France, 12 Dec 1954
Misawa AB, Japan, 25 Mar 1958-21 Jun 1964
England AFB, LA, 26 Jun 1964-17 Nov 1965
Tan Son Nhut AB, Vietnam, 16 Nov 1965
Bien Hoa AB, Vietnam, 15 Jun 1966
Phu Cat AB, Vietnam, 29 May 1967
Tuy Hoa AB, Vietnam, 28 May 1969-15 Sep 1970
England AFB, LA, 23 Sep 1970-1 Jul 1972
Holloman AFB, NM, 15 Mar 1979-1 Sep 1983
Tonopah Test Range, NV, 5 Oct 1989

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Eielson AFB, AK, c. 15-29 Sep 1953
Clark AB, Philippines, 14 Mar-21 Apr 1965
DaNang AB, Vietnam, 22 Apr-23 Jun 1965
Bien Hoa AB, Vietnam, 23 Jun-15 Jul 1965
Clark AB, Philippines, 15-18 Jul 1965

ASSIGNMENTS

AAF School of Applied Tactics Air Defense Department, 20 Feb 1943
VIII Fighter Command (attached to Royal Air Force), 11 May 1943
Twelfth Air Force, 8 Aug 1943
62nd Fighter Wing, 28 Jan 1944 (detachments attached to 6505th Fighter Control Area [Provisional], 27 Jun-4 Sep 1944; 63rd Fighter Wing, 14-23 Aug 1944, 6504th Fighter Control Area [Provisional], 1-9 Sep 1944; 6502nd Fighter Control Area [Provisional], 1-4 Sep 1944; 425th Night Fighter Squadron, 4 Jan-20 Feb 1945)
XXII Tactical Air Command, 1 Apr 1945
70th Fighter Wing, 17 Aug 1945
64th Fighter Wing
21st Fighter Bomber Group, 1 Jan 1953-8 Feb 1958

39th Air Division, 18 Jun 1960
3rd Tactical Fighter Wing, 16 Jun 1964
834th Air Division, 8 Nov 1965
3rd Tactical Fighter Wing, 16 Nov 1965
37th Tactical Fighter Wing, 15 Apr 1967
31st Tactical Fighter Wing, 28 May 1969
4403rd Tactical Fighter Wing, 28 Sep 1970-1 Jul 1972
479th Tactical Training Wing, 14 Mar 79-1 Sep 1983
37th Tactical Fighter Wing, 5 Oct 1989-1 Nov 1991
37th Operations Group, 1 Nov 1991

ATTACHMENTS

Northwest African Coastal Air Force, 8 Aug 1943
Tunis Fighter Sector, 9 Aug 1943
Bone Fighter Sector, 17 Aug-15 Sep 1943
286 Wing RAF, 28 Sep 1943
All Weather Group [Provisional], 64th Fighter Wing, 15 Aug-9 Nov 1946
Alaskan Air Command, c. 15-29 Sep 53
21st Fighter Bomber Wing, 15 Apr 1957-8 Feb 1958
39th Air Division, 16-21 Jun 1964
405th Fighter Wing, 14 Mar-21 Apr 1965
23rd Air Base Group, 22 Apr-22 Jun 1965
34th Tactical Group, 23 Jun-8 Jul 1965
6251st Tactical Fighter Wing, 8-15 Jul 1965
405th Fighter Wing, 15-18 Jul 1965
6520th Combat Support Group, c. 20 Nov 1965-15 Jun 1966
4403rd Tactical Fighter Wing, 15-27 Sep 1970

WEAPON SYSTEMS

A-20, 1943
P-70, 1943
Beaufighter, 1943-1944
Beaufighter, VI
Mosquito, 1944-1945
Mosquito XVI
A-36, 1945
A-36A
P-61, 1945-1946
P-61A
P-61B
A-26, 1946
F-51, 1953
F-86, 1953-1958
F-86F

F-84, 1958-1959
F-100: 1958, 1959-1970, 1970-1972
F-100D
F-100F
AT-38, 1980-1983
F-117A, 1989

COMMANDERS

Cpt Jack C. Davis, 20 Feb 1943
2Lt Darwin V. Brake, 25 Jun 1943
Cpt A. M. Banks, 27 Jun 1943
Maj Rulon D. Blake, 29 Apr 1944
Maj A. M. Banks, 19 Jul 1944
Cpt Carl S. Morrison, Jr., 19 Sep 1944
Cpt Joseph I. King, 2 Dec 1945
LTC James G. Thorsen, 23 Apr-1946
Unknown, 1 Jan 1953
Cpt Robert P. Smith, 1953
LTC John S. Stewart, 1953
Maj Morgan R. Beamer, Jr., 16 Feb 1954
Maj George H. Dodenhoff (USMC), 20 Jun 1955
Cpt Anthony Cvitanovich, 13 Jul 1955
Maj Carl H. Leo, 15 Nov 1955-9 Jan 1958
None (not manned) 10 Jan-8 Feb 1958
LTC Charles H. Duncan, 25 Mar 1958
Maj Richard F. Kenney, 17 Mar 1959
Maj Cregg P. Nolan, Jr., 2 Dec 1959
Maj Leslie R. Leavoy, (by 30) Jun 1962
LTC Emmett L. Hays, 27 Jul 1962
Maj Charles H. Purcell, 1 Aug 1965
LTC Richard M Mischke, 8 Mar 1966
Maj Swart H. Nelson, c. 15 Oct 1966
LTC Leighton R. Palmerton, Nov 1966
LTC Paul M. Ingram, 29 May 1967
LTC Don D. Pittman, 1 Oct 1967
LTC Rufus W. Scott, 1 May 1968
LTC Paul M. Davis, 14 Feb 1969
LTC Harry C. Delaney, 24 Sep 1969
LTC Robert K. Dundas, 1 Sep 1970
LTC Francis J. Kramer, Jr., 15 Sep 1970-1 Jul 1972
Unmanned, 15 Mar 1979
LTC Peter D. Caldarellie, 7 Apr 1980
LTC Victor C. Andrews, 11 Jul 1981
LTC Robert E. Bryan, 12 Aug-1 Sep 1983

LTC Gerald C. Carpenter, 5 Oct 1989
LTC Gregory T. Gonyea, 10 Aug 1990
LTC Michael T. Merritt, 13 May 1992

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Naples-Foggia
Anzio
Rome-Arno
Southern France
Northern Apennines
Po Valley
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Air Combat (EAME Theater)

Vietnam Defense
Vietnam Air
Vietnam Air Offensive
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II, III, and IV
Vietnam Air/Ground
Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969
Vietnam Winter-Spring 1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Southwest Monsoon

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
10-11 Apr 1944

Presidential Unit Citations
8 Jun 1966-16 Apr 1967
1 Jul-31 Dec 1968

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat V
29 May 1967-30 Jun 1968
31 Jul 1969 31 Jun 1970

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

[16 Jun] 1964-16 Jul 1965
18 Mar-18 Jun 1965
1 May 1981-30 Apr 1983

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Crosses with Palm
25 Nov 1965-29 May 1967
1 Apr 1966-15 Oct 1970

EMBLEM



416th Night Fighter Squadron emblem



416th Tactical Fighter Squadron emblems

416th Tactical Fighter Squadron emblem: On a medium blue shield, bordered AF blue, a knight in full armor proper (silver gray, black detail and outlines); his helmet crested with an AF golden yellow wing; his mantling of the second, powdered with twenty-four white stars; the black staff of his lance held in his right hand, its spearhead silver gray, highlighted white; the knight riding a white war horse caparisoned (bridle, harness, hoofs and saddle) silver gray, lining red, curb rein AF blue; all outlines black. (Approved, 14 Dec 1958)

416th Fighter Squadron emblem: A black rider on a black war horse symbolizes the F-117A . It also preserves the heritage of the 416th path. Its white highlights suggest the perfection of the F-117A's weapons delivery capability and the maturity of the Stealth Fighter mission. The horse and rider are in an attack position, centered over a stylized aircraft against an ultramarine blue evening sky. This signifies the Air Force's determined ability to operate with strength and zeal in a night environment. The red of the rider's cape symbolizes the boldness of attacking out of night skies, and the rider's red eyes signify the ability to seek out the enemy in the dark of night. The stylized aircraft represented the squadron's position at the "Tip o the Spear" of readiness. The white moon and white stars reflect the squadron's night time mission, the yellow lightning bolts held in the rider's upraised left arm refers to the squadron's historical excellence and the contribution of the F-117A to tactical deterrence.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

Ghost Riders

OPERATIONS

On 20 February 1943, the 416th Night Fighter Squadron activated at Orlando Air Base, Florida. After completing its initial training by April, the squadron crossed the Atlantic on the Queen Elizabeth and landed in the United Kingdom on 11 May. Pausing briefly for training under VIII Fighter Command (attached to the Royal Air Force), the unit then moved to North Africa for operations with Twelfth Air Force. There, the squadron fell under the operational control of the Northwest African Coastal Air Force, a joint inter-allied organization with British, Free-French, and other American units.

The defeat of German, Italian, and Vichy French forces in North Africa allowed the 416th to move with other allied forces into Italy in September 1943. During its first year there, the squadron patrolled harbors and escorted shipping; however, in September 1944 the 416th shifted to more aggressive activities to provide defensive cover for the Fifth Army and make intruder sweeps into enemy territory. With the fall of Germany, the unit moved in August 1945 to Horsching, Austria, for occupation duties. A year later, the 416th relocated to Schweinfurt, Germany, where it inactivated on 9 November 1946.

The Air Force redesignated the 416th on 15 November 1952 as a Fighter-Bomber Squadron and activated it on New Year's Day 1953 at George AFB, California. Initially equipped with F-51 aircraft, the 416th quickly converted to F-86F aircraft and started participating in air defense operations, exercises, and firepower demonstrations. Then in September 1953, the 416th received Arctic indoctrination at Eielson AFB, Alaska. Next, the squadron joined its parent unit, the 21st Fighter-Bomber Group, in Operation Boxkite at North Field, South Carolina from 17 April to 15 May 1954.

The 416th moved to France in November-December 1954. For this move, the ground echelon left George AFB, California, on 26 November and arrived at Toul-Rosiere Air Base on 12 December.

The flight echelon left George on 13 December and traveled to France by the northern air route. Bad weather, however, delayed the movement, and the flight element did not reach Toul-Rosiere until 22 February 1955. From then until December 1957, the squadron participated in NATO tactical operations and exercises, stood air defense alert, and periodically deployed aircraft and crews to Wheelus AB, Libya, for fighter weapons training. The unit was not operational from 10 January to 8 February 1958.

On 25 March 1958, the 416th activated under Fifth Air Force at Misawa Air Base, Japan, where it started converting from F-84Gs to F-100s. Later in July, the squadron joined the 21st Fighter-Bomber Wing; however, the USAF directed the 416th to transfer its F-100s to another unit. This order temporarily interrupted its conversion and forced the 416th to fly F-84s until May 1959, when a full complement of F-100s arrived. During this period in the Far East, the units crews flew tactical operations and exercises in Korea, Taiwan, Okinawa, Singapore, the Philippines, and other exotic places in the Far East.

In June 1964, the 416th moved to England AFB, Louisiana, where it joined the 3d Tactical Fighter Wing (Tactical Air Command) for training. From 17 October through 7 December 1964, the squadron deployed a flight to Takhli Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, where it operated under various higher headquarters. This deployment, however, was just a precursor to even greater involvement in Southeast Asia (SEA) as the entire squadron deployed there in March 1965. It operated in turn from Clark AB, Philippines, DaNang AB, South Vietnam, Bien Hoa AB, South Vietnam, and again at Clark until July 1965, when it returned to England AFB. While in SEA, the unit flew 1,711 combat sorties between 19 March and 14 July to fly flak suppression, weather reconnaissance, MiG combat air patrol, and air strike missions.

The 416th deployed with the 3 TFW to SEA in November 1965 to Ton Son Nhut, South Vietnam. There, the 6250th Combat Support Group controlled the squadron's operations until June 1966, when it rejoined the 3 TFW at Bien Hoa. The 416th remained at Bien Hoa until its April 1967 reassignment to the 37 TFW. In May, the squadron moved to Phu Cat without a break in combat missions.

On 15 June 1967, Detachment 1, 416 TFS became the nucleus of Command Sabre, a special activity using F-100F two-seaters to fly fast Forward Air Control (FAC) operations under the call sign "Misty." The unit's participation in Commando Sabre even continued after a move to Tuy Hoa AB and reassignment to the 31 TFW. At that time, operational control over Commando Sabre passed from the 37 TFW to the 31 TFW.

In the meantime, the 416th flew regular combat missions, logging its 30,000 SEA combat sortie on 20 April 1970. Most of those missions involved close air support or direct air support. The unit stood down from combat operations on 5 September 1970, and its resources were transferred to other units. On 28 September, the squadron moved without personnel to England AFB.

Anticipating the 416th's reassignment, the 4403 TFW at England AFB began forming a new squadron cadre in August 1970." This cadre started training its pilots to instructor status and was

immediately available when the Air Force transferred the unit to England that September. After receiving more equipment and people, the 416th achieved combat ready status and began normal participation in exercises and other tactical operations.

Inactivation appeared imminent again as the Air Force phased the last F-100s out of its inventory. By December 1971, the 416th was the only active flying squadron in the 4403 TFW. On 1 April 1972, its operational training commitment ended, and as a result the Air Force transferred all personnel to other units and aircraft to the Air National Guard. From May 1972 until its 1 July inactivation, the 416th served as a holding unit for a new A-7 squadron that would replace it.

Redesignated the 416th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron (TFTS), the unit activated again on 15 March 1979 under the 479th Tactical Training Wing at Holloman AFB, New Mexico. At Holloman, the squadron used AT-38B aircraft to provide transitional training to new pilots preparing for assignment to operational fighter wings. The 416th inactivated on 1 September 1983 as the 433 TFTS assumed its mission.

The USAF redesignated the 416th a tactical fighter squadron on 15 September 1989 and officially called it into existence on 5 October under the 37 TFW at the Tonopah Test Range, Nevada. There, it assumed the mission of the 4451st Test Squadron to become one of two operational F-117A Stealth Fighter squadrons.

In Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM, the 416th shared honors with the 415th squadron as together they struck terror into the hearts of the Iraqi nation. The Air Force redesignated the squadron as the 416th Fighter Squadron on 1 October 1991. The squadron realigned from under the wing as a subordinate of the 37th Operations Group on 1 November 1991.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 10 Nov 2010

Updated: 25 May 2012

Sources

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The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit History. *History and Lineage of the F-117A Stealth Fighter; Organizations. Office of History HQ 37 TFW.*

Special Study HO-91-2. Dec 1991.

Unit yearbook. *21st Fighter-Bomber Wing, France 1954-1957.*