

419 FIGHTER WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

419 Troop Carrier Wing, Medium, established, 10 May 1949

Activated in the Reserve, 27 Jun 1949

Ordered to active duty, 1 May 1951

Inactivated, 2 May 1951

Redesignated 419 Tactical Fighter Wing, 22 Feb 1982

Activated in the Reserve, 1 Oct 1982

Redesignated 419 Fighter Wing, 1 Feb 1992

STATIONS

Scott AFB, IL, 27 Jun 1949-2 May 1951

Hill AFB, UT, 1 Oct 1982

ASSIGNMENTS

Tenth Air Force, 27 Jun 1949-2 May 1951

Tenth Air Force, 1 Oct 1982

WEAPON SYSTEMS

AT-6

AT-7

AT-11, 1947-1951

C/TC-46, 1949-1951

F-105, 1982-1984

F-4, 1982-1988

F-16, 1984

COMMANDERS

Brig Gen James H. Howard, 27 Jun 1949
Col Billy G. Dilworth Jr, 12 Jan 1950
Col Enoch O. Paulson, Jan 1951-2 May 1951
Col Jonathan Gardner, 1 Oct 1982
Brig Gen John J. Closner III, 24 Jul 1983
Brig Gen Forrest S. Winebarger, 6 Jul 1987
Brig Gen David E. Tanzi, 11 Jul 1993
Brig Gen Floyd C. Williams, 7 Feb 1999
Col Keith Knudson, 2010

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Aug 1981-31 Jul 1983
2 Aug 1983-2 Aug 1985
1 Jul 1987-31 Aug 1989
1 Apr 1994-31 Mar 1996
1 Jul 2005-30 Jun 2007

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 419 Operations Group prior to 10 May 1949

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Western Pacific

Decorations

EMBLEM

419 Tactical Fighter Wing emblem: Per fess azure and checky, alternating argent and sable, issuing from sinister chief a lightning bolt bend sinisterwise gules overall in sinister flank a griffin sejant or, head, neck, and talons of the second, garnished of the third, issuing from its dexter claws three rays conjoined argent terminating in back of three flight symbols, one fesswise between one ascending bendwise and one descending bend sinisterwise, between the upper two flight symbols in dexter chief a mullet of four points and between the lower two

flight symbols a representation of a planet and in middle chief a mullet of four points with a representation of a planet between the mullet and lightning bolt all or, all within a diminished bordure of the last



419 Fighter Wing emblem: Per fess Azure and checky, alternating Argent and Sable, issuing from sinister chief a lightning bolt bend sinisterwise Gules overall in sinister flank a griffin sejant Or, head, neck and talons of the second, garnished of the third, issuing from its dexter claws three rays conjoined Argent terminating in back of three flight symbols, one fesswise between one ascending bendwise and one descending bend sinisterwise, between the upper two flight symbols in dexter chief a mullet of four points and between the lower two flight symbols a representation of a planet and in middle chief a mullet of four points with a representation of a planet between the mullet and lightning bolt all Or; all within a diminished bordure of the last. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "419TH FIGHTER WING" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** 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 griffin en garde on upper sinister warns the enemy not to molest our freedoms or our substance lest they be ravaged by the guardian's power. The three darts released by the griffin are representative of air-to-ground and air-to-air combat. The stars and planets are symbolic of navigating the skies. The red lightning bolt striking downward from upper sinister to lower dexter characterizes the unit's military might when bestowed upon the enemy. The black and white checkered field on lower sinister denotes the tactical strategy of the unit's military might when seen as a chessboard or competition of the swift, fairly won, when seen as a flag.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Trained in the Reserve for troop carrier operations, 1949-1951. Since 1982, trained for fighter operations. Last wing to fly F-105 aircraft, and first Air Force Reserve wing to fly F-16s. Personnel deployed periodically for contingencies and training exercises, some overseas. Deployed Dec 1994-Feb 1995 to Turkey to patrol the no-fly zone over northern Iraq.

On 1 October 1982, the Air Force Reserve inactivated Hill's 508th Tactical Fighter Group and activated the 419th Tactical Fighter Wing. The Wing's 466th Tactical Fighter Squadron flew F-

105s until March 1984. On 4 June 1983, the unit began to retire the Thunderchief with a 25-ship launch and picture-perfect "diamonds on diamonds" flyover.

F-105 combat veterans reunited here on 25 February 1984, and the final F-105 missing man formation dedicated AF 62-4347, the F-105 with the most air time, as a monument to those who had served with F-105s and especially those who gave their lives. Captain Joe Gelinger, 466th Tactical Fighter Squadron, flew the F-105 for the last time on 10 March 1984. He flew AF 62-8287, an F-105F from Hill AFB, Utah, to Chanute AFB, Illinois, where the two-seater was put on display.

The 419th Tactical Fighter Wing, USAF Reserve's first F-16 Wing.

7/5/2007 The last of the 419th Fighter Wing's F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft left here June 28, signifying an end of an era and a beginning of another for the unit. The pilots and maintainers from the Air Force Reserve Command wing will now team up with Hill's active-duty 388th FW to carry out a joint flying mission. The transition is part of the Air Force's total force integration program, which joins similar units in an effort to increase overall combat capability.

The Air Force Reserve wing's entire fleet of Block 30 F-16 aircraft are now assigned to other Reserve and Air National Guard units. The jets began departing in April. Seven went to the Iowa National Guard's 132nd Fighter Wing at Des Moines. Another jet transferred to the Wisconsin National Guard's 115th FW at Truax Field in Madison. The remaining nine jets are now assigned to the Reserve's 482nd FW at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. Hill's active-duty fighter wing will receive additional Block 40 F-16 aircraft from Cannon AFB, N.M., raising its total to more than 85 aircraft. The departure of its last aircraft marked a significant milestone for the Reserve wing. Many 419th FW people said they'd miss seeing the Reserve aircraft on Hill's runway. The 419th FW has flown and maintained its own F-16 aircraft for more than 20 years.

Maj. Terry George, a 419th FW pilot, said he has always been proud to fly the wing's jets because they were expertly cared for by the wing's maintainers. "Our jets are known as some of the best in the Air Force," Major George said. "These aircraft are special to many people here. Some of our maintainers have spent whole careers on one jet." Senior Master Sgt. Craig Fowler, aircraft section flight chief for the 419th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, said he has a soft spot in his heart for his unit's jets. "It's sad to see them go, but it opens up a new chapter of where we're going," he said. Sergeant Fowler has worked on the same F-16 since 1993. The wing's pilots and maintainers will now take on the task of melding their high experience levels with the increased personnel and resources of the 388th FW. "We'll take the best of both worlds and make it better for everybody," Sergeant Fowler said.

"We will be an asset to the younger, active-duty personnel," added Senior Master Sgt. Louie Martinez, 419th Maintenance Squadron accessories flight chief. "We have seasoned professionals who have worked on (the F-16) for over 20 years."

The last three F-16 Fighting Falcons assigned to the 419th Fighter Wing prepare to taxi for

departure June 28 from Hill Air Force Base, Utah. The wing's entire fleet of F-16s have been reassigned to other Reserve and Air National Guard bases.

Hill's 419th Tactical Fighter Wing, United States Air Force Reserve, was the last F-105 unit and retired the Thunderchief, or "Thud" as it was called, with honor. On 1 October 1982, the Air Force Reserve inactivated Hill's 508th Tactical Fighter Group and activated the 419th Tactical Fighter Wing. The Wing's 466th Tactical Fighter Squadron flew F-105s until March 1984. On 4 June 1983, the unit began to retire the Thunderchief with a 25-ship launch and picture-perfect "diamonds on diamonds" flyover.

The 388th Tactical Fighter Wing won the Royal Air Force's Tactical Bombing competition in Scotland in June 1981. The 419th Tactical Fighter Wing, USAF Reserve's first F-16 Wing, won Gunsmoke 1985, and the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing won Gunsmoke 1987.

The 388th Tactical Fighter Wing became USAF's first F-16 Wing in 1979, following conversion from F-4Ds. The Wing's F-16 inventory peaked at just over 100 aircraft with four tactical fighter squadrons: the 16th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, 34th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 4th Tactical Fighter Squadron, and 421st Tactical Fighter Squadron. The 16th converted to a Tactical Fighter Squadron in April 1983 and continued as such until deactivated in June 1986.

A historic agreement was signed into place April 16, finalizing the association between the active-duty 388th Fighter Wing and Air Force Reserve's 419th FW at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. Gen. Ronald Keys, Air Combat Command commander, and Lt. Gen. John Bradley, Air Force Reserve Command commander, signed a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the way ahead for Hill's fighter wings, which will begin flying and maintaining a shared F-16 fleet this summer. Total Force Integration between the 419th and 388th is the Air Force test case for future fighter associate programs. The MOU provides a framework for how the two wings will organize and operate. While the active duty retains responsibility for the fleet of F-16 Fighting Falcons, operations and maintenance experts from both wings will work together on a daily basis to accomplish the flying mission. Hill's fighter wings will integrate as part of the Air Force's TFI initiative, which aims to increase combat capabilities and efficiencies among like units while capitalizing on the high experience levels of Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard personnel. "Our integration here is a necessity," said Col. Robert Beletic, 388th FW commander. "The Air Force is in a time of manpower cuts and consistent combat deployments in support of the Global War on Terror. We appreciate the support of dedicated Reservists, like those in the 419th." "Our Reservists are typically older, highly experienced and offer long-term continuity of daily operations at Hill," said Col. Gary Batinich, 419th FW commander. "The TFI association will help maintain aircrew and maintenance expertise and experience levels by capitalizing on the active-duty Air Force investment in training while exploiting the resident experience of our Reservists." The Air Force announced the TFI initiative in November 2004, and both wings have been working toward the association since that time. Several maintenance shops have been working side by side for nearly a year, and in-flight guides and standardization evaluation procedures have been completed and are shared by pilots from both wings. In the next several months, the wings' pilots and maintainers will begin working together even more closely as the

419th FW's F-16 Block 30 fighter aircraft begin to depart Hill AFB for reassignment to Guard and Reserve bases across the United States. Alternately, the 388th FW will receive about 15 F-16 Block 40 aircraft from Cannon AFB, N.M., raising its total to more than 80 aircraft. Later this year, 419th FW maintenance and operations personnel will deploy alongside the 388th FW's 4th Fighter Squadron. "Our pilots and maintainers will serve as unrivaled wingmen to the 388th FW, and our support folks will continue to take care of 419th personnel," Colonel Batinich said. "TFI has truly made us one team, one fight, one Air Force," Colonel Beletic said. All 419th FW personnel will be administratively assigned to the 419th FW and will continue to carry out Air Force Reserve training requirements one weekend per month and two weeks per year. The 419th FW is also made up of about 500 support personnel who will not be integrated. 2007

Members of the Air Force Reserve's 419th Fighter Wing at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, will be among the first to fly and maintain the Air Force's newest fighter, the F-35A Lightning II. In December, the Air Force announced that Hill AFB was selected as the home for the service's first operational F-35A unit. The base was chosen after a lengthy analysis of multiple locations' operational considerations, installation attributes, and economic and environmental factors. "Hill AFB is ideally suited to assure a successful path to initial operational capability," said Timothy Bridges, deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations. "The nearby Utah Test and Training Range provides access to one of the largest and most diverse airspace and range complexes in the Air Force. Access to high-quality airspace and ranges is essential for the first operational F-35A wing." The decision culminated a nearly four-year process that included an extensive Environmental Impact Statement that examined impacts on such factors as air quality, noise, land use and socioeconomics. Hill AFB is also home to the F-35 depot, which provides fleet maintenance support, a key factor to the long-term sustainment and readiness of the F-35A fleet. Another strength of the base is the already established classic association between the active-duty 388th FW and the 419th. This total force integrated unit is capable of providing accelerated seasoning of new personnel to maximize the F-35A's advanced capabilities. "This is great news for Hill AFB, and we welcome the addition of the Air Force's newest, next-generation fighter aircraft," said Col. Lance Landrum, 388th FW commander. "The F-35 is critical to ensuring our dominance over the battlefield in today and tomorrow's advanced threat environment. Hill is the perfect place for this weapons system given the nearby Utah Test and Training Range, our existing infrastructure and continued support from the local community. We look forward to paving the way for its arrival." "Flying F-35s alongside our active-duty counterparts is a great example of the Air Force's 'total force' vision, which seeks to increase capability from new technology while leveraging the experience, stability, continuity and cost effectiveness of our Reserve personnel," said Col. Bryan Radliff, 419th FW commander. Col. Kathryn Kolbe, 75th Air Base Wing commander at Hill, said the announcement was great news for the base and the entire state of Utah. "Selecting Hill to host America's newest fifth-generation fighter is a tribute to the 388th and 419th Fighter Wings' rich heritage," she said. "It is fitting the 388th Fighter Wing become the first fully operational F-35 unit, just as it was with the F-16 in January 1979. The selection to place it here speaks volumes to the viability of Team Hill's commitment to our nation's security." Construction on base to prepare for the aircraft is expected to start almost immediately in order to be ready to accept the first F-

35As, which are scheduled to arrive in 2015. The base is projected to receive 72 F-35As, replacing the 48 F-16 Fighting Falcons currently assigned to Hill. 2014

USAF Unit Histories
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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.