

465th TACTICAL TRAINING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

465th Bombardment Squadron (Light) constituted, 7 Jul 1942
Activated, 13 Jul 1942
Disbanded, 5 Apr 1944
Reconstituted and redesignated 465th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, 27 Oct 1972
Activated, 1 Dec 1972
Redesignated 465th Tactical Training Squadron, 1 Jan 1977
Inactivated, 19 Feb 1991

STATIONS

Key Field, MS, 13 Jul 1942
Hattiesburg, MS, 15 Aug 1942
Harding Field, LA, 26 Oct 1942
Alachua AAFld, FL, 24 Jan 1943
Montbrook AAFld, FL, 19 Nov 1943
Orlando AB, FL, 2 Mar 1944
Dalhart AAFld, TX, 19 Mar-5 Apr 1944
Cannon AFB, NM, 1 Dec 1972
Holloman AFB, NM, 1 Aug 1973 – 19 Feb 1991

ASSIGNMENTS

27th Bombardment Group, 13 Jul 1942
III Air Support Command, 21 Nov 1942
AAF School of Applied Tactics, 22 Jan 1943
415th Bombardment Group, 23 Mar 1943-5 Apr 1944
27th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Dec 1972
49th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Aug 1973

479th Tactical Training Wing, 1 Jan 1977 – 19 Feb 1991

WEAPON SYSTEMS

DB-7, 1942
A-20, 1942-1944
DB-7B
A-20B
A-20C
A-20G
F-111
T-38

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

American Theater

Campaign Streamers

American Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jan 1976-31 Dec 1976

1 May 1981-30 Apr 1983

EMBLEM

On a light blue disc, a red devil with black bat wings, horns, tail barbed, and hoofs, with an expression of impudence on face, eyes green and yellow, leaning on and peering over a white cloud formation, and holding two gray fragmentation bombs under the left arm; yellow lightning bolt emitting from cloud formation. (Approved, 22 Jun 1943)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

EMBLEM



465th Bombardment Squadron emblem approved, 22 Jun 1943

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Training for combat Jul-Nov 1942; operational training and demonstration unit, Dec 1942-Mar 1944; replacement training unit, Mar-Apr 1944.

The 27th Bombardment Group had engaged in combat in the Southwest Pacific Theater, both in the air with Douglas A-24 Banshees and on ground as infantry in the Philippines. In May 1942, the group and its three squadrons were withdrawn from the theater and moved on paper to Key Field, Mississippi, where it began reforming as a Douglas A-20 Havoc unit. To bring the group to its full strength, the squadron was activated in July 1942 as the 465th Bombardment Squadron. In addition to A-20s, the squadron also was assigned a few DB-7 export versions of the Havoc.

In the fall of 1942, the 27th Group prepared for movement to North Africa, but would be converted to a fighter-bomber unit flying North American A-36 Apaches. Because Army Air Forces (AAF) fighter-bomber groups were assigned only three squadrons, when the group moved overseas in late November 1942, the 465th was reassigned to III Air Support Command, and became a Operational Training Unit (OTU). The OTU program involved the use of an oversized parent unit to provide cadres to "satellite groups".

In January 1943, the squadron moved to Alachua Army Air Field, Florida, where it became part of the Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics. In addition to training cadres for newly-formed groups it also demonstrated tactics for light bomber units as part of the 415th Bombardment Group. In March 1944 the group moved to Dalhart Army Air Field, Texas, where it became a Replacement Training Unit. Replacement Training Units were similar to OTUs in that they were oversized units, but their mission was to train individual pilots or aircrews. However, even as the squadron arrived at Dalhart, the AAF was finding that standard military units, based on relatively inflexible tables of organization were not proving well adapted to the training mission. Accordingly a more functional system was adopted in which each base was organized into a separate numbered unit. The 415th Group, including the squadron, and support units at Dalhart were disbanded, and their personnel and

equipment were reorganized as the 232d AAF Base Unit.

In the fall of 1972, the squadron was reconstituted as the 465th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron and reactivated on 1 December at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico, where it trained crews on the General Dynamics F-111 Aardvark as part of the 27th Tactical Fighter Wing. This mission lasted only eight months, and in August 1973, the squadron moved to Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, where it conducted training for forward air controllers and air liaison officers with the Lockheed T-33 T-Bird under the 49th Tactical Fighter Wing. In January 1977, flying training activities at Holloman were put under the newly-activated 479th Tactical Training Wing. The squadron was transferred to the 479th Wing, where it performed the academic training portion of the wing's mission. It continued this mission until it was inactivated in 1991, when its mission, personnel and equipment was transferred to the 435th Tactical Training Squadron.

The fighter lead in program was initiated in early 1975 and was set up at Holloman AFB with the 465 Tactical Fighter Training Squadron (TFTS) of the 49 TFW operating standard T-38s for the program. After completing UPT, new pilots scheduled for assignment to tactical aircraft were sent to Holloman AFB for fighter lead in training. An earlier USAF program used AT-33s at Nellis AFB, Cannon AFB, and Myrtle Beach AFB for training new fighter pilots. It was determined early in the program the LIFT aircraft should have a limited air to ground and air to air weapons capability. As a result, although the changes made to the T-38 throughout its lifetime were not to be extensive, Northrop did develop additional capability for the USAF's foremost trainer by making provision for it to carry weapons. With very limited U.S. procurement of the F-5B and only small numbers of them available to MAP training program, it was logical to give the Talon some "teeth" to enhance the realism for training fighter pilots. The first T-38 to be fitted with a weapons store was 60-0576, part of the third production batch. This aircraft was re-designated LIFT T-38 or T-38B, Northrop's Lead In Fighter. An ejector rack could be attached to the pylon, which was situated under the second cockpit, and was stressed to take the SUU-20A rocket/practice bomb carrier, a practice bomb rack or a SUU-11A/A minigun pod. Other T-38s in small numbers from various production batches, including most of the 64th FWS Aggressor T-38As, were subsequently modified by Air Force TCTO 1T-38A-889 into as T-38B Lead In Fighter trainers. A total of 134 T-38As were modified. The T-38B aircraft were subsequently redesignated as AT-38Bs.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.