

## 479 FLYING TRAINING GROUP



### MISSION

479 Flying Training Group mission is Undergraduate CSO Training program which combines all aspects of previous navigator, electronic warfare, and weapon system officer responsibilities from all operational fields and aircraft. Training will start with Aerospace Physiology.

Next is the T-6 portion of training covering basic airmanship and navigation. Students will graduate the T-6 phase and begin the advance syllabus. They will learn advanced navigation and electronic warfare. Training in this phase will be accomplished in both the T-23 simulator and the T-1A aircraft. CSO Training is 220 training days, approximately 11 months. Upon successful completion of training, students will receive their aeronautical rating and their basic CSO wings. After UCT, students will have follow-on training at Formal Training Unit for their Initial Qualification on a specific platform.

### LINEAGE

479 Fighter Group (Twin-Engine) established, 12 Oct 1943  
Activated, 15 Oct 1943  
Redesignated 479 Fighter Group, Two-Engine 21 Feb 1944  
Redesignated 479 Fighter Group, Single-Engine, 5 Sep 1944  
Inactivated, 1 Dec 1945  
Redesignated 479 Fighter-Bomber Group, 15 Oct 1952  
Activated, 1 Dec 1952  
Redesignated 479 Fighter-Day Group, 15 Feb 1954

Inactivated, 8 Oct 1957  
Redesignated 479 Tactical Training Group, 31 Jul 1985  
Redesignated 479 Fighter Group, 1 Jul 1991  
Activated, 26 Jul 1991  
Inactivated, 15 Nov 1991  
Redesignated 479 Flying Training Group, 6 Jul 2000  
Activated, 31 Jul 2000  
Inactivated, 21 Jun 2007  
Activated, 2 Oct 2009

### **STATIONS**

Grand Central Air Terminal, CA, 15 Oct 1943  
March Field, CA, 28 Oct 1943-7 Apr 1944  
Lomita Flight Strip, CA, 6 Feb 1944  
Santa Maria AAFld, CA, 7 Apr 1944  
Camp Kilmer, NJ, 20 Apr-2 May 1944  
Wattisham, England, 15 May 1944-23 Nov 1945  
Camp Kilmer, NJ, 29 Nov-1 Dec 1945  
George AFB, CA, 1 Dec 1952-8 Oct 1957  
Holloman AFB, NM, 26 Jul-15 Nov 1991  
Moody AFB, GA, 31 Jul 2000  
NAS Pensacola, FL, 2 Oct 2009

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

IV Fighter Command, 15 Oct 1943  
Los Angeles Fighter Wing, 1 Nov 1943  
Eighth Air Force, 15 May 1944  
VIII Fighter Command, 16 May 1944  
2 Bombardment Division, 15 Sep 1944  
65 Fighter Wing, 10 Oct 1944  
Eighth Air Force, by Jul 1945  
3 Air Division, 16 Jul 1945  
66 Fighter Wing, by Oct 1945  
3 Air Division, 16 Oct 1945  
Army Service Forces, by late Nov-1 Dec 1945  
479 Fighter-Bomber (later, 479 Fighter-Day) Wing, 1 Dec 1952-8 Oct 1957  
833 Air Division, 26 Jul-15 Nov 1991  
Nineteenth Air Force, 31 Jul 2000  
Nineteenth Air Force, 31 Jul 2000-21 Jun 2007  
12 Flying Training Wing, 2 Oct 2009

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

P-38, P-40, 1943-1944

P-38J

P-51, 1944-1945

P-51D

P-47, 1945

F-51, 1953

F-86F, 1953-1955

F-100C, 1954-1957

T-38, 1991

T-38, 1991

T-38, 2000-2007

T-6, 2001-2007

AT-38, 2001-2002

## **COMMANDERS**

None (not manned), 15-27 Oct 1943

LTC Leo F. Dusard Jr., 28 Oct 1943

Maj Francis J. Pope, 11 Nov 1943

Lt Col Kyle L. Riddle, 26 Dec 1943

Col Hubert Zemke, 12 Aug 1944

Col Kyle L. Riddle, 30 Oct 1944-1945

None (not manned), 1 Dec 1952-11 Jan 1953

Col Woodrow W. Ramsey, 12 Jan 1953

LTC Verl D. Luehring, by 5 Mar 1953

Col Jacob W. Dixon, 19 Aug 1953

Col William B. Harris, by 6 May 1955-8 Oct 1957

Col John H. Stewart II, 26 Jul-15 Nov 1991

Col Gregory A. Feest, 31 Jul 2001

Col John J. Shivnen, 28 Jan 2002

Col Anthony J. Lazarski, 31 Jul 2003

Col Richard D. Turner, 25 Feb 2005

Col John Shivnen

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France  
Rhineland  
Ardennes-Alsace  
Central Europe  
Air Combat, EAME Theater

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation  
ETO, 18 Aug, 5 and 26 Sep 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan 2001-31 Dec 2002

1 Jul 2003-30 Jun 2005

1 Oct 2005-[21 Jun] 2007

French Croix de Guerre with Palm

5-15 Jun 1944

#### **EMBLEM**



479 Fighter-Day Group approved, 10 Sep 1954



## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

Riddle's Raiders

## **OPERATIONS**

Activated 15 Oct 1943 at Glendale, Cal. Trained there with P-38s until 6 Feb 1944. Moved Lomita Flight Strip, Cal. and on 7 Mar 1944 to Santa Maria AAFd, CA. Commenced overseas movement mid-Apr, arriving Camp Kilmer, NJ. 20 Apr 1944. Sailed on USS Argentina, 2 May 1944 and arrived Clyde 14 May 1944.

Trained for combat in P-38 and P-40 aircraft and served as an air defense organization, Oct 1943-Apr 1944. Moved to England in May 1944, joining Eighth Air Force. Flew combat in ETO, 26 May 1944-25 Apr 1945. Escorted heavy bombers during operations against targets on the Continent, strafed targets of opportunity, and flew fighter-bomber, counter air, and area patrol sorties. During Normandy invasion on 6 Jun 1944, patrolled the beachhead from dawn until well after dark. While on escort or fighter-bomber sorties during summer and fall 1944, strafed and dive-bombed enemy troops, bridges, locomotives, railway cars, barges, vehicles, airfields, gun emplacements, flak towers, ammunition dumps, power stations, and radar sites.

Flew area patrols to support the breakthrough at St Lo in Jul, and the airborne attack on Holland in Sep. Received a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for the destruction of numerous aircraft on airfields in France on 18 Aug and 5 Sep and during an aerial battle near Munster on 26 Sep. Continued escort and fighter-bomber activities from Oct to mid-Dec, converting to P-51s during this period. Participated in the Battle of the Bulge (Dec 1944-Jan 1945) by escorting bombers and strafing transportation targets while on escort duty. Flew escort sorties from Feb to Apr 1945 and also provided area patrols to support the airborne assault across the Rhine River during Mar.

Many personnel transferred after VE-day. Aircraft to depots Sep 1945. Last fighter group to return to US, sailing from UK 23 Nov 1944 and arriving New York 29 Nov 1945. Group established Camp Kilmer, NJ. and inactivated there 1 Dec 1945.

First Mission: 26 May 1944

Last Mission: 25 Apr 1945

Total Missions: 351

Aircraft missing in action: 69

Enemy aircraft claims: 155 air; 279 ground.

From Jan 1953, trained as a fighter-bomber and, later, as a fighter-day group, employing F-51, F-86, and F-100 aircraft in turn until Oct 1957.

From Jul-Nov 1991 replaced the 479 Tactical Training Wing at Holloman AFB, NM, provided training in T-38 aircraft.

The Air Force activated the 479 Flying Training Group Oct. 2, at NAS Pensacola, Fla., where it will lead the service's newly structured combat systems officer training starting next May. Per BRAC 2005, the Air Force is consolidating its navigator, electronic warfare officer, and weapons system officer training into the single CSO schoolhouse at Pensacola. Currently much of this training goes on at Randolph AFB, Tex. Construction of the 479 FTG's operations and academic facilities at Pensacola will be complete by year's end. When fully operational, the schoolhouse will graduate about 360 officers per year. The group had been inactive since July 2007 when its undergraduate pilot and introduction to fighter fundamentals training ended at Moody AFB, Ga., also as a result of BRAC 2005. 2009

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USAF Unit Histories

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#### Sources

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. *George AFB, California, 1955*. Military Publications, Miller Publishing Co. Dallas, TX. 1955.

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