

480 FIGHTER SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

480 Bombardment Squadron (Medium) constituted, 9 Jul 1942

Activated, 15 Jul 1942

Disbanded, 1 May 1944

580th Aerial Resupply Squadron constituted, 15 Mar 1951

Activated, 16 Apr 1951

Redesignated 580th Air Resupply Squadron, 5 Nov 1951

Inactivated, 18 Oct 1956

480 Fighter-Bomber Squadron constituted, 30 Aug 1957

Activated, 25 Sep 1957

Redesignated 480 Tactical Fighter Squadron, 1 Jul 1958

Inactivated, 1 Apr 1959

Activated, 30 Apr 1962

Organized, 8 May 1962

Inactivated, 17 Nov 1971

Activated, 15 Nov 1976

580th Air Resupply Squadron redesignated 480 Air Resupply Squadron, 31 Jul 1985

480 Bombardment Squadron (Medium) reconstituted, 19 Sep 1985

480 Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 480 Air Resupply Squadron and 480 Tactical Fighter Squadron consolidated, 19 Sep 1985. Consolidated squadron retained 480 Tactical

Fighter Squadron designation.

Redesignated 480 Fighter Squadron, 1 Oct 1991

Inactivated, 1 Apr 1994

Activated, 13 Aug 2010

STATIONS

MacDill Field, FL, 15 Jul 1942

Ft Myers AAFld, FL, 10 Aug 1942

Avon Park, FL, 13 Dec 1942

MacDill Field, FL, 13 Oct 1943

Lake Charles AAFld, LA, 7 Nov 1943-1 May 1944

Mountain Home AFB, ID, 16 Apr 1951-19 Sep 1952

Wheelus Field (later, Wheelus AB), Libya, 28 Sep 1952-18 Oct 1956

England AFB, LA, 25 Sep 1957-1 Apr 1959

Chaumont AB, France, 8 May 1962

Phalsbourg AB, France, 21 Dec 1962

Holloman AFB, NM, 12 Jul 1963-1 Feb 1966

Da Nang Aprt (later, Da Nang AB), South Vietnam, 5 Feb 1966

Phu Cat AB, South Vietnam, 15 Apr 1969-17 Nov 1971

Spangdahlem AB, West Germany, 15 Nov 1976-1 Apr 1994

Spangdahlem AB, Germany, 13 Aug 2010

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Korat AB, Thailand, 21-24 May 1966

ASSIGNMENTS

336 Bombardment Group (Medium), 15 Jul 1942-1 May 1944

580 Air Resupply and Communications (later, 580th Air Resupply) Group, 16 Apr 1951-18 Oct 1956

366 Fighter-Bomber (later, 366 Tactical Fighter) Wing, 25 Sep 1957-1 Apr 1959

United States Air Forces in Europe, 30 Apr 1962

366 Tactical Fighter Wing, 8 May 1962

2 Air Division, 5 Feb 1966

Seventh Air Force, 1 Apr 1966

35 Tactical Fighter Wing, 23 Jun 1966

366 Tactical Fighter Wing, 10 Oct 1966

37 Tactical Fighter Wing, 15 Apr 1969

12 Tactical Fighter Wing, 31 Mar 1970-17 Nov 1971

52 Tactical Fighter (later, 52nd Fighter) Wing, 15 Nov 1976

52 Operations Group, 31 Mar 1992-1 Apr 1994

52 Operations Group, 13 Aug 2010

ATTACHMENTS

6252nd Tactical Fighter Wing, 5 Feb 1966- 8 Apr 1966
35th Tactical Fighter Wing, 8 Apr-22 Jun 1966

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-26, 1942-1944

B-26B

B-26C

B-29, 1951-1956

C-119, 1951-1956

SA-16, 1951-1956

F-100, 1957-1959

F-84, 1958-1959

F-84, 1962-1965

F-4, 1965-1971

F-4, 1976-1991

F-16, 1987-1994

F-16, 2010

COMMANDERS

Capt Alfred D. Belsma, 15 Jul 1942

Capt Chelsey I. Swann, 16 Jul 1943

Maj Gerald J. Crosson, 8 Sep 1943-1 May 1944

Unkn, 16 Apr 1951

Lt Col Harry L. Smith, Oct 1952-Unkn

Lt Col Roderick G. Darelins, C. May 1953

Col Frederick J. Knorre Jr., 8 Sep 1953-Unkn

Col Gilbert F. Noakes, Mar 1954-Unkn

Maj David T. Davidson, 25 Sep 1957-1 Apr 1959

None (Not Manned), 30 Apr-7 May 1962

Unkn, 8 May-9 Jul 1962

Maj Leland W. Dawson, 10 Jul 1962

Lt Col William E. Archbold, 12 Jul 1962

Lt Col Robert P. Pasqualicchio, 30 Apr 1965

Lt Col Leland W. Dawson, 24 Jun 1966

Lt Col George H. Sylvester, 8 Oct 1966

Lt Col Robert B. Tanguy, 26 Dec 1966

Lt Col John W. Armstrong, C. Jun 1967

Lt Col Robert F. Brockmann, 10 Nov 1967

Lt Col Donald R. D'amico, 28 May 1968

Lt Col Edwin J. Scarff, 30 Oct 1968

Lt Col David W. Shoup, 1 Apr 1969

Lt Col Jack E. Shepard, 4 Dec 1969

Lt Col Kenneth D. Burns, 4 Mar 1970

Lt Col Robert B. Kendall, 23 Apr 1970

Lt Col William C. Thomas, 12 Oct 1970
Lt Col John S. Garrett, 17 Feb 1971
Lt Col Charles J. Cunningham Jr., 17 Jun-17 Nov 1971
Lt Col Howard K. Carroll, 15 Nov 1976
Lt Col Barton P. Crews, 28 Jul 1978
Lt Col Marlin R. Kitchen, 14 Mar 1980
Lt Col Thomas L. Ticktin, 5 Mar 1982
Lt Col John W. Adler, 22 Dec 1982
Lt Col Richard F. Hardy, 14 Dec 1984
Lt Col William W. Nillman, 12 Dec 1986
Lt Col Larry E. Bickel, 30 Dec 1988
Lt Col James E. Allgood, 13 Jul 1990
Lt Col Jimmie E. Crouch Jr., 27 May 1992
Lt Col Kenneth S. Callicut, 17 Nov 1993-1 Apr 1994
Lt Col Andrew K. Wolcott, 13 Aug 2010

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Vietnam

Vietnam Air

Vietnam Air Offensive

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III

Vietnam Air/Ground

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV

TET 69/Counteroffensive

Vietnam Summer-Fall, 1969

Vietnam Winter-Spring, 1970

Sanctuary Counteroffensive

Southwest Monsoon

Commando Hunt V

Commando Hunt VI

Commando Hunt VII

Southwest Asia

Ceasefire

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Presidential Unit Citations

Vietnam, 23 Apr-1 Aug 1967
8 Feb-8 Apr 1971

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device
[5 Feb 1966]-31 Mar 1967
1 Apr 1967-31 Mar 1968
1 Apr 1968-31 Jul 1969
1 Apr 1969-31 Mar 1970
1 Apr 1970-21 Oct 1971
1 Sep 1990-26 Feb 1991

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Jul 1978-30 Jun 1980
1 Jul 1991-30 Jun 1993

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Crosses with Palm
31 Mar 1970-10 Nov 1971
1 Apr 1966-17 Nov 1971

EMBLEM



480 FBS



480 TFS

480 Fighter Squadron emblem: On a disc Argent, a pile issuant from sinister Gules, thereon another pile Argent (Silver Gray), edged at the bottom Azure, surmounted by a head of a stylized warhawk erased Sable, beaked Or, highlighted and eyed of the first, garnished of the second, all within a narrow bordure Red. Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Red border and inscribed "ESCADRILLE TO WARHAWKS" in Red letters. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Red border and inscribed "480 FIGHTER SQ" in Red 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 warhawk represents the fierceness and skill of the Squadron's pilots, as well as signifying the Squadron's origins and reputation for blazing courage and determination in battle. The shock wave represents the high performance aircraft flown by the unit and its scarlet color represents the Squadron's Vietnam heritage as embodied in Medal of Honor recipient Lance Sijan. (Approved, Mar 1959; newest rendition approved, 30 Aug 2010)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

480 Bombardment Squadron served as a replacement training unit for medium bomber crews, Sep 1942-Apr 1944.

580 Aerial Resupply Squadron trained to provide evacuation and supply support to personnel in enemy-occupied territory, 1951-1952. Trained in Libya for aerial delivery of equipment and supplies and for evacuation of friendly forces, 1952-1956.

Trained as a fighter-bomber squadron in the United States, 1957-1959.

Deployed to South Vietnam in Feb 1966 and through Oct 1971 flew combat mission.

Between 1976 and 1994, maintained an operationally-ready nuclear and conventional strike capability in Germany.

Activated again in Germany in Aug 2010 to provide air defense.

Mixing it Up in Friendly Skies: Engaging MiG-21s and MiG-29s in the skies over Eastern Europe, an act of war not so long ago, is today an act of solidarity between allies. F-16s assigned to the 480 Fighter Squadron at Spangdahlem AB, Germany, joined Bulgarian MiG-21s and MiG-29s this week for combined training at Graf Ignatievo AB, Bulgaria. In addition to practicing dissimilar air-to-air engagement tactics, the Spangdahlem aircrews got the rare opportunity to practice low-altitude maneuvers in Bulgaria's uniquely unrestricted airspace. "Here we are able to do flying maneuvers, and very quickly regain our pilots' low-altitude proficiency," said Lt. Col. Andrew Wolcott, 480 FS commander. The Bulgarian airmen benefited from the training as well, since they were able to study US operations and maintenance procedures first-hand. "Bulgarians are strong US allies, we are really fortunate to be able to come here," said Wolcott. 2010

The 480 Fighter Squadron is the newest combat unit at Spangdahlem AB, Germany. The new squadron consolidates the base's F-16 operations formerly conducted by the 22nd and 23rd Fighter Squadrons, both of which were inactivated at the same Aug. 13 ceremony that formally restored the 480 FS. These changes come as a result of USAF's legacy fighter drawdown. Spangdahlem shed 21 F-16 Block 50 aircraft, which were reassigned to the Minnesota Air National Guard's 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth. The 480, part of Spangdahlem's 52nd Fighter Wing, is now the sole F-16 squadron in Europe dedicated to the suppression of enemy air defense mission. The 480 returns to operations after 16 years of dormancy, and has historical significance because it previously flew the dangerous "Wild Weasel" SEAD missions in the Vietnam War. Monday August 16, 2010

Odyssey Dawn Units Identified: The Air Force has identified units that participated in the attacks against Libyan military targets in the opening salvos of Operation Odyssey Dawn this past weekend. In addition to B-2 stealth bombers from the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman AFB, Mo., the Air Force sent F-15Es from the 492nd Fighter Squadron and 494th FS at RAF Lakenheath, Britain, as well as F-16CJs from the 480 FS at Spangdahlem AB, Germany. The B-2s struck combat aircraft shelters at Ghardabiya Airfield in Libya, and, based on post-strike photos that the Pentagon displayed, precisely hit them. The F-15Es and F-16CJs attacked ground forces loyal to Libyan ruler Muammar Gadhafi that were advancing on opposition forces in Benghazi and threatening civilians. KC-135s of the 100th Air Refueling Wing at RAF Mildenhall, Britain, refueled the strike aircraft en route to an unnamed forward air base. C-130Js from the 37th Airlift Squadron at Ramstein AB, Germany, moved ground equipment and personnel to the forward base, as did theater-based C-17s. Pentagon officials also said EC-130 Commando Solo psychological operations aircraft participated. The Pennsylvania Air National Guard's 193rd Special Operations Wing in Middletown operates these aircraft. 2011

Spang Pilots Train with Moroccans at African Lion Six F-16s and crews from the 480 Fighter Squadron at Spangdahlem AB, Germany, deployed to Ben Guerir AB, Morocco, from May 15-22, to take part in joint and combined air training as part of Exercise African Lion. The exercise is the largest Department of Defense training event in Africa, and it marks the first year the US Air Force is participating in the event, which is led by the US Marine Corps. In addition to the airmen from Spangdahlem, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command airmen also participated in the event, flying with Royal Moroccan Air Force F-16 pilots, as well as participants from Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Belgium, Senegal, and Tunisia. The training events included RMAF F-16s training in in-flight air refueling with US tanker aircraft and emergency landing barrier training. The US and the RMAF have a "long-standing friendship and an exercise like this reinforces those mutual bonds," said USAF Maj. Dave Atkinson, air exercise training detachment commander. Morocco is a close ally of the Gulf Cooperation Council nations, and began fielding 24 new Block 52 F-16s back in 2011. 2015

An Air Force F-16 pilot is safe after ejecting from his jet during a training flight the morning of August 11 over the Bavaria region of Germany, according to 52nd Fighter Wing officials. The pilot, assigned to the 480 Fighter Squadron at Spangdahlem AB, Germany, ejected around 9:38 a.m. local time near Engelmannreuth, Germany, while on a training flight to a range near US Army Garrison Bavaria in Grafenwoehr, Germany. The pilot jettisoned his fuel tanks over an unpopulated area before ejecting. The F-16 was not carrying live ordnance, but was flying with six 25-pound, unarmed training munitions at the time of the crash. "Our pilots go through extensive emergency procedure training, preparing them for a variety of crises that may occur," said Col. Steve Horton, the 52nd FW vice commander. "We are thankful that our pilot was able to put his training into action." The pilot experienced non-serious injuries and was undergoing treatment at a local German hospital shortly after the incident. The 52nd Fighter Wing at Spangdahlem canceled flying operations for 24 hours following the mishap, and the crash is under investigation. 2015

South Carolina Air Guard Wraps Poland AvDet Visit Aircrews and maintainers of the South Carolina Air National Guard's 169th Fighter Wing recently wrapped up a month-long bilateral training rotation to USAF's aviation detachment at Lask AB, Poland. The 100 Air Guardsmen from the 169th FW partnered with Active Duty airmen from the 480 Fighter Squadron to train with the Polish Air Force's 32nd Tactical Air Wing in F-16 operations. The rotation, part of expanded training and engagement activities in Europe connected to Operation Atlantic Resolve, marked the first AvDet rotation to include USAF Active Duty and Air Guard F-16 units in Poland. During their stay at Lask, the crews and maintainers participated in a series of events, such as Exercise Saber Strike, Exercise Baltic Operations 15, Eagle Talon, and Ramstein Guard allowing airmen to participate in air, land, and sea tactical training events with high-end simulated threats. 2015

Two Air Force units and a Marine Corps squadron are deploying to assist in the US-led fight against ISIS. A-10s and more than 500 airmen from the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing deployed on April 12 for the wing's first major mission in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, according to a wing release. F-16s and about 300 airmen from the 480 Fighter

Squadron on April 7 also deployed from Spangdahlem AB, Germany, to join the fight, the base announced. Both units will operate from an undisclosed base in the Middle East. The Marine Corps this week deployed a squadron of EA-6B Prowler aircraft from Marine Corps Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 4 to Incirlik AB, Turkey, to provide "an umbrella of protection to coalition aircraft and ground troops in the fight against ISIL," US European Command said in an April 14 statement.2016

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.