

## 480<sup>th</sup> INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE AND RECONNAISSANCE GROUP



### MISSION

The 480th's specific mission is to process and apply intelligence and other information using state-of-the-art capabilities to provide timely, relevant and accurate products and services for the operational air forces. Through sophisticated communications and computer systems, the 480th provides the deployed war fighter direct access to the comprehensive assets of the NAIC.

The 480th Intelligence Group, Langley AFB, Virginia is assigned the 20th and 36th Intelligence Squadron (the 20th is located at Offutt AFB Nebraska). The group provides tailored geospatial intelligence, target analysis, precision engagement and threat recognition products to enable dominant air and space power by Combat and Mobility Air Forces. The 480 IG is the AF's sole producer of F-117 imagery databases, Joint Air-to-Air Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM) and Conventional Air-Launched Cruise Missile (CALCM) target products, certified imagery for AF mission planning/rehearsal systems and target threat recognition products.

### LINEAGE

480<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Technical Group established, 14 Aug 1969

Activated, 15 Oct 1969

Inactivated, 15 Jun 1974

Activated, 1 Aug 1982

Redesignated 480<sup>th</sup> Tactical Intelligence Group, 1 Sep 1990

Redesignated 480 Air Intelligence Group, 1 Nov 1991

Redesignated 480 Intelligence Group, 1 Oct 1993

Inactivated, 2 Jun 2008

Redesignated 480<sup>th</sup> Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group, 6 Oct 2010

Activated, 1 Nov 2010

### STATIONS

Langley AFB, VA, 15 Oct 1969-15 Jun 1974

Langley AFB, VA, 1 Aug 1982-2 Jun 2008  
Fort Gordon, GA, 1 Nov 2010

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Tactical Air Command, 15 Oct 1969-15 Jun 1974  
Tactical Air Command, 1 Aug 1982  
Air Combat Command, 1 Jun 1992  
National Air Intelligence Center, 1 Oct 1993  
67<sup>th</sup> Intelligence (later, 67<sup>th</sup> Information Operations) Wing, 31 Jan 2000  
480<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Wing, 1 Dec 2003  
Air Combat Command, 25 Feb-2 Jun 2008  
480<sup>th</sup> Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing, 1 Nov 2010

### **COMMANDERS**

Col William W. Richards 15 Oct 1969  
Col Verne D. Gardina 1 Jun 1971  
Col David K. Lehnertz 1 Aug 1982  
Col Paul D. Sharp 18 Jul 1983  
Col Jackie H. Barrett 13 May 1985  
Col Charles G. Snodgrass 29 Jun 1987  
Col Colyn C. Moatts 1989-1991  
Col Robert D. Anderson Jul 1991  
Col Robert D. Anderson 1 Oct 1993  
Col Betty J. Price 1995  
Col Bobby H. Washington 1996  
Col Richard M. Gilbaldi 1998  
Col John Cowan 2000  
Col Dan McCusker 2001  
Col Larry K. Grundhauser 29 May 2003  
Col John N.T. Shanahan 1 Dec 2003  
Col Richard P. Ayers 24 Jun 2005  
Col John C. Allison 28 Feb 2007  
Col Michael B. Meyer 1 Nov 2010

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

None

#### **Campaign Streamers**

None

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

Grenada 1983

## **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device

1 Jun 2002-31 May 2003

Meritorious Unit Awards

1 Jun 2004-31 May 2006

1 Jun 2006-31 May 2007

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan 1970-31 Dec 1971

1 Jan 1984-31 Dec 1985

1 Jan 1986-31 Dec 1987

1 Jan 1988-31 Dec 1989

1 Jan 1990-31 Dec 1991

1 Jan 1992-30 Sep 1993

[31 Jan]-30 Sep 2000

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award

1 Oct 1993-30 Sep 1995

## **EMBLEM**

On a shield of Azure, a Vol Or shaded Golden Orange detailed of the field and surmounted in base by a compass rose counterchanged of the first and second and outlined of the third, in chief a key fesswise wards to sinister Gules, all within a diminished bordure Yellow.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and 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 displayed wings reflect intelligence dissemination to the command as it relates to the Air Force mission of peace through strength, which is provided by the wing. The key denotes the wing's ability to unlock its protagonist's secrets. The four teeth on the key ward denote the disciplines of intelligence gathering—IMINT, SIGINT, MASINT, and HUMINT. Red denotes strength in war. The eight-pointed star suggests a compass and stands for the worldwide intelligence gathering capabilities of the unit.

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The heritage of the 480th ISR GP can be traced back to 1969 after the in-activation of the 4444th Reconnaissance Technical Group. At this time, the 4444th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron (RTS) at Shaw AFB, South Carolina functioned as TAC's primary intelligence production organization. This unit possessed two subordinate units to include Detachment 1, located in Orlando, FL, and Detachment 2, located at Langley AFB. After a series of visits to Shaw AFB by the command's intelligence staff, Tactical Air Command initiated action to re-

locate the 4444th RTS to Langley AFB. The unit moved to a new facility on Langley AFB specifically constructed for reconnaissance technical operations. Effective 1 July 1965, the Air Force re-designated the unit as the 4444th Reconnaissance Technical Group and officially assigned it to Langley AFB. Due to construction delays in the new facility, the Air Force didn't complete the movement of personnel and equipment until the summer of 1966. At this time, the unit's mission focused on aerial reconnaissance, photographic intelligence and interpretation, and photo mapping.

On 15 October 1969, the Air Force inactivated the 4444th Reconnaissance Technical Group, however the need to support TAC's intelligence requirements remained. As a result, the personnel and equipment assigned to the inactivated unit were re-assigned to a new organization, the 480th Reconnaissance Technical Group. The mission of the new organization remained centered on photographic intelligence and photo mapping. The unit produced photo interpretation reports, tactical target illustrations, air target charts, tactical target materials catalogues, automated intelligence graphics, analog radar prediction system materials, imagery interpretation keys, automated tactical target graphics, and recognition training charts. The group was also responsible for the production and distribution of the TAC Intelligence Digest. It maintained a photographic lab facility for processing, duplicating, printing, rectifying, enlarging and reducing individual and group aerial photos. This unit also supported intelligence exploitation operations.

By 1972, the group assumed an additional responsibility of developing and maintaining tactical intelligence databases. From 1973 through 1974, the unit mission transitioned from photographic mapping to tactical intelligence production. During this period, the 480 RTG supported the development and fielding of the WS-430B Display, Control, Storage and Retrieval (DC/SR) System. Despite this advance in technology, the Air Force decided to inactivate the 480 RTG on 15 June 1974. Concurrently, the Air Staff activated the 9th Tactical Intelligence Squadron to assume operational responsibility for this new system. This unit transferred to Shaw AFB, SC under 9th Air Force. The need for a robust intelligence activity supporting TAC remained and prompted the Air Force to re-activate the 480th Reconnaissance Technical Group on 1 August 1982. While its mission set was similar to what they accomplished during the previous decade, the group also functioned as the TAC intelligence distribution center. It also served as the TAC intelligence materials repository for maps, charts, target materials, and navigational filmstrips.

On 1 September 1990, the Air Force re-designated the unit as the 480th Tactical Intelligence Group, and by 1 November 1991, Headquarters Air Force re-designated the organization as the 480th Air Intelligence Group (AIG). The group became a subordinate unit within the new Air Combat Command (ACC). With this new designation came new mission responsibilities. These requirements included targeting and target production support to former Strategic Air Command (SAC) units as well as electronic intelligence (ELINT) processing and analysis. During this time-period, the 480 AIG played a critical role supporting Air Force intelligence operations during the first Gulf War.

To support the air campaign, the group furnished critical target materials support to include contingency target graphics, basic target graphics, imagery support, recognition materials, and contingency reference books. The unit employed the recently developed Target Materials Work Station (TMWS), which was vital tool in the development of combat target packages. The 480th Tactical Intelligence Group (TIG) also sustained a 14-person contingency response cell, with 7 imagery and 7 all source analysts, to support production management and exploitation efforts.

By 1 October 1993, the Air Force re-designated the organization as the 480th Intelligence Group, and it was assigned as a subordinate unit of the National Air Intelligence Center (NAIC). The Air Force implemented this move in response to USAF Program Action Directive 93-8 (PAD 93-8), "Restructuring Air Force Intelligence" where the group transferred to the Air Intelligence Agency (AIA). Under NAIC, the 480 IG provided conventional mission planning support and target materials, multi-source analysis, and operational intelligence to train, prepare and support combat air forces worldwide.

On 31 January 2000, the group was again re-assigned to the 67th Information Operations Wing. By 1 Dec 2003, the organization transferred to the 480th Intelligence Wing. The group maintained its traditional mission as the sole producer of F-117 "Nighthawk" targeting imagery, threat recognition materials, and certified imagery for Air Force mission planning and rehearsal systems. It also provided all site imagery supporting the performances of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds demonstration team.

With the establishment of the Air Force Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency (AFISRA) in 2008, the 480th Intelligence Group was again re-aligned from the wing to ACC. To provide ACC with continuous intelligence support, the 480th Intelligence Group became a direct reporting unit. It remained an active group in ACC from 25 February until 2 June 2008, when it was inactivated. On 1 November 2010, the Air Staff re-activated the group and re-designated it as the 480 Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group. The Air Force based the unit at Fort Gordon, GA to synchronize its signals intelligence (SIGINT) capability with the National Security Agency and Joint SIGINT missions.

The 480th Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group enjoys a close relationship with the Air Reserve Component (ARC) by working with the 139th Intelligence Squadron of the Georgia Air National Guard. Today, the 480th ISR Group executes national/tactical ISR missions by providing predictive, actionable intelligence for Air Force, combatant commanders, and national authorities. The unit conducts national/tactical cryptologic intelligence collection, processing, exploitation, and dissemination operations as NSA-Georgia's Analysis and Reporting mission partner. The 480th ISR GP continues to execute Air Force, National and Tactical Integration (NTI) operations, and conducts AF Distributed Common Ground System intelligence, and surveillance operations.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.