

506 AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP



MISSION

506 Air Expeditionary Group facilitates the reconstruction, operation, maintenance and defense of the base. Kirkuk Air Base is home to the 506 AEG. The group's mission is to facilitate the reconstruction, operation, maintenance and base defense of Kirkuk Regional Air Base in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and other U.S. Central Command contingency plans. The base also hosts the 3 Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the 25 Infantry Division, deployed to the Army's Forward Operating Base Warrior. Approximately 900 active-duty Air Force, Guard and Reserve members are assigned to the 506 AEG during any given Air Expeditionary Force rotation. About 3,000 Soldiers are assigned to FOB Warrior. The group's forces are organized under seven squadrons: 506 Expeditionary Medical Services Squadron, 506 Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, 506 Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, 506 Expeditionary Logistic Readiness Squadron, 506 Expeditionary Communications Squadron, 506 Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron and the 506 Expeditionary Services Squadron. The 727 Expeditionary Air Control Squadron, Detachment 1 is also located at Kirkuk AB.

LINEAGE

506 Fighter Group, Single-Engine established, 5 Oct 1944

Activated, 21 Oct 1944

Inactivated, 16 Dec 1945

Redesignated 506 Tactical Fighter Group, 4 May 1972

Activated in the Reserve, 8 Jul 1972

Inactivated, 25 Mar 1973

506 Strategic Fighter Wing established, 20 Nov 1952

Activated, 20 Jan 1953
Redesignated 506 Fighter-Day Wing, 1 Jul 1957
Redesignated 506 Fighter-Bomber Wing, 1 Jan 1958
Redesignated 506 Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Jul 1958
Inactivated, 1 Apr 1959

506 Tactical Fighter Group and 506 Tactical Fighter Wing consolidated, 31 Jan 1984. Consolidated unit remained inactive

Redesignated 506 Air Expeditionary Group and converted to provisional status, 22 Apr 2003

STATIONS

Lakeland AAFld, FL, 21 Oct 1944-5 Mar 1945
North Field, Iwo Jima, 25 Apr-3 Dec 1945 (air echelon operated from West Field, Tinian, 23 Mar-11 May 1945)
Camp Anza, CA, 15-16 Dec 1945
Dow AFB, ME, 20 Jan 1953
Tinker AFB, OK, 20 Mar 1955-1 Apr 1959
Carswell AFB, TX, 9 Jul 1972-25 Mar 1973
Kirkuk, Iraq

ASSIGNMENTS

III Fighter Command, 21 Oct 1944
Twentieth Air Force, 25 Apr 1945
VII Fighter Command, 5 Aug 1945
Twentieth Air Force, 1 Dec 1945
Army Transport Service, 3-16 Dec 1945
Eighth Air Force, 20 Jan 1953
Second Air Force, 1 Apr 1955
Ninth Air Force, 1 Jul 1957
Eighteenth Air Force, 1 Oct 1957
Twelfth Air Force, 1 Jan 1958-1 Apr 1959
301 Tactical Fighter Wing, 8 Jul 1972-25 Mar 1973
Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate at any time after 22 Apr 2003

ATTACHMENTS

VII Fighter Command), 25 Apr 1945
Iwo Jima Air Base Command [Provisional]), 1 Dec 1945
39 Air Division, 13 Aug-7 Nov 1953

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-51, 1944-1945
F-84, 1953-1957
KB-29, 1954-1955

F-100, 1957-1958
F-105, 1972-1973

COMMANDERS

Col Bryan B. Harper, 25 Oct 1944-Dec 1945
Col William B. David, 20 Jan 1953
Col William E. Bertram, 13 Feb 1953
Col Richard O. Hunziker, 20 May 1954
Col Joseph L. Laughlin, 8 Aug 1957
Col Albert S. Kelly, 29 Nov 1958-1 Apr 1959
Col Claude G. Lawson, 8 Jul 1972-25 Mar 1973
Col Richard Scobee
Col Leonard S. Dick Oct 2009-Apr 2010
Col Michael Peplinski Mar 2004

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Air Offensive, Japan

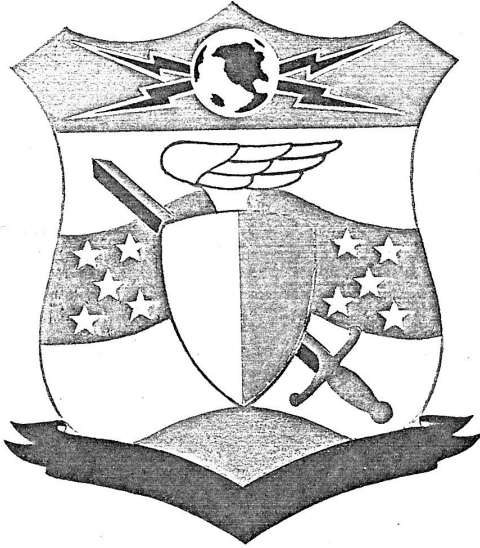
Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
Japan, 7-10 Jun 1945

EMBLEM





506 Strategic Fighter Wing emblem: On a Barry wavy of four argent and azure, second bar semee of stars of the first, over-all an escutcheon, per pale argent and or, a crest of a stylized wing of the first, fimbriated of the second, the escutcheon surmounting a sword bendwise, hilt and pommel or, blade of the last, shaded gules; on a chief of the second, a sphere argent, land areas vert, over two lightning flashes in saltire gules, fimbriated of the first. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The center motif symbolizes the 506 Strategic-Fighter Wing's striking power as a shield against aggressors and a sword of retaliation; the blue and white waves forming the background are symbolic of the unit's global mobility across the oceans of the world; the lightning bolts at the top of the insignia symbolize the Wing's immediate strike capability against any global foe. 21 JUL 1955

506 Air Expeditionary Group emblem: On a Barry wavy of four Argent and Azure, second bar semme of stars of the first, overall an escutcheon, per pale Argent and Or, a crest of a stylized wing of the first, fimbriated of the second, the escutcheon surmounting a sword bendwise, hilt and pommel Or, blade of the last, shaded Gules, on a chief of the second a sphere Argent, land areas Vert, over two lightning flashes in saltire Gules fimbriated of the first, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "506 AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP" 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 center motif symbolizes the unit's striking power as a shield against aggressors and a sword of retaliation; the blue and white waves forming the background are symbols of the unit's mobility across the oceans of the world; the lightning bolts at the top of the insignia symbolize the immediate strike capability against any global foe.

MOTTO

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Trained in fighter formation flying, long range navigation, and gunnery prior to deploying to Guam in Mar 1945. Moved to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater, Feb-Apr 1945, the air echelon flying patrols from Tinian before joining the rest of the group on Iwo Jima. The group, assigned to Twentieth AF, flew its first mission from Iwo on 18 May when it bombed and strafed an airfield in the Bonin Islands. Afterward, attacked airfields, anti-aircraft emplacements, shipping, barracks, radio and radar stations, railway cars, and other targets in the Bonin Islands or Japan. Also provided air defense for Iwo and escorted B-29s during bombardment missions from the Marianas to Japan. Received a DUC for defending B-29s against attacks by fighter aircraft during the period 7-10 Jun 1945.

Replaced the 4009 Air Base Squadron at Dow AFB, Maine, in Jan 1953. Trained as a strategic fighter wing, charged with providing air defense and escort, Apr 1953-Jun 1957. Provided air defense of northern Japan while deployed at Misawa AB, 13 Aug-7 Nov 1953.

The 506 Strategic Fighter Wing was activated at Dow Air Force Base on 25 January 1953. The 4009th Air Base Squadron which had been responsible for the operation of Dow Air Force Base prior to the activation of the 506 Strategic Fighter Wing, was redesignated and implemented as the 506 Air Base Group, and 506 Medical Group. Also assigned, for administrative purposes, was the 33rd Crash Boat Rescue Flight at Southwest Harbor, Maine. The mission is to organize and train a force capable of providing adequate protection for Strategic Air Command bombardment and reconnaissance combat elements through escort and air defense, organize and conduct air-to-air refueling operations, provide for low level photographic reconnaissance, organize and train a force capable of destroying the forces, resources, and installations of an enemy, be prepared to implement established operations orders, participate in reserve training, and perform special missions as directed by higher headquarters.

The Wing was assigned F-84G type aircraft and placed in a training status. The pilots assigned were mostly recent graduates together with some combat Korean returnees. An intensive training program was initiated to raise the combat potential of all concerned.

Beginning 19 July 1953, the 506 Strategic Fighter Wing left for a three-month TDY tour in Japan. Upon arrival in FEAF, the primary mission of the Wing was the Air Defense of Northern Japan; however, combat crew training of all crews in the Wing continued.

On 7 November 1953, after 90 days TDY, the Wing was relieved by the 31st Strategic Fighter Wing of Turner Air Force Base, Georgia, to return to Dow Air Force Base.

On the 15th of January 1954, the Wing became the first operational unit in the Air Force to receive the new F-84F Silverstreak Jets. These new Republic Aircraft replaced the F-84G, Thunderjet, and Dow was termed as the "Proving Ground" for this new aircraft.

The 506 Air Expeditionary Group was assigned to Kirkuk Regional Air Base on April 23, 2003, nearly one month after Operation Iraqi Freedom started. At that time, the group flew A-10

Thunderbolts, which flew close air support and focused intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions. The last A-10 departed the base in the Spring of 2004.

USAF UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 1 Jan 2023

Updated:

Sources

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

Base Welcome Guide. *Dow AFB, ME, 1954.*