

507 AIR DEFENSE AGGRESSOR SQUADRON



MISSION

507 Air Defense Aggressor Squadron readies aircrews with challenging and realistic specialized academics, hands-on-training, and subject matter experts on adversary surface-based threats, composite force employment, and electronic combat to defeat potential adversaries.

Provides USAF, joint, and allied forces specialized academics, hands-on training and subject matter experts on adversary surface based threats, composite force employment and electronic combat training to defeat potential adversaries.

LINEAGE

4446 Tactical Training Squadron designated and activated, 1 Aug 1988

Redesignated 507 Joint Training Squadron, 1 Nov 1991

Inactivated, 1 Jul 1994

Redesignated 507 Combat Training Squadron, 5 Sep 2003

Activated, 10 Oct 2003

Redesignated 507 Air Defense Aggressor Squadron, 1 Dec 2006

STATIONS

Little Rock AFB, AR, 1 Aug 1988

Barksdale AFB, LA, 1 Apr 1993-1 Jul 1994

Nellis AFB, NV, 10 Oct 2003

ASSIGNMENTS

507 Tactical Air Control (later, 507 Air Control) Wing, 1 Aug 1988

18 Air Support Group, 12 Jun 1992-1 Jul 1994

57 Operations Group, 10 Oct 2003
57 Adversary Tactics Group, 15 Sep 2005

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Gary Dawson

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

[1 Aug 1988]-30 Apr 1989

1 May 1989-30 Apr 1991

1 Jun 1993-[1 Jul 1994]

1 Jun 2003-31 May 2004

1 Jun 2004-31 May 2006

EMBLEM



4446th Tactical Training Squadron

Approved, 30 Nov 1988

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

10/5/2012 - 10/2/2012 Red Flag, an air-to-air combat training exercise offered here, provides training for U.S. and allied nations' combat air forces pilots, coming as close to a real world

experience as possible. Airmen of the 507th Air Defense Aggressor Squadron, the only squadron of its kind in the U.S. Air Force, add another element to the training that pilots are able to encounter, react, and hopefully overcome. This simulated threat comes in the form of the surface-to-air missile. "One of the biggest threats out there today is a ground threat, or enemies shooting up at our pilots," Capt. Justin Davis, 507th ADAS instructor, said. "It is not a good way to be prepared if you go up in some type of scenario where you have never actually seen the threat, and maybe have only read about it."

It is the role of the 507th ADAS to make pilots more aware of what a potential enemy can do with a SAM, and how to defeat it. "You need experience to go up against those threats," Davis said. "Airmen can go through this training and actually fight against them. When they are deployed, they can be armed with a better understanding on how to defeat what is out there that is trying to kill them." By utilizing surface to air missile simulators on the Nevada Test and Training Range, training has become unique at Nellis. With the use of a software modeling program that simulates the SAM's, the training experience gains an added realism. "We have software and computer modeling that will replicate what certain missiles will do so the flight profile and the kinematics of the missile will all be simulated to accurately determine if a missile destroyed an aircraft," Davis said.

"The instructors will use that system, and some other techniques that we have, to ensure we have a good product for the aircrew." The men and women of the 507th ADAS provide a lot of experience due to the variety of career fields within the squadron. "The vast experience and all of the different backgrounds add a lot to the quality of work we produce," Lt. Col. Matt Nicholson, 507th ADAS commander said. "The fighter pilots bring an aggressive aspect, the Electronic Warfare Officers try to find out how to defeat the SAM's electronically, and the intelligence Airmen look at obstacles at a more academic level and view information as a means to solve a problem." In addition to a trained group who bring multiple ways of thinking and problem solving to enhance training, actual life experience adds quality and realism to the SAM portion of a Red Flag training experience.

"We have a lot of operational experience," Nicholson said. "Not only have they studied SAM's but they also have been targeted and shot at by them. A lot of these Airmen have blown them up in combat. Not only do they study these systems, but they have fought against them in real world situations." Airmen of the 507th ADAS are not only responsible for simulating the SAM threat, but also are required to enhance existing procedures when encountering and reacting to one. "The instructors are responsible for two main parts," Davis said. "They are required to help educate people as they come through. We decide which simulated missiles took out which aircraft. At the end of the day, that's what everyone wants to know.

'When I went up against these ground threats, did I survive? If I did get taken out how do I succeed next time?' Instructors of the 507th ADAS are there to help Airmen figure that part out." "They are also responsible to assess the threats that are out there targeting what we call our blue forces," Davis said. "We're sending people to foreign air shows to check out the latest and greatest assets that countries are advertising. We also work with outside entities to see what kind of new training they are conducting. We are on the move quite a bit." With a constantly changing battlefield, the 507th ADAS, is able to add an element to the training experience here service members can't receive anywhere else.

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 27 Feb 2023
Updated:

Sources

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