

508th AEROSPACE SUSTAINMENT WING



MISSION

The Aircraft Sustainment Wing provides sustainment of existing systems as well as the acquisition of new and improved airpower capabilities. It serves all U.S. military services, civil agencies and multiple foreign countries. Support includes acquisition, modifications, modernization, engineering and technical, as well as maintenance, repair and planning. The ASW team directs, plans and manages the interface between domestic and foreign customers throughout the world. Programs include the F-16, A-10, T-37, T-38, aerial targets, multiple mature and proven aircraft and training devices for nearly all aircraft in the Air Force inventory, as well as trainers for space systems control and air traffic control towers. The wing includes sustainment planning and preparation for the F/A-22 and F-35.

LINEAGE

508th Fighter Escort Wing Established, 19 Jun 1952
Activated, 1 Jul 1952
Redesignated 508th Strategic Fighter Wing, 20 Jan 1953
Inactivated, 11 May 1956
Redesignated 508th Aircraft Sustainment Wing
Redesignated 508th Aerospace Sustainment Wing
Inactivated, 2010

STATIONS

Turner AFB, GA, 1 Jul 1952-11 May 1956
Hill AFB, UT

ASSIGNMENTS

40th Air Division, 1 Jul 1952-11 May 1956

ASSIGNMENTS

39th Air Division [Defense], 8 Feb-13 May 1953 and 12 Feb-7 May 1954

WEAPON SYSTEMS

F-84, 1952-1956

KB-29, 1953-1956

COMMANDERS

Col Robert P. Montgomery, 1 Jul 1952

Col Gerald W. Johnson, 29 Jul 1952

Col Cy Wilson, 2 Aug 1952

LTC Howard E. Cody, 29 Dec 1954 (Temporary, on the death of Col Wilson)

Col Gerald W. Johnson, 4 Jan 1955

Col Nathan J. Adams, 2-11 May 1956

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

None

EMBLEM



508th Strategic Fighter Wing emblem: Per bend engrailed azure and gules, in bend a chain or and in chief an atomic cloud argent issuing from a base gray, overall three figures representing the "Spirit

of '76" sable fimbriated of the fourth. The emblem tells the story of the 508th Strategic Fighter Wing at Turner Air Force Base, Albany, Georgia. The blue and red shield with the gold eagle perched on the wreath at the top and encircled by thirteen bright stars is the official emblem of the Wing. The emblem was designed according to descriptions in AFM 900-2 by personnel of the 508th Wing shortly after it was reactivated in July 1952. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The base of the emblem is a shield which signifies protection for the nation. On the wreath at the top an eagle was perched to represent the seal of the United States and the flight powers of the 508th Wing. Inspired by the reactivation date of the Wing coinciding with the anniversary of the United States, 4 July 1952, the designers chose historic figures linked to modern symbols for details of the emblem. The thirteen stars encircling the shield represent the thirteen original colonies that made up the Republic of the United States when the Declaration of Independence was signed on 4 July 1776. In the foreground of the shield the three figures, stand for the "Spirit of 1776" maintained by personnel assigned to carry out the mission of the wing. The gold chain diagonally across the shield connects the courage of the past with the knowledge of the present. The designers of the 508th SFW emblem chose as their motto, "Knowledge and Courage." This meant that in the event of war involving the United States, they would go forward combining the knowledge of the present with the courage of the past, "1776." (Approved, 14 Sep 1953)



508th Aircraft Sustainment Wing emblem: Azure, a terrestrial globe Celeste, land masses Or, winged Argent, fimbriated and detailed of the third, environed by a flight symbol contrailing all Gules, below and arcing to base a chain link of thirteen of the fourth fimbriated of the third, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "508TH AIRCRAFT SUSTAINMENT WING" 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 interlocked chain represents vision, from past to present. The winged globe symbolizes the unit's association with the Air Force Materiel Command. The flight symbol contrailing across the globe alludes to the unit's continuing global weapons system support to aircraft to ensure liberty, patriotism, strength and zeal.

MOTTO

KNOWLEDGE AND COURAGE

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Strategic fighter operations training and aerial refueling, 1953-1956. Deployed at Misawa AB, Japan, to provide air defense, Feb-May 1953 and Feb-May 1954.

The mission assigned to the 508th Fighter Escort Wing was to conduct strategic interdiction and escort in cooperation with and in support of Strategic Air Command bombardment aircraft, operating on a global scale. To maintain assigned units in a state of readiness to permit immediate operations against enemies of the United States; be prepared to perform tasks assigned in current emergency war plans and related operations orders; develop and recommend for standardization, tactics, techniques and procedures pertaining to strategic fighter operations; train fighter crews and units for the performance of global fighter operations; equip units for accomplishment of the assigned mission; support the air reserve defense and national guard programs in accordance with instructions received from higher headquarters; and perform special missions as directed by the Commander, Second Air Force.

The first large contingent of personnel was assigned to the 508th Wing in September 1952 at which time it began to operate as organized in the following table: While not yet considered operational ready by higher headquarters the 508th Wing was alerted to deploy to the Far East in February 1953 for temporary duty in the defense of Northern Japan. The Wing rotated back to Turner Air Force Base the following May. Meanwhile it was redesignated 508th Strategic Fighter Wing. To accomplish that portion of the mission requiring operational ability on a global scale the Wing Commander introduced the idea of a non-stop mass flight of F-84G from Turner AFB to England. The idea was challenged by Air Force officials and "Operations Long-stride" was formulated and scheduled for August 1953. This became a two-wing mission involving the 31st Strategic Fighter Wing and lead by General Thayer S. Olds, Commander 40th Air Division. The non-stop flight was a great success and proved to the Air Force that a mass of Strategic Fighter aircraft can leave any point in the United States and reach an air base in Europe without landing to refuel. This history-making flight was cited by the Secretary of the Air Force as the most meritorious flight of the year, for which the 40th Air Division was awarded the Mackay Trophy.

Hostilities had ceased earlier in the year but the Wing was again alerted to deploy to Northern Japan in February 1954 for a temporary period of training and rotation. The organization deployed back to Turner AFB in May.

In October of 1954 the 508th SFW flew another mass jet Overwater flight from Turner to England utilizing both Southern and Northern Atlantic Routes. This mission was known as "Operation Coca Alfa-II" to train and familiarize 508th pilots with operations from bases in the United Kingdom to advanced bases in Northern Europe and North Africa.

Col. Scott Stapp, commander of the 84th Combat Sustainment Wing and 508th Aerospace Sustainment Wing, has formally changed job titles as a long planned merger of the two wings took place at Club Hill on July 16 after an inactivation ceremony. The organizations are now assembled into the Aerospace Sustainment Directorate under the direction of the Ogden Air Logistics Center with Stapp as the director. "The Air Force is not telling you anything different about what we expect from you as leaders in this organization," said Maj. Gen. Andrew Busch, OO-ALC commander, to those present at the inactivation ceremony for both wings. "I will tell you that as the ALC commander, my expectations later today are the same as they were earlier today."

The 508th ASW and 84th CSW were inactivated and respective guidons enfolded into covers in the ceremony held to formally note the change. Col. Stapp, as director of the Aerospace Sustainment Directorate following the ceremony, pointed out the streamlining efficiency of having one staff take care of the functions two wing command staffs had been in charge of until he assumed the role of commander of both wings some months ago. Five groups, three in the former 508th Aerospace Sustainment Wing and two in the former 84th Combat Sustainment Wing, now become program offices under the auspices of the Aerospace Sustainment Directorate. All program office names will clearly designate what weapons platform they direct.

For example, by making it clear to both military and non-military around the world that the A-10 Programs Office oversees all things related to the A-10, communications efficiency is gained. In a numbered wing, it was not necessarily as clear, as Stapp pointed out. Both Busch and Stapp praised the leadership of all involved. Before this move, all leadership positions had been screened by a command board and none of that will change. Clearly both Busch and Stapp feel certain that they have the best people, both military and non-military Air Force-wide, assembled in leadership positions in the platform. "I really do have an amazing group of people and they will continue to perform like they have in the past," said Stapp as he described how little would actually change.

The five program office names now are the A-10 Program Office, the F-16 Program Office, the Mature and Proven Aircraft Program Office, the Munitions Program Office and the Space and C3I Program Office. 2010