

527 SPACE AGGRESSOR SQUADRON



MISSION

The 527 Space Aggressor Squadron prepares US Air Force, Joint and Allied forces for combat by providing a realistic threat to US and allied space-based capabilities from a space-capable adversary. The squadron also helps develop tactics, techniques and procedures (TTP) to counter threats and improve DoD space posture.

LINEAGE

312th Bombardment Squadron (Light) constituted, 13 Jan 1942
Activated, 10 Feb 1942
Redesignated 312th Bombardment Squadron (Dive), 3 Sep 1942
Redesignated 527 Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 23 Aug 1943
Redesignated 527 Fighter Squadron, Single Engine, 30 May 1944
Inactivated, 31 Mar 1946
Activated, 20 Aug 1946
Redesignated 527 Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 20 Jan 1950
Redesignated 527 Fighter-Day Squadron, 8 Oct 1954
Inactivated, 8 Feb 1956
Redesignated 527 Tactical Fighter Training Aggressor Squadron, 29 Sep 1975
Activated, 1 Apr 1976
Redesignated 527 Aggressor Squadron, 15 Apr 1983
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1990
Redesignated 527 Space Aggressor Squadron, 29 Sep 2000
Activated, 23 Oct 2000

Changed status from a unit of United States Air Force to a unit of United States Space Force, 21 Oct 2020

STATIONS

Will Rogers Field, OK, 10 Feb 1942
Hunter Field, GA, 15 Jun 1942
Key Field, MS, 7 Aug 1942-19 Mar 1943
La Senia, Algeria, 11 May 1943
Mediouna, French Morocco, 15 May 1943
Tafaraoui, Algeria, 11 Jun 1943
Korba, Tunisia, 1 Jul 1943
Gela, Sicily, 20 Jul 1943
Barcelona, Sicily, 27 Aug 1943
Sele Airfield, Italy, 16 Sep 1943
Serretella, Italy, 11 Oct 1943
Pomigliano, Italy, 20 Oct 1943
Marcianise, Italy, 30 Apr 1944
Ciampino, Italy, 12 Jun 1944
Orbetello, Italy, 19 Jun 1944
Poretta, Corsica, 12 Jul 1944
Grosseto, Italy, 17 Sep 1944
Pisa, Italy, 26 Oct 1944
Tantonville, France, c. 23 Feb 1945
Braunschardt, Germany, 17 Apr 1945
Schweinfurt, Germany, 20 Sep 1945-15 Feb 1946
Bolling Field, DC, 15 Feb-31 Mar 1946
Nordholz, Germany, 20 Aug 1946
Lechfeld, Germany, 1 Dec 1946
Bad Kissingen, Germany, 5 Mar-25 Jun 1947
Langley Field, VA, 25 Jun-30 Dec 1947
Neubiberg AB, Germany, 30 Dec 1947
Landstuhl AB, Germany, 1 Aug 1952-8 Feb 1956
RAF Alconbury, England, 1 Apr 1976
RAF Bentwaters, England, 14 Jul 1988-30 Sep 1990
Schriever AFB (Later SFB), CO, 23 Oct 2000

ASSIGNMENTS

86 Bombardment (later 86 Fighter-Bomber, 86 Fighter) Group, 10 Feb 1942-31 Mar 1946
86 Fighter Group, 20 Aug 1946
United States Air Forces in Europe, 15 May 1947
Tactical Air Command, 25 Jun 1947
United States Air Forces in Europe, 30 Dec 1947
86 Fighter (later, 86 Fighter-Bomber, 86 Fighter-Interceptor) Group, 25 Jan 1948-8 Feb 1956
10 Tactical Reconnaissance (later, 10 Tactical Fighter) Wing, 1 Apr 1976

81 Tactical Fighter Wing, 14 Jul 1988-30 Sep 1990
Space Warfare Center, 23 Oct 2000
595 Space Group, 23 Oct 2002
57 Adversary Tactics Group, 14 Apr 2006
57 Operations Group, 31 Mar 2020
United States Space Force (later, Space Operations Command), 24 Jul 2020 (attached to Space
Training and Readiness Delta [Provisional], 24 Jul 2020-23 Jul 2021)
Space Delta 11, 23 Aug 2021

WEAPON SYSTEMS

A-20, 1942
A-24, 1942
A-31, 1942
A-36, 1942-1944
P-40, 1944
P-47, 1944-1946
P-47(later, F-47), 1946-1947, 1948-1950
F-84, 1950-1953
F-86, 1953-1956
F-5, 1976-1988
F-16, 1988-1990

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 10 Feb-Aug 1942
Maj Charles F. Cassidy, Jr., 8 Aug 1942
Maj Robert J. Kirsch, 5 Dec 1943
Capt Sheldon W. Farnham, 17 Apr 1944
Capt John R. Dolny, 23 Jun 1944
Capt Carl Johnson, 15 Oct 1944
Maj John R. Dolny, 25 Oct 1944
Unkn, 8 Nov 1945-Feb 1946
None (Not Manned) 15 Feb-31 Mar 1946
Maj Randall L. Jones, 20 Aug 1946
Lt Col Earl D. Duncan, 26 Aug 1946
Capt William R. Waters, Nov-Dec 1946
Unkn, Jan-Jun 1947; None (Not Manned), 25 Jun-30 Dec 1947
Lt Col John M. Thacker, Jan 1948
Maj Chester L. Van Etten, Oct 1948
Maj John A. Moore, Dec 1949
Lt Col Elmer E. Mctaggart, Apr 1950
Col George Lavens Jr., 16 Jul 1951
Lt Col George B. Simler, 18 Oct 1951
Unkn, Jan-Jun 1952
Maj Henry P. Rettinger, 14 Jun 1952

Lt Col Dale S. Sweat, 1 Jul 1952
Lt Col William F. Haning Jr., 7 Jun 1954-8 Feb 1956
Lt Col Bruce G. Maclennan, 1 Apr 1976
Lt Col Thomas C. Lesan, Apr 1978
Lt Col Jay C. Callaway Jr., 2 Jan 1980
Lt Col Robert W. Mendell, 21 Dec 1981
Lt Col Van C. Sanders, 31 May 1983
Lt Col Rodney P. Kelly, 24 Jun 1985
Lt Col Richard O. Burroughs, 4 Apr 1986
Lt Col James E. Collins, 10 Apr 1987
Lt Col James L. Wisdom, 12 Apr 1989 (Temporary), 28 Apr 1989 (Permanent)-June 1990
None (Not Manned), 1 Jul-30 Sep 1990

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Sicily, Naples-Foggia

Anzio

Rome-Arno

Southern France

North Apennines

Rhineland

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Italy, 25 May 1944

Germany, 20 Apr 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

31 Oct 1955-[8 Feb 1956]

15 Nov 1977-14 Nov 1979

1 Jan-31 Dec 1980

1 Jun 1985-31 May 1987

1 Jun 1989-30 Sep 1990

1 Sep 2004-31 Aug 2005

[1 Sep 2005]-31 May 2006

1 Jul 2007-31 May 2009

1 Jun 2010-31 May 2012
1 Jun 2012-31 May 2013
1 Jun 2013-31 May 2015

Air Force Organizational Excellence Awards

1 Aug 1999-31 Jul 2001
1 Sep 2002-1 Sep 2003
2 Sep 2003-31 Aug 2004

EMBLEM





527 Aggressor Squadron



527 Space Aggressor Squadron emblem: On a disc as a gun sight Azure, gridlined Gris a caricatured crow in natural colors supported by a cloud Celeste, grasping in sinister claw a "tommy gun" Proper and hurling with its upraised wings an aerial bomb bendwise sinister Or. Attached below the disc, a Gray scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "527 SPACE AGGRESSOR SQ" 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 cloud formation represents operations at altitude; the sub-machine gun denotes the Squadron's support of ground troops, and the crow alludes to seeking out prey and taking flight to the enemy "as the crow flies." The bomb portrays the state of preparedness. All of the objects are centered on the gun sight, which signifies a state of constant alert. (Approved, 11 Jan 1943; modified, 5 Jan 2001)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Combat in MTO and ETO, 6 Jul 1943-8 May 1945.

Fighter support in defense of Western Europe, 1948-1956.

The round of training was concluded with the 527 Fighter-Bomber Squadron which arrived at Wheelus on 20 July 1950 with 25 F-47's and three B-26 target tow aircraft. The unit departed on 7 August 1950

The 525th Fighter-Bomber Squadron replaced the 527 on 22 February 1951. This squadron used a non-operational runway and the adjacent area for an aircraft park and billeting area. Maintenance facilities were nearby. A month later, the 525th was replaced by 526th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, which utilized the same facilities. Upon the departure of the 526th on 1 April 1951, the cycle of training was interrupted due to the shortage of jet fuel at Wheelus. A small detachment of fighter-bomber personnel was left at Wheelus to maintain the operation and tent facilities for future use.

Dissimilar air combat training for USAFE fighter crews, Jun 1976-Feb 1990.

The 527 Tactical Fighter Training Aggressor Squadron deployed three F-5s to Eskisehir Air Base, Turkey, 14-19 November, for its first dissimilar air combat tactics training with the Turkish Air Force. 1982

The 527 Space Aggressor Squadron will celebrate its fifth year of combat training this week.

The need for a space aggressor squadron was punctuated by enemy attempts to jam GPS signals around Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom. GPS-jamming devices are now commercially available, and individuals with enough savvy can even build their own using plans purchased through the Internet.

Like their airborne predecessors, the space aggressors accomplish their mission through a mix of academics, training and live-fire exercise. Using actual foreign systems or validated emulators, space aggressors attack friendly forces by jamming their Global Positioning System receivers or disrupting satellite communications signals.

Exercise participants must then demonstrate the ability to detect, adapt and succeed in their mission despite the degradation or loss of space services. The goal of this program is to give the forces their first taste of "space combat" in a controlled and forgiving exercise arena rather than on the battlefield.

American forces can no longer assume they will have unfettered access to the GPS signal. They must develop a richer understanding of the GPS signal environment and anticipate how any changes in that environment might affect their weapon systems. The same is true for satellite communications. Satellites link forward deployed forces with intelligence, logistics, higher headquarters and mutual supporting units. If not protected, key satellite communications links may be vulnerable to disruption by an enemy.

Over the last two decades, several disaffected individuals and groups have successfully used commercial off-the-shelf equipment to either jam or overpower authorized satellite users and insert their own propaganda broadcast. Using similar commercial equipment and the same simplistic brute-force techniques, the 527 SAS trains combat forces to recognize satellite jamming and if possible locate the source of the jamming.

Satellite communications and GPS are critical to the nation's military, civilian and commercial operations. Developing and exercising the ability to overcome an attack on space services will blunt the impact of the next attempt and avoid such an event from becoming a "Space Pearl Harbor." Developing the capability to exercise forces against live, free-playing aggressors is directed in the Department of Defense Training Transformation Implementation Plan. The Air Force is now moving to integrate adversary forces under command of the 57th Adversary Tactics Group at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The 57th ATG will bring together air, space and information aggressor capabilities for presentation in major Air Force, joint and combined exercises.

To support the vision of the integrated aggressor force, planning is underway now to realign the 527 SAS from the Space Warfare Center here to Air Combat Command's U.S. Air Force Warfare Center at Nellis AFB. Although their patch will change, the Space Aggressors still expect to call Schriever their home for the near future.

At the "Red Barn" here, space aggressors train and exercise potential adversary space attack scenarios. They study enemy tactics, anticipate near term developments and examine their effect against friendly or "blue" weapons or forces. They also construct or purchase training equipment from the same sources available to individuals or adversaries worldwide and craft plans as a space-capable adversary to challenge our forces.

Like many other missions in AFSPC, the space aggressor mission is unique. No single job prepares Airmen for duty as an aggressor. A solid instructor background helps, it also takes someone who can learn and lead in unique and challenging environments and who is humble enough to lose gracefully when the good guys get it right.

Most aggressors are selected because they not only meet the personality requirements, but they also bring a necessary skill set for operating or employing the aggressor training systems. Backgrounds in various air and space systems help both the 527 SAS and its associate Reserve squadron, the 26th SAS, develop a team versed in the impact a space attack might have on the air and space plan as a whole. Together, this unique blend of officers, enlisted, civilians and contract support perform one of the most cutting-edge missions in space.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 28 Apr 2018

Updated: 18 Feb 2023

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.

Unit yearbook. Neubibeg AB, Germany. *The 86 Raiders*. Montgomery Publishing Company. London, England. 1952.

Unit history. *Wheelus Field; The Story of the US Air Force in Libya. The Early days 1944-1952*. R. L. Swetzer. Historical Division Office of Information USAFE. 15 Jan 1965