

539th FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR SQUADRON



MISSION

The mission of the 539th FIS is to provide aircraft and crews for execution of Fighter Interceptor Missions; to identify friendly aircraft and destroy enemy forces.

LINEAGE

539th Fighter Squadron constituted, 24 Sep 1943

Activated, 1 Oct 1943

Disbanded, 10 Apr 1944

Reconstituted and redesignated 539th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, 23 Mar 1953

Activated, 18 Apr 1954

Inactivated, 31 Aug 1967

STATIONS

Westover Field, MA, 1 Oct 1943

Seymour Johnson Field, NC, 13 Oct 1943

Bluethenthal Field, NC, 8 Dec 1943-10 Apr 1944

Stewart AFB, NY, 18 Apr 1954

McGuire AFB, NJ, 18 Aug 1955

ASSIGNMENTS

402nd Fighter Group, 1 Oct 1943

326th Fighter Group, 25 Nov 1943-10 Apr 1944

4709th Defense (later Air Defense) Wing, 18 Apr 1954

4700th Air Defense Group, 20 Sep 1954

4709th Air Defense Wing, 18 Aug 1955

4621st Air Defense Wing (later New York Air Defense Sector), 1 Oct 1956
4730th Air Defense Group, 8 Feb 1957
New York Air Defense Sector, 1 Aug 1959

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-47, 1944
P-47C
P-47D
F-86, 1954
F-106, 1959
F-86F
F-86D
F-86L 1955
F-106A 1959

COMMANDERS

Cpt William E. Nagle, 19 Oct 1943
LTC Robert D. Wallace, #1956
LTC Norman W. Champion, #1960

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



On a light blue disc, bordered Air Force yellow, the symbols of a clock, indicated with Roman numerals, III, VI, IX, and XII black, the hands of the clock pointing toward the XII, over all a cubit winged arm proper, trusting the clenched fist through a cloud proper, gripping and shattering the fuselage of a supersonic bomber black. (Approved 9 Dec 1954)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 539th, in conjunction with the 538th Fighter Squadron, operated under the Replacement Training Unit (RTU) program in the advance phase of pilot training.

The 539th Fighter Interceptor Squadron was activated in October 1943 at Westover Field, Chicopee, Mass. Shortly after activation, the squadron moved to Seymour Johnson Field, Goldsboro, North Carolina to become part of the 402nd Fighter Group where it operated under the Replacement Training Unit Program of the advanced phase of pilot training. In December 1943, the squadron again moved, this time to Blethenthal Field, Wilmington, North Carolina, and was assigned to the 326th Fighter Group where it remained until disbanded in April 1944.

In April 1954, the squadron was assigned to Air Defense Command and reactivated at Stewart Air Force Base, Newburgh, New York, equipped with F-94C aircraft. The reactivated designation of the unit was the 5th Fighter Interceptor Squadron. In August 1955, however, after a move to McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, the unit was redesignated the 539th Fighter Interceptor Squadron.

While at McGuire AFB, the squadron was equipped initially with F-86D type aircraft, and later with the F-86L all-weather interceptor. The 539th was one of two combat units in Air Defense Command at McGuire AFB to operate under the control of the nation's first semi-automatic ground environment system (SAGE) which became operational in mid-1958 in the vital New York-Philadelphia area.

The 539th is the first squadron in Air Defense Command to be equipped with the F-106A, supersonic interceptor.

16 October 1972 A USAF Convair F-106B-50-CO Delta Dart, 57-2528, of the 4756th Air Defense Wing, Tyndall AFB, Florida, is lost in a crash. This aircraft had survived a mid-air collision on 4 May 1965 with F-106A-80-CO, 57-4721, both assigned to the 539th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, McGuire AFB, New Jersey, the second fighter being lost and 2528 recovering to NAFEC Atlantic City, New Jersey.