

## 555<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL GROUP



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

55<sup>th</sup> Air Depot Group authorized and constituted, 31 Jan 1942  
Activated, 16 Feb 1942  
Inactivated, 28 Dec 1945  
Disbanded, 27 Sep 1984  
Reconstituted and redesignated 555<sup>th</sup> International Group, 22 Sep 2005  
Activated, 8 Nov 2005

#### STATIONS

Patterson Field, OH, 16 Feb 1942  
Robins Field, GA, 16 Aug 1943  
Kelly Field, TX, 10 Feb 1944-4 May 1944  
Oahu, Hawaii, 2 Jun 1944  
Wheeler Field, Hawaii, by 31 Jul 1944  
Guam, c. 1 Sep 1944-12 Dec 1945  
Camp Anza, CA, 27-28 Dec 1945  
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, 8 Nov 2005

#### ASSIGNMENTS

Air Service Command, 16 Feb 1942  
I Air Service Area Command, 22 May 1942

Fairfield Air Depot Control Area Command (later, Fairfield Air Service Command), by 1 Feb 1943  
Warner Robins Air Service Command, 16 Aug 1943  
San Antonio Air Service Command, 12 Feb 1944  
Seventh Air Force, 2 Jun 1944  
VII Air Force Service Command, 5 Jun 1944  
Army Air Forces Pacific Ocean Areas, 15 Aug 1944  
VI Air Service Area Command, 1 Sep 1944  
Twentieth Air Force, 18 Sep-28 Dec 1945  
Air Force Security Assistance Center (AFSAC), 8 Nov 2005

## **COMMANDERS**

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamer**

World War II American Theater

#### **Campaign Streamer**

World War II

Western Pacific

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

### **Decoration**

Meritorious Unit Citation

27 Jan-18 Apr 1945

### **EMBLEM**

Per bend Azure and Celeste, in chief five mullets in chevron reversed Or, at fess point a globe voided of the field, gridlined Argent, in base a sinister wing of the third, all within a narrow border Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "555TH INTERNATIONAL 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 top and bottom backgrounds symbolize night and day, suggesting continuous support. The five stars represent the five geographic unified commands that the unit supports, which ensures that the allies are equipped to participate along side the unit. The globe signifies the unit's international mission and customers and is borrowed from the emblem of the Air Force Security Assistance Center, the unit's parent organization. The single wing symbolizes air power and is outstretched in a gesture of partnership with the allies. The wing was an element of the historical patch proposed by the Army Quartermaster General during World War II for the 55th Air Depot Group, the unit's predecessor organization.

### **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

November 14, 2005 WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) - The Air Force Security Assistance Center completed its reorganization effort with the activation of the 555th International Group in a ceremony Nov. 8 at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton, Ohio. The group now becomes AFSAC's primary organization responsible for supporting foreign military sales to more than 100 countries and administering the Air Force's \$100 billion security assistance budget.

AFSAC is part of Air Force Materiel Command, which provides the Air Force with war-fighting capabilities on time and on cost. Both AFSAC and AFMC are headquartered at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. The ceremony also activated four subordinate units: the 755th International Materiel Squadron, the 555th International Materiel Squadron, the 555th International Logistics Squadron and the 555th International Support Squadron. "This is yet another new chapter in the rich history of accomplishments for AFSAC," said Maj. Gen. Arthur J. Rooney Jr., AFSAC commander.

Recounting from an "inspirational book of achievements," General Rooney highlighted two innovative online applications, the Worldwide Warehouse Applications and the Parts and Repair Ordering Systems, as recent AFSAC successes. He also cited the "Outstanding" rating awarded to AFSAC by the AFMC Inspector General during the Operational Readiness Inspection in late-2004. This activation ceremony, he said, is the capstone event to an incredibly successful year. Introducing the group's inaugural commander, General Rooney expressed confidence in his pick.

"I didn't need to review reports or paperwork to select him. I've watched [Col.] Larry Avery's performance first hand and I know he is the right man for the job." After accepting the unit guidon from General Rooney, symbolizing the official assumption of command, Colonel Avery turned to activate the four squadrons that will form the group. "I'm very proud and very humbled to lead the only international group in the Air Force," said Colonel Avery. Each of the organizations activated in the ceremony were units that last saw active service during the Second World War, he said.

Before presiding over the assumptions of command for the four squadrons, Colonel Avery reminded his charges of the responsibilities of command, as well as its rewards. "Ask any four-star general what his favorite assignment was and he will say it was a squadron command." "To my now fellow commanders and director, welcome," General Rooney said in closing the ceremony. "I look forward to working with you toward even greater successes in the future. I challenge you to savor your time in command; there really is nothing else like it."

AFSAC builds foreign partner capabilities in support of global security objectives. The Global War on Terror is front and center of the center's priorities. Current efforts are under way to assist in rebuilding the Iraqi and Afghanistan Air Forces, as well as supporting other international partners engaged in the GWOT. To achieve those and other national security goals, AFSAC oversees system sales and support for more than 170 models of aircraft - a fleet totaling more than 6,600. AFSAC also orchestrates Air Force Materiel Command product and logistic center support of security assistance

needs to 90 countries and nine NATO organizations.

The center serves as a 'portfolio manager' for more than 2400 total foreign military sales cases valued at over \$80 billion. AFSAC provides logistics support for weapon systems dating from the 1940s, such as the C-47, to modern-day systems, including the C-130, F-16, F-15, C-17 and the Boeing 767 Airborne Warning and Control System. As a result of the FMS oversight responsibility, AFSAC personnel help ensure the command's international business processes comply with the Air Force policy and the Arms Export Control Act.

AFSAC is also responsible for the command's foreign military sales resource allocation, international cooperative research, development and acquisition programs, military-to-military contract programs and foreign disclosure management. In 2005, AFSAC was restructured to a center/group/squadron configuration. A ceremony was held November 8 of that year to formally activate the 555th International Group, the 555th International Materiel Squadron, the 755th International Materiel Squadron, the 555th International Logistics Squadron and the 555th International Support Squadron. AFSAC has more than 420 military, civilian, contractor personnel and foreign liaison officers.

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Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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