

## 561<sup>st</sup> FIGHTER-DAY SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

83<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Light) constituted, 20 Nov 1940  
Activated, 15 Jan 1941  
Redesignated 83<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 30 Dec 1941  
Inactivated, 22 Jan 1946  
Redesignated 83<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Light, 29 Apr 1947  
Activated, 19 May 1947  
Inactivated, 10 Sep 1948  
Redesignated 561<sup>st</sup> Fighter-Escort Squadron, 27 Oct 1950  
Activated, 1 Nov 1950  
Redesignated 561<sup>st</sup> Strategic Fighter Squadron, 20 Jan 1953  
Redesignated 561<sup>st</sup> Fighter-Day Squadron, 1 Jul 1957  
Inactivated, 8 Jan 1958

#### STATIONS

McChord Field, WA, 15 Jan 1941  
Esler Field, LA, 27 Feb-3 Jul 1942 (operated from Stockton Field, CA, 24 May-24 Jun 1942)  
Ismailia, Egypt, 13 Aug 1942  
LG 88, Egypt, 18 Oct 1942  
Gambut, Libya, 6 Dec 1942  
Magrun LG, Libya, 14 Dec 1942  
Gambut, Libya, 22 Dec 1942  
Caste1 Benito, Libya, 16 Feb 1943  
El Assa, Libya, 3 Mar 1943

Medenine, Tunisia, 4 Apr 1943  
Sfax, Tunisia, 16 Apr 1943  
Hergla, Tunisia, 3 Jun 1943  
Ponte Olivo, Sicily, 2 Aug 1943  
Gerbini, Sicily, 22 Aug 1943  
Foggia, Italy, 5 Nov 1943  
Gaudo Airfield, Italy, 19 Jan-4 Feb 1944  
Kurmitola, India, 21 Mar 1944  
Pandaveswar, India, 13 Jun 1944  
Fenny, India, 18 Jul 1944 (operated from Magwe, Burma, 4-25 May 1945)  
Pandaveswar, India, 9 Jun 1945  
Karachi, India, 21 Nov-24 Dec 1945  
Ft Lawton, WA, 21-22 Jan 1946  
Langley Field, VA, 19 May 1947-10 Sep 1948  
Turner AFB, GA, 1 Nov 1950  
Bergstrom AFB, TX, 5 Dec 1950-8 Jan 1958

#### **ASSIGNMENTS**

12<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 15 Jan 1941-22 Jan 1946  
12<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 19 May 1947-10 Sep 1948  
12<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Escort Group, 1 Nov 1950  
12<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Escort (later Strategic Fighter; Fighter-Day) Wing, 16 Jun 1952-8 Jan 1958

#### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-18, 1941-1942  
B-23, 1941-1942  
B-25, 1942-1945  
B-25A  
B-25C  
B-25H  
B-25J  
A-26, 1945  
F-84, 1951-1957  
F-84E

#### **COMMANDERS**

#### **HONORS**

##### **Service Streamers**

##### **Campaign Streamers**

Egypt-Libya  
Tunisia Sicily  
Naples-Foggia

Rome-Arno  
Air Combat, EAME Theater  
India-Burma  
China Defensive  
Central Burma

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation  
North Africa and Sicily, Oct 1942-17 Aug 1943

#### **EMBLEM**

On a red disk, border white, edged black, charged with an annulet of the last, a skeleton proper, robed and winged black, diving toward dexter base, while holding a black shield, edged white in the left hand and brandishing a white sword in the right hand. (Approved, 8 Aug 1944)

#### **MOTTO**

#### **NICKNAME**

#### **OPERATIONS**

Patrols over the Pacific from the west coast, Dec 1941-Feb 1942 and 24 May-24 Jun 1942; combat in MTO, 16 Aug 1942-30 Jan 1943, and in CBI, 27 Apr 1944-24 May 1945. Not manned, 1947-1948.

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Air Force Order of Battle  
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#### **Sources**

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.