

## 16<sup>th</sup> WEAPONS SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

16<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) constituted, 20 Nov 1940  
Activated, 15 Jan 1941  
Redesignated 16<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron (Fighter), 12 Mar 1941  
Redesignated 16<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron (Twin Engine), 15 May 1942  
Redesignated 16<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron (Single Engine), 1 Jun 1942  
Redesignated 16<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, Single Engine, 20 Aug 1943  
Inactivated, 7 Dec 1945  
Activated, 15 Oct 1946  
Redesignated 16<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, Jet Propelled, 19 Feb 1947  
Redesignated 16<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, Jet, 19 Aug 1948  
Redesignated 16<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor Squadron, 1 Feb 1950  
Discontinued, and inactivated, 24 Dec 1964  
Redesignated 16<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Squadron, and activated, 18 Jun 1965  
Organized, 20 Jun 1965  
Inactivated, 1 Nov 1970  
Redesignated 16<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, 3 Oct 1978  
Activated, 1 Jan 1979  
Redesignated 16<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Squadron, 1 Apr 1983  
Inactivated, 30 Jun 1986  
Redesignated 16<sup>th</sup> Weapons Squadron, 24 Jan 2003  
Activated, 3 Feb 2003

## **STATIONS**

Hamilton Field, CA, 15 Jan 1941  
March Field, CA, 10 Jun 1941-11 Jan 1942  
Karachi, India, 12 Mar 1942  
Kunming, China, 27 Jun 1942 (detachment operated from Lingling, China, 10 Jul-Aug 1942)  
Chungking, China, 17 Aug 1942  
Kweilin, China, 27 Oct 1942  
Chenyi, China, 29 Nov 1942 (detachment operated from Yunnani, China, 26 Dec 1942-Mar 1943) Kweilin, China, 31 Mar 1943  
Hengyang, China, 20 Sep 1943  
Chengkung, China, 25 Nov 1943 (detachments operated from Tsuyung, China, 25 Nov 1943-Apr 1944; Nanning, China, Feb 1944; Szemao, China, Apr 1944; Yunnani, China, May-Jul 1944; Liangshan, China, 16-31 Dec 1944; Kwanghan, China, 24 Dec 1944-30 Jan 1945; Laohokow, China, 1 Jan-16 Mar 1945; Poseh, China, 1 Feb-13 Apr 1945; Pakhoi, China, 7-19 Aug 1945)  
Nanning, China, 19 Aug 1945  
Loping, China, Sep-Nov 1945  
Camp Kilmer, NJ, 6-7 Dec 1945  
Yontan AB, Okinawa, 15 Oct 1946  
Naha AB, Okinawa, 22 May 1947  
Itazuke AB, Japan, 22 Sep 1950  
Kimp'o AB, South Korea, 22 Oct 1950  
Itazuke AB, Japan, 3 Jan 1951  
Tsuiki AB, Japan, 22 Jan 1951 (detachment operated from Suwon AB, South Korea, 20 May-29 Jul 1951)  
Suwon AB, South Korea, 29 Jul 1951  
Misawa AB, Japan, Jul 1954  
Naha AB, Okinawa, 1 Aug 1954-24 Dec 1964  
Eglin AFB, FL, 20 Jun 1965-1 Nov 1970  
Hill AFB, UT, 1 Jan 1979-30 Jun 1986  
Nellis AFB, NV, 3 Feb 2003

## **DEPLOYED STATIONS**

Chia-Yi Afld, Taiwan, 4-28 Apr and 1-30 Jun 1955  
Tainan AB, Taiwan, 24 Aug-early Oct and 5 Nov-18 Dec 1958  
Chia-Yi Afld, Taiwan, 19 Dec 1958-19 Jan 1959  
Bodo AS, Norway, 27 Aug-13 Sep 1966  
Cigli AB, Turkey, 13-31 Oct 1969  
Kunsan AB, South Korea, 26 May-7 Sep 1970

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

51<sup>st</sup> Pursuit (later, 51<sup>st</sup> Fighter) Group, 15 Jan 1941-7 Dec 1945  
51<sup>st</sup> Fighter (later, 51<sup>st</sup> Fighter Interceptor) Group, 15 Oct 1946  
51<sup>st</sup> Fighter Interceptor Wing, 25 Oct 1957-24 Dec 1964  
33<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing, 20 Jun 1965-1 Nov 1970

388<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Jan 1979-30 Jun 1986  
USAF Weapons School, 3 Feb 2003

### **ATTACHMENTS**

23<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Group, Jul 1942-Oct 1943  
51<sup>st</sup> Fighter-Interceptor Wing, 1 Jul-24 Oct 1957  
Tactical Air Forces Norway [NATO], 27 Aug-13 Sep 1966  
1 Tactical Air Forces [Turkish] [NATO], 13-31 Oct 1969  
354<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing, 26 May-14 Jun 1970  
54<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing, 15 Jun-7 Sep 1970

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

P-40E, 1941-1944  
P-40G  
P-40K  
P-40M  
P-40N  
P-51B, 1944-1945  
P-51C  
P-51K  
F-80A  
F-80C, 1947-1951  
F-86E, 1951-1959  
F-102A, 1959-1964  
F-4, 1965-1970  
F-16A, 1979  
F-16B  
F-16C  
F-16D  
F-80B

### **COMMANDERS**

2Lt Lowell W. Goddard, 15 Jan 1941  
Maj Harry B. Young, 30 Apr 1941  
Maj George W. Hazlett, Dec 1942  
Maj Harry M. Pike, 27 Jan 1943  
LTC Robert Liles, 2 Jul 1943  
Cpt Charles W. Isom, 19 Jul 1944  
Maj Dexter K. Baumgardner, 10 Sep 1944  
Maj John S. Craig, 13 Nov 1944  
1Lt Francis L. McCarter, Jan 1945  
Maj Clarence A. Dooley, 27 Feb 1945-unkn  
Unkn, 15 Oct 1946-1948  
LTC Kenneth L. Garrett, 1948

Maj Donald H. Higgins, Feb 1949  
Maj Joseph D. Hornsby, 10 Aug 1949  
LTC Converse B. Kelly, 1 Nov 1949  
LTC Evans C. Stephens, May 1950  
LTC Benjamin C. Warren, Feb 1951  
Maj Royal E. Koons Jr., 22 May 1951  
Maj Donald E. Adams, Mar 1952  
Maj Dwight S. Beckham, Jun 1952  
Maj Edwin L. Heller, 6 Nov 1952  
Unkn, 23 Jan 1953-1954  
LTC Charles E. Rigney, 1954  
LTC Robert H. Clark, 10 Aug 1954  
LTC Homer W. Morris, 16 Nov 1954  
Maj Lee F. Richason, 8 Jun 1955  
Maj Emmett C. Wettenbach, 5 Jul 1955  
LTC Glenn E. W. Mann Jr., 14 Oct 1955  
Maj Norman H. Frisbie, 26 Apr 1957  
Maj Charles R. Foster, 1 Nov 1958  
LTC James A. Hearn, 1 Apr 1960  
LTC Craig H. Fairburn, 1962  
LTC Garnet D. Page, 5 Jul 1963-24 Dec 1964  
LTC Garnet D. Page, 20 Jun 1965 (additional duty)  
LTC Russell E. Taliferro, Jul 1965 (additional duty)  
LTC Garnet D. Page, 4 Aug 1965  
Maj Edward Hillbing, 21 Sep 1965  
LTC Garnet D. Page, Oct 1965  
LTC Alva D. Henahan, 1 Nov 1965  
LTC William R. Martin, 21 Oct 1967  
LTC Ralph L. Brooks, 23 Oct 1968  
LTC John C. Downey, 27 Jun-1 Nov 1970  
LTC Lawrence E. Boese, 1 Jan 1979  
LTC R. Dean Stickwell, 9 May 1980  
LTC Gary K. Nelson, 19 Oct 1981  
LTC Richard D. Anderson, 20 May 1982  
LTC James D. Latham, 4 May 1984-30 Jun 1986

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

New Guinea

India-Burma

China Defensive  
China Offensive

Korean War  
UN Offensive  
CCF Intervention  
1st UN Counteroffensive  
CCF Spring Offensive  
UN Summer-Fall Offensive  
Second Korean Winter  
Korea Summer-Fall 1952  
Third Korean Winter  
Korea Summer 1953

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

**Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation  
Korea, 28 Nov 1951-30 Apr 1953

**Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards**

29 Aug 1958-19 Jan 1959  
26 Mar 1962-30 Sep 1963  
1 Jan 1967-30 Jun 1968  
1 Jul 1968-30 Jun 1969  
4 May 1984-3 May 1986

**Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations**

[22] Sep 1950-30 Jun 1951  
1 Jul 1951-31 Mar 1953

**EMBLEM**



16th Fighter Squadron (Single Engine); 16th Fighter Squadron (Jet Propelled); 16th Fighter Squadron (Jet); 16th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron





On a five-sided geometrical figure, per fess enhanced, Air Force golden yellow and Air Force blue, an American Indian ceremonial stake issuing from dexter base and extending beyond the perimeter of the emblem in chief, striped palewise of four, black and red; the stake pierced by a tomahawk bendwise, handle brown, blade white, border and thongs black; all within a narrow black border. The TOMAHAWK is slashed into a red and black American Indian Ceremonial Stake to signify readiness for combat. (Approved, 16 Nov 1961)

#### **MOTTO**

#### **NICKNAME**

Tomahawks

#### **OPERATIONS**

The Weapons School F-16 Division was activated in October of 1980 and to date has graduated 317 F-16 Weapons Officers and continues to produce 20 graduates each year.

Combat in CBI, Jul 1942-25 Jul 1945.

Combat in Korea, 22 Sep 1950-27 Jul 1953.

Air defense in Okinawa and the Far East, 1954-1964.

Became combat ready in the F-4 in Dec 1965. Participated in numerous airpower

demonstrations, provided close air support of Army troops during tactical exercises, and prepared for overseas deployments.

From Dec 1966 to mid-1967 performed F-4 replacement training.

Twice relinquished all its resources for combat in SEA and remanned in Oct 1967 and Apr 1969.

Deployed to South Korea, and assumed alert status at Kunsan and Osan ABs Jun-Sep 1970, providing air defense, participating in exercises, and maintaining combat readiness.

Provided F-16 instructor pilot training, aircrew academics, and flight training tactics, 1979-1983.

From Apr 1983 to Jun 1986, trained for combat operations.

An F-16 crashed short of the runway here at about 8:30 a.m. on March 18 2005. The pilot ejected safely and was taken to the base hospital for evaluation, officials said. The aircraft was assigned to the U.S. Air Force Weapons School's 16th Weapons Squadron.

On 12 March 2007, at 2058 hours Pacific Standard Time (0358 Zulu), an F-16CJ aircraft, serial number 91-0386, crashed 1500 feet short of Runway 32 at Tonopah Test Range Airfield (TTRA), Nevada. The Mishap Pilot (MP) and Mishap Aircraft (MA), assigned to the 16th Weapons Squadron, 57th Wing, Nellis Air Force Base (AFB), Nevada, were participating in a routine Weapons School training mission when the MA experienced a malfunction approximately forty-six minutes after takeoff where the engine remained stuck in afterburner (AB). Eight minutes later the MA flamed-out due to fuel starvation. The MP attempted a night flame-out (FO) landing using night vision goggles to TTRA, but was unable to acquire the airfield and ejected just short of the runway. The MP suffered only minor injuries during the ejection. Aircraft damage is estimated at \$29,277,088 and damage to the runway lighting is estimated at \$6,856. The MA was participating in a planned two-ship training mission in the Nellis Range Area. Approximately forty-six minutes after takeoff, the MA experienced a stuck throttle condition where the aircraft remained in AB despite throttle inputs. In coordination with the mishap flight lead (MFL), the MP attempted to recover the MA at the TTRA; the airfield tower was unoccupied and the runway lights were off. Both the MP and the MFL attempted, unsuccessfully, to activate the pilot controlled lighting at the field. Runway lights were finally activated approximately seventeen seconds prior to impact; at that point the MP acquired the runway environment, realized that he could not safely reach the runway, and ejected. The cause of the mishap, supported by clear and convincing evidence, was the failure of the throttle cable that links the throttle control to the Engine Control Rack Assembly (ECRA). Specifically, the center race inside the throttle cable assembly fractured 63 7/8" (approximately one-quarter of the length of the cable) forward of the ECRA. The failure of the throttle cable was most likely due to one or more separate but contributing factors. First, kinking of the cable assembly occurred due to damage during installation or maintenance in the area. Second, a material smear (defect in the metal race) was likely introduced during the manufacturing process and may have made the race more susceptible to fracture. A combination of these two factors was

sufficient to initiate and propagate fatigue cracks which eventually led to the failure of the center race, inability to control engine inputs, fuel starvation, and the loss of the MA. In addition, the inoperability of Pilot Controlled Lighting (PCL) at TTRA, though not causal, substantially contributed to the mishap sequence.

The USAF Weapons School is implementing a three-phase plan to build F-35 "patch wearers" needed for the first operational Joint Strike Fighter squadrons. During the first phase of the plan, which is now approved by Air Combat Command, USAF will bring weapons officers from other aircraft to attend an "F-35 transition course." The officers will then move to the 16th Weapons Squadron at the USAFWS for two years during the second phase, before finally going to Hill AFB, Utah, where they will help bring the first operational F-35s online. The second, so-called "seasoning" phase, is critical because it will leverage lessons from the school's F-22 standup effort, and will allow F-35 weapons officers to become tactical experts before they arrive at operational units, officials said. During this phase weapons officers will fly both sorties as part of the 16th WPS and 442nd Test and Evaluation Squadron, and participate in simulator sessions to help develop and write F-35 tactics. The involvement of 16th WPS weapons officers in tactics development will provide "unique knowledge" of the necessary skill set for F-35 pilots and how to teach those skills, said Lt. Col. David Epperson, the 16th WPS commander. 2015

The US Air Force Weapons School at Nellis AFB, Nev., received its first F-35A. The new aircraft touched down at the desert base on Jan. 15 after a ferry flight from Lockheed Martin's F-35 production facility in Fort Worth, Texas. The new airframe will be used to drive tactics development at the Weapons School. Over the next year, the school's instructors and staff will develop a curriculum for the first F-35A Weapons Instructor Course, said school Commandant Col. Adrian Spain. The school is scheduled to receive a total of 24 F-35As. Nellis has hosted a separate force of F-35As for developmental and operational testing since March 2013. The Weapons School's airplanes will initially operate under the umbrella of the 16th Weapons Squadron, the F-16 WIC unit, said Lt. Col. David Epperson, the squadron's commander. The school will leverage knowledge from other systems as it builds F-35A expertise, and WIC instructors as well as operational test and evaluation cadre will be vital in developing tactics and thinking "outside the container, and to look into the future," said Epperson. Over the next two years, pilots will transition to Nellis to get important F-35A experience, which will aid in developing the school's F-35A syllabus. The first USAFWS course is tentatively scheduled to begin in January 2018. 2015

Weapons School Introduces F-35 to Integration Phase A pair of F-35As assigned to the 16th Weapons Squadron at Nellis AFB, Nev., participated in the Air Force Weapons School's "integration phase" for the first time. During the capstone large force employment training exercise, held July 8-24, F-35s flew a wide range of missions as part of the course. Even though the first F-35A weapons instructor course won't start until January 2018, the strike fighter flew as part of Class 15As integration phase allowing students to train with the "unique capabilities" of the aircraft. Aircrews, intelligence airmen, and maintainers with the 16th WPS and 422nd Test and Evaluation Squadron helped the F-35s prosecute missions, such as counter air, suppression of enemy air defenses, and air interdiction. The two F-35As also participated in two

of the most complex missions in the course, advanced SEAD and offensive counter air against "near peer" simulated adversaries. The F-35s were tasked with locating adversary surface-to-air missile radars and then suppressing them with advanced electronic warfare capabilities or destroying them with weapons. 2015

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Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 19 Nov 2010

Updated: 1 May 2014

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.