

## 23<sup>rd</sup> WING



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

23<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing, established, 10 Aug 1948  
Activated, 16 Aug 1948  
Inactivated, 24 Sep 1949  
Redesignated 23<sup>rd</sup> Fighter-Interceptor Wing, 19 Dec 1950  
Activated, 12 Jan 1951  
Inactivated, 6 Feb 1952  
Redesignated 23<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing and activated, 28 Jan 1964  
Organized, 8 Feb 1964  
Redesignated 23<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 1991  
Inactivated, 1 Jun 1992  
Redesignated 23<sup>rd</sup> Wing and activated, 1 Jun 1992  
Redesignated 23<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Group, 1 Apr 1997  
Redesignated 23<sup>rd</sup> Wing, 1 Oct 2006

#### STATIONS

Northwest Guam AFB, Guam, 16 Aug 1948-3 Apr 1949  
Howard AFB, CZ, 25 Apr-24 Sep 1949  
Presque Isle AFB, ME, 12 Jan 1951-6 Feb 1952  
McConnell AFB, KS, 8 Feb 1964  
England AFB, LA, 1 Jul 1972-1 Jun 1992  
Pope AFB, NC, 1 Jun 1992  
Moody AFB, GA, 1 Oct 2006

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

Twentieth Air Force, 16 Aug 1948  
Caribbean Air Command, 25 Apr-24 Sep 1949  
Eastern Air Defense Force, 12 Jan 1951-6 Feb 1952  
Tactical Air Command, 28 Jan 1964  
Twelfth Air Force, 8 Feb 1964  
835<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 1 Jul 1964  
Twelfth Air Force, 30 Jun 1971  
Ninth Air Force, 1 Jul 1972-1 Jun 1992  
Ninth Air Force, 1 Jun 1992  
347<sup>th</sup> Wing, 1 Apr 1997  
4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, 27 Jun 2000  
347<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing, 18 Aug 2006  
Ninth Air Force, 1 Oct 2006

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

F-47, 1948-1949  
RF-80, 1949  
F-86, 1951-1952  
F-51, 1951-1952  
F-80, 1951-1952  
F-105, 1964-1972  
AT-33, 1966-1969  
T-39, 1966-1972  
A-7, 1972-1981  
A-37, 1974  
A-10, 1980-1992  
A/OA-10 1992  
C-130, 1992-1997  
F-16, 1993-1996

## **COMMANDERS**

Col Romulus W. Puryear, 16 Aug 1948  
Col John T. Shields, 22 Sep 1948  
Col Angier H. Foster, 25 Apr 1949  
Col Louis R. Hughes Jr., c. 28 Apr-24 Sep 1949  
Col Charles H. MacDonald, 12 Jan 1951-6 Feb 1952  
None (not manned), 28 Jan-7 Feb 1964  
Col Olin E. Gilbert, 8 Feb 1964  
Col Edmund B. Edwards, 17 Aug 1964  
Col Deward E. Bower, 12 Jul 1965  
Col Max T. Beall, 9 Oct 1967  
Col James V. Hartinger, 28 Aug 1968  
Col Walter D. Druen Jr., 15 Jun 1970

Col Garry A. Willard Jr., 21 Oct 1971  
Col Harry W. Schurr, 28 Apr 1972  
Col Louis W. Weber, 1 Jul 1972  
Col Waymond C. Nutt, 20 Nov 1973  
Col Charles W. McClarren, 28 Jun 1975  
Col Bernard J. Bogoslofski, 12 Dec 1975  
Col Paul L. Wieland, 1 Jan 1977  
Col Jerry W. Osgood, 1 Jun 1979  
Col Michael J. Dugan, 29 May 1980  
Col Jimmie V. Adams, 30 Mar 1981  
Col Peter K. Foley, 15 Apr 1983  
Col James L. Jamerson, 31 May 1985  
Col Glenn A. Profitt II, 20 Feb 1987  
Col John L. Welde, 10 Jan 1989  
Col David A. Sawyer, 2 Apr 1990  
Col Richard C. Lemon, 27 Aug 1990  
Col David A. Sawyer, 22 Apr 1991-1 Jun 1992  
BG Bobby O. Floyd, 1 Jun 1992  
BG James E. Sandstrom, 27 May 1994  
BG Paul R. Dordal, 12 Jan 1996  
Col Bobby J. Wilkes, 1 Apr 1997  
Col Dale A. Elliott, 22 Jan 1998  
Col Joseph R. Wood, 9 Aug 1999  
Col Vincent P. Wisniewski, 23 Mar 2001  
Col Vincent P. DiFronso, 24 Jan 2003  
Col Warren L. Henderson, 23 Jul 2004  
Col Henry J. Santicola, 27 Jul-1 Oct 2006  
Col Joseph T. Callahan, III, 1 Oct 2006  
Col Kenneth E. Todorov, 11 May 2007

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia

Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

Grenada, 1983

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device

17 Jan-24 Feb 1991

**Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards**

1 Jun 1970-15 Jun 1971

1 Jul 1980-30 Jun 1981

1 Jul 1981-30 Jun 1983

1 Apr 1989-31 Mar 1991

31 May 1995-31 Mar 1997

1 Jun 1997-31 May 1999

1 Jun 2000-31 May 2002

1 Jun 2002-31 May 2003

**Bestowed Honors**

Authorized to display honors earned by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Operations Group prior to 16 Aug 1948

**Service Streamers**

None

**Campaign Streamers**

World War II

India-Burma

China Defensive

Western Pacific

China Offensive

**Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation

Hunan Province, China, 17-25 Jun 1944

**EMBLEM**





23<sup>rd</sup> Wing emblem: Azure over a bolt of lightning in pale Or, a flying tiger Proper, tongue Gules, winged Argent, all within a diminished bordure of the second. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "FLYING TIGERS" in Blue letters. 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 lightning flash represents the weapons potential of the Wing. The fierce tiger denotes the unit's fighting spirit and tenacity. The wings symbolize the unit's powerful and vast capability in peace and war. (Approved for 23d Group, 24 Jan 1957 and used by 23d Wing since Jan 1964)

#### **MOTTO**

#### **NICKNAME**

FLYING TIGERS

#### **OPERATIONS**

Air defense of Guam, 1948-1949, and of the Canal Zone, 1949.

Air defense of the northeastern United States, 1951-1952.

Conducted basic training for about 500 Air Force recruits, 1951.

Replaced 388th Tactical Fighter Wing in Feb 1964. Maintained proficiency in tactical fighter operations, frequently deploying whole units or segments thereof to support contingency and combat operations in overseas areas, 1964-1965.

Conducted F-105 replacement training, Jan 1966-Nov 1970, and training for ANG units, Nov 1970-Apr 1971.

Maintained proficiency in tactical fighter operations, 1970-1972.

Replaced 4403d Tactical Fighter Wing at England AFB, LA, in Jul 1972 and switched to A-7 operations. Also controlled an A-37B special operations training squadron in 1974.

Converted to the A-10 in 1980.

Trained in close air support, joint anti-armor operations and battlefield air interdiction. Deployed elements in support of operations in Grenada, Oct-Nov 1983.

Deployed two squadrons (74th and 76th) to Southwest Asia, Aug 1990-Apr 1991, where they performed close air support and joint anti-armor operations.

On 1 Jun 1992, the wing inactivated at England AFB and activated at Pope AFB, SC. As a composite wing continued A-10 training while adding an OA-10 reconnaissance mission and a C-130 airlift mission.

Took part in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia in 1992 and 1993. In 1997, when the wing was redesignated a group, it gave up its C-130 squadrons but kept A/OA-10s.

One of its squadrons flew F-16s from 1993 to 1996, when it also converted to A-10s.

Beginning in 2006, supported worldwide search and rescue missions utilizing HH-60 and HC-130 operated and maintained the largest A-10 fighter group in the USAF; provided global war on terrorism force.

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Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 18 Nov 2010

Updated: 29 Jan 2019

#### 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.

23 Wing historian. Moody AFB, GA. 21 Dec 2018.