

51st FIGHTER WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

51st Fighter Wing established, 10 Aug 1948
Activated, 18 Aug 1948
Redesignated 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing, 1 Feb 1950
Inactivated, 31 May 1971
Redesignated 51st Air Base Wing, 20 Oct 1971
Activated, 1 Nov 1971
Redesignated 51st Composite Wing (Tactical), 30 Sep 1974
Redesignated 51st Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Jul 1982
Redesignated 51st Wing, 7 Feb 1992
Redesignated 51st Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 1993

STATIONS

Naha Afld (later, AB), Okinawa, 18 Aug 1948
Itazuke AB, Japan, 22 Sep 1950
Kimpō AB, South Korea, 10 Oct 1950
Itazuke AB, Japan, 10 Dec 1950
Tsuike AB, Japan, 15 Jan 1951
Suwon AB, South Korea, 1 Oct 1951- 26 Jul 1954
Naha AB, Okinawa, 1 Aug 1954-31 May 1971
Osan AB, South Korea, 1 Nov 1971

ASSIGNMENTS

1st Air Division, 18 Aug 1948
Thirteenth Air Force, 1 Dec 1948
Twentieth Air Force, 16 May 1949
313th Air Division, 1 Mar 1955-31 May 1971
314th Air Division, 1 Nov 1971
Seventh Air Force, 8 Sep 1986

ATTACHMENTS

Fifth Air Force, 25 Sep 1950-1 Aug 1954
8th Fighter Bomber Wing, 25 Sep-12 Oct 1950

WEAPON SYSTEMS

F-61, 1948-1950
F-80, 1948-1951
F-82, 1949-1950
F-86, 1951-1960
F-94, 1954-1955
F-102, 1959-1964, 1966-1971
F-4, 1964-1965, 1965-1966
F-106, 1968
F-4, 1974-1989
OV-10, 1974-1982
A-10, 1982-1989
F-16, 1988
OA-10, 1990
C-12, 1992
HH-60, 1993-1995
A-10, 1998

COMMANDERS

BG Hugo P. Rush, 18 Aug 1948
Col John W. Egan, 25 Mar 1949
Col Richard M. Montgomery, 1 Apr 1949
Col John W. Weltman, 19 Sep 1949
Col Oliver G. Cellini, 24 Apr 1951
Col William P. Litton, 1 Nov 1951
Col George R. Stanley, 2 Nov 1951
Col Francis S. Gabreski, 6 Nov 1951
Col John W. Mitchell, 13 Jun 1952
Col William C. Clark, 31 May 1953
Col Ernest H. Beverly, 9 Aug 1953
Col William C. Clark, 11 Sep 1953
Col Benjamin O. Davis Jr., Nov 1953
Col Barton M. Russell, 2 Jul 1954

Col Travis Hoover, 1 Aug 1954
Col Hilmer C. Nelson, 9 Aug 1954
Col Edwin C. Ambrosen, 16 Aug 1954
Col John H. Bell, 15 Nov 1955
Col Paul E. Hoeper, 2 Feb 1957
Col Robert L. Cardenas, 4 May 1957
Col Walter V. Gresham Jr., 15 Jul 1957
Col Elliott H. Reed, 1 Aug 1957
Col Walter V. Gresham Jr., 15 Aug 1957
Col Lester J. Johnson, 22 Nov 1957
Col William W. Ingenhutt, 25 Mar 1960
Col Lester C. Hess, 24 Jul 1962
Col Lloyd R. Larson, 11 Jun 1965
Col Frank E. Angier, 8 Apr 1967
Col John B. Weed, 13 Jun 1968
Col Roy D. Carlson, 30 Jun 1968-31 May 1971
Col Hewitt E. Lovelace Jr., 1 Nov 1971
Col John H. Allison, 1 Aug 1972
Col Billie J. Norwood, 7 Jun 1973
Col Alonzo L. Ferguson, 1 May 1974
Col Glenn L. Nordin, 30 Sep 1974
BG Vernon H. Sandrock, 12 Aug 1975
Col Frederick B. Hoenniger, 15 Jun 1977
Col James T. Boddie Jr., 18 Jun 1979
Col John C. Scheidt Jr., 16 May 1980
Col Eugene G. Myers, 20 Feb 1981
Col Thomas R. Olsen, 16 Jul 1982
Col Marcus F. Cooper Jr., 26 May 1983
Col Barry J. Howard, 18 Oct 1983
Col Charles D. Link, 20 Jul 1984
Col Henry J. Cochran, 12 Aug 1985
Col John C. Marshall, 12 Jun 1987
Col James J. Winters, 30 Jun 1989
Col Thomas R. Case, 17 Jul 1990
BG Robert G. Jenkins, 23 Jun 1992
BG Robert H. Foglesong, 31 Jan 1994
BG Steven R. Polk, 21 Nov 1995
BG Paul R. Dordal, 16 May 1997
BG Robert R. Dierker, 15 Sep 1998
BG David E. Clary, 22 May 2000
BG William L. Holland, 18 Mar 2002
BG Maurice H. Forsyth, 23 Sep 2003
BG Joseph Reynes Jr., 8 Jul 2005
Col Jon A. Norman, 15 Jun 2007

Col Thomas H. Deale, 15 Oct 2008

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

Korea

UN Offensive

CCF Intervention

First 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

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

29 Aug 1958-19 Jan 1959

26 Mar 1962-30 Sep 1963

1 Jan 1965-31 Dec 1966

1 Jan 1969-31 Dec 1970

30 Sep 1974-31 Mar 1976

1 Apr 1983-30 Apr 1984

1 May 1984-30 Apr 1985

1 Jul 1985-30 Jun 1987

1 Jul 1987-30 Jun 1989

1 Oct 1992-30 Sep 1994

1 Nov 1995-31 May 1997

1 Oct 2002-30 Sep 2004

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations

20 Sep 1950-30 Jun 1951

1 Jul 1951-31 Mar 1953

19-20 Aug 1972

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 51st Fighter Group prior to 18 Aug 1948

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

India-Burma

China Defensive

China Offensive

Decorations

None

EMBLEM





51st Fighter Interceptor Wing emblem





Per fess nebuly abased Azure and Or, issuing from partition line a demi-Pegasus Argent with a machine gun in each wing bendwise Sable, gun fire Proper. Attached below the base, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed with the motto,"LEADING THE CHARGE," in Blue letters. **SIGIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. A nebuly line of partition divides the shield and represents clouds. Pegasus, the mythological winged horse, is shown in an attitude of flight, rising to the sky, deftly and swiftly with a flaming machine gun in each wing to accomplish the mission assigned successfully. (Approved for 51st Group, 5 Feb 1942 and for 51st Wing, 2 May 1956. Approved, Jun 1993)

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the 51st Pursuit Group received orders to deploy to Australia and then to India. Just prior to leaving the States, Lt Col Homer A. Sanders, group commander, is said to have received permission from the Mobil Oil Company to use its logo, the red Pegasus, as the basis for the 51st's emblem. On 5 February 1942, the War Department officially approved the group's emblem of Pegasus firing machine guns and rising from a cloud formation. The emblem was displayed on a rectangular-shaped shield with the scroll below carrying the group's motto, "Deftly and Swiftly," which was taken from the emblem's significance statement.

MOTTO

LEADING THE CHARGE

The wing commander, Brig Gen Robert G. Jenkins, submitted a request on 30 January 1993 to change the wing's motto from "Deftly and Swiftly" to "Leading the Charge" as a more accurate reflection of the 51st's ongoing mission on the Korean Peninsula. On 1 June 1993, the Air Force Historical Research Agency officially approved the request, and the wing's shield has remained unchanged since that time.

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

In 1948, assumed air defense of Ryukyu Islands.

Commenced combat operations over Korea in Sep 1950 with combat air patrols, close air support, and armed reconnaissance missions in support of UN forces. Operated a detachment at Suwon AB, Korea, beginning in May 1951, and relocated there in Oct 1951, with maintenance and supply elements remaining in Japan until Aug 1954. Ceased combat 27 Jul 1953. Wing pilots claimed 312 victories against enemy MiG jet fighters, including the first USAF victory in the first all-jet aerial battle on 8 Nov 1950. Following the cease-fire, resumed air defense of the Ryukyu Islands.

From Aug 1954 through early 1971, frequently deployed aircraft, crews, and support personnel throughout the Far East, including Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and the Philippines. Stationed one

squadron (16th Fighter-Interceptor) at Tainan, Taiwan, 29 Aug 1958-26 Jan 1959 during the Quemoy-Matsu Crisis to fly combat air patrol for Nationalist Chinese Air Force supply flights.

Following the seizure of the USS Pueblo by North Korea, deployed one squadron (82 Fighter-Interceptor) and support personnel to Suwon AB, Korea, 30 Jan-20 Feb 1968, and sent other personnel to Osan AB, South Korea, to support the 314 Air Division.

Deployed an interceptor detachment to Suwon AB, South Korea, from Jun 1968 through 1970. In Nov 1971, served primarily as a support wing for Osan AB and the Koon-Ni range complex, and, after 15 Apr 1975, for Taegu AB, South Korea.

Added a tactical mission on 30 Sep 1974. The wing lost control of Taegu AB from Oct 1978 to Jan 1982.

The wing in 1982 gained a close air support capability to complement its air superiority role.

Frequently deployed aircraft and crews to participate in training exercises throughout the Far East during this period. In addition, aircrews trained to perform fast forward air control missions beginning in 1984.

In 1988-1989, mission shifted to offensive counterair and all-weather air interdiction.

Restored tactical air control capabilities in Oct 1990, and, in Sep 1991, became the first operational F-16 unit to employ laser targeting with the LANTIRN navigation and targeting system.

Airlift support operations were augmented with the addition of a flight of light transports in Aug 1992.

Took part in a series of joint and combined training exercises for the defense of the Republic of Korea.

The runway on Osan AB, South Korea, reopened to flight operations after a six-week closure for renovation work on Sept. 15, officials announced. "We made significant repairs to our runway that will enable us to continue operating at the highest sortie utilization rate in the Air Force and enable us to maintain the largest flying hour program" within Pacific Air Forces, 51st Fighter Wing Commander Col. Andrew Hansen said in a release. The \$6.4 million renovation included runway surface repairs, widening of three taxiways, and installation of new lighting. Osan's A-10s, F-16s, and U-2s temporarily operated from nearby Suwon Air Base for the past 45 days, logging some 800 fighter flying-hours and 400 strategic reconnaissance flying hours from the temporary operating base. Aircraft of Osan's 25th Fighter Squadron, 36th FS, and 5th Reconnaissance Squadron returned to the base last week.2015

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 28 Sep 2010

Updated: 20 Aug 2016

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.