

## 58 SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING



### MISSION

58 Special Operations Wing (58 SOW) serves as the premier training site for Air Force special operations and combat search and rescue aircrews. The wing provides undergraduate, graduate and refresher aircrew training for special operations, rescue, missile site support and distinguished visitor airlift helicopter, fixed-wing, and tilt-rotor operations.

The 58 SOW employs more than 1,800 personnel and trains over 2,000 students a year. The wing operates eight different weapon systems: UH-1H, UH-1N, HH-60G, MH-53J, HC-130P/N, MC-130P, MC-130H, and CV-22 totaling more than 60 assigned aircraft. The wing teaches more than 100 courses in 18 different crew positions including pilot, navigator, electronic warfare officer, flight engineer, communications system operator, loadmaster and aerial gunner. Additionally, the wing responds to worldwide contingencies and provides search and rescue support to the local community.

### LINEAGE

58 Fighter-Bomber Wing, established, 25 Jun 1952  
Activated, 10 Jul 1952  
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1958  
Redesignated 58 Tactical Fighter Training Wing, 22 Aug 1969  
Activated, 15 Oct 1969  
Redesignated 58 Tactical Training Wing, 1 Apr 1977  
Redesignated 58 Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 1991  
Redesignated 58 Special Operations Wing, 1 Apr 1994

### STATIONS

Itazuke AB, Japan, 10 Jul 1952  
Taegu AB, South Korea, Aug 1952

Osan-Ni (later, Osan) AB, South Korea, 15 Mar 1955-1 Jul 1958  
Luke AFB, AZ, 15 Oct 1969  
Kirtland AFB, NM, 1 Apr 1994

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Tactical Air Command, 10 Jul 1952  
Far East Air Forces, 1 Jan 1957  
314 Air Division, 1 Jan 1957-1 Jul 1958  
Twelfth Air Force, 15 Oct 1969  
Tactical Training, Luke, 1 Apr 1977  
832 Air Division, 1 Dec 1980  
Twelfth Air Force, 1 Oct 1991  
Nineteenth Air Force, 1 Jul 1993

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Fifth Air Force, 10 Jul 1952-28 Feb 1955  
Korean Air Division, Provisional, 314, 1-14 Mar 1955  
314<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 15 Mar 1955-31 Dec 1956

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

A-7, 1969-1971  
C-12, 1999-2002  
CV-22  
F-104, 1969-1983  
F-15, 1974-1979, 1991-1994  
F-100, 1969-1971  
F-16, 1982-1994  
F-4, 1971-1982  
F-5, 1969-1979  
F-84, 1952-1954  
F-86, 1954-1958  
HC-130, 1994-1997, 2000  
HH-60, 1994  
MC-130, 1994  
MH-53, 1994  
TH-53, 1994-2001  
UH-1, 1994

### **COMMANDERS**

Col James B. Buck, 10 Jul 1952  
Col Victor E. Warford, 22 Jul 1952  
Col Joseph Davis Jr., 1 Jul 1953  
Col Arthur C. Agan Jr., 8 Aug 1953  
Col Earl E. Bates Jr., c. Jul 1954

Col Neil A. Newman, 15 Mar 1955  
Col Richard T. Carlisle, 2 Dec 1955  
Col Clifford Nash, 13 Jun 1956  
Col Wayne E. Rhynard, 1 Aug 1956  
Col Horace A. Hanes, 1957  
Col Ralph L. Merritt Jr., 1 Jun-1 Jul 1958  
Col John J. Burns, 15 Oct 1969  
Col John S. Clarke Jr., 26 Jun 1970  
BG Albert L. Melton, 31 Aug 1972  
BG Fred A. Haeffner, 15 Aug 1974  
Col John F. O'Donnell, 1 Apr 1977  
Col James P. Coyne, 10 Jun 1977  
Col Edward Levell Jr., 4 Aug 1977  
Col Peter T. Kempf, 27 Mar 1978  
Col Alan P. Lurie, 29 Aug 1979  
Col Malcolm F. Bolton, 5 Jun 1981  
Col James F. Record, 23 May 1983  
Col James M. Johnston III, 5 May 1984  
Col Ralph T. Browning, 18 Sep 1985  
Col Walter T. West, 16 Jul 1987  
Col William F. Looke, 20 Apr 1988  
Col William S. Hinton Jr., 7 Sep 1989  
Col Steven R. Polk, 2 Jul 1991  
BG Ralph T. Browning, 1 Oct 1991  
BG Patrick K. Gamble, 21 Aug 1992  
BG Stephen B. Plummer, 24 Jun 1993  
Col Richard T. Jeffreys, 1 Apr 1994  
Col Michael N. Farage, 30 Aug 1994  
Col John H. Folkerts, 14 Feb 1997  
Col Michael F. Planert, 13 Jul 1999  
Col Michael B. Byers, 14 May 2001  
Col Eric E. Fiel, 25 Apr 2003  
Col Thomas J. Trask, 23 May 2005  
Col Morris E. Hasse, 30 Jan 2007  
Col Eric A. Kivi, 18 Jun 2008  
Col James L. Cardoso, 15 July 2010

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

Korea

Korea Summer-Fall, 1952

Third Korean Winter

Korea Summer, 1953

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

[15 Oct 1969]-31 Dec 1969

1 Jan 1971-31 Dec 1972

1 Jan 1975-31 Dec 1976

1 Jan 1978-31 Dec 1979

1 Aug 1982-31 May 1984

1 Jun 1986-31 May 1988

1 Apr 1992-31 Mar 1994

1 Jan 1993-30 Jun 1994

1 Jul 1994-31 Dec 1995

1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998

1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 2000

1 Jul 2001-30 Jun 2002

1 Jul 2002-30 Jun 2003

1 Jul 03 - 30 Jun 04

1 Jul 04 - 30 Jun 05

1 Jul 2006-30 Jul 2007

1 Jul 2007-30 Jun 2008

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation

10 Jul 1952-31 Mar 1953

### **Bestowed Honors**

Authorized to display honors earned by the 58 Fighter Group prior to 10 Jul 1952

### **Service Streamers**

World War II American Theater

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

Bismarck Archipelago

New Guinea

Leyte

Luzon

Southern Philippines

Western Pacific

Ryukyus

Air Offensive, Japan

China Offensive

**Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation: Philippines, 26 Dec 1944

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

**EMBLEM**





Azure, on clouds in base a representation of the Greek mythological goddess Artemis with quiver and bow, in her chariot drawn by the two deer, all or. First approved on 10 August 1942 for use by the 58 Fighter Group. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The primary colors of the shield, ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow, are the colors of the United States Air Force. The goddess Diana or Artemis, the daughter of Jupiter, was the Olympian goddess of the hunt. She always returned successfully from her ventures. The goddess is symbolic of the functions of the wing. (Approved, 18 Nov 1952)

#### **MOTTO**

Non Revertar Inultus—I Will Not Return Unavenged

#### **NICKNAME**

#### **OPERATIONS**

In 1952 and early 1953, flew interdiction and close air support missions in Korea, but also attacked special strategic targets such as military schools, dams, and port facilities. After the armistice, provided air defense for South Korea.

From 15 Mar 1953 to 8 Nov 1954, service-tested a "reinforced" wing organization, exercising direct control of the tactical components of the attached wings. Conducted training of US, German Air Force, and other friendly foreign nation aircrew and support personnel.

Participated in numerous operations and tactical exercises and operated Luke AFB until Apr 1977. Managed Tactical Air Command's Central Instructor School, 1971-1981.

Began in early 1983 tactical fighter training for US and foreign aircrews in the F-16.

Deployed support personnel to Europe to augment USAFE units during the war against Iraq in 1991.

In the fall of 1991, its primary mission expanded to include tactical training in the F-15E all-weather strike fighter.

By 1994, the wing had trained pilots and support personnel from the Netherlands, South Korea, Turkey, Pakistan, the Republic of Singapore, Norway, Greece, Egypt, Indonesia, and Venezuela.

In 1994, the wing's mission changed from the training of USAF and Allied fighter pilots to the training of USAF helicopter air crews.

Also trained crews in special operations aircraft, including helicopters and modified C-130s.

Performed pararescue training and search and rescue missions. Trained for missile site support and airlift for distinguished visitors. Deployed personnel worldwide for contingency and combat operations.

One squadron trained at Fort Rucker, AL, using U.S. Army aircraft.

On 11 Sep 2001, after terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners and crashed three of them into buildings in New York and Washington, the wing airlifted a federal task force to Pennsylvania to investigate the crash site of the fourth airliner.

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USAF Unit Histories

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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.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.