

## 6171 COMBAT SUPPORT SQUADRON



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

6171 Air Base Squadron  
6171 Combat Support Squadron

### STATIONS

Kwang Ju Air Base, South Korea, 3 Feb 1968-1 Aug 1968  
Kwang Ju Air Base, South Korea, 1 May 1969

### ASSIGNMENTS

### COMMANDERS

Col Gary L. Broadway, #1975

### HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**



## **MOTTO**

### **OPERATIONS**

Kwang Ju Air Base, one of the newest bases in the Air Force, exists today as a result of sheer determination and many hours of hard work by dedicated Air Force personnel. It was carved from Korean soil in the dead of winter, surviving despite limited facilities and accommodations. Since its birth, Kwang Ju AB has continued to grow stronger and is now a permanent installation.

The U. S. portion of Kwang Ju AB was born of necessity in a time of crisis. The reason for its activation was a series of provocative incidents by North Korea, including the assassination attempt on South Korean President Park Chung Hee on 21 Jan 1968, and the capture two days later of the U. S. S. Pueblo by North Korea patrol boats.

The resulting Korean buildup, of which Kwang Ju AB was a vital part, was code named COMBAT FOX. The base which is owned and operated by the Republic of Korea Air Force (ROKAF), had few Americans prior to the buildup. They were members of the 6146th Air Force Advisory Group. The AFAG commander was given the additional duty of commander of the 6171st Combat Support Squadron and charged with activating and organizing the new support squadron.

Playing a major role in the establishment and growth of the base were PRIME BEEF construction teams. Much of the credit for the success of the buildup belongs to these men who overcame great difficulties in preparing the base for the deployment of a USAF tactical fighter squadron.

By 10 Mar 1968 when the 334th Tactical Fighter Squadron completed its deployment here from Kunsan Air Base, the original bare base at Kwang Ju had progressed to a workable field facility for support of operational units, The achievement at Kwang Ju has been a considerable one.

Converting the location in a matter of weeks to a fully operational facility capable of supporting combat and training missions testified to their achievement.

The "founding fathers" of Kwang Ju AB were for the most part temporary duty and Air National

Guard personnel. They were replaced by permanent troops who maintained the same mission: support of combat and training missions of assigned tactical fighter units. Aircraft assigned to Kwang Ju in the past included the F-4, the RB-66, the F-105 and the HH-43. By 1970, permanently assigned tactical fighter aircraft were redeployed and EC-121's of Detachment 1 552nd Airborne Early Warning and Control Wing occupied the apron. The EC-121's departed in April 1973 but the 6171st Combat Support Squadron continued an important contingency mission.

The Republic of Korean Air Force (ROKAF) shares Kwang Ju Air Base, formerly known as airfield K-57, with the United States Air Force. Hosting the USAF units at the base is the ROKAF 1st Fighter Wing, flying the F-5 the F-86 and the T-33. The 1st Wing's mission is to conduct offensive and defensive air operations in case of Communist aggression. The primary United States Air Force unit at Kwang Ju is the 6171<sup>st</sup> Combat Support Squadron. A unit of the Pacific Air Forces, the Fifth Air Force, and the 314th Air Division, the mission of the 6171st is to provide housekeeping and operational support for U. S. Military aircraft. The 6171st also maintains a contingency base for full combat operations in the event of an outbreak of hostilities.

Other tenant units stationed at Kwang Ju are the 2079th Communications Squadron, which "Provides the Reins of Command" as a unit of the Air Force Communications Service; The United States Air Force Postal and Courier Service, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Detachment 4503; Operating Location A, Detachment 10 of the 20th Weather Squadron; and the American Forces Radio and Television Service, relay station.

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USAF Unit Histories  
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#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
Unit history. *6171st Combat Support Squadron, Kwang Ju AB, Korea. 1975.*