

## 81 MISSION SUPPORT GROUP



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

81 Air Base Group and activated constituted, 1 May 1948  
Redesignated 81 Support Group, 26 Jan 1956  
Redesignated 81 Combat Support Group, 12 May 1962  
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1993  
Redesignated 81 Support Group and activated, 1 Jul 1993  
Redesignated 81 Mission Support Group, 12 Jun 2003

#### STATIONS

Wheeler AFB, HI, 1 May 1948-21 May 1949  
Kirtland AFB, NM, 5 Jun 1949-1 May 1950  
Moses Lake (later, Larson) AFB, WA, 1 May 1950-21 Aug 1951  
RAF Bentwaters, England, 5 Sep 1951-1 Jul 1993  
Keesler AFB, MS, 1 Jul 1993

#### ASSIGNMENTS

81 Fighter (later, 81 Fighter-Interceptor, 81 Tactical Fighter, 81 Training) Wing, 1 May 1948

#### COMMANDERS



Col Elmer C. Blaha (USAF photo)

Col Elmer C. Blaha, #1959

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

28 Mar 1959-30 Jun 1961

1 Jul 1961- 30 Jun 1963

1 Jun 1966-31 May 1968

1 Jul 1968-30 Jun 1970

1 Jul 1976- 30 Jun 1978

1 Jul 1979-30 Jun 1981

1 Jul 1981-30 Jun 1983

1 Jun 1989-31 May 1991

1 Jun 1991-30 Jun 1993

1 Jul 1999-30 Jun 2001

1 Jun 2005-30 Jun 2006

1 Jul 2007-30 Jun 2009

1 Jul 2009-30 Jun 2011

1 Jul 2011-30 Jun 2013

### **EMBLEM**



## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

THE 81 Support Group is the parent unit for the four housekeeping squadrons at Bentwaters, and is also responsible for staff supervision of all such activities in the Wing.

Mission of this very active group, commanded by Col. Elmer C. Blaha, is to provide administrative and logistical support to all units assigned or attached to Bentwaters and Woodbridge.

Activated in 1956, the 81 Support Group was formed by welding the skills and talents of the personnel of the deactivated 81 Air Base, Maintenance and Supply Groups.

Busy man around the group is the Commander, a former West Pointer and World War II Army Liaison pilot, who, in addition to his 81 Support Group duties, is also Base Commander of both Bentwaters and Woodbridge.

"Excellence" is the watchword of Keesler's largest support organization, the 81 Mission Support Group. Working with a team of more than 2,100 personnel, the Mission Support Group provides administrative, personnel, civil engineering, transportation, morale and welfare, recreational, communications, supply, base security, and contracting services to an estimated 78,000 people who use base facilities and resources. The ability to bring these resources together for the betterment of Keesler Air Force Base and its populous is why our motto is...One Team, One Fight!

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Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

Unit yearbook. *81 Tactical Fighter Wing. 1959*. Reg. Cholerton. Newton-Le-Willows, England. 1959.