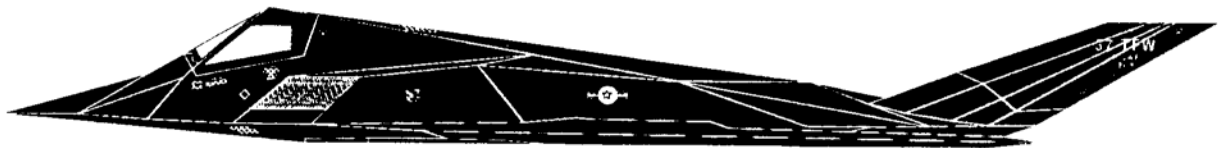


HISTORY AND LINEAGE
OF THE
F-117A STEALTH FIGHTER

ORGANIZATIONS

DECEMBER 1991



SPECIAL STUDY HO-91-2

OFFICE OF HISTORY
HEADQUARTERS, 37TH FIGHTER WING
TWELFTH AIR FORCE
TACTICAL AIR COMMAND

INTRODUCTION

In 1978, the Air Force awarded a full-scale development contract for the F-117A Stealth Fighter to Lockheed Corporation's Advanced Development Projects (the famous Skunk Works). Thirty-one months later, on 18 June 1981, the F-117A made its first flight. Meanwhile, the Tactical Air Command (TAC) decided to set up a group-level organization to guide the F-117A to an initial operating capability. That organization became the 4450th Tactical Group (TG), which officially activated on 15 October 1979 at Nellis AFB, Nevada.

The 4450 TG began flying operations in 1981 from the Tonopah Test Range Airfield, located approximately 130 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada. Lockheed test pilots put the Stealth Fighter through its early paces. The 4450 TG also operated the A-7D as a surrogate trainer for the F-117A, and these operations continued until 15 October 1982 under the guise of an avionics test mission. October 15th is important to the program because on that date Maj Alton C. Whitley, Jr. became the first 4450 TG pilot to fly the F-117A. The 4450 TG then achieved an initial operating capability with the F-117A in October 1983.

The 4450 TG's mission continued to evolve under a cloak of secrecy--all Tonopah training flights conducted at night under the cover of darkness--until late 1988. On 10 November 1988, the Air Force brought the F-117A from behind a "black veil" by publicly acknowledging its existence. In January 1989, the AT-38 replaced the A-7 in the unit's inventory as a measure to streamline the F-117A's training operation. On 5 October 1989, TAC inactivated the 4450 TG and all subordinate units, and concurrently moved the 37th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) from George AFB, California, to Tonopah to assume the F-117A mission. The 37 TFW capped 1989's achievements on 20 December by taking the F-117A on its first combat mission: Operation JUST CAUSE. Since then, the 37 TFW has also taken the F-117A to Nellis AFB on 21 April 1990 for its first public display and to England AFB, Louisiana, in late June 1990 for its first deployment to another base in the United States.

On 19 August 1990, the 37 TFW deployed to Saudi Arabia for Operation DESERT SHIELD. That deployment transformed into Operation DESERT STORM's combat operations against Iraq from 16 January to 28 February 1991.

Operation DESERT STORM featured the F-117A in its first real-world test against a modern, integrated air defense. The "Nighthawks" of the 37 TFW repeatedly flew into and through intense anti-aircraft artillery and surface-to-air missile fire, accurately employing 2,000 tons of precision-guided munitions

during 1,300 combat sorties. Wing pilots scored 1,600 direct hits against enemy targets in nearly 400 locations. Without suffering a single loss or experiencing any damage, they effected the destruction of hardened command and control bunkers, aircraft shelters, production and storage facilities for nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, and other heavily defended targets of the highest military and political significance.

Employing just 2.5 percent of the USAF assets in theater, the 37 TFW not only led the U.N. coalition force against Iraq, but also hit nearly 40 percent of the Iraqi targets that came under fire in the first three days. Twenty-nine Stealth Fighters hit 26 high value targets on the first night alone. The F-117As proved so effective that the Iraqi air defense system practically collapsed. Its command, control, and communications network never recovered.

Thereafter, the wing constantly hit key political and military targets to further weaken Iraqi resistance and to prepare for the ground campaign. Early on, and employing only four F-117As, Stealth Fighter pilots attacked Baghdad's nuclear research facility, obliterating its three reactor cores. Of significance, the F-117A was the only coalition aircraft to fly over Baghdad during the entire conflict.

In another strike, the wing destroyed a whole network of surface-to-air missile sites in central Iraq in the space of one hour, thus enabling B-52s to come in and carpet-bomb military production facilities without fear of interception. Immediately prior to the start of the coalition's ground campaign, the F-117As destroyed a complex of pumping stations and a distribution network that fed oil into anti-personnel fire trenches in southern Kuwait. This attack earned high praise and the gratitude of the multinational ground forces.

The 37th's performance and devastating air power also drew high praise from military and political leaders. In particular, Senator Sam Nunn, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman, stated that: "[The F-117A was] the heart of our offensive power and targeting capability." Brigadier General Buster C. Glosson, Fourteenth Air Division Commander, called the wing "the backbone of the strategic air campaign." Statistically, the 37 TFW compiled a record that is unparalleled in the chronicals of air warfare: the "Nighthawks" achieved a 75 percent hit rate on pinpoint targets while crippling nearly 40 percent of enemy strategic targets.

Distinguished honors of the 37 TFW include the Presidential Unit Citation (Vietnam) for 1 July-31 December 1968; the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA) with Combat "V" for 1 April 1967-30 June 1968, 1 April 1969-31 March 1970, and 17 January-28 February 1991; the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

for 1 March 1967-30 March 1970; and an AFOUA for 1 June 1985-31 May 1987. The wing is also in contention for additional honors following its performance in Operation DESERT STORM.

The wing was redesignated as the 37th Fighter Wing (FW) on 1 October 1991 and is scheduled for its fourth inactivation on 1 October 1992. On 1 November 1991, the wing reorganized under an Air Force-wide restructure program, establishing an operations group and a logistics group in place of the traditional tri-deputy structure with flights under each group in place of staff agencies.

Besides the 4450 TG and the 37 FW, several other organizations have supported the F-117A program. This history and lineage pamphlet identifies these units and provides data about the organizations, commanders, and other important events. Credit for the compilation of data used in this history must go to SMSgt (Ret) Harold P. Myers. The most contemporary information is the fruit of my own labor.



VINCENT C. BRESLIN, SMSgt, USAF
Historian

37TH FIGHTER WING

[*Items represent history of 37th Fighter-Bomber Group that has been bestowed on 37th Fighter Wing]

Lineage

*Constituted as 37th Pursuit Group (Interceptor), 22 Dec 39.
*Activated, 1 Feb 40.
*Redesignated 37th Fighter Group, May 42.
*Disbanded, 1 Nov 43.
*Reconstituted and redesignated, 37th Fighter-Bomber Group and assigned to 37th Fighter-Bomber Wing.
Established as 37th Fighter-Bomber Wing, 3 Mar 53.
Activated, 8 Apr 53.
Inactivated, 25 Jun 53.
Redesignated 37th Tactical Fighter Wing and activated, 26 Oct 66.
Organized 1 Mar 67.
Inactivated 31 Mar 70.
Activated 30 Mar 81.
Moved without personnel and equipment, 5 Oct 89.
Redesignated 37th Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 91.

Major Commands Served

Tactical Air Command, 8 Apr - 25 Jun 53.
Pacific Air Forces, 1 Mar 67 - 31 Mar 70.
Tactical Air Command, 30 Mar 81 -

Assignments

Ninth Air Force, 8 Apr - 25 Jun 53.
Pacific Air Forces, 26 Oct 66;
Seventh Air Force, 1 Mar 67 - 31 Mar 70.
831st Air Division, 30 Mar 81 - 5 Oct 89.
Twelfth Air Force, 5 Oct 89 -

Headquarters Component

Constituted Headquarters, 37th Fighter-Bomber Wing, 3 Mar 53.
Activated, 8 Apr 53.
Inactivated 25 Jun 53.
Redesignated Headquarters, 37th Tactical Fighter Wing and activated on 26 Oct 66.
Not operational, 26 Oct 66 - 28 Feb 67.
Organized, 1 Mar 67.
Inactivated, 31 Mar 70.
Activated, 30 Mar 81.
Moved without personnel and equipment, 5 Oct 89.
Redesignated Headquarters, 37th Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 91

Tactical Components

*28th Pursuit (later Fighter) Squadron (Interceptor),
1940-1943; 1953.
*30th Pursuit (later Fighter) Squadron (Interceptor),
1940-1943; 1953.
*31st Pursuit (later Fighter) Squadron (Interceptor),
1940-1943.
*33d Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 1953.
37th Fighter-Bomber (later Operations) Group: 8 Apr -
25 Jun 53, 1 Nov 91 -
174th Tactical Fighter Squadron: 14 May 68 - 11 May 69.
355th Tactical Fighter Squadron: attached 3 Feb -
4 Jul 68, assigned 5 Jul 68 - 15 May 69.
389th Tactical Fighter Squadron: 15 Jun 69 - 31 Mar 70
(detached, 15-24 Jun 69)
480th Tactical Fighter Squadron: 15 Apr 69 - 31 Mar 70.
561st Tactical Fighter Squadron: 30 Mar 81 - 5 Oct 89.
562d Tactical Fighter Squadron: 30 Mar 81 - 5 Oct 89.
563d Tactical Fighter Squadron: 30 Mar 81 - 5 Oct 89.
Detachment 1, 612th Tactical Fighter Squadron: attached
8 Jun 67 - 13 Apr 69 (See note below).
415th Tactical Fighter (later Fighter) Squadron: 5 Oct 89 -
1 Nov 91.
416th Tactical Fighter (later Fighter) Squadron: 15 Apr 67 -
27 May 69; 5 Oct 89 - 1 Nov 91.
417th Tactical Fighter Training (later Fighter) Squadron:
5 Oct 89 - 1 Nov 91.

Note: Det 1, 612 TFS, was a de facto squadron. The parent squadron was a paper unit based in Japan; the detachment included all squadron strength and equipment.

Support Components

37th Air Base (later, 37th Combat Support; later Support) Group:
8 Apr - 25 Jun 53; 1 Mar 67 - 31 Mar 70; 5 Oct 89 -
37th Maintenance and Supply (later Logistics) Group: 8 Apr -
25 Jun 53, 1 Nov 91 -
37th Medical Group (later USAF Dispensary; Medical Squadron):
8 Apr - 25 Jun 53; 21 Feb 66 - 31 Mar 70; 5 Oct 89 -
37th Aircraft Generation Squadron: 30 Mar 81 - 1 Nov 91.
37th Armament and Electronics Maintenance (later, 37th Avionics
Maintenance; 37th Component Repair) Squadron: 1 Mar 67 -
31 Mar 70; 30 Mar 81 - 1 Nov 91.
37th Field (later 37th Equipment) Maintenance Squadron: 1 Mar 67
- 31 Mar 70; 30 Mar 81 - 1 Nov 91.
37th Supply Squadron: 1 Mar 67 - 31 Mar 70; 5 Oct 89 - 1 Nov 91.
37th Transportation (formerly Motor Vehicle) Squadron: 3 Mar
53 - 25 Jun 53; 4 Oct 66 - 31 Mar 70; 5 Oct 89 - 1 Nov 91.
37th USAF Dispensary: 1 Mar 67 - 31 Mar 70.

Support Components (Continued)

421st Munitions Maintenance Squadron: 1 Mar 67 - 31 Mar 70.
37th Communications Squadron (formerly 1880th Comm Squadron):
1 May 91 - 1 Nov 91.

Where Based

Albrook Field, Canal Zone, 1 Feb 40.
Howard Field, Canal Zone, 30 Sep - 1 Nov 43.
Clovis AFB, NM, 1-25 Jun 53.
Phu Cat AB, South Vietnam, 1 Mar 67 - 31 Mar 70.
George AFB, CA, 30 Mar 81 - 5 Oct 89.
Tonopah Test Range, NV, 5 Oct 89 -

Bases Operated

Clovis AFB, NM, 1-25 Jun 53.
Tonopah Test Range, NV, 5 Oct 89 -

Tactical Equipment and Missions

F-100 Combat Operations

416 TFS: Apr 67 - May 69.
Det 1, 612 TFS: Jun 67 - Apr 69.
355 TFS: Feb 68 - May 69.
174 TFS: May 68 - May 69.

F-100 Forward Air Control and Visual/Weather Reconnaissance

Jun 67 - May 69 (Commando Sabre)

F-4 Combat Operations

480 TFS: Apr 69 - Mar 70.
389 TFS: Jun 69 - Mar 70.

F-4 Wild Weasel Operations

561 TFS: F-4G, 31 Mar 81; F-4E & F-4G, 6 Aug 82-
5 Oct 89.
562 TFS: F-4E & F-4G. 31 Mar 81-5 Oct 89.
563 TFS: F-4G, 31 Mar 81; F-4E & F-4G, c. Apr-Jun 86.

Tactical Equipment & Missions (Continued)

F-117A Operations

415 TFS: 5 Oct 89 -

416 TFS: 5 Oct 89 -

F-117A Initial Qualification Training

417 TFTS: F-117As, 5 Oct 89 -

A-7D/K, 5 Oct 89 - 23 Aug 89.

AT-38, 18 Jan 89 -

Commanders

*Capt Russell E. Randall, 1 Feb 40.

*Maj Milo N. Clark, 27 May 40.

*Lt Col Morley F. Slaght, c. 1942.

*Maj Ernest H. Beverly, 2 Sep 42 - unkn.

*Col George W. Larson, 1953 -

Lt Col George W. Bacon, 8 April 1953.

Col Wallace E. Hopkins, 27 April 1953.

Col Stephen B. Mack, 4 May - 25 June 1953.

Unknown, 1 March - 5 May 1967.

Col Raymond C. Lee, 6 May 1967.

Col Edwin A. Schneider, 15 May 1967.

Col Leroy J. Manor, 15 May 1968.

Col Harry B. Trimble, 1 May 1969 - 31 March 1970.

Col Luther E. Thweatt, 30 Mar 81.

Col Joseph W. Ashy, 10 Aug 82.

Col Ronald C. Spivey, 7 May 84.

Col Larry L. Henry, 12 May 86.

Col Russell A. Everts, 18 May 88.

Col Anthony J. Tolin, 5 Oct 89.

Col Alton C. Whitley, Jr., 17 Aug 90.

Honors

Service Streamers: None

Campaign Streamers:

American Theater, World War II.

Vietnam Air Offensive.

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II.

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III.

Vietnam Air/Ground.

Honors (Continued)

Campaign Streamers (Continued)

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV.
Tet 69/Counteroffensive.
Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969.
Vietnam Winter-Spring 1970.

Unit Decorations:

Presidential Unit Citation (Vietnam): 1 Jul 68 -
31 Dec 68.
Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device:
1 Apr 67 - 30 Jun 68; 1 Apr 69 - 31 Mar 70.
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award: 1 Jun 85 - 31 May 87.
Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm: 1 Mar 67 -
30 Mar 70.

Current Emblem

A black Nighthawk in flight, poised in an attack position, refers to the wing's ability with the F-117A Stealth Fighter to meet world-wide commitments with swiftness, strength, and sagacity. The white highlights around the hawk suggest the aircraft's spectral nature, while the white-outlined feathers allude to the F-117A's mastery over a silent approach to its intended target.

The background element--a cross of Air Force yellow--denotes the 37th's heritage as the "Defender of the Crossroads." The ultramarine blue border between the oriental blue areas and the arms of the yellow cross depicts the 37th's membership in the Air Force and Tactical Air Command community. Moreover, the transition from oriental blue to ultramarine blue insinuates the Air Force's new capability to operate effectively in both day and evening skies. The three red lightning bolts surging from the hawk's claws imply that three operational squadrons are ready to carry out the 37th's mission with strength and zeal for the Air Force. The hawk's red eye denotes its ability to find and track its prey.



Previous Emblem

During the years at George AFB, the 37th used a simple emblem--the Air Force yellow cross on an Air Force blue shield--that signified its history as the "Defender of the Crossroads." That motto referred to the earlier 37th Pursuit Group's defense role for the Panama Canal in World War II. The pursuit group's emblem differed slightly. It had the same yellow cross on a blue field, but within an Army shield.

A purple and yellow Griffin--with the head of an eagle, and body and legs of a lion to represent the swiftness, strength, and sagacity of the unit in performing its mission--also sat on top of this emblem.



Significant Activities

From early 1940 through 1943, the 37th Pursuit Group (later Fighter) served as part of the Panama Canal Zone defense force, using P-26 and later P-40 aircraft. During its brief 1953 existence, the wing had no tactical aircraft, but did use T-6, T-11, C-45, and C-47 aircraft for administrative flying and support purposes. When the wing activated again in March 1967, its subordinate support group (the 37th Combat Support Group) had already started operating at Phu Cat Air Base in South Vietnam. Meanwhile, the wing's personnel and its tactical components were moving to Phu Cat from the U.S. and other places. As a result, the wing did not start tactical operations until mid-April. From then until its March 1970 inactivation, the wing accomplished interdiction, bombardment, escort, and close air support missions in Southeast Asia.

The wing activated again on 30 March 1981 at George Air Force Base, California, to fly F-4Es and F-4Gs under a Wild Weasel mission for the Tactical Air Command (TAC). This assignment made the wing the only Wild Weasel unit based in the United States. The 37th's F-4s during this time received modern avionics to improve their ability to conduct that mission. For weapons, the F-4s also used HARM, SHRIKE, and MAVERICK missiles in an air-to-ground role and the AIM-9P missile in an air-to-air defense. Achievements in the George years include participation in just about every major TAC exercise (Checkered Flag and Red Flag) between 1981 and 5 October 1989. That date brought the 37th's relocation to the Tonopah Test Range, Nevada, to assume the 4450th Tactical Group's mission with the F-117A Stealth Fighter. Since moving, the 37th took the F-117A into its first combat employment in December 1989 (Operation JUST CAUSE) and on 21 April 1990 unveiled the fighter before the public at Nellis AFB.

In Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM, the 37th Tactical Fighter Wing struck terror into the heart of the Iraqi nation. The Air Force redesignated the wing as the 37th Fighter Wing on 1 October 1991.

37TH OPERATIONS GROUP

Lineage

Constituted as 37th Pursuit Group (Interceptor),
22 Dec 39.
Activated, 1 Feb 40.
Redesignated 37th Fighter Group, May 42.
Disbanded, 1 Nov 43.
Reconstituted and redesignated, 37th Fighter-Bomber Group and
assigned to 37th Fighter-Bomber Wing, 3 Mar 53.
Activated, 8 Apr 53.
Inactivated, 25 Jun 53.
Activated and assigned to 37th Fighter Wing, 1 Nov 91.

Assignments

37th Fighter Bomber Wing, 8 Apr - 25 Jun 53.
37th Fighter Wing, 1 Nov 91.

Tactical Components

28th Pursuit (later Fighter) Squadron (Interceptor),
1940-1943; 1953.
30th Pursuit (later Fighter) Squadron (Interceptor),
1940-1943; 1953.
31st Pursuit (later Fighter) Squadron (Interceptor),
1940-1943.
33d Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 1953.
415th Tactical Fighter (later Fighter) Squadron: 1 Nov 91 -
416th Tactical Fighter (later Fighter) Squadron: 1 Nov 91 -
417th Tactical Fighter Training (later Fighter) Squadron:
1 Nov 91 -

Support Components

37th Operations Support Squadron: 1 Nov 91 -

Where Based

Albrook Field, Canal Zone, 1 Feb 40.
Howard Field, Canal Zone, 30 Sep - 1 Nov 43.
Clovis AFB, NM, 1-25 Jun 53.
Tonopah Test Range, NV, 1 Nov 91 -

Tactical Equipment and Missions

P-26 Panama Defense Force

28th PS, 1940-41.
30th PS, 1940-41.
31st PS, 1940-42.

P-40 Panama Defense Force

28th PS, 1941-42.
30th PS, 1940-43.
31st PS, 1941-43.

P-39 Panama Defense Force

28th PS, 1942-43.
31st PS, 1942-43.

F-117A Operations

415th FS: 1 Nov 91 -
416th FS: 1 Nov 91 -

F-117A Initial Qualification Training

417th FS: F-117As, 1 Nov 91 -
AT-38, 1 Nov 91 -

Commanders

Capt Russell E. Randall, 1 Feb 40.
Maj Milo N. Clark, 27 May 40.
Lt Col Morley F. Slaght, c. 1942.
Maj Ernest H. Beverly, 2 Sep 42 - unkn.
Col George W. Larson, 1953.
Col Raleigh T. Harrington, 1 Nov 91.

Honors

Service Streamers: None

Campaign Streamers: American Theater, World War II.

Unit Decorations: None

Current Emblem

A black Nighthawk in flight, poised in an attack position, refers to the group's ability with the F-117A Stealth Fighter to meet world-wide commitments with swiftness, strength, and sagacity. The white highlights around the hawk suggest the aircraft's spectral nature, while the white-outlined feathers allude to the F-117A's mastery over a silent approach to its intended target.

The background element--a cross of Air Force yellow--denotes the 37th's heritage as the "Defender of the Crossroads." The ultramarine blue border between the oriental blue areas and the arms of the yellow cross depicts the 37th's membership in the Air Force and Tactical Air Command community. Moreover, the transition from oriental blue to ultramarine blue insinuates the Air Force's new capability to operate effectively in both day and evening skies. The three red lighting bolts surging from the hawk's claws imply that three operational squadrons are ready to carry out the 37th's mission with strength and zeal for the Air Force. The hawk's red eye denotes its ability to find and track its prey.



Previous Emblem

During its activation in the 1940s, the 37th group used a more simple emblem--the Air Force yellow cross on an Air Force blue shield--that signified its history as the "Defender of the Crossroads." That motto referred to the 37th Pursuit Group's defense of the Panama Canal Zone during World War II. The group's emblem then differed slightly from its emblem today. It had the same yellow cross on a blue field, but within an Army shield. A purple and yellow Griffin--with the head of an eagle, and body and legs of a lion to represent the swiftness, strength, and sagacity of the unit in performing its mission--also sat on top of this emblem.



Significant Activities

From early 1940 through 1943, the 37th Pursuit Group (later Fighter) served as part of the Panama Canal Zone defense force, using P-26 and later P-40 aircraft. During its brief 1953 existence, the group had no tactical aircraft, but did use T-6, T-11, C-45, and C-47 aircraft for administrative flying and support purposes.

415TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Lineage

Constituted, 415th Night Fighter Squadron, 8 Feb 43.
Activated, 10 Feb 43.
Inactivated, 1 Sep 47.
Redesignated, 415th Special Operations Training Squadron,
9 Jun 70.
Inactivated, 30 Jun 75.
Redesignated, 415th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 15 Sep 89.
Activated 5 Oct 89.
Redesignated, 415th Fighter Squadron, 1 Oct 91.

Assignments

Army Air Force School of Applied Tactics, 10 Feb 43
(air echelon attached to VII Fighter Command, 31 Mar - 2 Jul
43).
Twelfth Air Force (attached to Northwest African Coastal Air
Force), 12 May 43.
1st Air Defense (later 62d Fighter) Wing, 20 Jun 43.
XII Fighter Command (attached to Tunis Fighter Sector),
7 Aug 43.
62d Fighter Wing, c. 3 Sep - 5 Dec 43.
64th Fighter Wing, 5 Dec 43 (attached to 87th Fighter
Wing, 3 Jul - 5 Aug 44 with detachment attached to 600 Night
Fighter Squadron (RAF), 23 Jul - 5 Aug 44).
Continental Air Command, 15 Feb 46.
Strategic Air Command, 21 Mar 46.
Tactical Air Command, 13 Jul 46.
Third Air Force, 1 Oct 46.
Ninth Air Force, 1 Nov 46.
Alaskan Department, 27 Jun - 1 Sep 47.
4410th Combat Crew Training Wing (later 4410th Special Operations
Training Group), 1 Jul 70.
1 Special Operations (later 834th Tactical Composite)
Wing, 19 Jul 71 - 30 Jun 75.
37th Tactical Fighter Wing, 5 Oct 89 - 1 Nov 91.
37th Operations Group, 1 Nov 91 -

Stations

Orlando AB, FL, 10 Feb - 22 Apr 43 (air echelon in England, 31 Mar - 18 Jun 43).
La Senia, Algeria, 12 May 43.
La Sebala, Tunisia, 22 Jun 43.
Monastir, Tunisia, 25 Jun 43 (detachment operated from Protville, Tunisia 23 - 29 Jul 43).
La Sebala, Tunisia, 29 Jul 43.
Cassibile, Sicily, 3 Sep 43.
Cantania, Sicily, 5 Nov 43 (detachments operated from Montecorvino, Italy, 29 Nov - 25 Dec 43 and Gaudo Airfield, Italy, 6 Dec 43 - 30 Jun 44).
Montecorvino, Italy, 26 Dec 43.
Marcianise, Italy, 30 Jan 44.
Pomigliano, Italy, 25 Mar 44.
La Banca, Italy, c. 11 Jun 44.
Valtone, Italy, c. 17 Jun 44.
Solonzara, Corsica, c. 9 Jul 44 (detachment operated from Piombino, Italy, 23 Jul - c. 5 Aug 44).
Le Vallon, France, c. 1 Sep 44.
Longvic, France, c. 25 Sep 44.
Ochey, France, c. 30 Nov 44.
St. Dizier, France, c. 18 Mar 45.
Braunstadt Germany, c. 17 Apr 45.
Nordholz, Germany, c. 2 Oct 45 - 15 Feb 46.
Bolling Field, DC, 15 Feb 46.
Shaw Field, SC, 13 Jul 46 - 10 May 47.
Adak, AK, 19 May - 1 Sep 47.
Lockbourne AFB (later Rickenbacker), OH, 1 Jul 70.
Eglin AF Auxilliary Field # 9 (Hurlburt Field), FL, 19 Jul 71 - 30 Jun 75.
Tonopah Test Range, NV, 5 Oct 89 -

Commanders

Capt (later Maj) Gordon D. Timmons, 10 Feb 43.
Capt (later Maj) Harold F. Augspurger, 31 Aug 44.
None (not manned), Feb - 21 Jul 46.
Lt Col Leon G. Lewis, 22 Jul 46 - 1947.
Lt Col Lawrence H. Meyer, 1 Jul 71.
Lt Col Joseph S. Stanton, c. 15 Sep 72.
Lt Col John W. Hudson, 1 Dec 74 - 30 Jun 75.
Lt Col (later Col) William J. Lake, 5 Oct 89.
Lt Col Ralph J. Getchell, 3 Nov 89 - 7 Jun 90
Lt Col Bruce E. Kreidler, 7 Jun 90 -

Aircraft

A-20, 1943.
P-70, 1943.
Beaufighter, 1943 - 1945.
P-61, 1945 - 1946; 1946-1947.
B-25, 1946-1947.
AC-119, 1970-1972.
AC-130, 1971-1975.
F-117A, 1989 -

Honors

World War II Campaign Streamers:

Sicily.
Naples-Foggia.
Anzio.
Rome-Arno.
Southern France.
Rhineland.
Central Europe.
Air Combat.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards:

AFOUA, 15 Sep 70 - 25 Jul 71.

Emblem

A white Nighthawk, with a red and white halo surrounding its head, symbolizes the F-117A Stealth Fighter. The white, gray, and black feathers suggest the perfection of F-117A's discretionary weapons delivery capability, its spectral nature, and the maturity of the Stealth mission, while the halo refers to its purity of purpose. The Nighthawk is in an attack position, centered over black mountainous terrain that is separated by a yellow and red sunset from an advancing ultramarine blue evening sky. This signifies the Air Force's ability to operate with strength and zeal in a night environment. A white moon with stratus clouds in the sky denotes the unit's night time mission. Red streaks emanating from the Nighthawk's claws refer to its ability to stalk prey.



Unit Motto: The Nightstalkers.

Significant Activities

The Army Air Force constituted this squadron as the 415th Night Fighter Squadron on 8 February 1943 and activated it at Orlando Air Base (AB), Florida, two days later on the 10th. At that time, the Army assigned the 415th to the School of Applied Tactics for training in the P-70 fighter, a converted A-20 bomber. That training included daylight and night air interception, ground-controlled interception, navigation, and instrument flying.

On 3 March 1943, an air echelon from the unit left Florida. Twenty days later, the echelon sailed on the vessel Empress of Scotland and arrived in England on the 31st. There, the pilots, engineers, and radar operators trained separately until May 1943, when all elements of the air echelon moved to Ayre, Scotland, for training as a complete unit. The ground element moved from Florida on 22 April 1943 to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, and left there a week later on the U.S. Army Transport Shawnee for North Africa. They arrived at Oran, Algeria on 11 May 1943 to begin working and training at the nearby Senia Airdrome. In June 1943, the ground element moved to Tunisia, where it worked with a Royal Air Force night fighter squadron. The air echelon joined the ground troops in early July at Monastir, Tunisia.

The 415th entered combat as a unit in July 1943, flying the British-made Beaufighter aircraft. Unit pilots flew convoy patrols, night patrols, and intercept scramble. As its first important mission, the 415th flew escort duty for the airborne invasion of Sicily in July 1943. The unit moved to Sicily in early September, and later to Italy in December as the allies continued gain on Axis forces. In Italy, the squadron continued its patrols and even flew cover over the Anzio beachhead during January and February 1944.

In July 1944, the unit moved again to Corsica to take part in the pending invasion of southern France. That invasion occurred in August; the 415th again flew night patrols. After the allied ground forces established beachheads, the squadron actually moved into France, where it supported the American 7th and French 1st Armies with night interception and night intruder sorties. The pilots also patrolled the lines at St. Die and dropped flares to light up targets for the artillery. Through April 1945, the squadron flew patrols and intruder missions, concentrating its attacks on enemy installations, supplies, communications, and troops. Then, the unit moved to Bruanstadt, Germany, where it transitioned from the Beaufighter to the American night fighter, the P-61. The squadron, however, only flew a few missions in this new aircraft before the war ended. Altogether, in World War II the 415th Night Fighter Squadron earned eight campaign streamers and one decoration.

After the war, the squadron switched to routine training until February 1946, when it transferred without people and equipment to Bolling Field, DC, and then to Shaw Field, South Carolina. The unit remained unmanned through July 1946, when new people with P-61s and B-25s arrived. It resumed its training in night fighter techniques until May 1947, when the squadron moved to Alaska to defend the Aleutian island chain. The 415th inactivated on 1 September 1947, and all assigned people were transferred into an all-weather fighter squadron.

The Air Force resurrected the 415th as a Special Operations Training Squadron and activated it on 1 July 1970 at Lockborne AFB (renamed Rickenbacker AFB in 1976), Ohio, to replace the 4413th Combat Crew Training Squadron. There, the squadron provided special operations combat training for aircrews in the AC-119 aircraft. In early 1971, the unit additionally acquired AC-130 aircraft. It moved to Hurlbert Field, Florida, in July 1971 to continue special operations training. At this station, the 415th also gave numerous displays and firepower demonstrations of its capabilities. In October 1972, the squadron transferred its AC-119s to the South Vietnamese Air Force; however, the 415th continued its training mission until 30 June 1975 when it inactivated a second time. The squadron earned one Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for exceptional service from 15 September 1970 to 25 July 1971.

The 415th did not see action again until it activated as a tactical fighter squadron on 5 October 1989 at the Tonopah Test Range with a mission to fly the F-117A Stealth Fighter. Earlier, on 15 September the Air Force officially changed the unit's name from its previous Special Operations Training Squadron designation. The 415 TFS assumed the mission of the 4450th Test Squadron to become one of two operational F-117A Stealth Fighter squadrons.

In Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM, the 415th shared honors with the 416 TFS. Augmented with pilots and aircraft of the 417th squadron, they struck terror into the hearts of the Iraqi nation. The Air Force redesignated the squadron as the 415th Fighter Squadron on 1 October 1991. The squadron realigned from under the wing as a subordinate of the 37th Operations Group on 1 November 1991.

416TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Lineage

Constituted 416th Night Fighter Squadron, 17 Feb 43.
Activated, 20 Feb 43.
Inactivated, 9 Nov 46.
Redesignated, 416th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 15 Nov 52.
Activated, 1 Jan 53.
Inactivated, 8 Feb 58.
Activated, 25 Mar 58.
Redesignated, 416th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 1 Jul 58.
Inactivated, 1 Jul 72.
Redesignated, 416th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron,
8 Mar 79.
Activated, 15 Mar 79.
Inactivated, 15 Sep 83.
Redesignated, 416th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 15 Sep 89.
Activated, 5 Oct 89.
Redesignated, 416th Fighter Squadron, 1 Oct 91.

Assignments

Air Defense Department, AAF School of Applied Tactics,
20 Feb 43.
VIII Fighter Command (attached to Royal Air Force),
11 May 43.
Twelfth Air Force, 8 Aug 43 (attached to Northwest African Coastal Air Force, 8 Aug 43; Tunis Fighter Sector, 9 Aug 43; Bone Fighter Sector, 17 Aug-15 Sep 43; 286 Wing RAF, 28 Sep 43).
62d Fighter Wing, 28 Jan 44 (detachments attached to 6505th Fighter Control Area [Provisional], 27 Jun-4 Sep 44; 63d Fighter Wing, 14-23 Aug 44, 6504th Fighter Control Area [Provisional], 1-9 Sep 44; 6502d Fighter Control Area [Provisional], 1-4 Sep 44; 425th Night Fighter Squadron, 4 Jan-20 Feb 45).
XXII Tactical Air Command, 1 Apr 45.
70th Fighter Wing, 17 Aug 45.
64th Fighter Wing (attached to All Weather Group [Provisional], 64th Fighter Wing), 15 Aug-9 Nov 46.
21st Fighter-Bomber Group, 1 Jan 53-8 Feb 58 (attached to Alaskan Air Command, c. 15-29 Sep 53; 21st Fighter-Bomber Wing, 15 Apr 57-8 Feb 58).
39th Air Division, 18 Jun 60.
3d Tactical Fighter Wing, 16 Jun 64 (attached to 39th Air Division, 16-21 Jun 64; 405th Fighter Wing, 14 Mar-21 Apr 65; 23d Air Base Group, 22 Apr-22 Jun 65; 34th Tactical Group, 23 Jun-8 Jul 65; 6251st Tactical Fighter Wing, 8-15 Jul 65; 405th Fighter Wing, 15-18 Jul 65).
834th Air Division, 8 Nov 65.

Assignments (Continued)

3d Tactical Fighter Wing, 16 Nov 65 (attached to 6520th Combat Support Group, c. 20 Nov 65-15 Jun 66).
37th Tactical Fighter Wing, 15 Apr 67.
31st Tactical Fighter Wing, 28 May 69 (attached to 4403d Tactical Fighter Wing, 15-27 Sep 70).
4403d Tactical Fighter Wing, 28 Sep 70-1 Jul 72.
479th Tactical Training Wing, 14 Mar 79-1 Sep 83.
37th Tactical Fighter Wing, 5 Oct 89 - 1 Nov 91.
37th Operations Group, 1 Nov 91 -

Stations

Orlando AB, FL, 20 Feb-26 Apr 43.
Honiley, England, 13 May 43 (detachments at Cranfield, England, 13 May-10 Jun 43; Usworth, England, 13 May-10 Jun 43; Bath, England, 13 May-10 Jun 43; Bristol, England 14 May-6 Jun 43).
Acklington, England, 11 Jun- c.4 Aug 43.
Algiers, Algeria, c.8 Aug 43.
Bone, Algeria, 17 Aug 43.
Bizerte, Tunisia, 15 Sep 43.
Catania, Sicily, 21 Sep 43.
Lecce, Italy, 27 Sep 43.
Grottaglie, Italy, 30 Sep 43 (detachment at Rerhaia, Algeria, 27 Dec 43-25 Jan 44).
Pomigliano, Italy, c.28 Jan 44 (detachments at Tre Canello Landing Strip, Italy 14 Jun-8 Jul 44; Tarquinia, Italy, 8 Jul-4 Sep 44; Alghero, Sicily, 14-22 Aug 44; Borgo, Corsica, 14-23 Aug 44).
Rosignano, Italy, c.1 Sep 44 (Det Pomigliano, Italy, 1-9 Sep 44).
Pisa, Italy, c. 1 Oct 44 (detachment at Etain, France, 4 Jan-20 Feb 45).
Pontedera, Italy, 27 Mar 45.
Horsching, Austria, 13 Aug 45.
Schweinfurt, Germany, c.20 Aug- 9 Nov 46.
George AFB, CA, 1 Jan 53-26 Nov 54 (deployed at Eielson AFB, AK, c. 15-29 Sep 53).
Toul-Rosiere AB, France, 12 Dec 54.
Misawa AB, Japan, 25 Mar 58-21 Jun 64.
England AFB, LA, 26 Jun 64-17 Nov 65 (deployed at Clark AB, Philippines, 14 Mar-21 Apr 65; DaNang AB, Vietnam, 22 Apr-23 Jun 65; Bien Hoa AB, Vietnam, 23 Jun-15 Jul 65; and Clark AB, 15-18 Jul 65).
Tan Son Nhut AB, Vietnam, 16 Nov 65.
Bien Hoa AB, Vietnam, 15 Jun 66.
Phu Cat AB, Vietnam, 29 May 67.
Tuy Hoa AB, Vietnam, 28 May 69-15 Sep 70.
England AFB, LA, 15 Sep 79-1 Jul 72.
Holloman AFB, NM, 15 Mar 79-1 Sep 83.
Tonopah Test Range, NV, 5 Oct 89 -

Commanders

Capt (later Maj) Jack C. Davis, 20 Feb 43.
2Lt Darwin V. Brake, 25 Jun 43.
Capt (later Maj) A. M. Banks, 27 Jun 43.
Maj Rulon D. Blake, 29 Apr 44.
Maj (later Lt Col) A. M. Banks, 19 Jul 44.
Capt (later Maj) Carl S. Morrison, Jr., 19 Sep 44.
Capt Joseph I. King, 2 Dec 45.
Lt Col James G. Thorsen, 23 Apr - unknown 1946.
Unknown, 1 Jan 53 - unknown.
Capt Robert P. Smith (by Jun) 53.
Lt Col John S. Stewart, (by Dec) 53.
Maj Morgan R. Beamer, Jr., 16 Feb 54.
Maj George H. Dodenhoff (USMC), 20 Jun 55.
Capt Anthony Cvitanovich, 13 Jul 55.
Maj Carl H. Leo, 15 Nov 55 - c. 9 Jan 58.
None (not manned) 10 Jan - 8 Feb 58.
Lt Col Charles H. Duncan, 25 Mar 58.
Maj Richard F. Kenney, 17 Mar 59.
Maj Cregg P. Nolan, Jr., 2 Dec 59.
Maj Leslie R. Leavoy, (by 30) Jun 62.
Lt Col Emmett L. Hays, 27 Jul 62.
Maj Charles H. Purcell. 1 Aug 65.
Lt Col Richard M Mischke, 8 Mar 66.
Maj Swart H. Nelson, c. 15 Oct 66.
Lt Col Leighton R. Palmerton, (by 16) Nov 66.
Lt Col Paul M. Ingram, 29 May 67.
Lt Col Don D. Pittman, 1 Oct 67.
Lt Col Rufus W. Scott, 1 May 68.
Lt Col Paul M. Davis, 14 Feb 69.
Lt Col Harry C. Delaney, 24 Sep 69.
Lt Col Robert K. Dundas, 1 Sep 70.
Lt Col Francis J. Kramer, Jr., 15 Sep 70 - 1 Jul 72.
Unmanned, 15 Mar 79.
Lt Col Peter D. Caldarellie, 7 Apr 80.
Lt Col Victor C. Andrews, 11 Jul 81.
Lt Col Robert E. Bryan, 12 Aug - 1 Sep 83.
Lt Col Gerald C. Carpenter, 5 Oct 89.
Lt Col Gregory T. Gonyea, 10 Aug 90.

Aircraft

A-20, 1943.
P-70, 1943.
Beaufighter, 1943-1944.
Mosquito, 1944-1945.
A-36, 1945.
P-61, 1945-1946.
A-26, 1946.
F-51, 1953.
F-86, 1953-1958.
F-84, 1958-1959.
F-100: 1958, 1959-1970, 1970-1972.
AT-38, 1980-1983.
F-117A, 1989-

Honors

Campaign Streamers

World War II:

Naples-Foggia.
Anzio.
Rome-Arno.
Southern France.
Northern Apennines
Po Valley
Rhineland.
Ardennes-Alsace
Air Combat (EAME Theater)

Vietnam

Vietnam Defense
Vietnam Air
Vietnam Air Offensive.
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II, III, and IV
Vietnam Air/Ground.
Tet 69/Counteroffensive.
Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969.
Vietnam Winter-Spring 1970.
Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Southwest Monsoon

Unit Citations

Distinguished Unit Citation (MTO) 10-11¹ Apr 44
Presidential Unit Citations: (Vietnam) 8 Jun 66-16 Apr 67
and 1 Jul-31 Dec 68.

Honors (Continued)

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards:

AFOUA With Combat V: 29 May 67-30 Jun 68 and 31 Jul 69-31 Jun 70.

AFOUA [16 Jun] 64-16 Jul 65, 18 Mar-18 Jun 65; 1 May 81-30 Apr 83.

Foreign

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Crosses with Palm: 25 Nov 65-29 May 67 and 1 Apr 66-15 Oct 70.

Emblem

A black rider on a black war horse symbolizes the F-117A Stealth Fighter. It also preserves the heritage of the 416th path. Its white highlights suggest the perfection of the F-117A's weapons delivery capability and the maturity of the Stealth Fighter mission. The horse and rider are in an attack position, centered over a stylized aircraft against an ultramarine blue evening sky. This signifies the Air Force's determined ability to operate with strength and zeal in a night environment. The red of the rider's cape symbolizes the boldness of attacking out of night skies, and the rider's red eyes signify the ability to seek out the enemy in the dark of night. The stylized aircraft represented the squadron's position at the "Tip o the Spear" of readiness. The white moon and white stars reflect the squadron's night time mission. The yellow lightning bolts held in the rider's upraised left arm refers to the squadron's historical excellence and the contribution of the F-117A to tactical deterrence.

Squadron Motto: Ghost Riders



Significant Activities

On 20 February 1943, the 416th Night Fighter Squadron activated at Orlando Air Base, Florida. After completing its initial training by April, the squadron crossed the Atlantic on the Queen Elizabeth and landed in the United Kingdom on 11 May. Pausing briefly for training under VIII Fighter Command (attached to the Royal Air Force), the unit then moved to North Africa for operations with Twelfth Air Force. There, the squadron fell under the operational control of the Northwest African Coastal Air Force, a joint inter-allied organization with British, Free-French, and other American units.

The defeat of German, Italian, and Vichy French forces in North Africa allowed the 416th to move with other allied forces into Italy in September 1943. During its first year there, the squadron patrolled harbors and escorted shipping; however, in September 1944 the 416th shifted to more aggressive activities to provide defensive cover for the Fifth Army and make intruder sweeps into enemy territory. With the fall of Germany, the unit moved in August 1945 to Horsching, Austria, for occupation duties. A year later, the 416th relocated to Schweinfurt, Germany, where it inactivated on 9 November 1946.

The Air Force redesignated the 416th on 15 November 1952 as a Fighter-Bomber Squadron and activated it on New Year's Day 1953 at George AFB, California. Initially equipped with F-51 aircraft, the 416th quickly converted to F-86F aircraft and started participating in air defense operations, exercises, and firepower demonstrations. Then in September 1953, the 416th received Arctic indoctrination at Eielson AFB, Alaska. Next, the squadron joined its parent unit, the 21st Fighter-Bomber Group, in Operation Boxkite at North Field, South Carolina from 17 April to 15 May 1954.

The 416th moved to France in November-December 1954. For this move, the ground echelon left George AFB, California, on 26 November and arrived at Toul-Rosiere Air Base on 12 December. The flight echelon left George on 13 December and traveled to France by the northern air route. Bad weather, however, delayed the movement, and the flight element did not reach Toul-Rosiere until 22 February 1955. From then until December 1957, the squadron participated in NATO tactical operations and exercises, stood air defense alert, and periodically deployed aircraft and crews to Wheelus AB, Libya, for fighter weapons training. The unit was not operational from 10 January to 8 February 1958.

On 25 March 1958, the 416th activated under Fifth Air Force at Misawa Air Base, Japan, where it started converting from F-84Gs to F-100s. Later in July, the squadron joined the 21st Fighter-Bomber Wing; however, the USAF directed the 416th to

transfer its F-100s to another unit. This order temporarily interrupted its conversion and forced the 416th to fly F-84s until May 1959, when a full complement of F-100s arrived. During this period in the Far East, the units crews flew tactical operations and exercises in Korea, Taiwan, Okinawa, Singapore, the Philippines, and other exotic places in the Far East.

In June 1964, the 416th moved to England AFB, Louisiana, where it joined the 3d Tactical Fighter Wing (Tactical Air Command) for training. From 17 October through 7 December 1964, the squadron deployed a flight to Takhli Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, where it operated under various higher headquarters. This deployment, however, was just a precursor to even greater involvement in Southeast Asia (SEA) as the entire squadron deployed there in March 1965. It operated in turn from Clark AB, Philippines, DaNang AB, South Vietnam, Bien Hoa AB, South Vietnam, and again at Clark until July 1965, when it returned to England AFB. While in SEA, the unit flew 1,711 combat sorties between 19 March and 14 July to fly flak suppression, weather reconnaissance, MiG combat air patrol, and air strike missions.

The 416th deployed with the 3 TFW to SEA in November 1965 to Ton Son Nhut, South Vietnam. There, the 6250th Combat Support Group controlled the squadron's operations until June 1966, when it rejoined the 3 TFW at Bien Hoa. The 416th remained at Bien Hoa until its April 1967 reassignment to the 37 TFW. In May, the squadron moved to Phu Cat without a break in combat missions.

On 15 June 1967, Detachment 1, 416 TFS became the nucleus of Command Sabre, a special activity using F-100F two-seaters to fly fast Forward Air Control (FAC) operations under the call sign "Misty." The unit's participation in Command Sabre even continued after a move to Tuy Hoa AB and reassignment to the 31 TFW. At that time, operational control over Command Sabre passed from the 37 TFW to the 31 TFW.

In the meantime, the 416th flew regular combat missions, logging its 30,000 SEA combat sortie on 20 April 1970. Most of those missions involved close air support or direct air support. The unit stood down from combat operations on 5 September 1970, and its resources were transferred to other units. On 28 September, the squadron moved without personnel to England AFB.

Anticipating the 416th's reassignment, the 4403 TFW at England AFB began forming a new squadron cadre in August 1970. This cadre started training its pilots to instructor status and was immediately available when the Air Force transferred the unit to England that September. After receiving more equipment and people, the 416th achieved combat ready status and began normal participation in exercises and other tactical operations.

Inactivation appeared imminent again as the Air Force phased the last F-100s out of its inventory. By December 1971, the 416th was the only active flying squadron in the 4403 TFW. On 1 April 1972, its operational training commitment ended, and as a result the Air Force transferred all personnel to other units and aircraft to the Air National Guard. From May 1972 until its 1 July inactivation, the 416th served as a holding unit for a new A-7 squadron that would replace it.

Redesignated the 416th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron (TFTS), the unit activated again on 15 March 1979 under the 479th Tactical Training Wing at Holloman AFB, New Mexico. At Holloman, the squadron used AT-38B aircraft to provide transitional training to new pilots preparing for assignment to operational fighter wings. The 416th inactivated on 1 September 1983 as the 433 TFTS assumed its mission.

The USAF redesignated the 416th a tactical fighter squadron on 15 September 1989 and officially called it into existence on 5 October under the 37 TFW at the Tonopah Test Range, Nevada. There, it assumed the mission of the 4451st Test Squadron to become one of two operational F-117A Stealth Fighter squadrons.

In Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM, the 416th shared honors with the 415th squadron as together they struck terror into the hearts of the Iraqi nation. The Air Force redesignated the squadron as the 416th Fighter Squadron on 1 October 1991. The squadron realigned from under the wing as a subordinate of the 37th Operations Group on 1 November 1991.

417TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Lineage

Constituted 417th Night Fighter Squadron, 17 Feb 43.
Activated, 20 Feb 43.
Inactivated, 9 Nov 46.
Redesignated 417th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 15 Nov 52.
Activated, 1 Jan 53.
Redesignated 417th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 8 Jul 58.
Inactivated, 30 Apr 77.
Activated, 1 Oct 78.
Inactivated, 15 Sep 87.
Redesignated 417th Tactical Training Fighter Squadron,
15 Sep 89.
Activated, 5 Oct 89.
Redesignated 417th Fighter Squadron, 1 Oct 91.

Assignments

Air Defense Department, AAF School of Applied Tactics,
20 Feb 43.
VIII Fighter Command (attached to RAF), 11 May 43.
Twelfth Air Force, 8 Aug 43 (attached to 2689th Air
Defense Region [Provisional], Northwest African Coastal Air
Force, 9 Aug 43; 337 Wing, RAF, 3 Jan 44).
63d Fighter Wing, 27 Apr 44.
XII Fighter Command, 27 Sep 44.
Twelfth Air Force, 1 Oct 44 (attached to Mediterranean Allied
Coastal Air Force, 3 Oct 44-24 Mar 45; air echelon attached
to 422d Night Fighter Squadron, 6-22 Jan 45).
64th Fighter Wing (attached to First Tactical Air Force [Pro-
visional], 24 Mar 45).
XII Tactical Air Command, 17 May 45.
64th Fighter Wing, 26 Jun 45-9 Nov 46 (attached to All Weather
Group [Provisional], 64th Fighter Wing, 15 Aug-9 Nov 46).
50th Fighter-Bomber Group, 1 Jan 53.
50th Fighter-Bomber (later, 50th Tactical Fighter) Wing,
8 Dec 57.
Tactical Air Command, 1 Mar 68.
67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 1 Jul 68 (attached to 50th
Tactical Fighter Wing, 15 Jan-3 Apr 69 and 11 Sep-9 Oct 70).
49th Tactical Fighter Wing, 15 Nov 70-30 Apr 77.
26th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 1 Oct 78.
86th Tactical Fighter Wing, 15 Nov 81-15 Sep 87.
37th Tactical Fighter Wing, 5 Oct 89 - 1 Nov 91.
37th Operations Group, 1 Nov 91 -

Stations

Orlando AB, FL, 20 Feb 43.
Kissimmee Army Airfield, FL, 5 Mar-26 Apr 43.
Ayr, Scotland, 12 May 43.
Cranfield, England, 14 May 43 (detachments at Ayr, Scotland, 14 May-10 Jun 43; Uxbridge, England, 14 May-10 Jun 43; Coltishall, England, 14 May-10 Jun 43; Bristol, England, 14 May-10 Jun 43; Scorton, England, 23 May-10 Jun 43).
Scorton, England, 10 Jun 43.
Tafaraoui, Algeria, 8 Aug 43 (ground echelon at Ghisonaccia, Corsica, 7 Jan-Feb 44).
La Senia, Algeria, 10 Jan 44 (ground echelon at Borgo, Corsica, Feb-Apr 44).
Borgo, Corsica, c. 25 Apr-7 Sep 44.
La Vallon, France, 12 Sep 44 (air echelon at Florennes, Belgium, 6-22 Jan 45).
St. Dizier, France, 5 Apr 45.
Giebelstadt, Germany, 24 Apr 45.
Biblis, German, 21 May 45.
Braunsshardt, Germany, 26 Jun 45.
Kassel/Rothwesten, Germany, 9 Aug 45.
Fritzlar, Germany, 10 Apr 46.
Schweinfurt, Germany, 20 Aug-9 Nov 46.
Clovis AFB, NM, 1 Jan 53.
Hahn AB, West Germany, 9 Aug 53.
Toul/Rosieres AB, France, 15 Apr 56.
Ramstein AB, West Germany, 1 Dec 59-15 Jul 68.
Mountain Home AFB, ID, 15 Jul 68 (deployed at Hahn AB, West Germany 15 Jan-3 Apr 69 and 11 Sep-9 Oct 70).
Holloman AFB, NM, 9 Oct 70-30 Apr 77 (deployed at Takhli, RTAFB, Thailand, 10 May-30 Sep 72; Hahn AB, West Germany, 3 Feb-14 Mar 73, 6 Mar-5 Apr 74, 3 Oct-5 Nov 75, and 24 Aug-26 Sep 76; and Nellis AFB, NV, 29 Nov-19 Dec 75).
Zweibrucken AB, West Germany, 1 Oct 78.
Ramstein AB, West Germany, 1 Nov 78-15 Sep 87.
Tonopah Test Range, NV, 5 Oct 89 -

Commanders

Not Manned, 20 Feb-4 Mar 43.
Capt Joseph T. Ehlinger, 6 Mar 43.
Capt William A. Larsen, 25 Jun 44.
Maj C. Richard McCray, 19 Apr 45.
Capt Theodore A. Deakyne, 30 Sep 45.
Maj John H. Konosky, c. 15 May 46-unknown.
Maj Herbert R. Mann, 1 Jan 53.
Lt Col Joseph T. Ehlinger, 19 Dec 53.
Lt Col Chester L. Van Etten, 15 Jul 54.
Maj (later Lt Col) Charles E. Yeager, 2 May 55.
Maj Harry H. Herrmann, c. Jul 57.
Lt Col Thomas E. Stewart, 1958.
Lt Col Forrest L. Rauscher, 10 Jan 62.
Lt Col Frank C. Buzze, c. Jun 64.
Lt Col Raplee Y. McBurney, 15 Jun 65.
Lt Col Tony M. Greget, 14 Jun 66.
Lt Col Robert D. Carter, 24 Jun 67.
Lt Col Richard F. Gibbs, by (30 Jun) 69.
Lt Col Richard J. Meechan, 16 Nov 70.
Lt Col Durward K. Priester, 7 Jun 72.
Lt Col Paul E. Raudenbush, 8 May 74.
Lt Col Robin M. Kozelka, 5 Jan 76.
Lt Col Ross L. Meyer, 6 Jul 76-30 Apr 77.
Lt Col Richard C. Fairlamb, 1 Oct 78-c. Nov 78.
Lt Col Keat Griggers, 5 Oct 89.
Lt Col Robert J. Maher, 23 Mar 90.
Lt Col Barry E. Horne, 10 May 91.

Aircraft

P-70, 1943.
Beaufighter, 1943-1945.
P-61, 1946-1946.
F-51, 1953.
F-86, 1953-1958.
F-100: 1958-1966.
F-4, 1967-1977.
F-4, 1978.
F-117A, 1989-

Honors

World War II Campaign Streamers

Rome-Arno
Southern France
Northern Apennines
Rhineland
Central Europe
Air Combat

Honors (Continued)

Vietnam Campaign Streamers

Vietnam Ceasefire

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, 7 May-
24 Aug 72.

Distinquished Unit Citation

Southern France, 28 Dec 44.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

With Combat V, 5 May-6 Oct 72.

AFOUA, 1 Jan 71-15 Apr 72.

Emblem

The "Ghost" is identical to the "Ghost" in the historical squadron emblem, with the exception of the mask (for "BANDITS"), and suggests an apparition or hard to see being and represents the element of surprise. The black stylized aircraft is representative of the unit's Stealth Fighter mission. The elongated weapons suggest the pin-point accuracy and perfection of the F-117A's discretionary weapons. The descending aircraft (attack position) signifies unit readiness and determination. The moon, cloud and night environment depict the squadron's primary mission to teach pilots how to employ the ideally suited Stealth Fighter at night. The mountains represent the total environment the 417 TFTS operates in.



Squadron Motto: The Bandits.

Significant Activities

On 20 February 1943, the 417th Night Fighter Squadron activated at Orlando AB, Florida. Less than a month later on 5 March 1943, the unit moved to Kissimmee Airfield, Florida, where it received its personnel and a commanding officer to begin training in the P-70, a night version of the twin-engine A-20 aircraft. Besides routine transition training in the night fighter, the pilots also complete calibration, instrument, navigation flights, and numerous target missions in this period. After arriving in England in May 1943, the 417th trained in the British Beaufighter aircraft. In August 1943, the squadron deployed to North Africa, where it engaged in harbor patrol, convoy patrol, and defensive fighter sweeps.

In April 1944, the 417th transferred to Corsica and resumed patrol activities. In August 1944, the unit supported the Allied invasion of southern France before taking up duty to fly patrol, intruder, and interceptor missions. During March and April 1945, the 417th converted from the Beaufighter to the P-61 Black Widow aircraft. Its last major combat operations in the first week of May consisted of nightly patrols and intruder missions against enemy aircraft attempting to harass Seventh Army troops and their bridgeheads across the Rhine River at Ulm, Donauworth, and Dillengen, Germany. After V-E day, the squadron became part of American occupation forces in Germany. The 417th inactivated on 9 November 1946.

In November 1952, the Air Force redesignated the unit as the 417th Fighter-Bomber squadron and activated it on 1 January 1953 at Clovis AFB, New Mexico, for training in F-51 aircraft. Soon thereafter, the squadron converted to the F-86 Sabrejet, but the transition period extended over a long period due to an acute shortage of trained people. In the Summer, the 417th transferred to Hahn AB, West Germany, to become a unit in the United States Air Forces in Europe. There, the squadron trained in air-to-ground and air-to-air gunnery at places like Furstenfeldbruck and Giebelstadt in West Germany and Wheelus AB, Libya.

During early 1958, the 417th turned in its F-86 Sabrejets, and then deployed to Wheelus AB, where it received F-100 aircraft. The unit remained in Libya for nearly 60 days where it completed transition training in the new aircraft. On 8 July 1958, the Air Force redesignated the squadron as the 417th Tactical Fighter Squadron (TFS). The unit continued normal training activities with F-100s until 1966 and F-4s through its inactivation on 30 April 1977.

In this period, the 417th returned from Europe for reassignment at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, on 15 July 68 with the 67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing (TRW). From there, it deployed for training at Hahn AB, West Germany 15 January to 3 April 1969 and 11 September to 9 October 1970. The return from West Germany, however, brought with it a move to Holloman AFB, New Mexico, where the 417th remained until 30 April 1977. This time included several deployments: Takhli, RTAFB, Thailand from 10 May to 30 September 1972; Hahn AB, West Germany, from 3 February to 14 March 1973, 6 March to 5 April 1974, 3 October to 5 November 1975, and 24 August to 26 September 1976; and Nellis AFB, Nevada, 29 November to 19 December 1975. The tours in Thailand led to two honors for Vietnam service.

The 417th resumed service when it activated on 1 October 1978 at Zweibrucken AB, West Germany, as part of the 26th TRW. At that time, however, the squadron only received a few people and one F-4 aircraft. The unit transferred to Ramstein AB, West

Germany on 1 November 1978, but evidently lost its personnel and aircraft to become a paper organization. Moreover, the 417th also switched from the 26th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing (TRW) to the 86 TFW on 15 November 1981, remaining a paper organization until it inactivated on 15 September 1987. The unit's 5 October 1989 redesignation as the 417th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron (TFTS) and activation at the Tonopah Test Range in Nevada made it responsible for the replacement training of new F-117A Stealth Fighter pilots. The 417th assumed the mission of the 4453d Test and Evaluation Squadron.

The Air Force redesignated the squadron as the 417th Fighter Training Squadron on 1 October 1991. The squadron realigned from under the wing as a subordinate of the 37th Operations Group on 1 November 1991.

37TH OPERATIONS SUPPORT SQUADRON

Lineage and Honors

Activated, 1 Nov 91.
Assigned 37th Operations Group, 1 Nov 91.
Stationed at Tonopah Test Range, NV, 1 Nov 91.
Previous lineage and honors unknown; pending Historical Research Center archival review.

37TH LOGISTICS GROUP

Lineage and Honors

Activated, 37th Maintenance and Supply Group, 8 Apr 53.
Inactivated, 25 Jun 53.
Assigned, 37th Fighter Bomber Wing, 8 Apr 53.
Activated, 1 Nov 91.
Assigned 37th Fighter Wing, 1 Nov 91.
Stationed at Tonopah Test Range, NV, 1 Nov 91.
Additional lineage and honors unknown; pending Historical Research Center archival review.

Emblem:



The 37th Logistics Group is authorized the same emblem as the 37th Fighter Wing with the group designator in the scroll.

37TH MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

Lineage

Constituted 37th Field Maintenance Squadron,
and activated on 26 Oct 66.
Organized 1 Mar 67.
Inactivated 31 Mar 70.
Redesignated, 37th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, 3 Oct 80.
Activated, 30 Mar 81.
Redesignated, 37th Maintenance Squadron, 1 Nov 91.

Assignments

Pacific Air Forces, 26 Oct 66.
37th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Mar 67-31 Mar 70; 30 Mar 81-
1 Nov 91.
37th Logistics Group, 1 Nov 91.

Stations

Phu Cat AB, Vietnam, 1 Mar 67-31 Mar 70.
George AFB, CA, 30 Mar 81.
Tonopah Test Range, NV, 5 Oct 89 -

Honors

Campaign Streamers:

Vietnam Air
Vietnam Air Offensive
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III
Vietnam Air/Ground
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV
Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Vietnam Summer/Fall, 1969
Vietnam Winter/Spring, 1970

Presidential Unit Citations: Vietnam, 1 Jul - 31 Dec 68.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards: 1 Jul 67 - 30 Jun 68;
1 Apr 69 - 31 Mar 70; and 1 Jun 85 - 31 May 87.

Foreign:

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm:
1 Apr 66 - 31 Mar 70.

Emblem



A Black Nighthawk, shown in flight, displays the swift and silent nature of the F-117A Stealth Fighter as it approaches its intended target. White highlights around the hawk suggest the aircraft's spectral nature. The ultramarine blue background represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. A waxing moon and stars denotes the Air Forces ability to operate in day and night skies. The hands symbolize the care that equipment maintenance technicians take in their work with the aircraft. Five stars refer to the individual branches that contribute to the squadron's equipment maintenance capability. The hawk's red eye denotes its ability to find and track its prey.

Unit Motto: Stealth--The Night Belongs to Us.

37TH SUPPLY SQUADRON

Lineage

Constituted 37th Supply Squadron, 3 Mar 53.
Activated, 8 Apr 53.
Inactivated, 25 Jun 53.
Organized, 26 Oct 66.
Activated, 1 Mar 67.
Inactivated, 31 Mar 70.
Activated, 5 Oct 89.

Assignments

37th Maintenance and Supply Group, 8 Apr-25 Jun 53.
Pacific Air Forces, 4 Oct 66.
37th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Mar 67-31 Mar 70; 5 Oct 89-
1 Nov 91.
37th Logistics Group, 1 Nov 91-

Stations

Clovis AFB, NM, 8 Apr-25 Jun 53.
Qui Nhon Airfield, South Vietnam, 15 Oct 66.
Phu Cat AB, South Vietnam, c. 4 Sep 66-31 Mar 70.
Tonopah Test Range, NV, 5 Oct 89 -

Honors

Campaign Streamers:

Vietnam Air Offensive
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III
Vietnam Air/Ground
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV
Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Vietnam Summer/Fall, 1969
Vietnam Winter/Spring, 1970

Presidential Unit Citations: Vietnam, 1 Jul - 31 Dec 68.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V":
15 Oct 66-28 Feb 67; 1 Jul 67 - 30 Jun 68; and 1 Apr 69 -
31 Mar 70;

Foreign:

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm:
1 Apr 66 - 31 Mar 70.

Emblem: None.

37TH TRANSPORTATION SQUADRON

Lineage

Constituted 37th Motor Vehicle Squadron, 3 Mar 53.
Activated, 8 Apr 53.
Inactivated, 25 Jun 53.
Redesignated, 37th Transportation Squadron and
activated, 4 Oct 66.
Inactivated, 31 Mar 70.
Activated, 5 Oct 89.

Assignments

37th Maintenance and Supply Group, 8 Apr-25 Jun 53.
Pacific Air Forces, 4 Oct 66.
37th Combat Support Group, 15 Oct 66-31 Mar 70.
37th Tactical Fighter Wing, 5 Oct 89-1 Nov 91.
37th Logistics Group, 1 Nov 91-

Stations

Clovis AFB, NM, 8 Apr-25 Jun 53.
Qui Nhon Airfield, South Vietnam, 15 Oct 66.
Phu Cat AB, South Vietnam, 30 Jan 67-31 Mar 70.
Tonopah Test Range, NV, 5 Oct 89 -

Honors

Campaign Streamers:

Vietnam Air Offensive
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III
Vietnam Air/Ground
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV
Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Vietnam Summer/Fall, 1969
Vietnam Winter/Spring, 1970

Presidential Unit Citations: Vietnam, 1 Jul - 31 Dec 68.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V":
15 Oct 66-28 Feb 67; 1 Jul 67 - 30 Jun 68; and 1 Apr 69 -
31 Mar 70;

Foreign:

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm:
1 Apr 66 - 31 Mar 70.

Emblem: None.

37TH LOGISTICS SUPPORT SQUADRON

Lineage and Honors

Activated, 1 Nov 91.
Assigned 37th Logistics Group, 1 Nov 91.
Stationed at Tonopah Test Range, NV, 1 Nov 91.
Previous lineage and honors unknown; pending Historical Research Center archival review.

37TH SUPPORT GROUP

Lineage

Established, 37th Air Base Group, 20 Nov 40.
Activated, 15 Jan 41.
Redesignated, 37th Service Group, 14 Jul 42.
Redesignated, 37th Air Service Group, 20 Aug 43.
Disbanded, 12 May 45.
Reestablished and redesignated, 37th Air Base Group, 3 Mar 53.
Activated 8 Apr 53.
Inactivated, 25 Jun 53.
Activated, 17 Nov 64.
Organized, 8 Jan 65.
Discontinued and inactivated, 8 Jul 65.
Redesignated and activated, 37th Combat Support Group,
21 Feb 66.
Organized, 8 Mar 66.
Inactivated, 31 Mar 70.
Activated, 5 Oct 89.
Redesignated 37th Support Group, 1 Nov 91.

Assignments

Unknown, 15 Jan 41.
2d Air Force Service Command, 1 Oct 41.
4th Air Force Service Command, 16 Oct 41.
3d Air Force Service Command, 20 Dec 41.
8th Air Force Base Command, 9 Feb 42.
Third Air Force, 11 Apr 42.
VIII Bomber Command, c. Jul 42.
XII Air Force Service Command, 27 Sep 42.
Fifteenth Air Force, 3 Dec 43.
XV Air Force Service Command, 1 Jan 44 - 12 May 45.
37th Fighter-Bomber Wing, 8 Apr - 25 Jun 53.
Pacific Air Forces, 17 Nov 64.
2d Air Division, 8 Jan - 8 Jul 65.
Pacific Air Forces, 21 Feb 66. /
2d Air Division, 8 Mar 66.
Seventh Air Force, 1 Apr 66.
37th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Mar 67 - 31 Mar 70.
37th Tactical Fighter Wing, 5 Oct 89 -

Components

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 37th Air Base Group,
15 Jan 41.
Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 37th Service Group,
14 Jul 42.
Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 37th Air Service Group,
20 Aug 43 - 12 May 45.
Headquarters 37th Air Base Group, 8 Apr - 25 Jun 53;
17 Nov 64 - 8 Jul 65 (Not operational 17 Nov 64 - 7 Jan 65).
Headquarters, 37th Combat Support (later Support) Group, 21 Feb
66 - 31 Mar 70 (not operational 21 Feb - 7 Mar 66);
5 Oct 89 -
26th Service Squadron, 27 Nov 42 - 11 Mar 43.
37th Air (later Security) Police Squadron: 8 Apr - 25 Jun 53;
8 Mar 66 - 31 Mar 70; 5 Oct 89 -
37th Communications Squadron: 8 Apr - 25 Jun 53; 1 Nov 91 -
37th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron: 8 Jan -
8 Jul 65.
37th Food Service (later Services) Squadron: 25 Jun 53; 15 Oct
66 - 31 Mar 70.
37th Installations (later Civil Engineering) Squadron: 25 Jun 53;
15 Oct 66 - 31 Mar 70; 5 Oct 89 -
37th Supply Squadron: 15 Oct 66 - 31 Mar 70.
37th Transportation Squadron: 15 Oct 66 - 31 Mar 70.
37th USAF Dispensary: 8 Mar 66 - 1 Mar 67.
38th Air Base Squadron: 15 Jan - 6 Nov 41.
50th Materiel (later, 50th Service) Squadron: 15 Jan 41 - Sep 43.
60th Service (later, 60th Air Service) Squadron: 5 Apr 44 -
12 May 45.
351st Service Squadron: 26 Jul - 1 Sep 43.
469th Service (later, 469th Air Service) Squadron: Feb 44 -
12 May 45.
563d Service (later, 563d Air Service) Squadron: 15 Jan -
4 Feb 44; 21 Feb 44 - 12 May 45.
564th Service Squadron: 15 Jan - 4 Feb 44.
6254th Air Base Squadron: 15-31 Mar 70.
Detachment 1, Headquarters, 37th Combat Support Group
(Qui Nhon Airfield, South Vietnam): 1 Mar 67 - 1 Sep 68.

During World War II, the group also controlled various Ordnance Supply and Maintenance Companies, Quartermaster Companies, Quartermaster Truck Companies, Signal Companies, and Fire Fighting Platoons.

Stations

Langley Field, VA, 15 Jan 41.
Will Rogers Field, OK, 1 May 41.
Hunter Field, GA, 9 Feb 42.
Fort Dix, NJ, 22 May - 30 Jun 42
Molesworth, England, 15 Jul 42.
Podington, England, 17 Sep - 10 Nov 42.
Nouvion, Algeria, 22 Nov 42.
Relizane, Algeria, 27 Nov 42.
Biskra, Algeria, 25 Dec 42.
Chateudun du Rhumel, Algeria, 12 Feb 43.
Dejebel Oust, Tunisia, 12 Aug 43.
El Aouina, Tunisia, 17 Sep 43.
Foch Field, Tunis, Tunisia, 22 Sep 43.
Bizerte, Tunisia, 18 Dec 43.
Bari, Italy, 28 Dec 43.
Incoronata, Italy, 4 Jan 44 - 12 May 45.
Clovis AFB, NM, 8 Apr - 25 Jun 53.
Qui Nhon Airfield, South Vietnam, 8 Mar 66.
Phu Cat Air Base, South Vietnam, Jan 67 - 31 Mar 70.
Tonopah Test Range, NV, 5 Oct 89 -

Commanders

Maj Henry G. Woodward	15 Jan 41-
Capt (later Maj) William W. Withey	2 May 41-
Lt Col Angus H. Foster	9 May 41-
Capt (later Lt Col) Ray H. Kutterer	12 Jan 42-
Maj (later Lt Col) William W. Withey	30 Sep 42-
Maj Carl F. Tibbets	9 Oct 43-
Lt Col (later Col) Herbert F. Debuys	9 Jan 44-
Lt Col Walter E. Lawrence	c. Sep 44-
Lt Col William M. Hill	20 Oct 44-
Lt Col John H. Fawcett	21 Apr-12 May 45.
Lt Col William G. Dolan	c. Apr 53 -
Lt Col Thomas O. Crandall	unkn-25 Jun 53.
Col Robert J. Jones	8 Jan-8 Jul 65.
Unkn	8 Mar-Sep 66
Col Frederick C. Keish	c. Oct 66-
Col Reo C. Trail	19 Oct 67-
Col Less A. Sarter, Jr.	12 Oct 68-
Col James D. Naler	17 Sep 69-31 Mar 70.
Col Raymond J. Bartholomew	5 Oct 89-
Col Garrell Boone	15 Mar 91-

Honors

World War II Campaign Streamers

Sicily
Anzio
Southern France

Vietnam Campaign Streamers

Vietnam Air
Vietnam Air Offensive
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III
Vietnam Air/Ground
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV
Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Vietnam Summer/Fall, 1969
Vietnam Winter/Spring, 1970

Presidential Unit Citations: Southeast Asia,
1 Jul - 31 Dec 68.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards: 15 Oct 66 - 30 Jun 67;
1 Jul 67 - 30 Jun 68; and 1 Apr 69 - 31 Mar 70.

Foreign:

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm: 1 Apr
66 - 31 Mar 70.

Emblem: *

The design is composed of the colors of the Air Force, with three Air Force yellow segments and total seven segments forming the group designation. The three yellow segments also represent the three squadrons which comprise the 37th CSG. The millrind, center on which the millstone turns, is symbolic of the faithful service of the group, which acts as a service center for the maintenance of smooth operation of combat units. And the added Black nighthawk, alighting on the millrind, signifies the support given to it to fulfill the worldwide commitments of the F-117A Stealth Fighter.



* Note: As of 1 Nov 91, the 37th Support Group traded this emblem for the 37th Fighter Wing emblem with the group designator in the scroll.

Significant Activities

The 37th Air Base Group activated on 15 January 1941 in the U.S., and its assigned people immediately started training for its support duties. This instruction allowed the unit to sail aboard the U.S. Army Transport Argentina for England on 1 July 1942 and disembark at Molesworth on the 15th under a new name, the 37th Service Group. In England, this unit provided airfield and maintenance services to VIII Bomber Command units at Molesworth and later Podington until early November 1942. Shortly after the November 1942 invasion of North Africa, the unit's personnel sailed on the HMS Rangi-Tiki and arrived at Oran, Algeria, on the 22d. While in North Africa, the group mainly served Twelfth Air Force B-17 bombardment and P-38 fighter units.

On 20 August 1943, the Army redesignated the unit the 37th Air Service Group. It joined Fifteenth Air Force in December 1943 and moved to Italy, where it provided airfield services for the 49th Bombardment Wing at Incoronata. The 37th maintained airfields and serviced the B-24s of the wing's 451st Bomb Group at Castelluccio, and the 461st and 484th Bomb Group at Torretta. On 12 May 1945, the 37th disbanded in Italy. For this service in World War II, the group earned recognition for three campaigns: Sicily, Anzio, and Southern France.

On 3 March 1953, the Air Force reestablished and redesignated the unit as the 37th Air Base Group. The unit activated on 8 April at Clovis AFB, New Mexico, but only saw service there a short while until its 25 June inactivation. On 8 January 1965, the 37th organized at Nha Trang Airport, South Vietnam, only to inactivate again six months later on 8 July. The Air Force redesignated and activated the unit as the 37th Combat Support Group (CSG) on 21 February 1966, and it organized on 8 March at Qui Nhon Army Airfield, South Vietnam. Over the next few months, the 37th moved in a piecemeal fashion to Phu Cat Air Base as that base was being built. There, the group provided air base services for several different tactical units until 1 March 1967, after which it joined the 37th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW). The 37th CSG inactivated in South Vietnam on 31 March 1970 with 14 honors.

On 5 October 1989, the 37th CSG activated at the Tonopah Test Range, Nevada, to support the 37th TFW's operations with the Air Force's F-117A Stealth Fighter.

37TH CIVIL ENGINEERING SQUADRON

Lineage

Constituted 37th Installations Squadron, 3 Mar 53.
Activated, 8 Apr 53.
Inactivated, 25 Jun 53.
Redesignated, 37th Civil Engineering Squadron and activated,
21 Feb 66.
Organized, 8 Mar 66.
Inactivated, 31 Mar 70.
Activated, 5 Oct 89.

Assignments

37th Air Base Group, 8 Apr - 25 Jun 53.
Pacific Air Forces, 21 Feb 66.
37th Combat Support (later Support) Group, 8 Mar 66 - 31 Mar 70;
5 Oct 89 -

Stations

Clovis AFB, NM, 8 Apr - 25 Jun 53.
Qui Nhon Airfield, South Vietnam, 8 Mar 66.
Phu Cat Air Base, South Vietnam, Jan 67 - 31 Mar 70.
Tonopah Test Range, NV, 5 Oct 89 -

Honors

Campaign Streamers:

Vietnam Air
Vietnam Air Offensive
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III
Vietnam Air/Ground
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV
Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Vietnam Summer/Fall, 1969
Vietnam Winter/Spring, 1970

Presidential Unit Citations: Southeast Asia, 1 Jul -
31 Dec 68.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards: 15 Oct 66 - 30 Jun 67;
1 Jul 67 - 30 Jun 68; and 1 Apr 69 - 31 Mar 70.

Foreign:

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm: 1 Apr 66 -
31 Mar 70.

Emblem



Three colors are used: ultramarine blue, Air Force yellow, and black. Simple, yet very complex in meaning. Yellow represents the calibre of people working in the squadron--the "Best of the Best." Ultramarine blue represents the sky. Our mission, directly and indirectly, is to support our aircraft. Black stands for dignity and the determination to succeed in a mission most are not even aware of and the hours of darkness, night, our primary time of operations.

The symbol of engineering is the castle. Ordinary kingsmen were "knighted" for outstanding accomplishment. The knight was a symbol of honesty, loyalty, and reliability. They were called upon to accomplish the most difficult tasks. "The Knights" of Civil Engineering have accomplished the most difficult of tasks while being assigned to a classified location working on classified projects. Thus, the engineering squadron was identified as a "black organization," which allowed the term "Black Knights" to evolve.

37TH SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON

Lineage

Constituted 37th Air Police Squadron, 3 Mar 53.
Activated, 8 Apr 53.
Inactivated, 25 Jun 53.
Activated, 21 Feb 66.
Organized, 8 Mar 66.
Redesignated, 37th Security Police Squadron, 15 May 67.
Inactivated, 31 Mar 70.
Activated, 5 Oct 89.

Assignments

37th Air Base Group, 8 Apr - 25 Jun 53.
Pacific Air Forces, 21 Feb 66.
37th Combat Support (later Support) Group, 8 Mar 66 - 31 Mar 70;
5 Oct 89 -

Stations

Clovis AFB, NM, 8 Apr - 25 Jun 53.
Qui Nhon Airfield, South Vietnam, 8 Mar 66.
Phu Cat Air Base, South Vietnam, Jan 67 - 31 Mar 70.
Tonopah Test Range, NV, 5 Oct 89 -

Honors

Campaign Streamers:

Vietnam Air
Vietnam Air Offensive
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III
Vietnam Air/Ground
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV
Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Vietnam Summer/Fall, 1969
Vietnam Winter/Spring, 1970

Presidential Unit Citations: Southeast Asia,
1 Jul - 31 Dec 68.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards: 15 Oct 66 - 30 Jun 67;
1 Jul 67 - 30 Jun 68; and 1 Apr, 69 - 31 Mar 70.

Foreign:

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm: 1 Apr 66 -
31 Mar 70.

Emblem



The emblem is symbolic of the squadron's mission and history. The ultramarine blue background alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. The three red bars are symbolic of the unit's service in South Vietnam. The three black darts represent F-117A Stealth Fighters of the three tactical fighter squadrons of the 37th Tactical Fighter Wing the squadron is tasked to defend. The black chess knight, the most maneuverable of pieces in the historic game, suggests the maneuverability of the unit to deploy anywhere with the aircraft and the quick response of security forces to any threat against wing resources during daylight or darkness.

Motto: Nighthawk Defenders

Description: On a blue disc edged in gold, three red bars throughout surmounted by a black chess knight and three black darts. Attached below the disc is a white scroll edged in gold with gold lettering.

37TH MEDICAL SQUADRON

Lineage

Constituted 37th Medical Group, 3 Mar 53.
Activated, 8 Apr 53.
Inactivated, 25 Jun 53.
Organized, 8 Mar 66.
Activated, 1 Mar 67.
Inactivated, 31 Mar 70.
Consolidated (with the 37th USAF Dispensary) and
Redesignated 37th Medical Squadron, 15 Sep 89.
Activated, 5 Oct 89.

Assignments

37th Fighter-Bomber Wing, 8 Apr-25 Jun 53.
Pacific Air Forces, 21 Feb 66.
37th Combat Support Group, 8 Mar 66.
37th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Mar 67-31 Mar 70; 5 Oct 89-

Stations

Clovis AFB, NM, 8 Apr-25 Jun 53.
Qui Nhon Airfield, South Vietnam, 8 Mar 66.
Phu Cat AB, South Vietnam, c. Nov 66-31 Mar 70.
Tonopah Test Range, NV, 5 Oct 89 -

Honors

Campaign Streamers:

Vietnam Air
Vietnam Air Offensive
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III
Vietnam Air/Ground
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV
Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Vietnam Summer/Fall, 1969
Vietnam Winter/Spring, 1970

Presidential Unit Citations: Vietnam, 1 Jul - 31 Dec 68.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V":
15 Oct 66-28 Feb 67; 1 Jul 67 - 30 Jun 68; and 1 Apr 69 -
31 Mar 70.

Foreign: Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm:
1 Apr 66 - 31 Mar 70.

Emblem:



Significance:

Red (Heraldic Gules) - Blood of life. Used in the caduceus; symbol of the medical profession.

Yellow (Heraldic OR) - Sun/Illumination. Used to depict the rising of the sun; signifying the daylight portion of a 24 hour mission/capability. Additionally, the stars on the night portion of the emblem are yellow to show their illumination at night.

Brown - The Earth. Brown is utilized to show the mountainous topography of the region in which the 4450th Medical Squadron is located (Tonopah Test Range).

Light Blue (Heraldic Azure) - Sky. Used to show the daylight portion of the unit's 24 hour mission/capability.

Black (Heraldic Sable) - Night. Used to show the night time portion of the unit's 24 hour mission/capability.

Silver (Heraldic Argent) - Purity. Used to color the staff portion of the caduceus; symbol of the medical profession.

**37TH FIGHTER WING REORGANIZATION
(as of 1 November 1991)**

Headquarters, 37th Fighter Wing

Commander, Col Alton C. Whitley, Jr.

Vice Commander, Col Robert C. Huff

Judge Advocate, Maj Steven A. Gabriel

Chief of Safety, Lt Col Donald Higgins, Jr.

Executive Officer, Maj Kathleen B. McGovern

Senior Enlisted Advisor, CMSgt Larry E. Mundy

Historian, SMSgt Vincent C. Breslin

Public Affairs, MSgt Robert C. Shelton

Inspections Center, Maj Wesley E. Cockman

Squadron Section Commander, Capt Orlando Villanueva

Management Engineering, MSgt Roosevelt Freeman

Comptroller, Capt Mary Ensminger

Quality Improvement, Maj Clarence G. Whitescarver

Administration, MSgt Ronald P. Gonzales

37th Medical Squadron

Medical Squadron Commander, Lt Col Timothy Schrader
Administrative Services, Capt Ateresa Sirois
Clinic Services, Maj Gerome Thompson
Aerospace Medical Services, Lt Col Stanley F. Uchman
Dental Services, TSgt Arthur R. Gupton
Nursing Services, Lt Col Deborah Ain

37th Operations Group

Operations Group Commander, Col Raleigh T. Harrington
Deputy Commander, Col Gerald C. Carpenter
Quality Assurance/Maint Liaison, Lt Col Rex W. Romhild
Standardization/Evaluation, Maj Moore
Operations Support Sq Cmdr, Lt Col Michael L. Merritt
Airfield Operations Flight, Capt Hedstrom
Weather Flight, Maj Andrews
Current Operations Flight, Lt Col Minnich
Phase Inspection Support Flight, MSgt Winiecki
Weapons and Training Flight, Lt Col Weiland
Intelligence Flight, Maj Heston
415th Fighter Squadron Cmdr, Lt Col Bruce E. Kreidler
Squadron Section Commander, Capt Johnson
Flight Surgeon, Maj Gibbons
Operations, Lt Col Pound
A Flight, Maj Salata
B Flight, Capt Dolson
C Flight, Sq Ldr Topham
D Flight, Capt Bivans
Maintenance, Maj Getter
A Flight, MSgt Slater
B Flight, MSgt Sills
Specialist Flight, MSgt Phillips
Weapons Flight, MSgt Robinson
Support Flight, TSgt Pumphrey
416th Fighter Squadron Cmdr, Lt Col Gregory T. Gonyea
Squadron Section Commander, 2 Lt Harmon
Flight Surgeon, Maj Shaw
Operations, Maj Mahar
A Flight, Capt Peterson
B Flight, Maj Treadway
C Flight, Capt Troyer
D Flight, Capt Foley
Maintenance, Maj Kelly
A Flight, MSgt McDonald
B Flight, TSgt Pelletier
Specialist Flight, MSgt Lloyd
Weapons Flight, MSgt Taylor
Support Flight, MSgt Neville

417th Fighter Squadron Commander, Lt Col Barry E. Horne
Squadron Section Commander, Capt Riehl
Operations, Lt Col Farnham
A Flight, Capt Decamp
B Flight, Capt Chappel
C Flight, Capt McKinney
D Flight, Capt Chapman
Maintenance, Capt Workman
F-117 Airplane General Flight, MSgt Jones
F-117 Specialist Flight, MSgt Conrad
F-117 Weapons Flight, MSgt Hilton
F-117 Support Flight, MSgt Grossnickel
T-38 Airplane General Flight, MSgt Baca
T-38 Specialist Flight, TSgt Lynn
T-38 Support Flight, SSgt Ziegenbein

37th Logistics Group

Logistics Group Commander, Col Joseph B. Gaskin III
Deputy Commander, Col Charles K. Yard
Maintenance Squadron Commander, Maj Louise A. Eckhardt
Squadron Section Commander, Capt Carter
Maintenance Supervision, Capt Ogden
Accessories Flight, MSgt Link
AGE Flight, SMSgt Zimmerman
Munitions Flight, SMSgt Kerr
Armament Flight, MSgt Bazemore
Avionics Flight, Capt Behrman
Fabrication Flight, SMSgt Nichols
Maintenance Flight, Lt Holman
Propulsion Flight, MSgt Walker
TMDE Flight, MSgt Kratz
Supply Squadron Commander, Major Kim Maurer
Squadron Section Commander, Lt Semsel
Material Management Flight, SMSgt Nelson
Management Systems Flight, CMSgt Talbot
Material Storage & Distr Flight, CMSgt Nelson
Fuels Management Flight, CMSgt Hampton
Combat Ops Support Flight, Capt Box
Transportation Squadron Commander, Maj Frank Bogart
Vehicle Maintenance Flight, SMSgt Falcon
Vehicle Operations Flight, SMSgt Falcon
Traffic Management Flight, CMSgt Liu
Plans & Programs Flight, MSgt Joslyn
Logistics Sup Sq Cmdr, Capt Jennifer L. Whitnack
Contracting Flight, MSgt Scott
Logistics Plans Flight, MSgt Wade
Training Management Flight, SMSgt Seay

37th Support Group

Support Group Commander, Col Garrell L. Boone
Deputy Commander, Lt Col Michael B. Ehrlich
 Security Police Squadron Commander, Maj Jerry M. Kerby
 Administration & Reports Flight, MSgt Golliher
 Operations & Programming Flight, Capt Perrott
Civil Engineer Squadron Commander, Maj James L. Wenzel
 Airbase Operability Flight, Capt Pace
 Engineering Construction Flight, Capt Moser
 Environmental Flight, Capt Moser
 Resources Flight, TSgt Stanbrough
 Explosives Ord Disposal Flight, MSgt Johnson
 Fire Protection Flight, SMSgt Staub
 Operations Flight, Capt Shaver
Comm Squadron Commander, Maj William M. Kanyusik
 Logistics Flight, CMSgt Feldman
 Plans & Programs Flight, MSgt Fraley
 Operations Flight, Capt Kemp
Personnel Director, SMSgt Kittel
MWR Director, CMSgt Pringle
Services Director, Capt Winkler
Information Manager, Lt Doyle

Former Stealth Organizations

37TH AIRCRAFT GENERATION SQUADRON

Lineage

Constituted 37th Aircraft Generation Squadron, 3 Oct 80.
Activated, 30 Mar 81.
Inactivated, 1 Nov 91.

Assignments

37th Tactical Fighter Wing, 30 Mar 81 - 1 Nov 91.

Stations

George AFB, CA, 30 Mar 81 - 5 Oct 89.
Tonopah Test Range, NV, 5 Oct 89 - 1 Nov 91.

Honors

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award: 1 Jun 85 - 31 May 87.

Emblem

The emblem symbolizes the 37th Aircraft Generation Squadron's direct maintenance support of the F-117A Stealth Fighter. A black Nighthawk, outlined in white, is the sign of spectral F-117A in action, while four yellow lightning bolts imply that four aircraft maintenance units are providing that support. The white star and moon, accented by an ultramarine blue field, denotes the ability to operate in the sky, the Air Force's primary theater of operations, at night. A black and white target below the Nighthawk represents its ability to find the target in all conditions. A brown, rugged, mountainous terrain falling to a flat plain demonstrates the ability to operate anywhere, while a black-line triangle in the background relates to targeting in the worst of environments. The oriental blue field within the triangle refers to the unit's membership in the Tactical Air Command.



37TH COMPONENT REPAIR SQUADRON

Lineage

Constituted 37th Armament and Electronics Squadron,
and activated on 26 Oct 66.
Organized 1 Mar 67.
Redesignated 37th Avionics Maintenance Squadron, 1 Jan 69.
Inactivated 31 Mar 70.
Redesignated, 37th Component Repair Squadron, 3 Oct 80.
Activated, 30 Mar 81.
Inactivated, 1 Nov 91.

Assignments

Pacific Air Forces, 26 Oct 66.
37th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Mar 67-31 Mar 70; 30 Mar 81 -
1 Nov 91.

Stations

Phu Cat AB, Vietnam, 1 Mar 67-31 Mar 70.
George AFB, CA, 30 Mar 81.
Tonopah Test Range, NV, 5 Oct 89 - 1 Nov 91.

Honors

Campaign Streamers:

Vietnam Air
Vietnam Air Offensive
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III
Vietnam Air/Ground
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV
Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Vietnam Summer/Fall, 1969
Vietnam Winter/Spring, 1970

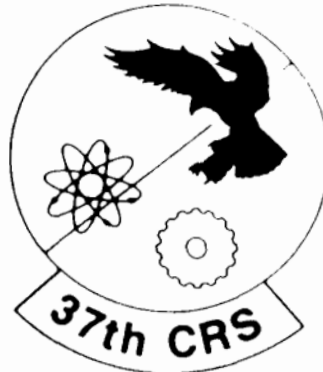
Presidential Unit Citations: Vietnam, 1 Jul - 31 Dec 68.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards: 1 Jul 67 - 30 Jun 68;
1 Apr 69 - 31 Mar 70; and 1 Jun 85 - 31 May 87.

Foreign:

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm:
1 Apr 66 - 31 Mar 70.

Emblem



The Nighthawk symbolizes strength and commitment to the mission of the Wing. The Nighthawk is threaded in a golden brown outlined in black, with eyes of red. The disk is divided diagonally from dexter base to sinister chief into two colors. On the top is Air Force yellow to signify the setting sun and enduring excellence. On the bottom is Air force blue to signify our sky and the Air Force theater of operations. On the bottom of the Air Force blue, located below the Nighthawk, is a black gear which symbolizes a mechanism that denotes our intermediate industrial capability and strength. The black color denotes the security classification of our program's technology. The atom designed 3/4 in the field of Air Force yellow symbolizes technology and our vast potential which is made of up of many diversified shops. The red color signifies the power and capability of this technology. The scroll will be gray with black lettering. The border of the disk and the scroll are black.

4450th TACTICAL GROUP (A-Unit)

Lineage

Activated at Nellis AFB, Tonopah Test Range, NV.
and assigned to Headquarters Tactical Air Command (TAC),
15 Oct 79.
Reassigned, USAF Tactical Fighter Weapons Center (TFWC),
1 Apr 85.
Inactivated, 5 October 1989.

Commanders

Col Robert A. Jackson, 15 Oct 79.
Col James S. Allen, 17 May 82.
Col Howell M. Estes III, 15 Jun 84.
Col Michael W. Harris, 6 Dec 85.
Col Michael C. Short, 3 Apr 87.
Col Anthony J. Tolin, 10 Aug 88 - 5 Oct 89

Honors

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards (AFOUA), 1 Jan 87 -
31 Dec 88; 1 Jan 84 - 31 Dec 85; and 29 Oct 81 -
28 Oct 83.

Air Force Association's David C. Schilling Award for 1988 for
"breaking new ground in flight, operational planning, and tactical execution."

Significant Activities

The F-117A Stealth Fighter program began on 15 October 1979 with the birth of the 4450th Tactical Group (TG) at the Tonopah Test Range in Nye County, Nevada. Before inactivating on 5 October 1989, the group achieved many noteworthy accomplishments. For instance, the 4450th reached an initial operational capability (IOC) with the 4450th Test Squadron on 28 October 1983 and a second IOC with the 4453d Test and Evaluation Squadron on 28 January 1987. The unit also passed two Tactical Air Command operational readiness inspections (ORI) and unit effectiveness inspections (UEIs) with high marks. Besides increasing the number of F-117 sorties flown since the first flight in October 1982, the 4450th's pilots also flew A-7 Corsairs and T-38 Talons to accomplish the mission. On 10 November 1988, the Air Force officially announced the F-117A's existence. This act placed the 4450th on the road to inactivation and led to the 37th Tactical Fighter Wing's move from George AFB to Tonopah to carry out the F-117's sensitive worldwide mission.

Emblem

The 4450th's emblem is an eagle in the attack position on a black background, symbolizing night operations. The bird and the lightning bolts are white, with the bird's eye and lightning bolts embroidered in red to add color.



4450TH TEST SQUADRON (I-Unit)

Lineage

Activated and assigned to the 4450 TG, 11 Jun 81.
Inactivated, 5 Oct 89.

Commanders

Maj William C. Hepler, 15 Jul 81.
Maj Gerald B. Fleming, 18 Sep 81.
Lt Col Ervin C. Sharpe, Jr., 21 Jul 83.
Lt Col John F. Miller, 1 Jun 85.
Lt Col David T. Holmes, 16 Jan 87.
Lt Col William J. Lake, 5 Feb 88 - 5 Oct 89

4451ST TEST SQUADRON (P-Unit)

Lineage

Activated and assigned to the 4450 TG, 15 Jan 83.
Inactivated, 5 Oct 89.

Commanders

Lt Col Wallace C. Weekes, 13 Apr 83.
Lt Col Medford C. Bowman, Jr., 1 Jun 85.
Lt Col Robert E. Bruce, Jr., 24 Jul 86.
Lt Col John W. Zink, 15 Jul 88 - 5 Oct 89

4453D TEST AND EVALUATION SQUADRON (Z-Unit)

Lineage

Activated and assigned to the 4450 TG, 1 Oct 85.
Inactivated, 5 Oct 89.

Commanders

Lt Col Roger C. Locher, 4 Oct 85.
Lt Col Arthur P. Weyermuller, 14 Aug 87.
Lt Col Gerald C. Carpenter, 5 May 89 - 5 Oct 89.

4452D TEST SQUADRON (Q-Unit)

[4450 TG, Det 1]

Lineage

No Activating Order, but oldest unit in 4450th.
Inactivated, 30 May 89.

Commanders

Lt Col Alton C. Whitley Jr., c. Sep 82.
Maj Dennis R. Larsen, 1 Jun 85.
Maj Robert D. Williams, 25 Jul 85.
Lt Col Medford C. Bowman, Jr., 22 Aug 86.
Lt Col Arthur P. Meyermuller, 7 Jan 87.
Lt Col James G. Ferguson, 14 Aug 87.
Lt Col Keat Griggers, 3 Jun 88 - 5 Oct 89.

4450TH TACTICAL GROUP, DET 2 (FOT&E, R-Unit)

Lineage

No Activating Order.
Inactivated, 30 May 89.

Note: This detachment remained under the 4450 TG until 5 October 1989. At that time, the detachment reformed as Detachment 1, 57th Fighter Weapons Wing (FWW). Earlier on 10 July, Lt Col Samuel J. Hays replaced Lt Col Richard C. Groesch as the division chief. He also assumed command over the new 57 FWW detachment.

Commanders

Lt Col David W. Jenny, 1 Feb 84.
Lt Col Glen W. Moorhead III, 15 Mar 85.
Lt Col Richard B. Wade, 14 Apr 86.
Lt Col Richard C. Groesch, 31 Jul 87 - 30 May 89.

4450TH TACTICAL GROUP DET 3

(Intelligence, W-Unit)

Lineage

No Activating Order.
Inactivated, 30 May 89.

Commanders

Maj Joseph Y. Parker, Jr., 16 Mar 87.
Maj Anthony J. Merchand, 28 May 87.
Maj Mark F. Loos, 6 Aug 87 - 30 May 89.

4450TH TACTICAL GROUP, DET 4

(Hospital, S-Unit)

Lineage

No activating order.
Inactivated, 30 May 89.

Commanders

Maj William A. Pollan, 1 Feb 87.
Lt Col Gary L. Henriksen, 11 Jul 88 - 30 May 89.

4450TH MAINTENANCE SQUADRON (T-Unit)

Lineage

Activated and assigned to the 4450 TG, 11 Jun 81.
Inactivated, 15 Apr 82.
Activated, 15 Apr 82 (with different PAS code and mission)
Inactivated, 5 Oct 89.

Commanders

Capt Wilmer L. Gum, 15 Apr 82.
Capt Michael J. Nadeker, 1 Oct 83.
Maj John W. Weaver, 1 Aug 86.
Capt Nathaniel T. Postelle, 9 Jun 89 - 5 Oct 89.

4450TH AIRCRAFT GENERATION SQUADRON (G-Unit)

[Formerly 4452d Maintenance Squadron]

Lineage

Activated, 4452nd Maintenance Squadron and assigned to the

4450th TG, 15 Apr 82.

Redesignated, 4450th Aircraft Generation Squadron,
30 May 89.

Inactivated, 5 Oct 89.

Commanders

Maj James G. Garlitz, 15 Apr 82.

Lt Col James K. McDonald, 23 Jul 84.

Maj Donny R. Jones, 7 Aug 87.

Maj John W. Weaver, 9 Jun 89 - 5 Oct 89.

4450TH COMPONENT REPAIR SQUADRON (F-Unit)

[Formerly 4451st Maintenance Squadron]

Lineage

Activated, 4451st Maintenance Squadron and assigned to the

4450 TG, 11 Jun 81.

Redesignated, 4450th Component Repair Squadron, 30 May 89.

Inactivated, 5 Oct 89.

Commanders

Maj Gary M. Kelly, 15 Jul 81.

Maj William A. Osadchey, 1 Nov 83.

Maj Donny R. Jones, 14 Jul 86.

Maj Edward C. Gorczyca, 7 Aug 87.

Maj Louise A. Eckhardt, 29 Jun 89.

Maj George R. Kelly, 1 Sep 89 - 5 Oct 89.

4450TH EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

Lineage

Activated, 1 Sep 89.

Inactivated, 5 Oct 89

Commanders

Maj Louise A. Eckhardt, 1 Sep 89 - 5 Oct 89.

4454TH MAINTENANCE SQUADRON (U-Unit)

Lineage

No activating order.
Inactivated, 30 Sep 89.

Commanders

Maj Mark R. McConnell, 30 Jan 85.
Maj Gregory K. Miller, 4 May 87.
Maj Guy C. Fowl, 12 Nov 87 - 30 Sep 89.

4450TH SUPPLY SQUADRON (H-Unit)

[Formerly 4461st Support Squadron]

Lineage

Activated, 15 Apr 82.
Redesignated, 4461st Supply Squadron, 15 May 84.
Redesignated, 4450th Supply Squadron, unk.
Inactivated, 5 Oct 89.

Commanders

CMSgt Larry L. Vance,* 29 Jul 80.
SMSgt John F. Malone,* 16 Jan 82.
Lt Col Peter G. Stauder, 15 Apr 82.
Maj William E. Robinson, 30 Jul 84.
Maj (later Lt Col) Ferdinand Badger Johnson III,
3 Oct 85 - 5 Oct 89.

*Chiefs of Supply, Supply Division

4450TH TRANSPORTATION SQUADRON (L-Unit)

Lineage

No activating order, but apparently switched from a
transportation division to squadron-level unit in
mid-December 1983.
Inactivated, 5 Oct 89.

Commanders

Maj Robert F. Martin, 1 Apr 84.
Maj Robert A. Reis, 22 Oct 84.
Capt Steven C. Mason, 21 Aug 86.
Maj Scott K. Claypool, 11 Mar 88 - 5 Oct 89.

4450TH COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (E-Unit)

[Formerly 4461st Support Group (SG)]

Lineage

Activated and assigned to Headquarters USAF Tactical
Fighter Weapons Center (TFWC), 15 Sep 81 to support
4450th.

Reassigned, 4450th Tactical Group, 1 Apr 85.

Redesignated, 4450th Combat Support Group, 24 Jan 89.

Inactivated, 5 Oct 89.

Assignments

HQ USAF TFWC, 15 Sep 81.

4450th Tactical Group, 1 Apr 85.

Components

4461st Support Squadron (later 4450th Combat Support
Squadron), 15 Sep 81- 1 Jun 89.

4461st Security Police Squadron (later 4450th Security

Police Squadron) 15 Jan 83 - 5 Oct 89.

4461st Civil Engineering Squadron (later 4450th Civil
Engineering Squadron) 1 Feb 83 - 5 Oct 89.

Stations

Tonopah Test Range, Nevada.

Commanders

Col James L. Bannwart, 15 Sep 81.

Col Thomas E. Peot, 9 Jul 84.

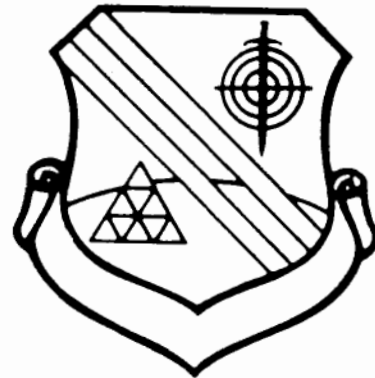
Col Raymond J. Bartholomew, 29 Jul 88 - 5 Oct 89.

Honors

AFOUA, 1 Jan 87 - 31 Dec 88; 1 Jul 84 - 30 Jun 86; and
1 Jul 82 - 30 Jun 84.

Emblem

The blue of the background symbolizes the sky, the Air Forces theater of operation and the green is the ground beneath it. The target and sword represent the Group's association with TAC. The sword, placed over the target, symbolizes command and honor. The pyramid, symbol of stability and strength, formed by smaller pyramids, alludes to the individual units of the Group.



Significant Activities

On 15 September 1981, Headquarters TAC activated the 4461st Support Group and assigned it to the USAF Tactical Fighter Weapons Center (TFWC) at Nellis AFB to support "new activities programmed on the Northern Range Complex." This unit received as its first mission a task to design and construct a full-service base that would support the F-117A Stealth Fighter program. As such, the 4461st developed long-range construction programs to meet future expansions and provide base operating support services to all units and people at the Tonopah Test Range. As a goal, the 4461st had to complete this work by 1 November 1983 to coincide with the F-117A's planned initial operating capability (IOC).

On 1 April 1985, Headquarters TAC reassigned the 4461st to the 4450th Tactical Group. This status did not change until 24 January 1989, when TAC redesignated the 4461st Support Group as the 4450th Combat Support Group to reflect its true role in supporting the 4450th Tactical Group's operational mission with F-117As, A-7s, and T-38s. On 5 October 1989, the 4450th CSG inactivated, and all assigned personnel and assets transferred into the newly activated 37th Combat Support Group.

4450TH CIVIL ENGINEERING SQUADRON (J-Unit)

[Formerly 4461st Civil Engineering Squadron]

Lineage

Activated as 4461st Civil Engineering Squadron
Redesignated, 4450th Civil Engineering Squadron, 24 Jan 89.
Inactivated, 5 Oct 89.

Commanders

Lt Col John D. Gillis, 23 Jan 83.
Lt Col Frederick C. Smith, 26 Jun 86 - 5 Oct 89

4450TH SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON (K-Unit)

[Formerly 4461st Security Police Squadron]

Lineage

Activated as 4461st Security Police Squadron
Redesignated, 4450th Security Police Squadron, 24 Jan 89.
Inactivated, 5 Oct 89.

Commanders

CMSgt Ralph D. Panzrino, 1 May 81.
Maj Doss C. Vonbrandenstein, 1 Nov 82 (Commander, 15 Jan 83)
Maj Glenn H. Tegmeyer, 18 Jun 84.
Maj Johnnie J. Gore, 27 Mar 87.
Maj Jerry M. Kerby, 21 Jul 89 - 5 Oct 89

4450TH COMBAT SUPPORT SQUADRON

[Formerly 4461st Support Squadron]

Lineage

Activated as 4461st Support Squadron and assigned to
HQ TFWC, 18 Aug 81.
Reassigned to the 4461 SG, 15 Sep 81.
Redesignated, 4450th Combat Support Squadron, 24 Jan 89.
Inactivated, 1 Jun 89.

SUPPORT UNITS

1880th Communications Squadron (C-Unit)

Lineage

Designated and activated as 1880th Communications Squadron, and assigned to Tactical Communications Division, Air Force Communications Command, 1 Jul 81.
Redesignated, 1880th Information Systems Squadron, 1 Jul 84.
Redesignated, 1880th Communications Squadron, 1 Nov 86.

Commanders

Capt Samuel E. Archuleta, 28 Jul 81.
CMSgt Harry R. Williams, 26 Jun 84.
Maj Trudy H. Clark, 7 Aug 84.
Maj Daniel R. Dinkins, Jr., 18 Jul 86.
Maj William M. Kanyusik, 8 Jun 90.

Emblem

Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow symbolizes the sun and the excellence required of all Air Force personnel. The lightning bolts represent the electronic media used to provide command and control communications. The mailed fist is indicative of the command element. The sword depicts the weapons systems that the squadrons supports. The globe denotes the world wide mission. The checkerboard represents the aircraft controllers. The north star signifies the navigation services provided by flight facilities. The two five pointed stars suggest the unit's previous activation and its combat casualty. The target shows the squadron's ability to deploy in time of war.



4400th Management Engineering Squadron (Det 37)

[Formerly Detachment 22]

Lineage

Activated as 4400 MES, Det 22, c. 15 Apr 82 (No order).
Redesignated, 4400 MES, Det 37, 5 Oct 89.
Inactivated, 10 Apr 90 (became staff agency)

Commanders

CMSgt Richard G. Stepp, 15 Apr 82.
MSgt Thomas P. Rivers, 15 Jul 88.

Emblem (Used TAC emblem for Management Engineering Teams)

The blue and yellow of the emblem 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 green in the lower half of the disc symbolizes the ground operations of the command's mission and combat support manpower. The flight symbols denote the three integral functions of the unit: manpower, management engineering, and organizational services. The human figure portrays all of the manpower resources which this unit manages, always striving to tailor their resources to the needs and success of the tactical air mission. The road into the horizon signifies the strength of the unit's efforts to provide the right manpower for the mission--for now and the future.



Detachment 8, 25th Air Weather Squadron (D-Unit)

Lineage

Activated as Operating Location K, HQs Air Weather Service,
1 Jun 82.
Redesignated, Detachment 8, HQs Air Weather Service,
30 Jul 83.
Redesignated, Detachment 8, 25th Air Weather Squadron,
1 Oct 89.

Commanders

Capt Randy Garvin, C. Nov 82.
Capt Daniel J. Brees, 6 Aug 85.
Maj David S. Hadley, 17 Jun 88.

Emblem

The Nighthawk at the bottom of the emblem and the word "Nighthawk" at the top represent the F-117A and the detachment's connection with the 4450 TG and 37 TFW. The anemometer and fleur-de-lis in the center are from the Air Weather Service emblem, while the lightning bolt represents the hazards of weather as well as the F-117A's ability to strike swiftly and without warning. The black background symbolizes the secrecy that initially surrounded the project and the fact that most operations are conducted at night.



TONOPAH TEST RANGE HISTORY

Before the 37th Fighter Wing arrived at the Tonopah Test Range in 1989, the region already had a colorful history. Notably, John C. Fremont, the famous western explorer, traveled through the area in 1854. Six years later, silver mining and ranching operations were underway. This activity varied in vigor until 1940, when the Department of the Interior transferred three million acres to the War Department as the Tonopah Bombing and Gunnery Range. The range supported Fourth Army Air Force training from the Tonopah Army Air Field (now the Tonopah Airport).

Tonopah range endured wartime P-39 and B-52 bombing attacks until the airfield inactivated after World War II. From then until 1957, Nellis Air Force Base controlled the range as part of its massive weapons training complex. The Atomic Energy Commission (now Department of Energy) and Sandia National Laboratory have controlled this region since November 1956 for special testing, and as such the area was not developed with facilities. In fact, by 1975 Sandia only forecasted two construction projects in the Tonopah area: one to improve a 6,000 foot asphalt runway and the other to construct a 4,000 square foot heavy equipment maintenance building. In 1979, the Air Force started using the small runway strip for aircraft testing and evaluation. Moreover, at this time a multi-phased military construction program started to improve Tonopah Test Range.

A \$7 million Phase I construction program started (for what is now referred to as Area 10) in October 1979 to build a maintenance hangar, a concrete apron, and an access taxiway. This work also extended the 6,000-foot asphalt runway to 10,000 feet, installed a propane tank, and erected a few permanent outbuildings and 16 mobile homes. Phase I construction was sponsored by the 4477th Test and Evaluation Squadron.

Phase II, to build more 4477th facilities, began in October 1980 and ended in January 1982. This \$17 million program in Area 10 expanded the apron area and constructed a taxiway, a 42,000 square foot hangar, fuel tanks, a dining hall, a water storage tank, a warehouse, and support utilities. This project began a change at Tonopah, transitioning the range from a bare-base installation to a standard Air Force base.

The \$79 million Phase III program began in March 1981, when some 600 construction workers arrived to build facilities for the 4450th Tactical Group (Tonopah host organization since 1979 and the unit charged with the development of the F-117A Stealth program). As this work overlapped Phase II, the building effort looked like one continuous project for eighteen fast-paced months. The work progressed so quickly in fact that the design effort reached 65 percent at the same time the workers finished

50 percent of the construction. During this phase, the workers added more apron space and taxiways, 2,000 feet of concrete runway touchdowns, navigation aids, and runway barriers. They also built more fuel systems and tanks, fire stations, a 40,000 square foot warehouse, dormitory rooms, liquid oxygen storage, and other support facilities. This work ended in early July 1982.

Area 10 continued to evolve in Fiscal Years 1984 and 1985 with another \$100 million in construction. This work doubled the dormitory space on base, added forty new permanent buildings (removing the original sixteen mobile homes), and featured several industrial, airfield, and administrative facilities. Related projects renovated the runway (replacing its asphalt surface with concrete) and installed sewage and evaporation ponds in an outlying area.

For fiscal years 1986 through 1989, many more projects were accomplished in Area 10 under the guidance of the 4450th Civil Engineering Squadron. Notably, the Black Knights helped to renovate the airfield control tower and build facilities for combat support, transportation, and civil engineering. Other work provided twelve more aircraft hangars for the F-117A, raising the total to fifty-four at Tonopah. Meanwhile, contractors finished 500 more dormitory rooms, a maintenance training facility, and a medical trauma center. Projects completed in fiscal years 1990 and 1991 provided emergency generators for operations, a fire station addition, improved hangar ventilation, an east side air passenger terminal at Nellis Air Force Base, a weapons system maintenance and freight facility, a Deputy Commander for Maintenance building, and a Mobility Control/Processing Center. Due to the wing's projected relocation to Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico in 1992, all major construction programs at Tonopah ended in 1991.