

480th Fighter Squadron Activation



Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany
13 August 2010

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Entrance of Official Party

Colors

National Anthems

Invocation

Remarks by Presiding Officer

Inactivation/Activation

Remarks by Incoming Commander

Playing of Air Force Song

Departure of Official Party



F-16 Fighting Falcon

The Fighting Falcon is a dogfighter with numerous innovations including a frameless bubble canopy for better visibility, side-mounted control stick to ease control while under high G-forces, and reclined seat to reduce the effect of G-forces on the pilot. The F-16 has an internal M61 Vulcan cannon and has 11 hardpoints for mounting various missiles, bombs, pods, and fuel tanks. Although the F-16's official name is "Fighting Falcon", it is known to its pilots as the "Viper", due to it resembling a viper snake.

Mission

The F-16 Fighting Falcon is a compact, multi-role fighter aircraft. It is highly maneuverable and has proven itself in air-to-air combat and air-to-surface attack. It provides a relatively low-cost, high-performance weapon system for the United States and allied nations.

Features

In an air combat role, the F-16's maneuverability and combat radius (distance it can fly to enter air combat, stay, fight and return) exceed that of all potential threat fighter aircraft. It can locate targets in all weather conditions and detect low flying aircraft in radar ground clutter. In an air-to-surface role, the F-16 can fly more than 500 miles (860 kilometers), deliver its weapons with superior accuracy, defend itself against enemy aircraft, and return to its starting point. An all-weather capability allows it to accurately deliver ordnance during non-visual bombing conditions.

In designing the F-16, advanced aerospace science and proven reliable systems from other aircraft such as the F-15 and F-111 were selected. These were combined to simplify the airplane and reduce its size, purchase price, maintenance costs and weight. The light weight of the fuselage is achieved without reducing its strength. With a full load of internal fuel, the F-16 can withstand up to nine G's -- nine times the force of gravity -- which exceeds the capability of other current fighter aircraft.

22d Fighter Squadron



History

The 22d Pursuit Squadron was activated December 22, 1939, at Langley Field, VA.

Flying the P-36 Hawk, the unit relocated to Puerto Rico prior to World War II, and after the outbreak of the war deployed to the Pacific flying antisubmarine patrols.

In 1943, the squadron moved to Liverpool, England, flying the P-40 Warhawk in support of Gen. George Patton's 3rd Army. The 22d Pursuit Sq supported combat missions for D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge and Bastogne. For its distinguished World War II records, the unit received numerous citations and campaign ribbons. The unit was deactivated following the war.

Several years later, the redesignated 22d Fighter-Bomber Sq moved to Bitburg Air Base, Germany. First flying the F-86F Sabre, in 1952, the unit advanced through many different airframes including the F-100 Supersabre, F-105D Thunderchief and F-4D Phantom. In 1977, the now designated 22d Fighter Sq converted to the McDonnell Douglas F-15, providing air defense for NATO's Central Region.

As part of the drawdown at Bitburg AB, the unit's F-15s were sent to Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, in the spring of 1994. The squadron was transferred to Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, April 1, 1994, to become the new standard of the former 480th FS. Today, the squadron flies the Block 50 F-16CJ, the Air Force's latest version of the Fighting Falcon.



Assignments

- 36 Pursuit Group, 1 Feb 1940-31 Mar 1946.
- 36 Fighter-Day Group, 15 Oct 1946
- 36 Fighter-Day Wing, 8 Dec 1957
- 36 Operations Group, 31 Mar 1992
- 52 Operations Group, 1 Apr 1994-.

Operations

- Antisubmarine operations, c. Mar 1942-15 May 1943
- Combat in European Theater of Operations (ETO), 8 May 1944-8 May 1945
- Maintained combat fighter proficiency in Europe, 1948-
- Beginning in the 1970s, trained to maintain air superiority in support of US and NATO missions in Europe
- Participated in Operations Desert Storm/Desert Shield, Dec 1990-Mar 1991
- Supported no fly zones over the Balkans and Iraq during the 1990s and combat operations over Serbia in 1999
- After terrorist attacks on the United States in 2001, supported Operations Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom in Iraq

Aircraft

X/YP-37, 1940; P-36, 1940-1942; P-40, 1941, 1942-1943; P-39, 1941-1943; P-47, 1943-1945. P-47, 1946-1947; P (later F-) 80, 1947-1950; F-84, 1950-1953; F-86, 1953-1956; F-100, 1956-1961; F-105, 1961-1966; F-4, 1966-1977; F-15, 1977-1994; F-16, 1994-.

Decorations and Awards

- Distinguished Unit Citations: France, 1 Sep 1944; Germany, 12 Apr 1945.
- 16 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
- Cited in the Orders of the Day, Belgian Army: 1 Oct-17 Dec 1944; 18 Dec 1944-15 Jan 1945
- Belgian Fourragere

480th Fighter Squadron



Assignments

- 336th Bombardment Group, 15 Jul 1942 – 1 May 1944
- 580th Air Resupply and Communications Group, 16 Apr 1951- 18 Oct 1956
- 366th Fighter-Bomber Wing 25 Sep 1957 – 1 Apr 1959
- USAFE, 30 Apr 1962
- 366 Tactical Fighter Wing, 8 May 1962
- 2d Air Division, 5 Feb 1966
- 7th Air Force, 1 Apr 1966
- 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, 23 Jun 1966
- 366th Tactical Fighter Wing, 10 Oct 1966
- 37th Tactical Fighter Wing, 15 Apr 1969
- 12th Tactical Fighter Wing, 31 Mar 1970 – 17 Nov 1971
- 52d Tactical Fighter Wing, 15 Nov 1976
- 52d Operations Group, 31 Mar 1992 – 1 Apr 1994

Lineage

- Activated 15 Jul 1942, Deactivated 1 May 1944
- Activated 16 Apr 1951, Deactivated 18 Oct 1956
- Activated 25 Sep 1957, Deactivated 1 Apr 1959
- Activated 30 Apr 1962, Deactivated 17 Nov 1971
- Activated 15 Nov 1976, Deactivated 1 Apr 1994

Aircraft

B-26, 1942-1944; B-29, 1951-1956; C-119, 1951-1956; SA-16, 1951-1956; F-100, 1957-1959; F-84, 1958-1959, 1962-1965; F-4, 1965-1971, 1976-1983; F-16, 1983-1994

Decorations and Awards

- 2 Presidential Unit Citations: 23 Apr – 1 Aug 1967; 8 Feb – 8 Apr 1971
- 6 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device
- 2 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards: 1 Jul 1978–30 Jun 1980; 1 Jul 1991–30 Jun 1980
- 2 Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Crosses w/ Palm; 31 Mar 1970–10 Nov 1971; 1 Apr 1966 - 17 Nov 1971

History

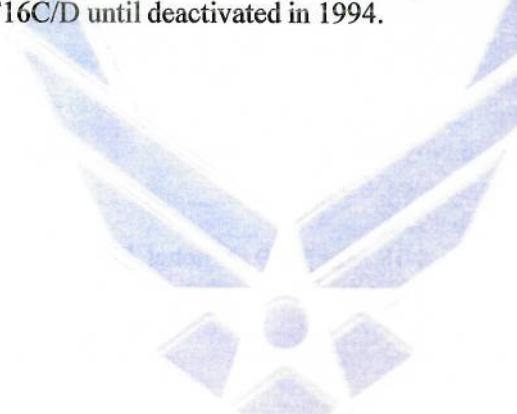
The 480th Bombardment Squadron was activated July 15, 1942, at MacDill Field, FL.

The squadron served as a replacement training unit for medium bomber crews from September 1942 to April 1944. Redesignated the 580th Aerial Resupply Squadron on 16 April, 1951, the unit moved to Mountain Home AFB, Idaho where they began training to provide evacuation and supply support to Ranger-type personnel in enemy occupied territory.

Assigned to the United States Air Forces in Europe in 1962, the redesignated 480th Tactical Fighter Squadron was reactivated as part of the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing at Chaumont AB, France. While in France, the squadron would go on to assume an alert commitment during the Cuban Missile Crisis in October and November of 1962.

By 1966, the 480th TFS began deploying from their home station at Holloman AFB, New Mexico to Da Nang Airport, South Vietnam. From February 1966 until 20 October 1971, the 480th flew a variety of combat missions in Southeast Asia, including direct air support, armed recon, combat air patrol and air defense. Between 26 April 1966 and 5 June 1967, the unit shot down 9 MIG Fighters.

After being deactivating in 1971, the 480th reactivated at Spangdahlem AB, West Germany in November 1976 and became a NATO assigned unit of the 52d Tactical Fighter Wing. The unit flew the F16C/D until deactivated in 1994.



103d Pursuit Squadron



Assignments

- In training, 31 Aug 1917 - 23-Nov-1917
- Attached to Combat Group 21, Fourth Army 18-Feb-1918 to 10-April-1918
- Attached to Sixth Army (France) 11-April-1918 to 30-April-1917
- Attached to Army of the North (France) 31-April-1918 to 4-July-1918
- 2d Pursuit Group, 1st Pursuit Wing, First United States Army 4-Jul-1918
- 3d Pursuit Group, 7-Aug-1918 to -Jan 1919
- On 8 April 1924, the unit was officially consolidated with the 94th Aero Sq

Stations

- Kelly Field, Texas, 31 Aug 1917
- Garden City, New York, 5-23 Nov 1917
- Winchester, England, 8-23 Dec 1917
- France, 24 Dec 1917
- LIssoudona Noblette, France, 18 Feb 1918
- Bonnemaison, France, 10 Apr 1918
- Bray-Dunes, France, 2 May 1918
- Leffrinckoucke, France, 5 May 1918
- Crochte, France, 8 Jun 1918
- Toul, Toul-Croix De Metz Airfield, France, 4 Jul 1918
- Vaucouleurs, France, 7 Aug 1918
- Lisle-en-Barrois, France, 20 Sep 1918
- Faucaucourt, France, 6 Nov 1918
- Colombey-les-Belles, France, 5 Jun 1919
- Brest, France, 6-19 Feb 1919
- Garden City, New York, 4-18 Mar 1919 (Mitchel Air Force Base)

Aircraft

- Spad VII, 1918
- Spad XIII, 1918
- Nieuport 28. 1918

History

The Lafayette Escadrille (later redesignated 103d Pursuit Squadron), was formed April 20, 1916. The unit flew its first mission at Luxeuil-les-Bains on May 13, 1916.

Kiffin Yates Rockwell got the unit's first victory on May 18, 1916, by bringing down his Nieuport 11 to within 75 feet before firing at a 2-seat LVG observation plane. He proceeded to shoot the aircraft down making him the first American pilot to ever shoot down an enemy aircraft. Notably, this was done with merely 4 bullets, hitting the aircraft, pilot and engine.

The Escadrille later moved from base to base eventually joining the French Groupe de Chasse 12. The unit went on to fly 3,000 sorties with 41 confirmed victories and 100 probable victories. The American pilots serving in the unit accounted for 35 of the victories.

On February 8, 1918, the Lafayette Escadrille would pass from French service to the United States Air Service. It was then that the unit would be redesignated the 103d Pursuit Squadron. The unit claimed a further 49 kills up until November 1918.

Casualties and Honors

Sixty-three members died during the war, 51 of them in action against the enemy. The unit is credited with 159 enemy kills. It amassed 31 *Croix de guerre*, and its pilots were awarded seven *Medailles Militaires* and four *Legions d'honneur*. Eleven of its members were deemed flying aces, claiming five air kills or more. The core squadron suffered nine losses and was credited with 41 victories.

The Air Force Song

*Off we go into the wild blue yonder,
Climbing high into the sun
Here they come zooming to meet our
thunder
At 'em boys, give 'er the gun!
Down we dive, spouting our flame
from under
Off with one helluva roar!
We live in fame or go down in flame
Nothing'll stop the US Air Force!*