

USAF Organizations in Korea 1950-1953

Introduction

During World War II, the group, each with three or four flying squadrons, was the basic combat element of the Army Air Forces. This organization changed in 1947 when the new United States Air Force adopted the wing-base plan. Each combat group then active received a controlling parent wing of the same number and nomenclature. The new wing also controlled three additional groups (with the same number) to operate the air base, maintain the aircraft, and provide medical care at the base. When combat forces began to fight the war in Korea, the USAF units did so in various organizational forms. In some cases, the combat arm of the wing, plus a portion of the wing's supporting personnel, deployed to the Korean theater, leaving the rest of the wing to operate the home base, to which the group returned after its tour of combat ended. Early in the war, some combat groups deployed and operated under other wings, including temporary four-digit wings. In December 1950, those groups' aligned (same number) parent wings moved on paper from their previous bases and replaced the temporary wings in combat. The personnel of the temporary wing's headquarters were reassigned to the headquarters of its replacement. In 1951, wings replaced the medium bombardment groups attached to FEAF Bomber Command for combat. In most cases, the personnel assigned to the group headquarters were simply reassigned to the wing headquarters, which had moved on paper to the location of the group headquarters. Most other combat organizations in-theater continued to operate with both wing and group headquarters or with group headquarters only. In a few cases, individual squadrons, such as the 319th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, were directly controlled by an organization higher than either wing or group level.

Following are briefs on the combat flying organizations and a selected number of combat support organizations that operated in the Korean War theater. In instances where the tactical group and wing of the same number began combat at different times, the first to enter combat is summarized first; if both began operational missions at the same time, information on the parent wing is given first. Each brief contains an operational summary of a given organization's activities in the war. Next, where pertinent, is a listing of flying or mission components. Following that is an organization's station list based on information in the organization's histories. Then the commanders of groups and wings are listed. Where applicable, Korean War campaign streamers, Korean War decorations, and Medal of Honor recipients are identified. The organization's official emblem at the time of the Korean War appears with its description or blazon.

-Judy G. Endicott

Fighter-Bomber

8th Fighter-Bomber Wing

Stationed at Itazuke AB, Japan, at the beginning of the Korean War and assigned to the Fifth Air Force, the 8th FBW controlled combat groups and attached squadrons that conducted combat operations in Korea, flying mostly interdiction and close air support missions. The 8th FBG and its squadrons moved to South Korea on August 11, 1950, while the wing remained in Japan and assumed operational control of other combat units. The wing replaced the 6131st Tactical Support Wing and reunited with its tactical group in Korea in December 1950. Until the end of the war, it remained in South Korea, performing a variety of missions, including some strategic bombardment, air cover for bombers, armed reconnaissance, and low-level bombing and strafing for interdiction and ground support.

Combat Components

51st Fighter-Interceptor Wing: attached September 25- October 12, 1950.

452nd Bombardment Wing: attached November 15-30, 1950.

8th Fighter-Bomber Group: duration, except detached August 14 - November 30, 1950.

49th Fighter-Bomber Group: attached c. July 9-September 30, 1950.

9th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: attached c. June 27-c. July 9, 1950.

68th Fighter-All Weather Squadron: attached March 1-December 1, 1950.

77th Squadron, RAAF: attached July 2-October 10, 1950 and June 25-August 22, 1951.

80th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: attached August 11-October 1, 1950.

339th Fighter-All Weather Squadron: attached June 26-July 5, 1950.

Stations

Itazuke AB, Japan, -December 1, 1950; Pyongyang, North Korea, December 1, 1950; Seoul AB, South Korea, December 9, 1950; Itazuke AB, Japan, December 10, 1950; Kimpo AB, South Korea, June 25, 1951; Suwon AB, South Korea, August 23, 1951-.

Commanders

Col. John M. Price, -December 9, 1950; Col. Charles W. Stark, December 9, 1950; Col. James B. Tipton, April 3, 1951; Col. Raymond K. Gallagher, February 20, 1952; Col. James J. Stone, Jr., January 24, 1953; Col. William E. Elder, May 29, 1953-.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations for periods June 27, 1950-January 31, 1951 and February 1, 1951-March 31, 1953.



Azure, a chevron nebule Or, all within a diminished bordure of the last.
Motto: ATTAQUEZ ET CONQUEREZ - Attack and Conquer. Approved for 8th Group on September 6, 1934 and for 8th Wing on July 3, 1952.

8th Fighter-Bomber Group

Assigned to the 8th Fighter-Bomber Wing at Itazuke Air Base, Japan, at the start of the Korean War, the 8th FBG participated in combat operations, June 1950-July 1953. On June 26, one day after the North Korean invasion, its F-80C pilots provided high-cover combat air patrols along the Han River near Seoul to protect the air evacuation of U.S. citizens from South Korea. The next day, pilots of the group's 35th Fighter-Bomber Squadron in aerial combat shot down four enemy aircraft. Early in July, as the North Koreans advanced down the Korean peninsula, the group began low-level close air support of UN ground forces. In August and September the 8th FBG converted to the propeller-driven F-51, which consumed less fuel and provided greater loiter time on target than the jet-powered F-80. Also in August, it was attached for operational control to one of Fifth AF's temporary wings, the 6131st Tactical Support Wing. The group began operating from Korean bases in October and moved to North Korea in late November 1950. It resumed operations from Japan under the 8th FBW in December, after Chinese Communist forces drove the UN troops southward beyond the 38th parallel. Also in December, the group's pilots began once again to fly the F-80. The 8th FBG returned to forward bases in Korea some six months later, continuing to provide close air support to UN ground forces but increasingly flying interdiction missions against enemy transportation systems, airfields, troop concentrations, and supply areas. By January 1952, rail interdiction missions had become such a regular activity that the men chose as their theme song, "We've Been Working on the Railroad." By mid-1952, the group had returned to close air support of UN ground troops, but in November its pilots began flying night interdiction missions. As combat operations wound down in the spring of 1953, the group converted to the F-86 Sabre, using it effectively against ground targets, particularly enemy airfields, just prior to the armistice in July.

Combat Components

35th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: duration.

36th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: duration.

80th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: duration.

Stations

Itazuke AB, Japan -August 11, 1950; Tsuiki, Japan, August 11, 1950; Suwon AB, South Korea, October 7, 1950; Kimpo AB, South Korea, October 28, 1950; Pyongyang, North Korea, November 25, 1950; Seoul AB, South Korea, December 3, 1950; Itazuke AB, Japan, December 10, 1950; Kimpo AB, South Korea, June 25, 1951; Suwon AB, South Korea, August 24, 1951-.

Commanders

Col. William T. Samways, -May 19, 1951; Col. Edward O. McComas, May 19, 1951; Col. Harvey L. Case, Jr., July 31, 1951; Col. Levi R. Chase, January 22, 1952; Col. Walter G. Benz, Jr., September 12, 1952-.

Medal of Honor Recipient

Maj. Charles J. Loring, Jr., (80th FBS), November 22, 1952.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation for actions September 16-November 2, 1950. Two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations for periods June 27, 1950-January 31, 1951 and February 1, 1951-March 31, 1953.

18th Fighter-Bomber Group

At the outbreak of the Korean War, the 18th FBG's 12th FBS provided personnel to form the "Dallas" fighter squadron, which rushed into battle. In late July, the group headquarters with two of its squadrons (12th and 67th FBSs) deployed with F-80s from the Philippines to Taegu AB, South Korea. From July 28 to August 3, the 18th Group operated directly under Fifth AF then passed to the control of the 6002nd Fighter (later, Tactical Support) Wing. Pilots exchanged their F-80s for F-51 Mustangs. Combat targets included tanks and armored vehicles, locomotives and trucks, artillery and anti-aircraft guns, fuel and ammunition dumps, warehouses and factories, and troop concentrations. In August, advancing enemy forces and insufficient aircraft parking at Taegu forced the group to move to Japan, but it returned to South Korea the following month to support UN forces in a counteroffensive. Because the front advanced so rapidly, operations from Pusan soon became impractical, and the group moved in November to an airstrip near Pyongyang, North Korea. The 2nd SAAF Squadron joined the 18th in mid-November. The CCF intervention caused the group to move twice in as many weeks, first to Suwon AB, South Korea, then to Chinhae. From there the 18th FBG continued to support ground forces and carry out armed reconnaissance and interdiction missions. From November 1950 through January 1951, it earned a Distinguished Unit Citation for destroying roughly 2,400 enemy vehicles and severely damaging almost 500 more. From early 1951 until January 1953, the group and its tactical squadrons, moving from base to base in South Korea, operated separately from the rest of the 18th FBW. The group earned its second Distinguished Unit Citation from April 22 to July 8, 1951, when it flew 6,500 combat sorties while operating from sod, dirt filled, and damaged runways to counter the enemy's 1951 spring offensive. When in January 1953 the group rejoined the wing at Osan-ni AB, its squadrons transitioned to F-86 Sabrejets without halting the fight against the enemy. It flew its first F-86 counter air mission on February 26, 1953. In the final days of the war, the 18th FBG attacked dispersed enemy aircraft at Sinuiju and Uiju Airfields.

Combat Components

2nd Squadron, South African Air Force: attached November 19, 1950-March 24, 1951 and c. April 22, 1951-.

12th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: duration.

39th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron: attached May 25, 1951-May 31, 1952.

67th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: duration.

Stations

Taegu AB, South Korea, July 28, 1950; Ashiya AB, Japan, August 8, 1950; Pusan East AB, South Korea, September 8 1950; Pyongyang East Afld, North Korea, c. November 21, 1950; Suwon AB, South Korea, December 1, 1950; Chinhae, South Korea, December 9, 1950; Hoengsong, South Korea, June 2, 1952; Osan-ni AB, South Korea, January 11, 1953-.

Commanders

Col. Ira L. Wintermute, -February 20, 1951; Lt. Col. Homer M. Cox, February 20, 1951; Col. William P. McBride, c. May 25, 1951; Col. Ralph H. Saltsman, Jr., June 5, 1951; Lt. Col. Henry W. Lawrence, by November 10, 1951; Col. Seymour M. Levenson, November 30, 1951; Col. Sheldon S. Brinson, May 17, 1952; Lt. Col. Albert J. Freund, Jr., November 25, 1952; Col. Maurice L. Martin, January 24, 1953-.

Medal of Honor Recipient

Maj. Louis J. Sebille (67th FBS), August 5, 1950.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Two Distinguished Unit Citations for actions November 3, 1950-January 24, 1951 and April 22-July 8, 1951.

Two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations for periods July 24, 1950-January 31, 1951 and February 1, 1951-March 31, 1953.



Or, a fighting cock with wings displayed Sable, wattled and combed Gules. Motto: UNGUIBUS ET ROSTRO - With Talons and Beak. Approved for the 18th Group on February 21, 1931 and for the 18th Wing on April 17, 1953.

18th Fighter-Bomber Wing

On December 1, 1950, the 18th FBW moved on paper from the Philippines to Pyongyang, North Korea, absorbing the personnel, F-51 aircraft, and responsibilities of the 6002nd Tactical Support Wing. Under pressure from CCF advances, the 18th moved on December 4 to Suwon AB, South Korea, and six days later to Chinhae, near Pusan. The 35th FIG, also flying F-51s, was attached to the 18th FBW briefly from May 7 until it moved to Japan on May 25. The 18th Wing headquarters manned detachments with personnel drawn from all wing components to support the tactical components at South Korean bases until all wing personnel were reunited in January 1953 at Osan-ni AB. The 18th Wing's flying components continued combat to the end of the war.

Combat Components

18th Fighter-Bomber Group: duration, except detached July 28-November 30, 1950.

35th Fighter-Interceptor Group: attached May 7-24, 1951.

Stations

Pyongyang East Afd, North Korea, December 1, 1950; Suwon AB, South Korea, December 4, 1950; Chinhae, South Korea, December 10, 1950; Osan-ni AB, South Korea, December 26, 1952-.

Commanders

Col. Curtis R. Low, December 1, 1950; Brig. Gen. Turner C. Rogers, February 1, 1951; Col. Ernest G. Ford, February 2, 1952; Col. William H. Clark, March 7, 1952; Col. Frank S. Perego, January 1, 1953; Col. John C. Edwards, June 15, 1953; Col. Maurice L. Martin, July 5, 1953-.

Campaign Streamers

CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations for periods December 1, 1950- January 31,1951 and February 1, 1951-March 31, 1953.

49th Fighter-Bomber Group

The 49th FBG and its tactical squadrons began operations in the Korean War with F-51s and F80s in June 1950, first under its parent wing, then the 8th FBW, July- September, and finally the 6149th Tactical Support Wing, October-November. The group's first task in South Korea was to cover the evacuation of civilians from Kimpo and Suwon. Next, it flew close air support missions to help slow the advancing North Korean armies. Later, it turned to the interdiction of enemy troops, supplies and communications. Phasing out its F-51s for F-80s, the 49th FBG moved to Taegu AB on October 1, 1950, becoming the first jet fighter outfit to operate from bases in South Korea. It received a Distinguished Unit Citation for its combat operations during the first five months of the war. On December 1, the group again came under the 49th FBW. When the CCF offensive gained momentum in 1950-1951, the group again concentrated on ground support missions. It converted to F-84s, June -September 1951, one squadron at a time, while the others continued combat operations. The 49th FBG earned another DUC for its contribution to the success of the UN Summer-Fall Offensive. Afterwards, it engaged primarily in air interdiction operations against the main enemy channel of transportation, the roads and railroads between Pyongyang and Sinuiju. Also, it flew close air support missions for the ground forces and attacked high value targets, including the Sui-ho hydroelectric plants in June 1952 and the Kumgang Political School in October 1952. On July 27, 1953, the 49th FBG joined the 58th FBG to bomb Sunan Airfield for the final action of F-84 fighter-bombers during the Korean War.

Combat Components

7th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: duration, except detached July 9-August 17, 1950.

8th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: duration.

9th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: duration except detached August 17-c. September 6, 1950 and December 17, 1952-.

Stations

Misawa AB, Japan, -July 9, 1950; Itazuke AB, Japan, July 9, 1950; Taegu AB, South Korea, October 1, 1950; Kunsan AB, South Korea, April 1, 1953-.

Commanders

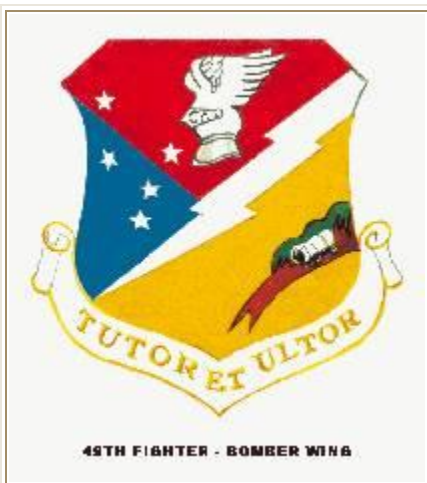
Col. Stanton T. Smith, Jr., -October 21, 1950; Col. John R. Murphy, October 21, 1950; Col. Wilbur J. Grumbles, May 20, 1951; Col. William L. Mitchell, November 4, 1951; Lt. Col. Gordon F. Blood, May 20, 1952; Col. Charles G. Teschner, 1952; Col. Robert H. Orr, September 1952; Col. Richard N. Ellis, January 17, 1953; Col. Charles G. Teschner, April 1, 1953-.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Two Distinguished Unit Citations for actions [June]- November 25, 1950 and July 9-November 27, 1951. Two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations for the periods [June] 1950-February 7, 1951 and February 8, 1951-March 31, 1953.



A gyronny of three, Gules, Or and Azure, a bolt of lightning, bend sinisterwise Argent, in chief, a knight's helmet, winged of the last, in dexter chief, five stars (Southern Cross) Argent, two on Gules, and three on Azure, in sinister base a covered wagon, trees and road scene, all proper. Motto: TUTOR ET ULTOR - I Protect and Avenge. Approved for the 49th Group on December 29, 1951 and for the 49th Wing on July 2, 1953.

49th Fighter-Bomber Wing

The 49th FBW provided air defense of Japan until December 1, 1950, when it moved without personnel or equipment to Taegu AB, South Korea, replacing the 6149th Tactical Support Wing. The wing's non-tactical units returned to Japan for a month in January-February 1951, except for a wing detachment that stayed to refuel and rearm aircraft staging through Taegu - a vital mission maintained for most of the war. The 49th FBW was attached to the 58th FBW, March 16-31, 1953. On April 1, in a designation switch, the 49th moved without personnel or equipment to Kunsan AB, where it absorbed the resources of the 474th FBW and continued combat operations to July 27.

Combat Components

49th Fighter-Bomber Group: duration except detached July 9-November 30, 1950 and March 16-31, 1953.

543rd Tactical Support Group: attached December 1, 1950-January 26, 1951.

9th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: attached August 17-c. September 6, 1950.

334th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron: attached February 24-March 1, 1951.

Stations

Taegu AB, South Korea, December 1, 1950; Tsuiki AB, Japan, January 26, 1951; Taegu AB, South Korea, February 24, 1951; Kunsan AB, South Korea, April 1, 1953-.

Commanders

Col. Aaron W. Tyer, December 1, 1950; Col. Kenneth W. Northamer, April 20, 1951; Col. Aaron W. Tyer, May 27, 1951; Col. Joe L. Mason, September 1, 1951; Col. David T. McKnight, February 1, 1952; Col. Robert J. Rogers, c. August 19, 1952-March 15, 1953; none (not manned), March 16-31, 1953; Col. William W. Ingenhutt, April 1, 1953; Col. Edwin A. Doss, April 24, 1953-.

Campaign Streamers

CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period [December 1,] 1950-February 7, 1951.

58th Fighter-Bomber Wing

On July 10, 1952, the 58th FBW activated and absorbed the personnel and equipment of the 136th FBW. The 58th had some assets in Japan and some in South Korea until August, when the entire wing moved to Korea. The 58th FBW tested a "reinforced wing" concept in the spring of 1953, taking on the support and administrative functions of the 49th FBW while exercising direct control of both the 58th and 49th FBGs. In three-months, the reinforced wing flew 10,422 combat sorties and delivered more firepower than two separate wings with a full complement of personnel.

Combat Components

49th Fighter-Bomber Wing: attached March 16-31, 1953.

474th Fighter-Bomber Wing: attached April 1, 1953-.

49th Fighter-Bomber Group: attached March 16-31, 1953.

58th Fighter-Bomber Group: duration.

474th Fighter-Bomber Group: attached April 1, 1953-.

Stations

Itazuke AB, Japan, July 10, 1952; Taegu AB, South Korea, August 1952-.

Commanders

Col. James B. Buck, July 10, 1952; Col. Victor E. Warford, July 22, 1952; Col. Joseph Davis, Jr., July 1, 1953-.

Campaign Streamers

Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for the period July 10, 1952-March 31, 1953.



Azure, on clouds in base a representation of the Greek mythological goddess Artemis with quiver and bow, in her chariot drawn by two deer, all Or, garnished Tan and Brown, all within a diminished bordure of the second. Motto: NON REVERTAR INULTUS - I will not Return Unavenged. Approved for the 58th Group on August 10, 1942 and for the 58th Wing on November 18, 1952.

58th Fighter-Bomber Group

The 58th FBG flew F-84s in primarily close air support and ground attack missions from July 1952. Having entered the Korean War with the slow, short-ranged F-84D ThunderJets, the 58th transitioned in late 1952 to the new "G" model, designed with more speed and range. Targets were enemy ports, railroads, and airfields. The group attacked the major supply port of Sinuiju in September, inflicting heavy damage to the target area without loss of personnel or aircraft. Combining with other fighter-bomber units, it attacked the Kumgang Political School at Odong-ni in October 1952 and the North Korean tank and infantry school at Kangso in February 1953. In May, the 58th FBG bombed North Korean dams, flooding enemy lines of communication and rice fields. On July 27, 1953, the 58th FBG attacked the runway at Kanggye and, with the 49th FBG, bombed Sunan Airfield for the final action of fighter-bombers in the Korean War.

Combat Components

69th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: July 10, 1952-.
310th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: July 10, 1952-.
311th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: July 10, 1952-.

Stations

Taegu AB, South Korea, July 10, 1952-.

Commanders

Col. Charles E. Jordan, 1952; Col. Frederick J. Nelander, 1953-.

Campaign Streamers

Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation for actions May 1-July 27, 1953. Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period July 10, 1952-March 31, 1953.

116th Fighter-Bomber Group



Per fess embattled debased Azure and Argent, three chevronels reversed of the second, the base chevronel fimbriated, forming a frazure at its apex over the embattlement Azure; in chief four darts of the second in formation chevron-wise points downward, one in fess point, two in sinister, all within a diminutive border Argent. Motto: Vincet Amor Patriae - Love of Country Shall Conquer. Approved on June 6, 1952.

The 116th FBG, assigned to the 116th FBW, whose personnel came from Georgia, Florida, and California National Guard units, was ordered to active duty in October 1950. In early 1951, the group transitioned from F-80s to F-84 ThunderJets, and shortly thereafter received orders to deploy to Japan. Personnel and aircraft proceeded by ship to Japan, arriving near the end of July. After unloading, personnel found that thirty-three of the seventy-five aircraft shipped had structural damage or corrosion problems. While support personnel worked feverishly on the aircraft, the tactical elements resumed their training program. Most of the pilots had not flown for a month, and as the aircraft were repaired, the training in gunnery, rocketry, bombing, and instrument flying intensified. In August, the group began flying air defense alert missions in northern Japan. In November, elements of the tactical group and rotating squadrons deployed to South Korea for combat. Those rotating elements flew missions from Taegu AB to cut enemy rail lines, disrupt supply routes, destroy vehicles, equipment, and troop shelters and support U.N. forces in close combat. Between rotations to South Korea, those squadrons remaining in Japan continued to fly air defense missions under control of the 116th Wing headquarters through the first half of 1952. On July 10, 1952, the 116th designation returned to control of the Air National Guard, with the 474th Fighter-Bomber Wing absorbing its personnel, equipment, aircraft and other resources.

Combat Components

158th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: duration.

159th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: duration.

196th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: duration.

Stations

Misawa AB, Japan, c. July 25, 1951-July 10, 1952 (deployed to Taegu AB, South Korea, November 1951-c. June 1952).

Commanders

Lt. Col. Ralph G. Kuhn, -January 1952; Lt. Col. Daniel F. Sharp, c. January 31, 1952-unkn.

Campaign Streamers

UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1952.

Decorations

None

136th Fighter-Bomber Wing

The 136th FBW of the Texas Air National Guard was ordered to active duty in October 1950, transitioned to the F-84 ThunderJet in early 1951, and moved incrementally from May to July to Japan, integrating with, then replacing, elements of the 27th Fighter-Escort Wing at Itazuke AB. The wing headquarters remained behind as most of its components moved to Taegu AB, South Korea, in late September. In November, the headquarters also moved to Taegu, leaving mostly rear-echelon maintenance elements in Japan. After almost a year of federal service, the 136th FBW was returned, without personnel or equipment, to the Air National Guard on July 10, 1952.

Combat Components

136th Fighter-Bomber Group: duration

Stations

Itazuke AB, Japan, May 1951; Taegu AB, South Korea, November 16, 1951-July 10, 1952.

Commanders

Col. Albert C. Prendergast, -November 5, 1951; Col. Alfred G. Lambert, Jr., November 5, 1951; Col. James B. Buck, November 10, 1951-July 10, 1952.

Campaign Streamers

UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952.

Decorations

None.

136th Fighter-Bomber Group

The 136th FBG moved to Japan, May-July, 1951, with the 182nd FBS functioning by June 1, the 154th FBS by July 1, and the 111th FBS by August 1. The group engaged primarily in interdiction but also flew close air support, escort, and armed reconnaissance missions. On June 26, twelve MiG-15s challenged group F-84 escort fighters that were screening a formation of B-29 bombers attacking a North Korean airfield. Although relatively new to combat, ThunderJet pilots of the 182nd FBS successfully turned back the MiGs, shooting down one. The group, its flying squadrons, and essential support elements moved from Itazuke AB, Japan, to Taegu AB, South Korea, in late September. Despite battle damage, maintenance problems, and inclement weather, the 136th FBG hindered North Korean rail transportation and destroyed large quantities of supplies badly needed by the enemy's front line troops. In the spring of 1952, it concentrated on close air support of front line troops. On June 23, the 136th FBG and another unit successfully attacked the Sui-ho power plant on the Yalu River. This last major aerial assault for the 136th rendered the fourth largest power plant in the world unserviceable.

Combat Components

111th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: duration.
154th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: duration.
182nd Fighter-Bomber Squadron: duration.
524th Fighter-Escort Squadron: attached c. July 1-August 12, 1951.

Stations

Itazuke AB, Japan, May 1951; Taegu AB, South Korea, c. September 26, 1951-July 10, 1952.

Commanders

Lt. Col. Gerald E. Montgomery, c. May 10, 1951; Col. Dean Davenport, June 11, 1951; Col. William T. Halton, c. September 24, 1951; Lt. Col. Daniel F. Sharp, March 21-July 1952.

Campaign Streamers

UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952.

Decorations

None.

474th Fighter-Bomber Wing

On July 10, 1952, the 474th FBW activated at Misawa AB, Japan, taking over the personnel and F-84E ThunderJets of the 116th FBW. During the next three weeks, the 474th Wing moved to Kunsan AB on the western side of the Korean peninsula, while the 474th Maintenance Squadron moved to Itazuke AB, Japan, and integrated into the rear-echelon maintenance combined operations (REMCO) for ThunderJet fighters. Other wing support units remained at Misawa AB, attached to the Japan Air Defense Force. The wing controlled its combat units until April 1, 1953, when its headquarters and support units were reduced to "paper status" and its tactical units attached to the 58th FBW.

Combat Components

474th Fighter-Bomber Group: July 10, 1952-April 1, 1953.

Stations

Misawa AB, Japan, July 10, 1952; Kunsan AB, South Korea, July 10, 1952; Taegu AB, South Korea, April 1, 1953-.

Commanders

Col. William W. Inghutt, July 10, 1952-April 1, 1953.

Campaign Streamers

Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period July 10, 1952-March 30, 1953.

474th Fighter-Bomber Group

The 474th Fighter-Bomber Group entered combat on August 1, 1952, joining the Fifth Air Force campaign against communist supply centers, transportation targets, and troop concentrations. During its first few weeks, the group's F-84s shredded a large troop concentration near the capital city of Pyongyang, broke up a MiG attack, hit a munitions factory ten miles south of the Yalu River, and destroyed a political/military instruction center. In November the 474th FBG started flying night interdiction missions to interfere with the enemy's movement of supplies. Its ThunderJets escorted B-26 Marauders on bombing operations in MiG Alley; flew flak suppression missions for strikes on heavily defended targets; conducted armed reconnaissance of the communist rear to gain intelligence information; and ranged over the front lines to strafe and bomb trenches, bunkers, troop shelters, and heavy weapons positions. In January 1953 the group's attention shifted to communications centers, training complexes, and strategic targets rebuilt after earlier raids. Over the next three months the F-84s struck the Sinanju rail facility on a major supply artery between the North Korean capital and the Manchurian border, an industrial area around Kyomipo located southwest of the capital, and the North Korean Tank and Infantry School west of Pyongyang. Effective April 1, 1953, in a name change only, the 474th and 49th Fighter-Bomber Groups switched places, with the 474th assuming the personnel and equipment of the 49th FBG at Taegu AB. Only the 430th FBS physically moved to Taegu. After April 1, the 474th FBG came under the operational control of the 58th FBW in a test of the "reinforced wing." On the day before the armistice went into effect, ThunderJets of the 474th Group bombed the Chunggangjin Airfield to prevent the build-up of enemy aircraft in the last hours of the war.

Combat Components

428th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: July 10, 1952-.

429th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: July 10, 1952-.

430th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: July 10, 1952-.

Stations

Misawa AB, Japan, July 10, 1952; Kunsan AB, South Korea, July 10, 1952; Taegu AB, South Korea, April 1, 1953-.

Commanders

Lt. Col. William L. Jacobsen, July 10, 1952; Lt. Col. Francis J. Vetort, August 29, 1952; Col. Joseph Davis, Jr., December 16, 1952; Col. Richard N. Ellis, April 1953; Col. John S. Loisel, May 1953-.

Campaign Streamers

Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

**Distinguished Unit Citation for actions December 1, 1952-April 30, 1953.
Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period July 10, 1952-March 30, 1953.**

Fighter-Escort

27th Fighter-Escort Wing

To help meet the threat of the Soviet-built MiG-15 fighter in Korea, the U.S. Air Force diverted Strategic Air Command's 27th FEW with its F-84 ThunderJets to the Far East instead of sending it as planned to England. In early December 1950 the wing established a rear echelon at Itazuke, Japan, and took its F-84s to Taegu AB, South Korea. Less than two months later, fearful that Chinese ground forces would overrun UN jet bases in South Korea, Fifth Air Force withdrew the 27th to Japan. The wing continued combat from Japan until replaced in late June 1951 by the 136th FBW.

Combat Components

27th Fighter-Escort Group: duration.

Stations

Yokota AB, Japan, November 11-30, 1950; Taegu AB, South Korea (advanced echelon), December 1, 1950-January 31, 1951; Itazuke AB, Japan (rear echelon), December 9, 1950-January 31, 1951; Itazuke AB, Japan February 1-July 15, 1951.

Commanders

Col. Ashley B. Packard, -May 1, 1951; Col. Raymond F. Rudell, May 1, 1951-.

Campaign Streamers

CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period November 9, 1950-May 31, 1951.



Per bend Azure and Or, in sinister chief a dexter hand clenched couped at the wrist; in dexter base a magnolia blossom, leave all Argent fimbriated and garnished Sable, all within a diminished bordure of the second. Motto: INTELLIGENT STRENGTH. Approved for the 27th Group on September 12, 1940 and for the 27th Wing on July 11, 1952.

27th Fighter-Escort Group

The 27th FEG flew its first combat mission from Taegu AB, South Korea, on December 6, 1950. The F-84 crews, although trained in long-range escort, began combat by flying armed reconnaissance and close air support missions then added bomber escort, combat air patrol, flak suppression, and precise dive-bombing missions against bridges, tunnels, and airfield runways. An F-84 pilot destroyed the group's first MiG-15 in aerial combat on January 21, 1951. The group returned to Japan at the end of January to continue combat from Itazuke AB. In late June, it redeployed to Texas but left the 524th Squadron behind to fly combat with the 136th FBG until early August.

Combat Components

522nd Fighter-Escort Squadron: duration.

523rd Fighter-Escort Squadron: duration.

524th Fighter-Escort Squadron: duration.

Stations

Taegu AB, South Korea, December 5, 1950; Itazuke AB, Japan, January 31-July 2, 1951.

Commanders

Col. Donald J. M. Blakeslee, December 1950; Lt. Col. William E. Bertram, March 3, 1951-.

Campaign Streamers

CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive.

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation for actions January 26-April 21, 1951.

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period November 9, 1950-May 31, 1951.

Fighter-Interceptor

4th Fighter-Interceptor Wing

The 4th FIW, moving from the United States, arrived in Japan in late November with its F-86 Sabres aboard aircraft carriers. The primary mission of the wing was air superiority, and the Sabre was capable of battling the Soviet-built MiG-15 on equal terms. From Johnson AB, Japan, detachments deployed in mid-December to bases in South Korea, rotating between South Korea and Japan through February 1951. Then, the 4th FIW moved in stages to Korea, with all elements rejoined by May 1951. The 4th FIW was the deadliest interceptor wing of the Korean War. Wing, group, and squadron personnel accounted for 516 air-to-air victories, representing more than half of the enemy aircraft for which USAF credits were awarded. The wing boasted twenty-five aces by the end of the war.

Combat Components

**4th Fighter-Interceptor Group: duration.
77th Squadron, RAAF: attached August 23, 1951-.**

Stations

Johnson AB, Japan November 28, 1950; Suwon AB, South Korea, May 7, 1951; Kimpo AB, South Korea, August 23, 1951-.

Commanders

Brig. Gen. George F. Smith, -May 1951; Col. Herman A. Schmid, May 1951; Col. Harrison R. Thyng, November 1, 1951; Col. Charles E. King, October 2, 1952; Col. James K. Johnson, November 11, 1952-.

Campaign Streamers

CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations for periods November 1, 1951-September 30, 1952 and October 1, 1952-March 31, 1953.



Azure, on a bend Or, a spear garnished with three eagle feathers and shaft flammant to base all proper, all with a diminished bordure Or. Motto: FOURTH BUT FIRST. Approved for 4th Group on September 26, 1949 and for 4th Wing on October 7, 1952.

4th Fighter-Interceptor Group

A portion of the 4th FIG entered combat with F-86 Sabrejets from Taegu AB, South Korea, between December 15, 1950 and January 2, 1951. Another group detachment operated from Taegu, January 17-February 1. The entire group began operations in March 1951 from Suwon AB, South Korea. The 4th FIG's pilots primarily conducted counter air patrols, destroying enemy aircraft whenever possible. During April 1952, they confronted 540 MiG-15s and destroyed twenty. Besides combat air patrol and bomber escort missions, the group's Sabres attacked targets spread across the northwestern Korean landscape from airfields at Sunuiju and Uiju on the Yalu to marshalling yards further south at Kunu-ri. Its pilots also flew armed reconnaissance sorties and provided close support for ground forces.

Combat Components

334th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron: duration, except detached May 1- June 26, 1951.

335th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron: duration, except detached September 20-November 3, 1951.

336th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron: duration, except detached June 27-September 19, 1951.

Stations

Johnson AB, Japan, December 13, 1950; Suwon AB, South Korea, March 30, 1951; Kimpo AB, South Korea, August 23, 1951-.

Commanders

Col. John C. Meyer, -May 8, 1951; Lt. Col. Glenn T. Eagleston, May 8, 1951; Lt. Col. Bruce W. Hinton, July 1, 1951 (acting); Lt. Col. Glenn T. Eagleston, July 10, 1951; Col. Benjamin S. Preston, Jr., July 26, 1951; Col. Walker M. Mahurin, March 18, 1952; Lt. Col. Ralph G. Kuhn, May 14, 1952; Col. Royal N. Baker, June 1, 1952; Col. Thomas D. DeJarnette, March 18, 1953-.

Medal of Honor Recipient

Maj. George A. Davis, Jr. (334th FIS) for actions on February 10, 1952.

Campaign Streamers

CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Two Distinguished Unit Citations for actions in Korea during periods April 22-July 8, 1951 and July 9-November 27, 1951.

Two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations for periods November 1, 1951-September 30, 1952 and October 1, 1952-March 31, 1953.

35th Fighter-Interceptor Wing

At the outbreak of the Korean War, the 35th FIW was flying F-80s on air defense missions from Yokota AB, Japan. Less its group and two squadrons detached for combat in Korea, the wing continued its air defense mission until 1 December. It then moved without personnel and equipment (on paper) to Yonpo, North Korea, assuming the resources of the inactivated 6150th Tactical Support Wing. Almost immediately the 35th FIW moved again to Pusan AB, South Korea. On May 25, 1951, it moved without personnel and equipment to Johnson AB, Japan, to resume an air defense mission.

Combat Components

35th Fighter-Interceptor Group: duration, except detached c. July 9-Dec 1, 1950 and May 7-24, 1951.

77th Squadron, RAAF: attached December 1, 1950-April 6, 1951.

339th Fighter-All Weather (later, 339th Fighter-Interceptor) Squadron: attached -December 1, 1950 and May 25, 1951-.

Stations

Yonpo, North Korea, December 1, 1950; Pusan AB, South Korea, c. December 7, 1950-May 25, 1951.

Commanders

Col. Frederic C. Gray, December 1, 1950; Col. Brooks A. Lawhon, February 18, 1951-May 25, 1951.

Campaign Streamers

CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period September 7, 1950-February 7, 1951.



Azure, a dexter cubit arm palewise Or grasping a dagger with point to base Gules, all within a diminished bordure of the second. Motto: **ATTACK TO DEFEND**. Approved for the 35th Group on March 24, 1941 and for the 35th Wing on December 16, 1953.

35th Fighter-Interceptor Group

In July 1950, the 35th FIG commenced combat from a base in southwestern Japan. It quickly converted from F-80s back to the rugged and longer-range F-51 Mustangs it had given up only a short time before. Group headquarters and the 40th FIS moved to Pohang AB on South Korea's eastern coast in mid-July, and the 39th Squadron followed on August 10. The precarious ground situation in Korea forced the 35th Group to return to Japan only days later, where it remained until early October. Attached to the 6131st Tactical Support Wing from August 1, then to the 6150th Tactical Support Wing from September 6, it supported UN ground forces moving north of the 38th parallel. The 35th FIG focused its attacks on fuel dumps, motorized transport, and enemy troop concentrations until it moved in mid-November to a forward airstrip at Yonpo near the North Korean port city of Hungnam to provide close air support to the U. S. Army X Corps. When communist Chinese forces surrounded the 1st U.S. Marine Division at the Changjin Reservoir, the group provided close air support to the marines. Relocating to Pusan AB, South Korea in early December 1950, it continued supporting UN ground forces, eventually staging out of Suwon in March 1951 and Seoul Airport in April. The 35th FIG was attached to the 18th FBW, May 7-24, then rejoined its parent wing in Japan, leaving the 39th FIS behind, first with the 18th FBW and then the 51st FIW.

Combat Components

39th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron: -May 7, 1951.

40th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron: duration.

Stations

Yokota AB, Japan, -July 8, 1950; Ashiya AB, Japan, July 8, 1950; Pohang, South Korea, July 14, 1950; Tsuiki AB, Japan, August 13, 1950; Pohang, South Korea, October 3, 1950; Yonpo, North Korea, November 18, 1950; Pusan AB, South Korea, c. December 3, 1950-May 25, 1951.

Commanders

Lt. Col. Jack D. Dale, Jr., -February 22, 1951; Col. William P. McBride, February 22-May 1951.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period September 7, 1950-February 7, 1951.

51st Fighter-Interceptor Wing

In September 1950, the 51st FIW moved from Okinawa to Japan. Flying F-80 Shooting Stars, pilots provided combat patrols, close air support, and armed reconnaissance missions in support of UN ground forces in Korea. The wing moved to South Korea in October only to return to Japan in December, leaving combat elements behind. In May 1951, the 51st FIW moved to Suwon AB, southwest of Seoul, but retained maintenance and supply elements at Tsuiki AB, Japan, to provide rear echelon support. Transitioning in late 1951 to the F-86 Sabrejets, the wing assumed an air superiority mission for the rest of the war.

Combat Components

51st Fighter-Interceptor Group: duration except detached September 26-October 12, 1950.

Stations

Itazuke AB, Japan, September 22, 1950; Kimpo AB, South Korea, October 10, 1950; Itazuke AB, Japan, December 10, 1950; Tsuiki AB, Japan, January 15, 1951 (operated detachment of wing elements at Suwon from May 1951); Suwon AB, South Korea, October 1, 1951-.

Commanders

Col. John W. Weltman, -April 24, 1951; Col. Oliver G. Cellini, April 24, 1951; Col. William P. Litton, c. November 1, 1951; Col. George R. Stanley (interim), November 2, 1951; Col. Francis S. Gabreski, November 6, 1951; Col. John W. Mitchell, June 13, 1952; Col. William C. Clark, May 31, 1953-.

Campaign Streamers

UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations for periods September 20, 1950-June 30, 1951 and July 1, 1951-March 31, 1953.



Per fess nebuly abased Azure and Or, issuing from partition line a demi-pegasus Argent with a machine gun in each wing bendwise Sable, gunfire proper. Motto: DEFTLY AND SWIFTLY. Approved for 51st Group on February 5, 1942. Not formally approved for the 51st Wing until 1956.

51st Fighter-Interceptor Group

In September 1950, the 51st FIG and its 16th and 25th Squadrons moved to Japan under operational control of the 8th FBW. Within hours of arrival, group pilots began flying F-80s on combat air patrol, armed reconnaissance and close air support missions over Korea. The 51st FIG moved to Kimpo AB, located just south of Seoul, in October. In December, it flew 763 sorties, including close air support for the 2nd Infantry Division, cut off by the enemy in the vicinity of Kunu-ri. The 51st FIG helped protect the division's flanks and destroyed enemy roadblocks halting southward movement. In early January 1951, it rejoined its parent wing in Japan but continued to fly missions over Korea, staging first through Taegu and then through Suwon Air Base. Returning to Korea in late July, the 51st FIG supported ground forces and its pilots flew patrol, escort, interdiction, and armed reconnaissance missions. In September and October, the group devoted its major combat effort against railroads and other main supply routes in North Korea. After the 51st FIG transitioned to F-86 Sabrejets in November-December, its primary mission became air superiority.

Combat Components

16th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron: duration.

25th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron: duration.

39th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron: attached June 1, 1952-.

68th Fighter-All Weather Squadron: attached September 25-October 9, 1950.

80th Fighter-Bomber Squadron: attached September 25-December 20, 1950.

Stations

Itazuke AB, Japan, September 22, 1950; Kimpo AB, South Korea, October 24, 1950; Itazuke AB, Japan, January 3, 1951; Tsuiki AB, Japan, January 22, 1951; Suwon AB, South Korea, July 31, 1951-.

Commanders

Col. Oliver G. Cellini, -November 7, 1950; Lt. Col. Irwin H. Dregne, November 7, 1950; Col. Oliver G. Cellini, December 16, 1950; Col. Irwin H. Dregne, April 24, 1951; Lt. Col. John M. Thacker, July 21, 1951; Lt. Col. George L. Jones, November 13, 1951; Lt. Col. William M. Shelton, c. March 17, 1952; Lt. Col. Albert S. Kelly, June 1952; Col. Robert P. Baldwin, January 1953-.

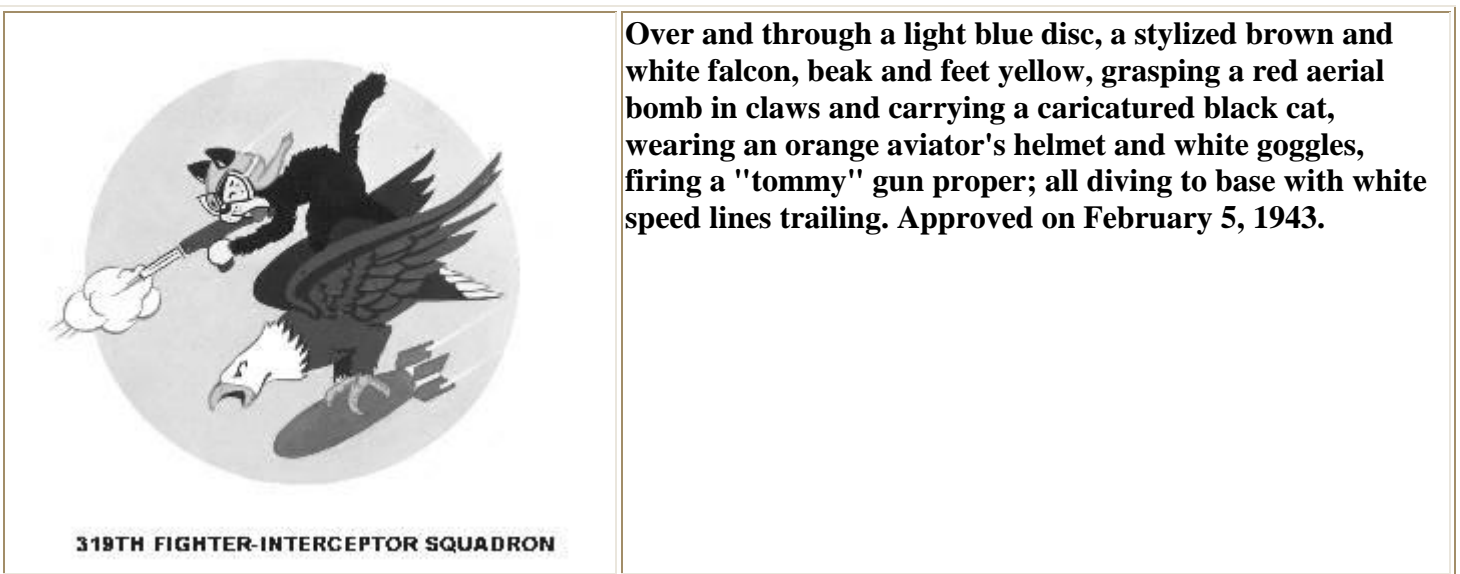
Campaign Streamers

UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation for actions covering November 28, 1951-April 30, 1952. Two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations for periods September [22], 1950-June 30, 1951 and July 1, 1951-March 31, 1953.

319th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron



In December 1951, Fifth Air Force determined a need for additional nighttime all-weather air interceptors in the Seoul area. In response, the U.S. Air Force provided the F-94-equipped 319th FIS, which moved from Moses Lake AFB, Washington, to Suwon AB in February and early March 1952. Until November, Fifth Air Force restricted the use of the Starfires to local air defense in order to prevent the possible compromise of its airborne intercept radar equipment in a loss over enemy-held territory. From November until the end of the conflict, the 319th used F-94s to maintain fighter screens between the Yalu and Chongchon Rivers, helping to protect B-29s from enemy interceptors.

Stations

Suwon AB, South Korea, March 10, 1952-.

Campaign Streamers

Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation for actions 1 December 1952-April 30, 1953.

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period March 23-July 27, 1953.

Light Bombardment

3rd Bombardment Wing, Light

On the first day of the war, the 3rd BW's tactical units flew B-26s from Iwakuni AB, Japan on combat missions in Korea. On July 20, 1950, the group was detached and the wing assumed a supporting role at Yokota AB, Japan until December 1. It then regained control of its combat units at Iwakuni AB and began night intruder missions to Korea. The 3rd BW moved to South Korea in August 1951 and attacked main supply routes in western North Korea until the war's end. In the summer and autumn of 1952, the wing devised a "hunter/killer" B-26 tactic for nighttime interdiction of transportation targets.

Combat Components

3rd Bombardment Group: duration, except detached July 20-November 30, 1950.

Stations

Johnson AB, Japan, -August 14, 1950; Yokota AB, Japan, August 14, 1950; Iwakuni, AB, Japan December 1, 1950; Kunsan AB, South Korea, August 22, 1951-.

Commanders

Col. Thomas B. Hall, c. June-c. July 1950; Col. Strother B. Hardwick, Jr., c. July 1950; Col. Virgil L. Zoller, August 14, 1950; Col. Donald L. Clark, August 23, 1950; Col. Virgil L. Zoller, December 1, 1950; Col. Nils O. Ohman, July 24, 1951; Col. Marshall R. Gray, March 4, 1952; Col. Eugene B. LeBailly, August 14, 1952-.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period June 27-July 31, 1950.



Party per bend Vert and Sable a bend fimbriated Or in sinister Chief a prickly pear cactus of the like, all within a bordure Argent semi of nineteen crosses patee Black and fimbriated yellow. Motto: NON SOLUM ARMIS - Not by Arms Alone. Approved for 3rd Group on January 17, 1922 and for 3rd Wing on December 22, 1952.

3rd Bombardment Group, Light

The 3rd BG conducted its first combat missions in Korea on June 27, 1950. Its B-26 pilots flew reconnaissance sorties and protected allied shipping in Korean waters. The next day, the group attacked rail and road targets at Munsan. A day later, the B-26s attacked Pyongyang Airfield. On July 1, the group and its squadrons moved with a forward echelon of the wing to Iwakuni AB, Japan to be closer to Korea. Fifth Air Force exercised direct operational control of the group from July 20, 1950, later attaching it to the 6133rd Bomb (later, Tactical Support) Wing. After September, the 3rd BG flew mostly at night against airfields, vehicles, and railways. Hindered by a lack of light over the target areas, the night Intruders experimented with parachute-dropped flares, wing-mounted naval searchlights, and C-47 "Lightning Bugs." The "bugs," flown by the attached 731st BS, dropped flares from low altitudes, illuminating target areas. But B-26s soon replaced the C-47s, which flew too slowly to accompany the Intruders to the target area. The 3rd BG moved to Korea in August 1951 to continue combat missions, receiving three Distinguished Unit Citations before the armistice in July 1953.

Combat Components

8th Bombardment Squadron: duration.

13th Bombardment Squadron: duration.

90th Bombardment Squadron: June 25, 1951-.

731st Bombardment Squadron: attached November 1950-June 25, 1951.

Stations

Johnson AB, Japan, -July 1, 1950; Iwakuni AB, Japan, July 1, 1950; Kunsan AB, South Korea, August 22, 1951-.

Commanders

Col. Donald L. Clark, -August 5, 1950; Lt. Col. Leland A. Walker, Jr., August 5, 1950; Col. Henry G. Brady, Jr., October 17, 1950; Col. Chester H. Morgan, January 4, 1952; Col. William G. Moore, Jr.,

January 17, 1952; Col. Sherman R. Beaty, by December 1952; Col. John G. Napier, April 1, 1953; Col. Straughan D. Kelsey, July 22, 1953-.

Medal of Honor Recipient

Capt. John S. Walmsley, Jr. (8th BS) for actions on September 14, 1951.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive 1952; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Three Presidential Unit Citations for actions June 27-July 31, 1950; April 22-July 8, 1951; and May 1-July 27, 1953.

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period June 27-July 31, 1950.

17th Bombardment Wing, Light

The 17th BW activated in South Korea on May 10, 1952, replacing the Reserve 452nd BW. Assigned to Fifth Air Force, it immediately began combat operations, conducting night intruder and light bombardment missions against enemy supply centers, communications and transportation; interdicting North Korean railroads; flying armed reconnaissance; and providing close air support for ground forces until July 27, 1953. Late in the war by May 1953, the 17th began flying SHORAN directed missions.

Combat Components

17th Bombardment Group: May 10, 1952-.

Stations

Pusan-East AB, South Korea, May 10, 1952-.

Commanders

Col. Albert W. Fletcher, May 10, 1952; Col. Glen C. Nye, June 3, 1952; Col. William C. Lindley, Jr., October 7, 1952; Col. Clinton C. Wasem, October 10, 1952-.

Campaign Streamers

Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for the period May 24, 1952-March 31, 1953.



Or, seven crosses patee in pale Sable. Motto: TOUJOURS AU DANGER - Ever into Danger. Approved for 17th Group on November 2, 1937 and for 17th Wing on May 27, 1952.

17th Bombardment Group, Light

The 17th BG's B-26 light bombers saw initial night action against enemy communication centers, railroads, vehicles, bridges, gun emplacements, and troop concentrations. In 1953, the group engaged in interdiction operations designed to achieve the greatest destruction of enemy rail rolling stock, facilities and supplies. In early February, equipped with glass-nose B-26s, it adopted new tactics for armed reconnaissance missions against railroads, locomotives, and boxcars. The 17th BG participated in Operation SPRING THAW in March 1953 against roads, and in April it repeatedly attacked the southbound route originating at Yangdok along the eastern coast of North Korea. By then, it was flying about a third of its sorties in close air support of ground troops. The 17th BG claimed the last enemy vehicle destroyed in the war.

Combat Components

34th Bombardment Squadron: May 10, 1952-.

37th Bombardment Squadron: May 10, 1952-.

95th Bombardment Squadron: May 10, 1952-.

Stations

Pusan-East, South Korea, May 10, 1952; Pusan-West, South Korea, October 1, 1952; Pusan-East, South Korea, December 20, 1952-.

Commanders

Col. James D. Kemp, May 10, 1952; Col. William C. Lindley, Jr., July 11, 1952; Col. Robert E. Keating, February 14, 1953; Col. Gordon D. Timmons, April 8, 1953-.

Campaign Streamers

Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation for actions December 1, 1952-April 30, 1953.
Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for the period May 24, 1952-March 31, 1953.

452nd Bombardment Wing, Light

The 452nd BW, a Reserve wing ordered to active service in August 1950, moved from California to Japan during October-November. Arriving at Itazuke AB on October 25, the wing's air echelon began B-26 combat operations over Korea two days later. Its ground echelon arrived by ship in mid-November. The wing, under Fifth Air Force control, was briefly attached to the 8th FBW at Itazuke AB and to 314th Air Division while at Miho AB, Japan. The 452nd BW inactivated on May 10, 1952 and returned to Reserve status.

Combat Components

452nd Bombardment Group: -May 10, 1952.

Stations

Itazuke AB, Japan, October 25, 1950; Miho AB, Japan, December 12, 1950; Pusan East AB, South Korea, May 23, 1951-May 10, 1952.

Commanders

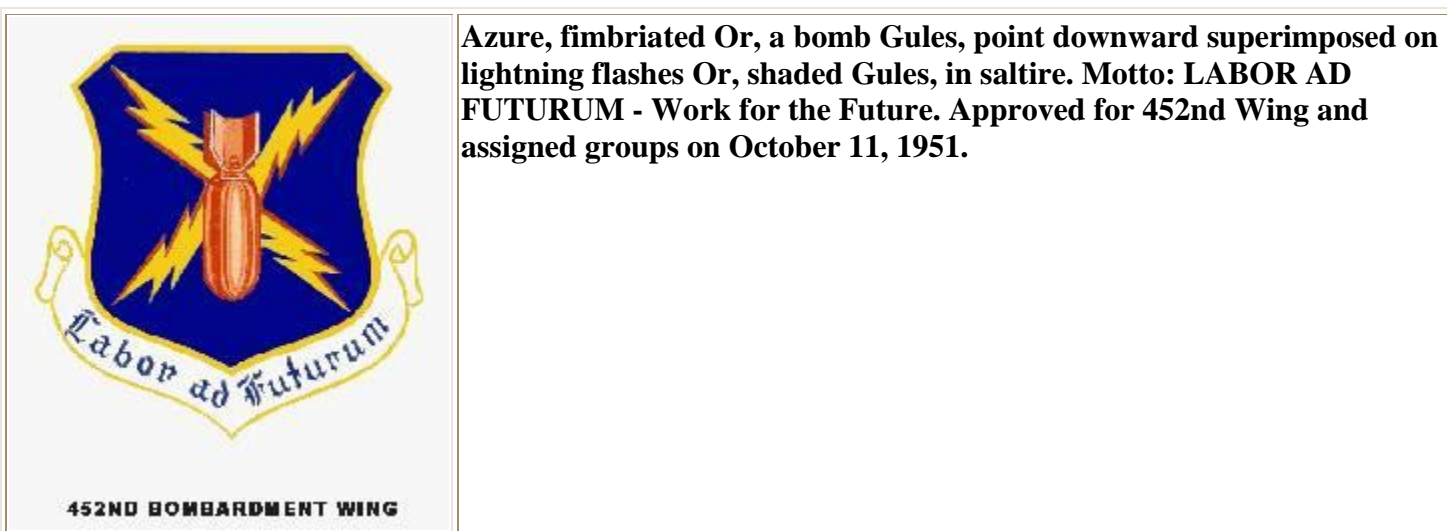
Brig. Gen. Luther W. Sweetser, Jr. -May 12, 1951; Col. Brooks A. Lawhon, May 12, 1951; Col. Reginald J. Clizbe, by August 20, 1951; Col. Albert W. Fletcher, February 10-May 10, 1952.

Campaign Streamers

UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period October 27, 1950-October 27, 1951.



452nd Bombardment Group, Light

On October 27, 1950, the 452nd BG entered combat against communist forces with its B-26s, flying medium-level armed reconnaissance, interdiction bombing, and close air support sorties. The group bombed and strafed buildings, tunnels, rail lines, switching centers, bridges, vehicles, supply dumps, and airfields. In one of its most important missions, the 452nd BG supported the 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment's mass parachute drop over North Korean lines at Munsan-ni on March 23, 1951. Leading the troop carrier aircraft over the target area, the group dropped 500-pound bombs, fired rockets, and strafed the CCF front line. After the enemy launched its spring 1951 offensive, it added night missions then in early June converted solely to such operations until its inactivation on May 10, 1952.

Combat Components

728th Bombardment Squadron: -May 10, 1952.

729th Bombardment Squadron: -May 10, 1952.

730th Bombardment Squadron: -May 10, 1952.

731st Bombardment Squadron: -November 1950.

Stations

Itazuke AB, Japan, October 27, 1950; Miho AB, Japan, c. December 10, 1950; Pusan-East AB, South Korea, May 17, 1951-May 10, 1952.

Commanders

Col. Charles W. Howe, -May 17, 1951; Col. Frank L. Wood, Jr., May 17, 1951; Lt. Col. John A. Herrington, June 1951; Lt. Col. Harry C. Mailey, c. December 1951; Col. James D. Kemp, March 28-May 10, 1952.

Campaign Streamers

UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952.

Decorations

Two Distinguished Unit Citations for actions July 9-November 27, 1951 and November 28, 1951-April 30, 1952.

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period October 27, 1950-October 27, 1951.

Medium Bombardment

19th Bombardment Group, Medium

Immediately after the communist invasion of South Korea, the 19th BG moved from Guam to Okinawa. Initially under the operational control of Twentieth AF, after July 8, 1950, it was attached to FEAF Bomber Command (Provisional). The first B-29 unit in the war, the group on June 28 attacked North Korean storage tanks, marshalling yards, and armor. In the first two months, it flew more than six hundred sorties, supporting UN ground forces by bombing enemy troops, vehicles, and such

communications points as the Han River bridges. In the north, its targets included an oil refinery and port facilities at Wonsan, a railroad bridge at Pyongyang, and an airfield at Yonpo. After UN ground forces pushed the communists out of South Korea, the 19th BG turned to strategic objectives in North Korea, including industrial and hydroelectric facilities. It also continued to attack bridges, marshalling yards, supply centers, artillery and troop positions, barracks, port facilities, and airfields. It inactivated on June 1, 1953.

Combat Components

28th Bombardment Squadron: -June 1, 1953.

30th Bombardment Squadron: -June 1, 1953.

93rd Bombardment Squadron: -June 1, 1953.

Stations

Andersen AFB, Guam, -July 5, 1950; Kadena AB, Okinawa, July 5, 1950-June 1, 1953.

Commanders

Col. Theodore Q. Graff, -September 26, 1950; Col. Payne Jennings, Jr., September 26, 1950; Col. Donald O. Tower, March 29, 1951; Col. Adam K. Breckenridge, July 26, 1951; Col. Julian M. Bleyer, February 6, 1952; Col. Willard W. Smith, July 8, 1952; Col. Harvey C. Dorney, December 24, 1952-June 1, 1953.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation for actions June 28-September 15, 1950.

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period July 7, 1950-[June 1,] 1953.



Azure, within the square of the constellation of Pegasus, a winged sword, point to base, all Or. Motto: IN ALIS VINCIMUS - On Wings We Conquer. Approved for the 19th Group on October 19, 1936 and for the 19th Wing on May 9, 1952.

19th Bombardment Wing, Medium

On June 1, 1953, the 19th BW moved on paper from Andersen AB, Guam to Okinawa, absorbing the personnel and equipment of the 19th BG. Until the end of the war, the wing exercised control over the tactical squadrons, which maintained the B-29 interdiction program and provided some close air support for UN ground forces. In the course of the war, the 19th Group and 19th Wing flew almost 650 combat missions.

Combat Components

28th Bombardment Squadron: June 1, 1953-.

30th Bombardment Squadron: June 1, 1953-.

93rd Bombardment Squadron: June 1, 1953-.

Stations

Kadena AB, Okinawa, June 1, 1953-.

Commanders

Col. Harvey C. Dorney, June 1, 1953-.

Campaign Streamers

Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period [June 1, 1953]- July 27, 1953.

22nd Bombardment Group, Medium



Azure, a cougar's left gamb erased palewise claws to base Or armed Gules. Motto: DUCEMUS - We Lead. Approved on June 19, 1941.

Detached from the 22nd BW, the 22nd BG deployed its B-29s in early July 1950 from March AFB, California, to Okinawa, where it came under control of FEAF Bomber Command (Provisional). On July 13, the group flew its first mission, against the marshalling yards and oil refinery at Wonsan, North Korea. By October 21, it had amassed fifty-seven missions against the enemy, attacking bridges, factories, industrial targets, troop concentrations, airfields, marshalling yards, communications centers, and port facilities. During four months of combat, the 22nd BG flew 335 sorties with only fourteen aborts and dropped over 6,500 tons of bombs. It redeployed to the United States in late October and November 1950.

Combat Components

2nd Bombardment Squadron: duration.
19th Bombardment Squadron: duration.
33rd Bombardment Squadron: duration.

Stations

Kadena AB, Okinawa, early July-October 28, 1950.

Commanders

Col. James V. Edmundson, duration.

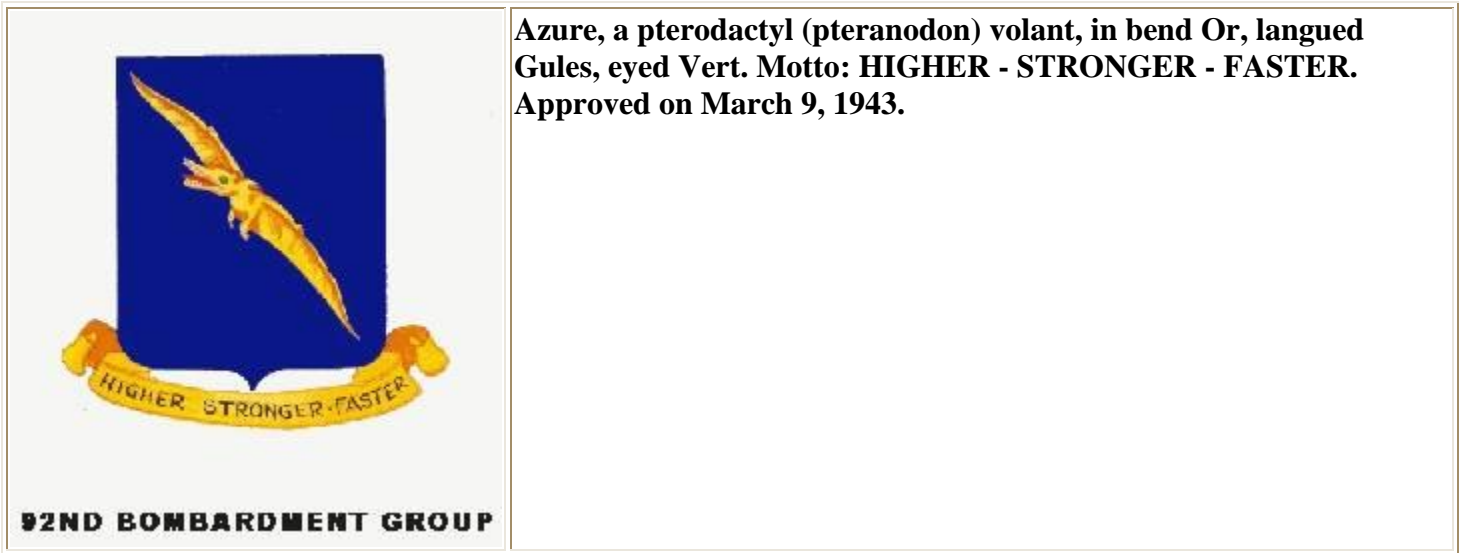
Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; UN Offensive.

Decorations

None.

92nd Bombardment Group, Medium



In early July 1950, 92nd BG B-29s arrived from the United States at Yokota AB, Japan. By the time the entire group completed its deployment on the July 13, its aircraft had already flown a leaflet mission to Seoul and a combat mission against the Wonsan marshalling yards in North Korea. Under control of the FEAF Bomber Command (Provisional) until October 20, the 92nd bombed factories, refineries, iron works, hydroelectric plants, airfields, bridges, tunnels, troop concentrations, barracks, marshalling yards, road junctions, rail lines, supply dumps, docks, vehicles and other strategic and interdiction targets. The 92nd BG returned to Spokane AFB, Washington in late October and November 1950.

Combat Components

325th Bombardment Squadron: duration.

326th Bombardment Squadron: duration.

327th Bombardment Squadron: duration.

Stations

Yokota AB, Japan, mid-July-October 29, 1950.

Commanders

Col. Claude E. Putnam, Jr., duration.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; UN Offensive.

Decorations

None.

98th Bombardment Group, Medium

The first B-29s and crews of the 98th BG, detached from the 98th BW in Spokane AFB, Washington, arrived at Yokota AB, Japan on August 5, 1950. Two days later, they flew against marshalling yards at Pyongyang, North Korea. The 98th BG engaged primarily in interdiction of enemy communications centers but also supported UN ground forces. Interdiction targets included marshalling yards, oil centers, rail facilities, bridges, roads, troop concentrations, airfields, and military installations. Although not formally inactivated until June 1952, group headquarters became an unmanned unit on April 1, 1951, when control of tactical operations passed to the 98th BW.

Combat Components

343rd Bombardment Squadron: -April 1, 1951.

344th Bombardment Squadron: -April 1, 1951.

345th Bombardment Squadron: -April 1, 1951.

Stations

Yokota AB, Japan, c. August 5, 1950-June 16, 1952.

Commanders

Col. Richard H. Carmichael, -April 1, 1951.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for the period August 7, 1950-March 31, 1951.



98TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP

Azure, a bend indented between a dexter mailed hand couped at the wrist, in bend, grasping a drop bomb and an olive wreath, all Or. Motto: FORCE FOR FREEDOM. Approved for 98th Group on July 29, 1942. Not formally approved for the 98th Wing until 1956.

98th Bombardment Wing, Medium

On April 1, 1951, the 98th BW deployed "on paper" without personnel or equipment to Yokota AFB, Japan, where it assumed the tactical role of the 98th BG. Interdiction of enemy communications, support of UN ground forces, and propaganda leaflet drops constituted the B-29 wing's missions. In January 1952, to avoid daylight interception by enemy fighters, the 98th BW began to fly night missions almost exclusively. In the spring, its B-29s attacked railway installations and airfields then in the summer industrial targets. The wing's last bombing mission, flown on July 25, 1953, was followed on the last day of the war with a propaganda leaflet drop.

Combat Components

98th Bombardment Group: assigned but not operational, April 1, 1951-June 16, 1952.

343rd Bombardment Squadron: attached April 1, 1951-June 15, 1952, assigned June 16, 1952-.

344th Bombardment Squadron: attached April 1, 1951-June 15, 1952, assigned June 16, 1952-.

345th Bombardment Squadron: attached April 1, 1951-June 15, 1952, assigned June 16, 1952-.

Stations

Yokota AB, Japan, April 1, 1951-.

Commanders

Col. David Wade, April 1, 1951; Col. Edwin F. Harding, Jr., c. September 15, 1951; Col. Lewis A. Curtis, November 1951; Col. Winton R. Close, May 1952; Col. Charles B. Westover, October 26, 1952; Col. Edgar S. Davis, June 17, 1953; Col. George L. Robinson, July 6, 1953-.

Campaign Streamers

First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation for actions December 1, 1952-April 30, 1953.

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for the period April 1, 1951-July 27, 1953.

307th Bombardment Group, Medium

On August 1, 1950, the 307th BG with its B-29s deployed from MacDill AFB, Florida to Kadena AB, Okinawa. One week later the Superfortresses went into action over Korea. From August through September, they attacked strategic objectives in North Korea, such as the enemy's transportation system and industrial facilities. Following a campaign in November 1950 against bridges over the Yalu River into Manchuria, the B-29s struck interdiction targets, including communications and supply centers, and supported UN ground forces by hitting gun emplacements and troop concentrations. Not officially inactivated until June 1952, the 307th Group became an unmanned organization on February 10, 1951, replaced by the 307th BW.

Combat Components

370th Bombardment Squadron: -February 10, 1951.

371st Bombardment Squadron: -February 10, 1951.

372nd Bombardment Squadron: -February 10, 1951.

Stations

Kadena AB, Okinawa, August 8, 1950-June 16, 1952.

Commanders

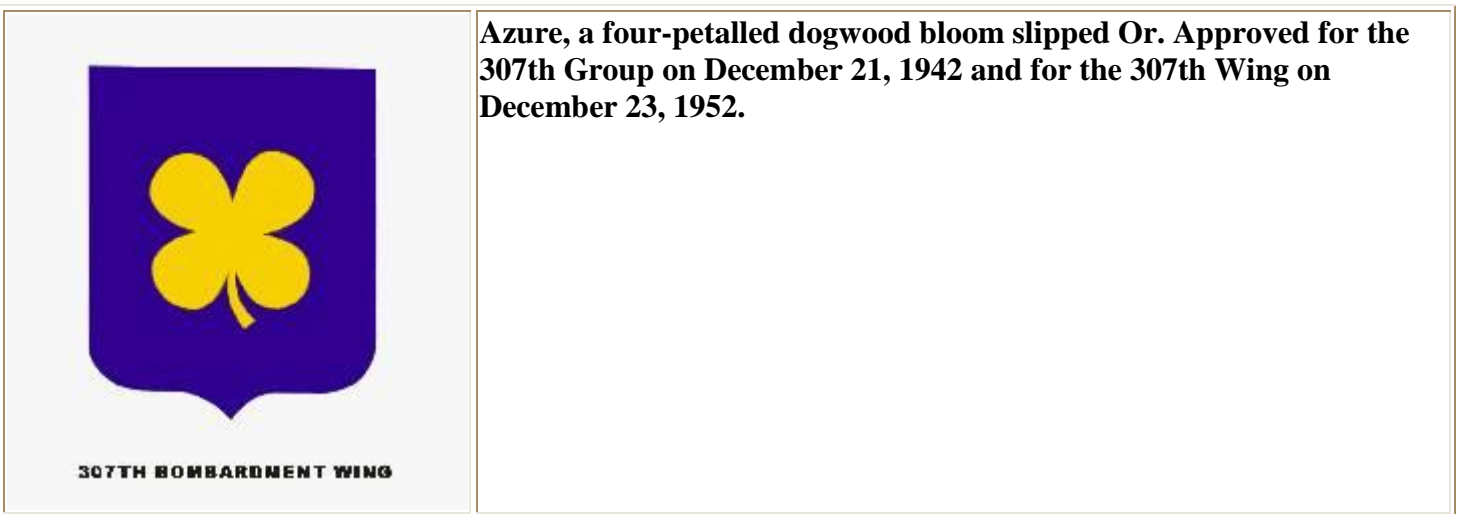
Col. John A. Hilger, -February 10, 1951.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period [August] 1950-[February 9, 1951].



307th Bombardment Wing, Medium

The 307th BW moved without personnel or equipment to Kadena AB, Okinawa, on February 10, 1951 and absorbed the resources of the 307th BG. For the next few months the wing's bombers participated in FEAF's bridge-busting campaign, flying numerous missions against key spans. The 307th BW also helped UN ground forces blunt a communist spring offensive. On May 23, it participated in a tremendous nighttime close air support effort, shredding enemy positions along the entire battlefield with radar-aimed fragmentation bombs. Until the end of the war, it continued attacks against industrial targets, bridges, troop concentrations, airfields, supply dumps, rail yards, enemy frontline positions, and lines of communications. By late 1952, the 307th BW usually flew night shoran missions, with enemy airfields and dams as primary targets. As the truce talks neared conclusion in July 1953, the wing helped spoil an enemy ground offensive, earning a Distinguished Unit Citation. By the end of hostilities, the 307th BW and 307th BG combined had flown over 5,800 combat missions.

Combat Components

307th Bombardment Group: assigned but not operational February 10, 1951-June 16, 1952.

370th Bombardment Squadron: attached February 10, 1951-June 15, 1952, assigned June 16, 1952-.

37st Bombardment Squadron: attached February 10, 1951-June 15, 1952, assigned June 16, 1952-.

372nd Bombardment Squadron: attached February 10, 1951-June 15, 1952, assigned June 16, 1952-.

Stations

Kadena AB, Okinawa, February 10, 1951-.

Commanders

Col. John A. Hilger, February 10, 1951; Col. John M. Reynolds, March 15, 1951; Col. William H. Hanson, August 20, 1951; Col. John C. Jennison, Jr., February 4, 1952; Brig. Gen. Raymond L. Winn, May 8, 1952; Col. Charles S. Overstreet, c. October 1, 1952; Col. Austin J. Russell, December 29, 1952-.

Campaign Streamers

First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation for actions July 11-27, 1953.

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period February 10, 1951-July 27, 1953.

Reconnaissance

543rd Tactical Support Group

At the outset of the Korean War, the only tactical reconnaissance squadron (TRS) available in the Far East, the 8th TRS began flying RF-80 daylight reconnaissance missions over Korea. A few days before the Inchon landings in September 1950, it provided photography for the U.S. Navy to show high- and low-tide heights of the sea walls and to orient landing crews. Meanwhile, the 162nd TRS, flying RB-26s, and the photo-processing 363rd Reconnaissance Technical Squadron (RTS) moved from the United States to Japan and began operations in August. Requests for photo reconnaissance were so extensive that in September Far East Air Forces activated the 543rd Tactical Support Group (TSG) to control the reconnaissance squadrons already engaged and to form a visual reconnaissance squadron. Except for the 45th TRS, the group's headquarters and tactical squadrons moved to Korea in early October. It encountered difficulties in command arrangements, physical separation from the supporting 363rd RTS, and other problems. Then, the Chinese intervention required temporary withdrawal to Japan in December of all but advanced echelons. In late December the 45th TRS began operations with T-6s and F-51s. Colonel Karl "Pop" Polifka, one of the USAF pioneers in the field of aerial reconnaissance worked for a wing-level organization to replace the 543rd TSG.

Combat Components

8th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Photographic: September 26, 1950-February 25, 1951.

45th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron: September 26, 1950-February 25, 1951.

162nd Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Night Photographic: attached September 26-October 10, 1950, assigned October 10, 1950-February 25, 1951.

6166th Air Weather Reconnaissance Flight: December 25, 1950-January 26, 1951.

Stations

Itazuke AB, Japan, September 26, 1950; Taegu AB, South Korea, c. October 10, 1950; Komaki AB, Japan, January 26-February 25, 1951.

Commanders

Lt. Col. Bert M. Smiley, September 26, 1950; Lt. Col. Jacob W. Dixon (temporary), October 4, 1950; Col. Bert M. Smiley, October 20, 1950-February 25, 1951.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive (8th and 162nd Squadrons only); UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period [February 10-25, 1951].

67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing

Activated on 25 February 1951, the 67th TRW replaced the inactivated 543rd TSG. By August, the wing had consolidated its subordinate elements at Kimpo AB. Gradually overcoming difficulties, it soon was providing adequate aerial intelligence for both air and ground units. However, organizational changes could not solve fundamental problems - the lack of suitable aircraft, appropriate photographic equipment, and sufficient numbers of trained personnel. The 67th TRW sought in-theater remedies for these problems, including special classes and on-the-job training; creative experimentation with aircraft, cameras, night lighting, and photographic techniques; and the modification of six Sabrejets to RF-86 configuration for reconnaissance work. Other aircraft flown on reconnaissance missions included the RB-26, RF-51, and RF-80. For visual reconnaissance, the 67th TRW relied on T-6s and C-47s for a short time. It also performed weather reconnaissance on a regular basis, using the unarmed WB-26s of the attached 6166th Air Weather Reconnaissance Flight.

Combat Components

67th Tactical Reconnaissance Group: February 25, 1951-.

6166th Air Weather Reconnaissance Flight: attached February 25, 1951-.

Stations

Komaki AB, Japan, February 25, 1951; Taegu AB, South Korea, March 21, 1951; Kimpo AB, South Korea, August 20, 1951-.

Commanders

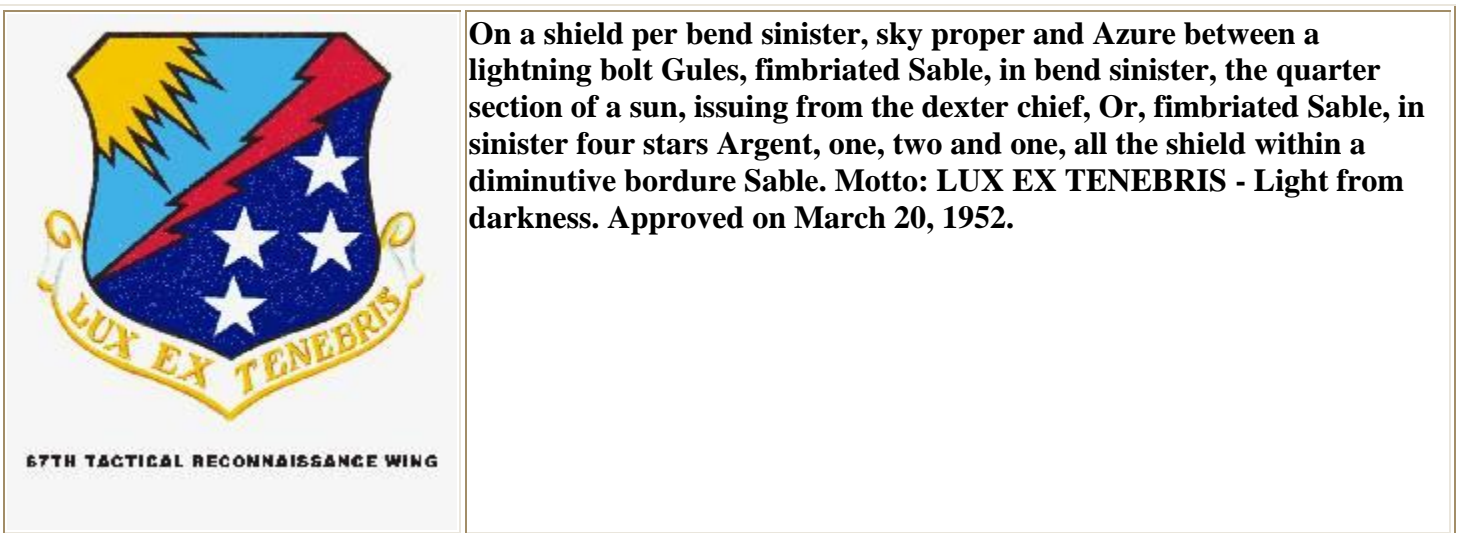
Col. Karl L. Polifka, February 25, 1951; Col. Bert M. Smiley, July 1, 1951; Col. Vincent Howard, July 4, 1951; Col. Edwin S. Chickering, October 31, 1951; Col. Russell A. Berg, August 13, 1952; Col. Charles F. Knierim, July 1953-.

Campaign Streamers

First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period February [25], 1951-March 31, 1953.



67th Tactical Reconnaissance Group

The 67th TRG activated on 25 February 1951, with resources from the inactivated 543rd Tactical Support Group. The 12th and 15th TRSs replaced and absorbed the resources of the 162nd and 8th Squadrons respectively. On a recurring basis, the group provided photographic coverage of all enemy airfields in Korea, as mandated by the FEAF policy of keeping enemy airfields unserviceable. It also flew large-scale front-line block coverage photography for the Eighth Army and provided surveillance for the interdiction of main enemy rail lines, roads and bridges. New technology permitted it to reconnoiter targets between fighter-bomber attacks, interpret wet negatives, and flash the results and flak locations to the Joint Operations Center in time to assist missions later in the day. During 1951, the 45th TRS routinely flew armed reconnaissance with RF-51s, leading fighter sweeps and directing fighter-bomber strikes. The 67th TRG earned three Distinguished Unit Citations (DUC). The first was for the period of the First UN Counteroffensive, February-April 1951, when the tactical squadrons provided intensive medium- to low-level surveillance of enemy territory as far north as the Yalu River. In conjunction with these missions, the 45th TRS conducted 1,886 fighter sweep sorties, attacking railways, pack animals, roads, vehicles, bridges and supply dumps. The second DUC recognized contributions to the UN Summer-Fall Offensive, July-November 1951, with the 12th TRS conducting night operations in RB-26s and the 15th TRS in RF-80s sharing daytime coverage with the 45th TRS. The aircrews flew around-the-clock photo surveillance of enemy activities and provided artillery and naval gun fire direction. The

group earned its third DUC during the war's final campaign. Flying continuous close surveillance of enemy activities, the group provided photographic intelligence, visual reconnaissance, and direction of fighter-bomber sweeps, to prevent the enemy an opportunity for a last-minute offensive before implementation of the armistice.

Combat Components

12th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron: February 25, 1951-.

15th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron: February 25, 1951-.

45th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron: February 25, 1951-.

Stations

Komaki AB, Japan, February 25, 1951; Taegu AB, South Korea, March 1951; Kimpo AB, South Korea, August 1951-.

Commanders

Col. Jacob W. Dixon, c. February 28, 1951; Lt. Col. Stone, c. August 29, 1951; Col. Charles C. Andrews, September 1951; Col. Robert R. Smith, May 1952; Lt. Col. George T. Prior, October 1952; Col. John G. Foster, by December 1952-.

Campaign Streamers

First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Three Distinguished Unit Citations for actions of February 25-April 21, 1951, July 9-November 27, 1951, and May 1-July 27, 1953.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for period December 1, 1952-April 30, 1953.

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period February [25], 1951-March 31, 1953.

31st Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, Photographic



On a black triangle, one point up, bordered white; a skull and cross-bones proper. Approved on September 10, 1934.

Under the direct operational control of Far East Air Forces and with electronic countermeasures as the primary mission, the 31st Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron (SRS) on June 29, 1950 began flying combat missions to provide FEAF Bomber Command with target and bomb-damage assessment photography. By July 12, it had moved to Japan in order to provide developed pictures as soon as possible. On October 18, foreshadowing the Chinese intervention, a 31st SRS RB-29 crew observed more than seventy-five enemy fighters parked at Antung Airfield, across the Yalu River. Effective November 15, the 31st SRS moved on paper to join the 5th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing at Beale AFB, California, to be replaced by the 91st SRS.

Stations

Kadena AB, Okinawa, -July 11, 1950; Yokota AB, Japan, c. July 12, 1950; Johnson AB, Japan, August 14-November 15, 1950.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period July 27-[November 15, 1950].

91st Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, Medium, Photographic



A mounted knight in armor chasing a devil. Gray armor, green shield with black patriarchal cross piped with white, yellow plume, brown spear, black horse, red devil with brown fork. Approved on February 12, 1924.

On November 15, 1950, the 91st SRS absorbed the personnel and resources of the 31st Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron in Japan. Using RB-29, RB-45, and RB-50 aircraft, it performed target and bomb-damage assessment photo and visual reconnaissance for FEAF Bomber Command, flew other special photographic missions, and conducted electronic "ferret" reconnaissance to determine frequency, location, and other characteristics of enemy ground radar. The squadron also performed shipping surveillance over the Sea of Japan near the Siberian coast and leaflet drops over North Korea. Beginning in late 1952, rotating aircrews of the Philippine-based 581st Air Resupply and Communications Wing augmented the 91st SRS in flying leaflet missions.

Stations

Johnson AB, Japan, November 15, 1950; Yokota AB, Japan, December 19, 1950-.

Campaign Streamers

CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation for actions May 1-July 27, 1953.

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period [November 15,] 1950-July 27, 1953.

512th Reconnaissance Squadron, Very Long Range, Weather



On a white disc, a black skull and cross bones surmounting a black three-bladed propeller, one blade to base, within border formed by red counter-clockwise, stylized rotation lines from tips of propeller blades. Approved on January 6, 1944.

Based in Japan at the beginning of the Korean conflict, the 512th RS, flying RB/WB-29s, performed daily strategic weather reconnaissance missions over the combat zone, conducted shipping surveillance and visual reconnaissance, and accomplished electronic countermeasures reconnaissance until February 20, 1951. In the early days of the conflict, the squadron also dropped leaflets. Initially unarmed, and later only lightly armed with two .50-caliber machine guns in the tail turret, the WB-29s flew daily missions over enemy-held territory. During June 27 through December 27, 1950, the squadron flew over 200 combat missions, making over 5,000 vitally needed weather observations. These missions were exceptionally hazardous because of extremely varying weather conditions and exposure to attack over enemy territory. One of the squadron's WB-29s served as an aerial command post and weather station, giving on-the-spot weather data and directions to incoming bombers on the first B-29 strike (July 13, 1950) against North Korean installations. On this and several later such missions, the WB-29 carried Maj. Gen. Emmett O'Donnell, Jr., USAF, Commander, FEAF Bomber Command. The 512th RS was replaced by the 56th SRS in February 1951.

Stations

Yokota AB, Japan, -August 11, 1950; Misawa AB, Japan, August 11, 1950-February 20, 1951.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive.

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for period June 27-December 27, 1950.

56th Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, Medium, Weather



56TH STRATEGIC RECONNAISSANCE SQ

On a disc black, edged red, three concentric circular lines, bisected by one vertical and one horizontal cross hair, representative of the face of a radar scope yellow; superimposed over all a caricatured buzzard gray, "with a Sherlock Holmes manner," face and vest front white, beak and feet yellow, outline and details black, wearing an aviator's helmet brown; the buzzard, smoking a calabash pipe brown, from which two puffs of smoke white are emitting, and holding in his right hand a dropsonde instrument; in his left hand a magnifying glass white, through which he examines a caricatured representation of a squall-line yellow, in the lower right of the disc. Approved on September 26, 1952.

Activated on February 21, 1951, the 56th SRS absorbed the personnel and resources of the 512th RS. Until early June 1952, the squadron flew almost daily strategic weather reconnaissance missions over the combat zone. Through the end of the conflict, the squadron conducted shipping surveillance and flew two reconnaissance tracks to observe and report weather conditions in the area east of the Asian land mass, between Formosa and USSR's Kamchatka Peninsula.

Stations

Misawa AB, Japan, February 21, 1951; Yokota AB, Japan, September 14, 1951-.

Campaign Streamers

First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

None.

Rescue

3rd Air Rescue Group

The 3rd Rescue (later, Air Rescue) Squadron, following the North Korean invasion, deployed detachments to Korea to perform search and rescue. Initially the squadron's primary mission involved intercepting and escorting distressed aircraft over the land areas of Japan and its adjacent seas. Combat operations and a changing tactical situation expanded the mission to include the rescue of stranded personnel behind enemy lines and aeromedical helicopter evacuation. The 3rd ARS was regularly augmented with personnel from the 2nd ARS (later redesignated 2nd Air Rescue Group) based in the Philippines. The aircraft available at the start of the Korean War forced the 3rd ARS to confine air rescue flights to short range rescue. These included the L-5, a highly maneuverable liaison aircraft used in helicopter escort, supply drops, and medical evacuation from small airfields; Sikorsky H-5 helicopters

capable of operating in mountainous and rice paddy terrain; the obsolescent SB-17, a search and rescue version of the Flying Fortress bomber; and the SC-47 transport, which aided in searches and hauled critically needed supplies to outlying units. The squadron soon added, while phasing out the SB-17, the SB-29 and the amphibious SA-16. During the UN assault on Pyongyang in October 1950, it evacuated forty-seven injured paratroopers from drop zones at Suncheon and Sukchon. In March 1951, the squadron tested the new model H-19 helicopter, which proved invaluable in multiple evacuations and greatly extended the operational range for rotary-wing rescues. A significant innovation in the use of the helicopter was medical evacuation. For critically wounded soldiers at front-line aid stations, helicopter medical evacuations reduced a possibly fatal ten- to fourteen-hour road trip to a one-hour flight to a rear Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) unit. In December 1951, H-5s participated in a highly successful experiment by flying wounded soldiers directly from front-line aid stations to a hospital ship off the Korean coast. In November 1952, the 3rd elevated to group level, and squadrons replaced the detachments. From June 1950 to the end of hostilities in July 1953, it rescued almost 10,000 UN personnel, almost 1,000 from behind enemy lines, and over 200 from the water. For numerous commendable and heroic rescues, the 3rd ARS/ARG earned three Distinguished Unit Citations.

Combat Components

Flight A (Johnson AB, Japan): -November 14, 1952.

Flight B (Yokota/Misawa/Yokota/Komaki, Japan): -November 14, 1952.

Flight C (Misawa AB, Japan): -November 14, 1952.

Flight D (Ashiya AB, Japan): -November 14, 1952.

Det F/Det 1 (Seoul/Taegu/Yongdong-po/Seoul, South Korea): c. September 24, 1950-March 1, 1953.

36th Air Rescue Squadron: November 14, 1952-.

37th Air Rescue Squadron: November 14, 1952-.

38th Air Rescue Squadron: November 14, 1952-.

39th Air Rescue Squadron: November 14, 1952-.

2157th Air Rescue Squadron: March 1, 1953-.

Stations

Johnson AB, Japan, duration.

Commanders

Lt. Col. David J. Nolan, -July 25, 1950; Maj. Harvey E. Beedy, July 25, 1950; Maj. Theodore P. Tatum, August 16, 1950; Col. Klair E. Back, August 28, 1950; Lt. Col. Robert B. Keck, June 3, 1953; Col. Tracy J. Peterson, July 15, 1953-.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Three Distinguished Unit Citations for actions June 25-December 25, 1950; April 22-July 8, 1951; and May 1-July 27, 1953.

Two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations for the periods June 25, 1950-June 30, 1951 and July 1, 1951-March 31, 1953.

Tactical Control

502nd Tactical Control Group



Argent, a disk Sable divided into five concentric rings and eight segments by division lines Vert, in dexter chief on and over the disk an aircraft Gules fimbriated of the first, in base on the disk a radar screen of the like and second mounted on a mountain White and of the third, a lightning flash pointed at both ends Or outlined in Black forming an increscent on and over the edge of the disk. Submitted for approval in February 1953 and approved on August 25, 1953.

At the beginning of the Korean War, the U. S. Air Force's only tactical control group was the 502nd at Pope AFB, NC. To meet the emergency in the theater, the Fifth Air Force organized the 6132nd Tactical Air Control Squadron (later, Group), which established a full-scale Tactical Air Control Center (TACC) at Taegu, South Korea, on July 23, 1950. Less than three months later, the 502nd moved to Korea and in October 1950, replaced the 6132nd in the mission of directing tactical air operations in Korea. Through its 605th Tactical Control Squadron, the group operated the TACC and worked with the U. S. Army in a Joint Operations Center (JOC). Other squadrons operated tactical air direction centers (TADC), which used stationary and mobile radar and communications equipment to guide aircraft on close air support missions. The group also deployed tactical air control parties (TACP), which accompanied ground units to communicate with USAF strike aircraft. The TACPs followed advancing UN troops into North Korea in October and November 1950, but the Chinese Communist offensive soon overran several of them. The 502nd headquarters and the TACC, which operated at Seoul in November and part of December, were forced to return to Taegu at the end of the year. During the spring and summer of 1951, the 502nd directed night bombing of enemy targets, including troop concentrations, supply dumps, and motor convoys. As UN ground forces drove the enemy back across the 38th parallel, the group, TACC, and JOC returned to Seoul in June. In October, the 502nd set up a communications station 100 miles behind enemy lines on Cho-do (Cho Island), three miles off the North Korean coast. From this location the detachment guided UN fighters against enemy airplanes in MiG Alley, bombers against strategic targets along the Yalu River, and search and rescue aircraft toward survivors who had ditched at sea. On June 6, 1952, the 502nd was instrumental in the destruction of nine MiG-15 aircraft through highly effective control procedures to maneuver F-86 Sabres into attack positions. The following month, the 502nd guided warplanes in devastating attacks on enemy troop formations, which blunted communist offensives until the Korean truce in July 1953.

Mission Components

605th Tactical Control Squadron: duration.

606th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron: duration.

607th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron: duration.

608th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron: November 2, 1951-.

6132d Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron: October 9, 1950-November 2, 1951.

1st Shoran Beacon Unit (later, Squadron): attached September 27-December 1, 1950 and September 6, 1952-.

Stations

6132nd: Taegu, South Korea, July 23, 1950; Pohang, South Korea, July 28, 1950; Pusan, South Korea, July 30, 1950; Taegu, South Korea, September 24-October 10, 1950.

502nd: Pusan, South Korea, September 24, 1950; Taegu, South Korea, October 3, 1950; Seoul, South Korea, October 11, 1950; Taegu, South Korea, December 20, 1950; Seoul, South Korea, June 15, 1951-.

Commanders

6132nd: Unknown.

502nd: Col. William P. McBride, -February 18, 1951; Col. Henry Riera, February 18, 1951; Col. Francis R. Delaney, May 3, 1952; Col. Ernest J. White, Jr., July 25, 1952; Col. Hugh C. Moore, June 15, 1953-.

Campaign Streamers

6132nd: UN Defensive; UN Offensive.

502nd: UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Two Distinguished Unit Citations for actions November 3, 1950-April 21, 1951 and May 1-November 30, 1952.

Three Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations for periods September 16, 1950-January 25, 1951, January 25, 1951-March 31, 1953, and October 1, 1952-July 27, 1953.

6147th Tactical Control Group



Azure, a caricatured mosquito wings bendwise Or, cap, gloves, wing-tips and tail Gules, head phone and tail bandage Argent, earpiece and eyes Sable and of the fourth; in chief three aircraft, one and two bend sinisterwise of the last, all within a diminished bordure of the second. Submitted for approval in early 1953 and approved on September 23, 1953.

The 6147th Tactical Control Group originated at Taejon, South Korea, within the "operations section" of the Joint Operations Center - three pilots and two aircraft testing the airborne forward air controller concept. On July 9, 1950, two airborne controllers flew their first mission in L-17s borrowed from the

USA 24th Infantry Division. Despite attacks from enemy aircraft, each controlled about ten flights of F-80s. The next day, controllers testing T-6s spotted and directed the destruction of seventeen enemy tanks. The following day the small group of controllers left for Taegu to organize as a squadron. The 6147th Tactical Control Squadron, Airborne, activated effective August 1 to provide target spotting information to tactical aircraft in flight. After the UN landings at Inchon in late September, the squadron (nicknamed "Mosquitoes"), directed air strikes against retreating enemy troops ahead of the advancing UN lines and operated as the eyes of UN ground forces. Squadron controllers also conducted deep penetrations into enemy country, search and rescue, night direction for B-26s, parachute-drop mission coordination, and artillery adjustment. As the enemy fled, the squadron moved to Kimpo AB, where the pilots were within minutes of their working areas but also within range of enemy snipers on takeoffs and landings. By late October, the squadron had moved to Pyongyang but in December retreated to Taegu, where it returned to controlling close air support missions. In January 1951, the 6147th TCS gained a C-47 that provided an airborne radio relay between the Joint Operations Center and controllers, enabling Mosquitoes to adapt to the changing combat situation. In April 1951, the 6147th elevated to group-level and organized three squadrons, two of which provided airborne controllers while the third provided the U.S Army with ground tactical air control parties. A year later, the group moved to Chunchon, from where it directed interdiction missions. In the closing days of the war, it assisted allied aircraft in crushing a last-minute enemy offensive in the vicinity of the Kumsong River. The 6147th TCG earned three Distinguished Unit Citations during the war.

Combat Components

942nd Forward Air Control Squadron: attached June 20, 1953-.

6148th Tactical Control Squadron: April 25, 1951-.

6149th Tactical Control Squadron: April 25, 1951-.

6150th Tactical Control Squadron: April 25, 1951-June 20, 1953.

Stations

Taegu AB, South Korea, August 1, 1950; Kimpo AB, South Korea October 5, 1950; Seoul Afd, South Korea, October 18, 1950; Pyongyang East Adrm, North Korea, October 28, 1950; Taegu AB, South Korea, late November 1950; Pyongtaek Adrm, South Korea, March 12, 1951; Chunchon, South Korea, April 18, 1952-.

Commanders

Lt. Col. Merrill M. Carlton, August 1, 1950; Col. Timothy F. O'Keefe, March 28, 1951; Col. John C. Watson, c. January 1952; Col. Paul Fojtik, January 10, 1953-.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Three Distinguished Unit Citations for actions July 9-November 25, 1950, July 9-November 27, 1951, and December 1, 1952-April 30, 1953.

Two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations for the periods July 9-November 25, 1950 and October 1, 1952-April 30, 1953.

Temporary Tactical Support Wings in Korea

In July 1950 Allied planners did not foresee that the Korean campaign would be of long duration. Consequently, the Fifth Air Force modified its command structure only to meet immediate needs. When the time came to move tactical air units to Korean airfields, Fifth Air Force did not deploy its permanent wings because they were heavily committed to the air defense of Japan. Instead, it utilized temporary air base squadrons and air base units to support tactical units in Korea. By August, the situation called for larger organizations with greater allotments of personnel and equipment, and Fifth Air Force set up five temporary tactical support wings to support the combat groups. Formed to assist in the projection of force to Korea, these temporary wings provided facilities, administration, services, and operational control for assigned and attached combat units. The task was formidable, for the installations the wings controlled were usually "bare base" operations with no amenities and only marginally serviceable airfields. Logistically, poor roads and rail lines, limited port facilities, and overextended airlift hampered the wings. Organizationally, they were without regular status, such as authorization for personnel and equipment or for promotions. Even with these handicaps and hardships, the tactical support wings performed valiantly. They worked hard to make combat airfields operable and to provide the support and control combat units needed. They struggled to keep pace with the dynamically changing battle lines, opening new bases and forward operating locations as needed. Their success bought time for the Fifth Air Force to reorganize, and on December 1, 1950, regular wings replaced them.

6002nd Tactical Support Wing

This wing organized effective August 1, 1950, at Taegu AB, to support the 18th Fighter-Bomber Group. Forced to withdraw with its tactical units to Ashiya AB, Japan, on August 8, it returned to Korea on September 5 and advanced to Pyongyang on November 22. It retreated to Suwon AB on November 30, where it was replaced on December 1, 1950, by the 18th Fighter-Bomber Wing.

Commanders

Col. Curtis R. Low, August 1-December 1, 1950.

6131st Tactical Support Wing

Organized effective August 8, 1950, at Pohang, to support the 8th Fighter-Bomber Group, the wing moved to Suwon on October 7 and to Kimpo on October 28. On November 25, it advanced to Pyongyang, where it was replaced by the 8th Fighter-Bomber Wing effective December 1, 1950.

Commanders

Col. Robert W. Whitty, August 8, 1950; Col. Charles W. Stark, c. August 16-December 1, 1950.

6133rd Tactical Support Wing

This wing organized August 12, 1950 at Iwakuni AB, Japan, to support the 3rd Bombardment Group and was replaced by the 3rd Bombardment Wing on December 1.

Commanders

Col. Virgil L. Zoller, August-December 1, 1950.

6149th Tactical Support Wing

Organized September 5, 1950 at Taegu AB to support the 49th Fighter-Bomber Group, this wing was replaced by the 49th Fighter-Bomber Wing effective December 1.

Commanders

Col. Aaron W. Tyer, September 5-December 1, 1950.

6150th Tactical Support Wing

Organized September 5, 1950 at Tsuiki AB, Japan, to support the 35th Fighter-Interceptor Group, the wing moved to Pohang on October 5 and to Yonpo on November 27, where it was replaced by the 35th Fighter-Interceptor Wing on December 1.

Commanders

Col. Frederic C. Gray, Jr., September 5-December 1, 1950.

Troop Carrier

1st Troop Carrier Group (Provisional)

1st TCG was organized at Ashiya AB, Japan on 26 August 1950 under operational control of FEAF through the 1st Troop Carrier Task Force (Provisional). The 1st TCG and its provisional squadrons were based at Tachikawa and supported by the 374th TCW. Personnel from units of Thirteenth and Twentieth Air Forces and the Far East Materiel Command manned the 1st TCG. Using C-46s and briefly C-47s, the group began airlifting freight and passengers between Japan and Korea on September 2, 1950. The group transported a U.S. Marine unit to Pyongyang on November 25 and 26 then flew emergency air evacuations from Sinanju and other forward bases as the Chinese advanced. Leaving Kimpo AB on January 4, the group inactivated effective January 25, with many of its personnel transferring to the 86th TCS of the 437th TCG. In its five months of operation, the group carried over 28,000 passengers, 7,000 air evacuees, and almost 12,000 tons of cargo.

Combat Components

46th Troop Carrier Squadron (P): August 26-October 6, 1950.

47th Troop Carrier Squadron (P): August 26, 1950-January 25, 1951.

48th Troop Carrier Squadron (P): August 26, 1950-January 10, 1951.

Stations

Tachikawa AB, Japan, August 26, 1950-January 25, 1951.

Commanders

Col. Cecil H. Childre, August 1950; Lt. Col. Edward H. Nigro, October 21, 1950-January 1951.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention.

Decorations

None.

61st Troop Carrier Group, Heavy



Barry of six, Or and Azure, a pale nebuly, all counterchanged. Approved on August 20, 1951.

From the last week of July until early December 1950, the 61st TCG, equipped with C-54 Skymasters, flew the northern route from McChord AFB, Washington, to Japan, providing airlift of personnel and supplies for UN forces. Flying a total of 253 Pacific trips, it airlifted 368 tons of cargo and transported 5,117 passengers until alerted for movement to Japan. On December 13, three days after the 61st TCG arrived at Ashiya, the squadrons flew their first combat missions, carrying ammunition, supplies and equipment to besieged UN forces fighting their way out of the Hungnam perimeter and returning wounded personnel and evacuees to South Korea and Japan. The 61st TCG often operated from airstrips that were too primitive for larger transports. In November 1952, the U.S. Air Force began to phase C-54s out of the Korean airlift. The 61st had accounted for movement of over 67, 257 air evacuees, 615,195 passengers and 152,500 tons of cargo before returning to the United States on 18 November.

Combat Components

4th Troop Carrier Squadron: attached December 17, 1950-July 25, 1951.

14th Troop Carrier Squadron: -c. December 5 and March 26-c. November 15, 1952.

15th Troop Carrier Squadron: duration.

53rd Troop Carrier Squadron: duration except detached March 26-September 14, 1952.

Stations

McChord AFB, WA, - December 5, 1950; Ashiya AB, Japan, December 10, 1950; Tachikawa AB, Japan, March 26-November 1952.

Commanders

Col. Frank Norwood, -February 14, 1952; Lt. Col. Hal E. Ercanbrack, Jr., February 14, 1952-.

Campaign Streamers

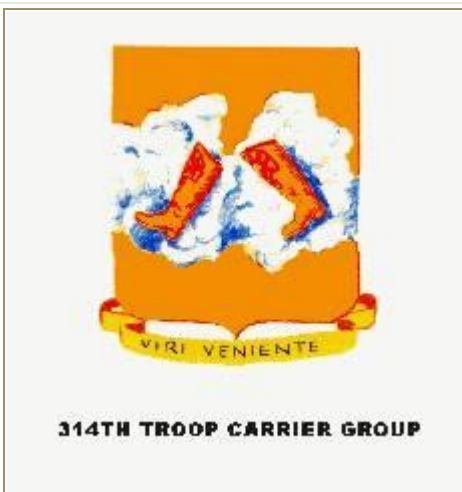
CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952.

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation for period December 13, 1950-April 21, 1951.

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period July 1, 1951-November 15, 1952.

314th Troop Carrier Group, Medium



Or, on clouds in fess, Azure, two boots passant of the field, ornamented, Gules. Motto: VIRI VENIENTE - Men Will Come. Approved on August 17, 1942.

Detached from its parent wing, the 314th TCG with its newly modified C-119 Flying Boxcars, moved from Sewart AFB, Tennessee to arrive at Ashiya AB, Japan in late August 1950. From September through November 1950, it dropped ammunition and rations to UN frontline troops as they engaged the North Korean forces. It airlifted the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team to Kimpo AB. On October 20, the 314th TCG furnished the bulk of the aircraft in the airborne phase of the UN assault north of Pyongyang. It received a Distinguished Unit Citation for actions from November 28 through December 10, 1950. During this period the Chinese Communist Army encircled regiments of the 1st U.S. Marine and USA 7th Infantry Divisions near the Changjin Reservoir. The 314th TCG airdropped urgently needed ammunition, gasoline and rations, as well as an eight-span M-2 treadway bridge, allowing the besieged UN forces to extricate themselves along with their equipment. The group maintained an almost constant shuttle to front line troops in Korea, delivering supplies, ammunition, and fuel and, at times,

moving and air-dropping troops. It continued to transport personnel and supplies from Japan to Korea for the rest of the war and evacuated UN prisoners of war when they were freed.

Combat Components

37th Troop Carrier Squadron: attached August 21, 1950-May 8, 1952.

50th Troop Carrier Squadron: duration.

53rd Troop Carrier Squadron: attached April 14-c. June 1952.

61st Troop Carrier Squadron: duration.

62nd Troop Carrier Squadron: duration.

Stations

Ashiya AB, Japan, September 7, 1950-.

Commanders

Col. Richard W. Henderson, -August 27, 1951; Col. William H. DeLacey, August 27, 1951; Col. David E. Daniel, September 28, 1951; Lt. Col. Harold L. Sommers, May 1, 1952-.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive 1951; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation for actions November 28-December 10, 1950.

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period July 1, 1951-July 27, 1953.

315th Troop Carrier Wing, Medium

The 315th TCW activated on June 10, 1952 at Brady AB, Japan, replacing the 437th TCW, which returned to Reserve status. Over the next year, the C-46-equipped 315th TCW transported between Japan and Korea almost 55,500,000 pounds of cargo, along with over 656,000 passengers, paratroopers, and medical evacuees. It also air-dropped gasoline bombs, ammunition, propaganda leaflets, spare engines, flares, rations, fresh vegetables, and other items. It moreover sprayed South Korean cities and installations to fight insect-borne diseases. In all, the 315th TCW flew over one million hours in combat support missions during the Korean War.

Combat Components

315th Troop Carrier Group: June 10, 1952-.

Stations

Brady AB, Japan, June 10, 1952-.

Commanders

Col. Kenneth W. Northhammer, June 10, 1952; Col. Robert O. Good, July 26, 1953-.

Service Streamers

Korean Theater.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period [June 10, 1952]- July 27, 1953.



Azure, a winged packing box bend sinisterwise Or. Motto: ADVENIAM - I Will Arrive. Approved for the 315th Group on May 22, 1942; never formally approved for the Wing.

315th Troop Carrier Group, Medium

The 315th TCG inherited C-46 Commando aircraft from the 437th TCG. Following activation on June 10, 1952, it flew troop and cargo airlift and airdrop, leaflet drops, spray missions, air evacuation, search and rescue, and other aerial missions between Japan and Korea. It transported U.S. Army units during exercises in Japan in 1952 and 1953 and airlifted the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team and other XVI Corps units to Korea in a series of major combat support operations in June and July 1953. Beginning in March 1953, when C-119s in the theater were grounded by propeller malfunctions, the C-46s of the 315th TCG moved all personnel between Korea and southern Japan until the end of the war.

Combat Components

19th Troop Carrier Squadron: June 10, 1952-.

34th Troop Carrier Squadron: June 10, 1952-.

43rd Troop Carrier Squadron: June 10, 1952-.

344th Troop Carrier Squadron: June 10-December 14, 1952.

Stations

Brady AB, Japan, June 10, 1952-.

Commanders

Lt. Col. Jack L. Crawford, Jr., June 10, 1952; Lt. Col. Gene I. Martin, December 5, 1952-.

Campaign Streamers

Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period [June 10, 1952]- July 27, 1953.

374th Troop Carrier Wing, Heavy

In June 1950, the 374th TCW was the only air transport wing assigned to Fifth Air Force. By early September 1950, it was attached to the 1st Troop Carrier Task Force (Provisional), then on September 10 to the FEAF Combat Cargo Command (Provisional). It was reassigned to the 315th Air Division (Combat Cargo) from January 1951 through the end of the war. The Wing's assigned and attached components flew a variety of aircraft, including C-54s, C-46s, C-47s, C-119s, and C-124s, performing combat airlift, airdrops, and aeromedical evacuation in Korea throughout the war.

Combat Components

1st Troop Carrier Group, Provisional: attached August 26, 1950-January 10, 1951.

374th Troop Carrier Group: duration.

21st Troop Carrier Squadron: attached June 29, 1951-March 28, 1952.

47th Troop Carrier Squadron, Provisional: attached January 10-26, 1951.

6142nd Air Transport Unit: attached August 1-October 1, 1950.

6143rd Air Transport Unit: attached July 26-October 1, 1950.

6144th Air Transport Unit: attached July 26-October 1, 1950.

Stations

Tachikawa AB, Japan, duration.

Commanders

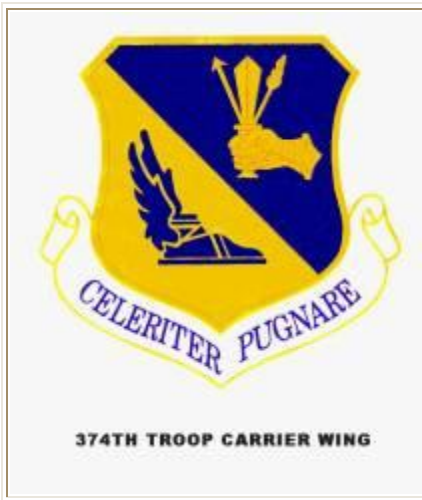
Col. Troy W. Crawford, -September 1951; Col. Charles W. Howe, September 1951; Col. James W. Chapman, Jr., August 9, 1952-.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period July 1, 1951-July 27, 1953.



Per bend Azure and Or, in chief a hand couped in armour, holding a dagger, point upward, issuing from its handle an arrow and a wheat stalk Or, in base a winged foot Azure, all within a diminished bordure of the second. Motto: CELERITER PUGNARE - Swiftly to fight. Approved for 374th Group on July 3, 1951 and for 374th Wing on December 20, 1951.

374th Troop Carrier Group, Heavy

When the Korean War began in June 1950, the 374th TCG controlled the 6th and 22nd Squadrons based in Japan and equipped with C-54s and the 21st Squadron based in the Philippines and equipped with C-47s and C-54s. Within twelve hours of the North Korean attack, the group began transporting cargo to Korea and evacuating personnel on return trips. The 374th TCG moved personnel, equipment, ammunitions, gasoline, rockets, rations, water, medical items, barbed wire, guns, and other materials from Japan to Suwon and Pusan, South Korea, to supply the U.S. Army. The 21st TCS moved to Japan on June 29 to come under control of FEAF Combat Cargo Command. Between mid-September and mid-December 1950, the group operated mostly from Ashiya AB, Japan, then from October 23 to November 12, it operated from bases in Korea, landing war essentials and other cargo at various small forward airstrips near UN fighting forces. A C-47-equipped squadron of the Royal Thailand Air Force operated with the 374th TCG during this period. After moving back to Tachikawa AB, Japan in mid-December, the group continued to airlift supplies and personnel in support of UN action in Korea. The 6th and 22nd TCSs transitioned from C-54s to C-124s in mid-1952. In Operation LITTLE SWITCH, the 374th transported the first group of repatriated prisoners of war from Korea to Japan in April 1953, and after the ceasefire in Operation BIG SWITCH it airlifted UN personnel who had been the enemy's prisoners.

Combat Components

4th Troop Carrier Squadron: attached December 2-17, 1950 and July 25-November 16, 1951.

6th Troop Carrier Squadron: duration.

14th Troop Carrier Squadron: attached November 16, 1951-March 26, 1952; and November 15-30, 1952.

21st Troop Carrier Squadron: duration except detached c. September 10, 1950-June 25, 1951 and June 29, 1951-November 30, 1952.

22nd Troop Carrier Squadron: duration.

344th Troop Carrier Squadron: attached December 14, 1952-.

Stations

Tachikawa AB, Japan, duration except deployed at Ashiya AB, Japan, c. September 15-December 17, 1950.

Commanders

Lt. Col. Benjamin M. Tarver, Jr., -July 22, 1950; Col. Herbert A. Bott, July 22, 1950; Col. Charles W. Howe, July 1951; Col. Edward H. Nigro, September 1951; Lt. Col. James F. Hogan, April 20, 1952; Col. Edward H. Nigro, August 26, 1952; Lt. Col. Frederick C. Johnson, November 11, 1952; Lt. Col. Harold P. Dixon, December 19, 1952; Lt. Col. Frederick C. Johnson, c. January 1953; Col. Francis W. Williams, April 24, 1953-.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation for actions June 27-September 15, 1950.
Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period July 1, 1951-July 27, 1953.

403rd Troop Carrier Wing, Medium

The personnel of the Reserve 403rd Troop Carrier Wing moved from Oregon to Japan in April 1952. At Ashiya AB, in addition to its 403rd TCG, the wing gained operational control of the 314th TCG with its three assigned squadrons as well as two separate squadrons. The 314th TCG flew C-119 Flying Boxcars, and the attached squadrons flew C/VC-47s and C-54s. The 403rd TRW supported the Far East Command and UN forces. It inactivated on January 1, 1953, returning to Reserve status.

Combat Components

314th Troop Carrier Group: attached April 14-December 31, 1952.

403rd Troop Carrier Group: -January 1, 1953.

21st Troop Carrier Squadron: attached April 14-c. September 12, 1952 and further attached to the 314th Troop Carrier Group, April 14-c. June 1952.

6461st Troop Carrier Squadron: attached December 1-31, 1952.

Stations

Ashiya AB, Japan, April 14, 1952-January 1, 1953.

Commanders

Col. Philip H. Best, April 14, 1952; Col. Maurice F. Casey, Jr., May 15, 1952-January 1, 1953.

Service Streamers

Korean Theater.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period [April 14, 1952]-[January 1,] 1953.



Azure, two hands in bend sinister proper, the upper a dexter hand issuing from a cloud Argent and holding an olive branch of the second, a lightning flash Or and a sword Sable, the lower sinister hand in profile issuing from a fan indented of seven sections (Blue, White, Orange, Black, White, Yellow, and Red), which in turn issue from base, above the cloud four mullets of four points of the third, all within a diminished bordure of the last. Motto: SPECTATE AD CAELUM - Look to the Skies. Approved on January 9, 1953.

403rd Troop Carrier Group, Medium

The 403rd TCG moved to Ashiya AB, Japan, in April 1952 without aircraft and for the next month trained to fly newly acquired C-119s. From then until the end of 1952, it dropped paratroops and supplies, transported personnel and equipment, and evacuated casualties in support of the Far East Command and UN forces. The group flew over 6,300 flights; dropped almost 10,000 personnel, over 18,000 tons of cargo, and 380 tons of supplies; and airlifted almost 14,000 medical patients. It returned to Reserve status on January 1, 1953.

Combat Components

63rd Troop Carrier Squadron: -January 1, 1953.

64th Troop Carrier Squadron: -January 1, 1953.

65th Troop Carrier Squadron: -January 1, 1953.

Stations

Ashiya AB, Japan, April 14, 1952-January 1, 1953.

Commanders

Lt. Col. Henry C. Althaus, -April 22, 1952; Maj. Wallace C. Forsythe, April 22, 1952; Lt. Col. Ernest W. Burton, August 1952-January 1, 1953.

Campaign Streamers

Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period [April 14, 1952]-[January 1,] 1953.

437th Troop Carrier Wing, Medium

The 437th TCW, the first Reserve wing called to active duty in the Korean War, moved from the United States to Japan in three echelons in late October and early November 1950. It absorbed most of the personnel and equipment of the provisional 1st TCG in January 1951. In addition to its combat support missions, the wing assumed responsibility for most scheduled courier flights in Japan and Korea. During seven months of Korean service, the 437th TCW carried almost 66,000 tons of cargo, 6,500 patients, and 240,000 passengers. Inactivated on June 10, 1952, it returned to Reserve status.

Combat Components

437th Troop Carrier Group: -June 10, 1952.

Stations

Brady Field, Japan, November 8, 1950-June 10, 1952.

Commanders

Brig.Gen. John P. Henebry, -January 26, 1951; Col. John W. Lacey, January 26, 1951; Col. John R. Roche, February 26, 1951; Col. Kenneth W. Northamer, May-June 10, 1952.

Campaign Streamers

CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period July 1, 1951-[June 10, 1952].

437th Troop Carrier Group, Medium

The 437th TCG's C-46 aircraft began arriving in Japan in early November 1950. Almost immediately the group, in three intensive days, helped to deliver combat materiel to UN ground forces at Pyongyang while evacuating personnel and equipment from forward bases in North Korea. During December, the C-46s continued to deliver combat materiel to the frontline and evacuate ground forces from Sinanju, Pyongyang, and Yonpo, North Korea and from Seoul and Suwon, South Korea. In a five-day period in December, it airlifted almost 2,500 patients from Korea to Japan. When the UN forces regained the initiative in early 1951, the 437th TCG began flying airdrop missions to supply Eighth Army frontline troops. In March, it air-dropped the 187th Regimental Combat Team and two Ranger companies, along with over fifteen tons of ammunition, food, and signal equipment at Munsan-ni. From June to October 1951 and again in the spring of 1952, the 437th TCG flew insecticide spraying missions to hold down disease in South Korea.

Combat Components

83rd Troop Carrier Squadron: -June 10, 1952.
84th Troop Carrier Squadron: -June 10, 1952.
85th Troop Carrier Squadron: -June 10, 1952.
86th Troop Carrier Squadron: January 26, 1951-June 10, 1952.

Stations

Brady AB, Japan, November 8, 1950-June 10, 1952.

Commanders

Col. John R. Roche, -January 1951; Lt. Col. Edward H. Nigro, January 1951; Lt. Col. George W. Sutcliffe, March 5, 1951; Lt. Col. Jack L. Crawford, Jr., September 5, 1951-June 10, 1952.

Campaign Streamers

CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952.

Decorations

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period July 1, 1951-[June 10, 1952].

483rd Troop Carrier Wing, Medium

Activated on January 1, 1953 to replace the 403rd TCW, 483rd TCW controlled the 314th TCG as well as its own 483rd TCG. It assumed responsibility for C-119 troop carrier and air transport operations in a large area of the Far East. Using virtually every pilot and aircraft of both groups, it moved approximately 4,000 paratroopers and their equipment from southern Japan to Korea in June-early July 1953.

Combat Components

314th Troop Carrier Group: attached January 1, 1953-.
483rd Troop Carrier Group: January 1, 1953-.
6461st Troop Carrier Squadron: January 1, 1953-.

Stations

Ashiya AB, Japan, January 1, 1953-.

Commanders

Col. Maurice F. Casey, Jr., January 1, 1953-.

Campaign Streamers

Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for period May 6, 1953-September 10, 1954 partly for transporting supplies to UN forces in Korea to the end of the conflict.

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period [January 1,]- July 27, 1953.

483rd Troop Carrier Group, Medium

The 483rd TCG transported personnel and supplies by C-119 s from Japan to Korea. During the final months of the conflict, it alternated with the 314th TCG to airdrop supplies to a detachment of the 502nd Tactical Control Group, located on a five thousand-foot mountain near Chongmong-ni. In late June 1953, the 483rd TCG airlifted reinforcements and cargo to areas behind the western half of the UN line.

Combat Components

815th Troop Carrier Squadron: January 1, 1953-.

816th Troop Carrier Squadron: January 1, 1953-.

817th Troop Carrier Squadron: January 1, 1953-.

Stations

Ashiya AB, Japan, January 1, 1953-.

Commanders

Lt. Col. Ernest W. Burton, January 1, 1953; Col. George M. Foster, March 1, 1953-.

Campaign Streamers

Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for period May 6, 1953-September 10, 1954, partly for transporting supplies to UN forces in Korea until the end of the conflict.

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period [January 1]- July 27, 1953.

Other Organizations

1st Shoran Beacon Squadron

In August 1950 the 1st Shoran Beacon Unit moved to Japan from the United States, and by October 1 had moved to South Korea. It broadcast short range navigation (Shoran) signals from ground sites to guide 3rd Bombardment Group B-26s and 162nd Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron RB-26s on night missions over targets in Korea. The first two sites in South Korea were too far away from the bomb line to be effective. In November the unit set up two new sites at Wonsan and Pyongyang in North Korea, but mountains around the Wonsan site interfered with its signals, and a Communist Chinese offensive soon forced evacuation of both sites. Two new beacon sites set up in South Korea in December demonstrated the inadequacy of the unit's equipment. That and the continued advance of enemy troops forced the 1st

Shoran Beacon Unit to move temporarily back to Japan at the end of the year, where it recalibrated and refurbished its equipment. In early 1951, it returned to South Korea and set up Shoran beacon sites at several locations, some of which it had to defend periodically against enemy guerilla assaults. During the year, the unit established four sites, two on islands off the coast of Korea and two on mountain tops just south of the 38th parallel. It also maintained other sites in Japan and Okinawa to train aircrews in Shoran operations. Redesignated the 1st Shoran Beacon Squadron in February 1952, the unit provided electronic signals that guided 3rd Bombardment Group B-26 bombardment missions until the armistice in mid-1953.

Stations

Kimpo AB, South Korea, October 1, 1950; Iwakuni AB, Japan, December 19, 1950; Taegu AB, South Korea, February 20, 1951; Seoul, South Korea, June 16, 1951; Pyongyang Airdrome, South Korea, April 24, 1953-.

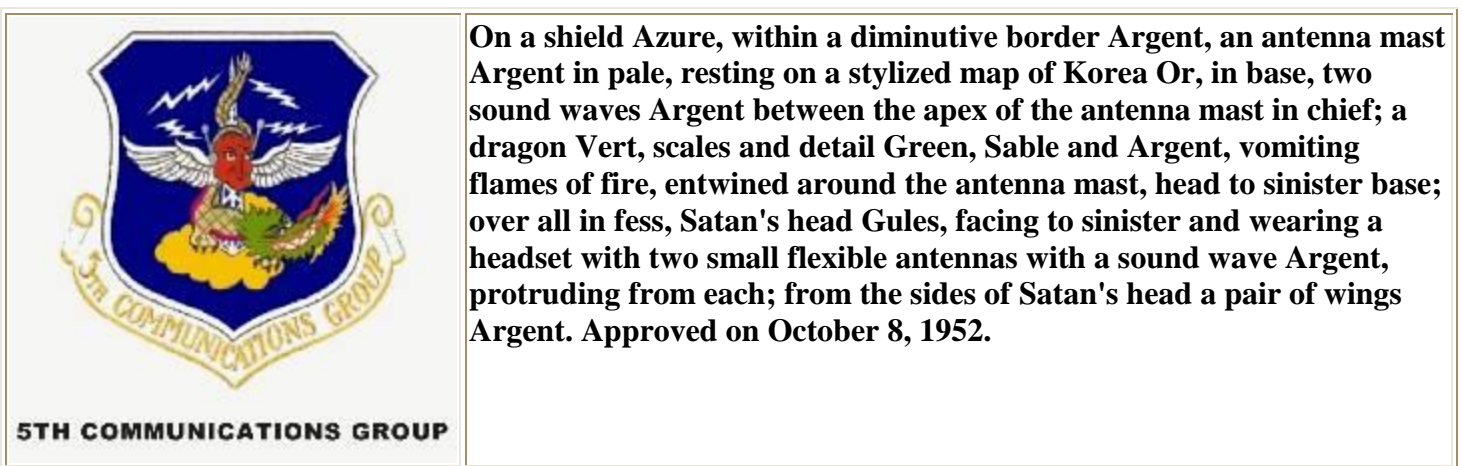
Campaigns

UN Offensive; CCF Intervention, First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Two Distinguished Unit Citations for actions January 25-April 21, 1951 and May 1-November 30, 1952. Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period January 24-April 21, 1951.

5th Communications Group



The 5th Communications Group activated on November 25, 1951 in Seoul, South Korea, replacing the 934th Signal Battalion, which had carried out communications functions since October 1950. Assigned directly to Fifth Air Force, the 5th Communications Group supported Far East Air Forces agencies in Korea by installing, operating, and maintaining radio, telephone, and teletype communications networks linking U. S. Air Force and other military installations in Korea with bases in Japan. Comprised of the 1st Radio Squadron, 1st Telephone and Carrier Squadron, 2nd and 7th Communications Squadrons (Operations), and the 2d Radio Relay Squadron, the group also operated communications centers serving Fifth Air Force Headquarters at Seoul and Taegu until well after hostilities ceased.

Stations

Seoul, South Korea, November 25, 1951-.

Commanders

Col. John M. Maersch, November 25, 1951; Lt. Col. William E. Gegg, by March 1952; Lt. Col. Jeremy K. Schloss, by December 1952-.

Campaign Streamers

UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations for periods [November 25], 1951-September 30, 1952 and October 1, 1952-July 27, 1953.

10th Liaison Squadron

Activated in July 1951 in Seoul, South Korea, the 10th Liaison Squadron supported the 930th and 931st Engineer Aviation Groups, the 6147th Tactical Control Group, and the 17th Bomb Wing, among others. Using L-5 and L-20 aircraft, the unit surveyed forward areas for airfield, radar, and communication sites and regularly surveyed abandoned air strips. The squadron provided emergency airlift to remote forward positions, transported air liaison officers to forward U. S. Army units, and performed courier service, including the delivery of mail and monthly payrolls to forward Air Force units. It also transported North Korean prisoners on occasion and dropped arms and supplies to guerrillas behind enemy lines.

Stations

Seoul, South Korea, 25 Jul 1951-.

Campaign Streamers

UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

None.

20th Weather Squadron Detachments



20TH WEATHER SQUADRON

On a light turquoise Blue rectangle, long axis horizontal, border Black, the weather gremlin in Red Shoes, coat, and cap, trimmed with Yellow-Orange Belt and Blue buttons, standing with legs arched over aircraft hangar golden Orange, shaded proper, and holding aloft a White cloud formation, outlined dark Blue, with right hand, and resting on the staff of a weather anemometer; two stylized aircraft in sinister side, one of golden Orange, the other of light Red-Violet. Approved on September 15, 1943.

When the Korean War broke out in June 1950, the 20th Weather Squadron was already providing meteorological information to the Far East Air Forces from its headquarters at Nagoya, Japan, and from weather stations scattered around the theater. For the next six months, the 20th furnished crucial combat weather data to the Fifth Air Force, the U.S. Eighth Army, and other UN forces by deploying numerous detachments in Korea. The unit's personnel briefed tactical organizations before missions and sometimes flew on the aircraft of those organizations in order to obtain weather data over enemy-held territory. Forward-deployed weather personnel with front-line troops radioed weather information to rear areas. Some of the unit's meteorological information contributed to the success of the Inchon invasion in September. By November, ten of the squadron's detachments had served at thirteen locations in South and North Korea, moving with UN ground troops and operating small mobile weather stations sheltered in tents. The squadron operated a C-47 aircraft to move equipment and supplies to its scattered weather stations in Korea. In mid-November, it turned over its Korean weather responsibilities and operating locations to the 30th Weather Squadron and focused on Japan, where its headquarters had remained.

Stations

Nagoya, Japan duration.

Campaign Streamers

None. Note: Individual squadron detachments operating in Korea may have received campaign streamers on their own.

Service Streamers

Korean Theater.

30th Weather Squadron

When the 30th Weather Squadron activated in November 1950, it took over Korean weather stations from the overextended 20th Weather Squadron. The squadron headquarters served at Seoul except for the period from December 1950 to July 1951, when enemy troops in or near the South Korean capital forced it to function at Taegu. The 30th managed many mobile detachments all over Korea to provide weather information to the Fifth Air Force, Eighth Army, and other UN forces. By the end of the war

these detachments had served at twenty different locations around Korea, including some in the north when UN troops were there. In addition to the detachments, the squadron deployed a number of two-man teams with portable weather stations. Some of these teams served with UN ground units in forward areas, on islands off the Korean coast, or at airfields where full detachments were not required. In late 1951, the 30th Weather Squadron began training Korean observers and forecasters, whose work eventually allowed the squadron to reduce the number of its detachments. The squadron served the U. S. Eighth Army so well in Korea that the Department of the Army subsequently decided to rely on the Air Force for weather services.

Stations

Seoul, South Korea, November 16, 1950; Taegu, South Korea, December 22, 1950; Seoul, South Korea, July 3, 1951-.

Campaign Streamers

CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Three Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations for periods November 15, 1950-June 30, 1951, March 16, 1951-September 30, 1952, and October 1, 1952-July 27, 1953.

75th Air Depot Wing



On a shield Or, a stylized aircraft Azure, throughout, in pale, thereon a sword Argent, flamant Gules, fimbriated Or, issuing from the dexter and sinister chief, two gears of the second, all within a diminutive of the bordure Gules. Approved on July 31, 1952.

The 75th Air Depot Wing arrived in South Korea from Texas on January 2, 1953, replacing the 6405th Air Support Wing. Operated a major depot at Chinhae until the end of the conflict. Assigned to the Far East Air Logistic Force, the wing received, stored, and transported equipment and supplies such as ammunition, fuel, breathing oxygen, and aircraft parts for combat wings in South Korea. It recovered, reclaimed, and repaired crashed or disabled aircraft in Korea. The wing also maintained and repaired combat aircraft, particularly B-26s, at Iwakuni Air Base in Japan, working with the 6418th Air Depot Wing stationed there. Among the 75th's other duties were salvaging and disposal of used and surplus war materiel, controlling corrosion of aircraft fuel tanks, maintaining and defending Chinhae Airdrome (K-10), sending traveling teams to maintain and repair aircraft equipment, flying clothing, and shop equipment at various bases in Korea, and rehabilitating, storing, and issuing pierced steel planking for

airstrips. In the course of these duties, the wing maintained liaison with port agencies at Pusan and Inchon and with railheads in South Korea for the processing of USAF personnel and materiel, including Air Force special purpose vehicles.

Stations

Chinhae, South Korea, January 2, 1953-.

Commanders

Col. William C. Sams, duration.

Campaign Streamers

Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

417th Engineer Aviation Brigade

At the beginning of the Korean War, there were few airfields in Korea able to support the modern aircraft of the U. S. Air Force. Most of the existing facilities had been constructed by the Japanese before 1945, and they lacked runways long enough or strong enough to support multiple landings by large four-engined cargo aircraft such as C-54s or jet fighters such as F-86s. The extensive use of the old runways by World War II vintage-USAf aircraft, such as F-51s, also demanded frequent and extensive runway repairs. To correct the problem, the Far East Air Forces deployed to Korea engineer aviation units, manned by Special Category Army Personnel with Air Force (SCARWAF) troops. Although they suffered chronic shortages of adequately trained personnel, as early as July 1950, the 802nd and 822nd Engineer Aviation Battalions were repairing and extending runways at Pohang and Taegu. By the end of the Korean War, the engineer aviation units in Korea included the 417th Engineer Aviation Brigade with its subordinate units: three groups, ten battalions, three companies, and one detachment. The engineer aviation units repaired, renovated, and expanded air bases all over Korea for the basing and staging of Far East Air Forces, Fifth Air Force, and other United Nations aircraft, including fighters, fighter-bombers, and transports. Among the airfields they repaired or expanded, besides Pohang and Taegu, were Kimpo, Suwon, Pyongyang, Pusan, Hoengsong, Chunchon, Chinhae, Chungju, Kunsan, Seoul, and Pyongtaek. At most of these airfields the engineers laid pierced-steel planking for runways and taxiways and replaced inadequate foundations. They also constructed airfield facilities such as jet fuel storage tanks and hardstands. At airfields captured from the enemy, the aviation engineer personnel filled in bomb craters and patched runways. In 1952, the engineer aviation battalions constructed new 9,000-foot concrete or asphalt runways for jet fighters at Taegu, Suwon, and Kunsan. That same year, three of the battalions built a new air base with a fourth 9,000-foot runway at Osan-ni. The new paved runways saved tires, lessened structural damage to aircraft, and reduced the need for jet-assisted takeoff (JATO) units. At Seoul, the aviation engineers strengthened and extended the runways to handle strategic airlift transports. At Pusan and Pyongtaek, they constructed airfield facilities for U.S. Marine Corps air units.

Engineer Aviation Units in Korea as of May 1953:

417th Engineer Aviation Brigade

- **420th Engineer Aviation Topographic Detachment**
- **366th Engineer Aviation Battalion**

- 733rd Engineer Aviation Supply Point Company
- 840th Engineer Aviation Battalion
- 841st Engineer Aviation Battalion
- 1903rd Engineer Aviation Battalion
- 930th Engineer Aviation Group
 - 622nd Engineer Aviation Maintenance Company
 - 808th Engineer Aviation Battalion
 - 822nd Engineer Aviation Battalion
- 931st Engineer Aviation Group
 - 809th Engineer Aviation Battalion
 - 811th Engineer Aviation Battalion
 - 919th Engineer Aviation Maintenance Company
- 934th Engineer Aviation Group
 - 802nd Engineer Aviation Battalion
 - 839th Engineer Aviation Battalion

801st Medical Air Evacuation Squadron

Three months before the North Koreans invaded South Korea, the 801st Medical Air Evacuation Squadron had moved from Japan to Clark AB, Philippines, leaving only a flight in Japan. When the conflict began, this flight air evacuated wounded from Korea, while the rest of the squadron returned to Japan. As American casualties mounted, the 801st, flying on C-47 aircraft, evacuated wounded from forward airstrips to hospitals in the rear. Following the waterborne invasion by ground forces at Inchon in September 1950 and during the subsequent battle for Seoul, the 801st, under heavy fire from enemy troops, evacuated almost 1,450 battle casualties from Suwon and Kimpo airstrips near Seoul. In December, at the Chosin Reservoir in northeast Korea, the squadron evacuated almost 4,700 battle casualties from the Koto-ri and Hagaru-ri airstrips. During these actions, it operated from inadequate airstrips located in an area entirely surrounded by enemy troops, who subjected the aircraft to hostile fire on the ground as well as in the air. For actions during these two periods, the 801st earned a Distinguished Unit Citation. As the conflict dragged on, the 801st, utilizing C-46, C-47, C-54 and C-124 aircraft, flew on intra-Korea, intra-Japan, and Korea to Japan medical evacuation missions. For more than a year after the U. S. Air Force authorized a group-level organization, the service could not obtain the necessary trained personnel to man the unit. Finally on June 18, 1953, the 6481st Medical Air Evacuation Group, a Table of Distribution unit, replaced the 801st, assuming its mission through the end of the war.

Stations

Tachikawa AB, Japan, September 14, 1950; Ashiya AB, Japan, December 1, 1950; Tachikawa AB, Japan, February 6, 1951-June 18, 1953.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation for actions September 21-30 and December 1-10, 1950. Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for period July 1, 1951-[June 18], 1953.

3903d Radar Bomb Scoring Group Detachments C (11), K (5) and N (22)

In September 1950, detachments C, K, and N of Strategic Air Command's 3903rd Radar Bomb Scoring Squadron (later, Group) arrived from the United States at Pusan, South Korea. Their mission was to provide radar signals to guide night bomb and flare drops from tactical air support aircraft in Korea. Although the three detachments belonged to the Strategic Air Command, they were attached to the 502d Tactical Control Group. Using mobile equipment mounted on vans, two of the detachments (C and K) moved in November to Pyongyang, North Korea, where they directed bomb drops on enemy troop concentrations. After returning southward in the face of an enemy offensive, detachments C and K arrived at Taegu by January 1951 where they were joined by detachment N from Pusan. Detachments C, K, and N were redesignated respectively as detachments 11, 5, and 22, and each one was assigned to accompany a separate U. S. Army Corps. Their signals made bomb drops by bombers and fighter-bombers more accurate, enhancing USAF night close support missions. They also guided C-47s dropping flares for night illumination. In October 1951, the three detachments departed Korea, having transferred their radar functions to the 502nd Tactical Control Group.

Note: The 3903rd as a whole received no Korean campaign or service streamer, but individual detachments operating in Korea received campaign streamers and decorations.

6004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron Detachments 1, 2, 3, and 5

By the end of the Korean conflict, the 6004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron, whose headquarters remained in Japan, had deployed four detachments in Korea. Two of these began work in mid-1951. In a search for technical air intelligence information, Detachment 1 interrogated enemy prisoners of war and collected and studied captured enemy materiel, including aircraft wreckage and fragments of expended munitions from enemy aircraft. It maintained teams at major tactical air bases in South Korea to debrief combat crews and review gun camera film for the same kind of information. Detachment 2 sent sub-detachments north of the bomb line and behind enemy lines to examine other enemy materiel and interrogate enemy deserters. Beginning in June 1952, the squadron's Detachment 3 undertook management of evasion and escape activities for the recovery of UN airmen shot down over enemy territory. It interrogated US personnel who had successfully escaped the enemy and provided information on successful evasion and escape to tactical units. It also experimented with infrared and radio equipment for locating downed airmen. Prisoner of war exchanges at the end of the Korean conflict led the squadron to deploy Detachment 5 to Korea in June 1953 to interrogate friendly personnel returning from North Korea in order to gather strategic intelligence information.

Stations

Tokyo, Japan, March 2, 1951-.

Campaign Streamers

None. *Note:* Individual detachments operating in Korea received campaign streamers and decorations on their own.

Service Streamers

Korean Theater.

Decorations

None.

6146th Air Force Advisory Group (ROKAF)

Originally organized as the 6146th Air Base Unit in July 1950, the organization elevated to group-level in August 1952; redesignated to 6146th Air Advisory Group (ROKAF) at that time, and finally redesignated to 6146th Air Force Advisory Group (ROKAF) in July 1953. The organization's primary mission was to train pilots and ground crews for the Republic of Korea's Air Force (ROKAF), but it also flew armed reconnaissance close air support missions. The group maintained its own aircraft and kept operational the airstrip at which it was based, which was often nearer the front lines than any other USAF unit. For part of 1951, a unit detachment trained Korean personnel on the island of Cheju (Cheju Do). At Sachon it trained ROKAF personnel in the operation and maintenance of L-4, L-5, L-16, T-6, and F-51 aircraft. When the group moved to Taegu in early 1953, it left a detachment at Sachon to continue that training. Once trained at Sachon, the Korean pilots deployed to Kangnung near the 38th parallel, where another of the group's detachments had been based since the end of 1951. That detachment earned a Distinguished Unit Citation for the period December 1952 through April 1953 for flying hundreds of close support and interdiction strikes with a wing of the Republic of Korea Air Force. Under the guidance of 6146th Air Force Advisory Group pilots, Koreans flew F-51s from Kangnung to bomb, rocket, and strafe enemy troop concentrations, vehicles, supply dumps, and fuel storage sites.

Stations

Sachon AB, South Korea, July 27, 1950; Seoul, South Korea, September 26, 1950; Pyongyang-East, North Korea, October 28, 1950; Taejon, South Korea, December 6, 1950; Seoul, South Korea, March 22, 1951; Sachon AB, South Korea, June 18, 1951; Taegu, South Korea, January 15, 1953-.

Commanders

Lt. Col. Dean E. Hess, July 27, 1950; Maj. Harold H. Wilson, May 1951-unknown; Col. Walter W. Berg, July 1952; Lt. Col. Harold T. Babb, May 1953-.

Campaign Streamers

UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations

Five Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations for periods July 27, 1950-January 31, 1951, February 1-October 31, 1951, February 1, 1951-March 31, 1953, March 16, 1951-September 30, 1952, and October 10, 1952-July 27, 1953.

6167th Air Base Group

Originating as the 6153rd Air Base Unit in October 1950, this organization operated the Seoul Airdrome except when forced to leave in the face of the Chinese advances in December 1950. From around February 1952, the organization also began flying combat support missions under direct control of Headquarters, Fifth Air Force. Flying unarmed, modified C-46, C-47, and B-26 aircraft, the group dropped flares in front line support and for B-26 night interdiction flights. In addition, its aircraft dropped leaflets and in B-26 and C-47 aircraft fitted with speakers and amplifiers flew "voice" psychological warfare missions. Working in close harmony with ground and air intelligence, the 6167th also performed some agent drops and resupply missions deep behind enemy lines during the hours of darkness. The 6167th Operations Squadron received a Distinguished Unit Citation for actions of May-November 1952. Beginning in early 1953, pilots from the 581st Air Resupply and Communications Wing, a special operations organization based in the Philippines, augmented aircrews of the 6167th Air Base Group.

Combat Components

6167th Operations Squadron: April 1, 1952-.

Stations

Seoul Airdrome (later, AB), South Korea, October 27, 1950; Camp Walker, Taegu, South Korea, c. December 15, 1950; Seoul AB, South Korea, c. July 15, 1951-.

Commanders

Capt. Carl V. Hull, by December 1950; Maj. Lee J. Guilbeau, January 1951; Lt Col Tyson, July 1951; Lt. Col. Frank E. Lardent, January 1952; Col. Donald R. Conard, December 5, 1952-.

Campaign Streamers

UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

6204th Photo Mapping Flight Detachment 1

In mid-July 1950, the 6204th Photo Mapping Flight, located at Clark AB, Philippines, deployed the Flight's two RB-17 aircraft complete with combat crews and maintenance personnel to Johnson AB, Japan. The FEAF deployment order specified that the two RB-17 aircraft be equipped with normal armament insofar as practicable, not to interfere with the photographic capability of the aircraft. This posed a problem for the Flight, since the RB-17s had been flying peacetime missions and were not

equipped for combat. However, the 6204th found the necessary gunners and equipment, made the modifications to the aircraft, and by late August 1950 the detachment began flying photo-mapping missions over Korea. By the end of November 1950, it had photographed the entire North Korean area at least once and re-photographed some areas as far north as weather conditions permitted. By early December the detachment returned to Clark AB and resumed the flight's mapping program in the Philippine area.

6405th Korea Air Materiel Unit

Shortly after the conflict in Korea began, Far East Air Materiel Command (FEAMCOM) realized that tactical units of Fifth Air Force would need assistance with maintenance and supply until they could get their own base maintenance and supply personnel and equipment to the combat zone. Out of its own materiel resources, FEAF organized the 6405th Korea Air Materiel Unit (KAMU) in July 1950 to exercise operational control of FEAMCOM units in Korea. Organized on paper in Japan, the KAMU quickly moved to Korea and its field maintenance, depot support, and ammunition handling units fanned out in support of Fifth Air Force tactical units. Initially KAMU was charged with coordinating Air Force logistics requirements and Army emergency requirements between Fifth Air Force activities in Korea and FEAMCOM, expediting requisitions of emergency aircraft parts and critical items, performing aircraft and ammunition modification projects, and returning Air Force repairable items to FEAMCOM. It also had responsibility for damaged aircraft in Korea, including salvage, reclamation, and field or depot repair, and. It soon began operating bomb dumps, aviation ammunition storage and napalm mixing facilities. In evacuations at Taegu and Pohang in August and September 1950, KAMU personnel continued working on the bases after most of the Fifth Air Force units had left. In the November evacuation from Pyongyang, maintenance personnel kept repairing combat-damaged aircraft, occasionally dodging sniper bullets. Supply personnel worked to evacuate 260- and 500-pound bombs and gasoline, as well as their own gear. In April 1951, KAMU's 543rd Ammunition Supply Squadron began operating a pierced steel planking plant at Pusan-East. KAMU also manufactured and issued breathing oxygen to Fifth Air Force tactical units and maintained liaison with the U.S. Army ports in transporting USAF supplies and personnel through these ports. In a paper reorganization, the first 6405th KAMU discontinued in January 1951, replaced by a provisional KAMU, itself replaced in May 1951 by a second 6405th KAMU. In an overall FEAMCOM reorganization in early 1952, the KAMU was elevated to wing-status. After the 75th Air Depot Wing arrived in Korea and settled at Chinhae in January 1953, the KAMU discontinued.

Stations

6405th KAMU: Taegu AB, South Korea, July 1950; Pusan AB, South Korea; c. August 1950; Seoul AB, South Korea, October 16, 1950; Taegu AB, South Korea, December 15, 1950-January 28, 1951.

KAMU(P): Taegu AB, South Korea, January 28-May 25, 1951.

6405th KAMU (later, 6405th Support Wing; 6405th Air Support Wing): Taegu AB, South Korea, May 25, 1951-February 1, 1953.

Commanders

6405th KAMU: Col. Marvin Sledge, July 21, 1950-July 28, 1951.

KAMU(P): Col. Marvin Sledge, July 28-May 25, 1951.

6405th KAMU (later, 6405th Support Wing; 6405th Air Support Wing): Col. Marvin Sledge, May 25, 1951; Col. Marion G. Ferguson, Jr., September 7, 1951; Col. Edward J. Perkin, by June 1952; Col. Charles N. Howze, August 26, 1952; Col. William L. Wood, January 25-February 1, 1953.

Campaign Streamers

6405th KAMU: UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive.

KAMU(P): First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive.

6405th KAMU (later, 6405th Support Wing; 6405th Air Support Wing): CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter.

Decorations

None.