

## 6<sup>th</sup> AIR MOBILITY WING



### LINEAGE

6<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, Medium established, 20 Dec 1950  
Activated, 2 Jan 1951  
Redesignated 6<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 16 Jun 1952  
Redesignated 6<sup>th</sup> Strategic Aerospace Wing, 1 May 1962  
Redesignated 6<sup>th</sup> Strategic Wing, 25 Mar 1967  
Redesignated 6<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 1 Apr 1988  
Inactivated, 1 Sep 1992  
Redesignated 6<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing, 22 Dec 1993  
Activated, 4 Jan 1994  
Redesignated 6<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, 1 Oct 1996  
Redesignated 6<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing, 1 Jan 2001

### STATIONS

Walker AFB, NM, 2 Jan 1951  
Eielson AFB, AK, 25 Mar 1967-1 Sep 1992  
MacDill AFB, FL, 4 Jan 1994

### DEPLOYED STATIONS

Andersen AFB, Guam, 31 Oct 1955-26 Jan 1956

### ASSIGNMENTS

Eighth Air Force, 2 Jan 1951  
47<sup>th</sup> Air (later, 47<sup>th</sup> Strategic Aerospace) Division, 10 Feb 1951

22<sup>nd</sup> Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Jul 1963  
12<sup>th</sup> Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Jul 1965  
18<sup>th</sup> Strategic Aerospace Division, 25 Mar 1967  
12<sup>th</sup> Strategic Aerospace Division, 2 Jul 1968  
14<sup>th</sup> Strategic Aerospace Division, 30 Jun 1971  
47<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 1 Oct 1976  
14<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 1 Oct 1985  
3<sup>rd</sup> Air Division, 9 Aug 1990  
Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Apr-1 Sep 1992  
Ninth Air Force, 4 Jan 1994  
Twenty-First Air Force, 1 Oct 1996  
Eighteenth Air Force, 1 Oct 2003

### **ATTACHMENTS**

3<sup>rd</sup> Air Division, 31 Oct 1955-26 Jan 1956

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-29, 1951-1952  
KB-29, 1951-1952  
B-36, 1952-1957  
B-52E, 1957- 1967  
Atlas F, 1962-1965  
KC-135, 1958-1967, 1967-1992  
RC-135, 1967- 1992  
KC-135, 1985-1992  
KC-135, 1996  
EC-135, 1997  
CT-43, 1997-2001  
C-37, 2001

### **COMMANDERS**

Col Thomas S. Jeffrey Jr., 2 Jan 1951  
Col William K. Martin, 15 Jan 1951  
Col Glen W. Martin, 20 May 1955  
Col Everett W. Best, 21 Sep 1956  
Col Daniel V. MacDonald, 3 Jun 1957  
LTC Lewis R. Riley, 15 Aug 1957  
Col Edwin C. Evans, 16 Sep 1957  
Col Everett W. Best, 23 Sep 1957  
Col Donald E. Hillman, 23 Feb 1960  
Col Ernest C. Eddy, 18 Jul 1962  
Col Floyd H. Haywood Jr., 15 Jul 1963  
Col Richard M. Hoban, 15 Apr 1965  
Col Lester F. Miller, 15 Jun 1965  
Col George P. Cole, 9 Jul 1966  
Col Rowland H. Worrell Jr., 2 Sep 1966

Col Martin E. Plocher, 25 Mar 1967  
Col Ray M. Watkins, 11 Jul 1967  
Col Leslie W. Brockwell, 4 Jun 1969  
Col Melford W. Lewis, 23 Jun 1970  
Col Doyle F. Reynolds, 5 Jun 1972  
Col Joe L. Church, 6 Dec 1973  
Col William J. Campbell, 11 Jul 1974  
Col Donald M. Griffin, 7 Oct 1975  
Col Jimmy S. Lassetter, 28 May 1976  
Col John A. Dale, 4 Oct 1977  
Col William R. Perry, 26 Nov 1979  
Col Benjamin F. Schneider Jr., 20 Jul 1981  
Col Mark J. Heller, 29 Jul 1983  
Col James W. Morrow, Jr., 3 Oct 1984  
Col Thomas W. Young, 14 Jul 1986  
Col James L. Holmes Jr., 18 Nov 1987  
Col George R. Warner, 10 Mar 1989  
Col William G. Manire Jr., 18 Jun 1990  
Col James E. Andrews, 13 Jun 1991-1 Sep 1992  
Col Charles T. Ohlinger III, 4 Jan 1994  
BG John D. Becker, 28 Jun 1996  
BG James N. Soligan, 21 Nov 1997  
BG Arthur F. Diehl III, 30 Jun 1999  
BG William W. Hodges, 1 Aug 2001  
Col David M. Snyder, 10 Jan 2003  
Col Margaret H. Woodward, 5 Feb 2005  
Col Robert D. Thomas, 26 Mar 2007  
Col Lawrence M. Martin Jr., 8 Sep 2008  
Col Lenny J. Richoux, 9 Jul 2011  
Col Scott DeThomas, 28 Jul 2012

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

None

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

## **Decorations**

### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards**

1 May 1960-31 May 1962

1 Jul 1971- 30 Jun 1973

1 Jul 1973-30 Jun 1975

1 Jul 1976-30 Jun 1978  
1 Jul 1978- 30 Jun 1980  
1 Jul 1981-30 Jun 1982  
1 Jul 1986-30 Jun 1987  
1 Jun 1994-31 May 1996  
1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998  
1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 2000  
1 Jul 2004-30 Jun 2006  
1 Jul 2007-30 Jun 2009  
1 Jul 2009-30 Jun 2010

### **Bestowed Honors**

Authorized to display honors earned by the 6<sup>th</sup> Operations Group prior to 2 Jan 1951

### **Service Streamer**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Antisubmarine, American Theater  
Air Offensive, Japan  
Eastern Mandates  
Western Pacific

### **Decoration**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
Tokyo, Japan, 25 May 1945  
Japanese Empire, 9-19 Jul 1945

### **EMBLEM**

Or, pily of twelve Gules, overall a base Azure supporting a sailing ship with sails set affronte Sable, sails Argent, between two mounts issuing from dexter and sinister Vert, below a shooting star in dexter chief and a bi-wing aircraft, viewed from below Argent, garnished Sable, in sinister chief; all within a diminished bordure of the first. (Approved for the 6<sup>th</sup> Group, 22 Jan 1924 and adopted by the 6<sup>th</sup> Wing, 18 Mar 1955; replaced by emblem approved, 21 Oct 1980; original emblem reinstated, 20 Sep 1988)

### **MOTTO**

PARATI DEFENDERE - Ready to defend

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

The first scheduled mission of the new 6th was flown 12 February 1951. Personnel turnover was heavy due to the low manning priority assigned the Wing and the necessity of filling quotas for the Far East. As 1951 drew to a close, the 6th Bombardment Wing was again "Ready to Defend."

Its crews were, for the most part, FEAF returnee crews who had completed their tours and missions over Korea, its maintenance personnel were proficient and experienced in keeping the aircraft ready to fly, and the Wing had assumed its place as an integral part of the striking force of the Strategic Air Command.

In June 1952, Headquarters Strategic Air Command redesignated the 6th as a heavy bombardment wing, with conversion to B-36s to take place as aircraft became available. Training of both maintenance personnel and flight crews was feverishly underway with the bulk of the training being accomplished through the 4017th Training Squadron at Carswell Air Force Base, Texas. Personnel manning throughout the Wing remained high, although the turnover in personnel continued, being caused primarily by the loss of B-29 trained personnel and the gain of B-36 trained maintenance and support personnel.

Achieving combat readiness in B-36s occupied all personnel of the Wing during the first few months of 1953. Operationally the emphasis was placed upon training of the combat crews. Maintenance emphasis was placed on training personnel to maintain the complicated B-36s.

Less than a year after conversion, the 6th Wing was again combat ready. In October, a maneuver to Thule Air Force Base, Greenland, was accomplished utilizing ten aircraft. The mission was successful, with all personnel gaining valuable experience in living and working in the extremely cold temperatures of the Arctic. A simulated combat mission was also executed as part of the maneuver with excellent results.

Deployed at Andersen AFB, Guam, Oct 1955-Jan 1956. Two bombardment squadrons (24th and 30th) joined the 4129th CCTS in Sep 1959, training B-52 and KC-135 crews. From 10 Jun 1960 to 1 Dec 1961 the wing flew a few operational missions in a non-combat ready status. A missile squadron joined the wing's resources in Sep 1961. As the Soviet missile threat increased, so did the 6th's mission. On 1 May 1962, with the arrival of the wing's first Atlas-F SM65 intercontinental ballistic missile. The missile squadron phased out its Atlas operations in Feb 1965 and inactivated a month later. On 25 Mar 1967, the wing moved without personnel or equipment to Eielson AFB, AK, where it replaced the 4157th Strategic Wing and assumed resources and missions of that wing. In Alaska, the wing flew RC-135 strategic reconnaissance missions with an assigned squadron, and, with KC-135s deployed to Eielson from SAC, AFRES, and the ANG, conducted Alaska Task Force missions to support reconnaissance and numerous exercises for the Air Force and Navy. From Apr 1968 to Jul 1972 the wing periodically served as the airborne monitor of the Alaskan ballistic missile early warning station. The wing maintained Detachment 1 at Shemya AFS, AK and operated from there, Feb-May 1975 and Jun-Sep 1976, when Eielson closed for repair of earthquake damage.

Wing became inoperational in Jul 1992 and inactivated in Sep of that year. After activation in Jan 1994, maintained MacDill AFB.

In Oct 1996, assumed an aerial refueling mission. Provided refueling support for global mobility requirements and later also for fighters flying homeland security missions over the southeastern United States. Deployed tanker aircraft and crews to Southwest Asia to support no-fly zone operations over northern Iraq in Jul 1998.

In Jan 2001, the wing added an airlift mission, providing airlift for leaders of U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command.



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Air Force Order of Battle  
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#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.  
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.  
Unit yearbook. *6<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing (H)*. 1954.