

## 6147 TACTICAL CONTROL GROUP



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

6147 Tactical Control Group

### STATIONS

Pyongtaek, Korea

Chunchon, Korea

### ASSIGNMENTS

### COMMANDERS

### HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

## **EMBLEM**

Azure, a caricatured mosquito, wings bent/wise Or, cap, gloves, wing tips, and tail Gules, headpiece 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. (Approved, 23 Sep 1953)

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

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 U.S. Army's 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 17 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 (its aircraft 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 it 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 JOC 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.

### **Combat Components.**

942d 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

Kitpo AB, South Korea, October 5, 1950

Seoul, South Korea, October 18, 1950  
Pyongyang East, North Korea, October 28, 1950  
Taegu AB, South Korea, late November 1950;  
Pyongtaek, 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  
July 9-November 25, 1950  
July 9-November 27, 1951  
December 1, 1952-April 30, 1953

Two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations

July 9 November 25, 1950  
October 1, 1952-April 30, 1953

---

USAF Unit Histories  
Created: 7 Aug 2022  
Updated:

Sources

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