

86th AIRLIFT WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

86th Fighter Wing established and activated, 1 Jul 1948
Redesignated 86th Fighter Bomber Wing, 20 Jan 1950
Redesignated 86th Fighter Interceptor Wing, 9 Aug 1954
Redesignated 86th Air Division (Defense), 18 Nov 1960
Inactivated, 14 Nov 1968
Redesignated 86th Fighter Interceptor Wing, 14 Nov 1968
Redesignated 86th Tactical Fighter Wing, 13 Oct 1969
Activated, 1 Nov 1969
Redesignated 86th Fighter Wing, 1 May 1991
Redesignated 86th Wing, 1 Jun 1992
Redesignated 86th Airlift Wing, 1 Oct 1994

STATIONS

Neubiberg AB, Germany, 1 Jul 1948
Landstuhl (later, Ramstein-Landstuhl; Ramstein) AB, Germany, 21 Aug 1952-14 Nov 1968
Zweibrücken AB, Germany, 1 Nov 1969
Ramstein AB, Germany, 31 Jan 1973

ASSIGNMENTS

United States Air Forces in Europe, 1 Jul 1948
2nd Air Division, 10 Oct 1949

Twelfth Air Force, 7 May 1951
United States Air Forces in Europe, 1 Jan 1958
Seventeenth Air Force, 15 Nov 1959
United States Air Forces in Europe, 1 Jul 1963
Seventeenth Air Force, 1 Sep 1963
United States Air Forces in Europe, 20 May 1965
Seventeenth Air Force, 5 Oct-14 Nov 1968
Seventeenth Air Force, 1 Nov 1969
316th Air Division, 14 Jun 1985
Seventeenth Air Force, 1 May 1991
Third Air Force, 31 Jul 1996

WEAPON SYSTEMS

F-47, 1948-1950
F-84, 1950-1953
F-86, 1953-1960
F-102, 1959-1968
F-100, 1960
F-104, 1961-1962
RF-4, 1970-1973, 1976
F-4, 1971-1986
F-100, 1975
F-16, 1985-1994
C-135, 1992
C-12, 1992-1994
C-20, 1992
C-21, 1992
CT-43, 1992-1996
UH-1, 1992-1993
C-9, 1993
C-130, 1994
C-37, 2000

COMMANDERS

Col Clarence T. Edwinston, 1 Jul 1948
Col John S. Chennault, 31 May 1949
Col George R. Bickell, 16 Jun 1952
Col James O. Beckwith, 19 Jan 1955
Col Albert L. Evans Jr., 8 Jun 1956
Col James W. Little, 9 Jun 1958
Col Charles M. Young, 30 Jun 1958
Col Robert J. Rogers, 4 Jul 1959
Col George W. Rogers, 15 Mar 1961
BG Frank W. Gillespie, 30 Jun 1961

BG Thomas L. Hayes Jr., 10 Jul 1964
BG James M. Vande Hey, 12 Jan 1966
BG Richard N. Ellis, 28 Jun 1967-14 Nov 1968
Col Howard A. Jones, 1 Nov 1969
Col Wilbur L. Creech, 31 Dec 1969
Col Walter L. Doerty Jr., 17 Nov 1970
Col John J. Knight, 1 Oct 1971
Col James E. McInerney Jr., 19 Oct 1971
Brig Gen William F. Georgi, 31 Jan 1973
Col Edward J. Campbell, 13 Apr 1973
Col Lloyd C. Ulrich, 13 May 1974
BG Cornelius Nugteren, 22 Aug 1975
BG John H. Bennett, 15 Jul 1977
BG Harry Falls Jr., 6 Aug 1979
Col David M. Goodrich, 22 Jan 1980
BG Jerry W. Tietge, 28 Feb 1980
MG Robert C. Oaks, 28 Jul 1981
BG Ralph E. Havens, 24 May 1983
Col Clifford R. Krieger, 9 Jul 1985
Col Joseph S. Roderio, 13 Apr 1987
Col James I. Mathers, 16 Nov 1987
Col George W. Norwood, 17 Mar 1989
Col Roger E. Carleton, 23 Feb 1990
BG Richard T. Swope, 1 May 1991
Col Gary R. Bendlin, 29 Jun 1992
BG Tad J. Oelstrom, 3 Nov 1992
BG Jeffery S. Pilkington, 9 Jul 1993
BG William E. Stevens, 30 Jun 1995
Col Edward F. McPhillips Jr. (interim), 29 May 1996
BG John W. Brooks, 3 Jun 1996
BG Michael W. Wooley, 13 Jul 1998
BG Mark A. Volcheff, 24 Jan 2000

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

31 Oct 1955-31 Oct 1958

1 Jul 1964- 30 Jun 1965

1 Jul 1981-30 Jun 1982

14 Jun 1985-13 Jun 1987

1 May 1989-30 Apr 1991

1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1995

1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1997

1 Sep 1997-31 Aug 1999; [14 Apr]-10 Jun 1999

1 Jan 2000-31 Dec 2001

1 Jan-31 Dec 2002

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 86th Operations Group prior to 1 Jul 1948

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Sicily

Naples-Foggia

Anzio

Rome-Arno

Southern France

North Apennines

Rhineland

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Italy, 25 May 1944

Germany, 20 Apr 1945

EMBLEM



Azure, a pile Or, all within a diminished bordure Yellow. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "VIRTUS PERDURAT" in Blue letters.

SIGNIFICANCE: Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The wedge shaped pile signifies the sun and the sharp point represents the accuracy of the Wing's deliveries, and the pile is also a stylized lightning bolt to show how rapidly the unit responds to any contingency. (Approved for 86th Group, 17 Oct 1942 and, in modified form, for 86th Wing, 27 Jul 1956)

MOTTO

Virtus Perdurat--Courage Will Endure

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Provided air defense, primarily in West Germany, Jul 1948-Nov 1968, initially as a wing but later as a division. During its eight years as an air division, the organization supervised the improvement of a manual radar system to a semi-automatic air weapons control system.

86 Air Division (Defense) changed as of 4 Jan 65 from manual ground environment for air defense to semiautomatic 412 air weapons control system. 1965

86 Air Division personnel participated in various exercises and operations between Jan and Jun 65, such as: Squadron Exchange, Little Willy Tell, Quick Train, Barking Pup, And System Training Missions.

From Nov 1969 to Jun 1971, it was charged only with tactical reconnaissance, but added tactical fighter operations later in 1971.

Supported numerous military units located in the area of Ramstein AB, Germany, Jan 1973-Jun 1985. Participated in numerous exercises that provided the wing with air combat tactics training essential to their mission.

Converted to the F-16 Fighting Falcon, 1985- 1986. Beginning in Apr 1991, deployed to Turkey and supported operations in Southwest Asia to ensure that Iraq complied with treaty terms by enforcing a no-fly zone. Wing aircraft sometimes attacked Iraqi surface-to-air missile (SAM) sites in northern Iraq.

Added an airlift mission in Jun 1992, performing special airlift missions with various kinds of transport aircraft, but retaining fighter aircraft as well.

In 1993 and 1994, the wing deployed pilots, maintenance personnel, and aircraft to Aviano AB, Italy, to enforce a new no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina. Two wing F-16 pilots shot down four enemy aircraft in the zone in 1994. The wing also airlifted humanitarian cargo to Bosnia-Herzegovina between 1993 and 1996.

In 1994, traded its F-16 fighters for C-130 transports and became strictly an airlift wing. Airlifted troops and cargo to Bosnia-Herzegovina between 1996 and 1998 in support of peacekeepers. Evacuated U.S. and third-country nationals from Liberia during civil disturbances there in the spring of 1996, and in 1997, airlifted African peacekeeping forces to Liberia.

In 1998, the wing supported the airlift of U.S. forces to Southwest Asia after the Iraqi government refused cooperation with United Nations weapons inspectors. After a terrorist bomb exploded at a U.S. embassy in Kenya in August 1998, the wing supported the medical evacuation of injured personnel.

When the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) used air power in a brief war to end Serbia's suppression of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo in 1999, the wing airlifted U.S. forces within the European theater and transported relief supplies to refugees in Albania and Macedonia. After the war the wing airlifted cargo and peacekeepers to Kosovo.

Also furnished humanitarian relief by airlift to the victims of an earthquake in Turkey in 1999 and a flood in Mozambique in 2000. In the latter year, the wing also airlifted victims of a terrorist bombing of the USS Cole from Yemen. Continued to provide airlift support for air units enforcing the no-fly zone over northern Iraq.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 25 Sep 2010

Updated:

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. Neubibeg AB, Germany. *The 86th Raiders*. Montgomery Publishing Company. London, England. 1952.