

49 WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

49 Fighter Wing established, 10 Aug 1948
Activated, 18 Aug 1948
Redesignated 49 Fighter-Bomber Wing, 1 Feb 1950
Redesignated 49 Tactical Fighter Wing, 8 Jul 1958
Redesignated 49 Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 1991
Redesignated 49 Wing on 25 Jun 2010

STATIONS

Misawa AB, Japan, 18 Aug 1948
Taegu AB, South Korea, 1 Dec 1950
Tsuki AB, Japan, 26 Jan 1951
Taegu AB, South Korea, 24 Feb 1951
Kunsan AB, South Korea, 1 Apr 1953
Misawa AB, Japan, 7 Nov 1953-10 Dec 1957
Etain/Rouvres (later, Etain) AB, France, 10 Dec 1957 (operated from Chalons-Vatry AB, France, 1 Sep-30 Nov 1958)
Spangdahlem AB, Germany, 25 Aug 1959-30 Jun 1968
Holloman AFB, NM, 1 Jul 1968

ASSIGNMENTS

314 Air Division, 18 Aug 1948
Fifth Air Force, 1 Mar 1950
Japan Air Defense Force, 1 Apr 1953
Fifth Air Force, 1 Sep 1954
39 Air Division (Defense) (later, 39 Air Division), 1 Mar 1955
Fifth Air Force, 15 Apr- 10 Dec 1957
United States Air Forces in Europe, 10 Dec 1957
Seventeenth Air Force, 15 Nov 1969
832 Air Division, 1 Jul 1968
835 Air Division, 1 Feb 1970
Twelfth Air Force, 30 Jun 1971
Tactical Training, Holloman, 1 Aug 1977
833 Air Division, 1 Dec 1980
Twelfth Air Force, 15 Nov 1991
Twelfth Air Force (later, Twelfth Air Force [Air Forces Southern]), 15 Nov 1991
Nineteenth Air Force, 1 Oct 2018

ATTACHMENTS

58 Fighter-Bomber Wing, 16-31 Mar 195
Fifth Air Force, 1 Apr-7 Nov 1953
39 Air Division [Defense], 7 Nov 1953-1 Mar 1955
Seventeenth Air Force, 15 Jan-4 Apr 1969
Seventeenth Air Force, 14 Sep-7 Oct 1970
Thirteenth Air Force, 5 May-2 Oct 1972

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P (later, F)-51, 1948-1950
F-80, 1948-1951
F-84, 1951-1953, 1953, 1957
F-86, 1951, 1954-1957
F-100, 1957-1962
F-105, 1961-1967
F-4, 1967-1971, 1971-1978, 1992-
T-38, 1973-1976, 1993
F-15, 1977-1992
AT-38, 1992-1997
F-117, 1992
HH-60, 1993-1999
F-61, 1948-1949
F-82, 1950
RF-80, 1950-1951
F/RF-51, 1950-1951
RB-26, 1950-1951

F-22, 2008
F-117, 1992-2008
HH-60, 1993-1999
F-22, 2008-
MQ-1, 2009
MQ-9, 2009
F-16, 2018

COMMANDERS

Col Brooks A. Lawhon, 18 Aug 1948
Col Jack S. Jenkins, 22 Apr 1950
Col Aaron W. Tyer, 1 Dec 1950
Col Kenneth W. Northamer, 20 Apr 1951
Col Aaron W. Tyer, 27 May 1951
Col Joe L. Mason, 1 Sep 1951
Col David T. McKnight, 1 Feb 1952
Col Robert J. Rogers, 19 Aug 1952-15 Mar 1953
none (not manned), 16-31 Mar 1953
Col William W. Ingenhutt, 1 Apr 1953
Col Edwin A. Doss, 24 Apr 1953
Col George W. Pardy, 18 Nov 1953
Col John P. Randolph, 24 May 1954
Col Thomas C. Conroy, 31 May 1956
Col Elbert Helton, 14 Aug 1956
Col Joseph A. Barrett Jr., 21 Oct 1957
Cpt Paul E. Moore, 1 Nov 1957
Col Joseph L. Dickman, 10 Dec 1957
Col Wilbur J. Grumbles, 7 Jul 1958
Col Thomas D. DeJarnette, 15 Jun 1962
Col William P. McBride, 26 Feb 1963
Col William S. Chairsell, 17 Aug 1964
Col John C. Giraudo, 21 Jun 1966
Col Alphonse J. Coleman, 19 May 1967
Col Francis E. Binnell, 20 Mar 1968
Col Ramon R. Melton, 15 Jul 1968;
Col Joseph C. Secino, 8 Mar 1969
Col Harry H. Moreland, 22 Aug 1969
Brig Gen Jack Bellamy, 24 Apr 1970
Col Wayne E. Whitlatch, 24 May 1972
Col George G. Hupp, 8 May 1973
Col William L. Kirk, 3 Jun 1974
Col Eleas Casillas, 5 Jan 1976
Col Richard L. Meyer, 11 Nov 1977
Col Harold D. Dortch Jr., 12 Feb 1980

Col Jerry H. Nabors, 20 Jan 1981
Col James E. Chambers, 15 Oct 1982
Col Jerry Cox, 2 Mar 1984
Col Joseph E. Merrick, 3 Oct 1985
Col Richard C. Bethurem, 25 Sep 1987
Col Frank B. Campbell, 5 Jan 1990
Brig Gen Lloyd W. Newton, 15 Nov 1991
Brig Gen John F. Miller Jr., 8 Jul 1993
Brig Gen Bruce Carlson, 10 Feb 1995
Brig Gen Dennis R. Larsen, 23 Aug 1996
Brig Gen William J. Lake, 15 Jun 1998
Brig Gen Marc E. Rogers, 30 Jun 2000
Brig Gen James P. Hunt, 19 Jul 2002
Brig Gen Kurt A. Chichowski, 13 May 2004
Brig Gen David L. Goldfein, 25 Jun 2006
Col Jeffrey Harrigian, 11 Jan 2008
Col David A. Krumm, 25 Jun 2010
Col Andrew A. Croft, 22 Jun 2012
Col James E. Thompson. 2 Jun 2014

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Korea
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

Vietnam
Vietnam Ceasefire

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device
5 May-6 Oct 1972

Meritorious Unit Awards
30 Apr 2008-1 May 2009
1 Jun 2010-31 May 2011

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Mar 1964-28 Feb 1966
1 Mar 1966-30 Jun 1967
1 Jan 1971-15 Apr 1972
1 Jun 1995-31 May 1997
1 Jun 1998-31 May 1999
2 May 2004-31 May 2005
1 Jun 2011-31 May 2013
1 Jun 2013-31 May 2014
1 Jun 2015-31 May 2016

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations
27 Jun 1950-7 Feb 1951
8 Feb 1951-31 Mar 1953

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 49 Operations Group prior to 18 Aug 1948

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
East Indies
Air Offensive, Japan
China Defensive
Papua, New Guinea
Bismarck Archipelago
Western Pacific
Leyte
Luzon
China Offensive

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Australia, 14 Mar-25 Aug 1942
Papua, [Oct] 1942-23 Jan 1943
Philippine Islands, 27 Oct-7 Dec 1944

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

EMBLEM



49 Tactical Fighter Wing emblem: The three colors of the emblem red, blue and yellow - represent the trinity of the original squadrons of the 49, the 7th, 8th and 9th squadrons. The stars of the emblem represent in part the Southern Cross and signify service in Australia by the predecessor of the 49 TFW, the 49 Fighter Group. The knights helmet is symbolic of the aggressive mission of the 49, while in the lower right hand corner of the emblem' s shield the covered wagon symbolizes the pioneering spirit and adventure, hardiness and courage which are traditional qualities of units of the 49 The bolt of lightning represents; the powerful instantaneous striking power of the Wing.



49 Fighter Wing emblem: 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. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and 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 Light and Dark Blue colors signify the unit's day and night defense of freedom. The winged knight's helmet reflects the Wing's long and distinguished history of military engagements. The stars represent the constellation "Southern Cross" and denote the unit's World War II campaign credits in the South Pacific. (Approved for the 49 Group, 29 Dec 1951, and for the 49 Wing, 2 Jul 1953. Approved, 15 Jun 1994) Approved, 10 Oct 1995; latest rendering, 13 Dec 2022

MOTTO

Tutor Et Ultor--Protect and Avenge
The Fighting 49ers

OPERATIONS

Trained to maintain tactical proficiency while participating in the military occupation and air defense of Japan, 1948-Jun 1950. Remained in Japan until 1 Dec 1950, although components detached for combat operations in Korea. The wing's tactical mission was greatly reduced, but did include pilot training from late Jun to 1 Dec 1950. From 6 Sep to 1 Dec 1950, the wing had no tactical units except a detachment of the 41 Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, which provided

strip alert. On 1 Dec the wing moved to South Korea and resumed operational control of its tactical components. Primarily interdicted enemy supplies, equipment and lines of communication, but also performed bombing of high value strategic targets, close air support of ground forces, and combat air patrol until 27 Jul 1953.

Served as an administrative and support wing without tactical operations until Jul 1954, and then assumed an air defense mission with attached squadrons. On 15 Apr 1957 the detached 49 Fighter-Bomber Group became a paper unit, and the wing assumed the fighter-bomber mission the group had been performing, continuing it to 15 Sep 1957, when the wing prepared to move to France. Supporting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), participated in tactical exercises and operations in Europe, Dec 1957-Jun 1968.

After moving to New Mexico in 1968, served as USAF's first "dual-based," NATO-committed wing, subject to immediate return to Europe if and when needed. The entire wing deployed back to Spangdahlem AB 15 Jan-4 Apr 1969 and 14 Sep-7 Oct 1970, receiving the Mackay Trophy for the 1969 deployment. At Holloman AFB, the wing continued participation in tactical exercises and firepower demonstrations to maintain combat readiness. Had base host responsibility 1 Jan 1971-1 Aug 1977 and 15 Nov 1991-.

In the autumn of 1971, the wing's four tactical squadrons deployed in Europe.

On 4 May 1972, after North Vietnam invaded South Vietnam, the entire wing, except for a rear echelon that remained to run Holloman, deployed at Takhli RTAFB, Thailand. Conducted combat operations in Southeast Asia, 11 May-27 Sep 1972, to help blunt a strong North Vietnamese offensive. Flew combat sorties in South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos and, 1 Jul-24 Sep 1972, during Operation Linebacker, the bombardment campaign in North Vietnam. Returned to Holloman AFB in early Oct 1972, and continued rotating tactical components to Europe to support NATO through Sep 1977. Also provided US Air Force fighter lead-in training, Feb 1974-Dec 1976.

In Oct 1977, the wing ceased its "dual-base" commitment to NATO and changed to an air superiority mission, with training focusing on dissimilar air combat tactics for multi-theater operations.

In July 1980, the wing acquired the commitment of a primary Rapid Deployment Force unit. This tasking, which lasted for a year, required the wing to be ready to deploy its aircraft, crews, and support personnel on short notice. The wing served with the Rapid Deployment Force until July 1981, when the tasking was transferred to the 1st Tactical Fighter Wing, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia.

Won the 1988 William Tell air-to-air meet. Deployed aircraft and personnel to Southwest Asia to fly combat air patrol for coalition operations, 20 Jun-19 Dec 1991.

After conversion to the F-117 in May 1992, served as the only stealth fighter wing in the world.

Deployed fighters and their crews to Southwest Asia during the 1990s to support United Nations weapons inspectors in Iraq, to enforce the no-fly zone over the southern part of that country, and for shows of force. Using helicopters, the wing also performed a search and rescue mission from May 1993 to Feb 1999.

Trained Taiwan Air Force fighter pilots in AT-38 aircraft, 1993-1997, and German Air Force fighter pilots in F-4 aircraft, 1992-2004.

Since May 1996, served as the host wing for the German Air Force Flying Training Center, which trained German Air Force combat pilots, weapon system officers and instructor aircrews to fly the Tornado aircraft.

In early 1999, wing elements deployed to Europe for air strikes against Serbia during Operation ALLIED FORCE. Early in 2003, stealth fighters and crews of the wing deployed to Southwest Asia and dropped the initial bombs of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, the US-led invasion of Iraq. Continued to support combat operations there until the complete overthrow of the regime of Saddam Hussein.

Replaced F-117 with new fifth generation fighter F-22 Raptors and began training pilots in the new aircraft in 2008.

Began training officers as pilots and enlisted personnel as sensor operators for flight operations of the MQ-1 Predator and MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aerial systems in 2009.

The 49 Wing's remotely piloted aircraft squadrons at Holloman Air Force Base completed a five-day surge May 5, 2017, to measure the full capabilities of the Airmen and civilians involved in the RPA mission. The 6th, 9th and 29th Attack Squadrons completed 45 MQ-9 Reaper sorties and totaled more than 465 flight hours during the week, allowing RPA student pilots, sensor operators, and maintainers to discover and record limitations.

"While we are conducting surge operations you can see a flurry of activity that is happening across the base, and that is when we realize how integral of a team we are," said Lt. Col. Timothy Monroe, the 9th Attack Squadron commander. "There are a number of things happening on the flight line and in the flying squadrons; you can even see the broader impact around Holloman with our various mission support elements who are enabling pilots, sensor operators and maintainers to launch all of these aircraft." Surge week also provides commanders with the opportunity to exercise the system to accurately measure the proficiency, accuracy and competency of the squadrons.

"We continue to see that what we do here is not simple," Monroe said. "It is not something you can do by yourself, it takes a very well built and well trained team to accomplish the mission." Personnel supporting surge operations included air traffic controllers, aircraft maintainers, schedulers, flight safety, fuels and munitions specialists, and range control operators who worked long hours to keep pace with the RPA mission. Sometimes shifts are utilized to keep the aircraft in working order.

"A typical duty day on swing shift is waiting for the MQ-9 to land so that we can get control of the Ground Control System and aircraft, that's when the real hard work starts, getting your fingers dirty, that kind of stuff goes on," said Airman 1st Class Bryton Pollock, a 49 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron communications systems technician. "Any kind of problems the plane has, we get told about it. We go out and figure out how to fix it. We get the parts and the tools we need and we put in the man hours to fix whatever problem it has."

Aircraft maintenance was critical during the surge in operations, when both aircraft and simulators were utilized to the maximum extent possible for student training. "Our simulators are operating on the order of 18 hours a day or more," Monroe said. "Right now we are launching aircraft that will stay airborne for 10, 11 or 12 hours, and it takes a very fine-tuned sequence and schedule in order to execute launching those operations." A key component to the Holloman team are instructor pilots who help students to develop skills that will prepare them for future roles of providing combatant commanders with crucial situational awareness and strike capabilities "You develop a much deeper appreciation for how hard everyone is working on the flight line every single day," Monroe said. "From maintenance personnel, the aviators that are operating the aircraft and all of our various mission support partners that help us to accomplish our mission. You develop an appreciation for just how great of a team we are for producing students and airpower capabilities here."2017

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

Created: 19 Feb 2025

Updated:

Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit history. *49 Tactical Fighter Wing, History in Review. 1940-1972.*