

8 FIGHTER WING



MISSION

8 Fighter Wing maintains readiness to conduct all-weather air-to-ground and air-to-air missions in support of United States Forces Korea and United States Pacific Command. Executes peacetime, armistice and contingency taskings in Korea and the Pacific theater. Authorized 45 F-16CM aircraft. An annual \$67M budget provides training and resources for 2,700 active duty personnel in 4 groups, 14 squadrons, 14 wing staff agencies, 10 tenant units and 1 theater support package.

LINEAGE

8 Fighter Wing established, 10 Aug 1948
Activated, 18 Aug 1948
Redesignated 8 Fighter-Bomber Wing, 20 Jan 1950
Redesignated 8 Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Jul 1958
Redesignated 8 Fighter Wing, 3 Feb 1992

STATIONS

Ashiya Air Field, Japan, 18 Aug 1948
Itazuke Air Field, Japan, 25 Mar 1949
Pyongyang, North Korea, 1 Dec 1950
Seoul AB, South Korea, 9 Dec 1950
Itazuke AB, Japan, 10 Dec 1950
Kimp'o AB, South Korea, 25 Jun 1951
Suwon AB, South Korea, 23 Aug 1951
Itazuke AB, Japan, 20 Oct 1954- 10 Jul 1964
George AFB, CA, 10 Jul 1964-6 Dec 1965
Ubon Air Field, Thailand, 8 Dec 1965-16 Sep 1974
Kunsan AB, South Korea, 16 Sep 1974

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Kunsan AB, South Korea, 14-22 Oct 1955

ASSIGNMENTS

315 Air Division, 18 Aug 1948
Fifth Air Force, 1 Mar 1950
43 Air Division, 1 Mar 1955
Fifth Air Force, 1 Feb 1957
41 Air Division, 10 Nov 1958
Fifth Air Force, 1 Jun 1962
Pacific Air Forces, 18 Jun 1964
Tactical Air Command, 8 Jul 1964
831 Air Division, 10 Jul 1964
Thirteenth Air Force, 8 Dec 1965
314 Air Division, 16 Sep 1974
Seventh Air Force, 8 Sep 1986

ATTACHMENTS

2 Air Division, 8 Dec 1965-31 Mar 1966
Seventh Air Force, 1 Apr 1966-15 Sep 1974

WEAPON SYSTEMS

F-51, 1948-1950, 1950
F-80, 1949-1950, 1950-1953
F-82, 1950
Meteor-8, 1951
F-86, 1953-1957
F-94, 1954
F-84, 1956
F-100, 1956-1963
F-102, 1961-1964
F-105, 1963-1964
F-4, 1964-1974; 1974-1982
F-104, 1966-1967
AC-130, 1968-1974
AC-123, 1969-1970
B-57, 1970-1972
F-16, 1981

COMMANDERS

Col Charles T. Olmsted, 18 Aug 1948
Col Daniel A. Cooper, 22 Jan 1949
Col John M. Price, 1 Mar 1949
Col Charles W. Stark, 9 Dec 1950
Col James B. Tipton, 3 Apr 1951
Col Raymond K. Gallagher, 20 Feb 1952

Col James J. Stone Jr., 24 Jan 1953
Col William E. Elder, 29 May 1953
Col Ernest H. Beverly, 11 Sep 1953
Col John B. Murphy, 11 Jul 1954
Col William W. Momyer, 4 Aug 1954
Col Orville H. Rehmann, 26 Feb 1955
Col Robert P. Montgomery, 8 Jun 1957
Col Raymond K. Gallagher, 8 Jul 1959
Col Chesley G. Peterson, 20 Jul 1959
Col William A. Daniel, 23 May 1960
Col John R. Roche, 16 May 1962
Col William E. Buck Jr., 29 Jun 1962
Col Jack G. Milne, 12-18 Jun 1964
None (not manned), 19 Jun-24 Jul 1964
Col John L. Gregory Jr., 25 Jul 1964
Col Joseph G. Wilson, 8 Dec 1965
Col Robin Olds, 30 Sep 1966
Col Robert V. Spencer, 23 Sep 1967
Col Charles C. Pattillo, 5 Jul 1968
Col Donald N. Stanfield, 8 May 1969
Col David J. Schmerbeck, 6 May 1970
Col Lloyd R. Leavitt, Jr., 2 Oct 1970
Col Larry M. Killpack, 4 Oct 1970
Col James A. Young, 20 May 1971
Col Carl S. Miller, 28 Feb 1972
Col Francis A. Humphreys Jr., 25 Nov 1972
Col Tom M. Arnold Jr., 25 Jan 1974
Col Harry W. Schurr, 16 Sep 1974
Col Alfred M. Miller Jr., 22 Nov 1974
Col Charles R. Hamm, 12 Mar 1975
Col Reginald R. Davis, 12 Mar 1976
Col Thomas S. Swalm, 7 Mar 1977
Col Charles M. Summers, 18 Mar 1978
Col Robert C. Beyer Jr., 17 Mar 1979
Col Robert P. McGroarty, 31 Mar 1980
Col Donald Snyder, 30 Mar 1981
Col James F. Record, 7 Jun 1982
Col Burton R. Moore, 13 May 1983
Col E. Daniel Cherry, 9 May 1984
Col Ronald N. Running, 28 May 1985
Col Sidney J. Wise, 10 Jun 1986
Col Everett H. Pratt Jr., 15 Jun 1987
Col Joseph E. Hurd, 7 Jun 1988
Col Patrick K. Gamble, 16 Jun 1989

Col John F. Miller Jr., 8 Jun 1990
Col Edward B. Carter, 22 Jul 1991
Col Steven R. Polk, 6 Jul 1992
Col Stephen E. Trent, 25 Jun 1993
Col Hugh C. Cameron, 5 Jul 1994
Col Lawrence D. Johnston, 22 Mar 1995
Col David L. Moody, 19 Mar 1996
Col Mark A. Welsh III, 28 Apr 1997
Col Stephen T. Sargeant, 4 May 1998
Col Gary L. North, 14 May 1999
Col Philip Breedlove, 23 May 2000
Col Burton M. Field, 1 May 2001
Col Guy K Dahlbeck, 7 May 2002
Col Robin Rand, 14 May 2003
Col William W. Uhle Jr., 1 Jun 2004
Col Brian T. Bishop, 31 May 2005
Col John W. Pearse
Col S. Clinton Hinote 10 May 2013
Col Todd A. Dozier, 16 May 2016

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Korea

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

Vietnam

Vietnam Defensive

Vietnam Air

Vietnam Air Offensive

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II

Vietnam Air Offensive Phase III

Vietnam Air/Ground

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV
TET 69/ Counter offensive
Vietnam Summer-Fall, 1969
Vietnam Winter-Spring, 1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Southwest Monsoon
Commando Hunt V
Commando Hunt VI
Commando Hunt VII
Vietnam Ceasefire

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Presidential Unit Citations (Vietnam)
16 Dec 1966-2 Jan 1967
1 Mar 1967-31 Mar 1968
1 Jan-1 Apr 1971

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device
16 Dec 1965-15 Dec 1966
1 Apr-30 Sep 1968
1 Jan-31 Dec 1970
1 Oct 1971-31 Mar 1972
1 Apr-22 Oct 1972
18 Dec 1972-15 Aug 1973

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
12 May 1963- 21 Mar 1964
1 Apr 1977-31 Mar 1978
1 Jun 1986-31 May 1988
1 Aug 1995-31 Jul 1997
1 Oct 2003-30 Sep 2005
1 Oct 2005 - 30 Sep 2007
1 Nov 2009 - 31 Oct 2011

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations
27 Jun 1950-31 Jan 1951
1 Feb 1951- 31 Mar 1953

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
1 Apr 1966- 28 Jan 1973

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 8 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
Southern Philippines
China Offensive

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Papua, [Sep] 1942-23 Jan 1943
Philippine Islands, 26 Dec 1944
Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

EMBLEM



8 Fighter-Bomber Wing emblem



8 Tactical Fighter Wing emblem



8 Fighter Wing emblem: Azure, a chevron nebule Or, all within a diminished bordure of the last. The group's emblem is a simple chevron in the stylized shape of clouds. (Approved for 8 Group, 6 Sep 1934, and for 8 Wing, 3 Jul 1952)

MOTTO

ATTAQUEZ ET CONQUEREZ-Attack and Conquer
Wolf Pack

OPERATIONS

Air defense in Japan, Aug 1948-Jun 1950.

Stationed at Itazuke AB, Japan, at the beginning of the Korean War and assigned to the Fifth Air Force, the 8 FBW controlled combat groups and attached squadrons that conducted combat operations in Korea, flying mostly interdiction and close air support missions. The 8 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. On 1 Dec 1950, as U.S. forces pressed the attack on North Korean forces, the wing moved to Pyongyang, North

Korea. Then only days later on 9 Dec, the wing moved to Seoul, South Korea, and then on to Itazuke Air Base, Japan. 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.

Air defense in Japan, and maintenance of a quick-reaction strike force, Oct 1954-May 1964.

On 1 October 1957, the 8 Fighter-Bomber Group inactivated, with the flying squadrons then assigned directly to the wing. Less than a year later, on 1 July 1958, the Air Force redesignated the wing as the 8 Tactical Fighter Wing. During its tenure at Itazuke, the wing flew several different aircraft, including the F-86 Sabre, F-100 Super Sabre, F-102 Delta Dagger, and F-105 Thunderchief. All of the wing's components except the headquarters inactivated on 18 June 1964, and by 10 July the wing moved without personnel or equipment to George Air Force Base, California. Here the 8 absorbed the assets of the 32nd Tactical Fighter Wing. In the transfer, the wing gained all new personnel and units: the 431st, 433rd, and 497th Tactical Fighter Squadrons. For the next year and a half, the wing trained at George in the F-4C Phantom II and participated in various exercises and inspections before deploying to Thailand in December 1965 to commence combat operations, including bombardment, ground support, air defense, interdiction, and armed reconnaissance.

In early Dec 1965, the 8 TFW moved to Ubon Airfield, Thailand. Once in Thailand, the wing began combat operations in Vietnam including bombardment, ground support, air defense, interdiction, and armed reconnaissance. The wing downed more enemy aircraft (38.5) during the war in Southeast Asia than any other wing. On 2 Jan 1967, the wing shot down seven enemy aircraft in 15 minutes as part of Operation BOLO. In May 1968, the wing was the first to employ laser-guided bombs in combat. In addition to the F-4, the wing also flew AC-130 and AC-123 and B-57. The aggressiveness and teamwork of the wing's pilots inspired then wing commander, Col. Robin Olds, to nickname the wing "The Wolf Pack." This nickname remains and has become synonymous with the 8 FW.

After North Vietnam invaded the Republic of Vietnam in Mar 1972, the 8 Wing was augmented by additional F-4 units. To make room for these forces, the B-57 squadron moved to the Philippines. The wing continued combat in Vietnam until mid-Jan 1973, in Laos until 22 Feb 1973, and in Cambodia until 15 Aug 1973. The last scheduled F-4 training flight occurred on 16 Jul 1974, and on 16 Sep the wing moved without personnel or equipment to Kunsan AB, South Korea, where it absorbed resources of the 3d TFW. The 8 became responsible for air defense of South Korea. Again the wing flew the F-4 Phantom, providing air defense over South Korea. Following the "tree-cutting incident," an August 1976 border confrontation involving the murder of two U.S. Army officers by North Koreans, tensions rose between North and South Korea. In response, the 8 Tactical Fighter Wing was placed on heightened alert and the 12th and 67th Tactical Fighter Squadrons from Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, temporarily joined the wing at Kunsan, bringing the strength of the 8 TFW to four squadrons of F-4 fighters. In September the tensions eased and the two augmenting squadrons returned to Kadena.

On 1 October 1978, the wing gained a third flying unit, the 497th Tactical Fighter Squadron, based at Taegu Air Base, South Korea. Operations continued unchanged for the next few years, until the wing transitioned from the F-4 to the newer F-16. The Wolf Pack's transition from the F-4 to the F-16 began with the arrival of the wing's first F-16 on 29 May 1981. The wing's first F-16 sortie was flown the following 18 September and, by 19 July 1982, the conversion of the 35th and 80th Fighter squadrons was complete as the last F-4 departed Kunsan. This aircraft conversion made the 8 the first active-duty overseas F-16 wing.

For the next ten years the wing used the F-16 to maintain combat readiness for the defense of Korea. While the overall mission remained unchanged, the wing reorganized on 3 February 1992. The wing became the 8 Fighter Wing. Further, the wing adopted a new organizational structure. Under the former tri-deputy system, the wing commander had three deputy commanders, one each for operations, maintenance, and resources. As well, the squadrons were assigned directly to the wing. In 1992, the wing adopted a multi-group structure. This reorganization re-activated the 8 Operations Group and assigned it and the 8 Logistics, Support, and Medical Groups directly to the wing. The squadrons were then assigned to their functionally aligned groups.

The 8 Fighter Wing entered a new era in November 2000. On 17 November, the 35th Fighter Squadron received its first Block 40 F-16s. The new aircraft carried Low-Altitude Navigation & Targeting Infrared for Night (LANTIRN) pods. The 35th completed its conversion in February 2001. The combination of LANTIRN and night-vision goggles has allowed the Wolf Pack to take the fight into the night.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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