

366 FIGHTER WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

366 Fighter-Bomber Wing, established, 15 Nov 1952
Activated, 1 Jan 1953
Redesignated 366 Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Jul 1958
Inactivated, 1 Apr 1959
Activated, 30 Apr 1962
Organized, 8 May 1962
Redesignated 366 Wing, 1 Oct 1991
Redesignated 366 Fighter Wing

STATIONS

Alexandria (later, England) AFB, LA, 1 Jan 1953–1 Apr 1959
Chaumont AB, France, 8 May 1962–15 Jul 1963
Holloman AFB, NM, 15 Jul 1963–11 Mar 1966
Phan Rang AB, South Vietnam, 20 Mar 1966
Da Nang AB, South Vietnam, 10 Oct 1966
Takhli RTAFB, Thailand, 27 Jun–31 Oct 1972
Mountain Home AFB, ID, 31 Oct 1972

ASSIGNMENTS

Ninth Air Force, 1 Jan 1953
834 Air Division, 25 Sep 1957–1 Apr 1959
United States Air Forces in Europe, 30 Apr 1962
Seventeenth Air Force, 8 May 1962

Twelfth Air Force, 12 Jul 1963
832 Air Division, 1 Oct 1964
2 Air Division, 20 Mar 1966
Seventh Air Force, 1 Apr 1966
Thirteenth Air Force, 27 Jun 1972
832 Air Division, 31 Oct 1972
Twelfth Air Force, 1 Jul 1975

ATTACHMENTS

Nineteenth Air Force, 15 Feb 1956– 24 Sep 1957

WEAPON SYSTEMS

F-51, 1953
F-86, 1953–1955, 1956
F-84, 1954–1958
KB-29, 1954–1957
KB-50, 1957–1958
F-100, 1957–1959
F-84, 1962–1965
F-100, 1963, 1966
F-4, 1965–1972
EC-47, 1972
O-2, 1972
OV-10, 1972
F-111, 1972–1991
EF-111, 1981–1992
F-15, 1991
F-16, 1991
KC-135, 1992
B-52, 1992-1994
B-1, 1994-2002

COMMANDERS

Col Reginald F. C. Vance, 1 Jan 1953
Col William A. Daniel, 14 Jul 1953
Col Victor E. Warford, 29 Aug 1957
Col Clyde B. Slocumb, Jr., 25 Sep 1957
Lt Col David N. Harmon, 1 Jun 1958
Col Robert J. Rogers, 17 Jul 1958
Lt Col Frank L. McGuinness, 6 Mar 1959
Col Robert J. Rogers, 23 Mar–1 Apr 1959
None (not manned), 30 Apr–7 May 1962
Col James S. Coward, 8 May 1962
Col George S. Weart, 12 Mar 1964

Col Frank J. Collins, 16 Mar 1964
Col George S. Weart, 7 Jul 1965
Col Carlos M. Talbott, 15 Jul 1965
Col George S. Weart, May 1966
Col Allan P. Rankin, 10 Oct 1966
Col Jones E. Bolt, 20 Mar 1967
Col Robert W. Maloy, 27 May 1967
Col Clifford H. Meier, 19 Dec 1967
Col Paul C. Watson, 17 Jan 1968
Col John W. Roberts, 2 Jan 1969
Col Edward H. Risher, 19 Apr 1969 (Interim)
Brig Gen John W. Roberts, 4 May 1969
Col Joseph C. Secino, 1 Oct 1969
Col Daniel C. Perry, 19 Sep 1970
Col John R. Spalding, Jr., 18 Feb 1971
Col Julian D. Sawyer, 7 Jul 1971
Col George W. Rutter, 22 Mar 1972
Col Lynwood E. Clark, 31 Oct 1972
Brig Gen Howard W. Leaf, 15 May 1973
Col Robert K. Parsons, 12 Jul 1974
Col Samuel Huser, 2 Jun 1976
Col John L. Pickitt, 8 Jan 1977
Col Von R. Christiansen, 17 Jul 1978
Col Jerry D. Holmes, 11 Aug 1980
Col Earnest L. Coleman, 2 Jul 1981
Col Loren D. Eastburn, 8 Oct 1982 (Interim) 26 Oct 1982 (permanent)
Col Malcolm B. Armstrong, 10 Apr 1984
Col Dennis C. Sammer, 16 Dec 1985
Col Richard G. Hellier, 14 Aug 1987
Col Victor C. Andrews, 24 Mar 1989
Brig Gen William S. Hinton, Jr., 25 Jul 1991
Brig Gen David J. McCloud, 23 Jun 1993
Brig Gen Lansford E. Trapp Jr., 17 Aug 1994
Brig Gen William A. Peck Jr., 7 Aug 1995
Brig Gen Randall M. Schmidt, 18 Aug 1997
Brig Gen Robin E. Scott, 9 Mar 1999
Brig Gen Irving L. Halter Jr., 15 Mar 2001
Col Blair E. Hansen, 6 Jan 2003
Col Charles K. Shugg, 18 Jun 2004
Col Anthony J. Rock, 31 May 2006
Col James S. Browne, 7 Sep 2007
Col John d. Bird II, 11 Feb 2009
Col Ronald D. Buckley, 24 May 2010
Col Richard A. Goodman

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Vietnam

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/Counteroffensive

Vietnam Summer-Fall, 1969

Vietnam Winter-Spring, 1970

Sanctuary Counteroffensive

Southwest Monsoon

Commando Hunt V

Commando Hunt VI

Commando Hunt VII

Vietnam Ceasefire

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia

Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Presidential Unit Citations (Southeast Asia)

23 Apr–1 Aug 1967

1 Apr– 31 Oct 1972

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device

10 Oct 1966-31 Mar 1967

1 Apr 1967-31 Mar 1968

1 Apr 1968-31 Jul 1969

1 Aug 1969-1 Aug 1970

2 Aug 1970-31 Mar 1972

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

17 Apr 1974-15 Apr 1976

18 Aug-16 Sep 1976

16 Apr 1976-27 Mar 1978
1 Apr 1984-31 May 1985
1 Mar 1989-28 Feb 1991
1 Mar 1992-28 Feb 1994
1 Jun 1996-31 May 1998
1 Jun 2001-31 May 2002
1 Jan 2007-31 May 2008
1 Jun 2011-31 May 2012

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
1 Apr 1966-31 Oct 1972

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 366 Operations Group prior to 1 Jan 1953

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
Normandy, 11 Jul 1944

Citations in the Order of the Day, Belgian Army
6 Jun-30 Sep 1944
1 Oct-17 Dec 1944
18 Dec 1944-15 Jan 1945

Belgian Fourragere

EMBLEM



Gules, a pile Azure fimbriated Or between in base four flight symbols ascendant palewise two in dexter and two in sinister, one over one Argent, and bearing in honor point an escutcheon Vert charged with a fleur-de-lis between six crosses, three in dexter and three in sinister, all Or, within a bordure of the like and all within a diminished bordure of the last. (Approved, 3 Aug 1965 replaced emblem approved, 6 Oct 1954)

MOTTO

AUDENTES FORTUNA JUVAT—Fortune favors the bold

OPERATIONS

On January 1, 1953, the Air Force activated the 366 Fighter-Bomber Wing at Alexandria AFB, Louisiana. At first, the new wing operated the F-51 Mustang, the same aircraft that had served so well in World War II as the P-51. Soon the wing entered the jet age, converting to the F-86 Sabre before the end of 1953. In September 1954, the wing began deploying squadrons of Sabres to Europe, operating for six-month stretches in France and Italy. As it did so, the wing also began converting to the F-84F Thunderstreak.



Wing Headquarters, England AFB, LA, 1955



Col William A. Daniel, Commander,
366 FBW

In 1957, the wing also added the F-100 Super Sabre to its inventory while continuing to operate the F-84.

On 1 July 1958, as part of an Air Force-wide renaming of units, Air Force redesignated the 366 Fighter-Bomber Wing as the 366 Tactical Fighter Wing. Shortly thereafter, a general drawdown in U.S. forces prompted the wing's second inactivation, which occurred April 1, 1959. But the intensification of the Cold War in the early 1960s brought the 366 TFW back to life at Chaumont AB, France, in April 1962. This marked the first peacetime activation of a wing at an overseas location. Throughout its time in France, the wing flew the F-84F, deploying regularly to Libya for gunnery training.

The wing returned to the United States in July 1963 and its new home at Holloman AFB, New Mexico as a result of French president Charles DeGaulle's deep suspicion of "supranational organizations" and his country's shift away from the NATO orbit in the early 1960s that ultimately led to the closure of American air bases in France. At Holloman, the wing began converting to the new F-4C Phantom II in February 1965. Later that year, the wing sent its first squadron to the Republic of Vietnam.

The 366 TFW moved to Da Nang AB, Republic of Vietnam and regained the 390th FS in October 1966. While at Da Nang, pilots noted they were missing opportunities to shoot down enemy MiGs because the F-4C lacked a cannon and its missiles were ineffective at short ranges. So

wing maintainers mounted an external 20-millimeter Gatling gun pod on the F-4Cs, and in less than a month the wing's pilots had scored four MiG kills. The gun pod innovation and the MiG kills that followed earned the wing the nickname it carries today, the "Gunfighters." During this period, the wing earned a Presidential Unit Citation for shooting down 11 enemy aircraft in a three-month period.

By May 1968, the wing had upgraded to the F-4D aircraft, and then in 1969, two squadrons of F-4Es joined the wing. After this, the F-4Ds assumed forward air control duties, while the more advanced F-4Es concentrated on aircraft escort duties and conducted ground attack missions. By November 1971, the 366 was the only United States tactical fighter wing still stationed in Vietnam. Between 1966 and 1972, the Gunfighters logged 18 confirmed MiG kills in Vietnam.

Before the 366 Tactical Fighter Wing's arrival at Mountain Home, the 389th, 390th, and 391st Tactical Fighter Squadrons had returned from Vietnam, joined the 347th, and began converting to F-111F aircraft. For the first time since it left for Vietnam, the wing once again had its three original flying units.

Operations continued unchanged for several years. The wing tested its readiness in August 1976 when a border incident in Korea prompted the United States to augment its military contingent in South Korea as a show of force. The 366 deployed a squadron of 20 F-111 fighters. They reached Korea only 31 hours after receiving launch notification. Tensions eased shortly afterward and the detachment returned home.

Later, the Air Force sent the F-111F aircraft from Mountain Home to the 48th Tactical Fighter Wing at RAF Lakenheath, England, in a move to modernize its European forces. In return, the 366 received F-111A aircraft from Nellis AFB, Nevada.

In March 1980, the Air Force announced plans to base EF-111A Raven electronic combat aircraft at Mountain Home. The Raven variant was specifically design to blind enemy radars with powerful electronic signals. The 366 gradually sent part of its F-111A fleet to the Grumman Aerospace Corporation where they underwent extensive modification and were converted to the EF-111A configuration. In support of these changes, on July 1, 1981, Air Force activated the 388th Electronic Combat Squadron to receive the newly modified Ravens. However, a year later, Air Force redesignated 390th Tactical Fighter Squadron as the 390th Electronic Combat Squadron, which replaced the 388th and began serving as the wing's only EF-111A squadron.

Operations throughout the early 1980s remained stable with the 366 Tactical Fighter Wing training F-111A and EF-111A aircrews while maintaining combat readiness in both aircraft. The aging F-111A fleet was retired in the early '90s, which prompted the inactivation of the 391st Tactical Fighter Squadron in June 1990 and of the 389th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron in June 1991.

But as the F-111As were being retired, the wing's Ravens saw extensive service. In December 1989, the 366 deployed its EF-111As in support of Operation Just Cause in Panama. The 390th

Electronic Combat Squadron contributed a small force of EF-111A aircraft to jam enemy radars during the brief invasion.

Likewise, in August 1990, most of the 390th ECS deployed to Saudi Arabia for Operation Desert Shield. The wing also deployed people to many different locations in the Middle East as forces were built up to defend against Iraqi aggression. The largest of the wing's contingents was the 390th ECS at King Fahad AB near Taif, Saudi Arabia. Here, the wing's EF-111A aircraft served with the 48th Tactical Fighter Wing (Provisional) which flew the F-111F.

In January 1991 coalition forces began Operation Desert Storm, initiating offensive operations against Iraqi forces. The deployed 390th flew electronic jamming missions during the six-week war, protecting coalition aircraft from Iraqi air defenses and contributing to the Allies' overwhelming control of the air. The deployed Ravens and most of the deployed Gunfighters returned to Mountain Home AFB in late March 1991.

In early 1991, the Air Force announced that the 366 would become the Air Force's premier "air intervention" composite wing. The wing would grow from a single-squadron of EF-111As to a dynamic, five squadron wing with the ability to deploy rapidly and deliver integrated combat airpower. The air intervention composite wing's rapid transition from concept to reality began in October of 1991 when redesignated as the 366 Wing. The wing's newly reactivated "fighter squadrons" became part of the composite wing in March 1992. The 389th Fighter began flying the dual-role F-16C Fighting Falcon, while the 391st Fighter Squadron was equipped with the new F-15E Strike Eagle. These two squadrons provide Gunfighters round-the-clock precision strike capability.

In June 1992, as part of Air Force restructuring, Strategic Air Command and Tactical Air Command merged to form Air Combat Command. A month later, the 366 also gained the 34th Bomb Squadron. Located at Castle AFB, California, the 34th flew the B-52G Stratofortress, giving the composite wing deep interdiction bombing capabilities as the only B-52 unit armed with the deadly, long-range HAVE NAP missile.

Next, in September 1992, Air Force redesignated the 390th Electronic Combat Squadron as the 390th Fighter Squadron, which began flying the Air Force's premier air superiority aircraft, the F-15C Eagle. With its internal 20-millimeter cannon and air-to-air missiles, the F-15C protects the wing's high-value assets from enemy air threats. At the same time, Air Force activated the 429th Electronic Combat Squadron, which assumed control of the wing's EF-111A aircraft as they prepared to transfer to Canon AFB, New Mexico. Not long afterwards, in October 1992, the composite wing gained its final flying squadron when the 22nd Air Refueling Squadron was activated and equipped with the KC-135R Stratotankers. These tankers give the wing its ability to deploy globally at a moment's notice.

In another change, on April 1, 1994, the 34th Bomb Squadron transferred its flag to Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. At the same time the squadron's B-52Gs were retired, making way for the squadron to be equipped with the technologically advanced B-1B Lancer. Next, a gradual

transfer of the B-1s from Ellsworth to Mountain Home began in August 1996. The squadron completed a move to Mountain Home on April 1, 1997, when its flag was officially transferred to the Gunfighter home base.

Also in 1996, the wing gained yet another operational squadron. On June 21st, the 726th Air Control Squadron was reassigned from Shaw AFB, South Carolina, to Mountain Home. The new squadron brought mobile radar surveillance, and command and control capabilities to the composite wing.

Twice, in 1993 and again in 1995, the wing served as the lead unit for Bright Star, a large combined exercise held in Egypt. In July 1995, the wing also verified its combat capability in the largest operational readiness inspection in Air Force history. The Gunfighters deployed a composite strike force to Cold Lake, Canada, and proved they could deliver effective composite airpower. Then in 1996, the wing deployed to Incirlik AB, Turkey, in support of Operation Provide Comfort.

The 366 has also deployed twice to Shaikh Isa AB, Bahrain, to support Operation Southern Watch in 1997 and 1998. These Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) deployments showed that the 366 Wing could employ and sustain its composite force while conducting the mission. Gunfighters returned on a second rotation relieving the unit who had replaced them after the wing's first visit to Bahrain. This historical first set the pace and made way for operational advancements. The 366 Wing then helped develop the way the Air Force will fly and fight in the next century through its participation as the lead AEF unit during Expeditionary Force Experiment 98. This CSAF experiment combined actual flights and combat simulations to create realistic warfighting environments. It aimed to rapidly mature initiatives that integrated air and space competency while applying decisive air and space power, thus dramatically improving command and control.

In early 1999, the wing's three fighter squadrons flew combat missions over southern Iraq, with the 391st dropping more bombs than any other unit since the end of Desert Storm. From April-June 1999, the 22 ARS supported Operation Allied Force, the NATO air campaign against Serbia. During this period, the squadron refueled 600 aircraft and off-loaded over 7 million pounds of fuel. The 726th Air Control Squadron also supported Kosovo operations from May-July 1999. They were the first American unit to deploy to Romania in 53 years.

In September 1999, the Gunfighters participated in JEFX 99, the latest in a series of exercises focused on testing emerging command and control technologies for deployed air expeditionary forces. Immediately following JEFX 99, the wing hosted Red Flag 00-1.1, the first red flag exercise in history not conducted at Nellis AFB, Nevada. Flown completely at night, the exercise combined traditional composite strike aircraft packages with low-observable F-117s and B-2s in a simulated interdiction campaign.

Following the terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001 and the resultant initiation of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, the 366 Wing once again got the call. While the 34th Bomb Squadron

deployed to Diego Garcia as the B-1 component of the 28th Air Expeditionary Wing, the wing sent a Base Operations Support package to Al Udeid AB, Qatar to transform the bare base into a fully operational airfield for large-scale combat operations. In October 2001, the 391st FS deployed to the Arabian Peninsula, while the 389th FS went to Al Udeid in November. Meanwhile, the 22 ARS, 390th FS, and 726th ACS supported Operation Noble Eagle protecting the skies of the Northwestern United States. In January 2007, the 391st FS deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan as the first F-15E Strike Eagle unit to patrol the skies over that country during Operation Enduring Freedom.

During the air campaign against Afghanistan that began on 7 October 2001, the 366 Wing's deployed crews flew nearly 1,000 sorties and dropped a total of 7.6 million pounds of bombs against Al Qaeda and Taliban targets--the most out of any unit participating in the operation.

Following the wing's return from Southwest Asia, consolidation of the Air Force's KC-135 and B-1 force led to the reallocation of the wing's bombers and tankers. While the 22d ARS' aircraft transferred to McConnell AFB, Kansas in May 2002, the 34th BS' B-1s went to Ellsworth AFB South Dakota in June. As a result, the 22d ARS inactivated on 30 August 2002, while the 34th transferred to Ellsworth on 18 September.

In May 2005, the Base Realignment and Closure commission outlined recommendations to consolidate the 366 Fighter Wing from a multi-frame fighter base to a single frame of F-15E Strike Eagles. The move was part of the Air Force's efforts to consolidate its fighter fleets as a smarter way of doing business and to save money. In November 2006, the 389th FS F-16CJs began to depart to McEntire Air National Guard Base, S.C., and Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., while new F-15Es arrived from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. The F-16CJs completely departed in March 2007, leaving the base with two F-15E Strike Eagle fighter squadrons and one F-15C Eagle fighter squadron. The 390th FS F-15C Eagles will begin departing the base in 2009.

After more than seven years of work and planning, the Air Force expanded the aerial training range at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, to provide more realistic training for the base's F-15Es and other aircraft. The Mountain Home Range Complex, as of July 26, is more than 2,000 square miles larger, said base officials in an Aug. 9 release. "The new airspace provides the opportunity for better training," said Col. Christopher Short, 366 Fighter Wing commander. "It's more realistic and provides depth, which challenges our aviators to locate low-flying aircraft and ground targets in mountainous terrain." As part of the change, the airspace floor is now 4,500 feet lower, allowing pilots to fly closer to mountain ranges that mimic Afghanistan's rough terrain, states the release. This also allows crews to better replicate real-world missions by communicating with joint terminal attack controllers in the mountains as well as practicing refueling missions and aerial combat in the same flight. 2012

Air Combat Command officials announced the 366 Fighter Wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, will test a new wing organizational structure. The experimental structure, initiated by Gen. Mike Holmes, Air Combat Command commander, directs the 366 Fighter Wing to create an organization that will test possible ways to improve squadron readiness, develop unit

leaders and encourage innovation. Changes at the wing are expected to start this month.

Command officials contend that an era of re-emerging great power competition requires units to be ready to fight across the entire spectrum of combat. Operations may be decentralized, requiring squadrons to operate with greater independence. Wing commanders may need to deploy to separate locations with staffs that can effectively liaise with joint and service headquarters to direct and support the actions of these dispersed units. The experiment will test whether a new structure at home stations can improve the lethality and readiness of an Air Force combat wing along these lines.

“This experiment is about our desire to improve lethality and create an environment where leaders are empowered to lead and squadron personnel can focus on their core missions,” Holmes said. “This concept should flatten the decision-making structure within wings to encourage faster, decentralized decision-making and to remove some duties from our front-line units.”

The new structure removes group commanders and a vice commander from the wing structure so that squadron commanders report directly to the wing commander. Two deputy commanders will advise and assist the wing commander in guiding and evaluating squadron operations, as well as supporting and deconflicting squadron-level decisions. The experiment eliminates the existing aircraft maintenance squadron and aligns the aircraft maintenance units for each fighter squadron with those squadrons, providing unity of effort through a director of maintenance having oversight of sortie generation and support for squadron operations.

The structure also provides an A-staff under a chief of staff, who will serve as liaisons for efforts directed by their counterparts at higher headquarters and work issues associated with organizing, training and equipping forces that are not part of any squadron’s core mission. Various squadrons have taken on these responsibilities over time because wings have lacked a dedicated staff of functional experts. The A-staff structure adopts a similar organizational model used by major commands, the Air Force, and joint staffs for functional support of unit operations.

Although the experiment changes the rank and positions of unit personnel, it does not add or subtract from the number of Airmen assigned to Mountain Home AFB.

As part of the experiment, ACC and the 366 FW established working groups of key stakeholders and developed a detailed plan for how the wing will test the new structure over the next two years. Evaluation of the experiment will consist of internal and external assessments of the 366 FW compared to similar units using the current wing-group-squadron structure, conducted by experts in and outside the Air Force.

“This experiment is aimed at revitalizing our squadrons by allowing them to focus on the mission while pushing administrative duties to a wing staff,” said Col. Joseph Kunkel, 366 FW commander. “This puts decision-making authority and accountability for the mission at the squadron level. That’s where we need it to be to build the squadrons and leaders we need for tomorrow’s challenges.”

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 28 Sep 2010
Updated: 14 May 2023

Sources

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

Unit yearbook, *Alexandria AFB, LA, 366 Fighter-Bomber Wing, 1954*, Army and Navy Publishing Co, Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1954

Unit yearbook, *366 Fighter-Bomber Wing, England AFB, LA, 1955*, Army Navy Publishing Co., Baton Rouge, LA. 1955.