

501 COMBAT SUPPORT WING



MISSION

Provide agile combat support to enable Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance global strike operations, and command & control in support of U.S. and NATO objectives.

Almost 2,000 Airmen serving one wing with two groups, 14 squadrons, and 17 wing staff agencies, the 501 serves a community of more than 14,000 personnel spread across seven installations. Additionally, the wing supports mission partners from the NATO Joint Warfare Center, U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command, NATO Intelligence Fusion Center, Air Force Global Strike Command, and nearly 65 other U.S. military and government agencies throughout the United Kingdom and Norway.

LINEAGE

501 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy established, 25 May 1944

Activated, 1 Jun 1944

Inactivated, 10 Jun 1946

701 Tactical Missile Wing established, 3 Aug 1956

Activated, 15 Sep 1956

Inactivated, 18 Jun 1958

501 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy and 701 Tactical Missile Wing consolidated, 11 Jan 1982. Consolidated organization redesignated 501 Tactical Missile Wing.

Activated, 1 Jul 1982

Inactivated on 31 May 1991

Redesignated 501 Combat Support Wing, 22 Mar 2005

Activated, 12 May 2005

STATIONS

Dalhart AAFld, TX, 1 Jun 1944
Harvard AAFld, NE, 22 Aug 1944
Fort Lawton, WA, 10-17 Mar 1945
Territory of Hawaii, 25-30 Mar 1945
Northwest Field, Guam, 14 Apr 1945-10 Jun 1946
Hahn AB, Germany, 15 Sep 1956-18 Jun 1958
RAF Greenham Common, England, 1 Jul 1982-31 May 1991
RAF Mildenhall, England, 12 May 2005
RAF Alconbury, England, 30 Sep 2007

ASSIGNMENTS

Second Air Force, 1 Jun 1944
XXI Bomber Command, 14 Apr 1945
315 Bombardment Wing, (later, 315 Composite Wing), 19 Jun 1945
Twentieth Air Force, 15 May-10 Jun 1946
Twelfth Air Force, 15 Sep 1956
United States Air Forces in Europe, 1 Jan-18 Jun 1958
Third Air Force, 1 Jul 1982-31 May 1991
Third Air Force, 12 May 2005

ATTACHMENTS

315 Bombardment Wing, 15 Apr-18 Jun 1945

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-29, 1944-1946
Matador, 1956-1958
BGM-109, 1982-1990
Unkn, 1991

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 1-26 Jun 1944
Capt Harry L. Young, 27 Jun 1944
Lt Col Arch G. Campbell Jr., 6 Jul 1944
Col Boyd Hubbard Jr., 11 Aug 1944
Col Vincent M. Miles Jr., 15 Apr-20 May 1946
None (not manned), 21 May-10 Jun 1946
Lt Col Robert F. Zachmann, 15 Sep 1956
Col Theodore H. Runyon, 7 Jan 1957-18 Jun 1958
Col Robert M. Thompson, 1 Jul 1982
Col John Bacs, 25 Jan 1985
Col William E. Jones, 2 Jun 1987
Col Richard R. Riddick, 21 Jun 1988

Col Wendell S. Brande, 7 Jan-31 May 1991
Col Blake F. Lindner, 12 May 2005
Col Angie Cadwell June 2013
Col D. Landon Phillips

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Air Offensive, Japan
Eastern Mandates
Western Pacific

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
Japan, 6-13 Jul 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

15 Sep 1956-30 Apr 1958
1 Jul 1982-30 Jun 1984
1 Jul 1987-31 May 1989
1 Jun 1989-31 May 1991
1 Jan 2006-31 Dec 2007

EMBLEM



701 Tactical Missile Wing emblem: shield quartered: first and fourth quarters, or, on a bend azure an arrow of the first in bend; second quarter, azure a griffin segreant or, langued gules;

third quarter, azure a torch in pale, flamed, between two branches of olive or; on an escutcheon of pretence gules an astral crown or. (Approved, 20 Jun 1957)

A shield quartered: first and fourth quarters, or, on a bend azure an arrow of the first in bend; second quarter, azure, a griffin segreant or, langued gules; third quarter, azure, a torch in pale, flamed, between two branches of olive or; on an escutcheon or pretence gules, an astral crown or. Motto: On a white scroll edged and inscribed in Air Force yellow, POISED TO DETER. Significance: The golden arrow signifies guided flight. The golden griffin, half eagle and half lion, symbolizes a warlike character with the cunning and intelligence of the eagle in flight and the courage and valor of the lion in battle. The torch and olive wreath represent the peacetime pursuit of knowledge and progress. The small shield and crown signify the authority of command. The astral crown denotes command in the air and obedience to guidance. The blue and yellow colors stand for the Air Force, and the red stands for the courage and strength with which the wing carries out its mission. (Approved, 1 Oct 1982)



501 Combat Support Wing emblem: Quartered Or and Azure, in the second quarter a griffin counterchanged, langued and eyed Gules, in the third a torch between two laurel branches all counterchanged, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "501 COMBAT SUPPORT WING" in Ultramarine Blue letters. 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 griffin is a warlike character symbolizing the cunning and intelligence of the eagle in flight combined with the courage and valor of the lion in battle. The torch reflects the unit's pursuit of excellence in providing world-class combat support. The olive branches represent the mission-critical oversight the unit provides to its many subordinate units. (Approved, 27 Jul 2004)

MOTTO

Valor with Progress

Pathfinders "Light The Way"

OPERATIONS

Trained in the U.S. for heavy bombardment operations overseas, Jun 1944-Mar 1945. Combat in the Pacific, 19 Jun-14 Aug 1945. Flew first mission against Japanese fortifications on Truk Island, 19 Jun 1945. Began raiding Japan on 27 Jun and subsequently operated primarily against the enemy's petroleum industry on Honshu. Earned a Distinguished Unit Citation for attacks on the Maruzen Oil Refinery at Shimotsu, the Utsubo Oil Refinery at Yokkaichi, and the petroleum center at Kawasaki , in Jul 1945. Following the end of hostilities, dropped food and supplies to Allied prisoners in Japan, China, Korea, and Manchuria.

Not operational, c. 21 May-10 Jun 1946. Between Sep 1956 and Jun 1958, served in Germany as the first tactical missile wing in the U.S. Air Force.

Between Jul 1982 and 1991, maintained readiness to strike enemy targets in Europe as first ground-launched cruise missile wing in Europe.

Implementation of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union eliminated the wing's mission and weapon system.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 5 May 2024

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.