

509 TACTICAL FIGHTER SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

624 Bombardment Squadron (Dive) constituted, 4 Feb 1943
Activated, 1 Mar 1943
Redesignated 509 Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 10 Aug 1943
Redesignated 509 Fighter Squadron, 30 May 1944
Inactivated, 15 Oct 1945
Redesignated 509 Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 15 Oct 1952
Activated, 1 Dec 1952
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1958
Redesignated 509 Fighter Interceptor Squadron, 11 Mar 1959
Activated, 9 Apr 1959
Inactivated Jul 1970
Redesignated 509 Tactical Fighter Squadron
Inactivated,

STATIONS

Drew Field, FL, 1 Mar 1943
Walterboro AAFld, SC, 14 Sep 1943-14 Feb 1944
Christchurch, England, 7 Mar-22 Jun 1944
Picauville, France, 29 Jun 1944
St Dizier, France, c. 13 Sep 1944
Ophoven, Belgium, 6 Feb 1945

Kitzingen, Germany, 23 Apr 1945
Straubing, Germany, 8 May-2 Jul 1945
Camp Shanks, NY, 14-15 Oct 1945
Godman AFB, KY, 1 Dec 1952
Langley AFB, VA, Apr 1953-1 Jul 1958
Clark AB, Luzon, 9 Apr 1959
RAF Woodbridge, England, 1 Oct 1979-1 Feb 1980
RAF Bentwaters, England, 1 Feb 1980

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Ramstein-Landstuhl AB, Germany, 1 Oct 1957-26 Mar 1958

ASSIGNMENTS

405 Bombardment (later Fighter-Bomber; Fighter) Group, 1 Mar 1943-15 Oct 1945
405 Fighter-Bomber Group, 1 Dec 1952
405 Fighter-Bomber Wing, 8 Oct 1957-1 Jul 1958
405 Fighter Wing, 9 Apr 1959

WEAPON SYSTEMS

A-24, 1943
P-39, 1943
P-47, 1943-1945
F-84, 1953-1956
F-100, 1956-1958
F-86, 1959-1960
F-102A, 1960

COMMANDERS

Maj Harry K. Evans, #@1955

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

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

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

France, 24 Sep 1944

Cited in the Order of the Day, Belgian Army: 6 Jun-30 Sep 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Nov 1960-30 Jun 1961

EMBLEM



509th Fighter Bomber Squadron Significance The skull represents war, death, and destruction, and is indicative of our capability. The rose represents peace, life, and prosperity, and is indicative of our goal. By our very existence, we fulfill daily our obligations toward our mission. By exercising our capability, we preserve and underwrite our goal.



On a light silver gray disc bordered black, in base a mound of earth, dark gray; imbedded in the earth and lying on its side a white skull, gaping eye sockets, nose and mouth black; springing up

through the upper eye socket and extending over the border in bend, a red rose, stem and leaves green; all outlines and details black throughout. (Approved, 30 Jan 1957)

MOTTO

Pirates

OPERATIONS

The unit trained with A-24, P-39 and finally P-47 aircraft. In April of 1944 the unit moved to England and entered combat with the Ninth Air Force. Until D-Day, the 405th was chiefly engaged in the bombing of airfields, marshalling yards and bridges in France in preparation for the invasion of Normandy. The group moved to the continent and continued operations from bases in France and Belgium before returning to the United States in October of 1945 when it was deactivated.

The 509th Fighter Bomber Squadron was activated at Godman Air Force Base, Kentucky in December 1952. The pilots flew F-47's at Godman but a number of them went to Eglin Air Force Base, Florida to check out in the T-33. The squadron moved to Langley Air Force Base, Virginia in April 1953 where it received its first jets - six T-33A's. The summer months were spent getting settled after the move and striving for a maximum of training in the T-33A. In September 1953 the squadron started receiving F-84G's and, by the end of December 1953, had a total of seven. In May 1954, the squadron received its first F-84F, the aircraft that the entire squadron was waiting for since December 1952. Eighteen long months of training and waiting were over. At the end of June 1954, the squadron had a total of eleven F-84F's with more expected in the near future. The 509th Fighter Squadron will soon be combat ready.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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

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

Unit yearbook. *405 Fighter-Bomber Wing, 1954*. Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc., Baton Rouge, LA. 1954.