

601st AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

601st Tactical Control Wing established and activated, 18 Jan 1968

Organized, 1 Jul 1968

Redesignated 601st Support Wing, 31 Mar 1992

Redesignated 601st Air Base Wing, 1 Oct 1993

Inactivated, 31 Mar 1995

Redesignated 601st Air Expeditionary Wing, converted to provisional status and assigned to USAFE to activate or inactivate at any time after 5 Feb 2001

STATIONS

Sembach AB, West Germany, 1 Jul 1968

Wiesbaden AB, West Germany, 1 Jun 1973

Sembach AB, West Germany, 1 Jan 1976

ASSIGNMENTS

United States Air Forces in Europe, 18 Jan 1968

Seventeenth Air Force, 1 Jul 1968

65th Air Division, 1 Jun 1985

Seventeenth Air Force, 31 Jul 1987

WEAPON SYSTEMS

O-2A, 1970-1974

OV-10A, 1974-1984

CH-53C, 1975

C-97, 1975

C-130, 1976-1977

COMMANDERS

Col Jack R. Best, 1 Jul 1968
Col Carlos E. Dannacher, 5 Jan 1970
Col Robert L. Jones, 28 Jun 1971
Col David E. Rippetoe, Jr., 7 Jul 1972
Col Fleetwood Pride, Jr., 9 Jun 1975
Col Ralph W. Haymaker, 1 Apr 1976
Col Paul H. Hodges, 21 Mar 1977
BG Leon W. Babcock, Jr., 14 Apr 1979
BG Christian F. Dreyer, Jr., 15 Jun 1981
BG Robert A. Norman, 20 Apr 1983
Col Walter C. Hersman, 3 Jul 1985
Col Thoms A Cardwell, III, 21 Oct 1985
Col Joseph D. Ferris, #1993

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
1 May 1981-30 Apr 1983

EMBLEM

The emblem is symbolic of the wing and the Air Force colors; golden yellow and ultramarine blue are used. Golden yellow refers to the sun and excellence of personnel in assigned duties and blue to the sky the primary theater of Air Force operations. The Air Force star with lightning bolts attached represents the fixed and mobile aircraft control and warning mission which applies to the theater of operations of the wing. The red embattlement signifies the Iron Curtain area. The chevron shape in the base denotes the direct air support of ground forces by the wing. The aircraft silhouette refers to air power in both the offensive and defensive roles. (Approved, 13 Aug 1968)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Working with United States Air Forces in Europe and other branches of the U.S. and Allied armed

forces in Europe, planned, directed, canned, controlled, and provided logistical support for tactical air control functions required by HQ, Seventeenth Air Force. Operations included fixed and Mobile radar air surveillance and control of the airspace primarily over West Germany. Owned air and ground forward air controller assets, 1972-1984.

The 601st Tactical Control Wing was organized at Sembach Air Base on 1 July 1968. The new wing assumed the missions of the 601st TCG and 603rd Air Base Wing (ABW) which were discontinued and returned to the control of the Department of the Air Force. The latter unit had primarily been a housekeeping and support organization charged with the operations and maintenance of Sembach AB and five nearby former missile and missile support sites. The new wing, under the command of Colonel Jack R. Best, was organized in the dual deputy concept with a deputy commander for operations and a deputy commander for maintenance. The newly activated 601st Combat Support Group (CSG) assumed the wing's secondary mission of operating the base and performing support functions thereby allowing the wing commander and his deputies to concentrate on the widely scattered and complex tactical air control system operation.

The mission of the 601st Tactical Control Wing (TCW) is to provide an effective European Tactical Air Control System (ETACS) for the Commander-In-Chief United States Air Forces Europe (CINCUSAFE) and Commander, Allied Air Forces Central Europe (COMAAFCE). To provide this service, the wing employed a number of resources to include that of a mobile radar network, flying operations in the form of CH-53C "Surer Jolly" helicopters, and a smattering of other elements to include several Forward Air Control Posts (FACPs). Over the entire spectrum of wing operations, the 601st TCW ultimately took in the tasks of controlling Offensive missions against ground targets, handling Defensive missions for air-to-air intercepts, supplying surveillance of airspace both in and outside the Central Region, and providing valuable interface support for European Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) sorties. To save on confusion in describing these and other wing functions, to include just how all this fits together to form an integrated whole, let's first take a look at the wing's mobile radar system which is comprised of three Control and Reporting Posts (CRPs) and six FACPs.

6 January 1969 The 601st TCW assumed operational control of the Systems Programming Analysis Test Site (SPATS), This function would later be known as Programming Center Birkenfeld (PCB).

11 May 1977 The wing was reorganized into a modified tri-deputate configuration. A deputy commander for resource management became responsible for the 601st Supply Squadron, 601st Transportation Squadron, and the Comptroller Division. In the second deputate, a deputy command for tactical control was responsible for 600th and 601st TCG activities to include their subordinate units. Finally, through a deputy commander for maintenance and deputy commander for operations, the 601st TASG commander controlled all three flying squadrons and the 601st CMS

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 30 Jan 2011

Updated:

Sources

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