

23rd WING



LINEAGE

23rd Fighter Wing, established, 10 Aug 1948
Activated, 16 Aug 1948
Inactivated, 24 Sep 1949
Redesignated 23rd Fighter-Interceptor Wing, 19 Dec 1950
Activated, 12 Jan 1951
Inactivated, 6 Feb 1952
Redesignated 23rd Tactical Fighter Wing, and activated, 28 Jan 1964
Organized, 8 Feb 1964
Redesignated 23rd Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 1991
Inactivated, 1 Jun 1992
Redesignated 23rd Wing, and activated, 1 Jun 1992
Redesignated 23rd Fighter Group, 1 Apr 1997
Redesignated 23rd Wing, 1 Oct 2006

STATIONS

Northwest Guam AFB, Guam, 16 Aug 1948-3 Apr 1949
Howard AFB, CZ, 25 Apr-24 Sep 1949
Presque Isle AFB, ME, 12 Jan 1951-6 Feb 1952
McConnell AFB, KS, 8 Feb 1964
England AFB, LA, 1 Jul 1972-1 Jun 1992
Pope AFB, NC, 1 Jun 1992
Moody AFB, GA, 1 Oct 2006

ASSIGNMENTS

Twentieth Air Force, 16 Aug 1948
Caribbean Air Command, 25 Apr-24 Sep 1949
Eastern Air Defense Force, 12 Jan 1951-6 Feb 1952
Tactical Air Command, 28 Jan 1964
Twelfth Air Force, 8 Feb 1964
835th Air Division, 1 Jul 1964
Twelfth Air Force, 30 Jun 1971

Ninth Air Force, 1 Jul 1972-1 Jun 1992
Ninth Air Force, 1 Jun 1992
347th Wing, 1 Apr 1997
4th Fighter Wing, 27 Jun 2000
347th Rescue Wing, 18 Aug 2006
Ninth Air Force, 1 Oct 2006

WEAPON SYSTEMS

F-47, 1948-1949
RF-80, 1949
F-86, 1951-1952
F-51, 1951-1952
F-80, 1951-1952
F-105, 1964-1972
AT-33, 1966-1969
T-39, 1966-1972
A-7, 1972-1981
A-37, 1974
A-10, 1980-1992
A/OA-10 1992
C-130, 1992-1997
F-16, 1993-1996

COMMANDERS

Col Romulus W. Puryear, 16 Aug 1948
Col John T. Shields, 22 Sep 1948
Col Angier H. Foster, 25 Apr 1949
Col Louis R. Hughes Jr., c. 28 Apr-24 Sep 1949
Col Charles H. MacDonald, 12 Jan 1951-6 Feb 1952
None (not manned), 28 Jan-7 Feb 1964
Col Olin E. Gilbert, 8 Feb 1964
Col Edmund B. Edwards, 17 Aug 1964
Col Deward E. Bower, 12 Jul 1965
Col Max T. Beall, 9 Oct 1967
Col James V. Hartinger, 28 Aug 1968
Col Walter D. Druen Jr., 15 Jun 1970
Col Garry A. Willard Jr., 21 Oct 1971
Col Harry W. Schurr, 28 Apr 1972
Col Louis W. Weber, 1 Jul 1972
Col Waymond C. Nutt, 20 Nov 1973
Col Charles W. McClarren, 28 Jun 1975
Col Bernard J. Bogoslofski, 12 Dec 1975
Col Paul L. Wieland, 1 Jan 1977
Col Jerry W. Osgood, 1 Jun 1979
Col Michael J. Dugan, 29 May 1980
Col Jimmie V. Adams, 30 Mar 1981

Col Peter K. Foley, 15 Apr 1983
Col James L. Jamerson, 31 May 1985
Col Glenn A. Profitt II, 20 Feb 1987
Col John L. Welde, 10 Jan 1989
Col David A. Sawyer, 2 Apr 1990
Col Richard C. Lemon, 27 Aug 1990
Col David A. Sawyer, c. 22 Apr 1991-1 Jun 1992
BG Bobby O. Floyd, 1 Jun 1992
BG James E. Sandstrom, 27 May 1994
BG Paul R. Dordal, 12 Jan 1996
Col Bobby J. Wilkes, 1 Apr 1997
Col Dale A. Elliott, 22 Jan 1998
Col Joseph R. Wood, 9 Aug 1999
Col Vincent P. Wisniewski, 23 Mar 2001
Col Vincent P. DiFronso, 24 Jan 2003
Col Warren L. Henderson, 23 Jul 2004
Col Henry J. Santicola, 27 Jul-1 Oct 2006
Col Joseph T. Callahan, III, 1 Oct 2006
Col Kenneth E. Todorov, 11 May 2007

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia

Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Grenada, 1983

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device

17 Jan-24 Feb 1991

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jun 1970-15 Jun 1971

1 Jul 1980-30 Jun 1981

1 Jul 1981-30 Jun 1983

1 Apr 1989-31 Mar 1991

31 May 1995-31 Mar 1997

1 Jun 1997-31 May 1999

1 Jun 2000-31 May 2002

1 Jun 2002-31 May 2003

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 23rd Operations Group prior to 16 Aug 1948

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

India-Burma

China Defensive

Western Pacific

China Offensive

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

Hunan Province, China, 17-25 Jun 1944

EMBLEM

Azure over a bolt of lightning in pale Or, a flying tiger Proper, tongue Gules, winged Argent, all within a diminished bordure of the second. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "FLYING TIGERS" in Blue letters. (Approved for 23d Group, 24 Jan 1957 and used by 23d Wing since Jan 1964)

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

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 lightning flash represents the weapons potential of the Wing. The fierce tiger denotes the unit's fighting spirit and tenacity. The wings symbolize the unit's powerful and vast capability in peace and war.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

FLYING TIGERS

OPERATIONS

Air defense of Guam, 1948-1949, and of the Canal Zone, 1949. Air defense of the northeastern United States, 1951-1952. Conducted basic training for about 500 Air Force recruits, 1951. Replaced 388th Tactical Fighter Wing in Feb 1964. Maintained proficiency in tactical fighter operations, frequently deploying whole units or segments thereof to support contingency and combat operations in overseas areas, 1964-1965. Conducted F-105 replacement training, Jan 1966-Nov 1970, and training for ANG units, Nov 1970-Apr 1971. Maintained proficiency in tactical fighter operations, 1970-1972. Replaced 4403d Tactical Fighter Wing at England AFB, LA, in Jul 1972 and switched to A-7 operations. Also controlled an A-37B special operations training squadron in 1974. Converted to the A-10 in 1980. Trained in close air support, joint anti-armor operations and battlefield air interdiction. Deployed elements in support of operations in

Grenada, Oct-Nov 1983. Deployed two squadrons (74th and 76th) to Southwest Asia, Aug 1990-Apr 1991, where they performed close air support and joint anti-armor operations. On 1 Jun 1992, the wing inactivated at England AFB and activated at Pope AFB, SC. As a composite wing continued A-10 training while adding an OA-10 reconnaissance mission and a C-130 airlift mission. Took part in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia in 1992 and 1993. In 1997, when the wing was redesignated a group, it gave up its C-130 squadrons but kept A/OA-10s. One of its squadrons flew F-16s from 1993 to 1996, when it also converted to A-10s. Beginning in 2006, supported worldwide search and rescue missions utilizing HH-60 and HC-130 operated and maintained the largest A-10 fighter group in the USAF; provided global war on terrorism force.





Air Force Order of Battle
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Sources
AFHRA