

## 51 FIGHTER WING



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

51 Fighter Wing established, 10 Aug 1948  
Activated, 18 Aug 1948  
Redesignated 51 Fighter Interceptor Wing, 1 Feb 1950  
Inactivated, 31 May 1971  
Redesignated 51 Air Base Wing, 20 Oct 1971  
Activated, 1 Nov 1971  
Redesignated 51 Composite Wing (Tactical), 30 Sep 1974  
Redesignated 51 Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Jul 1982  
Redesignated 51 Wing, 7 Feb 1992  
Redesignated 51 Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 1993

#### STATIONS

Naha AflD (later, AB), Okinawa, 18 Aug 1948  
Itazuke AB, Japan, 22 Sep 1950  
Kimpo AB, South Korea, 10 Oct 1950  
Itazuke AB, Japan, 10 Dec 1950  
Tsuike AB, Japan, 15 Jan 1951  
Suwon AB, South Korea, 1 Oct 1951- 26 Jul 1954  
Naha AB, Okinawa, 1 Aug 1954-31 May 1971  
Osan AB, South Korea, 1 Nov 1971

#### ASSIGNMENTS

1 Air Division, 18 Aug 1948  
Thirteenth Air Force, 1 Dec 1948  
Twentieth Air Force, 16 May 1949  
313 Air Division, 1 Mar 1955-31 May 1971  
314 Air Division, 1 Nov 1971  
Seventh Air Force, 8 Sep 1986

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Fifth Air Force, 25 Sep 1950-1 Aug 1954  
8 Fighter Bomber Wing, 25 Sep-12 Oct 1950

#### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

F-61, 1948-1950  
F-80, 1948-1951  
F-82, 1949-1950  
F-86, 1951-1960  
F-94, 1954-1955  
F-102, 1959-1964, 1966-1971  
F-4, 1964-1965, 1965-1966  
F-106, 1968  
F-4, 1974-1989  
OV-10, 1974-1982  
A-10, 1982-1989  
F-16, 1988  
OA-10, 1990  
C-12, 1992  
HH-60, 1993-1995  
A-10, 1998

#### **COMMANDERS**

Brig Gen Hugo P. Rush, 18 Aug 1948  
Col John W. Egan, 25 Mar 1949  
Col Richard M. Montgomery, 1 Apr 1949  
Col John W. Weltman, 19 Sep 1949  
Col Oliver G. Cellini, 24 Apr 1951  
Col William P. Litton, 1 Nov 1951  
Col George R. Stanley, 2 Nov 1951  
Col Francis S. Gabreski, 6 Nov 1951  
Col John W. Mitchell, 13 Jun 1952  
Col William C. Clark, 31 May 1953  
Col Ernest H. Beverly, 9 Aug 1953  
Col William C. Clark, 11 Sep 1953  
Col Benjamin O. Davis Jr., Nov 1953  
Col Barton M. Russell, 2 Jul 1954

Col Travis Hoover, 1 Aug 1954  
Col Hilmer C. Nelson, 9 Aug 1954  
Col Edwin C. Ambrosen, 16 Aug 1954  
Col John H. Bell, 15 Nov 1955  
Col Paul E. Hoeper, 2 Feb 1957  
Col Robert L. Cardenas, 4 May 1957  
Col Walter V. Gresham Jr., 15 Jul 1957  
Col Elliott H. Reed, 1 Aug 1957  
Col Walter V. Gresham Jr., 15 Aug 1957  
Col Lester J. Johnson, 22 Nov 1957  
Col William W. Ingenhutt, 25 Mar 1960  
Col Lester C. Hess, 24 Jul 1962  
Col Lloyd R. Larson, 11 Jun 1965  
Col Frank E. Angier, 8 Apr 1967  
Col John B. Weed, 13 Jun 1968  
Col Roy D. Carlson, 30 Jun 1968-31 May 1971  
Col Hewitt E. Lovelace Jr., 1 Nov 1971  
Col John H. Allison, 1 Aug 1972  
Col Billie J. Norwood, 7 Jun 1973  
Col Alonzo L. Ferguson, 1 May 1974  
Col Glenn L. Nordin, 30 Sep 1974  
Brig Gen Vernon H. Sandroock, 12 Aug 1975  
Col Frederick B. Hoenniger, 15 Jun 1977  
Col James T. Boddie Jr., 18 Jun 1979  
Col John C. Scheidt Jr., 16 May 1980  
Col Eugene G. Myers, 20 Feb 1981  
Col Thomas R. Olsen, 16 Jul 1982  
Col Marcus F. Cooper Jr., 26 May 1983  
Col Barry J. Howard, 18 Oct 1983  
Col Charles D. Link, 20 Jul 1984  
Col Henry J. Cochran, 12 Aug 1985  
Col John C. Marshall, 12 Jun 1987  
Col James J. Winters, 30 Jun 1989  
Col Thomas R. Case, 17 Jul 1990  
Brig Gen Robert G. Jenkins, 23 Jun 1992  
Brig Gen Robert H. Foglesong, 31 Jan 1994  
Brig Gen Steven R. Polk, 21 Nov 1995  
Brig Gen Paul R. Dordal, 16 May 1997  
Brig Gen Robert R. Dierker, 15 Sep 1998  
Brig Gen David E. Clary, 22 May 2000  
Brig Gen William L. Holland, 18 Mar 2002  
Brig Gen Maurice H. Forsyth, 23 Sep 2003  
Brig Gen Joseph Reynes Jr., 8 Jul 2005  
Col Jon A. Norman, 15 Jun 2007

Col Thomas H. Deale, 15 Oct 2008  
Col Patrick C. Malackowski, 7 Dec 2009  
Col Patrick T. Mckenzie, 15 Jul 2011  
Col Brook J. Leonard, 19 Jul 2013

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

Korea  
UN Offensive  
CCF Intervention  
First UN Counteroffensive  
CCF Spring Offensive  
UN Summer-Fall Offensive  
Second Korean Winter  
Korea Summer-Fall, 1952  
Third Korean Winter  
Korea Summer, 1953

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards  
29 Aug 1958-19 Jan 1959  
26 Mar 1962-30 Sep 1963  
1 Jan 1965-31 Dec 1966  
1 Jan 1969-31 Dec 1970  
30 Sep 1974-31 Mar 1976  
1 Apr 1983-30 Apr 1984  
1 May 1984-30 Apr 1985  
1 Jul 1985-30 Jun 1987  
1 Jul 1987-30 Jun 1989  
1 Oct 1992-30 Sep 1994  
1 Nov 1995-31 May 1997  
1 Oct 2002-30 Sep 2004  
1 Oct 2007-30 Sep 2009; 1 Oct 2010-30 Sep 2012.

#### **Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations**

20 Sep 1950-30 Jun 1951  
1 Jul 1951-31 Mar 1953  
19-20 Aug 1972

#### **Bestowed Honors**

Authorized to display honors earned by the 51 Fighter Group prior to 18 Aug 1948

### Service Streamers

### Campaign Streamers

World War II

India-Burma

China Defensive

China Offensive

### Decorations

### EMBLEM





51 Fighter Interceptor Wing emblem





Per fess nebuly abased Azure and Or, issuing from partition line a demi-Pegasus Argent with a machine gun in each wing bendwise Sable, gun fire Proper. Attached below the base, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed with the motto, "LEADING THE CHARGE,"

in Blue letters.**SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. A nebuly line of partition divides the shield and represents clouds. Pegasus, the mythological winged horse, is shown in an attitude of flight, rising to the sky, deftly and swiftly with a flaming machine gun in each wing to accomplish the mission assigned successfully. (Approved for 51 Group, 5 Feb 1942 and for 51 Wing, 2 May 1956. Approved, Jun 1993)

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the 51 Pursuit Group received orders to deploy to Australia and then to India. Just prior to leaving the States, Lt Col Homer A. Sanders, group commander, is said to have received permission from the Mobil Oil Company to use its logo, the red Pegasus, as the basis for the 51's emblem. On 5 February 1942, the War Department officially approved the group's emblem of Pegasus firing machine guns and rising from a cloud formation. The emblem was displayed on a rectangular-shaped shield with the scroll below carrying the group's motto, "Deftly and Swiftly," which was taken from the emblem's significance statement.

#### **MOTTO**

LEADING THE CHARGE

The wing commander, Brig Gen Robert G. Jenkins, submitted a request on 30 January 1993 to change the wing's motto from "Deftly and Swiftly" to "Leading the Charge" as a more accurate reflection of the 51's ongoing mission on the Korean Peninsula. On 1 June 1993, the Air Force Historical Research Agency officially approved the request, and the wing's shield has remained unchanged since that time.

#### **OPERATIONS**

In 1948, assumed air defense of Ryukyu Islands.

Commenced combat operations over Korea in Sep 1950 with combat air patrols, close air support, and armed reconnaissance missions in support of UN forces. Operated a detachment at Suwon AB, Korea, beginning in May 1951, and relocated there in Oct 1951, with maintenance and supply elements remaining in Japan until Aug 1954. Ceased combat 27 Jul 1953. Wing pilots claimed 312 victories against enemy MiG jet fighters, including the first USAF victory in the first all-jet aerial battle on 8 Nov 1950. Following the cease-fire, resumed air defense of the Ryukyu Islands.

From Aug 1954 through early 1971, frequently deployed aircraft, crews, and support personnel throughout the Far East, including Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and the Philippines. Stationed one squadron (16th Fighter-Interceptor) at Tainan, Taiwan, 29 Aug 1958-26 Jan 1959 during the Quemoy-Matsu Crisis to fly combat air patrol for Nationalist Chinese Air Force supply flights.

Following the seizure of the USS Pueblo by North Korea, deployed one squadron (82 Fighter-Interceptor) and support personnel to Suwon AB, Korea, 30 Jan-20 Feb 1968, and sent other



personnel to Osan AB, South Korea, to support the 314 Air Division.

Deployed an interceptor detachment to Suwon AB, South Korea, from Jun 1968 through 1970. In Nov 1971, served primarily as a support wing for Osan AB and the Koon-Ni range complex, and, after 15 Apr 1975, for Taegu AB, South Korea.

Added a tactical mission on 30 Sep 1974. The wing lost control of Taegu AB from Oct 1978 to Jan 1982.

The wing in 1982 gained a close air support capability to complement its air superiority role.

Frequently deployed aircraft and crews to participate in training exercises throughout the Far East during this period. In addition, aircrews trained to perform fast forward air control missions beginning in 1984.

In 1988-1989, mission shifted to offensive counterair and all-weather air interdiction.

Restored tactical air control capabilities in Oct 1990, and, in Sep 1991, became the first operational F-16 unit to employ laser targeting with the LANTIRN navigation and targeting system.

Airlift support operations were augmented with the addition of a flight of light transports in Aug 1992.

Took part in a series of joint and combined training exercises for the defense of the Republic of Korea.

The runway on Osan AB, South Korea, reopened to flight operations after a six-week closure for renovation work on Sept. 15, officials announced. "We made significant repairs to our runway that will enable us to continue operating at the highest sortie utilization rate in the Air Force and enable us to maintain the largest flying hour program" within Pacific Air Forces, 51 Fighter Wing Commander Col. Andrew Hansen said in a release. The \$6.4 million renovation included runway surface repairs, widening of three taxiways, and installation of new lighting. Osan's A-10s, F-16s, and U-2s temporarily operated from nearby Suwon Air Base for the past 45 days, logging some 800 fighter flying-hours and 400 strategic reconnaissance flying hours from the temporary operating base. Aircraft of Osan's 25th Fighter Squadron, 36th FS, and 5th Reconnaissance Squadron returned to the base last week.2015

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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

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