

7121 TACTICAL WING

MISSION

LINEAGE

7121 Tactical Wing
Activated, 24 Nov 1961
Inactivated, Aug 1962

STATIONS

Etain AB, France

ASSIGNMENTS

Seventeenth Air Force

WEAPON SYSTEMS

F-84
C-47

COMMANDERS

Col Albert Line, 1961
Lt Col Paul E. Hoover, 1962

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

On 7 Dec 61, Special Order A-19, Hq 121st ABG relieved all members of the 121st Tactical Fighter Wing and assigned them to the 7121st Tactical Wing.

The 7121st Tactical Fighter Wing was originally commanded by Col Albert Line with Lt Col Paul E. Hoover as Deputy Wing Commander. Lt Col Hoover later succeeded Col Line as Commander. The other Wing Staff included: Lt Cols Harry E. Cockran Deputy Wing commander; Lt Col Robert Baron, Director of Operations; Lt Col Ronald S. Huey, Director of Matériel; Col Frank T. Phipps, Director of Personnel; and Lt Col Donald S. Keck, Base Commander. Operations Staff Officers included Majors Robert B. Yeager, Harry W. Martin, Jacques E. Young, Cecil Sanders; Captains Edward J. Hoffman, Robert J. Brown, Thomas A. Barnes, Neel D. Fauber and Lieutenant Jerry D. Fair. Materiel Staff Officers included Lt Col Milton A. Wales; Majors Rbyal D. Frey, Dominic DeVito, George Bleimes, Charles E. Caugherty, Jr., Alan B. Dotson; and Captains Albert K. Germanson, Jr., Ray K. Deems, Donald E. Lynd, and Ralph Sounik. The Air Base Group included Lt Col George F. Moser and Lt Col Robert B. Chandler; Majors Andrew W. Maluke, John J. Shulten, Rollin E. Morgan, Michael J. Lotko, Jr. and Doyle J. Calvert; Captains Donald E. Wilson, and Thomas R. Orth. Lt Col David Stoddard headed up the tactical hospital backed up by Major John V. Marstrell, Captains John W. Richardson and Harry T. McKnight. Major Thoralf Thielen and Captain Charles C. Spangler headed up the chaplains office. The 166th Tactical Fighter Squadron was commanded by Major Donald Q. Griffith with Major Victor A. Rawlins as Operations Officer. Pilots were Captains Thomas Caughell, Fred W. Sells, Russel E. Glenn, David F. Hein-rich, Charles W. Jarrett, Richard C. Nelson, Robert C. Nilles, Kenneth E. Potts, Donald V. Reaver, and Charles L. Weidinger; First Lieutenants Richard L. Backman, Richard L. Besemer, Jerry D. Fair, William V. Frederick, Gary C. Fulmer, Robert A. Hall, John B. Hinkel, Henry N. Jasper, Edward D. Mendenhall, Harold L. Miller, Wayne E. Sagar, Harold W. Wesley, Donald F. Oberbeck, and Richard A. Roberts. Captains Rex M. Anderson, George W. Conrad, Robert E. Preston, and William A. Stringfellow were the flight leaders.

The 7121st Tactical Fighter Wing Headquarters and the 166th Tactical Fighter Squadron were supported by a very effective group of NCOs and airmen whose transition from civilian status to that of qualified dedicated airmen was most gratifying. Although manning in support areas was critical and parts were hard to obtain, the 7121st performed its task well.

Wing personnel participated in various training operations during period from Jan through Jun 62, including gunnery training at Wheelus AB, Libya. In August 1962, the 7121st and supporting units were ordered back to the states. When the 7121st departed from Etain, France, they turned over their F-84F (that they had once received from the Air Force) to the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing. Later, the Ohio Air National Guard again received many of the F-84F back into its inventory.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.