

76 FIGHTER SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

76 Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) constituted, 17 Dec 1941
Redesignated 76 Fighter Squadron, 15 May 1942
Activated, 4 Jul 1942
Inactivated, 5 Jan 1946
Activated, 10 Oct 1946
Inactivated, 24 Sep 1949
Redesignated 76 Fighter Interceptor Squadron, 20 Jun 1955
Activated, 18 Aug 1955
Discontinued and inactivated, 1 Jul 1963
Redesignated 76 Tactical Fighter Squadron, 18 May 1972
Activated, 1 Oct 1972
Redesignated 76 Fighter Squadron, 1 Nov 1991
Inactivated, 29 May 1992
Redesignated 76 Space Operations Squadron, 21 Nov 1995
Activated, 1 Dec 1995
Inactivated, 21 Jan 2001
Redesignated 76 Space Control Squadron and activated, 22 Jan 2001
Inactivated, 22 Jan 2008
Redesignated 76 Fighter Squadron, 6 Jan 2009
Activated, 1 Feb 2009

STATIONS

Kumming, China, 4 Jul 1941
Kweilin, China, 25 Jul 1942
Kunming, China, 18 Aug 1942

Lingling, China, 13 May 1943
Hengyang, China, 11 Aug 1943 (detachment operated from Suichwan, China, 3 Oct-7 Dec 1943)
Kweilin, China, 21 Nov 1943
Suichwan, China, 26 Dec 1943
Lingling, China, 1 Jun 1944
Liuchow, China, Jul 1944
Luliang, China, 12 Sep 1944
Liuchow, China, 24 Aug 1945
Hangchow, China, 15 Oct-4 Dec 1945
Fort Lewis, WA, 3-5 Jan 1946
Northwest Field, Guam, 10 Oct 1946-3 Apr 1949
Howard AFB, CZ, 25 Apr-24 Sep 1949
Presque Isle AFB, ME, 18 Aug 1955
Pinecastle (later, McCoy) AFB, FL, 8 Nov 1957
Westover AFB, MA, 1 Feb 1961-1 Jul 1963
England AFB, LA, 1 Oct 1972-29 May 1992
Falcon (later, Schriever) AFB, CO, 1 Dec 1995
Peterson AFB, CO, 1 Dec 1999-21 Jan 2001
Peterson AFB, CO, 22 Jan 2001
Moody AFB, GA, 1 Feb 2009

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Saudi Arabia, Aug 1990-Apr 1991

ASSIGNMENTS

23 Fighter Group, 4 Jul 1942-5 Jan 1946
23 Fighter Group, 10 Oct 1946-24 Sep 1949
23 Fighter Group, 18 Aug 1955
35th Air Division, 9 Nov 1957
32nd Air Division, 15 Nov 1958
Boston Air Defense Sector, 1 Feb 1961-1 Jul 1963
23 Tactical Fighter (later, 23 Fighter) Wing, 1 Oct 1972-29 May 1992
Fourteenth Air Force, 1 Dec 1995
614th Space Operations Group, 28 Aug 1998
21st Operations Group, 31 Mar 2000-21 Jan 2001
21st Operations Group, 22 Jan 2001
476 Fighter Group, 1 Feb 2009

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-40, 1942-1944
P-43
P-40B
P-40K
P-43A

P-51A
P-40N
P-51B
P-51C
P-51D
P-47N
P-40E
P-51, 1944-1945
P-47, 1946-1949
RF-80, 1949
F-89, 1955-1960
F-102A, 1960-1963
A-7, 1972-1981
A-10, 1981-1992
None, 1995-2001
F-89D
F-89H
F-89J
F-102A

COMMANDERS

Maj Edward F. Rector, 4 Jul 1942
Lt Col Bruce K. Holloway, 5 Dec 1942
Maj Grant Mahony, 2 Jan 1943
Capt William Miller, 9 Jun 1943
Maj Robert Costello, Jul 1943
Capt James M. Williams, Oct 1943
Maj John S. Stewart, Jan 1944
Lt Col Charles E. Griffith, May 1944
Lt Col L. V. Teeter, Dec 1944
Lt Col David T. Whiddon, Jun 1945
Maj Eugene McGuire, Oct 1945-Dec 1945
Maj Victor N. Curtis, 10 Oct 1946
Maj Robert M. Levy, 5 Oct 1948-1949
Lt Col Walter R. Hardee Jr., 1956
Maj Morris F. Wilson, 1957
Lt Col Donald V. Miller, 11 Sep 1959
Maj William B. Howell, 1 Feb 1961
Lt Col Frederick D. Ellis, 1961
Maj William B. Howell, 29 Dec 1961
Col James A. Hearn, 15 Feb 1962
Maj Robert W. Thompson, 6 May 1963
Capt Frederick W. Knops Jr., 28 May-1 Jul 1963
Lt Col John B. Cutler, 1 Oct 1972

Lt Col James E. Kelm, 10 May 1974
Lt Col Arthur L. Chase, 5 Aug 1975
Lt Col James W. Prescott Jr., 27 Jul 1977
Lt Col James L. Jamerson, 31 May 1979
Lt Col Joseph J. Redden, 5 Jan 1981
Lt Col Roger E. Carleton, 1 Jul 1982
Lt Col Robert H. Hoh, 29 Jun 1984
Lt Col Ronald T. Cooper, 15 Jul 1985
Lt Col Charles W. Pitts, 17 Jul 1987
Lt Col Victor E. Renuart Jr., 2 Jun 1989-29 May 1992
Unkn, 1 Dec 1995-5 Jul 1999
Lt Col David Ziegler, 6 Jul 1999
Lt Col Samuel J. McCraw, 22 May 2001
Lt Col Todd W. Gossett, 5 Jun 2003
Lt Col Jim E. Jennings, 29 Jun 2005
Lt Col Jennifer L. Moore, 8 May 2007-22 Jan 2008

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II

India-Burma

China Defensive

Western Pacific

China Offensive

Air Combat, Asiatic-Pacific Theater

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia

Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

China, 17-25 Jun 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1980-30 Jun 1981

1 Jul 1981-30 Jun 1983

1 Apr 1989-31 Mar 1991

1 Sep 1998-31 Aug 1999

1 Sept 1998-[30 Mar 2000]

[31 Mar 2000]-31 Aug 2001

EMBLEM





On a disc Gules, a jagged edged spearhead Sable point to base, chief Azure charged with the Chinese characters, "Vanguards" Argent, over a roaring Bengal tiger's head couped Proper, on a field bendy sinister of five Gules and Argent; all within a narrow Black border. Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "VANGUARDS" in Black letters. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "76 FIGHTER SQ" in Black letters. **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 roaring tiger represents a warning to the enemies of the nation and the fierceness of resolve to defend it. The jagged spearhead represents the tools used to defend the way of life against enemies and the red, white, and blue signify the theater in which that resolve was first tested. The military strength the unit is ready to employ with precision and determination and the quest for peace are represented in the colors chosen for the disc and scroll background. (Approved, 24 Jul 1944)

Approved, 1 Feb 2010

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The history of the 76 dates to the earliest days of World War II. During the Summer of 1941, Army Captain Claire L. Chennault formed a small group of American pilots into the 3rd Pursuit Squadron, Aviation Volunteer Group. The unit immediately garnered international attention for their combat successes while defending China, and they became known as the "Flying Tigers." On 18 December 1941, the 3rd was redesignated as the 76 Pursuit Squadron and subsequently the 76 Fighter Squadron on May 15, 1942. The unit fought the remainder of the war under the 23 Fighter Group, 14th Air Force.

26 August 1975 LTV A-7D-12-CV Corsair II, 72-0172, of the 76 Tactical Fighter Squadron, 23 Tactical Fighter Wing, England AFB, Louisiana, crashes on a test range on the eastern area of the Eglin AFB, Florida, reservation at 2240 hrs. during a night training mission. The aircraft, part of a three-ship flight, had departed England AFB at 2015 hrs. for a ground attack simulation at Eglin. The A-7D went down while orbiting the range with the other two aircraft of the flight. Pilot Capt. William N. Clark, 33, of Little Rock, Arkansas, is KWF. "The cause of the crash is

unknown at this time but is being investigated by a board of qualified officers," Maj. Les Smith, Eglin Information officer, said. The three jets were slated to return to England AFB directly after completing the mission, Smith said. Capt. Clark is survived by his wife and three children who reside at England AFB.

In April, 1981 at RAF Bentwaters, a one day surge effort called Porker 500 was conducted by the 81st TFW. Eighty-nine A-10s flew 579 hours while flying 533 sorties in fourteen hours, a one day sortie rate of almost six per aircraft per day. At England AFB, the 76 TFS achieved a one day sortie rate of six by flying 117 sorties by twenty-four aircraft. The success of the A-10 in these exercises drew favorable comments from top level officials. Lieutenant General Kelly Burke, the Deputy Chief of Staff for USAF Research, Development, and Acquisition, in testimony at the Military Posture hearings held by the House of Representatives Armed Service Committee, during March of 1980. He said, "We get a higher sortie rate from the A-10 than any of our aircraft. It is capable of about six sorties per day and had the lowest operating cost of any of our first line fighters."

On 2 August, 1990, Kuwait, a former British protectorate, which had been independent since 1961, was invaded by Saddam Hussein's Iraqi army. President George Bush had begun forging an international coalition of allied forces against Hussein to drive the Iraqi's out of Kuwait. The deployment of the American units occurred under the code name "Operation Desert Shield." Four A-10 squadrons were included in the first deployment and had moved to King Fahd International Airport (KFIA), Saudi Arabia, by the end of August.

DESERT STORM lessons on space power convinced Air Force leaders to reactivate the unit as the 76 Space Operations Squadron in December 1995. The 76 deployed Air Force Space Support Teams to bring space expertise to expeditionary air forces and air operations centers around the world. Over their tenure, the 76 Space Operations Squadron deployed to make significant contributions during JOINT ENDEAVOR, DENY FLIGHT, DESERT FOX, DESERT THUNDER and ALLIED FORCE.

The 76 SPCS is Air Force Space Command's offensive and defensive counterspace unit responsible for operating space control capabilities to rapidly achieve flexible and versatile space superiority in support of theater campaigns. The unit participates in the evaluation and operation of counterspace technologies to meet combatant commander requirements.

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Two 442nd Fighter Wing A-10 carried a piece of Flying Tigers heritage away from Peterson Sept. 21 as part of an effort by Air Force officials to reunite three pieces of a historic World War II legacy. During the transfer ceremony, 76 Space Control Squadron officials here gave the squadron's piece of the historic Flying Tigers heritage, which has been held since 1995, to the new 76 Fighter Squadron, an Air Force Reserve Command associate unit based at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., which will report to the 442nd FW at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. The 76 FS will now join the 74th and 75th Fighter Squadrons, which also share the Flying Tigers heritage, under the 23 Wing, the same arrangement the

original Flying Tigers shared in the 1940s. Col. Steve Arthur, 442nd FW commander, said the new unit is excited to be adopting such a historic piece of Air Force history.

“It’s entirely appropriate that the legacy of the 76 is continuing in the form of the first A-10 associate unit in the history of the Air Force and the Air Force Reserve, for the 76 has always designated a unit that has pioneered new territory in defending our nation,” Colonel Arthur said at the ceremony. The Flying Tigers heritage dates back to 1941, when a group of American volunteer pilots banded together under secret presidential sanction to defend China against the Japanese. The unit eventually became renowned for its combat successes, often while flying in adverse conditions, as well as its distinctive P-40, which had shark-like faces painted on the front. The unit was later split into the 74th, 75th and 76 Fighter Squadrons and fought the remainder of the war as part of the 23 Fighter Group.

The 76 FS began preparing for stand up earlier this year, though, and Air Force officials decided to reunite the heritage under the same wing once again. The 76 SPCS operates a counter communications system which provides a critical counter-space capability never before available to war-fighters around the world. “With its reincarnation as the 76 Fighter Squadron, this proud and storied unit will be the first-ever A-10 associate unit, flying a unique combat aircraft, which has been modified for the digital age,” Colonel Arthur said. “These new A-10s – designated the A-10C will be capable of dropping bombs guided by global positioning satellites and will have enhanced communications capabilities, all made possible by our teammates in Air Force Space Command; and the A-10 is expected to be a valuable part of the Air Force arsenal for two more decades.” For the 76, the future means building a new legacy under their new name the 76 SPCS Lobos. Unit members said they’re sorry to see the Flying Tigers heritage go, but they’re looking forward to beginning their own storied lineage.

USAF 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.
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.
Unit yearbook. *32nd Air Division. 1955.*