

## 388<sup>th</sup> FIGHTER WING



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

388<sup>th</sup> Fighter Day Wing, established, 23 Mar 1953  
Redesignated 388<sup>th</sup> Fighter Bomber Wing, 5 Nov 1953  
Activated, 23 Nov 1953  
Inactivated, 10 Dec 1957  
Redesignated 388<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing and activated, 1 May 1962  
Organized, 1 Oct 1962  
Discontinued and inactivated, 8 Feb 1964  
Activated, 14 Mar 1966  
Organized, 8 Apr 1966  
Redesignated 388<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 1991

#### STATIONS

Clovis AFB, NM, 23 Nov 1953-28 Nov 1954  
Etain-Rouvres AB, France, 12 Dec 1954-10 Dec 1957  
McConnell AFB, KS, 1 Oct 1962-8 Feb 1964  
Korat RTAFB, Thailand, 8 Apr 1966-23 Dec 1975  
Hill AFB, UT, 23 Dec 1975

#### ASSIGNMENTS

Ninth Air Force, 23 Nov 1953  
Twelfth Air Force, 12 Dec 1954-10 Dec 1957  
Tactical Air Command, 1 May 1962  
Twelfth Air Force, 1 Oct 1962- 8 Feb 1964  
Pacific Air Forces, 14 Mar 1966  
Thirteenth Air Force, 8 Apr 1966  
17<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 1 Jul 1975

Twelfth Air Force, 23 Dec 1975

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Seventh Air Force, 8 Apr 1966-14 Feb 1973

US Support Activities Group, Seventh Air Force, 15 Feb 1973-c. 30 Jun 1975

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

F-86, 1954-1957

F-100, 1957

F-100, 1962-1964

F-105, 1963-1964

F-105, 1966-1969, 1970-1974

F-4, 1968-1975, 1976-1980

EB-66, 1970- 1974

EC-121, 1970-1971

C-130, 1972-1974

A-7, 1973-1975

AC-130, 1974-1975

F-16, 1979

### **COMMANDERS**

LTC Thomas O. Crandall, 23 Nov 1953

Col Clayton L. Peterson, 15 Dec 1953

Col Harold J. Whiteman, 11 Jan 1954

BG James F. Whisenand, 23 Feb 1954

Col Harold J. Whiteman, 22 Feb 1955

Col Joseph L. Dickman, 1 Jul 1956-10 Dec 1957

None (not manned), 1 May-30 Sep 1962

Col Richard C. Banbury, 1 Oct 1962

Col Olin E. Gilbert, 1 Oct 1963-8 Feb 1964

None (not manned), 14 Mar-7 Apr 1966

Col Monroe S. Sams, 8 Apr 1966

BG William S. Chairsell, c. 17 Aug 1966

Col Edward B. Burdett, 1 Aug 1967

Col Jack C. Berger, 18 Nov 1967

Col Neil J. Graham, 22 Nov 1967

Col Norman P. Phillips, 19 Jan 1968

Col Paul P. Douglas Jr., 24 Jan 1968

Col Allen K. McDonald, 23 Jul 1968

Col Paul P. Douglas Jr., 19 Aug 1968

Col Allen K. McDonald, 15 Dec 1968

Col John A. Nelson, 11 Jun 1969

Col James M. Breedlove, 5 Dec 1969

Col Ivan H. Dethman, 30 Jun 1970

Col Irby B. Jarvis Jr., 1 Aug 1970  
Col Webb Thompson, 26 Jul 1971  
Col Stanley M. Umstead Jr., 15 Dec 1971  
Col Richard E. Merklng, 5 Aug 1972  
Col Mele Vojvodich Jr., 25 Jan 1973  
Col Robert K. Crouch, 1 Jul 1973  
Col Thomas H. Normile, 3 Jan 1974  
Col John P. Russell, 3 Jul 1974  
Col Neil L. Eddins, 11 Jul 1975  
Col Robert L. Rodee, 19 Apr 1977  
BG Davis C. Rohr, 3 Aug 1977  
Col William T. Tolbert, 31 Aug 1979  
Col Jerauld R. Gentry, 11 Aug 1980  
Col Dawson R. O'Neill, 6 Aug 1981  
Col Peter T. Kempf, 20 May 1982  
Col Charles C. Helton, 14 Feb 1983  
Col James F. Record, 5 May 1984  
Col James M. Johnston III, 23 Sep 1985  
Col Lawrence E. Boese, 6 Oct 1986  
Col Charles R. Heflebower, 21 Apr 1988  
Col Michael Navarro, 7 Jun 1990  
Col James E. Sandstrom, 27 Apr 1992  
Col Daniel M. Dick, 16 May 1994  
Col Bentley B. Rayburn, 24 Apr 1995  
Col Ronald E. Fly, 16 Jun 1997  
Col Gilmary M. Hostage III, 6 Apr 1998  
Col Johnny A. Weida, 19 Jan 2000  
Col Stephen L. Hoog, 3 Jul 2001  
Col Charles W. Lyon, 17 Jul 2003  
Col Robert J. Beletic, 11 May 2005  
Colonel Scott C. Long Apr 2011  
Col David Lyons, 2015

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

Vietnam

Vietnam Air

Vietnam Air Offensive

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III

Vietnam Air/Ground

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV  
TET 69/Counter-offensive  
Vietnam Summer-Fall, 1969  
Vietnam Winter-Spring, 1970  
Sanctuary Counteroffensive  
Southwest Monsoon  
Commando Hunt V  
Commando Hunt VI  
Commando Hunt VII  
Vietnam Ceasefire

Southwest Asia  
Defense of Saudi Arabia  
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

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

None

#### **Decorations**

Presidential Unit Citation  
Southeast Asia, 10 Mar-1 May 1967

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device  
29-30 Jun 1966  
1 Jul 1966-30 Jun 1967  
1 Jul 1967-30 Jun 1968  
1 Jul 1968-15 Sep 1969  
10 Oct 1970- 20 May 1971  
18 Dec 1972-15 Aug 1973  
15 Oct 1974-12 May 1975  
13-15 May 1975

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards  
1 Oct 1986-30 Apr 1988  
1 May 1991-30 Apr 1993  
1 May 1991-30 Apr 1993

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm  
8 Apr 1966-28 Jan 1973

#### **Bestowed Honors**

Authorized to display honors earned by the 388 Bombardment Group prior to 23 Nov 1953

#### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations

Regensburg, Germany, 17 Aug 1943

Hanover, Germany (26 Jul 1943), Brux, Czechoslovakia (12 May 1944), and from England to Russia (21 Jun 1944)

### **EMBLEM**



388 FBW

Per bend Azure and Gules, on a bend Or, a lightning flash Sable, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "LIBERTAS VEL MORS" in Blue letters. 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 thunderbolt represents the speed and power of the unit's aircraft. (Approved, 11 Mar 1955)

### **MOTTO**

LIBERTAS VEL MORS--Liberty or Death

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Trained as a fighter-bomber wing, Feb-Oct 1954. Moved overseas in Nov-Dec 1954 with elements operating at four European bases. Participated in NATO operations and exercises, Dec 1954-Dec 1957.

Trained for fighter-bomber operations, Oct 1962-Jan 1964. Replaced 6234th Tactical Fighter Wing in Thailand in Apr 1966. Flew combat missions in Southeast Asia, Apr 1966-Aug 1973. Primarily conducted interdiction, direct air support, armed reconnaissance, and fighter escort missions. In 1967, concentrated on key logistical and industrial targets in North Vietnam. Added a variety of other special-purpose aircraft and related missions as the war progressed.

Following the final ceasefire in Aug 1973, entered into intensive training program to maintain combat readiness and continued to fly electronic surveillance and intelligence missions. Provided air cover and escort during the evacuation of Americans from Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and of Americans and selected Vietnamese from Saigon, South Vietnam, in Apr 1975. Participated in the rescue of the crew and recovery of the S.S. Mayaguez from the Cambodians in May 1975. Ceased all aircraft operations in Nov 1975 and moved in name only in Dec 1975, replacing a holding unit-Det 1, 67th Combat Support Group.

In Jan 1976, began participation in training missions and numerous exercises in a variety of offensive tactical situations.

With the arrival of the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) at Hill AFB in late 1975, an extensive construction effort began to provide it with needed facilities. These included alterations to Building 5 for the wing aircraft maintenance function, an electronic countermeasure (ECM) shop and storage area, a parachute and dinghy shop, and a squadron operations area; alterations to Building 52 for a weapons release and gun service shop; construction of Building 585 for a munitions crew facility on the airfield; alterations to Building 43 for F-4 fuel cell repair; alterations to Building 273 to make it an engine maintenance annex to Building 272; alterations to Building 133 to conform to the requirements of an F-4D simulator; and the installation of two BAK-12 aircraft barriers and 240-square foot quick-check and arming personnel shelters at the end of runway 14-32. With the assignment of the F-16 aircraft to the 388th, the wing moved into other new facilities, including Building 125, the field training facility, and Building 119, the squadron operations facility.

On 22 January 1978, construction started on a new aircraft maintenance facility to be used by the 388th. The \$3,084,302 project involved alterations and additions to Buildings 39, 40, 42, 45, 46, and 295, and provided for aircraft type 400 hertz outlets in the hangar bays. The BOD for the 94,737-square foot complex was 14 November 1978.

First wing to be equipped with the F-16 Fighting Falcon, on 6 Jan 1979. During initial stages of conversion, trained F-16 instructor pilots and provided replacement training for new F-16 pilots. Thereafter trained for war readiness at US and NATO locations.

Won the USAF Worldwide Gunsmoke Fighter Gunnery Meet in 1987.

Deployed two squadrons to Southwest Asia for training and combat operations, 28 Aug 1990-27 Mar 1991. A number of wing aircraft deployed to Spain as attrition reserves, Jan-Dec 1991; later, deployed to Southwest Asia to protect Coalition assets and ensure that Iraq complied with treaty terms, Dec 1991.

Routinely deployed operational elements to support Operation SOUTHERN WATCH for the enforcement of no-fly zones over Iraq from 1992-2003.

A historic agreement was signed into place April 16, finalizing the association between the active-duty 388th Fighter Wing and Air Force Reserve's 419th FW at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. Gen. Ronald Keys, Air Combat Command commander, and Lt. Gen. John Bradley, Air Force Reserve Command commander, signed a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the way ahead for Hill's fighter wings, which will begin flying and maintaining a shared F-16 fleet this summer.

Total Force Integration between the 419th and 388th is the Air Force test case for future fighter associate programs. The MOU provides a framework for how the two wings will organize and operate. While the active duty retains responsibility for the fleet of F-16 Fighting Falcons, operations and maintenance experts from both wings will work together on a daily basis to accomplish the flying mission. Hill's fighter wings will integrate as part of the Air Force's TFI initiative, which aims to increase combat capabilities and efficiencies among like units while capitalizing on the high experience levels of Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard personnel.

"Our integration here is a necessity," said Col. Robert Beletic, 388th FW commander. "The Air Force is in a time of manpower cuts and consistent combat deployments in support of the Global War on Terror. We appreciate the support of dedicated Reservists, like those in the 419th." "Our Reservists are typically older, highly experienced and offer long-term continuity of daily operations at Hill," said Col. Gary Batinich, 419th FW commander. "The TFI association will help maintain aircrew and maintenance expertise and experience levels by capitalizing on the active-duty Air Force investment in training while exploiting the resident experience of our Reservists."

The Air Force announced the TFI initiative in November 2004, and both wings have been working toward the association since that time. Several maintenance shops have been working side by side for nearly a year, and in-flight guides and standardization evaluation procedures have been completed and are shared by pilots from both wings. In the next several months, the wings' pilots and maintainers will begin working together even more closely as the 419th FW's F-16 Block 30 fighter aircraft begin to depart Hill AFB for reassignment to Guard and Reserve bases across the United States.

Alternately, the 388th FW will receive about 15 F-16 Block 40 aircraft from Cannon AFB, N.M., raising its total to more than 80 aircraft. Later this year, 419th FW maintenance and operations personnel will deploy alongside the 388th FW's 4th Fighter Squadron. "Our pilots and maintainers will serve as unrivaled wingmen to the 388th FW, and our support folks will continue to take care of 419th personnel," Colonel Batinich said. "TFI has truly made us one team, one fight, one Air Force," Colonel Beletic said. All 419th FW personnel will be administratively assigned to the 419th FW and will continue to carry out Air Force Reserve training requirements one weekend per month and two weeks per year. The 419th FW is also made up of about 500 support personnel who will not be integrated. 2007

Members of the Air Force Reserve's 419th Fighter Wing at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, will be among the first to fly and maintain the Air Force's newest fighter, the F-35A Lightning II. In December, the Air Force announced that Hill AFB was selected as the home for the service's first operational F-35A unit. The base was chosen after a lengthy analysis of multiple locations' operational considerations, installation attributes, and economic and environmental factors. "Hill AFB is ideally suited to assure a successful path to initial operational capability," said Timothy Bridges, deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations.

"The nearby Utah Test and Training Range provides access to one of the largest and most diverse airspace and range complexes in the Air Force. Access to high-quality airspace and ranges is essential for the first operational F-35A wing." The decision culminated a nearly four-year process that included an extensive Environmental Impact Statement that examined impacts on such factors as air quality, noise, land use and socioeconomics. Hill AFB is also home to the F-35 depot, which provides fleet maintenance support, a key factor to the long-term sustainment and readiness of the F-35A fleet. Another strength of the base is the already established classic association between the active-duty 388th FW and the 419th. This total force integrated unit is capable of providing accelerated seasoning of new personnel to maximize the F-35A's advanced capabilities.

"This is great news for Hill AFB, and we welcome the addition of the Air Force's newest, next-generation fighter aircraft," said Col. Lance Landrum, 388th FW commander. "The F-35 is critical to ensuring our dominance over the battlefield in today and tomorrow's advanced threat environment. Hill is the perfect place for this weapons system given the nearby Utah Test and Training Range, our existing infrastructure and continued support from the local community. We look forward to paving the way for its arrival." "Flying F-35s alongside our active-duty counterparts is a great example of the Air Force's 'total force' vision, which seeks to increase capability from new technology while leveraging the experience, stability, continuity and cost effectiveness of our Reserve personnel," said Col. Bryan Radliff, 419th FW commander. Col. Kathryn Kolbe, 75th Air Base Wing commander at Hill, said the announcement was great news for the base and the entire state of Utah. "Selecting Hill to host America's newest fifth-generation fighter is a tribute to the 388th and 419th Fighter Wings' rich heritage," she said. "It is fitting the 388th Fighter Wing become the first fully operational F-35 unit, just as it was with the F-16 in January 1979. The selection to place it here speaks volumes to the viability of Team Hill's commitment to our nation's security." Construction on base to prepare for the aircraft is expected to start almost immediately in order to be ready to accept the first F-35As, which are

scheduled to arrive in 2015. The base is projected to receive 72 F-35As, replacing the 48 F-16 Fighting Falcons currently assigned to Hill. 2014

The first F-35A Lightning IIs assigned to Hill AFB, Utah, touched down at the base this week. Airframes AF-77 and AF-78, assigned to the 388th Fighter Wing and Air Force Reserve Command associate 419th FW, were delivered Sept. 2. "The F-35A Lightning II represents the future of tactical aviation for the United States and our allies," said Col. David Lyons, 388th FW commander, who delivered one of the aircraft. "We're excited to usher in a new era of combat capability for the Air Force." Hill is slated to receive a total of 72 F-35As by 2019, becoming the Air Force's first combat coded Lightning II unit when the jets reach initial operational capability, targeted for the latter part of next year. Hill, which is the fifth Air Force and 10th overall base to receive the Joint Strike Fighter, activated the 34th Fighter Squadron as its first dedicated F-35A squadron earlier this summer, and plans to have at least 15 aircraft there by next summer. 2015

The 388th Fighter Wing at Hill AFB, Utah, activated its first F-35A Lightning II squadron in a ceremony on base last week, becoming the first operational Air Force unit to fly combat-coded F-35s. Lt. Col. George Watkins received the 34th Fighter Squadron guidon to command the new unit on July 17, according to a July 20 base release. The unit is slated to be one of three Active Duty F-35 squadrons at Hill, supported operationally by Air Force Reserve Command's 419th FW. The 34th FS is scheduled to receive its first F-35 airframe in September and grow to 15 aircraft by next summer in time for the Air Force's planned initial operating capability. "There's a lot of work to be done before we get that first jet," said Watkins, who noted airmen are working on an F-35 maintenance plan and have created a flying-hours program for the aircraft. The squadron was formerly one of Hill's F-16 units, and stood down in 2010 as part of a downsizing. "This has got to be one of the finest days of my military career," said Col. David Lyons, current 388th commander and former commander of the 34th. "To see this squadron shut down in 2010 was heartbreaking, but somebody, somewhere had the good sense to bring it back to duty." 2015

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

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.