

52 FIGHTER WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

52 Fighter Wing, All-Weather, established, 10 May 1948

Activated, 9 Jun 1948

Redesignated 52 Fighter All-Weather Wing, 20 Jan 1950

Redesignated 52 Fighter Interceptor Wing, 1 May 1951

Inactivated, 6 Feb 1952

Redesignated 52 Fighter Wing (Air Defense) and activated, 11 Apr 1963

Organized, 1 Jul 1963

Inactivated, 30 Sep 1968

Redesignated 52 Tactical Fighter Wing, 12 Nov 1971

Activated, 31 Dec 1971

Redesignated 52 Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 1991

STATIONS

Mitchel Field (later, AFB) NY, 9 Jun 1948

McGuire AFB, NJ, 4 Oct 1949-6 Feb 1952

Suffolk County AFB, NY, 1 Jul 1963-30 Sep 1968

Spangdahlem AB, Germany, 31 Dec 1971

ASSIGNMENTS

First Air Force, 9 Jun 1948

Eastern Air Defense Force, 1 Sep 1950-6 Feb 1952

Air Defense Command, 11 Apr 1963
New York Air Defense Sector, 1 Jul 1963
21 Air Division, 1 Apr 1966
35 Air Division, 1 Dec 1967-30 Sep 1968
Seventeenth Air Force, 31 Dec 1971
65 Air Division, 1 Jun 1985
Seventeenth Air Force, 30 Jun 1991
Third Air Force, 31 Jul 1996
United States Air Forces in Europe, 1 Nov 2005
Air Command Europe, 18 Nov 2005
Third Air Force (Air Forces Europe), 1 Dec 2006

ATTACHMENTS

Eastern Air Defense Force, 10 Nov 1949-31 Aug 1950

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P (later, F)-61, 1947-1948
F-82, 1948-1952
F-94, 1950-1952
F-47, 1951-1952
F-101, 1963-1968
EB-66, 1971-1972
F-4, 1971-1994
EB-57, 1974, 1975
A-7, 1976
F-105, 1976, 1977
F-16, 1987
A/OA-10, 1992
F-15 1994-1999

COMMANDERS

Col Roger V. Williams, 9 Jun 1948
Col Thomas C. Musgrave Jr., 28 Jun 1948
Col Robert W. C. Wimmsatt, 1 Jul 1949
Col Edward C. Bates, 26 Sep 1949
Col Ernest H. Beverly, 16 Jul 1950
Col Edward W. Szaniawski, 4 Dec 1951
Lt Col LeRoy D. Hoerner, 1-6 Feb 1952
None, not manned, 11 Apr-30 Jun 1963
Col James H. Buckey, 1 Jul 1963
Col Ben H. Emmert Jr., 1 Jul 1964
Col Francis S. Gabreski, 17 Aug 1964
Col Jack D. Gamble, 31 Oct 1967-30 Sep 1968
Col Thomas E. Clifford, 31 Dec 1971

Col James H. Ahmann, 16 Jul 1973
Col Robert F.C. Winger, 9 Nov 1973
Col Robert E. Buhrow, 7 Jul 1975
Col Richard E. Skelton, 10 Jun 1977
Col Charles L. Flynn, 16 Nov 1977
Col Leland K. Lukens, 9 Jun 1978
Brig Gen Robert B. Plowden Jr., 15 Feb 1980
Col Paul N. Chase, 6 Feb 1981
Col Donald L. Kaufman, 7 Dec 1982
Col Lawrence E. Day, 17 Apr 1985
Col Jay D. Blume Jr., 4 Jun 1987
Col Eugene D. Santarelli, 31 May 1988
Col Rudolf F. Peksens, 6 Jul 1989
Col Howard J. Fry Jr., 10 Jul 1991
Brig Gen John W. Hawley, 17 Jul 1992
Col John R. Dallager, 12 Jan 1994
Brig Gen Victor E. Renuart Jr., 16 Apr 1996
Brig Gen Scott P. Van Cleef, 10 Jul 1998
Brig Gen Victor E. Renuart Jr., 16 Apr 1996
Brig Gen Donald J. Hoffman, 16 Mar 2000
Col Gregory J. Ihde, 16 May 2001
Brig Gen Stephen P. Mueller, 15 Jul 2002
Brig Gen David L. Goldfein, 30 Jul 2004
Col Darryl L. Roberson; 23 Jun 2006
Col Thomas J. Feldhausen, 5 Mar 2008
Col Lee T. Wight, 3 Jun 2008
Col Christopher P. Weggeman, 13 Jul 2010
Col Peter Bilodeau
Col Joseph Mcfall

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia

Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device

1 Sep 1990-26 Feb 1991

19 Mar-16 Apr 2003

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1978-30 Jun 1980
1 Jul 1991-30 Jun 1993
1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1995
1 Aug 1995-31 Jul 1997
1 Jul 1997-30 Jun 1999
24 Mar-10 Jun 1999
1 Jul 1999-30 Jun 2001
1 Jul 2001-30 Jun 2003
1 Jul 2003-30 Jun 2005
1 Jul 2008-30 Jun 2010.

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 52 Operations Group prior to 9 Jun 1948

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Air Offensive, Europe
Algeria-French Morocco
Tunisia; Sicily
Naples-Foggia
Rome-Arno
Normandy
Northern France
Southern France
North Apennines
Rhineland
Central Europe
Po Valley
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Germany, 9 Jun 1944
Rumania, 31 Aug 1944

EMBLEM



52 Fighter Wing, Air Defense





Blue and 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 white quarters of the shield with a nebuly at the lower and upper edges respectively, symbolize clouds. Each is charged with a dagger reflecting the wing's readiness and striking power. The blue and black quarters of the shield represent day and night operations and the coat of arms reflects the wing's ability to fly around-the-clock in all weather conditions. (Approved for 52 Group, 11 Jan 1951 and for 52 Wing, 10 May 1951)

MOTTO

SEEK ATTACK DESTROY

OPERATIONS

The 52 performed air defense in the northeastern United States, Jun 1948-Feb 1952, and Jul 1963-Sep 1968.

In Dec 1971, it became the host wing at Spangdahlem AB, Germany, and inherited tactical squadrons from the 36th TFW at nearby Bitburg AB.

The wing participated in numerous tactical exercises, operations, and tests of USAFE and NATO and provided close air support, interdiction, and base defense operations. It cooperated with other NATO forces in frequent "squadron exchange" programs and hosted US-based units on temporary duty in Europe.

In Jan 1973, a Wild Weasel defense suppression mission was added.

After Oct 1985, using the F-4 model aircraft, defense suppression became the wing's sole tactical mission.

In 1987, the 52 acquired F-16s and became the first wing to integrate F-16Cs with F-4Gs to form hunter/killer teams within individual fighter squadrons.

It deployed aircraft and personnel to strategic locations in Saudi Arabia and Turkey in support of the liberation of Kuwait, Sep 1990-Mar 1993. In all, the 52d dispatched 48 aircraft and 1,000 support personnel to Southwest Asia. In 40 days of combat, F-4G and F-16C fighters from Spangdahlem AB logged 2,061 sorties and 7,200 flying hours over Iraq and occupied Kuwait. They destroyed 142 separate radar sites and along with other coalition aircraft, were credited with destroying the entire Iraqi air defense system within the first few days of combat.

Near the end of 1992, it began receiving A/OA-10 aircraft.

By October 1994, the 52 FW was the only remaining fighter wing in Germany.

It received F-15s in 1994 but lost its F-4Gs.

The 52 Fighter Wing gained four new squadrons in August 1996. Headquarters USAFE activated and assigned the 52d, 752d, and 852d Munitions Support Squadrons to the 52 FW. Also, HQ USAFE assigned the 470th Air Base Squadron to the wing. The four squadrons were formerly assigned to the 617th Regional Support Group.

The 52d continued making history in 1997 with its first-ever deployment to a former Warsaw Pact nation. In September 1997, the 52d participated in EAGLE'S TALON-97, the first bilateral exercise involving US and Polish Air Forces. Units from the 52d deployed under the air expeditionary force (AEF) doctrine and formed the 52d Combined Air and Space Expeditionary Wing, operating out of Powidz AB, Krzesiny AB, and Poznan, Poland.

On 6 April 1999, the 52d Fighter Wing (52d Air Expeditionary Wing) conducted the first combat sorties flown from Germany since World War II in support of Operation ALLIED FORCE (OAF). In addition to operating from Spangdahlem AB, the 52d deployed personnel and equipment to Aviano AB and Lecce, Italy, to support OAF. Operation ALLIED FORCE proved to be the largest

military endeavor undertaken by the 52d Fighter Wing since Operation DESERT STORM. Units assigned to the 52d generated over 3,000 sorties in support of OAF.

Due to the tragic events that occurred in the continental United States during September 2001, the 52d Fighter Wing began preparing for possible combat taskings in addition to an already busy deployment schedule. Within one month of the tragic World Trade Center and Pentagon aircraft crashes on 11 September 2001, the 52d had deployed personnel and equipment in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM activities over Afghanistan. Within 100 hours of receiving notification, the 22d Expeditionary Fighter Squadron began flying operations at a deployed location. Personnel assigned to the 52d Fighter Wing continue to deploy in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

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.

Air Force News, Air Force Public Affairs Agency.