

## 406<sup>th</sup> AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

406<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber Wing established, 25 Jun 1952

Activated, 10 Jul 1952

Redesignated 406<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor Wing, 1 Apr 1954

Inactivated, 15 May 1958

Redesignated 406<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Training Wing, 20 Jun 1972

Activated, 15 Jul 1972

Inactivated, 31 Oct 1992

Redesignated 406<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing, and converted to provisional status, 5 Feb 2001

#### STATIONS

RAF Station Manston (later, RAF Manston), England, 10 Jul 1952-15 May 1958

Zaragoza AB, Spain, 15 Jul 1972

#### ASSIGNMENTS

Third Air Force, 10 Jul 1952-15 May 1958

Sixteenth Air Force, 15 Jul 1972

United States Air Forces in Europe to activate or inactivate at any time after 5 Feb 2001

#### ATTACHMENTS

Twelfth Air Force, 10 Jul 1952-31 Mar 1954

RAF Fighter Command, 1 Apr 1954-15 Feb 1958

#### WEAPON SYSTEMS

F-84, 1952-1953

F-86, 1953-1958

## **COMMANDERS**

Col Philip P. Ardery, 10 Jul 1952  
Col George F. Ceuleers, 13 Oct 1952  
Col Conrad J. Herlick, 26 Oct 1952  
Col William S. Harrell, 15 Jun 1955  
Col Hugh B. Manson, Jr., 8 Jul 1955-15 May 1958  
Col Richard G. Collins, 15 Jul 1972  
Col Carl H. Cathey, Jr., 30 Aug 1972  
Col Richard E. Skelton, 20 Apr 1974  
Col Benjamin R. Battle, 25 Apr 1975  
Col David W. Forgan, 14 Jul 1975  
Col Harley N. Wills, 14 Jul 1977  
Col Richard M. Pascoe, 1 Jun 1979  
Col Richard L. Craft, 2 Apr 1981  
Col Edward B. White, 7 Jul 1981  
Col John Granskog, 28 Jun 1984  
Col Travis E. Harrell, 14 May 1986  
Col Omar R. Wiseman, 20 Dec 1987  
Col Edward V. Mangis, 30 Aug 1989  
Col Jeffrey S. Pilkington, 12 Jun 1991-unkn

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

None

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards  
[15 Jul 1972]-30 Jun 1973  
1 Jul 1974-30 Jun 1976  
1 Jul 1980-30 Jun 1982  
1 Jul 1982-30 Jun 1984  
1 Jul 1986-30 Jun 1987  
1 Jan 1989-31 Dec 1990  
1 Jan 1991-30 Sep 1992

### **Bestowed Honors**

Authorized to display honors earned by the 406 Expeditionary Operations Group prior to 10 Jul

1952

### **Service Streamers**

World War II American Theater

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations

Chateauroux, France, 7 Sep 1944

Bastogne, Belgium, 23-27 Dec 1944

### **EMBLEM**



Azure, a bend gules fimbriated argent, overall a dexter hand in spiked mail gauntlet palewise proper, grasping a three-pronged lightning flash or and surmounted at the cuff by a chain of four links of the last. (Approved, 14 May 1953)

### **MOTTO**

ASCENDE ET DEFENDE—Rise and defend

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Trained in fighter-bomber and air defense operations after activation in England, 1952-1953. Provided air defense in United Kingdom, 1954-1958 and in the Netherlands 1954-1955.

Phased down for inactivation, Feb-May 1958.

Replaced the 406th Tactical Fighter Training Group in July 1972.

Assumed responsibility for operating and maintaining Zaragoza AB, Spain, its associated gunnery ranges, and air combat tactics training areas. Combat units of the United States Air Forces in Europe deployed weapons training detachments (WTD) to Zaragoza for training. The 406th provided full support and temporarily controlled these detachments, although it had no tactical squadrons or permanently assigned aircraft.

Attached WTDs often participated in tactical exercises, as well as range training. Beginning in 1976, the Wing operated the USAFE Tactical Forces Employment School and USAFE Instructor Pilot School.

The 406<sup>th</sup> began full support of a KC-135 detachment on a permanent basis in 1976, adding 10 KC-10 during the Persian Gulf War, 1990-1991.

Prepared Zaragoza AB, for closure and return to Spanish AF control at the end of 1992.

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Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 26 Aug 2011

Updated: 11 Dec 2012

### 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. *406<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor Wing. Manston, England. 1955.*