

429th ELECTRONIC COMBAT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

429th Fighter Squadron (Two-Engine) constituted, 26 May 1943
Activated, 1 Aug 1943
Redesignated 429th Fighter Squadron, Two-Engine, 20 Aug 1943
Inactivated, 5 Dec 1945
Redesignated 429th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 25 Jun 1952
Activated, 10 Jul 1952
Redesignated 429th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 1 Jul 1958
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1989
Redesignated 429th Electronic Combat Squadron, 1 Aug 1992
Activated, 11 Sep 1992

STATIONS

Glendale, CA, 1 Aug 1943
Van Nuys Metropolitan Aprt, CA, 11 Oct 1943
Lomita Flight Strip, CA, 5 Jan–6 Feb 1944
Moreton, England, 12 Mar 1944
Neuilly, France, 6 Aug 1944
St Marceau, France, 2 Sep 1944
Peronne, France, 12 Sep 1944
Florennes, Belgium, 2 Oct 1944
Strassfeld, Germany, 30 Mar 1945
Langensalza, Germany, 22 Apr 1945

Schweinfurt, Germany, 16 Jun 1945
Stuttgart, Germany, 25 Oct–21 Nov 1945
Camp Kilmer, NJ, 4–5 Dec 1945
Misawa AB, Japan, 10 Jul 1952
Kunsan AB, South Korea, 10 Jul 1952
Taegu AB, South Korea, 1 Apr 1953–22 Nov 1954
Clovis (later, Cannon) AFB, NM, 13 Dec 1954
Nellis AFB, NV, 15 May 1968–29 Jul 1973
Takhli RTAFB, Thailand, 30 Jul 1973
Korat RTAFB, Thailand, 14 Jul 1974–15 Jun 1975
Nellis AFB, NV, 21 Jun 1975–30 Sep 1989
Mountain Home AFB, ID, 11 Sep 1992
Cannon AFB, NM, 22 Jun 1993

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Incirlik AB, Turkey, 19 Jun–15 Oct 1959 and 11 Jun–22 Oct 1962
Chambley AB, France, 1 Sep–28 Nov 1961
Seymour Johnson AFB, NC, 22 Oct–28 Nov 1962
Aviano AB, Italy, 3 Jul–13 Nov 1963
Validati AB, Iran, 7 Apr–c. May 1964
Misawa AB, Japan, 16 Nov 1964–12 Feb 1965
Bien Hoa AB, South Vietnam, 13 Jul–16 Dec 1965
Homestead AFB, FL, 15 May 1967–15 May 1968
Takhli RTAFB, Thailand, 28 Sep 1972–26 Jan 1973 and 18 Mar–29 Jul 1973)

ASSIGNMENTS

474th Fighter Group, 1 Aug 1943–5 Dec 1945
474th Fighter-Bomber Group, 10 Jul 1952
474th Fighter-Bomber (later, 474th Tactical Fighter) Wing, 8 Oct
347th Tactical Fighter Wing, 30 Jul 1973
474th Tactical Fighter Wing, 21 Jun 1975–30 Sep 1989
366th Operations Group, 11 Sep 1992
27th Operations Group, 22 Jun 1993

ATTACHMENTS

58th Fighter-Bomber Wing, 1 Apr 1953–22 Nov 1954) 1957
7216th Air Base Group, 19 Jun–15 Oct 1959 and 11 Jun–22 Oct 1962
USAFE, 1 Sep–28 Nov 1961
4th Tactical Fighter Wing, 22 Oct–28 Nov 1962
7227th Support [later, 7227th Combat Support] Group, 3 Jul–13 Nov 1963
Sixteenth Air Force, 7 Apr–May 1964
39th Air Division, 16 Nov 1964–12 Feb 1965
27th Tactical Fighter Wing, 13 Jul–16 Dec 1965 and 15 May 1967–15 May 1968
347th Tactical Fighter Wing, 18 Mar–29 Jul 1973

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-38, 1943-1945
F-84, 1952-1954
F-86, 1955-1957
F-100, 1957-1965, 1967-1968
F-111, 1969-1975
F-4, 1975-1981
F-16, 1981-1989
EF-111, 1992
F-86H
F-111A
EF111A
F-16A
F-16B
P-38F
P-38G
P-38J
P-38L

COMMANDERS

Maj Manual A. Pidcock
LTC Joseph S. Michalowski, #1959
LTC C. V. Breakfield, #1964

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Air Offensive, Europe
Northern France
Normandy
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Korea
Korea Summer-Fall, 1952
Third Korean Winter
Korea, Summer 1953

Vietnam
Vietnam Defensive
Vietnam Ceasefire

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
France, 23 Aug 1944
Korea, 1 Dec 1952–30 Apr 1953
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device
30 Jul 1973–15 May 1975

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
9 Mar 1961–9 Mar 1962

Cited in the Orders of the Day, Belgian Army
6 Jun–30 Sep 1944
16 Dec 1944–25 Jan 1945

Belgian Fourragere

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation
10 Jul 1952–30 Mar 1953

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross With Palm
22 Sep 1972–28 Jan 1973

EMBLEM



429th Fighter Squadron, Two-Engine emblem approved, 28 Feb 1944



429th Fighter-Bomber Squadron emblem: On an Air Force golden yellow disc a black falcon volant, wing detail silver, beak, eyeball and talons red, carrying with his talons two silver bombs, with yellow and black markings. (Approved 7 Jul 1955)



429th Tactical Fighter Squadron emblem: On a Yellow disc with a narrow Black border a Black stylized falcon descending diagonally from upper right to lower left. (Approved, 5 Nov 1987)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

BLACK FALCONS

OPERATIONS

Combat in ETO, 25 Apr 1944–8 May 1945. Combat in Korea, 1 Aug 1952–27 Jul 1953. Not operational 16 Dec 1965–15 May 1967. Combat in Southeast Asia, 16 Jul–14 Dec 1965, 28 Sep 1972–26 Jan 1973, and 20 Mar–15 Aug 1973.

F-111 67-0060 The aircraft was delivered to the USAF on November 26, 1968. This 429th TFS Constant Guard V/Linebacker aircraft arrived in the first phase of the deployment. It crashed and was destroyed on April 7, 1976, net Wendover, Utah, while assigned to the 474th TFW.

Following a left engine explosion and fire, aircraft control was lost. The crew ejected successfully with no injuries. 67-0060 had accumulated 750 flights and 1,910.6 flight hours at the time of the crash.

F-111 67-0063 The aircraft was delivered to the USAF on January 9, 1969. 67-0063 arrived in the second phase of the deployment. It was destroyed on November 6, 1972, in Southeast Asia, while flying with the callsign Whaler 57. It was the third Constant Guard V aircraft loss. The North Vietnamese Government claimed to have shot down this aircraft. The crew, Major Robert Brown and Captain Robert Morrissey, was not recovered. The North Vietnamese media reported the shoot down was accomplished by firing AAA tracers at the aircraft and instructed the air defense soldiers to fire their rifles and AK-47s in front of the tracers. The AAA trailed the aircraft and missed, but, as the North Vietnamese media reported, the F-111 flew into the barrage of small arms fire which brought it down. The media also claimed the same tactics were used in the shoot down of 67-0068, the last F-111 lost over North Vietnam. 67-0063 had 333 flights and had accumulated 822.1 flight hours when lost.

F-111 67-0066 The aircraft was delivered to the USAF on February 6, 1969. This 429th TFS aircraft arrived in the second phase of the Constant Guard V/Linebacker deployment. It was destroyed on October 16, 1972 in Southeast Asia. 67-0066 is seen in this photo on the ramp at Takhli RTAFB callsign Coach 33. It was the second Constant Guard V aircraft lost, possibly hit by a SA-2 surface to air missile while flying near Phuc Yen Airfield. The belief was the aircraft was after climbing to MK84 GPLD delivery altitude which was above the normal combat TFR altitude. Neither the aircraft nor the crew, Captain James Hockrid and 1LT Allen Graham, was recovered. The Vietnamese government returned their remains on September 30, 1977. 67-0066 had 307 flights and accumulated 809.1 flight hours when lost.

F-111 67-0068 The aircraft was delivered to the USAF on February 20, 1969. The aircraft arrived in the first phase of the Constant Guard V/Linebacker II deployment. It was destroyed on December 22, 1972, in Southeast Asia. Callsign Jackal 33 was lost, probably hit by AAA, after bombing the Hanoi docks on the Red River. This was the sixth Constant Guard V aircraft lost. The crew, Captain Bob Sponeybarger, pilot, and 1Lt Bill Wilson, PWSO (Pilot-Weapon Systems Officer), ejected. They were the only F-111 crew confirmed held as POWs by the North Vietnamese government. They were returned to U.S. government control on March 29, 1973, as part of the formal release of POWs called for in the treaty ending U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. 67-0068 had 372 flights and accumulated 946.8 flight hours when lost.

F-111 67-0072 The aircraft was delivered to the USAF on March 14, 1969. A 429th TFS Constant Guard V/Linebacker aircraft arrived in the first phase of the deployment. It crashed and was destroyed on February 20, 1973, at Takhli RTAFB, Thailand. The main landing gear pin failed during takeoff causing the aircraft to depart the end of the runway and burn. The crew egressed successfully. 67-0072 had accumulated 476 flights and 1,180.9 flight hours at the time of the loss.

F-111 67-0082 The aircraft was delivered to the USAF on April 17,1969. The aircraft crashed and was destroyed shortly after takeoff on June 18,1972, in Choctawtchee Bay, Florida, three miles from Eglin AFB. A fuel fire caused by an open gas cap on the top of the fuselage was believed to be the cause of the crash. The fuel ran back along the fuselage and was ignited by me afterburners. The fire caused loss of control. The ejection occurred at 5,484 feet above water. The parachute streamed and the module impacted the water. Both crew members, Col Keith Brown and Lt Col James Black, sustained fatal injuries. 67-0082 had accumulated 237 flights and 609.4 flight hours at the time of the crash.

F-111 67-0080 The aircraft was delivered to the USAF on April 7, 1969. This Constant Guard V/ Linebacker aircraft arrived in the second phase of the deployment. While assigned to the 474th TFW at Nellis AFB, it crashed and was destroyed on March 11,1976. Control of the aircraft was lost during an ECM formation, after an overshoot while attempting a rejoin on the lead aircraft. The crew ejected with both members sustaining back injuries. 67-0080 had accumulated 767 flights and 1,933.6 flight hours at the time of the crash.

F-111 67-0083 The aircraft was delivered to the USAF on April 17,1969. This 429th TFS Constant Guard V/Linebacker aircraft arrived in the first phase of the deployment. It crashed and was destroyed on November 30,1977, during a loss bomb run on the Nellis Ranges while on a Red Flag mission. Ejection was not attempted. Captain Art Stowe and Major Lorely "Skip" Wagner, were killed. 67-0083 had accumulated 816 flights and 2,095.1 flight hours at the time of the crash.

F-111 67-0078 The aircraft was delivered to the USAF on April 7,1969. This 429th aircraft was the first Constant Guard V aircraft loss. Flying as Ranger 23, the aircraft crashed and was destroyed on September 28,1972, during first night of bombing missions over North Vietnam. The aircraft was lost after hitting its target. No traces of either the aircraft or crew, Major William Coltman and 1LT Robert Brett Jr., were found. 67-0078 had accumulated 282 flights and 735.5 flight hours at the time c the crash.

67-0111 The aircraft was delivered to the USAF on July 18,1969. This Constant Guard V/Linebacker aircraft replacement aircraft arrived Southeast Asia on May 8, 1973. The seventh, and last combat loss under the Constant Guard V/Linebacker deployment, it crashed and was destroyed Southeast Asia (Cambodia) on June 16,1973. The crash was a result of a mid-air collision with 67-0094 on June 16,1973. Both aircraft accomplished radar bomb runs against the same target in Cambodia, and were vectored together by airborne radar controllers. The crew of 67-0111 ejected and w recovered. 67-0094 lost 4.5 feet of its wing, landing at Ubon RTAFB. 67-0111 had accumulated 332 flights and 836.2 flight hours at the time of the loss.

Fighter training, Jun 1975– Sep 1989.

Command, control, and communications countermeasures, Sep 1992.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 29 Mar 2011

Updated: 28 Jan 2014

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. *312th Fighter Bomber Wing. Clovis AFB, NM, 1955*

Unit yearbook, *Cannon AFB, NM. 1959.*