

461 FLIGHT TEST SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

361 Fighter Squadron constituted, 8 Dec 1942

Activated, 12 Dec 1942

Redesignated 361 Fighter Squadron, Single-Engine, 20 Sep 1944

Inactivated, 11 Nov 1945

461 Fighter-Day Squadron constituted, 30 Dec 1955

Activated, 8 Feb 1956

Redesignated 461 Tactical Fighter Squadron, 8 Jul 1958

Inactivated, 1 Aug 1959

Redesignated 461 Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, 15 Jul 1976

Activated, 1 Jul 1977

361st Fighter Squadron, Single-Engine and 461 Tactical Fighter Training Squadron consolidated,
19 Sep 1985

Redesignated 461 Fighter Squadron, 1 Nov 1991

Inactivated, 5 Aug 1994

Redesignated 461 Flight Test Squadron, 23 Oct 2006

Activated, 27 Oct 2006

STATIONS

Westover Fld, MA, 12 Dec 1942

New Haven AAFld, CT, 2 Mar 1943

Bradley Fld, CT, 19 Apr 1943

Westhampton, NY, 8 Jun 1943
Grenier Fld, NH, 4 Jul 1943
Camp Myles Standish, MA, 15-20 Aug 1943
Goxhill, England, 27 Aug 1943
Martlesham Heath, England, 9 Oct 1943-28 Oct 1945
Camp Myles Standish, MA, 10-11 Nov 1945
Landstuhl AB, West Germany, 8 Feb 1956
Hahn AB, West Germany, 2 May 1956-1 Aug 1959
Luke AFB, AZ, 1 Jul 1977-5 Aug 1994
Edwards AFB, CA, 27 Oct 2006

ASSIGNMENTS

356 Fighter Group, 12 Dec 1942-10 Nov 1945
Unkn, 10-11 Nov 1945
36 Fighter-Day Group, 8 Feb 1956
36 Fighter-Day (later, 36 Tactical Fighter) Wing, 8 Dec 1957-1 Aug 1959
58 Tactical Training Wing, 1 Jul 1977
405 Tactical Training Wing, 29 Aug 1979
58 Operations Group, 1 Oct 1991
56 Operations Group, 1 Apr-5 Aug 1994
412 Operations Group, 27 Oct 2006

ATTACHMENTS

86 Fighter-Interceptor Group, 8 Feb-2 May 1956
36 Fighter-Day Wing, 1 Oct 1956-7 Dec 1957

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-47, 1943-1944
P-51, 1944-1945
F-86, 1956
F-100, 1956-1959
T-33, 1956
F-15, 1977-1994

COMMANDERS

1Lt Ray P. Stewart, 7 Jan 1943
Maj Frederick C. Roberts Jr., 30 Jan 1943
Cpt Emery H. Montgomery, 23 Nov 1943 (temporary)
LTC William Waller III, 28 Nov 1943
LTC James M. Cooper, 14 Jul 1944
Maj Donald J. Strait, 4 Jan 1945
Maj Donald R. Carlson, 28 Mar-30 Jun 1945
Unkn, 1 Jul-11 Nov 1945
LTC William F. Haning Jr., 8 Feb 1956

Maj William D. Locke, 8 Feb 1957
Col Frank K. Everest Jr., 11 Mar 1957
LTC John S. Stewart, 5 May-1 Aug 1959
LTC James A. Thornton, 1 Jul 1977
LTC Arthur D. Farrington, 28 Jul 1978
LTC Roy O. Bates, 11 Jul 1980-unkn
LTC Robert D. Evans, 6 Oct 1987
LTC Harold J. Bennett Jr., 20 Jan 1989
LTC Harry C. Disbrow Jr., 25 May 1990
LTC Stephen H. Spencer, 6 Dec 1991
LTC John M. Carter Jr., 15 Jan 1993-4 Aug 1994
LTC Edward V. Cassidy, 27 Oct 2006

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

Netherlands, 17, 18 and 23 Sep 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

May 1956-May 1958

1 Jan 1978-31 Dec 1979

1 Aug 1982-31 May 1984

1 Apr 1992-31 Mar 1994

1 Jan 2013-31 Dec 2013

EMBLEM



461 Fighter-Day Squadron



461 Tactical Fighter Squadron

461 Flight Test Squadron emblem: On a disc Sable fimbriated Azure, four condensation trails issuant from sinister chief arcing to dexter side then to sinister side Argent, charged with a theatre mask Or in dexter side; in sinister chief a demi-sun of the third, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached above the disc, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "CAVEANT COELUM NOSTRUM" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "461ST FLIGHT TEST SQ" in Yellow 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 deadly jester mask, which predominates, denotes the high spirit of a fighter pilot masked behind a deadly capability. The four bands represent condensation trails and terminate in the basic element of a fighter squadron, the flight of four each providing mutual protection to the other, and symbolize the warfighter who is the focus of the flight test mission. The outer edge band is representative of the unity of effort. (Approved, 27 Aug 1957)

MOTTO

CAVEANT COELUM NOSTRUM--Beware! This is Our Sky

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Trained at bases in New England and New York until Aug 1943, when it moved to Britain aboard the Queen Elizabeth. From 15 Oct 1943-Apr 1945, conducted fighter sweeps and provided penetration, target and withdrawal cover for heavy bomber aircraft, escorting them to and from Nazi targets in northwestern Europe. During Market-Garden operations over Holland, supported cargo, gliders and bomber aircraft by furnishing air cover against enemy fighter aircraft and by attacking enemy ground positions. Received Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for operations over

Holland on 17, 18 and 23 Sep 1944. In early 1945, squadron P-51 Mustangs clashed with German Me 262 jet aircraft. Between 1956-1959, conducted air superiority and general support missions as directed by Twelfth Air Force and, later, by United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE).

From 1977 through 1994, conducted fighter aircraft aircrew training for American and selected allied fighter pilots. Training program ended in Aug 1994.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 14 Dec 2010

Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.