

477th FIGHTER GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

477th Bombardment Group (Medium) established, 13 May 1943

Activated, 1 Jun 1943

Inactivated, 25 Aug 1943

Activated, 15 Jan 1944

Redesignated 477th Composite Group, 22 Jun 1945

Inactivated, 1 Jul 1947

Redesignated 477 Special Operations Group, 31 Jul 1985

Redesignated 477 Expeditionary Special Operations Group, and converted to provisional status,
24 Jan 2005

Redesignated 477th Special Operations Group, and withdrawn from provisional status, 11 Aug
2006

Redesignated 477th Fighter Group, 21 Sep 2007

Activated, 1 Oct 2007

STATIONS

MacDill Field, FL, 1 Jun-25 Aug 1943

Selfridge Field, MI, 15 Jan 1944

Godman Field, KY, 6 May 1944

Freeman Field, IN, 5 Mar 1945

Godman Field, KY, 26 Apr 1945

Lockbourne AAB, OH, 13 Mar 1946-1 Jul 1947

Elmendorf AFB, AK, 1 Oct 2007

ASSIGNMENTS

Third Air Force, 1 Jun-25 Aug 1943

First Air Force, 15 Jan 1944

Ninth Air Force, 1 Jan-1 Jul 1947

Air Force Special Operations Command to activate or inactivate at any time after 24 Jan 2005

Withdrawn from provisional status, 11 Aug 2006

Tenth Air Force, 1 Oct 2007

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-26, 1943

B-25, 1944-1947

P-47, 1945-1947

F-22, 2007

COMMANDERS

LTC Andrew O. Lerche, 1943

Col Robert R. Selway Jr., 21 Jan 1944

Col Benjamin O. Davis Jr., 21 Jun 1945-1 Jul 1947

Col Eric S. Overturf, 1 Oct 2007

Col John Hillyer

Col Bryan Radliff

Col Bryan P. Radliff, 27 Mar 11

Col John M. Hillyer, 5 Dec 10

Col Brett R. Paola, 5 Jan 2019

HONORS

Service Streamers

American Theater, World War II

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

None

EMBLEM

Celeste, issuant from base a demi-globe Azure, land masses Or, and emitting three contrails Argent terminating to three deltas points to dexter, accented Gules, overall a stylized eagle Sable garnished of the fourth and grasping a lightning bolt bend sinister of the fifth and third; all within a diminished bordure of the last. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "477TH FIGHTER GROUP" in Blue 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 black stylized eagle holding a bolt of lightning speaks of the unit's mission of Air, Space and Information Dominance. The three parallel flight symbols and paths represent the Reserve Triad: reserve military service, civilian service, and family. The lightning bolt clutched in the eagle's talons symbolizes strength of the group as a critical part of Total Force signified by the gold and red colors of the lightning bolt. (Approved, 5 Oct 2007)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Elmendorf F-22s Deploy To Kadena: A contingent of F-22s and active duty airmen and Reservists from JB Elmendorf, Alaska, deployed in January to Kadena AB, Japan, for three months. This tour is part of a normal rotation of US combat forces in the western Pacific to maintain stability and is not a response to any specific situation, said Elmendorf officials. The contingent includes F-22s and pilots from the active duty 525th Fighter Squadron, maintainers from the 525th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, and pilots and maintainers from Air Force Reserve Command's 477th Fighter Group. The Reservists help operate the F-22s under a classic association. At Kadena, the Elmendorf airmen will generate daily sorties without having to fight the harsh Alaska winter weather. They will also train with other Air Force and Navy aircraft. Stars and Stripes reported that 15 F-22s were slated to deploy to Kadena. 2011

15 Jan 2011 With funding finally secured, 20 maintainers and eight pilots from the 477 FG successfully deployed for 3 months to Kadena Air Base, Japan for the Theater Security Package. This was the 477 FG's fourth Theater Security Package deployment. The integration of active duty and reserve personnel provided training should a large scale combat operation dictate the need of the F-22's. This deployment allowed the active duty and reserve pilots and maintainers to generate sorties without having to fight the harsh Alaska winter and train with other types of aircraft.

22 Jun 2011 Reservists from the 477 FG spent their two week annual training in Beckley, West Virginia supporting Joint Task Force Summit, laying the foundation for the future home of the National Boy Scout Jamboree. The 22 members of the 477th Civil Engineer Squadron cleared 48 acres with excavators and they recycled trees by turning them into wood chips for irrigation around the new roads. They also built silt fences out of posts, chain link fencing, and geotextile fabric and gravel check dams to catch and divert water, protecting roadways and foundations from erosion.

Five years after standing up, Air Force Reserve Command's 477th Fighter Group at JB Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, is now fully capable of executing its combat mission, announced group officials. "Fully operation[ally] capable means that we are ready and able to execute our wartime tasking," said Col. Bryan Radliff, 477th FG commander, who announced the milestone to the group's airmen on Sept. 9. The group cooperates with Elmendorf's Active Duty 3rd Wing

to operate and maintain the base's two squadrons of combat-coded F-22s. The 477th FG was activated at Elmendorf in October 2007, becoming the Air Force's first Reserve F-22 unit and the only AFRC unit in Alaska. In September of the following year, the group, along with the 3rd Wing, attained the capability to assume initial F-22 operations. 2012

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 28 Sep 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.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.