

## 478<sup>th</sup> AERONAUTICAL SYSTEMS WING



### MISSION

The 478th Aeronautical Systems Wing is a depot-level maintenance organization tasked with the servicing of F-22A and weapons systems.

### LINEAGE

478<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group (Two-Engine) established, 12 Oct 1943

Activated, 1 Dec 1943

Disestablished, 31 Mar 1944

Reestablished and redesignated 478<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group (Air Defense), 11 Dec 1956

Activated, 8 Feb 1957

Discontinued and inactivated, 1 Feb 1961

478<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Day Wing established, 23 Mar 1953

Redesignated 478<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (Air Defense) and activated, 28 Dec 1960

Organized, 1 Feb 1961

Discontinued and inactivated, 1 Jul 1963

478<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group (Air Defense) and 478<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (Air Defense), consolidated, 31 Jan 1984

Redesignated 478<sup>th</sup> Aeronautical Systems Wing, 16 Mar 2007

Activated, 2 Apr 2007

### STATIONS

Hamilton Field, CA, 1 Dec 1943

Santo Rosa AAFld, CA, 12 Dec 1943

Redmond AAFld, OR, 3 Feb-31 Mar 1944

Grand Forks AFB, ND, 8 Feb 1957-1 Jul 1963

Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, 2 Apr 2007

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

IV Fighter Command, 1 Dec 1943  
San Francisco Fighter Wing, Dec 1943  
Seattle Fighter Wing, Feb 1944  
Fourth Air Force, 1-31 Mar 1944  
31<sup>st</sup> Air Division (Defense), 8 Feb 1957  
29<sup>th</sup> Air Division (Defense), 1 Jan 1959  
Grand Forks Air Defense Sector, 1 Jul 1959-1 Jul 1963  
Aeronautical Systems Center, 2 Apr 2007

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

P-39, 1944  
F-102, 1960  
F-101, 1960-1963

## **COMMANDERS**

Col John W. Weltman, 7 Dec 1943  
LTC Ernest C. Young, 31 Jan-31 Mar 1944  
Cpt John F. Alleman (acting), Feb 1957  
LTC Everett E. Binford, 11 Feb 1958  
LTC Dale E. Altman, Dec 1958  
LTC John B. Rose Jr., Mar 1959  
Col Leon G. Lewis, 19 Jun 1959  
None (not manned), 28 Dec 1960-31 Jan 1961  
Col Leon G. Lewis, 1 Feb 1961  
Col Robert J. Ahern, 1961  
Col Raymond S. Brown, 1962  
Col George O. Commenator, 1962-Jul 1963

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

None

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

### **Decorations**

None

## **EMBLEM**

Per bend double wavy in the manner of an "S" Azure and Gules, a cost double wavy in the manner of an "S" Or, a terrestrial globe Celeste, with land masses Vert, issuant from dexter base of globe two contrails bend sinisterwise, terminating in stylized jet planes voided and fimbriated, in base five mullets Argent, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "478TH AERONAUTICAL SYSTEMS WING" 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 wavy cost which divides the field in two symbolizes the delicate balance between war and peace as with past heroic sacrifices made for the defense of the Nation. The globe represents air dominance delivered around the world. The contrails encircling the world symbolize the speed and power with which the unit supports air dominance. The aircraft symbolize stealth fighters. The five stars represent the five generations of fighter aircraft.

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Provided replacement training in P-39, 1944. Not operational at Grand Forks AFB until May 1960. Provided air defense for a segment of north-central United States, 1960-1963.

On 8 February 1957, the ADC activated the 478th Fighter Group (FG) at Grand Forks Air Force Base. This unit would serve as the host unit for a fighter-interceptor squadron, an air defense sector operation and SAC units.

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### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.