

# 21<sup>st</sup> WEATHER SQUADRON



## LINEAGE

21st Weather Squadron constituted, 19 Apr 1943

Activated, 1 May 1943

Inactivated, 12 Jul 1946

Activated, 18 Aug 1956

Inactivated, 1 Jul 1971

## STATIONS

Bradley Field, CT

Wilford Park England, Jul 1943

Sunninghill Park 01 Sep 1943

Grandcamp France

Canisy France

Force-Mayrme France

Chantilly France, 15 Sep 1944

Bad Kissingen, Germany, 6 Jun 1945

Wiesbaden on 17 Nov 1945

Madrid, Spain, 18 Aug 1956

Torrejon AB, Spain, 15 Sep 1957-1 Jul 1971

## ASSIGNMENTS

Flight Control Command, 1 May 1943

Ninth Air Force, 16 Oct 1943

## COMMANDERS

Maj Richard J. Kent, 1 May 1943

Col Thomas S. Moorman, 1 Sep 1943

Cpt August W. Throgmorton, 1 Jan 1944

Maj Cullie B. Harris, 5 Jul 1945

Col Wilson H. Neal, 1 Oct 1945  
1Lt Donald R. Anderson, 11 Dec 1945  
Cpt Francis T. McHenry, May 1946  
Cpt Donald J. Wolfe, 18 Aug 1956  
LTC Leonard H. Hutchinson, 29 Aug 1956  
LTC William E. Kunz, 10 Jun 1958  
LTC Lawrence D. Connolly, 26 Jan 1960  
LTC Nicholas J. Gavares, Jan 1963  
Col Robert F. Neely, Jul 1965  
Col Isaac S. Israel, 1 Aug 1968  
LTC John A. Samotis, 18 Jun 1971

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

Northern France, 25 Jul-14 Sep 1944  
Rhineland, 15 Sep 1944-21 Mar 1945  
Central Europe, 22 Mar-11 May 1945

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Army Meritorious Unit Citation, 1 Jan-1 Jul 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for 1 Jan 1968-31 Dec 1969

## **EMBLEM**

Approved on 14 April 1960

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

The emblem is symbolic of the weather support status of the squadron in relation to aircraft flying at increasingly higher altitudes. The stylized aircraft and supporting hand represent the meteorology necessary to provide accurate upper atmospheric information for safety of flight. The emblem bears the Air Force colors of ultramarine blue and golden yellow.

## **MOTTO**

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## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

After 34 years, the premiere weather unit of World War II is back on the front lines of operational forecasting within the European theater. This rebirth of history comes not through reactivation, but rather, a re-designation of the former USAFE Operational Weather Squadron at Sembach AB, Germany. The USAFE OWS dates back to 1997 when it was the first OWS tasked to provide

mission support to commanders throughout the United States European Command theater and to our NATO allies. Its area of responsibility covers the greatest territory of all Air Force weather units, 21 million square miles, spanning 91 nations from the western Atlantic Ocean to the eastern shores of Russia, and from Iceland and Scandinavia to the southern reaches of Africa. With the realignment of Europe's U.S. Air Component Forces in 2005, the USAFE OWS now reports to the 616th Support Group, part of the 16th Air Force, and was re-designated as the 21<sup>st</sup> Operational Weather Squadron. Along with the name change comes an inherited rich history of excellence dating back to 1943. Activated at Bradley Field, Conn., in April 1943, the 21st Weather Squadron quickly moved overseas and was assigned to the 9th Air Force in October of the same year. With the purpose of providing dedicated meteorological intelligence to ground units, the 21st WS became the first fully deployable weather squadron in history with men trained specifically for combat; during Operation Overlord, 14 mobile weather units deployed 30 men in support of the ground troops. Following the Normandy invasion, Bronze Stars were awarded to 81 servicemen of the 21st WS.

The unit also earned the European-African-Middle-Eastern service streamer and three additional campaign streamers in Northern France, Rheinland, and Central Europe, for their unparalleled support to the war fighter. Following its inactivation in 1946, the 21st WS saw duty once again from 1956 to 1971 in Spain. In June 2005, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force directed the 21st WS to re-activate and consolidate with the USAFE OWS to become today's 21<sup>st</sup> Operational Weather Squadron as of Nov. 1, 2005. This move indicates that USAFE's OWS, while still the theater source for weather, no longer reports directly to the major command staff.

The patch of the 21st WS, approved in 1960, illustrated the need for accurate upper air forecasts to ensure the safety of aircraft flying at greater altitudes in the age of such airframes as the U-2 and SR-71. Today's emblem depicts a knight leaping to the defense of the warfighter by providing accurate weather intelligence reaching all aspects of the battle space-weather in the air or on the ground. One thing is guaranteed, the 21st OWS continues to live up to its namesake's heritage, providing critical mission support to leaders and operations conducted throughout EUCOM. 2005

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

Sources