



K-10637

401<sup>ST</sup> TACTICAL FIGHTER WING

USAF UNIT LINEAGE AND HONORS HISTORY

PREPARED BY JGE HEADQUARTERS USAF HISTORICAL RESEARCH CENTER

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DATA THROUGH HISTORY: 31 Dec 1983 ORDERS: HQ USAFE SO GB-48, 12 Jul 1985

UNIT DESIGNATION 401st Tactical Fighter Wing

STATUS: [X] ACTIVE, [ ] INACTIVE, [ ] DISBANDED, [ ] DISCONTINUED. COMPONENT OF: [X] REGULAR AIR FORCE, [ ] AIR FORCE RESERVE, [ ] AIR NATIONAL GUARD, [ ] UNALLOTTED. ASSIGNED TO: Sixteenth Air Force (USAFE)

LINEAGE

Established as 401st Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 20 Mar 1943. Activated on 1 Apr 1943. Redesignated 401st Bombardment Group, Heavy, on 11 Aug 1944. Inactivated on 28 Aug 1945. Redesignated 401st Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, on 27 May 1947. Activated in the Reserve on 26 Jun 1947. Redesignated 401st Bombardment Group, Medium, on 27 Jun 1949. Ordered to active service on 1 May 1951. Inactivated on 25 Jun 1951. Redesignated 401st Fighter-Bomber Group on 24 Nov 1953. Activated on 8 Feb 1954. Inactivated on 25 Sep 1957. Consolidated (31 Jan 1984) with the 401st Tactical Fighter Wing (established as 401st Fighter-Bomber Wing on 23 Mar 1953; activated on 25 Sep 1957; redesignated 401st Tactical Fighter Wing on 1 Jul 1958).

HONORS

Seven campaign streamers and three decorations. (See page 2.)

HONORS				
SERVICE STREAMERS			Po Valley	Korean War
	Theater of Operations (WWI)	X	Air Offensive, Europe	UN Defensive
	American Theater (WWII)	X	Normandy	UN Offensive
	EAME Theater (WWII)	X	Northern France	CCF Intervention
	Asiatic-Pacific Theater (WWII)	X	Rhineland	First UN Counteroffensive
	Korean Theater (Korean War)	X	Ardennes-Alsace	CCF Spring Offensive
	Vietnam	X	Central Europe	UN Summer-Fall Offensive
CAMPAIGN STREAMERS		X	Air Combat	Second Korean Winter
	World War I		Antisubmarine	Korea Summer-Fall, 1952
	Somme Defensive		World War II, Asiatic-Pacific Theater	Third Korean Winter
	Lys		Philippine Islands	Korea Summer-Fall, 1953
	Champagne-Marne		East Indies	Vietnam
	Aisne-Marne		Papua	Vietnam Advisory
	Somme Offensive		Guadalcanal	Vietnam Defense
	Oise-Aisne		Northern Solomons	Vietnam Air
	St Mihiel		Bismarck Archipelago	Vietnam Air Offensive
	Meuse-Argonne		New Guinea	VN Air Off, Phase II
			Leyte	VN Air Off, Phase III
			Luzon	Vietnam Air/Ground
			Southern Philippines	VN Air Off, Phase IV
			Central Pacific	TET 69/Counteroffensive
	World War II, American Theater		Eastern Mandates	VN Summer-Fall, 1969
	Antisubmarine		Western Pacific	VN Winter-Spring, 1970
	World War II, EAME Theater		Ryukyus	Sanctuary Counteroffensive
	Egypt-Libya		Air Offensive, Japan	Southwest Monsoon
	Algeria-French Morocco		Burma	Commando Hunt V
	Tunisia		India-Burma	Commando Hunt VI
	Sicily		Central Burma	Commando Hunt VII
	Naples-Foggia		China Defensive	Vietnam Ceasefire
	Anzio		China Offensive	ARROWHEADS
	Rome-Arno		Aleutian Islands	
	Southern France		Air Combat	
	North Apennines		Antisubmarine	
DECORATIONS				
DISTINGUISHED/PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (AF)			AF OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARDS WITH COMBAT "V" DEVICE	
DUC: (Oschersleben, Germany), 11 Jan 1944.				
DUC: (Leipzig, Germany), 20 Feb 1944.				
FOREIGN			AF OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARDS	
			1 Jan-31 Dec 1963.	
OTHER				

ASSIGNMENTS. 17th Bombardment Training (later, 17th Bombardment Operational Training) Wing, 1 Apr-Oct 1943; 92d Combat Bombardment Wing (Heavy), Nov 1943; 94th Combat Bombardment Wing (Heavy) (later, 94th Combat Bombardment Wing, Heavy), 15 Dec 1943-Jun 1945; Second Air Force, c. 1-28 Aug 1945. Tenth Air Force, 26 Jun 1947; 44th Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy (later, 44th Air Division, Bombardment), 17 Oct 1947; Eighth Air Force, 27 Jun 1949-25 Jun 1951 (attached to: 97th Bombardment Group, Medium, 27 Jun 1949-9 Feb 1951; 97th Bombardment Wing, Medium, 10 Feb-25 Jun 1951). Ninth Air Force, 8 Feb 1954 (attached to 366th Fighter-Bomber Wing, 8 Feb 1954-24 Sep 1957); 834th Air Division, 25 Sep 1957; Twelfth Air Force, 1 Apr 1959 (attached to Air Division Provisional, 4481st, 1 Jan-30 Jun 1964); 834th Air Division, 1 Jul 1964; Sixteenth Air Force, 27 Apr 1966- (under operational control of USAFE from 30 May 1972).

HEADQUARTERS COMPONENT. Constituted Headquarters, 401st Bombardment Group (Heavy), on 20 Mar 1943. Activated on 1 Apr 1943. Not manned, 1-c. 21 Apr 1943. Redesignated Headquarters, 401st Bombardment Group, Heavy, on 11 Aug 1944. Inactivated on 28 Aug 1945. Redesignated Headquarters, 401st Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, on 27 May 1947. Activated in the Reserve on 26 Jun 1947. Redesignated Headquarters, 401st Bombardment Group, Medium, on 27 Jun 1949. Ordered to active service on 1 May 1951. Inactivated on 25 Jun 1951. Redesignated Headquarters, 401st Fighter-Bomber Group, on 24 Nov 1953. Activated on 8 Feb 1954. Inactivated on 25 Sep 1957. Consolidated (31 Jan 1958) with Headquarters, 401st Tactical Fighter Wing (constituted Headquarters, 401st Fighter-Bomber Wing, on 23 Mar 1953; activated on 25 Sep 1957; redesignated Headquarters, 401st Tactical Fighter Wing, on 1 Jul 1958).

TACTICAL COMPONENTS.

90th Tactical Fighter Squadron: attached c. 5 Dec 1965-c. 7 Feb 1966.

307th Tactical Fighter Squadron: 27 Apr 1966-15 Jul 1971.

353d Tactical Fighter Squadron: 27 Apr 1966-15 Jul 1971.

531st Tactical Fighter Squadron: attached 19 Nov-c. 10 Dec 1965.

612th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) (later, 612th Bombardment Squadron, Heavy; 612th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy; 612th Bombardment Squadron, Medium; 612th Fighter-Bomber Squadron; 612th Tactical Fighter Squadron): 1 Apr 1943-28 Aug 1945 (not manned, 1-c. 21 Apr 1943); 26 Jun 1947-25 Jun 1951; 8 Feb 1954-3 Nov 1965 (detached numerous times between 30 Sep 1955 and 15 Nov 1964 - see operations section); 15 Jul 1971-.

613th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) (later, 613th Bombardment Squadron, Heavy; 613th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy; 613th Fighter-Bomber Squadron; 613th Tactical Fighter Squadron): 1 Apr 1943-28 Aug 1945 (not manned, 1-c. 21 Apr 1943); 12 Aug 1947-27 Jun 1949; 8 Feb 1954- (detached numerous times between 28 Mar 1955 and 17 Jan 1966 - see operations section).

614th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) (later, 614th Bombardment Squadron, Heavy; 614th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy; 614th Fighter-Bomber Squadron; 614th Tactical Fighter Squadron): 1 Apr 1943-28 Aug 1945 (not manned, 1-c. 21 Apr 1943); 6 Apr 1948-27 Jun 1949; 8 Feb 1954-27 Apr 1966 (detached numerous times between 18 Jun 1956 and 15 Nov 1965 - see operations section); 15 Jul 1971-.

615th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) (later, 615th Bombardment Squadron, Heavy; 615th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy; 615th Fighter-Bomber Squadron; 615th Tactical Fighter Squadron): 1 Apr 1943-28 Aug 1945 (not manned, 1-c. 21 Apr 1943); 30 Sep 1947-27 Jun 1949; 25 Sep 1957-27 Apr 1966 (detached numerous times between c. 18 Apr 1959 and 23 Apr 1966 - see operations section).

SUPPORT COMPONENTS.

401st Air Base (later, 401st Combat Support) Group: 1 Apr 1959-1 Jul 1964; 27 Apr 1966-.

401st Armament and Electronics Maintenance (later, 401st Avionics Maintenance; 401st Component Repair) Squadron: 25 Sep 1957-.

401st Comptroller Squadron: 1 Jul 1985-.

401st Consolidated Aircraft (later, 401st Field; 401st Equipment) Maintenance Squadron: 25 Sep 1957-.

401st Munitions Maintenance Squadron: 15 May 1963-30 Jun 1979.

401st TFW - 5

401st Organizational Maintenance (later, 401st Aircraft Generation) Squadron: 1 Oct 1962-1 May 1966; 1 Feb 1972-.

401st Supply Squadron: 1 Oct 1962-1 Jul 1964; 27 Apr 1966-.

401st Tactical Hospital (later, 401st USAF Hospital; 401st Tactical Hospital): 8 Aug 1959-1 Jul 1964; 27 Apr 1966-.

401st Transportation Squadron: 24 Jun 1974-.

607th USAF Contingency Hospital: 15 Oct 1984-.

4586th Student Squadron: 1 Jan-27 Apr 1966.

7401st Comptroller Services Squadron (Test): 1 Apr-31 Dec 1977.

7401st Comptroller Squadron: 1 Apr 1981-1 Jul 1985.

USAF Hospital, Torrejon: 1 Jul 1971-.

7009th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight: 1 Feb 1972-.

Det 1, Headquarters, 401st TFW (Aviano AB, Italy): 15 Sep 1960-1 May 1963.

Det 1, Headquarters, 401st TFW (Takhli AB, Thailand): 4 May-1 Jun 1964.

Det 1, Headquarters, 401st TFW (Takhli AB, Thailand): 14 Dec 1964-14 Dec 1965.

Det 1, Headquarters, 401st TFW (Decimomannu AB, Italy): 20 Jul 1970-15 Jul 1973.

Det 2, Headquarters, 401st TFW (Moron AB, Spain): 1 Aug 1976-.

OL "A", Headquarters, 401st TFW (Moron AB, Spain): 1 Jan-1 Aug 1976.

OL "A", Headquarters, 401st TFW (Langley AFB, Va): 9 Mar 1982-Sep 1983.

STATIONS. Ephrata AAB, Wash, 1 Apr 1943; Geiger Field, Wash, 6 Jun 1943; Great Falls AAB, Mont, c. 8 Jul 1943; Scott Field, Ill, 16-22 Oct 1943 (air echelon); Camp Shanks, NY, 22-26 Oct 1943 (ground echelon); Polebrook and Bassingbourne, England, 7 Nov 1943 (air echelon); Deenethorpe, England, c. 4 Nov 1943-20 Jun 1945 (ground echelon), 19 Nov 1943-c. 4 Jun 1945 (air echelon); Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, c. 1-28 Aug 1945.

Brooks Field (later, Brooks AFB) Texas, 26 Jun 1947; Biggs AFB, Texas, 27 Jun 1949-25 Jun 1951. Alexandria (later, England) AFB, La, 8 Feb 1954-22 Apr 1966; Torrejon AB, Spain, 27 Apr 1966-.

COMMANDERS. None (not manned), 1-c. 21 Apr 1943; Col Neil B Harding, c. 22 Apr 1943; Col Harold W Bowman, 9 Jun 1943; Lt Col Edwin W Brown, 5 Dec 1944 (temporary); Lt Col (later, Col) William T Seawell, c. 8 Dec 1944-Aug 1945. Col Harry G Libbey Jr, 26 Jun 1947-unkn; Lt Col James L Fletcher, (by Oct) 1948-unkn; unkn, 27 Jun 1949-25 Jun 1951. Col Walter G Benz Jr, 8 Feb 1954; Lt Col Ralph F Newman, 1 Mar 1956; Col Chester L Van Etten, 2 Jun 1956; Brig Gen Ivan W McElroy, 1 Apr 1959; Col Albert W Schinz, 10 Jun 1960; Col Niven K Cranfill, 11 Mar 1962; Col Richard V Travis, 15 Mar 1962 (additional duty, 1 Jan-22 Sep 1964); Col William P McBride, 23 Sep 1964; Col Harold G Shook, 14 Jun 1965; Col Clayton M Isaacson, 7 May 1966; Col (later, Brig Gen) Sanford K Moats, 20 Apr 1967; Col Herndon F Williams, 2 Nov 1968; Col James M Hoag Jr, 8 Jan 1970; Col Wilbur L Creech, 17 Nov 1970; Col Tony M Greget, 19 Jul 1971; Col Richard G Collins, 6 Sep 1972; Col Charles L Donnelly Jr, 1 Nov 1973; Col Benjamin R Battle, 17 Jul 1975; Col Anthony T Sheehan, 14 Jul 1977; Col Kenneth W North, 12 Jun 1979; Col Wilfred L Goodson, 8 May 1981; Col (later, Brig Gen) Albert L Logan, 25 Jan 1982-.

AIRCRAFT. B-17, 1943-1945. AT-6, 1947-1949; AT-11, 1947-1949; B-29, 1948-1950; B-50, 1950-1951. F-86, 1954-1956; F-84, 1955-1957; F-100, 1957-1970; F-4, 1970-1983; F-16, 1983-.

OPERATIONS. Constituted as 401st Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 20 Mar 1943. Activated on 1 Apr 1943. Unmanned until late in the month when the initial cadre was assigned from the 395th Bombardment Group at Ephrata. This cadre underwent combat training at the AAF School of Applied Tactics

401st TFW - 7

at Orlando, Fla, in May. Joined additional personnel at Geiger Field, Wash, in June 1943. Prepared for combat with B-17s. Moved to England, Oct-Nov 1943, and served in combat with Eighth Air Force, Nov 1943-Apr 1945. The group's first mission was on 26 Nov 1943 against Bremen, Germany.

Operated chiefly against strategic targets, bombing industries, submarine facilities, shipyards, missile sites, marshalling yards, and airfields. Beginning in October 1944, concentrated on oil reserves. Received two Distinguished Unit Citations (DUCs) for missions against German aircraft production facilities on 11 Jan and 20 Feb 1944. In addition to strategic missions, also attacked Nazi transportation, airfields, and fortifications prior to the Normandy invasion and during D-Day, 6 Jun 1944; supported ground operations during the breakthrough at St Lo in July, the siege of Brest in August, and the airborne attack on Holland in September 1944; participated in the Battle of the Bulge, December 1944-January 1945, assaulting transportation targets and communications centers in the battle area; and supported the airborne attack across the Rhine in March 1945.

Evacuated French and British prisoners of war from Germany after the end of hostilities in May 1945. Returned to the US, May-June 1945. Inactivated at Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, on 28 Aug 1945.

Redesignated 401st Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, on 27 May 1947. Activated in the Reserve at Brooks Field, Texas, on 26 Jun 1947. Redesignated 401st Bombardment Group, Medium, on 27 Jun 1949, and transferred without personnel to Biggs AFB, Texas. As a Strategic Air Command Corollary Unit, trained with the 97th Bombardment Group, and later with the 97th Bombardment Wing. Operated SAC B-29, and later, B-50 aircraft. Ordered to active service on 1 May 1951, and inactivated on 25 Jun 1951.



Redesignated 401st Fighter-Bomber Group on 24 Nov 1953. Activated on 8 Feb 1954 at Alexandria AFB, La. Assigned to Tactical Air Command and equipped with F-86 aircraft. Trained in tactical operations and participated in maneuvers, firepower demonstrations, and exercises in the U.S. and overseas. Converted to F-84 aircraft from February 1955 to April 1956. Began conversion to F-100 aircraft in May 1957. Was in the F-100 conversion process in September 1957 when the 401st Fighter-Bomber Wing replaced the 401st Group. The remaining F-84s on hand in September were not flown operationally and were finally transferred in December 1957.

Between March 1955 and February 1964, the tactical squadrons deployed frequently to bases in Europe and the Middle East, particularly to Aviano AB, Italy, and Incirlik and Cigli AB, Turkey, in support of NATO operations. The squadrons deployed as follows:

<u>SQUADRON</u>	<u>DATES DEPLOYED</u>	<u>SQUADRON</u>	<u>DATES DEPLOYED</u>
613th	28 Mar-28 Sep 1955	614th	15 Jan-19 May 1961
612th	30 Sep 1955-9 Apr 1956	613th	15 May-15 Oct 1961
614th	18 Jun-13 Dec 1956	614th	c. 1 Sep-17 Nov 1961
613th	20 Dec 1957-27 Jun 1958	612th	c. 7 Sep 1961-17 Jan 1962
612th	26 Jun-c. 14 Nov 1958	615th	16 Jan-18 May 1962
614th	12 Nov 1958-c. 15 Apr 1959	614th	17 May-c. 5 Sep 1962
615th	c. 18 Apr-16 Aug 1959	613th	1 Sep-17 Dec 1962
613th	15 Aug-15 Dec 1959	612th	15 Dec 1962-13 Apr 1963
612th	14 Dec 1959-22 Feb 1960	615th	13 Apr-c. 4 Jul 1963
615th	20 Feb-11 Apr 1960	614th	3 Jul-17 Nov 1963
612th	8-16 Jun 1960	613th	20 Oct 1963-12 Feb 1964
613th	15 Sep-1 Oct 1960		

All wing tactical and support elements that were not deployed overseas operated from Homestead AFB, Florida, from 19 Oct to 5 Dec 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The 401st manned a provisional air division at England AFB, 1 Jan-30 Jun 1964, from wing resources, in preparation for the beddown of a second tactical fighter wing at the base. The wing commanding officer, Col

R V Travis, commanded the Air Division Provisional, 4481st, and the 834th Air Division from 1 Jan to 22 Sep 1964, while simultaneously commanding the 401st Wing.

From Feb 1964 to Nov 1965, tactical squadrons of the 401st rotated to the Far East. The squadrons were attached principally to the 405th Fighter Wing at Clark AB, Philippines, from whence they went on short tours to Southeast Asia for combat and/or combat support operations. The wing lost several pilots in combat operations while they served under the operational control of in-theater units.

<u>SQUADRON</u>	<u>DATES DEPLOYED</u>
612th	26 Feb-Jun 1964
615th	c. 6 Jun-11 Sep 1964
614th	5 Aug-11 Nov 1964
612th	8 Sep-15 Nov 1964
613th	Nov 1964-22 Mar 1965
615th	17 Mar-29 Jun 1965
614th	28 Jun-15 Nov 1965

In November 1965, the 612th Squadron transferred PCS to Pacific Air Forces, reducing the 401st Wing to three tactical squadrons. Squadron deployments then shifted back to NATO support, with the 613th TFS deploying at Cigli AB, Turkey, and Aviano AB, Italy, 18 Sep 1965-17 Jan 1966 and the 615th TFS deploying at Aviano 15 Jan-23 Apr 1966.

The 401st TFW moved to Torrejon AB, Spain, in April 1966. The 613th TFS also moved, but the 614th and 615th remained at England AFB. Instead, the wing gained the 307th and 353d TFS from other US bases. The wing's maintenance units also moved from the US to Torrejon, Spain, and the wing gained the 401st Combat Support Group, the 401st Tactical Hospital, and the 401st Supply Squadron.

Beginning in April 1966, the wing operated Torrejon AB, conducted local alert, supported the Spanish air defense system, and became USAFE's

primary non-nuclear contingency operations wing. Except for periods when the wing converted from one weapons system to another and briefly during the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus, the wing maintained rotational forces in other European and Middle Eastern locations, primarily Incirlik, Turkey, and Aviano AB, Italy. Wing aircraft also operated from numerous American and NATO bases during exercises.

Began converting from F-100 to F-4 aircraft in June 1969. In December 1969, began transferring F-100s to the Turkish Air Force, with the last F-100 departing in March 1970. Began receiving F-4 aircraft in January 1970.

On 15 Jul 1971, in a switch of units in name only, the 307th and 353d TFS returned to the US and the 612th and 614th TFS moved without personnel and equipment to Torrejon from the Republic of Vietnam. In May 1972, HQ USAFE assumed direct operational control of the wing, although Sixteenth Air Force remained the wing's command parent unit. The wing assumed caretaker duties of the closed Moron AB, Spain, on 1 Jan 1976. Operating Location "A" of HQ 401st TFW was established at Moron AB on 1 Jan 1976. OL A was later replaced by Detachment 2 of the HQ 401st TFW on 1 Aug 1976.

Began receiving F-16 aircraft in February 1983. The last F-4 returned to Torrejon from rotational duties at Aviano on 1 Jul 1983, and the last F-4 left Torrejon for the US on 15 Sep 1983.

EMBLEM. Description. Azure, within a diminutive border argent a sheaf of four lances bend sinisterwise of the last, surmounted by a fess chequy sable and of the second overall a bend wavy vert, gules, or and of the first each fimbriated silver. Significance. The emblem is symbolic of the wing's primary mission. The light blue background represents the sky, the primary theater of operations. The four lances denote the weapons

401st TFW - 11

stacked ready for instant use as needed. A black and white checkerboard battlefield, crossing the lances in a horizontal position, indicates the wing is willing to go into battle anywhere in the sky. The colors of the squadrons, attached to the wing, form a banner which sweeps across the entire emblem, indicating support to the overall mission. Motto: CAELUM ARENA NOSTRA - The Sky is Our Arena. Approved on 9 Sep 1958. Photographic Negative Numbers: B&W, 159998 A.C.; Color, K-10637.