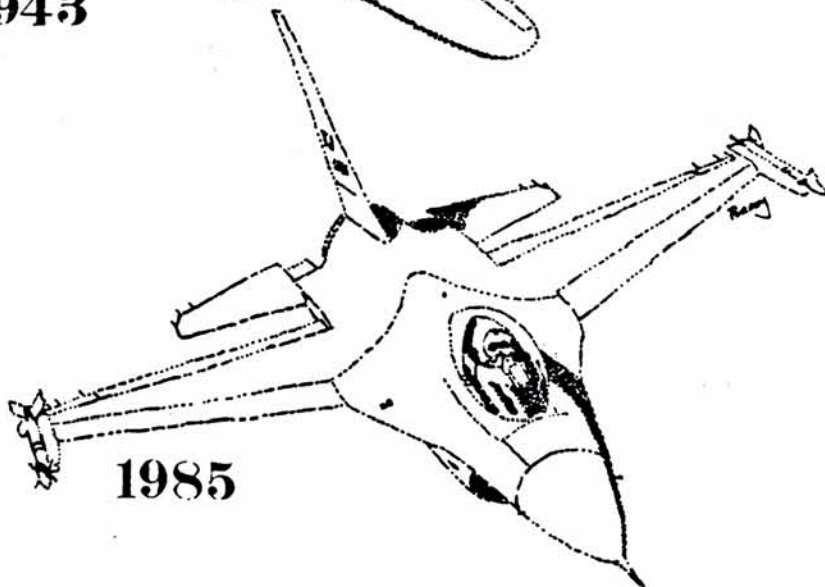


1943



1985

401 TFW 42nd Anniversary



20 April 1985
Correjon AB, Sp



PREFACE

The purpose of this publication is to provide an unclassified handy booklet on the history of the 401st Tactical Fighter Wing. It is published in support of Project Warrior, a broad Air Force program designed to enhance the warfighting knowledge and spirit of all personnel. This booklet is by no means all inclusive, but it does provide an insight into the wing's proud history.

Deryl D. Danner, Sr.
DERYL D. DANNER, SR., SSgt, USAF
Wing Historian

MISSION STATEMENT

The 401st Tactical Fighter Wing is the principal operating and host unit of Torrejon Air Base. Its mission in support of U.S. Air Forces in Europe is to develop and maintain the capability for implementing war plans and alert orders; to develop techniques and tactics for air superiority and ground attack operations; to maintain support units and installations in readiness for support of wing combat operations; to insure the security of the forces and installations; and to develop mobility plans for quick deployment to support war plans and operations.

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HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
1 Apr 43	401st Bombardment Group (Heavy) activated at Ephrata Army Air Base, Washington. Assigned squadrons included the 612th, 613th, 614th, and 615th Bombardment Squadrons.
15 Jun 43	401st Bomb Group transferred to Geiger Field, Washington, for B-17 familiarization training.
19 Oct 43	Group deployed overseas to Deenethorpe, England. Under the command of Eighth Air Force, the Group saw combat action in World War II while flying a variety of missions against targets in Germany and other occupied areas.
11 Jan 44	The 401st was awarded its first Distinguished Unit Citation for an attack on a crucial enemy target in the city of Oschersleben, Germany. A second citation was earned, on 20 Feb 44, for a successful raid on an aircraft assembly plant in Leipzig, Germany.
28 Aug 45	Upon returning to the United States in May 1945, the 401st Bomb Group was deactivated at Sioux Falls Army Air Field, South Dakota.
26 Jun 47	The 401st Bomb Group was redesignated from a "Heavy" to a "Very Heavy" Bombardment Group and assigned to reserve status at Brooks Field, Texas.
1 May 51	The 401st was recalled to active duty and temporarily assigned to the Strategic Air Command. A month later, the Group was again inactivated.
8 Feb 54	When reactivated, the Group was renamed the 401st Fighter Bomber Group and found a new home at Alexandria AFB (later England AFB), Louisiana. The redesignation marked a historic stage in the unit's 40 year metamorphosis from a B-17 group to one of the foremost tactical fighter wings in the US Air Force.
Jan-Feb 55	The 613th and 614th Fighter Bomber Squadrons participated in Warner Brothers production of the <u>McConnell Story</u> . Wing aircrews flew 125 sorties using eight assigned F-84 aircraft.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Jun 56	The 401st once again became an F-86 unit. The older F-84s were assigned to an Air National Guard unit stateside.
30 Jun 57	Historic conversion to F-100Ds began with 57 aircraft assigned from Bunker Hill AFB, Indiana.
25 Sep 57	401st Fighter Bomber Wing activated.
Mar 58	Four aircrews assigned to the 615th TFS set a USAF record when they flew their F-100Ds, non-stop, from Langley AFB, Virginia to Chaumont AB, France.
1 Jul 58	The wing was redesignated the 401st Tactical Fighter Wing. History and honors of the 401st Bomb Group were temporarily bestowed. On the same date, the 615th TFS was assigned to the wing and activated.
1963	The wing received an Outstanding Unit Award for exceptionally meritorious service.
Feb 64	401st tactical squadrons assumed rotational duties at Clark AB, Philippines.
19 Nov 64	401st TFW assumed operational control over the 90th TFS and 531st TFS, England AFB, Louisiana.
27 Apr 66	401st TFW assigned to Torrejon AB, Spain.
1 Jul 70	Conversion to F-4E Phantom II aircraft.
13 Jul 71	A reorganization of the wing resulted in the 612th and 614th Tactical Fighter Squadrons being re-assigned from Southeast Asia; the 307th and 353rd TFS were relocated stateside.
1 Jul 73	Conversion to F-4C aircraft.
25 Aug 78	The wing made another aircraft conversion, this time to F-4D Phantom IIs.
8-11 Sep 81	First Site Activation Task Force (SATAF) conference held at Torrejon AB to evaluate F-16 activation planning. The new F-16 Falcon was scheduled to replace the wing's aging F-4Ds beginning in early 1983.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
5 Feb 83	The 401st TFW received its first four F-16 Falcon aircraft. It marked the beginning of the wing's historic conversion to a new generation fighter.
1 Jan 85	The 401st TFW was declared fully operational in its F-16 fighter commitment.

HISTORY OF THE 401 TFW

The 401st Tactical Fighter Wing traces its proud heritage to the 401st Bombardment Group (Heavy), a World War II combat unit. Upon its activation at Ephrata Army Air Base, Washington, on 1 April 1943, the Group was comprised of the 612th, 613th, 614th and 615th Bombardment Squadrons (Heavy). With the arrival of B-17G aircraft at Ephrata AAB, the Group received orders to transfer to Geiger Field, Washington, on 15 June 1943, for aircraft familiarization training. Shortly thereafter (on 8 July), the unit again transferred; this time to Great Falls Army Air Base, Montana. There the Group received advanced combat training.

The air element of the Group eventually deployed to Deenethorpe, England, via Newfoundland and Scotland, on 19 October 1943. Having made the transatlantic voyage on the Queen Mary, the ground element arrived on location on 3 November 1943. After reuniting the forces and under the command of Eighth Air Force, the Group immediately began preparations for combat missions. Their first combat action was seen on 26 November 1943 when the 401st Bombardment Group B-17Gs flew a full strength raid on Bremen, Germany. The aircrews were forced to employ radar techniques during the operation since heavy overcast precluded visual bombing of the target. The Bremen raid was the first in a series of attacks against targets in France, Germany, Holland, and Luxembourg, composed primarily of port installations, submarine pens, V-1 and V-2 rocket sites, factories, power stations, airfields, oil refineries, and coastal gun batteries.

On 11 January 1944, the Group won its first Distinguished Unit Citation for its part in a major attack on Oschersleben, Germany, near Berlin. A second citation was earned for a raid on the Erla Maschinewerk aircraft assembly plant in Leipzig on 20 February 1944. The Group, having encountered heavy flak, pressed on to deliver its bombs within 1000 feet of the aiming point and brought plant operations to a halt. After a long series of attacks on Berlin and the surrounding area, the Group was diverted to bombing coastal gun batteries and road and rail choke points in the Normandy region of France in preparation for the D-Day invasion. Combat activity on the day of the invasion included bombing of fortifications within 1000 yards of the landing beaches five minutes before the first troops waded ashore.

During the next several months, the 401st Bomb Group supported operations to aid the breakthrough at Saint Lo in July, the Siege of Brest in August, and an airborne attack on Holland in September, concentrating on oil reserve sites. During the Battle of the Bulge, December 1944 to January 1945, the unit

flew missions against transportation targets and communications centers in the battle area and supported an airborne attack across the Rhine River in March 1945. The final combat mission came on 20 April 1945 when 401st aircrews bombed Brandenburg marshalling yard. The 401st Bomb Group returned to the United States on 30 May 1945 with the ground element again traveling by oceanliner; this time aboard the Queen Elizabeth. The Group reported to Sioux Falls Army Air Field, South Dakota, and began training for conversion to B-29 aircraft. The rush to lay down arms after V-J Day brought about the deactivation of the unit on 28 August 1945.

After World War II, the 401st was redesignated the 401st Bombardment Group (Very Heavy), and assigned to reserve status at Brooks Field, Texas. The redesignation and reactivation took place on 26 June 1947. The active reserve 401st was further redesignated the 401st Bombardment Group (Medium) and, as a reserve unit, flew AT-6, AT-11, B-26, B-29, and B-50 aircraft during the ensuing three year period. While stationed in Texas, the 401st flew various training exercises and eventually became part of the Strategic Air Command (SAC) after being recalled to active service on 1 May 1951. A month later, on 25 June, the 401st Bomb Group's short term active service was temporarily interrupted with yet another inactivation order. Upon reactivation on 8 February 1954, the Group was renamed the 401st Fighter Bomber Group and found itself at a new home -- Alexandria AFB, Louisiana. During its tenure at Alexandria, the Group was assigned to the 366th Fighter Bomber Wing (FBW), Tactical Air Command (TAC), and equipped with F-86 aircraft.

For the first three years of its existence with the 366 FBW, the 401st, composed of the 612th, 613th and 614th Fighter-Bomber Squadrons, trained in tactical operations and participated in maneuvering demonstrations in the United States and Europe. A year after the unit arrived at Alexandria AFB, the Group transferred all assigned F-86 aircraft to McClellan AFB, California, and began conversion to an older model (F-84) fighter aircraft. The F-84 brought stardom to the 401st when the 613th and 614th bombers participated in a Warner Brothers presentation, "The McConnell Story". From 10 January until 10 February 1955, the 613th and 614th FBSs flew a total of 125 sorties using eight assigned F-84 aircraft. The aircraft were painted blue with MIG-15 markings to simulate enemy aircraft during the Korean conflict. Approximately 85 percent of all 401st pilots participated in the aerial combat scenes.

While stationed at Alexandria AFB, the 401st Fighter Bomber Group's primary mission was providing a tactical squadron for a six month deployment to Europe. In June 1956, the 401st once again became an F-86 unit with the famous F-84 aircraft assigned to an Air National Guard unit. Two years later, the Group transitioned to more sophisticated F-100D fighter aircraft. The historic conversion began on 30 June 1957 with 57 F-100s assigned from Bunker Hill AFB, Indiana.

Although the 401st Fighter Bomber Wing was constituted on 23 March 1953, it was not activated until 25 September 1957. Redesignation as the 401st Tactical Fighter Wing came on 1 July 1958, with the history and honors of all previously related 401 TFW, another squadron, the 615 TFS, was assigned and activated the same day. When the 401st was reassigned to England AFB (previously Alexandria AFB) it became the sister wing to the 366th Fighter Bomber Wing under the 834th Air Division, Tactical Air Command (TAC).

From 1957 - 1966, the 401st participated in various events and demonstrations while stationed at England AFB. In March 1958, four aircrews of the 615 FBS set an Air Force precedent when they flew their F-100s non-stop from Langley AFB, Virginia, to Chaumont AB, France. Later in the same month, Captain H.P. Phillips led a flight of F-100Ds on the same route in a record breaking time of seven hours and thirteen minutes.

For the period 1 January through 31 December 1963, the wing received an Outstanding Unit Award for exceptionally meritorious service in "contributing to the success of many joint service exercises, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) rotations and firepower demonstrations." In February 1964, the tactical units of the 401st assumed rotational duties at Clark AB, Philippines, and were tasked to perform combat strike roles at Da Nang and Bien Hoa Air Bases, Republic of Vietnam; Takhli AB, Thailand; and Tainan AB, Taiwan. On 19 November, the wing assumed operational control over the 90th Tactical Fighter Squadron at England AFB and, eight days later, the 612 TFS moved to Misawa AB, Japan. The last major organizational change of the year came when the wing acquired another squadron, the 531 TFS, on 19 November 1964.

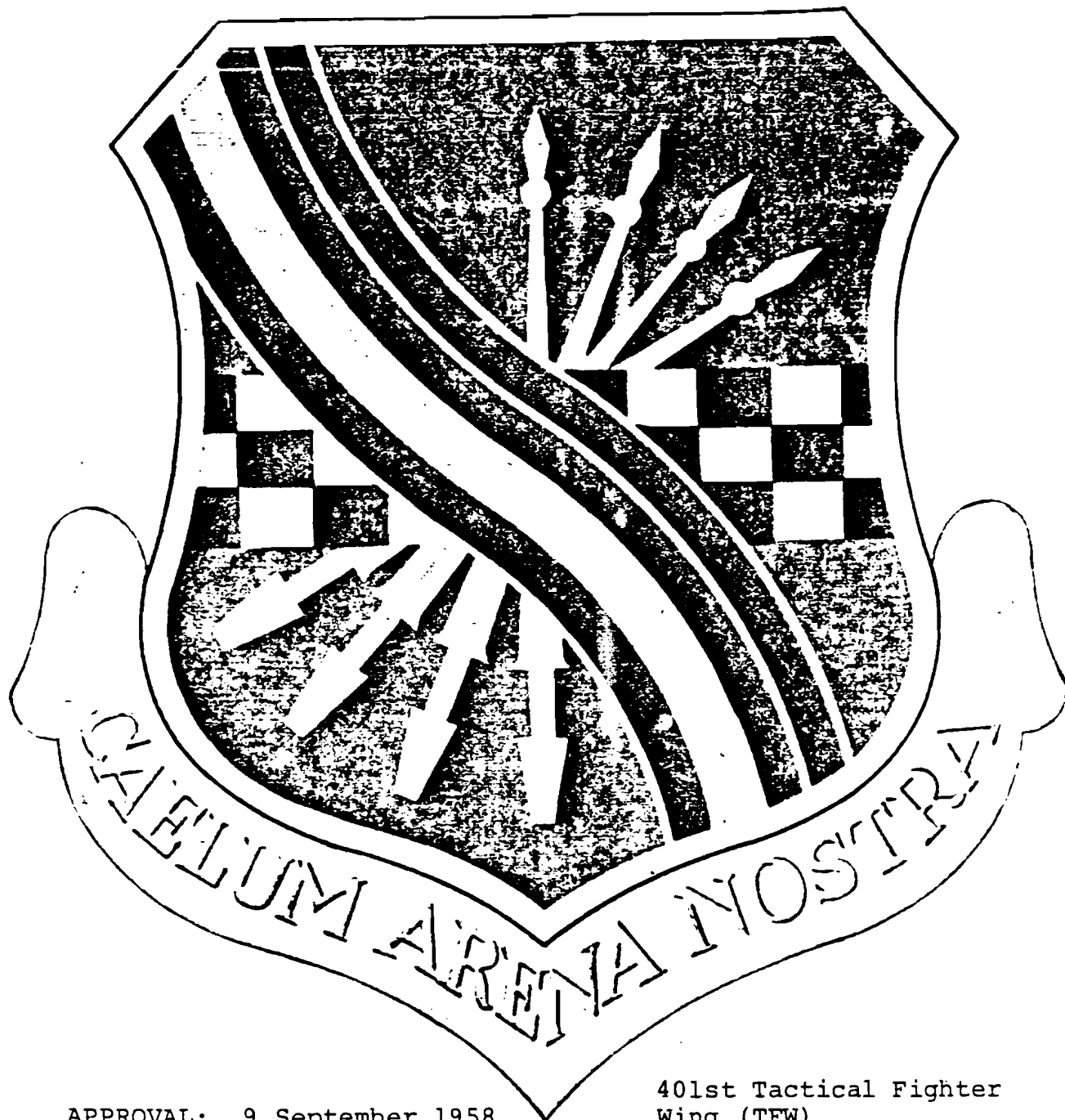
The wing eventually settled at its present location, Torrejon Air Base, Spain, on 27 April 1966. Concurrent with the move, the wing lost the 614th and 615th TFSs to the 834th Air Division at England AFB, and picked up the 307th and 353rd TFSs. Shortly after its arrival at Torrejon AB, the wing assumed host unit duties and began rotating forces to other European and Near Eastern locations on special weapons alert duty and in support of NATO, USAF, and Spanish Air Defense Command exercises.

In 1970, the wing converted to newer F-4E Phantom II aircraft and, a year later, experienced another major reorganization when the 353rd and 307th TFSS were relocated stateside at Myrtle Beach AFB; the wing, in turn, regained the 612th and 614th TFSs from duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. The numerical realignment resulted in the wing being arranged as it had been when first activated in 1943, less the 615 TFS. During 1973, the wing again changed aircraft, this time to F-4C models. The change, to older but still highly capable aircraft, resulted in the wing flying F-4Cs until the changeover to more advanced F-4Ds in 1978.

While in Spain, the wing has intensively pursued the highest degree of readiness, given the extremely challenging responsibility of being the only operational USAF aircraft asset in Europe's southern region. Throughout its tenure at Torrejon AB, the 401st participated in numerous regional exercises such as Shabaz, a CENTO exercise held in Iran before the revolution; National Week, a naval exercise conducted near Sigonella, Italy; Datex, a joint French/US training exercise; and many other NATO sponsored events that included the intensive annual Display Determination series of deployment exercises held in the Mediterranean area. In addition, joint training with the Spanish Air Force has provided both U.S. and Spanish aircrews with excellent training opportunities and helped to develop the high degree of friendship and cooperation enjoyed today.

In early 1983, the 401st Tactical Fighter Wing opened a new and exciting chapter in its distinguished history. The acquisition of advanced technology F-16 fighter aircraft, which replaced the wing's venerable F-4D Phantom IIs, added new dimensions and versatility to the wing's mission capability. The 401st was declared fully operational in its F-16 fighter commitment on 1 January 1985.

During the forty two years of existence, the 401st Tactical Fighter Wing changed names, aircraft, locations, and missions; yet, throughout its history, one element has remained consistent; the people. Never less than totally dedicated, hard working, and vigilant, the members of the 401st Tactical Fighter Wing, and its predecessors, provided the driving force behind the unit's many achievements. They built a proud past--and assure an equally proud future.



APPROVAL: 9 September 1958

401st Tactical Fighter
Wing (TFW)

BLAZON: 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.

MOTTO: CAELUM ARENA NOSTRA - The Sky is Our Arena.

SIGNIFICANCE: Our emblem is symbolic of our Wing's primary mission. The light blue background represents the sky, our primary theater of operations. The four lances denote the weapons stacked ready for instant use as needed. A black and white checkerboard battlefield, crossing the lances in a horizontal position, indicates our 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 over-all mission.

HISTORY: The Hq, 401st Fighter-Bomber Wing was constituted 23 Mar 53 (DAF Ltr 322 (AFOMO 330h) 23 Mar 53). It was activated 25 Sep 57 at England AFB, Alexandria, Louisiana. It was redesignated the Hq, 401st Tactical Fighter Wing, effective 1 Jul 58 (DAF Ltr AFOMO 788k, 15 Apr 58.)



APPROVAL: 15 September 1955

612th Tactical Fighter
Squadron (TFS)

SQUADRON EMBLEM: On a light sky blue disc, within a border Air Force blue, a fighting American Bald Eagle, dark brown, wings highlighted Air Force yellow, eyeball green, pupil black, with white highlight, beak and feet Air Force yellow, detail dark brown, talons black, highlights white, tongue red, head and tail feathers white, outlined black; the eagle carrying a large red bomb in his right talons, in base a cloud white.

SIGNIFICANCE: The 612th Fighter-Bomber Squadron emblem depicts the American Bald Eagle, the symbolical bird of our Nation, which is courageous, strong and powerful when protecting, defending, and overcoming his adversaries. Such qualities

are likewise inherent in the members of the 612th Fighter-Bomber Squadron. The deep blue border is the squadron's color, and by forming a ring or annulet around the sky, symbolizes the unit's coordination, cooperation, and unity of purpose to fortress and defend the skies against all enemies. The red bomb is symbolical of the powerful modern weapon their mission charges them to use when the time is opportune.

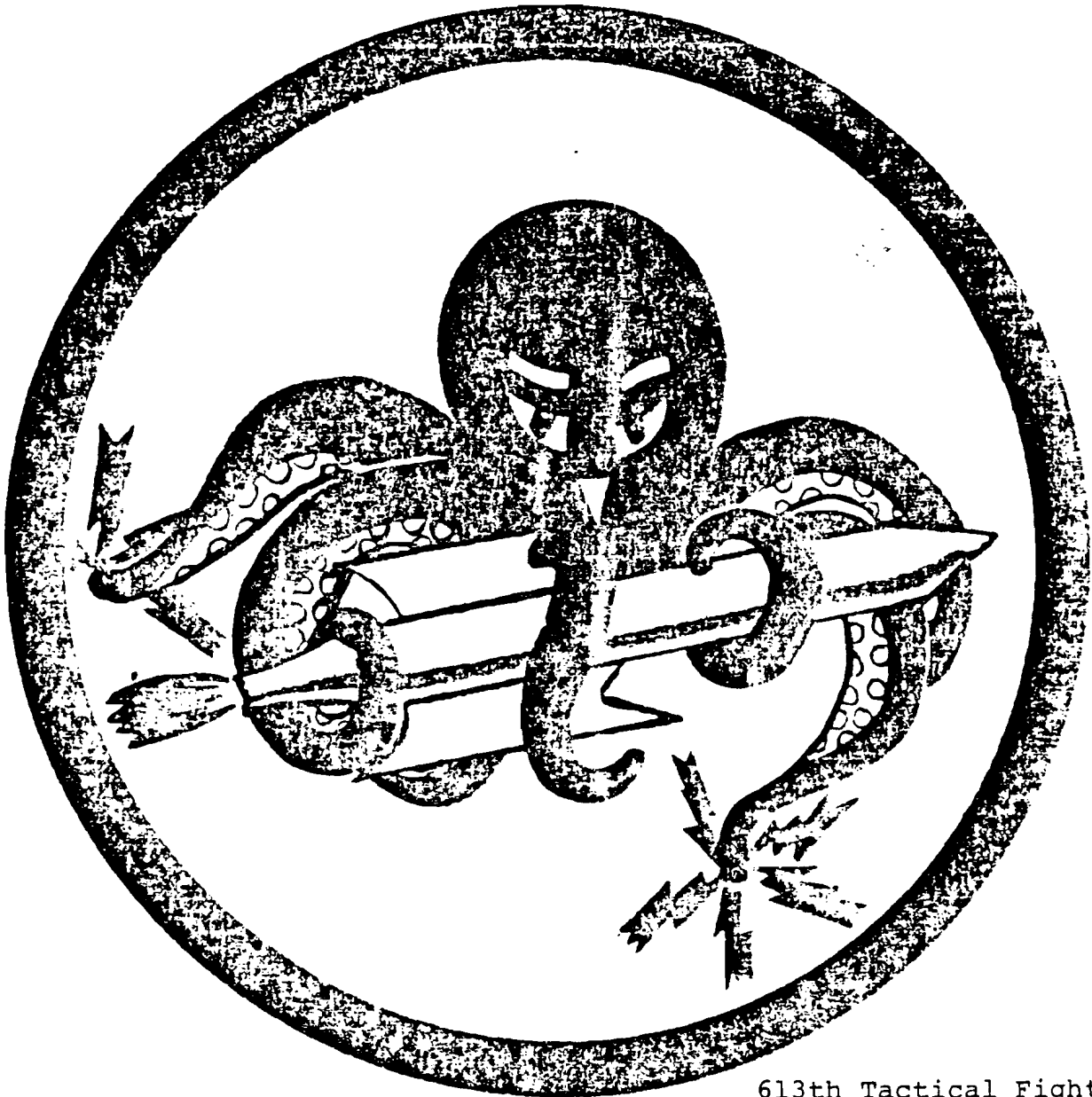
HISTORY: The 612th Bomb Sq (H) was constituted 26 Mar 43 and authorized to be activated on 1 April 1943, at Ephrata, Washington, per AG 320.2 (3-19-43) OB-I-AFDPU-M, dated 20 Mar 43, activated 1 April 1943; redesignated as the 612th Bomb Sq, Heavy, per AG 320.2 (7-31-43) PE-A-M-C, dated 20 Aug 43.

The 612th Bomb Sq (H) was inactivated 28 Aug 45, at Sioux Falls AAF, S.D., per AG 322 (2 Aug 45) OB-I-AFRPG-M, dated 18 Aug 1945.

The 612th Bomb Sq, H, was redesignated as the 612th Bomb Sq, VH, allotted to the Organized Reserves, and authorized to be activated per AGAO-I-322 Org Res (22 May 47) AFCOR (491e)-M, dated 27 May 1947; activated 26 June 1947.

The 612th Bomb Sq, VH, was redesignated the 612th Bombardment Squadron, M, per Ltr 322 (AFOOR 213f), D/AF, 16 May 1949, effective 27 June 1949.

The 612th Bombardment Squadron, Medium, was redesignated as the 612th Fighter Bomber Squadron effective 24 November 1953; it was activated on 8 February 1954. The 612th Fighter Bomber Squadron was redesignated the 612th Tactical Fighter Squadron on 1 July 1958.



APPROVED: 22 February 1955

613th Tactical Fighter
Squadron (TFS)

SQUADRON EMBLEM: On a disc Air Force yellow, bordered black, a caricatured octopus, with tentacles, markings, and face features, eyeballs red; grasping with three of his tentacles a rocket inflamed, and with two of his tentacles twirling flashes of firepower, all proper.

SIGNIFICANCE: The octopus with its tentacles symbolizes the versatility of a fighter bomber unit on both ground support and air superiority. The rocket denotes the speed at which firepower can be brought to an aggressor if he should come within reach of the tentacles. The fierce and restless nature of the octopus further symbolizes the vigilance and aggressiveness of the unit. The colors black and yellow were selected to represent readiness either day or night.

HISTORY: The 613th Bomb Squadron, (Heavy), was constituted 20 Mar 43 and activated 1 Apr 43 at Ephrata, Washington. The squadron was later inactivated on 28 Aug 45. Subsequent redesignations are:

613th Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy), 25 Jul 47. On 12 Aug 47, the squadron was reactivated in the Reserves. The 613th became inactivated on 27 Jun 49.

613th Fighter Bomber Squadron, 24 November 1953. The squadron was then activated on 8 Feb 54.

613th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 1 Jul 58.



APPROVED: 15 November 1943

614th Tactical Fighter
Squadron (TFS)

AIRCRAFT MARKING: Over and through a medium blue disc, wide border light turquoise blue, piped white, a winged horseshoe gold with a light green aerial bomb crossing behind the sinister heel and in front of the dexter heel, all surmounted by the face and head of a red devil, with highlight and shadow, as per record drawing.

SIGNIFICANCE: The emblem represents the "Lucky Devils"; the red devils head inclosed in a yellow horseshoe with wings symbolizes the squadron personnel's daring ventures into the sky and returning from a successful mission. The bomb is representative of the destruction dealt to the enemy.

HISTORY: The 614th Bombardment Squadron (H) was constituted and authorized to be made active at Ephrata, Washington, pursuant to War Department letter, AG 320.2 (3-19-43) OB-I-AFDPU-M, dated 20 Mar 43. The Squadron was made active 1 Apr 43.

The 614th Bombardment Squadron (H) was inactivated 28 Aug 45, at Sioux Falls AAF, S.D., per AG 322 (2 Aug 45) OB-I-AFRPG-M, dated 18 Aug 45.

The 614th Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, was redesignated as the 614th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, allotted to the Organized Reserves, and authorized to be activated per AGAO-I 322 Org Res (19 Sep 47) AFCOR-(596e)-M, dated 26 Sep 47; activated 6 Apr 48, at Brooks AFB, San Antonio, Texas.

The 614th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, was authorized to be inactivated per Ltr 322 (AFOOR 214f), D/AF, 17 May 1949, effective 27 Jun 49.

The 614th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, was redesignated as the 614th Bombardment Squadron, Medium, effective 27 Jun 49. The 614th Bomb Sq, Medium, was redesignated as the 614th Fighter-Bomber Squadron effective 24 November 1953 and activated 8 February 1954.

The 614th Fighter-Bomber Squadron was redesignated the 614th Tactical Fighter Squadron on 1 Jul 58.

401st Tactical Fighter Wing
LINEAGE DATA

Constituted

401st Bombardment Group (Heavy)
20 March 1943

Activated

1 April 1943

Inactivated

28 August 1945

Redesignated

401st Bombardment Group (Very Heavy)
Allotted to the Reserves

Activated

26 June 1947

Redesignated

401st Bombardment Group (Medium)
26 June 1949

Called to Active Duty

1 May 1951 (Assigned to SAC)

Inactivated

25 June 1951

Redesignated

401st Fighter Bomber Group

Activated

8 February 1954

Inactivated

25 September 1957
*401st Bomb Group lineage transferred to the 401st Fighter
Bomber Wing

Constituted

401st Fighter Bomber Wing
23 March 1953

Activated

25 September 1957

Redesignated

401st Tactical Fighter Wing
1 July 1958

LINEAGE DATA
(612th Tactical Fighter Squadron)

Constituted

612th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy)
20 March 1943

Activated

1 April 1943

Inactivated

28 August 1945

Redesignated

612th Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy)
27 May 1947

Activated in the Reserves

26 June 1947

Redesignated

612th Bombardment Squadron (Medium)
27 June 1949

Called to Active Duty

1 May 1951

Inactivated

25 June 1951

Redesignated

612th Fighter Bomber Squadron
24 November 1953

Activated

8 February 1954

Redesignated

612th Tactical Fighter Squadron
1 July 1958

LINEAGE DATA
(613th Tactical Fighter Squadron)

Constituted

613th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy)
20 March 1943

Activated

1 April 1943

Inactivated

28 August 1945

Redesignated

613th Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy)
25 July 1947

Activated in the Reserves

12 August 1947

Inactivated

27 June 1949

Redesignated

613th Fighter Bomber Squadron
24 November 1953

Activated

8 February 1954

Redesignated

613th Tactical Fighter Squadron
1 July 1958

LINEAGE DATA
(614th Tactical Fighter Squadron)

Constituted

614th Bombardment Squadron
20 March 1943

Activated

1 April 1943

Inactivated

28 August 1945

Redesignated

614th Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy)
26 September 1947

Activated in the Reserves

6 April 1948

Inactivated

27 June 1949

Redesignated

614th Fighter Bomber Squadron
24 November 1953

Activated

8 February 1954

Redesignated

614th Tactical Fighter Squadron
1 July 1958

401st Tactical Fighter Wing
AWARDS, CITATIONS, AND WARTIME CAMPAIGNS

Awards

*Distinguished Unit Citation	11 January 1944
*Distinguished Unit Citation	20 February 1944
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 January 1963 - 31 December 1963

Campaigns

Air Offensive Europe	4 July 1942 - 5 June 1944
Central Europe	22 March 1945 - 11 May 1945
Normandy	6 June 1944 - 24 July 1944
Rhineland	15 September 1944 - 21 March 1945
Northern France	25 July 1944 - 14 September 1944

*Awards, citations, and campaign credits of the 401st Bomb Group were temporarily bestowed upon the 401st Tactical Fighter Wing.

401st Tactical Fighter Wing
STATIONS

<u>Station</u>	<u>Date</u>
Ephrata Army Air Base, Washington	1 April 1943 - 15 June 1943
Geiger Field, Washington	15 June 1943 - 8 July 1943
Great Falls Army Air Base, Montana	8 July 1943 - 19 October 1943
Deenethorpe, England	19 October 1943 - 30 May 1945
Sioux Falls Army Air Base, South Dakota	1 - 28 August 1945
Brooks Field, Texas	26 June 1947 - 27 June 1949
Alexandria (later England) AFB, Louisiana	8 February 1954 - 27 April 1966
Torrejon AB, Spain	27 April 1966 - present

612th Tactical Fighter Squadron

Ephrata Army Air Base (AAB), Washington	1 April 1943
Geiger Field, Washington	4 June 1943
Great Falls AAB, Montana	8 July - 19 October 1943
Deenethorpe, England	3 November 1943 - 20 June 1945
Sioux Falls AAF, South Dakota	1 - 28 August 1945
Brooks Field, Texas	26 June 1947
Biggs AFB, Texas	27 June 1949 - 25 June 1951
Alexandria (Later England) AFB, Louisiana	8 February 1954 - 27 April 1966
Misawa AB, Japan	14 November 1965

*Detachment 1, 612 TFS

Attached to: 366 TFW; 35 TFW
Phan Rang AB, Vietnam 15 May 1966

Attached to: 37 TFW
Phu Cat AB, Vietnam 8 June 1967

Attached to: 35 TFW
Phan Rang AB, Vietnam 15 April 1969 - 15 March 1971

Torrejon AB, Spain 15 July 1971

613th Tactical Fighter Squadron

Ephrata AAB, Washington 1 April 1943

Geiger Field, Washington 4 June 1943

Great Falls AAB, Montana 8 July - 19 October 1943

Deenethorpe, England 3 November 1943 - 20 June 1945

Sioux Falls AAF, South
Dakota 1 - 28 August 1945

Brooks Field, Texas 26 June 1947

Alexandria AFB, Louisiana 8 February 1954

Torrejon AB, Spain 28 April 1966

614th Tactical Fighter Squadron

Ephrata AAB, Washington 1 April 1943

Geiger Field, Washington 4 June 1943

Great Falls AAB, Montana 8 July - 19 October 1943

Deenethorpe, England 3 November 1943 - 20 June 1945

*As of 1 July 1966, the 612th Tactical Fighter Squadron, stationed at Misawa AB, Japan, became a "paper" organization manned by one person as an additional duty. Detachment 1, 612 TFS, which had been organized at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, on 15 May 1966, became the de facto squadron, and the commander of the detachment became the de facto commander of the 612 TFS.

Sioux Falls AAF, South Dakota	1 - 28 August 1945
Brooks Field, Texas	6 April 1948
Alexandria AFB, Louisiana	8 February 1954
Phan Rang AB, Vietnam	18 September 1966
Torrejon AB, Spain	15 July 1971

401st Tactical Fighter Wing
AIRCRAFT

B-17G	1943 - 1945
*AT-6	1947 - 1949
*AT-11	1947 - 1949
*B-29	1949 - 1950
*B-50	1950 - 1951
F-86F	1954 - 1955, and 1956 - 1957
F-84	1955 - 1956
F-100D	1957 - 1970/71
F-4E	1970/71 - 1973
F-4C	1973 - 1979
F-4D	1979 - 1983/84
F-16	1983 - present

*Aircraft flown by the 401st Bomb Group and the 612th, 613th, and 614th Bomb Squadrons while attached to other units in reserve status.

401st Tactical Fighter Wing
COMMANDERS

Colonel Neil B. Harding	1 April 1943
Colonel Harold W. Bowman	5 June 1943
Colonel William T. Seawell	10 December 1944
Lt Colonel William N. Hensley	1 May 1951
Colonel Walter G. Benz	8 February 1954
Lt Colonel Ralph F. Newman	1 March 1956
Colonel Chester L. Van Etten	2 June 1956
Brigadier General Ivan W. McElroy	15 April 1959
Colonel Albert W. Schinz	10 June 1960
Colonel Niven K. Cranfill	11 March 1962
Colonel Richard V. Travis	15 March 1962
Colonel William P. McBride	23 September 1964
Colonel Harold G. Shook	14 June 1965
Colonel Clayton M. Isaacson	7 May 1966
Brigadier General Sanford K. Moats	20 April 1967
Colonel Herndon F. Williams	2 November 1968
Colonel James H. Hoag Jr.	8 January 1970
Colonel Wilbur L. Creech	17 November 1970
Colonel Tony M. Greget	19 July 1971
Colonel Richard G. Collins	6 September 1972
Colonel Charles L. Donnelly Jr.	1 November 1973
Colonel Benjamin R. Battle	17 July 1975
Colonel Anthony T. Sheehan	14 July 1977
Colonel Kenneth W. North	12 June 1979
Colonel Wilfred L. Goodson	8 May 1981
Brigadier General Albert L. Logan	25 January 1982
Colonel John C. Fryer Jr.	29 June 1984

HISTORY OF TORREJON AIR BASE

Torrejon Air Base, just 15 miles east of Spain's capital city of Madrid, is the home of the 401st Tactical Fighter Wing and 16th Air Force Headquarters.

The installation is a Spanish Air Force base; a portion of the base is used by the U.S. Air Force under provisions of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, signed and ratified by officials of Spain and the United States.

Construction of the \$69 million installation, located adjacent to and named for the town of Torrejon de Ardoz, began in late September 1953, shortly after negotiations had been completed on the Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement. Work on the base continued through 1957, under the supervision of the U.S. Navy Bureau of Docks and Yards. For the most part, Spanish labor and materials were used in the construction of Torrejon Air Base.

After construction of the base itself was well underway, 862 family housing units were begun about 20 miles west of Torrejon. The first units in the area, called Royal Oaks, were occupied in mid-1958, and construction was completed in July 1959. Another 67 units for family housing were built on the base.

With its' 13,400 foot runway, Torrejon was originally designed to support the Strategic Air Command's B-47 rotation commitments, a mission which continued until the B-47s were phased out of the Air Force bomber inventory in 1965. In April 1966, the 401st Tactical Fighter Wing, under its' parent command--United States Air Forces in Europe--assumed host unit status on the base, with an inventory of three squadrons of F-100 Super Sabre aircraft. The wing is now equipped with F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft.

Torrejon Air Base is also an important air terminal, second only to Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany, and RAF Mildenhall, U.K., in the number of passengers processed for flight each year. Various Military Airlift Command aircraft also transit the base carrying cargo and passengers across the Atlantic.

Torrejon Air Base supports a large population. More than 3,500 military personnel are assigned to the installation, while some 700 civilians work for the U.S. Air Force and associated agencies on the base. The base also provides services for the dependents of those personnel.

Since those years when the base first went into operation, Torrejon has grown somewhat, adding services to better accommodate its' personnel. A new bowling center is the latest addition, while services in other areas have also increased, especially in the quality-of-life area.

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