65 AIR DIVISION (DEFENSE)
Air Force Historical Research Agency Fact Sheet

Lineage


Assignments


Components


Stations
Commanders


Aircraft


Operations

The 65th wing and its subordinate units transferred to England in Jun 1943 and began flying combat missions. Subordinate units escorted bombers, flew counter air patrols, and dive bombing missions. They attacked airfields, marshalling yards, missile sites, industrial areas, ordnance depots, oil refineries, trains, and highways. During “Big Week,” 20-25 Feb 1944, the 65th participated in the assaults against the German Air Force and the German aircraft industry. Its units supported the Allied invasion of Normandy (Jun 1944); the Allied ground troops during the Battle of the Bulge (Dec 1944 Jan 1945); the Allied airborne attack on Holland (Operation Market-Garden, Sep 1944); the defense of the Remagen bridgehead against German air attacks (Mar 1945); and the airborne attack across the Rhine (Mar 1945). As an Air Division, it carried out air defense operations in Iceland 1952-1954. Activated three years later it transferred to Spain, where it cooperated with Spanish Air Force units in the Air Defense Direction Centers (ADDCs). The 65th Air Division directed base construction, and the establishment of off base housing and radar sites. Its fighter squadrons flew air defense interceptions over Spanish airspace. The 65th also controlled the operations of attached tactical fighter squadrons deployed to Spain for temporary duty. Assigned or attached units of the division participated in numerous exercises with the Spanish Air Defense Command, and in some instances, with the U.S. Sixth Fleet. In Jun 1985, the 65th assumed responsibility for integrating USAFE’s electronic combat systems to maximize overall warfighting potential.

Service Streamers. World War II European-African Middle Eastern Theater.

Campaign Streamers. None.

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers. None.

Emblem

Per bend azure and gules, issuant from base in pale a closed helmet in profile supporting an antenna argent emitting two lightning flashes bendwise, one to dexter chief, one to sinister base and one bend sinisterwise to chief or, in chief an eight pointed mullet of the third and all within a diminished bordure of the fourth. (Approved 1 Aug 1961).

Lineage, Assignments, Components, Stations, and Honors through 30 Jun 1991.