

# 65 AIR DIVISION (DEFENSE)

## Air Force Historical Research Agency Fact Sheet



### Lineage

Established as 4 Air Defense Wing on 25 Mar 1943. Activated on 27 Mar 1943. Redesignated 65 Fighter Wing on 24 Jul 1943. Inactivated on 21 Nov 1945. Redesignated 65 Air Division (Defense) on 17 Apr 1952. Organized on 24 Apr 1952. Discontinued on 8 Mar 1954. Activated on 8 Apr 1957. Discontinued, and inactivated, on 1 Jan 1965. Redesignated 65 Air Division and activated on 1 Jun 1985. Inactivated on 30 Jun 1991..

### Assignments

Fourth Air Force, 27 Mar 1943; Army Service Forces, 6 May 1943; Eighth Air Force, 2 Jun 1943; VIII Fighter Command, 4 Jun 1943; 2 Bombardment (later, 2 Air) Division, 15 Sep 1944; 3 Air Division, 1 Jun-21 Nov 1945. Iceland Air Defense Force, 24 Apr 1952-8 Mar 1954. Sixteenth Air Force, 8 Apr 1957; United States Air Forces in Europe, 1 Jul 1960-1 Jan 1965. Seventeenth Air Force, 1 Jun 1985-30 Jun 1991.

### Components

*Wings.* 52 Tactical Fighter: 1 Jun 1985-30 Jun 1991. 66 Electronic Combat: 1 Jun 1985-30 Jun 1991. 601 Tactical Control: 1 Jun 1985-31 Jul 1987.

*Groups.* 4 Fighter: by 31 Oct 1943-c. 31 May 1945. 56 Fighter: by 31 Oct 1943-by 31 May 1945. 78 Fighter: c. 24 Jul 1943-unkn. 355 Fighter: by 31 Oct 1943-by 31 May 1945. 356 Fighter: by 31 Oct 1943-by 31 Aug 1944. 361 Fighter: by 31 Aug 1944-by 31 Jan 1945; by 30 Apr-by 31 May 1945. 479 Fighter: by 31 May 1944-by 31 May 1945.

*Squadrons.* 1 Fighter Day (later, 1 Tactical Fighter): attached 27 Jun-c. 12 Nov 1958. 82 Fighter-Interceptor: 1 Apr 1953-8 Mar 1954. 157 Fighter-Interceptor: 23 Nov 1961-17 Jul 1962. 307 Tactical Fighter: attached 13 Mar-c. 31 Jul 1959. 308 Tactical Fighter: attached c. Aug-16 Nov 1959. 334 Tactical Fighter: attached 1 Apr-13 Aug 1963. 336 Tactical Fighter: attached 13 Aug 1963-6 Jan 1964. 430 Tactical Fighter: attached 25 Sep-25 Nov 1961. 431 Fighter-Interceptor: 1 Sep 1958-1 Jul 1960; attached 1 Jul 1960-c. 18 May 1964. 434 Tactical Fighter: attached 18 Mar 1960-unkn; 14 Aug-25 Sep 1961. 435 Tactical Fighter: attached 15 Dec 1960-14 Apr 1961; 6 Aug-I Nov 1962; 2 Apr-18 Jun 1964. 436 Tactical Fighter: attached 1 Nov 1962-3 Apr 1963. 474 Tactical Fighter: attached 15 Nov 1958-14 Mar 1959. 476 Tactical Fighter: attached 16 Nov 1959-18 Mar 1960; 16 Apr-11 Aug 1961; 6 Jan-2 Apr 1964. 497 Fighter-Interceptor: 5 Jul 1958-1 Jul 1960; attached 1 Jul 1960-17 Jun 1964.

*Flight.* 1 Gunnery and Tow: 17 Nov 1944-29 May 1945.

### Stations

Hamilton Field, CA, 27 Mar-6 May 1943; Debden, England, 4 Jun 1943; Saffron Walden, England, c. 17 Jun 1943; Elvedon Hall, England, c. 1 Sep 1945; Trosten, England, c. 25 Oct-21 Nov 1945. Keflavik Airport, Iceland, 24 Apr 1952-8 Mar 1954. Madrid, Spain, 8 Apr 1957; Torrejon AB, Spain, 1 Oct 1957-1 Jan 1965. Sembach AB, Germany, 1 Jun 1985; Lindsey AS, Germany, 1 Oct 1987-30 Jun 1991.

### **Commanders**

Unkn, 27 Mar 1943; Col Jesse Auton, 10 Apr 1943; Brig Gen Ross G. Hoyt, 4 Jun 1943; Brig Gen Jesse Auton, 6 Sep 1943; Col William L. Curry, 29 Jul 1945-unkn. 1st Lt John J. Brody, 24 Apr 1952; Col Meredith H. Shade, 10 Oct 1952; Col Emmett S. Davis, 5 Sep 1953-unkn. Capt Newell H. Beaty, 8 Apr 1957; Col Clay Tice Jr., 15 May 1957; Brig Gen Andrew J. Evans Jr., 1 Jul 1960; Col Thomas L. Hayes, 25 Sep 1963-1 Jan 1965. Unkn, 1 Jun-14 Jul 1985; Maj Gen John C. Scheidt Jr., 15 Jul 1985; Brig Gen Philip M. Drew, 12 Aug 1986; Brig Gen John A. Corder, 3 Aug 1987; Brig Gen Gerald A. Daniel, 22 Apr 1988; Brig Gen Glenn A. Profitt II, 24 Jan 1989-unk.

### **Aircraft**

P-38, 1944; P-47, 1943-1945; P-51, 1944-1945. F-94, 1952-1954; F-86, 1953-1954. F-86, 1957-1960; F-100, 1958-1961; F-104, 1959-1964; F-102, 1960-1964; F-105, 1963-1964. CH-53, 1985-1987; EF-111, 1985-1991; F-4, 1985-1987; EC-130, 1987-1991; F-16, 1987-1991.

### **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 airdromes, 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.

**Decorations.** Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards: 20 Mar 1961-9 Feb 1962; 15 Apr 1989-14 Apr 1991.

## **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.**

**Commanders, Aircraft, and Operations through 30 Jun 1991.**