

USAF UNIT LINEAGE AND HONORS

UNIT DESIGNATION

12th Flying Training Wing

STATUS

- ACTIVE
- INACTIVE
- DISBANDED

COMPONENT OF

- REGULAR AIR FORCE
- AIR FORCE RESERVE
- AIR NATIONAL GUARD
- UNALLOTTED

ASSIGNED TO

**Air Training Command
(ATC)**

LINEAGE

Constituted 12th Fighter-Escort Wing on 27 Oct 1950. Activated on 1 Nov 1950.
 Redesignated: 12th Strategic Fighter Wing on 20 Jan 1953; 12th Fighter-Day
 Wing on 1 Jul 1957. Inactivated on 8 Jan 1958. Redesignated 12th Tactical
 Fighter Wing, and activated, on 17 Apr 1962. Organized on 25 Apr 1962.
 Inactivated on 17 Nov 1971. Redesignated 12th Flying Training Wing on 22
 Mar 1972. To be activated on/about 1 May 1972.

SEE APP 210-1-4

HONORS (See reverse side for listing)

SERVICE STREAMERS: **None**

CAMPAIGN STREAMERS: **Ten**

ARROWHEADS: **None**

DECORATIONS: **Seven**

PREPARED BY

USAF HISTORICAL DIVISION, AEROSPACE STUDIES INSTITUTE, MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

DATE PREPARED

18 Apr 1972

DATA THRU

22 Mar 1972

SUPERSEDES STATEMENT PREPARED

Jul 1957

APPROVED BY

**James N. Eastman, Jr, Chief,
Hist Rsch Br, Hist Rsch Div**

SERVICE STREAMERS		X	Central Burma
	Theater of Operations (WWI)	X	China Defensive
	American Theater (WWII)		China Offensive
X	EAME Theater (WWII)		Alutian Islands
	Asiatic-Pacific Theater (WWII)		Air Combat
	Korean Theater (Korean War)		Antisubmarine
	Vietnam		Korean War
CAMPAIGN STREAMERS			UN Defensive
	World War I		UN Offensive
	Somme Defensive		CCF Intervention
	Lys		First UN Counteroffensive
	Champagne-Marne		CCF Spring Offensive
	Aisne-Marne		UN Summer-Fall Offensive
	Somme Offensive		Second Korean Winter
	Oise-Aisne		Korea Summer-Fall, 1952
	St. Mihiel		Third Korean Winter
	Meuse-Argonne		Korea Summer-Fall, 1953
			Vietnam
		X	XXXXXXXX Defense
		X	XXXXXXXX Air
		X	Air Offensive
	World War II, American Theater	X	Air Offensive, Phase II
	Antisubmarine	X	Air Offensive, Phase III
X	World War II, EAME Theater	X	Air/Ground
X	Egypt-Libya	X	Air Offensive, Phase IV
	Algeria-French Morocco	XXXXXXXX X	TET 69/Counteroffensive
X	Tunisia	X	Summer-Fall 1969
X	Sicily	X	Winter-Spring 1970
X	Naples-Foggia		
	Anzio		
X	Rome-Arno		
	Southern France		
	North Apennines		
	Po Valley		
	Air Offensive, Europe		
	Normandy		
	Northern France		
	Rhineland		
	Ardennes-Alsace		
	Central Europe		
	Air Combat		
	Antisubmarine		
	World War II, Asiatic-Pacific Theater		
	Philippine Islands		AF Outstanding Unit Awards w/Combat "V"
	East Indies		15 Oct 1965-30 May 1966;
	Papua		1 Jun 1966-31 May 1967;
	Guadalcanal		1 Jun 1967-31 May 1968;
	Northern Solomons		1 Jun 1968-31 May 1969;
	Bismarck Archipelago		1 Jun 1969-31 Mar 1970;
	New Guinea		1 Apr 1970-21 Oct 1971.
	Leyte		<i>AFUA 11 Oct 73</i>
	Luzon		
	Southern Philippines		Foreign
	Central Pacific		Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross
	Eastern Mandates		with Palm: 1 Apr 1970-21 Oct 1971.
	Western Pacific		15 Oct 65 - 10 Nov 71
	Ryukyus		
	Air Offensive, Japan		
	Burma		Other
	India-Burma		<i>Presidential Unit Citation 15 June 73</i>

ASSIGNMENTS. Second Air Force, 1 Nov 1950; Eighth Air Force, 5 Dec 1950; 42d Air Division, 9 Apr 1951-8 Jan 1958 (attached to 7th Air Division, c. 20 Jul-c. 30 Nov 1951; 39th Air Division [Defense], 18 May-10 Aug 1953; 39th Air Division [Defense], 10 May-7 Aug 1954). Tactical Air Command, 17 Apr 1962; Ninth Air Force, 25 Apr 1962; 836th Air Division, 1 Jul 1962; 2d Air Division, 8 Nov 1965; Seventh Air Force, 1 Apr 1966-17 Nov 1971.

TACTICAL COMPONENTS. 12th Fighter-Escort Group: 1 Nov 1950-16 Jun 1952 (not operational, 10 Feb 1951-16 Jun 1952). 43d Tactical Fighter Squadron: attached, 8 Nov 1965-c. 4 Jan 1966. 45th Tactical Fighter Squadron: attached, 8 May-1 Jul 1962. 389th Tactical Fighter Squadron: 31 Mar 1970-15 Oct 1971. 391st Tactical Fighter Squadron: attached, 26 Jan-22 Jun 1966, assigned 23 Jun 1966-22 Jul 1968. 480th Tactical Fighter Squadron: 31 Mar 1970-17 Nov 1971. 555th Tactical Fighter Squadron: 8 Jan 1964-25 Mar 1966 (detached, 8 Dec 1964-18 Mar 1965; 6 Nov 1965-25 Mar 1966). 557th Tactical Fighter Squadron: 25 Apr 1962-8 Nov 1965; 1 Dec 1965-31 Mar 1970 (not Operational, 10-31 Mar 1970). 558th Tactical Fighter Squadron: 25 Apr 1962-31 Mar 1970 (detached, 9 Mar-16 Jun 1965; 3 Feb-22 Jul 1968; not operational, 10-31 Mar 1970). 559th Fighter-Escort (later, Strategic Fighter; Fighter-Day; Tactical Fighter) Squadron: attached 10 Feb 1951-16 Jun 1952, assigned 16 Jun 1952-8 Jan 1958; assigned 25 Apr 1962-8 Nov 1965 (detached, 9 Jun-7 Sep 1965); assigned 27 Dec 1965-31 Mar 1970 (not operational, 23-31 Mar 1970). 560th Fighter-Escort (later, Strategic Fighter; Fighter-Day) Squadron: attached 10 Feb 1951-16 Jun 1952, assigned 16 Jun 1952-8 Jan 1958. 561st Fighter-Escort (later, Strategic Fighter; Fighter-Day) Squadron: attached 10 Feb 1951-1 Apr 1952, assigned 16 Jun 1952-8 Jan 1958 (detached 1 Apr-16 Dec 1952).

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SUPPORT COMPONENTS. 12th Air Base (later, Combat Support) Group: 1 Nov 1950-6 Aug 1951 (detached, 10 Feb-6 Aug 1951); 14 Feb-16 Jun 1952 (not operational); 8 Nov 1965-17 Nov 1971. 12th Maintenance and Supply Group: 1 Nov 1950-10 Feb 1951; 14 Feb-16 Jun 1952 (not operational). 12th Medical Group (later, 12th Tactical Hospital; 12th USAF Hospital; 12th USAF Dispensary): 1 Nov 1950-10 Feb 1951; 14 Feb 1952-8 Jan 1958; 8 Feb 1966-17 Nov 1971. 12th Armament and Electronics (later, Avionics) Maintenance Squadron: 16 Jun 1952-8 Jan 1958; 25 Apr 1962-17 Nov 1971. 12th Communications Squadron: 14 Feb-16 Jun 1952. 12th Maintenance (later, Field Maintenance; Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance; Field Maintenance) Squadron: attached 10 Feb 1951-16 Jun 1952, assigned 16 Jun 1952-8 Jan 1958; assigned 25 Apr 1962-17 Nov 1971. 12th Organizational Maintenance Squadron: 1 Jul 1962-18 Jun 1966. 12th Periodic Maintenance Squadron: 16 Jun 1952-8 Jan 1958. 12th Supply Squadron: 8 Nov 1965-17 Nov 1971. 27th Air Refueling Squadron: attached 1 Apr-1 Sep 1955. 412th Munitions Maintenance Squadron: 1 Jan 1965-17 Nov 1971. 506th Air Refueling Squadron: attached 8 Aug 1955-1 Jul 1957. 4219th Armament and Electronics Maintenance Squadron: attached 10 Feb 1951-16 Jun 1952. 4219th Organizational Maintenance Squadron: attached Dec 1950-16 Jun 1952. 6256th USAF Dispensary: 8 Nov 1965-8 Feb 1966.

STATIONS. Turner AFB, Ga, 1 Nov 1950; Bergstrom AFB, Tex, 5 Dec 1950-8 Jan 1958 (deployed at Manston RAF Station, England, 20 Jul-30 Nov 1951; Misawa AB, Japan, 15 May-10 Aug 1953; Misawa AB, Japan, 10 May-11 Aug 1954). MacDill AFB, Fla, 25 Apr 1962-31 Oct 1965; Cam Ranh Bay AB, Vietnam, 8 Nov 1965; Phu Cat AB, Vietnam, 31 Mar 1970-17 Nov 1971.

COMMANDERS. Capt James M Ross, 1 Nov 1950; Col Cy Wilson, 20 Nov 1950; Col Charles A Gayle, 1 Apr 1952; Col Richard O Hunziker, 4 Aug 1952; Col Howard G Cook, 23 Apr 1954; Col Robert W Stephens, 20 Jul 1956; Col William D Dunham, 10 Aug 1956-8 Jan 1958. Not manned, 25 Apr-4 May 1962; unkn, 4-13 May 1962; Col Harold M McClelland, 14 May 1962; Col Raymond A Bradley, 17 Jul 1965; Col Levi R Chase, 8 Oct 1965; Col Jones E Bolt, 18 Oct 1966; Col Joel D Thorvaldson, Mar 1967; Col Woodward E Davis Jr, 9 Apr 1967; Col Floyd White, 5 Apr 1968; Col Ramon R Melton, 7 Apr 1969; Col Harry B Trimble, 31 Mar 1970; Col Larry M Killpack, 13 Apr 1970; Col Ralph S Parr, 4 Oct 1970; Col Richard H Schoeneman, 19 Feb 1971; Col Albert L Melton, 4 Oct-17 Nov 1971.

AIRCRAFT. Tactical. F-84, Dec 1950-Dec 1957. F-84, Jul 1962-Mar 1964; F-4, Jan 1964-Mar 1970, Mar 1970-Nov 1971. Support. KB-29, Apr 1955-Jul 1957.

OPERATIONS. Provided fighter escort and air defense, and exercised SAC bomber forces, 1950-1957, and twice augmented air defense forces in Japan during the same period. From mid-1957 until inactivation, and from early 1962 until deployment to Southeast Asia, maintained preparedness for world-wide tactical operations. Beginning Nov 1965, engaged in aerial combat in Southeast Asia. Provided close air support, interdiction, rescue combat air patrol, MIG patrol, and similar activities. Flew last combat sortie in SEA on 20 Oct 1971.

EMBLEM.* Description. Azure, a sword point to base or, hilt flament proper; a bordure gyronny of twelve of the second and first, fimbriated of the second. Significance. The emblem is symbolic of the Wing and its mission and displays

* Information furnished by AF Mil Per Ctr (DPMSAA3), Randolph AFB, Tex,
10 Apr 1972.

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the Air Force colors, ultramarine blue and golden yellow, to indicate membership in the USAF. The border is divided into twelve parts to represent the unit's numerical designation. The flaming sword symbolizes the Wing's strength and striking ability. Motto: SPIRITUS OMNIA VINCET, The Spirit Conquers All. Approved by Hq USAF on 15 Mar 1963.

12th Fighter-Escort Group

TEMPORARY BESTOWAL

The history of the 12th Fighter-Escort Group for the period 20 Nov 1940 to 1 Nov 1950, including all honors, has been temporarily bestowed upon the 12th Flying Training Wing. The attached historical account of this group has been extracted from Maurer Maurer, ed., Air Force Combat Units of World War II (Washington: USGPO, 1961), pp. 55-56.

12th BOMBARDMENT GROUP



Constituted as 12th Bombardment Group (Light) on 20 Nov 1940. *Activated* on 15 Jan 1941. Trained with B-18, B-23, and PT-17 aircraft. Patrolled the west coast after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. *Redesignated* 12th Bombardment Group (Medium) in Dec 1941. Using B-25's, began training early in 1942 for duty overseas. Moved to the Middle East, Jul-Aug 1942, and assigned to Ninth

AF. Attacked storage areas, motor transports, troop concentrations, airdromes, bridges, shipping, marshalling yards, and other targets in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Pantelleria, Lampedusa, Crete, Sicily, and Italy, Aug 1942-Jan 1944. Supported the Allied drive from Egypt to Tunisia, Oct 1942-Apr 1943. Early in 1943 two squadrons operated with Twelfth AF, assisting Allied forces moving eastward across North Africa, while the other squadrons continued operations with Ninth AF, bombing enemy defenses along the Mareth Line. Received a DUC for action against the enemy in North Africa and Sicily from Oct 1942 to Aug 1943. While attached to Twelfth AF, Jun-Aug 1943, the group operated from bases in Tunisia and Sicily against targets in Pantelleria, Lampedusa, Sicily, and Italy. Assigned to Twelfth AF in Aug 1943 and operated primarily against targets in Italy until Jan 1944. Flew some missions to Albania and Yugoslavia.

Moved to India, Feb-Apr 1944, and assigned to Tenth AF. Engaged chiefly in missions against the enemy in Burma, Apr 1944-May 1945. Bombed communications, military installations, and other objectives. Delivered ammunition to Allied forces at Imphal. Also attacked some targets in China. Began training with A-26 aircraft in the summer of 1945. Returned to the US, Dec 1945-Jan 1946. *Inactivated* on 22 Jan 1946.

Redesignated 12th Bombardment Group (Light). *Activated* on 19 May 1947. Not

manned during 1947-1948. *Inactivated* on 10 Sep 1948.

Redesignated 12th Fighter-Escort Group. *Activated* on 1 Nov 1950. Assigned to Strategic Air Command. Trained with F-84's. *Inactivated* on 16 Jun 1952.

SQUADRONS. *81st* (later 559th): 1941-1946; 1947-1948; 1950-1952. *82d* (later 560th): 1941-1946; 1947-1948; 1950-1952. *83d* (later 561st): 1941-1946; 1947-1948; 1950-1952. *434th* (formerly 94th): 1941-1942; 1942-1946.

STATIONS. McChord Field, Wash, 15 Jan 1941; Esler Field, La, c. 21 Feb-3 Jul 1942; Deversoir, Egypt, c. 31 Jul 1942; Egypt and Libya, Oct 1942; Medenine, Tunisia, 3 Apr 1943; Sfax, Tunisia, c. 15 Apr 1943; Hergla, Tunisia, 2 Jun 1943; Ponte Olivo, Sicily, c. 2 Aug 1943; Gerbini, Sicily, c. 22 Aug 1943; Foggia, Italy, c. 2 Nov 1943; Gaudio Airfield, Italy, 19 Jan-6 Feb 1944; Tezgaon, India, c. 21 Mar 1944; Pandaveswar, India, 13 Jun 1944; Fenny, India, 16 Jul 1944; Pandaveswar, India, 8 Jun 1945; Karachi, India, 15 Nov-24 Dec 1945; Ft Lawton, Wash, 21-22 Jan 1946. Langley Field, Va, 19 May 1947-10 Sep 1948. Turner AFB, Ga, 1 Nov 1950; Bergstrom AFB, Tex, Dec 1950-16 Jun 1952.

COMMANDERS. Unkn, Jan-May 1941; Col Charles G Goodrich, 6 May 1941; Col Edward N Backus, 16 Sep 1942; Lt Col William W Wilcox, 21 Sep 1943; Col Lloyd H Dalton Jr, c. 29 Sep 1944; Lt Col Samuel C Galbreath, 4 Sep 1945; Lt Col Lewis B Wilson, 23 Sep 1945-22 Jan 1946.

Capt H Carney, Nov 1950; Col Charles A Gayle, 20 Nov 1950; Col Cy Wilson, Feb 1951; Col Charles A Gayle, Apr-16 Jun 1952.

CAMPAIGNS. Air Combat, EAME Theater; Egypt-Libya; Tunisia; Sicily; Naples-Foggia; Rome-Arno; India-Burma; China Defensive; Central Burma.

DECORATIONS. Distinguished Unit Citation: North Africa and Sicily, Oct 1942-17 Aug 1943.

INSIGNE. *Shield:* Azure, a sword point to base or, hilt flamant proper; a bordure gyronny of twelve of the second and the first. *Motto:* SPIRITUS OMNIA VIN-CET—The Spirit Conquers All. (Approved 3 Feb 1942.)