



# FACT SHEET

## 301ST FIGHTER WING

The 301st Fighter Wing is based at Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas, (formerly Carswell Air Force Base) and is equipped with the F-16C+ Fighting Falcon. The wing has a rich history in the Reserve component of the Air Force dating back to the mid-1940s and continues to make history.

**MISSION:** The mission of the 301st Fighter Wing is to train and deploy combat-ready Airmen.

**SUBORDINATE UNITS:** The wing is composed of command and wing staff agencies, three groups and three wing attached units:



- 301st Operations Group composed of the 457th Fighter Squadron, 301st Operations Support Flight, and Falcon Bombing Range at Fort Sill, Okla.
- 301st Mission Support Group composed of the 301st Security Forces Squadron, 301st Force Support Squadron, 301st Civil Engineer Squadron, 301st Logistics Readiness Squadron, 301st Communications Squadron, 73rd Aerial Port Squadron, Department of Defense Police, and 301st Contracting Flight
- 301st Maintenance Group consisting of the 301st Maintenance Squadron and 301st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- 301st Medical Squadron
- As part of Total Force Integration initiative, 301st Fighter Wing has both classic and active associates:
- Classic associate - 44th Fighter Group, Tyndall AFB, FL
- Active associate – 355th Fighter Squadron, the 495th Fighter Group, is an active duty associate located with the 301st Fighter Wing

During peacetime, the 301st Fighter Wing reports to 10th Air Force. When mobilized for active duty, the wing is assigned to Air Combat Command's 12th Air Force.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT:** The 301st Fighter Wing is the largest tenant unit on NAS Fort Worth JRB. With approximately 2,200 reservists and civilians, the wing has an economic impact of more than \$152 million in the local community.

Shortly after the events of September 11, 2001, the 301st Fighter Wing deployed to Al Jabar, Kuwait, in support of Operation Southern Watch. When they arrived for duty, they

were also tasked to fly missions over Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom, flying nearly 200 missions and releasing close to 200 bombs. On the home front, members of the 301st Fighter Wing were tasked to support Operation Noble Eagle (ONE) homeland-defense missions.

**PAST UNIT HIGHLIGHTS:** The 301st Fighter Wing's long, rich history began when the wing was activated in 1944 as the 301st Tactical Fighter Wing. The wing, which flew the P-47 Thunderbolt during World War II, was deactivated in 1949. In 1972, the wing was reactivated and assigned the F-105D Thunderchief with the Thunderstick II modification. They later converted to the F-4D Phantom II in 1981, the F-4E in 1987 and the F-16C/D Fighting Falcon in 1991. The 301st continues to fly the Falcon F-16C+.

The 301st Fighter Wing was the first Air Force Reserve fighter unit to deploy to overseas bases for NATO exercises when it deployed to Norvenich Air Base, Germany, in August 1977, and again, to Cigli Air Base, Turkey, in October 1982. A deployment to Sivrihisar Air Base, Turkey, under bare-base conditions in May 1985 was another Reserve first. The unit also deployed to Roosevelt Roads Naval Air Station, Puerto Rico, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, and Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, in the 1980s.

The 1990s began with wing members being called to active duty during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, serving at locations throughout Southwest Asia, Germany, England, and the United States while the wing converted to the F-16 Fighting Falcon. During October and November of 1994, the wing deployed F-16s and crews to Darwin, Australia, as the first Air Force Reserve fighter wing to participate in Aces North, a joint U.S.-Australian exercise. Another major highlight was the six-week deployment of F-16s and crews during May and June 1997 to Karup Air Station, Denmark, to join forces with three U.S. Air Force units and numerous foreign militaries in the NATO Central Enterprise exercise.

The post-Cold War era has been characterized by an enormous increase in contingency operations. The 301st has participated in seven of these, flying approximately 1,000 combat sorties over Bosnia, northern Iraq, and southern Iraq. These included Operation Deny Flight (1993), Operation Decisive Edge (1995), Operation Southern Watch (1998, 2001, 2002), and Operation Northern Watch (1999, 2000).

The 457th Fighter Squadron pilots, while flying in support of Operation Northern Watch in 1999, made Air Force Reserve history when they dropped live, laser-guided bombs in a real-world combat environment, destroying numerous Iraqi military targets. This deployment marked the first time in history that Air Force Reserve F-16s dropped laser-guided bombs in combat.

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Since September 11, 2001, 301st Fighter wing units and individual personnel in various career fields have deployed for other missions supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Noble Eagle's homeland defense, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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