

21 OPERATIONAL WEATHER SQUADRON



MISSION

The 21 Operational Weather Squadron provides highly accurate, timely and relevant environmental situational awareness to Air Force, Navy, and Army Commanders operating in US European Command in partnership with NATO. The 21 OWS is responsible for producing and disseminating mission planning and execution weather analyses, terminal aerodrome forecasts, and briefings for Air Force, Army, SHAPE, EUCOM, USAFE, USAREUR, SOCEUR, and NAVEUR forces operating at 491 DoD installations/sites encompassing 92 countries and 23 million square miles within the Atlantic Ocean, Europe, Russia, Africa and the Middle East.

21 Operational Weather Squadron's manning consists of active duty, civilian and contract personnel and is located on Sembach Kaserne, Germany.

LINEAGE

21 Weather Squadron constituted, 19 Apr 1943

Activated, 1 May 1943

Inactivated, 12 Jul 1946

Activated, 18 Aug 1956

Inactivated, 1 Jul 1971

United States Air Forces in Europe Theater Weather Support Squadron constituted, 14 Nov 1997

Activated, 1 Dec 1997

Redesignated United States Air Forces in Europe Operational Weather Squadron, 17 Feb 1999

21 Weather Squadron and United States Air Forces in Europe Operational Weather Squadron Consolidated, 20 Jun 2005. Consolidated unit designated United States Air Forces in Europe

Operational Weather Squadron

Redesignated 21 Operational Weather Squadron, 1 Nov 2005

STATIONS

Bradley Field, CT, 1 May 1943
Camp Kilmer, NJ, 10-17 Jul 1943
Welford Park, England, 28 Jul 1943
Sunninghill Park, England, 1 Sep 1943
Chantilly, France, 15 Sep 1944
Bad Kissingen, Germany, 6 Jun 1945
Wiesbaden, Germany, 17 Nov 1945-12 Jul 1946
Madrid, Spain, 18 Aug 1956
Torrejon AB, Spain, 15 Sep 1957-1 Jul 1971
Sembach AB, Germany, 1 Dec 1997

ASSIGNMENTS

Flight Control Command, 1 May 1943
Weather Wing, Flight Control Command (later, Army Air Forces Weather Wing), 21 Jun 1943
Eighth Air Force, 17 Jul 1943
VIII Air Support Command, 25 Jul 1943
Ninth Air Force, 16 Oct 1943
U.S. Air Forces in Europe, 14 Aug 1945
AAF Weather Service, 20 Oct 1945
5 Weather Group, 11 Dec 1945-12 Jul 1946
2 Weather Wing, 18 Aug 1956-1 Jul 1971
United States Air Forces in Europe, 1 Dec 1997
616 Support Group, 1 Nov 2005

COMMANDERS

Maj Richard J. Kent, 1 May 1943
Col Thomas S. Moorman, 1 Sep 1943
Capt August W. Throgmorton, 1 Jan 1944
Maj Cullie B. Harris, 5 Jul 1945
Col Wilson H. Neal, 1 Oct 1945
1st Lt Donald R. Anderson, 11 Dec 1945
Capt Francis T. McHenry, May 1946
Capt Donald J. Wolfe, 18 Aug 1956
Lt Col Leonard H. Hutchinson, 29 Aug 1956
Lt Col William E. Kunz, 10 Jun 1958
Lt Col Lawrence D. Connolly, 26 Jan 1960
Lt Col Nicholas J. Gavares, Jan 1963
Col Robert F. Neely, Jul 1965
Col Isaac S. Israel, 1 Aug 1968

Lt Col John A. Samotis, 18 Jun 1971
Lt Col Ralph Stoffler, 1997
Lt Col John Murphy, 1999
Lt Col Carolyn Vадnais, 2001
Lt Col Tim Hutchison, 2003
Lt Col John Shepley, 2005
Lt Col Brian Pukall, 2007
Lt Col David Andrus, 2009
Lt Col Eugene Wall, 2011

HONORS

Service Streamers

Northern France, 25 Jul-14 Sep 1944
Rhineland, 15 Sep 1944-21 Mar 1945
Central Europe, 22 Mar-11 May 1945

Campaign Streamers

Northern France
Rhineland
Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Army Meritorious Unit Citation
1 Jan-1 Jul 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
1 Jan 1968-31 Dec 1969

Air Force Organizational Excellence Awards
1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998
1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 2000

EMBLEM



21 Weather Squadron emblem is symbolic of the weather support status of the squadron in relation to aircraft flying at increasingly higher altitudes. The stylized aircraft and supporting hand represent the meteorology necessary to provide accurate upper atmospheric information for safety of flight. The emblem bears the Air Force colors of ultramarine blue and golden yellow. (Approved, 14 Apr 1960)



21 Operational Weather Squadron emblem: Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. The knight represents the unit's readiness and its dedication to support the warfighter and its role as a "keeper of peace". He leaps over a weather vane symbolizing a commander's ability to overcome adverse weather conditions due to accurate weather information provided by the Squadron. The horse signifies the unit's key mission of carrying tailored intelligence information to operational customers and the ability to complete the Air Force mission. The lance carried by the knight denotes the Squadron as the "tip" of weather forecasting services reaching into the theater to make a difference; the shield connotes the ability to safeguard those who may be in harm's way. The wind anemometer within the shield is a standard trademark for Air Force weather personnel and a key tool for the craft. The developing thunderstorm in the background symbolizes the weather hazards that may impede combat operations. (Approved, 20 Aug 1998)

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OPERATIONS

After 34 years, the premiere weather unit of World War II is back on the front lines of operational forecasting within the European theater. This rebirth of history comes not through reactivation, but rather, a redesignation of the former USAFE Operational Weather Squadron at Sembach AB, Germany. The USAFE OWS dates back to 1997 when it was the first OWS tasked to provide mission support to commanders throughout the United States European Command theater and to our NATO allies. Its area of responsibility covers the greatest territory of all Air Force weather units, 21 million square miles, spanning 91 nations from the western Atlantic Ocean to the eastern shores of Russia, and from Iceland and Scandinavia to the southern reaches of Africa. With the realignment of Europe's U.S. Air Component Forces in 2005, the USAFE OWS now reports to the 616th Support Group, part of the 16th Air Force, and was redesignated as the 21st Operational Weather Squadron. Along with the name change comes an inherited rich history of excellence dating back to 1943. Activated at Bradley Field, Conn., in April 1943, the 21st Weather Squadron quickly moved overseas and was assigned to the 9th Air Force in October of the same year. With the purpose of providing dedicated meteorological intelligence to ground units, the 21st WS became the first fully deployable weather squadron in history with men trained specifically for combat; during Operation Overlord, 14 mobile weather units deployed 30 men in support of the ground troops. Following the Normandy invasion, Bronze Stars were awarded to 81 servicemen of the 21st WS. The unit also earned the European-African-Middle-Eastern service streamer and three additional campaign streamers in Northern France, Rheinland, and Central Europe, for their unparalleled support to the war fighter. Following its inactivation in 1946, the 21st WS saw duty once again from 1956 to 1971 in Spain. In June 2005, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force directed the 21st WS to re-activate and consolidate with the USAFE OWS to become today's 21st Operational Weather Squadron as of Nov. 1, 2005. This move indicates that USAFE's OWS, while still the theater source for weather, no longer reports directly to the major command staff. The patch of the 21st WS, approved in 1960, illustrated the need for accurate upper air forecasts to ensure the safety of aircraft flying at greater altitudes in the age of such airframes as the U-2 and SR-71.

21 Weather Squadron, Detachment A	Uxbridge
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment AA	Staplehurst
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment B	Marks Hall
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment BB	Great Saling
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment C	Biggin Hill
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment CC	Chipping Ongar
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment D	Middle Wallop
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment DD	Exeter
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment E	Taunton
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment EE	Middle Wallop
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment F	Warmwell
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment FF	Adderbury

21 Weather Squadron, Detachment G	Fulbeck
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment GG	Ramsbury
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment H	Merryfield
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment HH	Breamore
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment I	Upottery
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment II	Middle Wallop
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment J	Bisterne
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment JJ	Ashford
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment K	Lashenden
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment KK	Andover
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment L	Lashenden
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment LL	Beaulieu
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment M	Bristol
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment MM	Wethersfield
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment N	Welford
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment NN	Cottesmore
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment P	Grove
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment PP	Matching
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment Q	Headcorn
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment QQ	Stansted
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment R	Chilbolton
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment RR	Kingston Bagpuize
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment S	Ibsley
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment SS	Chalgrove
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment T	St Vincents
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment TT	Little Walden
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment U	High Halden
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment UU	Boreham
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment V	Beaulieu
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment VV	Chilbolton
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment W	Great Dunmow
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment WW	North Witham
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment X	Andover
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment XX	Saltby
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment Y	Thrupton
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment YA	Stourport
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment YC	Northwich
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment YD	Marlborough
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment YE	Filton
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment YF	Weston Super Mare
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment YY	Spanhoe
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment Z	Earls Colne
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZA	Greenham Commons
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZB	Aldermaston

21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZC	Membury
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZD	Rivenhall
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZE	Folkingham
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZF	Christchurch
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZG	Greenham Commons
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZH	Ibsley
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZI	Lymington
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZJ	Ashford
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZK	Kingsnorth
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZL	Woodchurch
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZM	Stoney Cross
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZN	Winkton
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZP	Ibsley
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZQ	Beaulieu
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZR	Lashenden
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZS	Ashford
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZU	Knook Camp
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZV	Gosfield
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZW	Exeter
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZX	Cottesmore
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZY	Knutsford
21 Weather Squadron, Detachment ZZ	Barkston

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.