

704th TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON



LINEAGE

704 TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON ACTIVATED 76/07/04

STATIONS

Shaw AFB, SC, 25 Jul 1969-1 Jul 1974

Sembach AB, Germany, 4 Jul 1976

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

4 July 1976 The 704th TASS was activated at Sembach Air Base as a "Bicentennial Squadron".

7 Jan 1982 704th TASS pilots deployed to Zaragoza, Spain, for 21 days of WTD training.

30 September 1984 On this date, the 20th and 704th TASSs were inactivated.

Finally, marking an end of an era for OV-10A operations in Europe, on 29 August 1984, the fourth and last wave of nine OV-10A aircraft took off from Sembach AB for the 6,500 mile journey to George AFB. As was the case with the preceding flights, the trip went remarkably well and all aircraft landed at the California base on 7 September 1984. The 45 OV-10A aircraft previously assigned to the 601st TCW were now assigned to the 27th TASS at George AFB. With the transfer of wing OV-10As to George AFB, more than 650 maintenance and flying squadron technicians moved. Effective 15 July 1984, the 601st Aircraft Generation Squadron and the 601st Component Repair Squadron were inactivated. Simultaneously, their supplies, equipment, and many of their personnel were transferred to the newly activated 601st Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Last but not least, the wing's two Bronco squadrons (the 20th and 704th TASS) were inactivated on 30 September 1984.

February 1984, the 601st TCW and all its assigned units were awarded the "Air Force Outstanding Award" for the period 1 May 1981 through 30 April 1983. Next, due to a congressionally-imposed European troop strength ceiling, all 45 wing OV-10A aircraft along with approximately 800 support personnel of both flying squadrons (the 20th TASS and 704th TASS) and much of the maintenance complex returned to the states during the period 5 June 1984 through 29 August 1984. This major move reduced four squadrons (20th TASS, 704th TASS, 601st ACS and 601st CRS) to zero manning and equipment. Another 601st CAMS was activated. In any event, the first wave of 12 OV-10As took off from Sembach AB on the morning of 5 June 1984. The 15 day trip averaged about 40 total flying hours and the cells landed at George AFB, California, on 19 June 1984. The second wave of 12 OV-10As took off from Sembach AB on 10 July 1984, and despite being put on a weather hold at Keflavik, Iceland, landed at George AFB 12 days later. The third wave of 12 OV-10As departed Sembach AB on 30 July 1984 and, after an uneventful 12 day flight, they landed at George AFB on 11 August 1984.

Several aircraft related milestones were also reached in 1976. First, on 4 July, the 704th TASS was activated at Sembach AB as a "Bicentennial Squadron". Second, on 1 November 1976, wing OV-10A aircraft, pilots from the 20th TASS, and maintenance personnel from the 601st CAMS deployed to Zaragoza AB, Spain, to "kick off" a four-month weapons training detachment (WTD) deployment nicknamed "Creek Tally". This was the first time wing aircraft

deployed to Spain for this type training. In a related operation, the 611th TCF also deployed their FACP to Zaragoza at the same time. While there, the 611th provided radar and radio coverage for dissimilar air combat training missions between Northrop F-5E Tiger Us of the 527th Tactical Fighter Training Aggressor Squadron (TFTAGS) and F-4 Phantoms. Also, the 611th TCF was airlifted in two C-5A Galaxies rather than the C-130s or C-141s normally used for radar airborne movements.

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The year 1984 had a "Bonanza" of events over and above that normally encountered. On 1 February 1984, the 601st TCW and all its assigned units were awarded the "Air Force Outstanding Award" for the period 1 May 1981 through 30 April 1983. Next, due to a congressionally-imposed European troop strength ceiling, all 45 wing OV-10A aircraft along with approximately 800 support personnel of both flying squadrons (the 20th TASS and 704th TASS) and much of the maintenance complex returned to the states during the period 5 June 1984 through 29 August 1984. This major move reduced four squadrons (20th TASS, 704th TASS, 601st ACS and 601st CRS) to zero manning and equipment. Another 601st CAMS was activated. In any event, the first wave of 12 OV-10As took off from Sembach AB on the morning of 5 June 1984. The 15 day trip averaged about 40 total flying hours and the cells landed at George AFB, California, on 19 June 1984. The second wave of 12 OV-10As took off from Sembach AB on 10 July 1984, and despite being put on a weather hold at Keflavik, Iceland, landed at George AFB 12 days later. The third wave of 12 OV-10As departed Sembach AB on 30 July 1984 and, after an uneventful 12 day flight, they landed at George AFB on 11 August 1984.

On 1 September 1959, Sembach became USAFE's primary missile base when the 38th TMW moved in from Hahn AB. The wing underwent a fundamental reorganization on 25 September 1962 when it took control of the 822d TMS from the intermediate 587th TMG which inactivated the same day. Concurrently, two additional squadrons, the 823d and 887th TMSs were activated.

Meanwhile, the Matador missile had been replaced with the superior Mace. On 1 July 1964, the activation of the 7th ACS marked the return of a USAF flying unit. Meanwhile, Army liaison aircraft and helicopters had become regular users. The 38th TMW and its subordinate units were discontinued on 25 September 1966 and the 603d ABW took over. On 1 July 1968, the 601st TCW replaced the 603d ABW as host unit.

The 601st TCW relocated to Wiesbaden AB on 1 July 1973 to make room for HQ Seventeenth Air Force which moved in from Ramstein on 5 October. After the 601st TCW had left, the 7400th ABG took over as host unit. The pending transfer of Wiesbaden AB to the Army led to the 601st TCW's return on 1 January 1976. The wing's 20th TASS flew OV-10A aircraft while the 601st TASS operated CH-53C helicopters. On 4 July 1976, the 704th TASS activated as a second OV-10 squadron.

An A-10 forward operating location was established when Det 1, 81st TFW activated on 1 September 1978. Revetments and a dozen hardened aircraft shelters were built and A-10 operations began in May 1979. The 601st TCW began to draw down its flying activities when the OV-10s of the 20th and 704th TASS returned to the U.S. in summer 1984 and both squadrons inactivated effective 30 September. Meanwhile, the CH-53s of the 601st TASS were retained until March 1988. Sembach gained an electronic combat mission when the 65th AD and the subordinate 66th ECW stood up on 1 June 1985. The 43d ECS activated under the 66th ECW on 1 October 1986 with EC-130H Compass Call aircraft for which a high-security facility and special maintenance hangars were built in the eastern dispersal loop. Following the withdrawal of their aircraft after Desert Storm, the 43d ECS inactivated on 31 July 1991.

Concurrently, A-10 deployments ceased and Det 1, 81st TFW was phased out on 31 August 1991. After the inactivation of the 66th ECW on 31 March 1992, the 601st Support Wing (as the 601st TCW had been redesignated) resumed host unit duties but closed down three years later when the flightline returned to German control. At the time of writing, the administrative portion was still under USAFE control as Sembach Annex. This site has been managed by the 86th AW since the inactivation of Seventeenth Air Force on 30 September 1996.

704th Tactical Air Support Squadron.

On 4 July USAFE activated this unit at Sembach Air Base Germany and assigned it to the 601st Tactical Control Wing. 1976

601st Tactical Control Wing. The command made several changes during the year to allow the wing to concentrate more fully on its tactical air control mission. On 1 May the 601st Tactical Air Support Group was reactivated at Sembach to provide a control headquarters for the wing's three flying squadrons, the 20th, 601st, and 704th Tactical Air Support Squadrons. Another tactical control squadron, the 606th, was activated at Bremerhaven on 15 June and assigned to the 600th Tactical Control Group. On 1 July the 7575th Operations Group was activated at Rhein Main Air Base and two 601st units, the 7th Special Operations Squadron and the 7405th Operations Squadron, were assigned to it. 1977

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources