



# FACT SHEET

USAF Fact Sheet

Air Warfare Center Public Affairs Division

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## 57<sup>th</sup> Wing

### Mission

The 57<sup>th</sup> Wing accomplishes dynamic and challenging flying operations at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., including the United States Air Force Weapons School, Red Flag and Air Warrior training, Air Ground Operations School, and the USAF Air Demonstration Squadron.

The wing manages flying operations and aircraft maintenance at Nellis AFB through six assigned organizations: the 57<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 57<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group, U.S. Air Force Weapons School, U.S. Air Force Air Ground Operations School, U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron (Thunderbirds) and 57<sup>th</sup> Wing Director of Tactics.

The commander is responsible for advanced aircrew training, aircraft maintenance, tactics development and publication, deployable combat search and rescue, deployable reconnaissance and surveillance, U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron and intelligence dissemination for U.S and allied combat air forces worldwide. The 57<sup>th</sup> Wing employs A-10, B-1, B-2, B-52, F-15C, F-15E, F-16C, F-117, HH-60 aircraft and RQ-1A unmanned aerial vehicles.

The **57th Operations Group** provides combat ready search and rescue, unmanned aerial vehicle, and combat support forces for worldwide deployment. The 57th Operations Group is responsible for Red/Maple/Coalition Flag exercises, and managing all flying operations at Nellis AFB.

The **57th Operations Support Squadron** provides Air Traffic Control, Airspace and Airfield Management, Weather Service, Operations Scheduling, Aircrew Training, and Munitions Forecasting and Allocation Support. It is also responsible for supporting the operational mission at Nellis AFB.

The **414<sup>th</sup> Combat Training Squadron** develops, executes and directs Air Combat Command's Red Flag exercises. It integrates threat systems to produce the world's most realistic air combat training environment and provides operational control and logistical support to more than 325 U.S. and allied units, totaling more than 1,200 aircraft and 26,750 personnel. The Aggressors, flying F-16 aircraft replicating enemy tactics, provide

realistic air combat training to all units participating in Red Flag exercises. The 414<sup>th</sup> CTS develops and conducts academic programs on the application of air power, and serves as the Air Force's executive agent for Maple Flag exercises. The Operations Flight provides U.S. and allied exercise participants the world's best air combat training by planning, coordinating and executing Red Flag, Maple Flag and Spirit Hawk exercises. In addition, the 414<sup>th</sup> CTS provides operational control and safety oversight for all exercises and provides combat search and rescue training for the combat air forces.

The **547<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Squadron** provides intelligence support for customers throughout the Department of Defense. It provides intelligence on adversary threat capabilities to support tactics analysis, test and evaluation and training exercises; evaluates and defines the threat to combat air forces; and develops threat training programs of instruction for aircrews, intelligence and support personnel.

The **66<sup>th</sup> and 58<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadrons** provide worldwide combat rescue in support of combat air forces. Their secondary mission is to provide rescue support for air operations over the Nellis Test and Training Range and back-up rescue for civilian agencies in the local area and the greater Southwestern United States. The 66<sup>th</sup> was the first active-duty rescue unit in the United States to fly the HH-60G *Pavehawk* helicopter. It provides rapidly-deployable combat search and rescue anywhere in the world, operating day and night.

The **11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Squadrons** use the RQ-1A *Predator* to provide long endurance, unmanned, armed, aerial reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition and produce near real-time multi-sensor imagery and intelligence for the warfighter.

The **57th Maintenance Group** supports the dynamic operations of the wing. Its primary mission is to perform safe and reliable maintenance on more than 130 A-10A, F-15C/D, F-15E and F-16C/D aircraft, HH-60G helicopters, and RQ-1A Predators assigned to the 57th Wing. This group is the busiest in the combat air forces, generating more than 17,000 diverse sorties annually, hosting hundreds of visiting units and providing about 45 percent of the live munitions expended within ACC. Assigned to the 57<sup>th</sup> MXG are the 57<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Operations Squadron, the 57<sup>th</sup> Equipment Maintenance Squadron, the 57<sup>th</sup> Component Maintenance Squadron, 57<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and the 757<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

The **U.S. Air Force Weapons School**, with squadrons at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, Barksdale Air Force Base, La., Hurlburt Field Fla., Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. and Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., in addition to the nine Weapons School squadrons at Nellis, teaches graduate-level weapons instructor courses, providing the world's most advanced training in weapons and tactics employment to officers of the Combat Air Forces (CAF). The Weapons School provides graduate-level A-10, B-1, B-2, B-52, F-15C, F-15E, F-16C, F-117, AC-130, MC-130, MH-53, HH-60, Command and Control Operations, Intelligence and Space weapons instructor academic and flying courses to the CAF. The school conducts extensive technical off-station training and liaison with CAF units. The school also publishes the quarterly U.S. Air Force Weapons Review with worldwide readership. All positions are selectively manned.

The **U.S. Air Force Air Ground Operations School** oversees exercises and training that supports military forces on the ground. AGOS is the parent organization for the Air Warrior I and II, 549<sup>th</sup> Combat Training Squadron and 548<sup>th</sup> Combat Training Squadron, respectively. These exercises that provide close-air support for U.S. Army exercises and trains aircrew and ground personnel on combat air support procedures in a realistic, simulated combat environment. The school's 6th Combat Training Squadron teaches the Joint Firepower Control Course, training joint and coalition forces in procedures and techniques of controlling joint firepower in a close air support environment. Field training is conducted by the 12th Combat Training Squadron at Fort Irwin, Calif.

The **548<sup>th</sup> Combat Training Squadron** develops and executes Air Combat Command's Air Warrior II exercises. Air Warrior II provides world-class joint air-to-ground training in conjunction with the U.S. Army's Joint Readiness Training Center exercises. It also conducts seven low and medium intensity close-air-support and counter-land operations. Flying units deploy and operate from Barksdale Air Force Base, La., with six aircraft and approximately 90 personnel. Tactical Air Control Parties deploy to the JRTC complex at Fort Polk, La., working with the 548<sup>th</sup> CTS Detachment 1, in support of their assigned U.S. Army unit. Annually, more than 800 close-air-support sorties are flown during Air Warrior II. Additionally, Air Warrior II trains more than 100 aircrew, 160 Tactical Air Control Parties personnel and 50,000 U.S. Army, Navy, Marine and allied soldiers, sailors and marines.

The mission of the **U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron**, or Thunderbirds, is to plan and present precision aerial maneuvers to exhibit capabilities of modern high-performance aircraft and the high degree of professional skill required to operate these aircraft in a precision aerial demonstration. Objectives are to demonstrate to the public the professional competence of Air Force personnel to support U.S. Air Force community relations and people-to-people programs, to support Air Force recruiting and retention programs and to promote morale among Air Force personnel.

The **Weapons and Tactics Documentation Office** provides tactical expertise to headquarters and designated contractors on advanced tactical fighter and other developmental programs, including cockpit design, employment concepts and operational assessment of current and future threats. The Air Warfare Center Weapons and Tactics Documentation Division is responsible for the publication and distribution of all Air Force Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (AFTTP) 3-1, Tactical Employment, and 3-3, Combat Aircraft Fundamentals, manuals.

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