

USAF UNIT LINEAGE AND HONORS

*Air Control Gp*

UNIT DESIGNATION

602 Tactical Air Control Group

STATUS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTIVE	COMPONENT OF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AIR FORCE	ASSIGNED TO
	<input type="checkbox"/> INACTIVE		<input type="checkbox"/> AIR FORCE RESERVE	
	<input type="checkbox"/> DISBANDED		<input type="checkbox"/> AIR NATIONAL GUARD <input type="checkbox"/> UNALLOTTED	

Twelfth Air Force (TAC)

LINEAGE

Constituted 602d Tactical Control Group, and activated, on 11 Feb 66. Organized on 1 Mar 66. Redesignated 602 Tactical Air Control Group on 15 Jun 74.

Redesignated: 602 Tactical Air Control Wing on 1 Oct 1976; 602 Air Control Wing on 1 Oct 1991. Inactivated on 15 Jun 1992.

SEE AFP 310-1-4

HONORS (See reverse side for listing)

SERVICE STREAMERS: None

CAMPAIGN STREAMERS: None

*2 SW Asia  
1 PANAMA  
1 GRENADA*

ARROWHEADS: None

DECORATIONS: One

PREPARED BY

THE ALBERT F. SIMPSON HISTORICAL RESEARCH CENTER, USAF

DATE PREPARED

2 Oct 1975

DATA THRU

31 Mar 1975

SUPERSEDES STATEMENT PREPARED

APPROVED BY

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SERVICE STREAMERS		
	Theater of Operations (WWI)	Central Burma
	American Theater (WWI)	China Defensive
	EAME Theater (WWII)	China Offensive
	Asiatic-Pacific Theater (WWII)	Alutian Islands
	Korean Theater (Korean War)	Air Combat
	Vietnam	Antisubmarine
CAMPAIGN STREAMERS		
	World War I	Korean War
	Somme Defensive	UN Defensive
	Lys	UN Offensive
	Champagne-Marne	CCF Intervention
	Aisne-Marne	First UN Counteroffensive
	Somme Offensive	CCF Spring Offensive
	Oise-Aisne	UN Summer-Fall Offensive
	St. Mihiel	Second Korean Winter
	Meuse-Argonne	Korea Summer-Fall, 1952
		Third Korean Winter
		Korea Summer-Fall, 1953
		Vietnam
		( See AFP 900-2 ). Questions should be directed to AFMPC ( DPMSAA2 ), Randolph AFB, TX 78148.
	World War II, American Theater	
	Antisubmarine	
	World War II, EAME Theater	X Grenada; Panama
	Egypt-Libya	X Defense of Saudi Arabia; Liberation of Kuwait
	Algeria-French Morocco	ARROWHEADS
	Tunisia	
	Sicily	
	Naples-Foggia	DECORATIONS
	Anzio	Distinguished Presidential Unit Citation (AF)
	Rome-Arno	
	Southern France	
	North Apennines	
	Po Valley	
	Air Offensive, Europe	
	Norway	
	Northern France	
	Rhineland	
	Ardenes-Alsace	
	Central Europe	
	Air Combat	
	Antisubmarine	
	World War II, Asiatic-Pacific Theater	AF Outstanding Unit Awards
	Philippine Islands	1 Jan 72-31 Dec 73.
	East Indies	18 May 1980-1 Jun 1980
	Papua	1 May 1984-30 Apr 1986
	Gundalcanal	1 May 1988-30 Apr 1990
	Northern Solomons	1 May 1990-30 Apr 1992.
	Bismarck Archipelago	
	New Guinea	
	Leyte	
	Luzon	Foreign
	Southern Philippines	
	Central Pacific	
	Eastern Mandates	
	Western Pacific	
	Ryukyus	
	Air Offensive, Japan	Other
	Burma	
	India-Burma	

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ASSIGNMENTS. Twelfth Air Force, 1 Mar 1966-.

COMPONENTS.

602d Direct Air Support Squadron: 1 Mar 1966-25 Jul 1969.  
602d Tactical Air Control Support (later, Tactical Air Control Center) Squadron: 15 Oct 1969- (detached 24 Oct 1969-).  
607th Tactical Control Squadron: 15 Oct 1969-.  
609th Tactical Control Squadron: 15 Oct 1969-.  
701st Tactical Air Support Squadron (later, Tactical Air Support Squadron, Helicopter): 3 Apr 1967-25 Jul 1969 (not operational 3 Apr 1967-25 Jul 1969); 15 Jun 1974-.  
702d Tactical Air Support Squadron: 15 Jun 1974-.  
705th Tactical Air Support Squadron: 15 Jun-1 Jul 1974 (not operational 21 Jun-1 Jul 1974).  
712th Direct Air Support Center Squadron: 15 Jun 1974-.  
727th Tactical Control Squadron: 1 Jul 1966-.  
4466th Tactical Air Control Support Squadron: 25 Jun-15 Oct 1969 (detached 25 Jun-15 Oct 1969).  
4468th Tactical Control Squadron: 25 Jun-15 Oct 1969.  
4469th Tactical Control Squadron: 25 Jun-15 Oct 1969.  
Detachment 1, 602d Tactical Control Group: 1 Jun 1968-25 Jul 1969.  
Detachment 1, 602d Tactical Control (later, Tactical Air Control) Group: 1 Oct 1972-.

STATIONS. Waco, Tex, 1 Mar 1966; Bergstrom AFB, Tex, 15 Apr 1966-.

COMMANDERS. Col Amos F Riha, 1 Mar 1966; Col Francis E Binnell, 30 Aug 1968; Col Harold E Comstock, 1 Jun 1971; Col Rufus Woody, 10 Aug 1971; Col William N Shadel, 27 Jun 1973; Col James L Landers, 31 Mar 1975-.

AIRCRAFT. O-1, 1967-1968; CH-53, 1974-; O-2, 1974-; OV-10, 1974-.

OPERATIONS. Upon activation at Waco, Tex, on 1 Mar 1966, absorbed resources of the 4460th Tactical Control Group, discontinued the same day. One squadron, the 602d Direct Air Support Squadron, was assigned at this time; it absorbed resources of the discontinued 4461st Direct Air Support Squadron. Between 15 Mar and 30 Apr 1966 the group and its squadron moved from Waco to Bergstrom AFB, Tex.

Effective 1 Jul 1966 the group gained the 727th Tactical Control Squadron, then located at Myrtle Beach AFB, SC. This squadron moved to Bergstrom in Nov 1966

The mission of the group was to command, organize, equip, train, operate and administer its assigned and attached forces to provide control activities and associated communications elements in support of tactical air operations. The 602d DASS provided a Direct Air Support Center (DASC) and Tactical Air Control Parties (TACPs). The 727th TCS provided a Tactical Air Control Center (TACC), a Control and Reporting Center (CRC), a Control and Reporting Post (CRP), and a Forward Air Control Post (FACP). The TACC was the top operational element in the tactical air control system. Under it came the CRC, and under the CRC was the CRP (capable of being a CRC in an emergency). The FACP was also directed by the CRC. The DASC was a mobile facility which worked directly with Army tactical operations centers to provide on-the-spot coordination between ground forces and tactical air elements, as well as immediate response to Army requests for tactical air support. The TACPs provided Forward Air Controllers (FACs) to Army combat elements and relayed requests for tactical air support from Army field units to the DASC.

On 1 Jul 1966 the group assumed advisory responsibility for a number of Air National Guard (ANG) tactical control groups, squadrons and flights located over much of the US. By the close of 1966 the group's ANG advisory office was in full operation. Advisory support to ANG units was a continuing responsibility of the group over the years, and continuously increased in scope. By mid-1974 the 602d Group had advisory responsibility for five ANG tactical control and/or tactical air support groups and their numerous subordinate units scattered throughout the nation.

Participation in tactical exercises was another of the group's continuing responsibilities. The first exercise in which the group took part was

Exercise Clover Leaf X, conducted at Ellington AFB, Tex, in Apr and May 1966. From then on, the 602d Group participated in a constant stream of tactical exercises throughout the nation, including Alaska, with all or a portion of its assigned resources. Between exercises the group conducted extensive training to maintain its proficiency to perform its mission.

The first Tactical Air Support Squadron to join the group was the 701st, on 3 Apr 1967. This squadron remained a part of the group until 25 Jul 1969 but was never manned, although it apparently had a commander for record purposes. Three O-1E aircraft loaned to this squadron in Oct 1967 were flown by other group personnel until 11 Jul 1968, when they were returned to Eglin AFB, Fla.

Detachment 1 of the group was organized at Bergstrom AFB on 1 Jun 1968, earmarked to operate a DASC, but its manning became a problem. It was discontinued in Jul 1969.

Three units, the 4466th Tactical Air Control Support Squadron (which took over operation of the TACC), the 4468th Tactical Control Squadron, and the 4469th Tactical Control Squadron, joined the group on 25 Jun 1969. They were replaced on 15 Oct of that year by the 602d Tactical Air Control Support Squadron and the 607th and 609th Tactical Control Squadrons. The 602d TACS Squadron (which on 1 Jan 1971 was redesignated 602d Tactical Air Control Center Squadron) took over operation of the TACC, and on 24 Oct 1969 went under direct operational control of Twelfth Air Force. On 25 Jul 1969 the group lost the 602d Direct Air Support Squadron and the inoperational 701st Tactical Air Support Squadron. From then until Jun 1974 the group was not responsible for direct air support to Army units, but concentrated instead on tactical air control operations.

The 602d TACS (later, TACC) Squadron operated the Tactical Air Control Center, and was directly controlled by Twelfth Air Force for operational matters. The 727th Tactical Control Squadron operated a CRC, which could serve when necessary as a TACC. The 607th and 609th Tactical Control Squadrons operated CRPs, either of which had the capability of serving as a CRC. The 609th and 727th Squadrons each had one Tactical Control Flight assigned to them, while the 607th had two such flights.

A new Detachment 1, 602d TCG, was organized in California on 1 Oct 1972 to provide coordination for tactical air control system research and development.

In 1974 Twelfth Air Force acted to consolidate all of its tactical air control system capabilities within a single group. The 602d Group was redesignated 602d Tactical Air Control Group on 15 Jun 1974 and gained four squadrons from an inactivated group:

- 701st Tactical Air Support Squadron, Helicopter
- 702d Tactical Air Support Squadron
- 705th Tactical Air Support Squadron
- 712th Direct Air Support Squadron.

The 701st TASS, Helicopter, was equipped with CH-53 helicopters. The 702d TASS possessed O-2 aircraft when it joined the group, and gained OV-10s from the 705th TASS, which became inoperational on 21 Jun and was inactivated on 1 Jul 1974. With these additional units under its control, the 602d Group's mission of supporting tactical air operations was enlarged to a fully-developed tactical air control system.

Addendum to 602 Tactical Air Control Group Lineage and Honors dated 2 Oct 1975:

Lineage: Redesignated 602 Tactical Air Control Wing, 1 Oct 1976.

Components:

23 Tactical Air Support Squadron: 30 Nov 1975 -  
27 Tactical Air Support Squadron: 1 Jul 1977 - 1 Jul 1980.  
81 Tactical Control Flight: 1 Mar 1977 -  
82 Tactical Control Flight: 1 Mar 1977 -  
83 Tactical Control Flight: 1 Mar 1977 -  
84 Tactical Control Flight: 1 Mar 1977 - 1 Oct 1979.  
85 Tactical Control Flight: 1 Mar 1977 -  
602 Direct Air Support Squadron: 1 Mar 1966 - 25 Jul 1969.  
602 Tactical Air Control Support (later, Tactical Air Control Center)  
Squadron: 15 Oct 1969- (detached 24 Oct 1969-).  
607 Tactical Control (later, Tactical Control Training) Squadron: 15 Oct 1969 -  
609 Tactical Control Squadron: 15 Oct 1969 - 15 Jun 1976.  
701 Tactical Air Support Squadron (later, Tactical Air Support Squadron,  
Helicopter): 3 Apr 1967 - 25 Jul 1969 (not operational 3 Apr 1967 - 25 Jul 1969);  
15 Jun 1974 - 1 Jan 1980.  
702 Tactical Air Support Squadron: 15 Jun 1974 - 30 Nov 1975.  
705 Tactical Air Support Squadron: 15 Jun - 1 Jul 1974 (not operational  
21 Jun - 1 Jul 1974).  
712 Direct Air Support Center (later, Air Support Operations Center)  
Squadron: 15 Jun 1974 -  
727 Tactical Control Squadron (later, Tactical Control Squadron [Test] ):  
1 Jul 1966 - 1 Oct 1979.  
4466 Tactical Air Control Support Squadron: 25 Jun-15 Oct 1969 (detached  
25 Jun-15 Oct 1969).  
4468 Tactical Control Squadron: 25 Jun-15 Oct 1969.  
4469 Tactical Control Squadron: 25 Jun-15 Oct 1969.  
4502 Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron: 1 Oct 1975 - 1 Jul 1980.  
Detachment 1, 602 Tactical Control Group: 1 Jun 1968 - 25 Jul 1969.  
Detachment 1, 602 Tactical Control (later, Tactical Air Control) Group:  
1 Oct 1972 - 31 Jan 1977.  
Detachment 1, 602 Tactical Air Control Wing: 1 Oct 1977 -  
Detachment 2, 602 Tactical Air Control Wing: 1 Oct 1977 - 1 Apr 1980.  
Detachment 3, 602 Tactical Air Control Wing: 1 Oct 1977 -  
Detachment 4, 602 Tactical Air Control Wing: 1 Oct 1977 - 15 Jan 1980.  
Detachment 5, 602 Tactical Air Control Wing: 1 Oct 1977 -  
Detachment 6, 602 Tactical Air Control Wing: 1 Oct 1977 -  
Detachment 7, 602 Tactical Air Control Wing: 1 Oct 1977 -