

The 501st Combat Support Wing traces its lineage and heritage back to the 501st Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, established on 25 May 1944 and activated on 1 June 1944 at Dalhart Army Airfield, Texas. The unit moved to Harvard AAFld, NE, on 22 August and started training with the B-29B, equipped with the APQ-7 Eagle radar for precision high-altitude all-weather bombing. Along with the other three groups of the 315th Bomb Wing, their mission was to finish taking out the Japanese oil refining, distribution and storage network. Deploying in April 1945 to new airfields built on Guam, crews flew 15 combat missions before the war ended, earning a Distinguished Unit Citation for attacks on the Maruzen oil refinery at Shimotsu, the Utsubo oil refinery at Yokkaichi, and the petroleum center at Kawasaki. 501 BG crews then flew numerous missions airdropping food and supplies for Allied prisoners in POW camps across Japan, Korea, Manchuria and China. The 501 BG inactivated on 10 June 1946.



B-29, 501st Bomb Group

The 701st Tactical Missile Wing was established on 3 August 1956 and activated on 15 September 1956 at Hahn AB, Germany; the history and heritage of the 701 TMW and 501 TMW was consolidated in 1982. The first tactical missile wing in the U.S. Air Force when activated, it replaced the 738d Guided Missile Group (Tactical) and controlled three tactical missile groups, each with TM-61C Matador-equipped missile squadrons. In turn, the wing was inactivated on 18 June 1958 and replaced by 38th Tactical Missile Wing.



TM-61C Matador Missile

Redesignated as the 501st Tactical Missile Wing on 11 January 1982, it was activated on 1 July 1982, at RAF Greenham Common, England, to operate the Gryphon (BGM-109G) Ground Launched Cruise Missile (GLCM). The 501 TMW was inactivated on 31 May 1991 after ratification of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty

resulted in decommissioning of the BGM-109G. The USAF's first GLCM wing when it stood up, it was the also the last GLCM wing to be inactivated.



BGM-109G Gryphon Missile

It was redesignated the 501st Combat Support Wing on 22 March 2005 and activated on 12 May 2005 at RAF Mildenhall, England, to manage and support geographically separated USAF units, installations and activities in the United Kingdom not directly supporting operations at RAF Mildenhall or RAF Lakenheath. Effective 1 May 2007, it relocated to RAF Alconbury.

The 501 CSW oversees four Air Base Groups operating a total of eleven installations and sites across England and Norway; the 420th Air Base Group, RAF Fairford and RAF Welford; the 421st Air Base Group, RAF Menwith Hill; the 422d Air Base Group, RAF Croughton and RAF Blenheim Crescent, and the 423d Air Base Group with RAF Alconbury, RAF Molesworth, RAF Upwood and Stavanger, Norway.

14 Mar 2008

Wing Commanders

Capt Harry L. Young, 27 Jun 1944
 Lt Col Arch G. Campbell, Jr., 6 Jul 1944
 Col Boyd Hubbard, Jr., 11 Aug 1944
 Col Vincent M. Miles, Jr.,
 15 Apr – 20 May 1946
 Not manned, 21 May – 10 Jun 1946
 Lt Col Robert F. Zachmann
 15 Sep 1956
 Col Theodore H. Runyon
 7 Jan 1957 – 18 Jun 1958
 Col Robert M. Thompson, 1 Jul 1982
 Col John Bacs, 25 Jan 1985
 Col William E. Jones, 2 June 1987
 Col Richard P. Riddick, 21 Jul 1988
 Col Wendell S. Brande,
 7 Jan – 31 May 1991
 Col Blake F. Lindner, 12 May 2005
 Col Kimberly K. Toney, 21 Jun 2007

Decorations and Honors

Distinguished Unit Citation (Japan)
 6 – 13 Jul 1945

Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Streamers:
 Air Offensive, Japan
 Eastern Mandates
 Western Pacific

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award:
 15 Sep 1956 – 30 Apr 1958
 1 Jul 1982 – 30 Jun 1984
 1 Jul 1987 – 31 May 1989
 1 Jun 1989 – 31 May 1991

EMBLEM: Quartered Or and Azure, in the second quarter, griffin counterchanged, langued and eyed Gules; in the third a torch between two laurel branches, all counterchanged, all within a diminished bordure Or. Approved 27 July 2005.

501 CSW Units

421st Air Base Group
 RAF Menwith Hill



423d Air Base Group
 RAF Alconbury
 RAF Molesworth
 RAF Upwood
 Stavanger, Norway



420th Air Base Group
 RAF Fairford & RAF Welford

422d Air Base Group
 RAF Croughton
 RAF Blenheim Crescent



501st Combat Support Wing



RAF Alconbury, UK

Col Kimberly K. Toney
 Commander

Col Jan L. Rosko
 Vice-Commander

CMSgt Maria D. Cornelia
 Command Chief

"Action Not Words"