MISSION
The 21st 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 21st 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.

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

LINEAGE
21st 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

Redesignated 21st 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
5th Weather Group, 11 Dec 1945-12 Jul 1946
2nd Weather Wing, 18 Aug 1956-1 Jul 1971
United States Air Forces in Europe, 1 Dec 1997
616th Support Group, 1 Nov 2005

COMMANDERS
Maj Richard J. Kent, 1 May 1943
Col Thomas S. Moorman, 1 Sep 1943
Cpt August W. Throgmorton, 1 Jan 1944
Maj Cullie B. Harris, 5 Jul 1945
Col Wilson H. Neal, 1 Oct 1945
1Lt Donald R. Anderson, 11 Dec 1945
Cpt Francis T. McHenry, May 1946
Cpt Donald J. Wolfe, 18 Aug 1956
LTC Leonard H. Hutchinson, 29 Aug 1956
LTC William E. Kunz, 10 Jun 1958
LTC Lawrence D. Connolly, 26 Jan 1960
LTC Nicholas J. Gavares, Jan 1963
Col Robert F. Neely, Jul 1965
Col Isaac S. Israel, 1 Aug 1968
LTC John A. Samotis, 18 Jun 1971
LTC Ralph Stoffler, 1997
LTC John Murphy, 1999
LTC Carolyn Vadnais, 2001
LTC Tim Hutchison, 2003
LTC John Shepley, 2005
LTC Brian Pukall, 2007
LTC David Andrus, 2009
LTC 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
21st 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)

21st 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.