

3rd RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON (VERY LONG RANGE, PHOTOGRAPHIC)

LINEAGE

3rd photographic Squadron constituted, 15 May 1941
Activated, 10 Jun 1941
Redesignated 3rd Mapping Squadron, 13 Jan 1942
Redesignated 3rd Photographic Mapping Squadron, 9 Jun 1942
Redesignated 3rd Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron (Very Heavy), 19 May 1944
Redesignated 3rd Reconnaissance Squadron (Very Long Range, Photographic-RCM), 19 Sep 1945
Redesignated 3rd Reconnaissance Squadron (Very Long Range, Photographic), 16 Jan 1946
Inactivated, 15 Mar 1947

STATIONS

Maxwell Field, AL, 10 Jun 1941
MacDill Field, FL, 22 Dec 1941
Smoky Hill AAFld, KS, 16 Apr-3 Aug 1944
Saipan, 18 Sep 1944
Guam, 11 Jan 1945-15 Mar 1947

ASSIGNMENTS

1st Photographic (later Mapping; Photographic Charting) Group, 10 Jun 1941
11th Photographic Group, 1 Dec 1943
311th Photographic (later Reconnaissance) Wing, 5 Oct 1944
Twentieth Air Force, 3 Feb-15 Mar 1947

ATTACHMENTS

Twentieth Air Force, 1 Nov 1944
XXI Bomber Command, Dec 1944
Twentieth Air Force, 16 Jul 1945

WEAPON SYSTEMS

F-2, 1942
B-25/F-10, 1942-1944
B-24, 1943-1945
B-17/F-9, 1944, 1946-1947
B-29/F-13, 1944-1947

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

Throughout their period of operation with the Twentieth Air Force, the F-13A's of the 3rd Photo Recon Squadron carried neither aircraft numbers nor letters to identify the individual machine. Soon after entering action, the squadron letter F was painted in black on either side of the vertical fins above the serial presentation of the F-13A's. Subsequently, the F was repeated on either side of the nose on many planes and most had distinctive names and drawings.

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Western Pacific

Air Offensive, Japan

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

None

EMBLEM

Over and through a light turquoise blue disc, border light blue-violet, piped white, a caricatured figure attired in brown flight suit, tan helmet and parachute pack, kneeling on a yellow magic carpet in flight, trimmed orange, fringed yellow-orange, peering over the edge, sighting black triple mapping cameras, and pressing release button with right forefinger, camera at front piercing magic carpet, all in front of a white cloud formation, and emitting white speed lines toward rear; in sinister chief a small black bird. (Approved, 24 Jul 1943)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Mapped areas of the United States, West Indies, and South America, May 1942-Jan 1943; Canada and Alaska, Mar-Jul 1943; India, Burma, and China, Dec 1943-Mar 1944.

Photographic, electronic, and weather reconnaissance in Western Pacific, 1 Nov 1944-Sep 1945.

In 1945, the 3rd PRS also operated a limited number of B-24Js and F-7s, serving as radar reconnaissance, planes to map the location of Japanese radar equipment.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.