

## 14 OPERATIONS GROUP



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

14 Pursuit Group (Fighter) established, 20 Nov 1940  
Activated, 15 Jan 1941  
Redesignated 14 Fighter Group, 15 May 1942  
Inactivated, 9 Sep 1945  
Activated, 20 Nov 1946  
Inactivated, 2 Oct 1949  
Redesignated 14 Fighter Group (Air Defense), 20 Jun 1955  
Activated, 18 Aug 1955  
Discontinued, 25 Jun 1960  
Redesignated 14 Tactical Fighter Group, 31 Jul 1985  
Redesignated 14 Operations Group, 9 Dec 1991  
Activated, 15 Dec 1991

#### STATIONS

Hamilton Fld, CA, 15 Jan 1941  
March Fld, CA, 10 Jun 1941  
Hamilton Fld, CA, 7 Feb-16 Jul 1942  
Fort Dix NJ, 19 Jul 1942-6 Aug 1942  
Atcham, England, 18 Aug-Nov 1942  
Tafaraoui, Algeria, 15 Nov 1942  
Maison Blanche, Algeria, 18 Nov 1942  
Youks-les-Bains, Algeria, 22 Nov 1942  
Berteaux, Algeria, 9 Jan 1943

Mediouna, French Morocco, 5 Mar 1943  
Telergma, Algeria, 5 May 1943  
El Bathan, Tunisia, 3 Jun 1943  
Ste-Marie-du-Zit, Tunisia, 25 Jul 1943  
Triolo Airfield, Italy, 12 Dec 1943  
Lesina, Italy, Sep-9 Sep 1945  
Dow Fld, ME, 20 Nov 1946-2 Oct 1949  
Ethan Allen AFB, VT, 18 Aug 1955-25 Jun 1960  
Columbus AFB, MS, 15 Dec 1991

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

10 Pursuit Wing, 15 Jan 1941  
9 Pursuit Wing, 1 Jun 1941  
IV Bomber Command, 5 Sep 1941  
IV Interceptor (later, IV Fighter) Command, 26 Jan 1942  
6 Fighter Wing, Aug 1942  
XII Fighter Command, 14 Sep 1942  
XII Bomber Command, 11 Dec 1942  
7 Fighter Wing, Jan 1943  
Northwest African Training Command, Feb 1943  
5 Bombardment Wing, May 1943  
Northwest Tactical Air Force, 10 Jul 1943  
5 Bombardment Wing, 14 Jul 1943  
2686 Medium Bombardment Wing (Provisional), 25 Jul 1943  
5 Bombardment Wing, Sep 1943  
306 Fighter Wing, 27 Mar 1944  
305 Fighter Wing, 3 Sep 1944  
305 Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 12 Jun 1945  
Fifteenth Air Force, Sep-9 Sep 1945  
First Air Force, 20 Nov 1946  
14 Fighter Wing, 15 Aug 1947-2 Oct 1949  
4711 Air Defense Wing, 18 Aug 1955  
32 Air Division (Defense), 1 Mar 1956  
Bangor Air Defense Sector, 1 Aug 1958-25 Jun 1960  
14 Flying Training Wing, 15 Dec 1991

### **ATTACHMENTS**

IV Interceptor Command, 17 Oct-Dec 1941

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

P-40, 1941  
P-43, 1941  
P-66, 1941  
P-38F, 1941

P-47, 1946  
P (later, F)-84, 1947  
F-86, 1955  
F-102, 1957  
T-37, 1991  
T-38, 1991  
AT-38, 1993  
T-1, 1996

## COMMANDERS

1LT Troy Keith, 15 Jan 1941



Col Thayer S. Olds (USAAC photo)

Col Thayer S. Olds, 18 Apr 1941  
LTC Troy Keith, 28 Jan 1943  
Col Oliver B. Taylor, 26 Sep 1943  
Col Daniel S. Campbell, 18 Jul 1944  
Col Thomas B. Whitehouse, Mar 1945-unkn  
LTC Lewis W. Chick Jr., 24 Dec 1946  
Col Loring F. Stetson Jr., 7 Jan 1948  
Col George A. McHenry, Jul 1949  
LTC Arvie E. Olson Jr., Aug 1949-unkn  
Col Harry L. Downing, 1955  
Col William J. Hovde, 20 May 1956  
Col John R. Kullman, 14 Jul 1958  
Col Roy D. Carlson, 16-25 Jun 1960  
Col David M. Fore, 15 Dec 1991  
Col John W. Dalton, 5 Oct 1992  
Col Michael L. Gentrup, 29 Jul 1994  
Col Donald J. Hoffman, 19 Oct 1995  
Col David M. Snyder, 7 Feb 1997

Col Olen S. Key, 14 Jan 1999  
Col Russell J. Frasz, 17 Aug 2000  
Col James M. Holmes, 7 Aug 2002  
Col David J. Lewis, 30 Jun 2004  
Col Eric Theisen

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Air Offensive, Europe  
Tunisia; Sicily  
Naples-Foggia  
Rome-Arno  
Normandy  
Northern France  
Southern France  
North Apennines  
Rhineland  
Central Europe  
Po Valley  
Air Combat, EAME Theater

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation  
Austria, 2 Apr 1944

#### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards**

1 Jul 1992-30 Jun 1994  
1 Jul 1999-30 Jun 2001  
1 Jul 2001-30 Jun 2002  
1 Jul 2002-30 Jun 2004  
1 Jul 2004-30 Jun 2006

## **EMBLEM**



14 Fighter Group (Air Defense)

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Trained for fighter operations and patrolled west coast of United States, 1941-1942.

The 14th Pursuit Group (F) GHQ Air Force was activated at Hamilton Field on January 15, 1941, under the command of First Lieutenant Troy Keith. The Group was composed of the 48th Squadron, under the command of Second Lieutenant William E. Fulmer; the 49th Pursuit Squadron, under the command of Second Lieutenant James K. Dowling, and the 50th Pursuit Squadron, under the command of Second Lieutenant Gilbert T. Mullins.

The present organization is the same as when activated. The present commanding officer is Major Thayer S. Olds, with Captain Ronald F. Fallows as Executive Officer and Second Lieutenant Arthur A. McCartan as adjutant. The 48th Pursuit Squadron is under the command of First Lieutenant Troy Keith; the 49th Pursuit Squadron's under the command of First Lieutenant Arman Peterson, and the 50th Pursuit Squadron is under the command of First Lieutenant Frank B. James.

On June 10th, 1941, the 14th Pursuit Group was transferred to March Field, California, and took up operations in Hangars 1 and 2.

The group movement was made by truck convoy and the 520-mile, 22-hour journey was accomplished without mishap.

There followed a hectic period of activity and expansion within the four squadrons, with numerous additions in personnel. Captain Chas. T. Evans became the new administrative Group Adjutant, replacing Second Lieutenant Arthur A. McCartan, but the original executive and squadron commands remained the same.

By September 1941, the organization was approaching full strength, with a roster of 794

enlisted and selective service men and 61 officers.

The first maneuvers engaged in by the 14th Pursuit Group took place at Horseshoe Lake, in the high Sierra Mountains and included combat training under primitive conditions. Each of the four squadrons spent two weeks during the latter part of July, August, and the first part of September, at the maneuver camp. Movements to and from Horseshoe Lake were made by truck convoy.

At the present time the organization is waiting approval from Washington on the 14th Pursuit Insignia.

Moved to England in summer 1942 and began escorting bombers to targets in France.

Deployed to North Africa. Ground echelon left Atcham 30 Oct 1942 and sailed USS Brazil and USS Uruguay from Liverpool. Arrived Oran 10 Nov 1942. Air echelon departed for Portreath 6 Nov 1942 and flew to North Africa 10-14 Nov 1942.

Performed escort, strafing, and reconnaissance missions. During the Allied assault on Pantelleria Island in the Mediterranean Sea, the group flew dive-bombing missions. Provided air support during the Allied invasions of Sicily and Italy. The group moved to Italy in Dec 1943 and flew primarily escort missions for bombers attacking enemy targets in Italy, France, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Rumania, and Bulgaria. On 2 Apr 1944, the 14 Fighter Group earned a Distinguished Unit Citation for escorting bombers attacking ball-bearing and aircraft production facilities at Steyr, Austria. Provided air support for the Allied invasion of southern France in Aug 1944. Besides escorting bombers, the group also flew reconnaissance, strafing, and dive-bombing missions against various enemy targets in southern Europe.

Trained in the United States for fighter operations, 1946-1949, and for interception of enemy aircraft, 1955-1960, converting to jet aircraft between 1957 and 1958.

Since Dec 1991, trained new USAF and Allied pilots in basic flying skills.

From 1993-2000, also provided training in fighter fundamentals, using AT-38s.

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USAF Unit Histories  
Created: 4 Sep 2011  
Updated: 5 Sep 2021

#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.  
Unit History. *10 Pursuit Wing and 45 Air Base. USAAC Hamilton Field, CA. 1941*  
Unit history. *32 Air Division. 1955.*  
Unit yearbook. *March Field Air Base, CA, 1941.* Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1941.