

20th OPERATIONAL WEATHER SQUADRON



LINEAGE

Constituted 20th Weather Squadron and activated, 15 Apr 1943
Disbanded, 31 Oct 1943
Reconstituted, 4 Nov 1944
Activated, 6 Dec 1944
Inactivated, 18 Feb 1957
Activated, 2 Mar 1964
Organized, 8 Jun 1964
Inactivated, 1 Sep 1976
Activated, 1 Jan 1985
Inactivated, 1 Jun 1992
Redesignated 20th Operational Weather Squadron, 13 Jul 2000
Activated, 1 Oct 2000

STATIONS

Cairo, Egypt, 15 Apr - 31 Oct 1943
Sorido Airdrome, Biak Island, Netherlands East Indies, 6 Dec 1944 - 9 May 1945
Fort McKinley, Manila, Luzon, P.I., 9 May 1945-14 Aug 1945
Nichols Field, Luzon, P. I., 14 Aug 1945-2 Nov 1945
Tokyo, Japan, 2 Nov 1945 - 22 May 1946
Yamato Building, Nagoya, Japan, 22 May 1946 - c. Aug 1954
Sumitomo Building, Nagoya, Japan, c. Aug 1954 - c. Apr 1956
Nagoya (later Moriyama) AS, Japan, c. Apr 1956 - 18 Feb 1957
Fuchu AS, Japan, 8 Jun 1964 - 6 Oct 1974
Yokota AB, Japan, 6 Oct 1974 - 1 Sep 1976
Yokota AB, Japan, 1 Jan 1985 - 1 Apr 1992
Hickam AFB, HI, 1 Apr 1992-1 Jun 1992
Yokota AB, Japan, 1 Oct 2000 - Present

ASSIGNMENTS

Ninth Air Force, 15 Apr - 31 Oct 1943
Far East Air Forces Regional Control and Weather Group (Provisional), 6 Dec 1944-20 Sep 1945

1st Weather (later, 21 Oost Air Weather) Group, 20 Sep 1945 - 23 Oct 1949
2143rd Air Weather Wing, 23 Oct 1949-8 Feb-1954
1st Weather Wing, 8 Feb 1954 - 18 Feb 1957
1st Weather Wing, 8 Jun 1964 - 1 Sep 1976
1st Weather Wing, 1 Jan 1985-30 Sep 1991
Pacific Air Forces, 30 Sep 1991-15 Apr 1992
15th Operations Group, 15 Apr 1992 -1 Jun 1992
Fifth Air Force, 1 Oct 2000 - Present

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II
European-African-Middle Eastern Theater
Korean Service

Campaign Streamers

World War II Asiatic-Pacific Theater, New Guinea 1943-1944

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
Mar 1956-Oct 1956
2 Jul 1967-30 Jun 1969
1 Jul 1970-30 Jun 1972
1 Jul 1972-30 Jun 1973
1 Jul 1974-30 Jun 1976
1 Jul 1986-30 Jun 1988

EMBLEM

Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the primary theater of operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The weather satellite symbolizes the mission of the unit to provide support in the atmospheric sciences. The black and light blue background depicts night and day capability. The globe is from the emblem of the parent major command and further depicts global responsibilities. The two stars indicate the services, US Air Force and U.S. Army, that the unit supports by providing meteorological information. Approved on 9 Oct 1986

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

All for One: The 17th Operational Weather Squadron at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, has completed its consolidation of weather units in the Pacific region with the recent inactivation of the 11th OWS at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. The 17th OWS began this consolidation, an effort designed to save money and manpower, in 2006, merging with the 20th OWS formerly at Yokota AB, Japan. Airmen of the 17th now provide all weather support for US Pacific Command, US Forces Korea, PACAF, US Army Pacific Command, PACOM Special Operations Component, and US Pacific Fleet.

The 20th Weather Squadron activated at Cairo, Egypt, on April 15, 1943, and was assigned to the Ninth Air Force, but was soon thereafter disbanded on October 31, 1943. The Army Air Forces again activated the 20th on December 6, 1944, on Biak Island in what was then known as the Netherlands East Indies, today's Indonesia. The 20th absorbed the resources and mission of the 5231st Weather Squadron (Provisional). The 20th was assigned to the Far East Air Forces Weather Group (Provisional) at that time. In May 1945 the squadron moved its headquarters by from Biak Island to Fort McKinley near Manila, Philippines. By the close of July 1945, the squadron had grown to more than 700 men and the headquarters was overseeing the work of 34 weather stations, many of which were in isolated locations. The Army Air Forces Weather Service assumed control of all weather organizations on July 1, 1945, and organized the 20th under the 1st Weather Group on September 20, 1945. Due to congested quarters at Fort McKinley, the 20th's headquarters moved again in August 1945 to nearby Nichols Field.

While headquartered in the Philippines, the 20th lost two men to combat action. Following the capitulation of Japan, the 20th began its long association with Japan. The squadron moved its headquarters to Tokyo on November 2, 1945, and accompanied Headquarters, Fifth Air Force to Nagoya on May 22, 1946. War demobilization caused the 20th to lose personnel rapidly. To accomplish its growing mission, the 20th hired local nationals, employed non-weather officers to oversee some weather stations, and began on-the-job schools to cross-train enlisted men into weather career fields. By late-1946, the 20th was operating weather stations in Japan, China, and Korea. The 20th relinquished control of the China stations in 1947 and the last Korean station was closed in 1949. The squadron came under the leadership of the 2143d Air Weather Wing in 1949. Within three days of North Korean troops crossing into South Korea in June 1950, a detachment of the 20th Weather Squadron was airlifted to Taegu, Korea. The leadership of the 20th Weather Squadron was soon burdened by the growth of detachments both in Korea and Japan to support the war effort. By early November 1950, the 20th was overseeing 27 detachments, eight of which were in Korea, where, on average, one of these detachments relocated every five days. The Air Force activated the 30th Weather Squadron to oversee Korean operations, but the 20th remained deeply involved in the war effort. The 20th was assigned to the newly activated 1st Weather Wing in 1954. The squadron was inactivated on February 18, 1957, but emerged anew at Fuchu Air Station, Japan, on June 8, 1964, where it remained until 1974 when it relocated to Yokota Air Base. Again, it was inactivated in 1976 as part of an Air Weather Service reorganization only to return at Yokota on January 1, 1985. As part of the divestiture of Air Weather Service, the 20th was assigned to Pacific Air Forces in 1991. It relocated to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawai'i, on April 1, 1992, and was inactivated on

June 1. With the reengineering of Air Force Weather the 20th was redesignated an Operational Weather Squadron on July 13, 2000, and activated on October 1. It was assigned to Fifth Air Force and stationed again at Yokota Air Base, Japan

Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

Sources

Unit History. LINEAGE AND HONORS OF THE OPERATIONAL WEATHER SQUADRONS. Air Force Weather History Office. Offutt AFB, NE. Mar 2003.