

23 INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

23 Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron constituted, 14 Jul 1942

Activated, 2 Sep 1942

Redesignated 23 Photographic Squadron (Light), 6 Feb 1943

Redesignated 23 Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 13 Nov 1943

Inactivated, 12 Sep 1945

6947 Electronic Security Squadron activated, 1 Jul 1986

23 Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron and 6947 Electronic Security Squadron consolidated. Redesignated 23 Intelligence Squadron, 1 Oct 1993

Inactivated, 30 Jun 1996

Redesignated 23 Information Operations Squadron, 17 Jul 2000

Activated, 1 Aug 2000

Inactivated, 7 Dec 2011

Redesignated 23 Intelligence Squadron, 4 Aug 2017

Activated, 2 Sep 2017

STATIONS

Colorado Springs, CO, 2 Sep 1942-8 Aug 1943

La Marsa, Tunisia, 8 Sep 1943 (air echelon at La Marsa from 13 Jul 1943; operated from Foggia, Italy, after 18 Nov 1943)

Foggia, Italy, 30 Nov 1943

San Severo, Italy, 10 Dec 1943

Alghero, Sardinia, 2 Feb 1944 (detachment operated from San Severo, Italy, until 17 Feb 1944)

Borgo, Corsica, 14 Jul 1944 (detachment at Le Luc, France, 20 Aug-8 Sep 1944; unit operated there from, 1-7 Sep 1944)

Valence, France, 5 Sep 1944 (detachment operated from Satolas-et-Bonce, France, 7-23 Sep 1944, and from Dijon, France, 23 Sep-8 Oct 1944)

Malignano, Italy, 13 Oct 1944

Florence/Peretola, Italy, 16 Jan 1945

Pomigliano, Italy, 23 Aug-12 Sep 1945

Key West, FL, 1 Jul 1986-30 Jun 1996

Kelly AFB (later, Kelly Field Annex, Lackland AFB), TX, 1 Aug 2000-7 Dec 2011

Lackland Annex, Joint Base Lackland, TX, 2 Sep 2017

ASSIGNMENTS

5 Photographic (later, 5 Photographic Reconnaissance and Mapping; 5 Photographic Reconnaissance; 5 Photographic) Group, 2 Sep 1942

3 Photographic (later, 3 Reconnaissance) Group, 15 Nov 1944-12 Sep 1945

6940 Electronic Security Wing, 1 Jul 1986

Continental Electronic Security Division, 1 Apr 1987

694 Electronic Security Wing, 15 Jul 1988

Continental Electronic Security Division, 1 Jan 1991

693 Intelligence Wing, 1 Oct 1991

67 Intelligence Group, 1 Oct 1993-30 Jun 1996

318 Information Operations Group, 1 Aug 2000

67 Intelligence Group, 1 Oct 1993-30 Jun 1996

318 Information Operations Group, 1 Aug 2000- 7 Dec 2011

655 Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group [AFRC], 2 Sep 2017

ATTACHMENTS

3 Photographic Reconnaissance and Mapping [later, 3 Photographic] Group, 15 Jul-8 Sep 1943, 9 Feb-9 Mar 1944 23 Aug-15 Nov 1944)

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-38/F-5, 1943-1945

COMMANDERS

Lt Marshall Wayne, 6 Sep 1942-20 Oct 1942

Capt Richard Turner, 21 Dec 1942

Capt Emmett C. Cravitt, 12 Jan 1943

Capt Lloyd R. Nuttall, 8 Apr 1943

Maj Hal C. Tunnell, 14 Aug 1943

Maj Lloyd R. Nuttall, 13 Sep 1943

Capt Harry R. Oakley, 7 Feb 1944

Maj George F. Finin, 20 Apr 1944

Maj Milton Hoffman, 1 Jan 1945-12 Sep 1945
Lt Col Peter A. Tortorici, 2 Sep 2017
Lt Col Sarah J. Yoshida, 1 Jun 2019

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Air Offensive Europe, 1942-1944
Naples-Foggia, 1943-1944
Rome-Arno, 1944
Normandy, 1944
Northern France, 1944
Southern France, 1944
North Apennines, 1944-1945
Rhineland, 1944-1945
Central Europe, 1945
Po Valley, 1945
Air Combat, EAME Theater, 1941-1945

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
MTO, 28 Aug 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan 1990-31 Dec 1991
1 Oct 1993-30 Sep 1994
1 Oct 1994-30 Sep 1995
1 Oct 1994-30 Sep 1995
1 Jun 2008-31 May 2009
18 Aug 2009-1 Oct 2010
2 Oct 2010-30 Sep 2011
1 Jan 2017-31 Dec 2018

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award

1 Jun 2003-31 May 2004

French Croix de Guerre with Silver-Gilt Star

15 Aug 1943-15 Oct 1944

EMBLEM



23 Information Operations Squadron emblem: Azure, throughout a spider web Sable charged with a sword palewise point to base, pommel and cross guard Or, hafted of the second, blade steeled Argent braced with two lightning bolts of the third saltirewise between two knight chess pieces in fess respectant, the dexter Black fimbriated White the sinister counterchanged of the like, all within a border Black. Attached below the disc a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "23D INFORMATION OPERATIONS SQUADRON" **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The spider web represents the wisdom, labor and prudence of the unit, as well as the World Wide Web. The sword and lightning bolts signify justice, military honor, and the information warfare aspects of the unit. The knight pieces allude to bravery and strength. (Approved, 15 Nov 2000)



23 Intelligence Squadron emblem: On a disc Azure, a spider web throughout Sable, surmounted by between two chess knight pieces respectant, the dexter of the second edged and detailed Argent, the sinister of the last, edged and detailed Sable, a sword palewise point to base bladed Argent (Silver Gray), handle of the second, hilt and pommel Or, entwined with two lightning bolts of the last in saltire; all within a narrow border Sable. Attached above the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "LIGHTS ON FIGHTS ON" in Black letters. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "23 INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON" in Black letters. **SIGNIFICANCE.** Ultramarine Blue and Air Force Yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The spider web

represents the wisdom, labor and prudence of the unit, as well as the World Wide Web. The sword and lightning bolts signify justice, military honor and the information warfare aspects of the unit. The knight pieces allude to bravery and strength. (Approved, 30 Dec 2021)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

There were two 6947 Electronic Security Squadrons. Per Electronic Security Command special Order GC-7, dated 8 Apr 1986, the 6947 Electronic Security Squadron assigned at Homestead AFB, FL was inactivated on 1 July 1986 and the 6947 Electronic Security Squadron was designated and activated, effective 1 Jul 1986, and assigned at Key West, FL.

23 Information Operations Squadron develops, tests, exercises and trains Air Force tactics, techniques and procedures for network defense of electronic emissions and influence operations.

The 23d Intelligence Squadron, was activated at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland (JBSA), Texas, 02 September 2017. The formal activation ceremony was held at the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, on 08 September 2017. The 23 IS maintained a classic association partnership with the 390th Cyber Operations Squadron (COS) and the 375th COS, both of which were subordinate organizations of the 67 Cyber Wing JBSA.

23d's first commander, Lt Col Peter A. Tortorici, assumed command at the activation ceremony effective 29 August 2016. He relinquished command to Lt Col Sarah J. Yoshida three years later on 01 June 2019.

The emblem of the 23 d Intelligence Squadron was pending approval at the end of 2020, but it was expected to gain official approval at some point in subsequent reporting periods. It was a sword wrapped in two lightning bolts against a background of a spider web with two knight chess pieces in the foreground facing each other. The squadron motto, "Lights on Fights On" was presented in the top scroll. The spider web represented the wisdom, labor and prudence of the unit, as well as the World Wide Web. The sword and lightning bolts signify justice, military honor, and the information warfare aspects of the unit. The knight pieces alluded to bravery and strength.

The 23d Intelligence Squadron continued to deliver premiere Signal Intelligence (SIGINT) analysis, cryptologic language analysis, cyber intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance expertise through a Total Force Integration partnership with the 75 Intelligence Squadron and other units within the 70 ISRW and the 659 ISRG as well as supporting Combatant Command objectives and priorities. Throughout the year they continued to "conduct intelligence operations in and through cyberspace, in order to project power and provide Combatant Commanders options to achieve operational objectives" and "provide SIGINT, targeting, and all-source analysis to Combat Mission & Support Teams. " The most notable accomplishment was the declaration of full operational capability (FOC) in June 2020 by Lt Col Sarah J. Yoshida. This accomplishment was three months ahead of initial projections and less than two years after declaring initial operational capability

(IOC) in September 2018. In the challenge of CO VID-19, the 23 IS engineered a multi-platform toolkit that allowed them to convert to virtual unit training assemblies in June 2020. Through the craftsmanship of several in-house subject matter experts, the 23 IS was able to develop and implement an interactive system that incorporated squadron members into training. Right in line with the new Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen Charles Q. Brown's words, "if we fail to adapt, we risk losing," the 23 IS arranged a method that allowed squadron members to use personal electronic devices such as phones, laptops and tablets to participate in four different game-themed training exercises for intelligence, cyber security, Air Force knowledge, and foreign language knowledge. Every participant was able to view their score as well as that of other players.

During the 2020 election process the 23 IS provided strategic depth to U. S. Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM) and was called to brief the Air Force Reserve Chief of Staff Lt Gen Richard W. Scobee as well as Chief Master Sgt Timothy C. White, Command Chief Master Sergeant of Air Force Reserve on the success of their Total Force Integration (TFI) partnership. As the briefer, SMSgt David Stanford put it to the leaders, "having the opportunity to share their accomplishments with senior leaders is a testament to their hard work and the focus placed on Total Force Integration with our regular Air Force partners."

The 23 IS further highlighted their expertise in the form of awards attained this year. A squadron member earned the prestigious award for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for both the wing and Major Command (MAJCOM). Her award was due, in part, to her work with Air Force Office of Special Investigation (AFOSI) helping them to incorporate cyber operations into the investigative process. Her contributions may have helped her squadron, the 23 IS, earn the 655 ISRW's Unit of the Year award for 2020. In the second and third quarter 23 IS Airmen were recognized with Airmen and NCO of the quarter awards.

The 23 IS continued to support the 70 ISRW by providing highly-qualified members to support to Joint Force Headquarters-Cyber Air Force (JFHQ-C). A 23 IS Deputy Team Lead for a unique Combat Mission Team (CMT) supported the 375th Cyber Operations Squadron (COS) mission by overseeing three operations to support U.S. election security. The member participated in meetings with Regular Air Force partners to coordinate and decide on intelligence collection priorities supporting USCYBERCOM's operational objectives. This 23 IS Airman also completed annual training objectives to maintain mission readiness and met with the 390 COS/DO to discuss future 23 IS support and alignment after the Air Force Cyber Mission Force integration and alignment plan was executed.

Air Force Lineage and Honors
Created: 4 May 2020
Updated:

Sources

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