

## 24 TACTICAL MISSILE SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

40 Bombardment Squadron (Medium) constituted, 20 Nov 1940

Activated, 15 Jan 1941

Redesignated 4 Antisubmarine Squadron (Heavy), 29 Nov 1942

Disbanded, 11 Nov 1943

24 Tactical Missile Squadron constituted, 9 Nov 1956

Activated, 15 Mar 1957

Inactivated, 15 Jul 1958

74 Air Defense Missile Squadron (BOMARC) constituted and activated, 17 Dec 1959 organized,

1 Apr 1960

Inactivated, 30 Apr 1972

4 Antisubmarine Squadron (Heavy) reconstituted and consolidated with 24 Tactical Missile Squadron and 74 Air Defense Missile Squadron (BOMARC), 19 Sep 1985. Consolidated squadron retains 24 Tactical Missile Squadron designation.

### STATIONS

Langley Field, VA, 15 Jan 1941

Orlando AB, FL, 7 Jun 1941

Westover Field, MA, 22 Jan 1942

Langley Field, VA, 16 Jun 1942  
Mitchel Field, NY, 3 Aug 1942 (detachment operated from Guantanamo, Cuba, 30 Aug 1942;  
Vernam Field, Jamaica, 14 Sep 1942; Zanderij Field, Surinam, 9 Oct 1942; Vernam Field,  
Jamaica, 16 Oct-15 Nov 1942)  
Gander Lake, Newfoundland, 6-23 Jun 1943  
St Eval, England, 30 Jun 1943  
Dunkeswell, England, 6 Aug 1943  
Podington, England, Nov-11 Nov 1943  
Orlando AFB, FL, 15 Mar 1957-15 Jul 1958  
Duluth Muni (later, Duluth Int) Aprt, MN, 17 Dec 1959-30 Apr 1972

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

13 Bombardment Group (Medium), 15 Jan 1941 (detachment attached to Caribbean Sea  
Frontier, USN, 30 Aug-9 Oct 1942 and 16 Oct-15 Nov 1942, and to 99th Bombardment  
Squadron, 9-16 Oct 1942)  
25 Antisubmarine Wing, 30 Nov 1942  
AAF Antisubmarine Command, 9 Jun 1943  
479 Antisubmarine Group, 8 Jul-11 Nov 1943  
589 Tactical Missile Group, 15 Mar 1957  
588 Tactical Missile Group, 25 Apr-15 Jul 1958  
Air Defense Command, 17 Dec 1959  
Duluth Air Defense Sector, 1 Apr 1960  
29 Air Division, 1 Apr 1966  
23 Air Division, 19 Nov 1969-30 Apr 1972

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-18, 1941-1943  
B-24, 1943  
None, 1957-1958  
BOMARC, 1961-1972

### **COMMANDERS**

Unkn, 15 Jan 1941-27 Aug 1942  
Maj Frank C. Hockenberry  
Maj Stephen D McElroy, 28 Aug 1942-11 Nov 1943  
1Lt Richard N McNeal, 15 Mar 1957  
Capt Charles H Sheldt, 13 May 1957  
Maj Donald E Dobbins, 25 Jun 1957  
Lt Col Lewis S Norman, 1 Oct 1957  
Maj Dawson K Hargrove, 10 Dec 1957  
Unkn, Jan-15 Jul 1958  
Maj Edward S Fitzgerald, 1 Apr 1960  
Lt Col Gaylord L Fletcher, 1 Apr 1961  
Lt Col Bernard R Sorensen, 1 Jul 1963

Lt Col Charles D Jones, Jul 1967  
Lt Col Wallace N Robinson III, 30 Jan 1969  
Lt Col Richard F Van Saun, 17 Jul 1970-30 Apr 1972

## HONORS

### Service Streamers

### Campaign Streamers

World War Two, Antisubmarine  
Air Offensive Europe

### Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

### Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award  
1 Jan 1968-31 May 1969

## EMBLEM



40 Bombardment Squadron (Medium) emblem: On an irregular white patch edged with black, a brown, green, and black fighting cock with red comb and yellow beak and feet. (Approved, 7 Feb 1942)



24 Tactical Missile Squadron emblem: On a disc of AF blue sky, edged AF golden yellow, fimbriated of the first, a red stylized missile, highlighted white, rising, nose to dexter chief, three stripes of the field encircling the nose, the antenna emitting two AF golden yellow lightning flashes; all between six stars arched of the last, two in dexter chief, four in sinister chief, and the edge of the globe in base, water areas light blue, land areas white; a red and AF golden yellow vapor trail edged white circling over the globe. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem is symbolic of the squadron's mission. The red stylized missile denotes the armament capability of the missile and designates this squadron as a missile unit. The lightning flashes above the missile represent the guidance features of the missile. The three blue stripes around the nose denote the three distinct types of teams authorized in the squadron maintenance and operations branches. The Earth indicates that the missile capabilities are not limited by the geographic features of location. The yellow border symbolizes the organization of the squadron by providing unity to the various functions in the squadron. (Approved, 29 Jul 1957)



## 74 Air Defense Missile Squadron patch

### **MOTTO**

### **OPERATIONS**

The 40th Bombardment Squadron activated in Jan 1941. Eleven months later with the outbreak of war, the squadron flew its B-18s on antisubmarine patrols and to cover friendly convoys off the U.S. east coast. From the last of Aug until mid-Nov 1942, a detachment consisting of six combat crews and supporting ground crews flew antisubmarine patrols from various bases in the Caribbean. The squadron's aircrews transitioned to B-24s in Apr and May 1943 just before moving to Newfoundland. The ground echelon left the United States for Newfoundland but were diverted to England where the aircrews joined them in late Jun. The aircrews flew first B-24 antisubmarine patrol over the East Atlantic on 13 Jul 1943. By the end of Jul, the squadron claimed two subs sunk and another damaged. In Aug, began to fly over the French Bay of Biscay, where the B-24s frequently encountered and fought enemy aircraft, as well as sinking submarines. On 11 Nov 1943, a few days after the last patrol, the 4th Antisubmarine Squadron disbanded.

The 74th Air Defense Missile Squadron organized at Duluth, Minn, on 1 Apr 1960, moved in Jul to the missile site at French River, some 22 miles northeast of Duluth. Received BOMARC B missiles in early 1961 and had first one ready for launch by 18 Aug. Maintained launch ready missiles and trained missile crews until inactivated on 30 Apr 1972.

The 24th Tactical Missile Squadron activated at Orlando AFB, Fla, on 15 Mar 1957 but was not fully manned until 25 Jun. Thereafter engaged in training but never received missiles before inactivation on 15 Jul 1958. The 74th Air Defense Missile Squadron organized at Duluth, Minn, on 1 Apr 1960, moved in Jul to the missile site at French River, some 22 miles northeast of Duluth. Received BOMARC B missiles in early 1961 and had first one ready for launch by 18 Aug. Maintained launch ready missiles and trained missile crews until inactivated on 30 Apr 1972.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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#### Sources

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