

9th SPACE OPERATIONS SQUADRON



LINEAGE

761st Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 19 May 1943
Activated, 1 Jul 1943
Redesignated 761st Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 29 Sep 1944
Inactivated, 26 Sep 1945
Redesignated 9th Reconnaissance Squadron, Very Long Range, Photographic, 29 Apr 1946
Activated, 20 Jun 1946
Inactivated, 20 Oct 1947
Redesignated 9th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Electronics and Weather, 21 Jul 1953
Activated, 11 Nov 1953
Redesignated 9th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Photo-Jet, 15 May 1965
Redesignated 9th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 1 Oct 1966
Inactivated, 31 Aug 1971
Redesignated 9th Space Operations Squadron, 5 Feb 1999
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Oct 1999

STATIONS

Alamogordo AAF, NM, 1 Jul 1943
Kearns AAF, UT, 31 Aug 1943
Chatham AAF, GA, 29 Oct 1943-3 Jan 1944
Spinazzola, Italy, 11 Feb 1944-6 Jun 1945
Waller Field, Trinidad, 15 Jun 1945
Natal, Brazil, 30 Jun-26 Sep 1945
Johnson AB, Japan, 20 Jun 1946
Yokota AB, Japan, Sep 1946-20 Oct 1947
Shaw AFB, SC, 11 Nov 1953
Bergstrom AFB, TX, 1 Sep 1969-31 Aug 1971
Vandenberg AFB, CA, 1 Oct 1999

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Langley AFB, VA, 1 Jun-1 Oct 1959

MacDill AFB, FL, 21 Oct-30 Nov 1962

ASSIGNMENTS

460th Bombardment Group, 1 Jul 1943-26 Sep 1945

314th Composite Wing, 20 Jun 1946-20 Oct 1947

363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 11 Nov 1953

363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 8 Feb 1958

4402nd Tactical Training Group, 1 Jul 1966

363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 1 Feb 1967

75th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 1 Sep 1969

67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 15 Jul-31 Aug 1971

310th Space Group, 1 Oct 1999

ATTACHMENTS

3rd Bombardment Group, c. 25 Sep 1946-21 Apr 1947

71st Reconnaissance Group, 22 Apr-7 May 1947

3rd Bombardment Group, 7 May-20 Oct 1947

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24E, 1943-1945

B-24G

B-24H

B-24J

B-24L

F-7, B-17, 1946

F-2, F-9, 1946-1947

F-13, FB-17, 1947

RB-26, 1954-1956

RT-33, 1955-1956

WT-33, 1956

TB-25, 1956

RB-66B

RB-66C, 1956

WB-66D, 1957

RF-4, 1965-1967, 1969-1971

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

B-24E

42-7103

B-24G

42-78255

42-78467

B-24H
41-28998
42-50950
42-52337
42-52381

B-24J
44-41154

B-24L
44-49708

RB-66C
54-452
55-386

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

RF-4C: BC

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

Cpt Robert L. Spear, Jul 1943
Maj William B. Campbell, Sep 1943
LTC Robert L. Spear, Nov 1943
Maj Henry L. Downey, 19 Jan 1945
Unkn, Apr-26 Sep 1945
Maj Donald C. Surles, 20 Jun 1946
LTC William L. Gray, 24 Jul 1946-20 Oct 1947
LTC Charles A. Callahan, 1 Jan 1954
LTC Robert G. Williams, 14 Oct 1955
LTC Allen S. Webb, 5 Aug 1957
LTC William E. Hanes, 5 Jun 1959
LTC Walter C. Goodson, 18 Feb 1961
Commander Chester E. Kingsbury (USN), 6 Jun 1962
LTC Everett G. Walker, 1 Oct 1963
LTC Duane A. Kuhlmann, 7 Apr 1964
Cpt Henry O. Porter, Jul 1966
Unmanned, 20 Jan 1968-31 Aug 1969
LTC James P. Estes, 1 Sep 1969
LTC Raymond L. Norman, 1 Mar 1970-31 Aug 1971

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Rome-Arno

Southern France

North Apennines

Po Valley

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

Austria, 26 Jul 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

23 Oct-24 Nov 1962

1 Nov 1969-31 May 1971

15 Jul-31 Aug 1971

EMBLEM

9th Reconnaissance Squadron emblem: On a yellow disc, edged black, a stylized hawk of the second in flight toward dexter base. (Approved, 14 Oct 1946)

9th Space Operations Squadron emblem: Azure, an eagle Sable stooping bendwise sinister fimbriated Argent, eyed Gules talons of the first (Silver Gray) highlighted of the like (White) and grasping in each talon a lightning bolt bendwise sinister Or fimbriated of the third; all within a diminished bordure of the first. Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "9th SPACE OPERATIONS SQ" in Blue letters. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "SEMPER SUMMATUM" in Blue letters. 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 eagle symbolizes the control over the high ground maintained by today's aerospace operations. The lightning bolts represent the power which the unit commands. The talons are for the control the unit maintains over that power. The eyes of the eagle allude to the intensity with which the squadron executes the mission. (Approved, 6 May 1999)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

9th Space Operations Squadron operates the Joint Space Operations Center, performing combat

operations, plans, strategy and intelligence assessments enabling the commander, Joint Functional Component Command, Space to command and control space forces by providing worldwide space effects to combatant commanders.

Combat in MTO and ETO, 19 Mar 1944-26 Apr 1945.

During 1953, Tactical Air Command received its first electronic warfare planes, five B-26s and a B-25 modified to carry jammers and receivers. The aircraft were attached to the 9th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron. The planes carried APR-4 and APR-9 receivers, and APA-17 direction finders; some were also fitted with jammers, for the most part APT-Is, and chaff dispensers. Although the unit's war role was to fly Ferret and stand-off jamming missions, it aroused little interest within the command and little was expected of it. The main task assigned to the 9th TRS was to provide jamming training for US radar operators.

Electronic and weather reconnaissance, 1954-1966.

TAC's initial RB-66C, received at Shaw AFB in 1956 was assigned to the 9th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron. Only a few more of the aircraft were delivered before mid-year, but by the end of December, more than half of the RB-66C contingent had reached the Air Force. Although the aircraft's initial all-weather capability was limited, arrival of the RB-66Bs permitted the long overdue replacement of the RB-26s, and speeded phase-out in early 1957 of the RB-57As.

The spring delivery of 3 interim WB-66Ds to the 9th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron was an important milestone for the Tactical Air Command. The synoptic weather mission, which covered a large geographical area simultaneously, was a relatively new development within the command. Theoretically, a few modified T-33 trainers constituted TAC's weather reconnaissance fleet. In reality, these planes awaited delayed equipment kits. Because of the obsolescence of the WB-26s, TAC flew the partially equipped T-33s to gather high-altitude weather information, relying essentially on the data observed by the aircraft's back-seat weatherman. Although the early WB-66Ds did not meet all of TAC's needs, their arrival did signify a long overdue operational improvement.

World-wide deployment capabilities were still being tested when, on Feb. 15, 1961, three WB-66 aircraft of the 9th TRS and eight RF-101 aircraft of the 29th TRS deployed in support of "Operation Long Pass." This exercise was conducted by units of the Strategic Army Corps and the Composite Air Strike Force at Clark AB, Stotsenberg Training Area, Philippines.

10 March 1961 RB-66C 54-0471, of the 9th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, suffers explosion in starboard engine on climb-out from Shaw AFB, South Carolina, and attempts emergency landing in zero-zero visibility weather at Donaldson AFB at Greenville, South Carolina. On second attempt, aircraft strikes embankment to right of runway threshold, slides onto airfield, burns. Crew escapes with only minor injuries.

Flew classified film during Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962.

Routinely deployed aircraft and crews to SEA, 1965-1966.



Air Force Order of Battle
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.