

57 WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON



LINEAGE

399 Fighter Squadron constituted, 26 May 1943
Activated, 1 Aug 1943
Redesignated 399 Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 5 Apr 1944
Redesignated 399 Fighter Squadron, 5 Apr 1944
Redesignated 57 Reconnaissance Squadron (Weather), 7 Jul 1945
Inactivated, 25 Jan 1946
Redesignated 57 Reconnaissance Squadron (Very Long Range, Weather), 3 Jul 1947
Activated in the reserve, 1 Aug 1947
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949
Redesignated 57 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron (Medium, Weather), 22 Jan 1951
Activated, 21 Feb 1951
Redesignated 57 Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, 15 Feb 1954
Inactivated, 18 Oct 1958
Activated, 8 Feb 1962
Organized, 16 Feb 1962

STATIONS

Hamilton Field, CA, 1 Aug 1943
Redding AAFld, CA, 1 Nov 1943
Hamilton Field, CA, 16 Mar 1944
DeRidder AAB, LA, 28 Mar 1944
Stuttgart AAFld, AR, 8 Feb 1945
Will Rogers Field, OK, 21 Jul 1945

Rapid City AAFld, SD, 29 Jul 1945-25 Jan 1946
Hamilton Field, CA, 1 Aug 1947-27 Jun 1949
Hickam AFB, TH, 21 Feb 1951-18 Oct 1958
Kirtland AFB, NM, 16 Feb 1962
Avalon Aprt, Australia, 30 Sep 1962
Hickam AFB, HI, 15 Sep 1965

ASSIGNMENTS

369 Fighter Group, 1 Aug 1943
Third Air Force, 7 Jul 1945
IIIrd Reconnaissance Command, 21 Jul 1945-25 Jan 1946
70 Reconnaissance Group, 1 Aug 1947-27 Jun 1949
Air Weather Service, 21 Feb 1951
2142 Air Weather Wing, 20 May 1952
2143 Air Weather Wing, 20 May 1952
1st Weather Wing, 8 Feb 1954-18 Oct 1958
Military Air Transport Service, 8 Feb 1962
9 Weather Reconnaissance Group, 16 Feb 1962
9 Weather Reconnaissance Wing, 8 Jul 1965

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-39, 1943-1944
A-36, 1944
P-40, 1944-1945
B-25, 1945
P-61, 1945
WB-29, 1951-1956
WB-50, 1956-1958
B-57, 1962

COMMANDERS

Cpt Charles W. Hoffman, 5 Aug 1943
Cpt Albert S. Kelly, 7 May 1944
Cpt Gentry R. Plunkett, 17 Nov 1944
Maj Douglas H. Buskey, 21 Nov 1944
Maj Raymond L. Calloway, 25 Jun 1945
Maj Robert E. Williams, Jul 1945
Cpt Clinton H. Deardorff, 6 Nov 1945
1lt Hamilton S. Hering, 2 Jan 1946
Lt Col Chase, Aug 1947
Lt Col Fred C. Simpson, 21 Feb 1951
Lt Col Lawrence Cometh, Dec 1952
Lt Col Templeton S. Walker, 11 Jan 1954
Lt Col Lawrence Cometh, 28 May 1954

Lt Col Templeton S. Walker, 9 Jun 1954
Lt Col John H. Conrad, Aug 1956
Col Paul Palmer, 16 Feb 1962
Maj John Cooper, 7 May 1962
Lt Col Thomas A. Aldrich, 26 Aug 1962
Lt Col John Horn, 15 Sep 1965
Lt Col William Evans, 11 Jun 1967
Lt Col William Payton, 4 Apr 1969

HONORS

Service Streamers

American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

Mar-Oct 1956

1 Jul 1967-30 Jun 1968

EMBLEM



399 Fighter Squadron emblem approved, 26 Jun 1944

57 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron (Medium) Weather emblem: The outer circle is orange representing early morning and setting sun, symbolic of the long dawn to dark weather reconnaissance flights which are the mission of the squadron Between the outer orange circle and the inner blue circle is a narrow white ring representing the global aspects of reconnaissance

operations. The inner circle is blue the color of the sky and the ocean which is the double home of the Petrels, the bird for which the squadron's flights are named. The Shearwater is one species of the Petrels which fly the oceans of the world from 85 degrees north to 85 degrees south latitude. (Approved, 2 March 1953)



57 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron (Medium, Weather) emblem On a background of sky to suggest the primary theater of operations for the USAF, a representation of the earth indicates the global aspect of the mission. The constellation, Southern Cross indicates the area of responsibility, and the large star pointing south suggests the high altitudes of the missions that are flown in the southern skies. The airfoil representing the jet aircraft flown by the squadron is suggestive of a boomerang a weapon in common use in the southern hemisphere. It bears a symbol representing the chemical and physical elements of the atmosphere. A wide border of red encircles the emblem to represent the unit's mission of sampling the atmosphere of radioactive nuclear particles. The outer circle is orange representing early morning and setting sun, symbolic of the dawn to dark scope of the squadron's weather reconnaissance mission. Between the outer orange circle and the inner blue circle is a narrow white ring representing the global aspects of reconnaissance operations. The inner circle is blue the color of the sky and the ocean which is the double home of the wedge tailed Shearwater on whose back Donald Duck is riding. The Shearwater represents unit aircraft who environment is also the sky over the oceans of the world. Donald Duck reading the thermometer and noting the reading on a pad represents, of course an aerial weather observer performing the primary squadron mission of observing and recording weather data.



57 Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (Medium, Weather) emblem: On a medium blue disc edged white, within a wide red border, the top of a white globe issuing from base, grid lines black, below four white stars in sinister forming the constellation, Southern Cross, and a large black and white star issuing from dexter chief; over all, the tips of its wings invading the border in sinister chief and in sinister base, an Air Force golden yellow swept-wing airfoil in flight to dexter charged with a tortoise encircled by three black orbits; outlines and details black throughout. (Approved, 12 Sep 1962)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Air defense and replacement training until Mar 1944, and afterward replacement training plus air support for army maneuvers until Jul 1945.

1958 Changes Organizationally, the AWS experienced a reduction in the number of reconnaissance squadrons during the last half of 1958. Air Force manpower reductions had resulted in a special USAF "Manpower Reduction Working Group" which had decided that the AWS should lose two of its reconnaissance squadrons. The AWS drafted a proposal which conformed to the spirit, if not the letter, of the working group's recommendation, calling for the inactivation of the 57 and 58th Squadrons with transfer of most of their personnel and aircraft to the 55th WRS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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