

## 96 FLYING TRAINING SQUADRON



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

96 Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) constituted, 13 Jan 1942  
Activated, 9 Feb 1942  
Redesignated 96 Pursuit Squadron (I) (Twin-Engine), 22 Apr 1942  
Redesignated 96 Fighter Squadron (Twin-Engine), 15 May 1942  
Redesignated 96 Fighter Squadron, Two-Engine, 28 Feb 1944  
Inactivated, 9 Sep 1945  
Activated, 12 Apr 1947  
Redesignated 96 Fighter Squadron, Single-Engine, 15 Aug 1947  
Inactivated, 2 Oct 1949  
Redesignated 96 Fighter Interceptor Squadron, 11 Sep 1952  
Activated, 1 Nov 1952  
Inactivated, 8 Jan 1958  
Redesignated 96 Flying Training Squadron, 22 Jun 1972  
Activated, 1 Feb 1973  
Inactivated, 26 Jun 1992  
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Apr 1998

### STATIONS

Harding Field, LA, 9 Feb 1942  
Muroc, CA, 30 Apr 1942  
Glendale, CA, 18 May-16 Sep 1942  
Eglinton, Northern Ireland, 5 Oct 1942

Tafaraoui, Algeria, 24 Dec 1942  
Telergma, Algeria, 1 Jan 1943  
Berteaux, Algeria, 1 Apr 1943  
Souk-el-Arba, Algeria, 13 Jun 1943  
Grombalia, Tunisia, 4 Aug 1943 (operated from Maddalina, Sicily, 6-18 Sep 1943)  
San Pancrazio, Italy, c. 3 Oct 1943  
Lecce, Italy, 10 Oct 1943  
Vincenzo Airfield, Italy, 11 Jan 1944  
Lesina, Italy, c. 30 Aug-9 Sep 1945  
Grenier Field (later, AFB), NH, 12 Apr 1947-2 Oct 1949  
New Castle Aprt, DE, 1 Nov 1952-8 Jan 1958  
Williams AFB, AZ, 1 Feb 1973-26 Jun 1992  
Laughlin AFB, TX, 1 Apr 1998

#### **DEPLOYED STATIONS**

Ladd AFB, AK, 4 Apr-29 Jun 1948

#### **ASSIGNMENTS**

82 Pursuit (later, 82 Fighter) Group, 9 Feb 1942-9 Sep 1945  
82 Fighter Group, 12 Apr 1947-2 Oct 1949  
4710 Defense Wing, 1 Nov 1952  
525 Air Defense Group, 16 Feb 1953  
82 Fighter Group, 18 Aug 1955-8 Jan 1958  
82 Flying Training Wing, 1 Feb 1973  
82 Operations Group, 15 Dec 1991-26 Jun 1992  
340 Flying Training Group, 1 Apr 1998

#### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

P-38, 1942-1945  
P (later, F)-51, 1947-1949  
F-94, 1952-1957  
T-37, 1973-1992  
T-37, 1998  
T-38, 1998  
T-1, 1998

#### **COMMANDERS**

Unkn, 9 Feb-30 Apr 1942  
Cpt Roy M. Loe, 1 May 1942  
1LT F. P. Jenks, 24 May 1942  
Maj Harley C. Vaughn, 16 Jul 1942  
Cpt Raymond H. Lynn, 25 Jun 1943  
Maj Buddy A. Strozier, 2 Jul 1943  
Maj Donald L. Perry, 29 Sep 1943

Maj Clayton M. Isaacson, 21 Mar 1944  
Maj Richard E. Willsie, Aug 1944  
LTC Charles P. Hardy, Feb 1945  
LTC Franklin H. MacNaughton, May-5 Sep 1945  
None (not manned), 12 Apr-15 Jun 1947  
Maj William F. Wilkerson, 16 Jun 1947  
Maj George L. Jones, Jul-2 Oct 1949  
LTC Jack C. West, 1 Nov 1952



Maj James M. Thomas (USAF photo)

Maj James M. Thomas, Jan 1953  
Maj John F. Ambrecht, Aug 1954  
Maj Dwaine A. Sandborn, Nov 1955  
LTC McClung, 1956  
LTC Herbert L. Phillips, Jul 1956  
Maj Robert B. Moorhead, 1957-8 Oct 1957  
None (not manned), 8 Oct 1957-8 Jan 1958  
Col Russell C. Roberts Jr., 1 Feb 1973  
LTC Richard A. Griffin, 12 Feb 1974  
Lt Col Albert R. Langford Jr., 15 Jun 1975  
LTC Bache, by Jun 1976  
LTC Duane G. Divich, Jun 1977  
LTC Benny J. Atkins, 27 Jun 1979  
LTC Robert J. W. Desanto Jr., 12 Mar 1981  
LTC Gerald M. Bergeman, 10 Dec 1981  
LTC Robert M. Negley Jr., 23 Jul 1983  
LTC William C. Henny, 24 May 1985  
LTC Ernest J. Houghton, 26 Jul 1986  
LTC Wolfgang E. K. Gesch, 19 Jul 1988  
LTC Linwood N. Chayer, 2 Jul 1990-26 Jun 1992  
LTC Julie Tizard, 1 Apr 1998  
Lt Col John O'Connor

Lt Col Glenn J. Larsen  
Lt Col Kenneth A. Mattison  
Lt Col James H. Smetzer  
LTC George Fenimore  
Maj William F. Wilkerson  
Maj George L. Jones

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Air Offensive, Europe  
Tunisia  
Sicily  
Naples-Foggia  
Rome-Arno  
Normandy  
Northern France  
Southern France  
North Apennines  
Rhineland  
Central Europe  
Po Valley  
Air Combat, EAME Theater

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
Italy, 25 Aug 1943  
Italy, 2 Sep 1943  
Ploesti, Rumania, 10 Jun 1944

#### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards**

1 Jan 1978-30 Apr 1979  
1 May 1983-30 Apr 1985  
1 Jun 1989-31 May 1991

## **EMBLEM**



## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

Slugging Desert Jack Rabbits

## **OPERATIONS**

The 96 Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) was activated on 9 February 1942 at Harding Field, Louisiana flying the P-38 "Lightning." The unit moved to Muroc, California then Glendale, California to begin training for World War II and was redesignated the 96 Fighter Squadron (Twin Engine) on 15 May 1942. The unit deployed to Northern Ireland on 5 October 1942 and started flying combat missions in the European Theater of Operations.

In December 1942, the 96 moved to North Africa flying combat missions throughout Algeria and Tunisia in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations. The unit then relocated back to the European continent flying fighter missions throughout Italy, France, Rumania and Germany. After the war was won, the squadron was deactivated in September 1945.

In August 1947, the squadron was redesignated the 96 Fighter Squadron, Single Engine, flying the P-51 "Mustang" from Grenier Field, New Hampshire. The unit deployed to Ladd AFB, Alaska and was deactivated in October 1949.

On 11 September 1952, the unit was reactivated as the 96 Fighter-Interceptor Squadron flying the F-94 out of New Castle Airport, Delaware.

The 96 Fighter Interceptor Squadron was the largest user of the F-94 as an operational squadron, as they had the dual role of being the F-94 Operational Training Unit, OTU, having had a total of fifty examples assigned to them at one time or another. In this capacity, in addition to air defense duties, they instructed the new Moody AFB graduates in the finer points of being an interceptor crew. The difference between how to do it the Air Training Command way, and how to do it in reality, and stay alive in the process.

On 22 June 1972, the unit was redesignated the 96 Flying Training Squadron (FTS) at Williams AFB, Arizona flying the T-37 aircraft. The 96 FTS trained USAF and foreign student pilots in all phases of primary Undergraduate Pilot Training. The 96 FTS was the first flying squadron to train women Air Force pilots in 1977. The 96 FTS was deactivated on 26 June 1992.

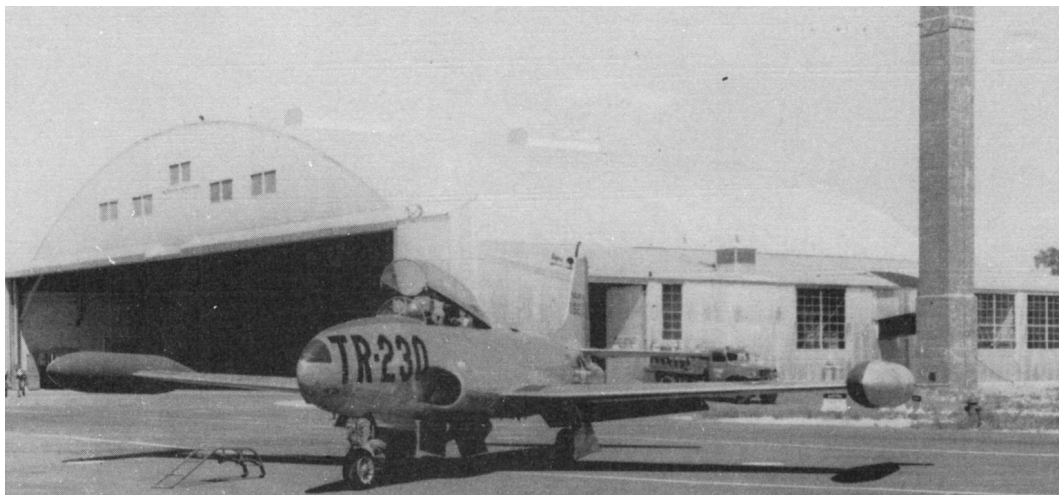
On 1 April 1998, the squadron was reactivated as the 96 Flying Training Squadron, Laughlin AFB, Texas as a Reserve Associate Squadron, Air Force Reserve Command. The 96 FTS was the first squadron in the Air Force with Instructor Pilots teaching SUPT student pilots in all three trainer aircraft - the T-37, T-38 and T-1. In December of 2004, the 47th Flying Training Wing completed the transition from T-37 aircraft to the T-6 Texan II.



Squadron F-94s on the flightline. (USAF photo)



Refueling an F-94 (USAF photo)



Squadron T-33 (USAF photo)

---

#### USAF Unit Histories

Created: 28 Aug 2010

Updated: 10 Apr 2017

#### 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.

Unit yearbook. *82 Fighter Group, Nineteen Forty-nine*. Robert W. Kelly Publishing Corporation. New York. 1949.

Unit yearbook. *4710 Defense Wing*. Taylor Publication Co. Dallas, TX. Nd.

Unit yearbook. *26 Air Division, Defense*. 1956.