

97th INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON



MISSION

Provides RC-135 reconnaissance and combat support aircrews in response to national requirements and in support of military commanders during contingencies and crises. Directly supports the Air Force in advanced signals research and development. Provides logistic support to AIA ground and airborne support equipment and phase maintenance on major airborne weapons systems

LINEAGE

97th Aero Squadron organized, 20 Aug 1917

Demobilized, 3 Feb 1919

97th Observation Squadron constituted and activated, 1 Mar 1935

97th Aero Squadron reconstituted and consolidated with the 97th Observation Squadron, 1936.

Consolidated unit designated 97th Observation Squadron

Redesignated 97th Observation Squadron (Medium), 13 Jan 1942

Redesignated 97th Observation Squadron, 4 Jul 1942

Redesignated 97th Reconnaissance Squadron (Fighter), 2 Apr 1943

Redesignated 97th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 11 Aug 1943

Disbanded, 15 Apr 1944

6949th Security Squadron designated and activated, 1 Mar 1979

Redesignated 6949th Electronic Security Squadron, 1 Aug 1979

Redesignated 6949th Electronic Security Group, 1 Jan 1980
Redesignated 6949th Electronic Security Squadron, 1 Aug 1981

97th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron reconstituted and consolidated with the 6949th Electronic Security Squadron. Consolidated unit redesignated 97th Intelligence Squadron, 1 Oct 1993

STATIONS

Kelly Field, TX, 20 Aug 1917
Garden City, NY, 11-27 Oct 1917
Clermont-Ferrand, France, 15 Nov 1917
St Nazaire, France, 22 Dec 1918-10 Jan 1919
Garden City, NY, 22 Jan-3 Feb 1919
Mitchel Field, NY, 1 Mar 1935
Lawson Field, GA, 20 Nov 1940
Miami Muni Aprt, FL, 15 Dec 1941 (flight at Lawson Field, GA, to 15 Apr 1942)
Tullahoma, TN, 9 Sep 1942
Morris Field, NC, 8 Nov 1942
Pope Field, NC, 31 Jan 1943
Camp Campbell, KY, 5 Apr 1943
Aiken AAFld, SC, 22 Jun 1943
Morris Field, NC, 29 Aug 1943
Thermal AAFld, CA, 20 Sep 1943-15 Apr 1944
Offutt AFB, NE, 1 Mar 1979

ASSIGNMENTS

Unkn, 20 Aug-Nov 1917
Seventh Aviation Instruction Center, Nov 1917-Dec 1918
Unkn, Dec 1918-3 Feb 1919
Second Corps Area, 1 Mar 1935
IV Army Corps (flight assigned to Infantry School), 2 Oct 1940
66th Observation (later, 66th Reconnaissance; 66th Tactical Reconnaissance) Group, 1 Sep 1941
(flight attached to Infantry School to 6 Apr 1942)
76th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 23 Aug 1943-15 Apr 1944
USAF Security Service (later, Electronic Security Command), 1 Mar 1979
Electronic Security, Strategic, 1 Aug 1981
694th Electronic Security Wing, 15 Jul 1988
Continental Electronic Security Division, 1 Jan 1991
693rd Intelligence Wing, 1 Oct 1991
67th Intelligence Group, 1 Oct 1993
55 Operations Group effective 1 October 2002

WEAPON SYSTEMS

O-1

O-1G
O-39
O-31
Y10-40
O-40
O-43
O-46,
O-46A
O-47, 1938-1942
O-47B
O-49
O-52
O-57
P-39, 1942-1944
P-39D
P-39L
P-39N
P-39Q
A-20
DB-7
L-1
L-4
L-4A
P-40
P-40F
P-43

COMMANDERS

Maj George E. Rice, 1 Mar 1935
Cpt Paul T. Cullen, 4 Dec 1935
Cpt Arthur J. Lehman, 9 Dec 1935
Cpt Paul T. Cullen, 29 Feb 1936
Maj George C. McDonald, 5 Mar 1936
Cpt Arthur J. Lehman, 4 Aug 1937
Maj Charles A. Horn, 4 Sep 1937
1Lt Stuart P. Wright, 3 Aug 1938
Maj George C. Kenney, 2 Sep 1938
Cpt Donald W. Titus, 1 May 1939
Maj Morton H. McKinnon, 1 Jul 1939
Maj Herbert B. Thatcher, Nov 1940
Unknown, Feb 1941-7 Dec 1941
LTC Robert E. Albright

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War I Theater of Operations

Campaign Streamers

World War II American Theater

Antisubmarine 1941-1945

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1983-30 Jun 1985

1 Jan 1990-31 Dec 1991

1 Oct 1993-30 Sep 1994

1 Oct 1994-30 Sep 1995

EMBLEM



97th Observation Squadron emblem: On a yellow disc within a red border the implements of observation aviation (radio ear phones, a pair of binoculars, a radio set, aerial camera, two microphones), all in black and white, so arranged to suggest a skeleton. (Approved, 19 Oct 1936)



6949th ESS emblem

97th Intelligence Squadron emblem: On a disc Or, within an annulet Gules, the implements of observation aviation (radio ear phones, a pair of binoculars, a radio set, aerial camera and two microphones), all Argent, detailed Sable, arranged as to suggest a skeleton, all within a narrow border Red. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Red border and inscribed "97TH INTELLIGENCE SQ" in Red 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. Yellow and red are the colors of the historic 97th Observation Squadron. The design symbolizes the basic purpose of observation aviation-- to observe, record and report with deadly effect. (Approved, 3 Aug 1982)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Maintained and repaired aircraft, 1917-1918.

20 August 1917, Kelly Field, Texas. This barren airfield saw the birth of what was to become one of the finest intelligence units ever formed. On this day, the 97th Aero Squadron was brought into being and was an active participant in two World Wars until it was finally disbanded in 1943.

Antisubmarine patrols, 18 Dec 1941-Sep 1942; trained, and supported ground forces on maneuvers, Sep 1942-Apr 1944.

It is fitting that the heart and soul of ESC's airborne program is in the heartland of the country, Omaha, Neb. The 6949th ESS at Offutt AFB in Omaha is proud to carry the banner "Home of ESC Airborne Operations."

Formed in 1965, the mission of the 6949th is extremely diverse, and whether it's command, control and communications countermeasures, special operations or communications maintenance of all of ESC's airborne equipment, the more than 300 officers and airmen of the Fighting '49th live up to their motto and "Handle It."

The 6949th has a history of strong showing in Offutt intramural sports competition, winning the commander's trophy twice in the last three years. The unit has been awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with two oak-leaf clusters, also winning the 1986 Maintenance Effectiveness Award for category I units.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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