

49th OPERATIONS GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

49th Pursuit Group (Interceptor) established, 20 Nov 1940
Activated, 15 Jan 1941
Redesignated 49th Fighter Group, 15 May 1942
Redesignated 49th Fighter Group, Single Engine, 20 Aug 1943
Redesignated 49th Fighter Group, 6 Nov 1944
Redesignated 49th Fighter-Bomber Group, 1 Feb 1950
Inactivated, 10 Dec 1957
Redesignated 49th Tactical Fighter Group, 31 Jul 1985
Redesignated 49th Operations Group, 1 Nov 1991
Activated, 15 Nov 1991

STATIONS

Selfridge Field, MI, 15 Jan 1941
Morrison Field, FL, c. 23 May 1941-5 Jan 1942
Camp Darley (near Melbourne), Australia, 2 Feb 1942
Bankstown, Australia, 16 Feb 1942
Brisbane, Australia, 7 Apr 1942
Darwin, Australia, 17 Apr 1942
Port Moresby, New Guinea, 9 Oct 1942
Dobodura, New Guinea, Mar 1943
Gusap, New Guinea, 20 Nov 1943
Finschhafen, New Guinea, 19 Apr 1944
Hollandia, New Guinea, 17 May 1944

Biak, 5 Jun 1944; Tacloban, Leyte, 24 Oct 1944
San Jose, Mindoro, 30 Dec 1944
Lingayen, Luzon, c. 25 Feb 1945
Okinawa, 16 Aug 1945
Atsugi AB, Japan, 15 Sep 1945
Chitose AB, Japan, 18 Feb 1946
Misawa AAB (later, AB), Japan, 31 Mar 1948-23 Jan 1950
Itazuke AB, Japan, 9 Jul 1950
Taegu AB, South Korea, 1 Oct 1950
Kunsan AB, South Korea, 1 Apr 1953
Komaki AB, Japan, 2 Nov 1953
Nagoya AB (later, Nagoya Air Stn; Moriyama Air Stn), Japan, 16 Sep 1954
Misawa AB, Japan, 1 Jun-9 Dec 1957
Etain/Rouvres AB, France, 10 Dec 1957
Holloman AFB, NM, 15 Nov 1991

ASSIGNMENTS

GHQ Air Force, 15 Jan 1941
Third Air Force, 24 May 1941
III Interceptor Command, 2 Oct 1941
Allied Air Forces, Southwest Pacific Area, Feb 1942
Fifth Air Force, 10 Oct 1942
V Fighter Command, 11 Nov 1942
85th Fighter Wing, 19 Apr 1944
308th Bombardment Wing, 5 Jun 1944
86th Fighter Wing, 11 Jul 1944
V Fighter Command, 11 Aug 1944
309th Bombardment Wing, 21 Aug 1944
86th Fighter Wing, 22 Aug 1944
308th Bombardment Wing, 26 Sep 1944
V Fighter Command, 8 Dec 1944
V Bombardment Command, 10 Nov 1945
314th Composite Wing, 1 Jun 1946
49th Fighter (later, 49th Fighter-Bomber) Wing, 18 Aug 1948-10 Dec 1957
49th Fighter Wing, 15 Nov 1991

ATTACHMENTS

III Interceptor Command, 9 Aug-1 Oct 1941
8th Fighter-Bomber Wing, 7 Aug-30 Sep 1950
6149th Tactical Support Wing, 1 Oct-30 Nov 1950
58th Fighter-Bomber Wing, 16-31 Mar 1953
Japan Air Defense Force, 2 Nov 1953-31 Aug 1954
Fifth Air Force, 1 Sep 1954-15 Apr 1957

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-35, 1941
P-40, 1941-1944
P-47, 1943-1944
P-38, 1943, 1944-1946
P-51, 1946-1950
F-80, 1948-1951
F-84, 1951-1957
F-86, 1956-1957
F-100, 1957
F-15, 1991-1992
F-4, 1992
F-117, 1992
AT-38, 1992-1997
T-38, 1993
HH-60, 1993-1999
F-117, 1992-2008
AT-38, 1992-1997
T-38, 1993
HH-60, 1993-1999
F-22, 2008
MQ-1, 2009
MQ-9, 2009

COMMANDERS

Maj John F. Egan, 16 Jan 1941
Maj George McCoy Jr., 2 May 1941
Col Paul B. Wurtsmith, 11 Dec 1941
Col Donald R. Hutchinson, 11 Nov 1942
LTC Robert L. Morrissey, 30 Jan 1943
Col James C. Selman, Jul 1943
LTC David A. Campbell, Jan 1944
LTC Furlo S. Wagner, 9 Jun 1944
Col George A. Walker, 19 Jul 1944
LTC Gerald R. Johnson, 10 Mar 1945
LTC Clay Tice Jr., 16 Jul 1945
LTC Wallace R. Jordan, 2 Feb 1946
LTC Charles H. Terhune Jr., late Feb 1946
Col Herbert L. Grills, 25 Mar 1946
Col Merrill D. Burnside, 20 Jul 1946
LTC Clay Tice Jr., 11 Sep 1946
Col Louis R. Hughes Jr., 1 Sep 1947
LTC Robert E. Kirtley, 18 Aug 1948
LTC Niven K. Cranfill, 11 Mar 1949

LTC John R. Murphy, 1 Sep 1949
LTC James A. Rippin, 31 Oct 1949
Col Wilbur H. Stratton, 10 Nov 1949
LTC Stanton T. Smith Jr., 20 Jan 1950
LTC John R. Murphy, 21 Oct 1950
LTC Leland P. Molland, 10 May 1951
Col Wilbur J. Grumbles, 20 May 1951
Col William L. Mitchell, 4 Nov 1951
LTC Gordon F. Blood, 20 May 1952
Col Charles G. Teschner, summer of 1952
Col Robert H. Orr, Sep 1952
Col Richard N. Ellis, 17 Jan 1953
Col Charles G. Teschner, 1 Apr 1953
Col Gilbert L. Pritchard, Aug 1953
Col Leon G. Lewis, 11 Jun 1956
None (not manned), 15 Apr-10 Dec 1957
Col Frank B. Campbell, 15 Nov 1991
Col Robert C. Huff, 3 Apr 1992
Col Arthur P. Weyermuller, 9 Apr 1993
Col John W. Rosa Jr., 3 May 1995
Col Kurt A. Cichowski, 18 Aug 1995
Col Kevin W. Smith, 21 Jul 1997
Col John A. Snider, 18 Jun 1999
Col Charles G. C. Treadway, 3 Jul 2001
Col Andrew W. Papp, 7 Apr 2003
Col Matthew P. McKeon, 18 Aug 2004
Col John K. Forsythe Jr, 30 Jun 2006
Col Michael P. Stapleton, 3 Jul 2008
Col Kevin A. Huyck, 9 Jul 2010

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

East Indies

Air Offensive, Japan

China Defensive

Papua

New Guinea

Bismarck Archipelago

Western Pacific

Leyte; Luzon

China Offensive

Korea

UN Defensive

UN Offensive

CCF Intervention

First UN Counteroffensive

CCF Spring Offensive

UN Summer-Fall Offensive

Second Korean Winter

Korea Summer-Fall 1952

Third Korean Winter

Korea Summer 1953

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Australia, 14 Mar-25 Aug 1942

Papua, [Oct] 1942-23 Jan 1943

Philippine Islands, 27 Oct-7 Dec 1944

Korea, [Jun]-25 Nov 1950

Korea, 9 Jul-27 Nov 1951

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jun 1995-31 May 1997

1 Jun 1998-31 May 1999

2 May 2004-31 May 2005

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations

[Jun] 1950-7 Feb 1951

8 Feb 1951-31 Mar 1953

EMBLEM



MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

In 1941, the group trained in the United States for tactical operations. Provided air defense for northern Australia after moving there in early 1942. Earned a Distinguished Unit Citation for engaging the enemy in frequent and intense aerial combat while operating with limited materiel and facilities, 14 Mar-25 Aug 1942. In New Guinea, flew air defense missions against a Japanese offensive toward Port Moresby and escorted bombers and transports. In Mar 1943, took part in the Battle of the Bismarck Sea. Interdicted enemy installations, supply lines, and troop concentrations in support of Allied ground forces that eventually pushed the Japanese out of New Guinea. Covered

Allied landings on Moemfoor and participated in the conquest of Biak. Flew long-range escort and attack missions to Mindanao, Halmahera, Ceram, and Borneo. Engaged enemy fighters, attacked shipping in Ormoc Bay, supported ground forces, and covered the Allied invasion of Luzon. For intensive operations from 27 Oct to 7 Dec 1944 against the Japanese on Leyte, the group earned another DUC. Other missions from the Philippines included strikes against industrial and transportation targets on Formosa and against shipping along the Chinese coast. During the occupation of Japan, took part in maneuvers and surveillance patrols as part of Far East Air Forces.

In the summer of 1950, during the invasion of South Korea, the group covered the evacuation of civilian personnel from Kimpo and Suwon and flew missions against enemy gun positions and troop concentrations in support of UN ground forces. Later, struck interdiction targets in North Korea. Became the first combat jet fighter group to operate from bases in South Korea. Earned third and fourth DUCs for combat air operations in Korea, Jun-Nov 1950 and 9 Jul-27 Nov 1951. Continued air support of ground forces and interdiction missions to the end of the war in 1953. On occasion, attacked special high-priority targets such as the Suiho Dam hydroelectric plants in Jun 1952 and the Kumgang Political School in Oct 1952.

Provided air defense for Japan, 1953-1957. Not operational, 15 Apr-10 Dec 1957.

In 1991, resumed operations, deploying aircraft and crews to Southwest Asia for combat air patrol around Kuwait.

In Mar 1992, also began basic fighter training for USAF crews. Under the 49 Fighter Wing, the group managed the only stealth fighter squadrons in the Air Force. Personnel and aircraft deployed periodically to Southwest Asia to enforce no-fly zones over Iraq, take part in shows of force, and support United Nations weapons inspectors.

One of the group's squadrons flew HH-60 helicopters for search and rescue missions from 1993 to 1999.

Trained German Air Force pilots in the F-4, 1992- and Taiwanese Air Force fighter pilots in the AT-38, 1993-1997.

During the winter and spring of 1999, the group deployed stealth fighters and their crews to Europe for stealth fighter air strikes against Serbia.

In 2003, the group's stealth fighters and crews also took part in air strikes against Iraq during the successful U.S.-led invasion of that country.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

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 history. *49th Tactical Fighter Wing, History in Review. 1940-1972.*