

SPACE DELTA 8



MISSION

LINEAGE

50 Pursuit Group (Interceptor) established, 20 Nov 1940

Activated, 15 Jan 1941

Redesignated 50 Fighter Group, 15 May 1942

Redesignated 50 Fighter Group (Special), 28 May 1942

Redesignated 50 Fighter Group, 21 Jan 1944

Inactivated, 7 Nov 1945

Activated in the Reserve, 1 Jun 1949

Redesignated 50 Fighter Interceptor Group, 1 May 1950

Ordered to active service, 1 Jun 1951

Inactivated, 2 Jun 1951

Redesignated 50 Fighter-Bomber Group, 15 Nov 1952

Activated, 1 Jan 1953

Inactivated, 8 Dec 1957

Redesignated 50 Tactical Fighter Group, 31 Jul 1985

Redesignated 50 Operations Group, 1 Jan 1992

Activated, 30 Jan 1992

Redesignated Space Delta 8, 24 Jul 2020

Status changed officially from unit of the United States Air Force to unit of the United States Space Force, 21 Oct 2020

STATIONS

Selfridge Field, MI, 15 Jan 1941
Key Field, MS, 3 Oct 1941
Orlando AB, FL, 22 Mar 1943
Alachua AAFld, FL, 20 Nov 1943
Orlando AB, FL, 1 Feb-13 Mar 1944
Lymington, England, 5 Apr 1944
Carentan, France, 25 Jun 1944
Meautis, France, 16 Aug 1944
Orly, France, 4 Sep 1944
Laon, France, 15 Sep 1944
Lyons/Bron, France, 28 Sep 1944
Toul/Ochey, France, 3 Nov 1944
Giebelstadt, Germany, 20 Apr 1945
Mannheim/Sandhofen, Germany, 21 May-Jun 1945
La Junta AAFld, CO, 4 Aug-7 Nov 1945
Otis AFB, MA, 1 Jun 1949-2 Jun 1951
Clovis AFB, NM, 1 Jan-23 Jul 1953
Hahn AB, Germany, 10 Aug 1953
Toul-Rosieres AB, France, 10 Jul 1956-8 Dec 1957
Falcon (later, Schriever) AFB (later, SFB), CO, 30 Jan 1992

ASSIGNMENTS

Southeast Air District, 15 Jan 1941
22 Pursuit Wing, Jan 1941
3 Interceptor Command, 2 Oct 1941
Fighter Command School (an activity), 28 May 1942
Fighter Command School (formerly, 5 Interceptor Command), 25 Aug 1942
AAF School of Applied Tactics (later, AAF Tactical Center), 22 Jan 1943
IX Air Support (later, IX Tactical Air) Command, 4 Apr 1944 (under operational control of 84
Fighter Wing, 7 Apr-Sep 1944)
XII Tactical Air Command, 29 Sep 1944 (under operational control of 64 Fighter Wing, 29 Sep
1944-Jun 1945)
Second Air Force, 4 Aug-7 Nov 1945
50 Fighter (later, 50 Fighter Interceptor) Wing, 1 Jun 1949-2 Jan 1951
50 Fighter-Bomber Wing, 1 Jan 1953-8 Dec 1957
50 Space Wing, 30 Jan 1992
United States Space Force (later, Space Operations Command), 24 Jul 2020

WEAPON SYSTEMS

BT-13, 1941-1942
P-35, 1941-1942
P-40, 1942-1943
P-51, 1943-1944
P-47, 1943-1945

F-51, 1953
F-86, 1953-1957
Satellites, 1992

COMMANDERS

Capt George McCoy Jr., 16 Jan 1941
Lt Col Allen R. Springer, 1 May 1941
Lt Col John C. Crosthwaite, 1 Apr 1942
Lt Col Murray C. Woodbury, 15 May 1942
Lt Col T. Alan Bennett, 23 Jul 1943
Lt Col Walter B. Putnam, 29 Jan 1944
Lt Col Robert S. Quinn, 9 Nov 1943
Col William D. Greenfield, 1 Dec 1943
Col Harvey L. Case Jr., Nov 1944-May 1945
Unkn, Jun-7 Nov 1945
Col Gerald J. Dix, 1 Jan 1953
Lt Col Edward A. McGough III, 2 Apr 1954
Col James F. Hackler Jr., 23 Apr 1954
Col Chester L. Van Etten, May 1955
Lt Col Thomas D. Robertson, 1 Jul 1956-8 Dec 1957
Col Marvin G. Matthews, 30 Jan 1992
Col Gregory L. Gilles, 22 Feb 1993
Col William L. Shelton, 16 Jun 1993
Col Rodney P. Leisveld, 14 Jul 1994
Col Joseph Wysocki, 17 May 1996
Col Robert M. Worley II, 3 Jun 1998
Col Diann Latham, 16 Jun 2000
Col David W. Ziegler, 1 Jul 2002
Col J. Kevin McLaughlin, 21 Jun 2004
Col Clinton E. Crosier, 9 Jun 2006
Col John E. Shaw, 1 Jul 2010

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II
American Theater
Global War on Terrorism – Service (GWOT-S)

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
European Theater, 13-20 Mar 1945
Germany, 25 Apr 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Oct 1998-30 Sep 2000
1 Oct 2000-1 Oct 2001
1 Oct 2001-1 Oct 2002
2 Oct 2002-2 Oct 2003
1 Oct 2007-30 Sep 2009
1 Jan 2015-31 Dec 2016

Cited in the Order of the Day, Belgian Army
6 Jun-30 Sep 1944

EMBLEM





50 Operations Group emblem: Azure, an opinicus passant Argent, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "50 OPERATIONS GROUP" in Blue letters. 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. The opinicus with the strength of a lion and the bold flight of an eagle symbolizes the functions of the wing. (Approved, 12 Sep 2012)

Space Delta 8 emblem approved, 2 Mar 2022.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 50 began training on activation in 1941, then from May 1942 tested equipment and conducted training in air defense. It also trained pilots and furnished cadres to night fighter units. Later, it trained personnel in fighter tactics under simulated combat conditions. The 50 began combat operations on 1 May 1944 with a fighter sweep over France. From that date, it engaged mostly in escort and dive-bombing missions and covered the beach during the Normandy invasion. Once stationed on the continent, it attacked bridges, roads, vehicles, railways, trains, gun emplacements, and marshalling yards, as well as supporting ground forces in the drive across France. The group assisted in stopping the German offensive in the Saar-Hardt area early in 1945 and supported ground forces that moved into Germany in Mar and Apr 1945. It received a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for close cooperation with Seventh Army in Mar during the assault on the Siegfried Line. The 50 Fighter Group received a second DUC for a mission on 25 Apr 1945, destroying or damaging numerous enemy aircraft on an airfield near Munich in spite of intense antiaircraft fire. It ended combat operations in May.

It trained in the Reserve between Jun 1949 and Jun 1951. In 1953, the 50 trained in jet fighters, until it moved to Germany, where it conducted tactical operations in support of USAF, NATO, and

U.S. Army forces.

It accepted its first operational F-100D shortly before inactivation.

The 50 Operations Group commands and controls, executes launch and early orbit operations, and provides operational support to more than 170 satellites which support the president, the secretary of defense, federal and civilian agencies and all U.S. and allied military forces. It is comprised of over 1,100 active duty, reserve, and civilian professionals, and provides operational leadership, trains space operations crews and provides standardization and evaluation to more than 500 space system operators. The group's space operations centers perform 24-hour tracking, telemetry and commanding functions during launch, early-orbit and on-orbit spacecraft operations, as well as anomaly resolution and disposal.

From 1992, the 50 supported space operations of allies, NASA, and other U.S. agencies, managing as many as six major satellite systems at once.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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