

74 RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

74 Aero Squadron organized, 22 Feb 1918

Demobilized, 28 Jan 1919

Organized, 17 Jun 1919

Demobilized, 25 Sep 1919

74 Attack Squadron constituted, 18 Oct 1927

Redesignated 74 Pursuit Squadron, 8 May 1929

Activated, 1 Oct 1933

74 Aero Squadron reconstituted and consolidated with 74 Pursuit Squadron, 1936.

Consolidated unit designated 74 Pursuit Squadron

Redesignated 74 Attack Squadron, 1 Sep 1937

Redesignated 74 Bombardment Squadron, 1 Nov 1939

Redesignated 74 Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 6 Dec 1939

Redesignated 74 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 20 Nov 1940

Inactivated, 1 Nov 1946

Redesignated 135 Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 27 Mar 1951

Activated, 1 May 1951

Inactivated, 1 Dec 1952

Redesignated 74 Reconnaissance Squadron, 4 Dec 2019
Activated, 19 Dec 2019

STATIONS

Waco, TX, 22 Feb 1918
Call Field, TX, 1 Mar 1918
Hazelhurst Field, NY, 29 Jul 1918
Roosevelt Field, NY, Sep 1918
Garden City, NY, unkn-28 Jan 1919
Langley Field, VA, 17 Jun-25 Sep 1919
Albrook Field, CZ, 1 Oct 1933
Howard Field, CZ, 14 Jul 1941
Aguadulce, Panama, 8 Nov 1941
Rio Hato, Panama, 11 Dec 1941
Guatemala City, Guatemala, 9 Jan 1942
Rio Hato, Panama, 7 Apr 1944
Galapagos Islands, 21 Aug 1944
Aguadulce, Panama, 13 Feb 1945
Rio Hato, Panama, 1 May 1945-1 Nov 1946
March AFB, CA, 1 May 1951-1 Dec 1952
Beale AFB, CA, 19 Dec 2019

ASSIGNMENTS

Unkn, 1918-1919
16 Pursuit Group, 1 Oct 1933
6 Bombardment Group, 1 Feb 1940
40 Bombardment Group, 9 Aug 1942
6 Bombardment Group, 12 May 1943
VI Bomber Command, 1 Nov 1943-1 Nov 1946
106 Bombardment Group, 1 May 1951
106 Bombardment Wing, 16 Jun-1 Dec 1952
9 Operations Group, 19 Dec 2019

WEAPON SYSTEMS

DH-4
P-12
OA-3 1933-1937
B-6
Y10A-8 1937-1940
B-18, 1942-1943
A-17, 1942-1943
B-24, 1942-1946
B-29, 1951-1952

COMMANDERS

Unknown, 12 Oct 1927

1Lt Charles P. Cabell, 1 Oct 1933

1Lt Charles H. Deerwater, 9 Aug 1934

Maj Orrin L. Grover, 4 Dec 1934

Capt John T. Sprague, 21 Aug 1936

Capt Edgar A. Sirmyer, Jr., 11 Aug 1938

Capt Richard T. King, Jr., Feb 1940

Maj Russell E. Randall, Sep 1940

Capt Richard T. King, Jr., Jan 1941

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Antisubmarine, American Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



On a blue oval bordered white, long axis horizontal, a frigate bird (*Fregata magnificens rothschildi* Matthews) volant proper fimbriated in white. (Approved, 23 Aug 1934)

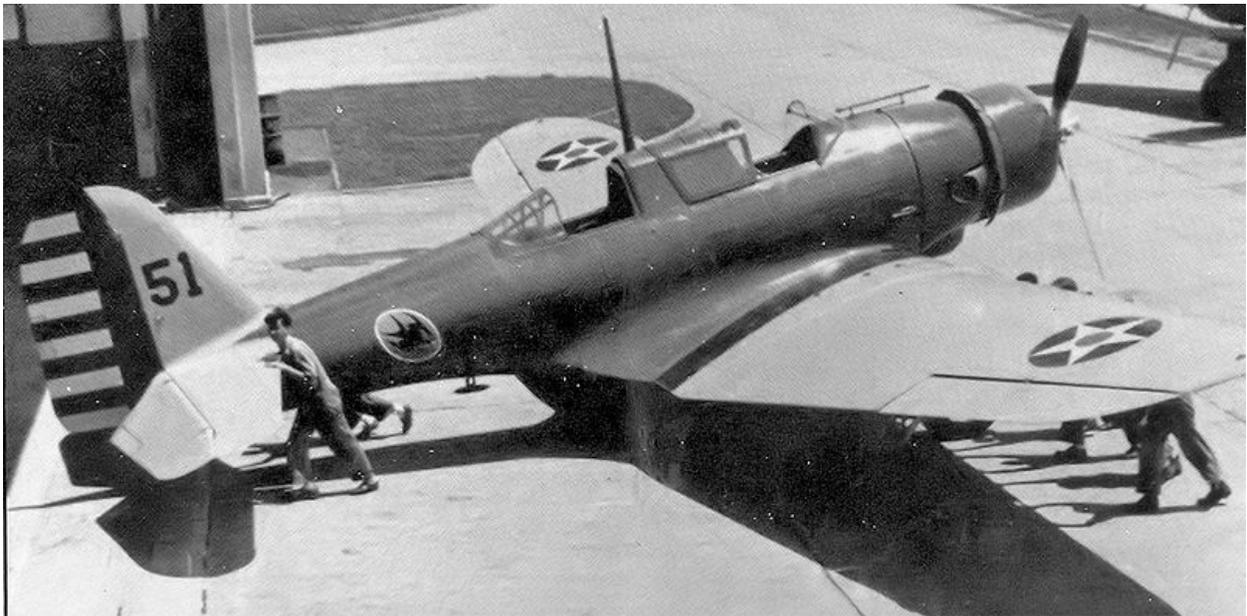
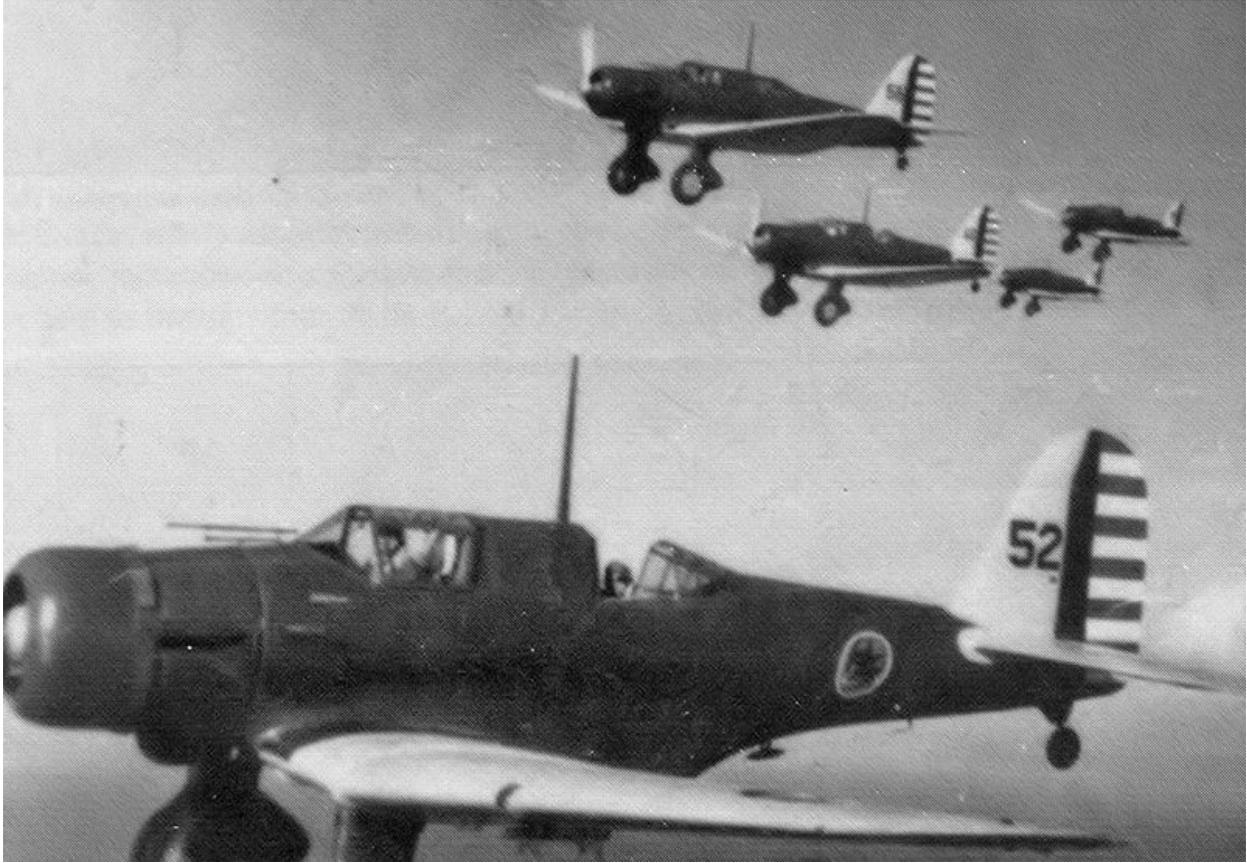


MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Presumably a tactical defense unit, 1918-1919.

Constituted in the Regular Army on 18 October 1927 as the 74th Attack Squadron and allotted to the Eighth Corps Area. Concurrently organized with Organized Reserve personnel as a RAI unit at Fort Crockett, TX. Redesignated as the 74th Pursuit Squadron on 8 May 1929 and assigned to the 18th Pursuit Group. Organized Reserve officers assigned to the unit participated in summer training at Fort Crockett, TX, 1927-33 with elements of the 3rd Attack Group.



Relieved from assignment to the 18th Pursuit Group on 15 July 1931 and assigned to the 20th Pursuit Group. Relieved from assignment to the 20th Pursuit Group on 15 June 1932 and assigned to the 16th Pursuit Group. Activated on 1 October 1933, less Reserve personnel, at Albrook Field, CZ. Consolidated in October 1936 with the 74th Aero Squadron (a WWI unit organized in February 1918 at Waco Field, TX; demobilized on 28 January 1919 at Garden City,

NY; reconstituted in October 1936).

Reorganized and redesignated 74th Attack Squadron on 1 September 1937. Reorganized and redesignated 74th Bombardment Squadron on 1 November 1939. Redesignated as the 74th Bombardment Squadron (Medium) on 6 December 1939.

Relieved from assignment to the 16th Pursuit Group on 1 February 1940 and assigned to the 6th Bombardment Group. Location 7 December 1941—Albrook Field, CZ. Inactive in the U. S. Air Force as the 135th Bombardment Squadron (Medium).

Goodwill flight to Guatemala, 7-12 Feb 1938. Antisubmarine patrols in the Pacific and Caribbean, 1941-1943. Replacement training, 1943-1945 and 1951-1952.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

Created: 10 May 2025

Updated:

Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Steven E. Clay. *US Army Order of Battle 1919-1941*. Combat Studies Institute Press. US Army Combined Arms Center. Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Nd.