

338 COMBAT TRAINING SQUADRON



MISSION

The 338 Combat Training Squadron performs the initial, difference, requalification, and upgrade training for the largest and most diverse operations group in Air Combat Command. The unit prepares 8 squadrons in 6 different programs to execute worldwide reconnaissance, command and control, and treaty verification missions directed by the NCA, JCS, theater CINCs, MAJCOM commanders and national intelligence agencies.

LINEAGE

338 Fighter Squadron constituted, 10 Sep 1942

Activated, 2 Sep 1942

Inactivated, 20 Aug 1946

Redesignated 338 Reconnaissance Squadron (Very Long Range, Mapping), 3 Feb 1947

Activated, 15 Mar 1947

Redesignated 338 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron (Photographic-Mapping), 1 Jul 1949

Inactivated, 14 Oct 1949

Redesignated 338 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron (Medium, Photographic-Mapping), 27 Oct 1950

Activated, 1 Nov 1950

Redesignated 338 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron (Medium), 15 Jul 1954

Discontinued and inactivated, on 15 Jun 1963

Redesignated 338 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron and activated, 24 Feb 1967

Organized, 25 Mar 1967

Discontinued and inactivated, 25 Dec 1967

Redesignated 338 Combat Training Squadron, 7 Sep 1999

Activated, 20 Sep 1999

STATIONS

Paine Field, WA, 12 Sep 1942

McChord Field, WA, 12 Sep 1942-20 Aug 1943
Nuthampstead, England, 14 Sep 1943
Wormingford, England, 16 Apr 1944
Kaufbeuren, Germany, 22 Ju1 1945
Giebelstadt, Germany, c. 5 May-20 Aug 1946
Harmon AFB, Guam, 15 Mar 1947
Los Negros, 20 Jun 1947
Clark Field, Luzon, 9 Jan 1948-6 May 1949
Fairfield-Suisun AFB, CA, 26 May 1949
Topeka AFB, KS, 1 Jun-14 Oct 1949
Barksdale AFB, La, 1 Nov 1950
Ramey AFB, PR, 25 Nov 1950
Forbes AFB, KS, 21 Oct 1952
Offutt AFB, NE, 25 Mar 1967-25 Dec 1967
Offutt AFB, NE, 20 Sep 1999

ASSIGNMENTS

55 Fighter Group, 12 Sep 1942-20 Aug 1946
5 Reconnaissance Group, 15 Mar 1947
Strategic Air Command, 26 May 1949
55 Strategic Reconnaissance Group, 1 Jun-14 Oct 1949
55 Strategic Reconnaissance Group, 1 Nov 1950
55 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 16 Jun 1952-15 Jun 1963
Strategic Air Command, 24 Feb 1967
55 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 25 March-25 Dec 1967
55 Operations Group, 20 Sep 1999

ATTACHMENTS

91st Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 1 Nov-1 Dec 1950

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-38, 1942-1944
P-51, 1944-1946
F-2, 1947-1949
FB-17, 1947-1949
B-29, 1949
RB-29, 1950-1951
RB-50, 1950-1954
RB-47, 1954
EB/RB-47, 1967

COMMANDERS

Capt Richard W. Busching, Sep 1942
Maj John G. Bright, Dec 1942

Capt Richard W. Busching, Jan 1943
Maj Charles W. Sawyer, 11 Apr 1943
Maj Richard W. Busching, 4 Jul 1943
Maj Charles O. Jones, 8 Mar 1944
Maj Val W. Bollwerk, 30 Apr 1944
Lt Col John L. McGinn, 11 Jun 1944
Maj Lanoy D. Anderson, 16 Oct 1944
Lt Col Elwyn G. Righetti, 23 Nov 1944
Maj Darrell S. Cramer, 22 Jan 1945
Maj Philip Brooks, 19 Feb 1945
Maj Eugene E. Ryan, 20 Apr 1945
Maj Douglas A. Parker, Jul 1945
Capt Robert Deloach, 8 Dec 1945
Unkn, Dec 1945
Maj Archie A. Tower, 26 Feb 1946
Maj Robert L. Ramsey, 17 May 1946
Lt Col Frank A. Sharp, 1947
Maj James M. Smith, 1948
1Lt Norman H. Cogswell, 1 Jun 1949
Maj E.B. Thurlow, 30 Jun 1949
Capt William J. Horton, 31 Aug 1949
Capt Norman H. Cogswell, 28 Sep-14 Oct 1949
Lt Col Ernest L. Blanton, 5 Nov 1950
Lt Col Gerard F. Wientjes, 16 Oct 1953
Lt Col Robert S. Rich, 13 May 1954
Maj Richard F. Thomas, 30 Jun 1954
Maj Marion E. Minor Jr., 24 Jul 1954
Lt Col Robert S. Rich, 8 Sep 1954
Lt Col Fred A. Shirley, 15 Sep 1954
Maj Robert E. Dinwiddie, Aug 1955
Lt Col Marion E. Minor Jr., Oct 1955
Maj Harlan L. Laughlin, Nov 1957
Maj George L. Danforth Jr., Mar 1959
Lt Col Warren R. Aylesworth, Mar 1960
Maj George L. Danforth Jr., Sep 1960
Maj Douglas E. Hagie, 29 May 1961
Lt Col Donald A. Grant, 15 Jun 1962
Maj Richard F. Thomas, May Jun 1963
Lt Col Harry F. Baker, 31 Mar 30 Sep 1967
Unkn, 1 Oct 25 Dec 1967
Lt Col Ricky J. McMahon, 20 Sep 1999
Lt Col John Rauch, Dec 2004
Lt Col James Dawkins, Oct 2006

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

ETO, 3-13 Sep 1944

Germany, 19 Feb 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

Jul 1956-Nov 1957

1 Jun 1999-31 May 2001

Meritorious Unit Award

1 Jun 2002-31 May 2004

1 Jun 2004-31 May 2006

1 Jun 2006-31 May 2007

1 Jun 2007-31 May 2008

EMBLEM



338th Reconnaissance Squadron Patch
Photo By George Smith



338th Strategic Recon Squadron
55th Strategic Recon Wing
Ramey AFB, PR

ART BY IIMBO



338 Combat Training squadron emblem: On an orange disc, border black, the head, shoulders, and forepaws of a black panther erect proper, in attack position, trimmed white. (Approved, 3 Jun 1943)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Combat in ETO, 15 Oct 1943-21 Apr 1945. Photo-mapping of Okinawa, New Britain, Solomons, New Guinea, and the Philippines, Jun 1947-Mar 1949

The 338 Fighter Squadron was activated on September 12, 1942 at Paine Field, WA. Twenty-two officers and 138 enlisted men trained with P-38's at McChord Field, WA.

In August 1943, the 338 Fighter Squadron was assigned to Eighth Air Force and moved to England. From its first combat mission (fighter sweep over the Netherlands on October 15, 1943) through its last (fighter escort over Germany on April 21, 1945, the 338 Fighter Squadron escorted bombers; bombed and strafed enemy airfields, railroads, and military installations. The 338 Fighter Squadron flew 343 combat missions with the 55th Fighter Group, Eighth Air Force; was awarded two Distinguished Unit Citations for protecting bomber formations over enemy territory while destroying 248 aircraft, six trains, and 19 locomotives with P-38's and P-51's.

On March 15, 1947, the 338 Fighter Squadron was designated the 338 Reconnaissance Squadron. The squadron flew RB-17's through 1949, photographing numerous islands and land areas in the Western Pacific region.

The 338 Reconnaissance Squadron became the 338 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron on November 1, 1950. Flying RB-29's and RB-50's, the squadron participated in several short-range navigation (SHORAN) projects using electronic equipment and aerial photography over Alaska, the North Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and adjacent countries, Scotland, and Norway.

On September 29, 1954, the 338 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron began conversion to the

RB-47's for weather reconnaissance. The squadron flew special photo reconnaissance "Open Skies for Peace" missions for President Eisenhower and daily 4,000-mile weather missions over North America.

During the Cuban Crisis (October 24-26, 1962), the 338 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron Participated in reconnaissance missions performing aerial surveillance of Atlantic Ocean areas.

The 338 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron was inactivated on December 25, 1967 as the RC-135's were accepted by the 38th and 343rd Strategic Reconnaissance Squadrons.

On 26 April, a new Language Learning Center opened at Offutt AFB, Nebr. Established at the 55th Wing's 338 Combat Training Squadron with a great amount of support and funding from AIA, the center provided the capability for airborne linguists to receive training in several vital high density languages. 2005

USAF Unit Histories
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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.