

## 347<sup>th</sup> RESCUE GROUP



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

347<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group established, 29 Sep 1942  
Activated, 3 Oct 1942  
Inactivated, 1 Jan 1946  
Redesignated 347<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group (All Weather), 19 Dec 1946  
Activated, 20 Feb 1947  
Redesignated 347<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, All Weather, 10 Aug 1948  
Redesignated 347<sup>th</sup> Fighter-All Weather Group, 20 Jan 1950  
Inactivated, 24 Jun 1950  
Redesignated 347<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Group, 31 Jul 1985  
Redesignated 347<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 1 May 1991  
Activated, 1 May 1991  
Redesignated 347<sup>th</sup> Rescue Group, 1 Oct 2006

#### STATIONS

New Caledonia, 3 Oct 1942 (detachments operated from Guadalcanal, 3 Oct-22 Dec 1942 and 29 Jan-Dec 1943)  
Guadalcanal, 29 Dec 1943  
Stirling Island, 15 Jan 1944  
Sansapor, New Guinea, 15 Aug 1944 (ground echelon only)  
Middleburg Island, New Guinea, 20 Aug 1944 (air echelon only until 19 Sep)  
Morotai, c. 13 Feb 1945 (air echelon only)  
San Jose, Mindoro, Philippine Islands, 22 Feb 1945 (ground echelon only)  
Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Philippine Islands, 6 Mar-11 Dec 1945 (ground echelon only until 25 Mar)  
Camp Stoneman, CA, 30 Dec 1945-1 Jan 1946

Nagoya Afd, Honshu, Japan, 20 Feb 1947  
Itazuke Afd, Kyushu, Japan, 25 Sep 1947  
Bofu Afd, Honshu, Japan, 15 Oct 1948  
Ashiya Afd (later, Ashiya AB), Kyushu, Japan, 3 May 1949  
Nagoya AB, Honshu, Japan, 1 Apr-24 Jun 1950  
Moody AFB, GA, 1 May 1991  
Moody AFB, GA

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Commander South Pacific, 3 Oct 1942  
I Island Air Command, 17 Oct 1942  
XIII Fighter Command, 13 Jan 1943-1 Jan 1946 (attached I Island Command, 1 Jul-Dec 1943)  
Fifth Air Force, 20 Feb 1947  
315<sup>th</sup> Composite Wing, 25 Sep 1947  
347<sup>th</sup> Fighter (later, 347<sup>th</sup> Fighter-All Weather) Wing, 18 Aug 1948-24 Jun 1950  
347<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter (later, 347<sup>th</sup> Fighter; 347<sup>th</sup> Wing; 347<sup>th</sup> Rescue) Wing, 1 May 1991  
23<sup>rd</sup> Wing, 1 Oct 2006

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

P-400, 1942  
P-39, 1942-1944  
P-40, 1942-1943  
P-38, 1942-1945  
P-51 (later, F-51), 1947-1948  
P-61 (later, F-61), 1947-1950  
F-82, 1949-1950  
F-16, 1991-2001  
C-130, 1994  
A/OA-10, 1995-2000  
HC-130, 1997  
HH-60, 1997

### **COMMANDERS**

LTC George M. McNeese, 3 Oct 1942  
Maj John S. Evans, 1943  
Col Leo F. Dusard Jr., 1 Jan 1944  
LTC Leonard Shapiro, 25 Jun 1945  
Maj Walter I. Olson, 16 Oct 1945  
Unkn, Nov 1945-Jan 1946  
Col Henry C. Huglin, 20 Feb 1947  
none (not manned), 10 Apr-24 Sep 1947  
Col Marden M. Munn, 25 Sep 1947  
Col Joshua H. Foster Jr., 19 May 1948  
LTC Joe Williams, 20 Jun 1948

Col John M. Price, 30 Jul 1948  
Maj Elmer G. DaRosa, 25 Aug 1948  
Maj Alden E. West, Sep 1948  
LTC John L. McGinn, c. 21 Oct 1948  
LTC Clyde A. Thompson, 1 Apr 1950  
Maj Elbert N. Stidd, 14 Apr-24 Jun 1950  
Col James S. Mosbey, 15 May 1991  
Col Paul R. Dordal, 10 Jul 1992  
Col John W. Craig, 17 Sep 1993  
Col Mark A. Welsh III, 7 Jul 1995  
Col Marke F. Gibson, 7 Apr 1997  
Col Guy K. Dahlbeck, 6 Jul 1999  
Col Vincent P. Wisniewski, 28 Oct 2000  
Col Steven A. McCain, 5 Jan 2001  
Col Thomas J. Trask, 9 Aug 2002  
Col Morris E. Hasse, 26 Feb 2004  
Col Eric A. Kivi, 21 Apr 2006  
Col Darryle J. Grimes

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Guadalcanal  
Northern Solomons  
Bismarck Archipelago  
New Guinea  
Leyte  
Luzon  
Southern Philippines  
Western Pacific  
China Defensive  
China Offensive  
Air Combat, Asiatic-Pacific Theater

Kosovo

Air Campaign

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

## **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation  
Netherlands East Indies, 7, 20, and 22 Nov 1944

Presidential Unit Citation (Navy)  
[3 Oct]-9 Dec 1942

Meritorious Unit Award  
1 Jun 2006-31 May 2007

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards  
[1 May] 1991-22 Feb 1993  
1 Jun 1994-31 May 1996  
1 Jun 1997-31 May 1999  
[30 Apr]-10 Jun 1999  
1 Jun 2000-31 May 2002  
1 Jun 2002-31 May 2003  
1 Oct 2003-31 Oct 2004  
1 Nov 2004-31 Jul 2006

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

### **EMBLEM**

Per bend Argent and Sable, on the first a silhouette of a knight in armor palewise armed with a shield and lance all of the second, overall issuing from base in pale a demi-sphere checky of the first and of the second supporting three knights (chess pieces) of the first mounted on the base of three arcs palewise Or, Gules and Azure, all within a diminished bordure Yellow. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "347TH RESCUE GROUP" in Blue 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. The three white knights atop a chessboard world represent the Wing's three squadrons. The squadrons are also represented by the three rainbow-curved color bars of red, yellow, and blue below the knights. The checkerboard globe on which the knights rest represents the world and the tactical mobility possessed by the Wing. The armored knight with lance poised atop the three chessmen shows the overall authority of the Wing, which unites the actions and purpose of the squadrons. The black and white background represents day and night which indicates the capability to operate under all weather conditions. (Approved, 7 Dec 2006)

### **MOTTO**

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

Elements of the group operated from Henderson Field on Guadalcanal from Oct 1942 until Jan

1943 to protect U.S. ships and aircraft, attack Japanese shipping, and support ground forces. In Nov 1942, the group began to fly escort missions for bombers raiding Japanese facilities on Bougainville. When the Allied campaign to recover the central and northern Solomons began in Feb 1943, the elements operating from Guadalcanal extended attacks to enemy bases on New Georgia, the Russell Islands, and Bougainville while flying more escort missions. After Allied troops assaulted Bougainville Island in Nov 1943, supported ground forces on the island, attacked enemy bases at Rabaul in the Bismarck Archipelago, and flew search and air defense missions over the Northern Solomons.

Beginning in Aug 1944, dive-bombed and strafed Japanese airfields and installations in the East Indies. The group received a DUC for long-range bombing and strafing raids in the face of intense flak and fighter defense on the airfield and shipping at Makassar, Celebes, in Nov 1944. From Feb 1945, supported Allied landings and operations in the Philippine Islands. Hit enemy installations on Borneo and escorted several bomber missions to China and French Indo-China. Following the end of the war, the group flew routine training missions before returning to the United States.

From Feb 1947, served in Japan as a night fighter, air defense group, but it soon became a records-unit until reorganized and manned in August 1948. Trained at night for ground controlled interceptions. Two of its three assigned squadrons operated from other bases in Japan and Okinawa. From May 1991, assumed control over wing's operational squadrons. Directed flying operations for USAF's largest combat search and rescue (CSAR) unit; deployed worldwide in support of humanitarian interests, US national security and the Global War on Terrorism, 2000-

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Air Force Order of Battle

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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.