

354th FIGHTER SQUADRON



MISSION

The squadron performs close air support, air interdiction and combat search and rescue missions in support of in-place and deployed contingency/joint and combined Army and Air Force close air support units world-wide.

LINEAGE

354th Fighter Squadron constituted and activated, 12 Nov 1942
Redesignated 354th Fighter Squadron, Single Engine, 21 Aug 1944
Inactivated, 20 Nov 1946
Redesignated 354th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, 11 Sep 1952
Activated, 1 Nov 1952
Inactivated, 8 Jan 1958
Redesignated 354th Tactical Fighter Squadron and activated, 13 Apr 1962
Organized, 25 Apr 1962
Redesignated 354th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, 1 Apr 1979
Inactivated, 30 Apr 1982
Redesignated 354th Fighter Squadron and activated, 1 Nov 1991

STATIONS

Orlando, FL, 12 Nov 1942
Zephyrhills, FL, 30 Jan 1943
Orlando, FL, 13 Feb 1943
Norfolk Muni Aprt, VA, 18 Feb 1943
Philadelphia Muni Aprt, PA, 4 Mar 1943

Millville, NJ, 5 May 1943
Philadelphia Muni Aprt, PA, 27 May–16 Jun 1943
Steeple Morden, England, 6 Jul 1943
Gablingen, Germany, 17 Jul 1945
Schweinfurt, Germany, 15 Apr–1 Aug 1946
Mitchel Fld, NY, 1 Aug–20 Nov 1946
Long Beach Muni Aprt, CA, 1 Nov 1952
Oxnard AFB, CA, 16 Dec 1952 (operated from Moody AFB, GA, 8 May–10 Jun 1955)
McGhee-Tyson Aprt, TN, 18 Aug 1955–8 Jan 1958
George AFB, CA, 25 Apr 1962 (operated from Eielson AFB, AK, 24 Jan–14 Feb 1964, and from Incirlik AB, Turkey, 5 May–18 Sep 1964)
McConnell AFB, KS, 15 Oct 1964–27 Nov 1965)
Takhli RTAFB, Thailand, 28 Nov 1965–15 Oct 1970
Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, 15 Oct 1970–30 Apr 1982
Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, 1 Nov 1991
McChord AFB, WA, 5 Jan 1993
Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, 1 Oct 1994

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Kadena AB, Okinawa, and then Korat RTAFB, Thailand, 6 Mar–18 Jun 1965
Korat RTAFB, Thailand, 14 Jan–4 Jul 1973

ASSIGNMENTS

355th Fighter Group, 12 Nov 1942–20 Nov 1946
27th Air Division, 1 Nov 1952
533rd Air Defense Group, 16 Feb 1953
355th Fighter Group, 18 Aug 1955–8 Jan 1958
Tactical Air Command, 13 Apr 1962
831st Air Division, 25 Apr 1962
355th Tactical Fighter Wing, 8 Jul 1962
Thirteenth Air Force, 14 Dec 1970
4453rd Combat Crew Training Wing, 1 Apr 1971
355th Tactical Fighter (later, 355th Tactical Training) Wing, 1 Jul 1971–30 Apr 1982
602nd Air Control Wing, 1 Nov 1991
355th Operations Group, 1 May 1992

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-47, 1943–1944
P-47C
P-47D
P-51B
P-51C
P-51D
P-51K

P-51, 1944–1946
F-51, 1952–1953
F-94, 1953–1955
F-94C
F-86, 1955–1957
F-105, 1962–1970
F-105F
F-105D
A-7, 1971–1979
A-10, 1979–1982
AO-10, 1991

COMMANDERS

LTC John M. Winkler, #1954
LTC Grant R. Smith, #1957
LTC Martha McSally, 19 Jul 2004

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Vietnam
Vietnam Defensive
Vietnam Air
Vietnam Air Offensive
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III
Vietnam Air/Ground
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV
TET 69/Counteroffensive
Vietnam Summer/Fall, 1969
Vietnam Winter-Spring, 1970
Sanctuary Counter-offensive

Southwest Monsoon
Vietnam Ceasefire

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
Germany, 5 Apr 1944

Presidential Unit Citations (Southeast Asia)

5 May–17 Jun 1965

1 Jan–10 Oct 1966

11–12 Aug 1967

24–28 Oct 1967

12 Apr 1968–30 Apr 1969

10 Oct 1972–30 Apr 1973

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device

12 Oct 1966–11 Apr 1967

12 Apr 1967–11 Apr 1968

1 Jul 1969–15 Oct 1970

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1956–30 Jun 1957

1 Jul 1971–11 Jan 1973

1 Jul 1971–11 Jan 1973

1 Oct 1976–31 May 1978

1 May 1990–30 Apr 1992

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Apr 1966–28 Jan 1973

EMBLEM



354th Fighter Squadron emblem: On an arc segment of a circle, to base medium blue, border red, piped white, a caricatured English bull dog, yellow, outlined black, wearing gray collar with white spokes about the neck, standing in front of a silhouette of the Statue of Liberty gray; bull dog casting black shadow toward base. (Approved, 29 Nov 1943)



354th Fighter Interceptor Squadron emblem



354th Tactical Fighter Squadron emblem



354th Tactical Fighter Squadron emblem

Celeste, a bulldog head couped close Or, garnished Sable and Argent and collared Azure spiked White, all within a diminished bordure of the fifth. (Approved, 16 Aug 1994)



MOTTO

NICKNAME

BULLDOGS

CALL SIGN

Callsign: Haywood
to 22 April '44 then:
Falcon (A Group)
Chieftain (B Group)

OPERATIONS

Combat in ETO, 14 Sep 1943–25 Apr 1945. Combat in Southeast Asia, 13 Mar–12 Jun 1965; 28 Nov 1965–7 Oct 1970; c. 14 Jan–3 Jul 1973. Combat crew training, 1971–1982 and forward air control training, 1991.

Operation Southern Watch in Kuwait, from June through September 1996.

On August 18, 1955 the 437th FIS designation was transferred "Less Personnel and Equipment" to Oxnard AFB, CA. At this time they surrendered their people and F-94s to the 60th FIS at Otis. Upon arrival at Oxnard AFB they absorbed the personnel and equipment, including seventeen F-94Cs, of the 354th Fighter Interceptor Squadron.

A pair of 354th FIS F-94Cs prepare to scramble from the alert barns at Oxnard AFB, CA on September 27, 1953. The squadron had just become operational with the Start ire after being one of the last of the ADC F-51 squadrons. Below: The rear view of the alert barns at Oxnard AFB. The units were designed so that both the front and rear doors opened simultaneously, thus the aircraft could be scrambled directly from the hanger. They were completely self sufficient units with their own powerplant, mess hall and sleeping quarters.

The 354th FIS, itself, had been activated on November 1, 1952 as a replacement squadron for the 188th Fighter Interceptor Squadron of the New Mexico Air National Guard that had been stationed at Long Beach, CA with F-51 Ds. Six weeks after activation, on December 16, 1952 the 354th took their Mustangs to Oxnard AFB. It was this squadron that "blew the socks off" everyone when one of their Lieutenants "waxed" the tail off every other fighter and fighter pilot in the first Air Defense Command Gunnery Meet at Yuma, AZ. 1st Lt. R. N. Luedekawon not only the First place prize in the F-51, but First Place overall in March 1953, going head-to-head against eight other teams of four fighters, each.

The "Bulldogs" reappeared at George AFB, California as part of the 355th TFW in 1962. Stayed at George till mid-1965, and flew combat missions in SEA on TDY assignment in the summer of '65. The squadron moved to Takhli RTAFB permanently in November 1965, together with the 357th TFS. They flew over 400 combat sorties during the first month. One aircraft was lost but the pilot was recovered. Unfortunately, the 354th continued to take hits from the enemy and during 1966 experienced more losses than any other squadron in SEA. In one two month period, almost 40% of the squadron's pilots were lost...

Pilots of the 354th dished out punishment as well, downing eight NVAF MiG-17's and damaging four others.

For his actions on 10 March 1967, Wild Weasel pilot Major Merlyn H. Dethlefsen (now deceased) received the Medal of Honor. His persistence in attacking and destroying a SAM site after having been hit by enemy fire was certainly above and beyond the call of duty.

The "Bulldogs" participated in the first F-105 strikes into South Vietnam in 1968. These strikes and many more into other parts of SEA became more common as first bad weather and the 31 October bombing halt reduced the flying over North Vietnam.

A sounder of 20 A-10s from the 354th Fighter Squadron deployed from Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, along with approximately 400 airmen and support personnel from the Arizona base. "Over the last six months, the men and women of the 354th

FS and 355th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron have done a superb job preparing to support operations in Afghanistan," said Lt. Col. Daniel Luce, 354th FS commander. The unit's Warthogs began departing for Bagram on Sept. 26, two days after the first maintainers and operators left, according to an Oct. 3 release. This contingent is replacing a mixed group of Air National Guard A-10s from Arkansas' 188th Fighter Wing at Ft. Smith and Maryland's 175th Wing near Baltimore that arrived in Afghanistan in early July. The Davis-Monthan A-10s will serve at Bagram as the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing's close air support package, flying strike missions in support of coalition operations and top cover for personnel recovery missions.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 10 Nov 2010

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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.

Unit yearbook. *58th Air Division (Defense) Wright Patterson AFB, Dayton, OH. 1957*

Unit yearbook. *27th Air Division (Defense). @1955.*