

444 FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

444 Fighter Squadron constituted, 19 Feb 1943

Activated, 1 Mar 1943

Disbanded, 31 Mar 1944

Reconstituted and redesignated 444 Fighter Interceptor Squadron, 23 Mar 1953

Activated, 16 Feb 1954

STATIONS

Hamilton Field, CA, 1 Mar 1943

Tonopah AAFld, NV, 6 Jun 1943

Concord AAFld, CA, 18 Sep 1943

Santa Rosa AAFld, CA, 15 Dec 1943-31 Mar 1944

Charleston AFB, SC, 16 Feb 1954

ASSIGNMENTS

328 Fighter Group, 1 Mar 1943-31 Mar 1944

35 Air Division, 16 Feb 1954

32 Air Division, 15 Nov 1958

Washington Air Defense Sector, 1 Jul 1961

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-39, 1943-1944

P-63, 1944

F-86, 1954-1960

F-101, 1960

COMMANDERS

LTC Sam C. Wilkerson, #1957

LTC Marvin W. Glasgow



LTC Marvin W. Glasgow (USAF photo)

HONORS

Service Streamers

American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



444 Fighter Squadron emblem

444 Fighter Interceptor Squadron emblem: On a disc Air Force yellow, within a double border of the first and black, a gargoyle green, lips and eyes red, pupils, eyeballs and teeth Air Force yellow, perched on a rocket and grasping a lightning bolt in each hand, points downward red, all shaded and outlined of the third. (Approved, 13 Jul 1954)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Since activation, the 444 FIS has taken an active part as an operational squadron under the Air Defense Command. It has participated in numerous Operational tests, three rocketry meets, and two squadron deployments. It is the winner of the coveted "A" Award, given for outstanding operational readiness scores. This is the first time the award has been given in the Eastern Air Defense Force, and demonstrates the high rate of efficiency present in the squadron.

The 444th has deployed twice to Vincent AFB, Yuma Az, for operational rocketry firing, and combat training and tactics, and on both occasions was found to be above average and highly satisfactory.

5 February 1958 A United States Air Force Boeing B-47E Stratojet, 51-2349A, of the 19th Bomb Wing out of Homestead AFB, Florida has 0200 hrs. mid-air collision with USAF North American F-86L Sabre, 52-10108 of the 444th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, Charleston AFB, South Carolina, on simulated combat mission near Sylvania, Georgia, jettisons Mark 15, Mod 0 nuclear bomb training weapon casing, No. 47782, from 7,200 feet (2,200 m) over Wassaw Sound off Tybee Beach, Georgia. Stratojet recovers to Hunter AFB, Georgia, bomb is still missing. The

Pentagon disputes reports that the plutonium trigger was on the weapon. The B-47 was subsequently scrapped. Sabre pilot ejects safely, and the B-47 crew are uninjured in emergency landing.



Ground crew swarms over F-86L when trouble develops (USAF photo)



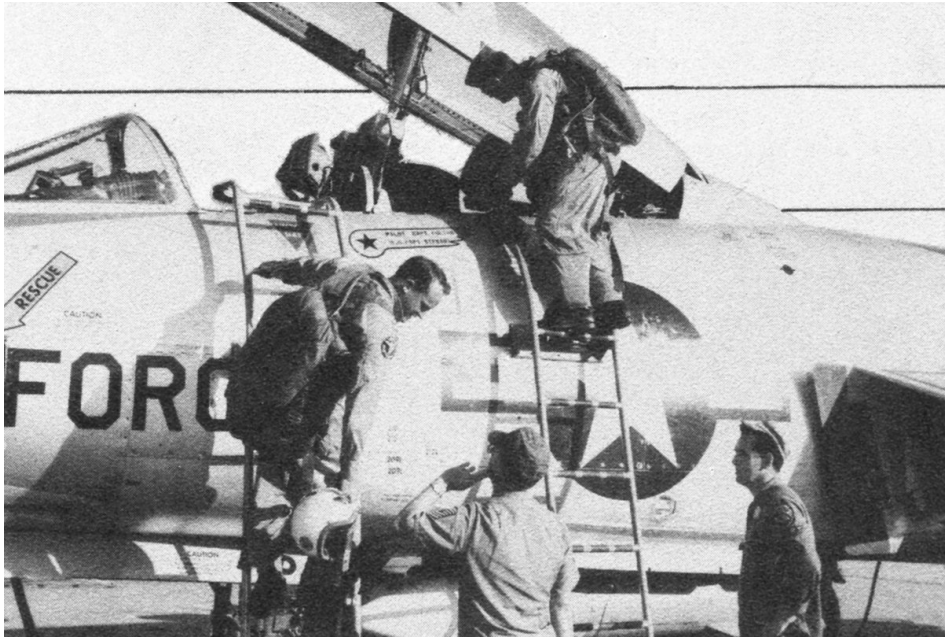
Pilot complete his preflight check (USAF photo)



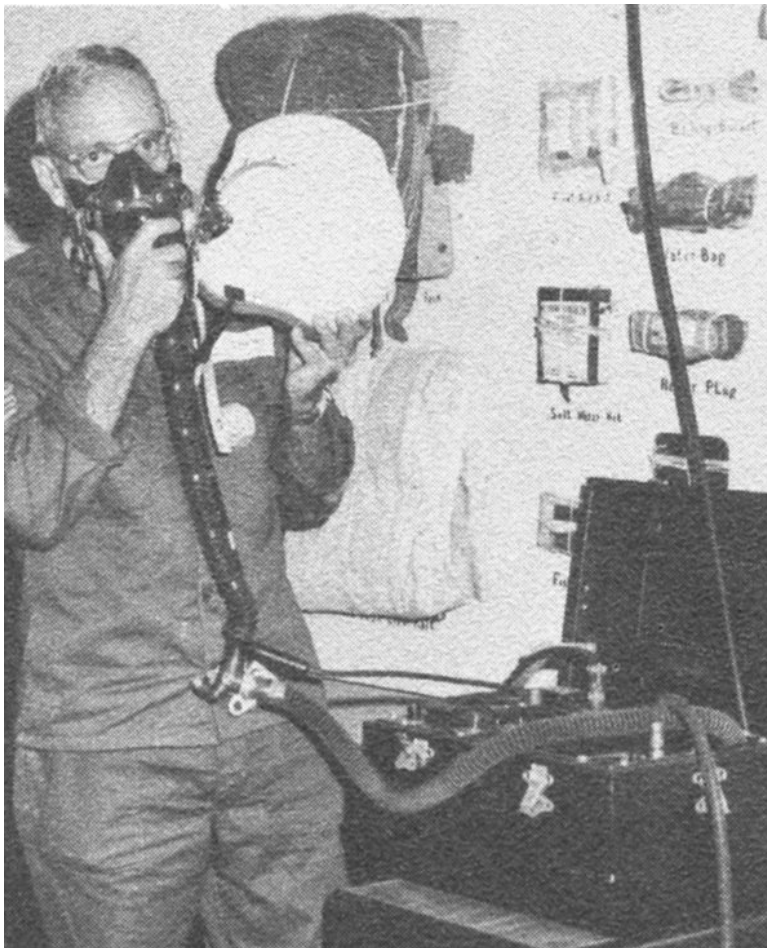
F-86 ready to taxi (USAF photo)



Perhaps a bolt tightened will do it. (USAF photo)



F-101 crew boarding aircraft (USAF photo)



Oxygen mask check (USAF photo)



F-101 flight simulator (USAF photo)



First Sergeant Vollbrecht (USAF photo)



F-101 maintenance (USAF photo)



F-101 post flight inspection (USAF photo)

Air Force Unit Histories

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Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *1608 Air Transport Wing (M), Charleston AFB, SC. 1957.* Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1957.

Unit yearbook. *Charleston AFB, SC. 1961.* Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1961.