

15 ATTACK SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE¹

2 Aviation School Squadron organized, 9 May 1917
Redesignated 15 Aero Squadron, 22 Aug 1917
Demobilized, 18 Sep 1919

15 Squadron (Observation) authorized, 30 Aug 1921
Organized, 21 Sep 1921
Redesignated 15 Observation Squadron, 25 Jan 1923

15 Aero Squadron and 15 Observation Squadron consolidated, 1924. Consolidated unit designated 15 Observation Squadron.

Inactivated, 1 Aug 1927
Activated, 15 May 1928
Redesignated 15 Observation Squadron (Medium), 13 Jan 1942
Redesignated 15 Observation Squadron, 4 Jul 1942
Redesignated 15 Reconnaissance Squadron (Fighter), 2 Apr 1943
Redesignated 15 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 11 Aug 1943
Inactivated, 31 Mar 1946
Activated, 3 Dec 1947

¹ Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

Inactivated, 1 Apr 1949
Redesignated 15 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Photo-Jet, 5 Feb 1951
Activated, 25 Feb 1951
Redesignated 15 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 8 Oct 1966
Inactivated, 1 Oct 1990
Redesignated 15 Tactical Intelligence Squadron, 20 Feb 1991
Activated, 15 Mar 1991
Redesignated 15 Air Intelligence Squadron, 13 Apr 1992
Inactivated, 1 Jun 1994
Redesignated 15 Reconnaissance Squadron, 31 Jul 1997
Activated, 1 Aug 1997
Redesignated 15 Attack Squadron, 15 May 2016

STATIONS

Hazlehurst Field, NY, 9 May 1917-18 Sep 1919
Chanute Field, IL, 21 Sep 1921
Kelly Field, TX, Jun-1 Aug 1927
Selfridge Field, MI, 15 May 1928
Scott Field, IL, 28 Jun 1930 (detachment at Post Field, OK, 1 Dec 1940-Jan 1941)
Post Field, OK, 9 Jan 1941
Ellington Field, TX, 16 Dec 1941 (flight at Post Field, OK, Dec 1941-Apr 1942)
Godman Field, KY, 23 Apr 1942
Camp Campbell AAFld, KY, 26 Jun 1942
Key Field, MS, 6 Nov-4 Dec 1943
Aldermaston, England, 22 Dec 1943
Chilbolton, England, 1 Mar 1944
Middle Wallop, England, 16 Mar 1944
Chalgrove, England, 27 Jun 1944
Rennes, France, 10 Aug 1944
Chateaudun, France, 26 Aug 1944
St Dizier, France, 9 Sep 1944
Giraumont, France, 1 Dec 1944
Trier, Germany, 14 Mar 1945
Ober Olm, Germany, 3 Apr 1945
Erfurt, Germany, 16 Apr 1945
Furth, Germany, 24 Apr 1945
Reims, France, 23 Jun-13 Jul 1945
Drew Field, FL, 3 Aug 1945
MacDill Field, FL, 21 Dec 1945
Shaw Field, SC, 3 Feb-31 Mar 1946
Pope Field (later, AFB), NC, 3 Dec 1947-1 Apr 1949
Komaki Japan (operated from Taegu AB, South Korea), 25 Feb 1951
Taegu AB, South Korea, 16 Mar 1951
Kimpoo AB, South Korea, 23 Aug 1951

Komaki AB, Japan, 2 Mar 1954
Yokota AB, Japan, 25 Aug 1955
Kadena AB, Okinawa (later, Japan), 18 Aug 1956
Taegu AB, South Korea, 1 Oct 1989-1 Oct 1990
Hickam AFB, HI, 15 Mar 1991-1 Jun 1994
Indian Springs (Later, Creech AFB), NV, 1 Aug 1997

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Camp McCoy, WI, 24 Sep-28 Oct 1928
Camp Skeel, MI, 28-31 Oct 1928
Fort Sheridan, IL, 8-11 Jun 1930
Bowman Field, KY, 14-27 Jun 1930
Lawson AFB, GA, 22 Aug-Sep 1948
Turner AFB, GA, Sep 1948
Eglin Auxiliary Field No. 3, FL, Oct-3 Nov 1948
Osan AB, South Korea, 26 Jan-12 Feb 1968
Itazuke AB, Japan, 13 Feb-25 Jul 1968 detachment operated at Osan AB, South Korea, 13 Feb-25 Jul 1968

ASSIGNMENTS

Unkn, 1917-1919 (but possibly Aeronautical [later, Air] Division, Signal Corps, 9 May 1917
Training Section, Department of Military Aeronautics, Signal Corps, 24 Apr 1918
Operations Section, Department of Military Aeronautics, Signal Corps, 9 Jul 1918
Training and Operations Group, Air Service, 29 Jan-18 Sep 1919)
Sixth Corps Area, 21 Sep 1921
6 Division, Air Service, 24 Mar 1923
Sixth Corps Area, Jun-1 Aug 1927
6 Division, Air Service (later, 6 Division, Aviation), 15 May 1928
14 Observation Group, 8 May 1929
12 Observation Group, 1937-Jul 1938
Unkn, Jul 1938
detachment operated at Field Artillery School, 1 Dec 1940- 9 Jan 1941
Field Artillery School, 9 Jan 1941
III Air Support Command, 1 Sep 1941
73 Observation (later, 73 Reconnaissance; 73 Tactical Reconnaissance; 10 Photographic)
Group, 12 Mar 1942
Ninth Air Force, 22 Dec 1943
IX Fighter Command, 30 Dec 1943
67 Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 4 Jan 1944
10 Photographic Group, Reconnaissance (later, 10 Reconnaissance Group), 13 Jun 1944
United States Strategic Air Forces in Europe, 24 Jun 1945
Third Air Force, 3 Aug 1945
First Air Force, 3 Feb 1946
Tactical Air Command, 21-31 Mar 1946

10 Reconnaissance (later, 10 Tactical Reconnaissance) Group, 3 Dec 1947-1 Apr 1949
67 Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 25 Feb 1951
67 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 1 Oct 1957
313 Air Division, 25 Apr 1960
18 Tactical Fighter Group, 1 May 1978
18 Tactical Fighter Wing, 11 Feb 1981
460 Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 1 Oct 1989-1 Oct 1990
548 Reconnaissance Technical Group, 15 Mar 1991
Pacific Air Forces, 3 Jul 1991
15 Operations Group, 13 Apr 1992-1 Jun 1994
57 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1997
432 Operations Group, 1 May 2007
732 Operations Group, 2 Jul 2018

ATTACHMENTS

Sixth Corps Area, 24 Mar 1923-Jun 1927
Sixth Corps Area, 15 May 1928- 9 Jan 1941
Field Artillery School, 1 Sep 1941
68 Observation Group, 12 Dec 1941-2 Feb 1942
67 Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 22 Dec 1943
IX [later, XIX] Air Support Command, 4 Jan 1944-16 Mar 1944
IX Tactical Air Command, 13-27 Jun 1944
67 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 1 Jun-25 Nov 1954 and 1 Jul-1 Oct 1957
363 Reconnaissance Group, 22 Aug-3 Nov 1948
18 Tactical Fighter Wing, 15 Mar 1960-20 Apr 1970

WEAPON SYSTEMS

A-20, P-39
DH-4B
DH-4 1917-1919
F-80, 1952-1953
F-86, 1953
JN-4
JN-6
JNS-1
L-4
L-5, 1943-1944
M-1
O-19, 1930-1938
O-2, 1928-1930
O-43
O-46, 1936-1939
O-47, 1939-1942
O-49

O-52
P-40
P-51, 1942-1943
P-51/F-6, 1944-1945
P-51/F-6, 1947-1948
RF-101, 1958-1966
RF-4, 1967-1990
RF-51, 1947-1949
RF-80, 1951-1956
RF-84, 1956-1958
RF-86, 1951-1956
Spitfire V

COMMANDERS

Capt John W. Butts, 1917-unkn
Capt H. Reynolds, 1918
1st Lt William P. Berry, unkn-1919
Capt Ernest Clark, 25 Sep 1921-21 Jun 1927
Unknown, 21 Jun 1927-1 Aug 1927
Inactive, 1 Aug 1927-15 May 1928
1st Lt Arthur G. Hamilton, 15 May 1928
Capt. Clearton H. Reynolds, 26 Nov 1928
Capt Wolcott P. Hayes, 15 Feb 1930
1st Lt Frederick A. Johnson, 7 Aug 1932
1st Lt Leslie P. Holcomb, 27 Jan 1933
Capt William Goldsborough, 4 Mar 1933
Maj Martin F. Scanlon, 17 Oct 1933
1st Lt Leslie P. Holcomb, 13 Jan 1935
Maj William Goldsborough, 17 Feb 1935
Maj Raphael Baez, 2 May 1936
Maj Frank H. Pritchard, 20 Aug 1936
Maj Raphael Baez, 15 Jan 1937
Unknown, Oct 1940-7 Dec 1941
Lt Col William E. Karnes, unkn-Mar 1942
Capt Schneider, Mar 1942
Capt James H. Kaden, Nov 1942
Maj Lloyd O. Warren, 7 May 1943
Lt Col George T. Walker, 30 Apr 1944
Maj Lyon L. Davis, 11 Oct 1944-23 Jun 1944
Unkn, 24 Jun-Sep 1945
None (not manned), Sep 1945-31 Mar 1946
Maj James M. Williams, 3 Dec 1947
Capt David F. Thwaites, Dec 1947
Maj James M. Williams, Jan 1948

Lt Col Harrison R. Christy, Jr., 24 Feb 1948
Lt Col Robert T. Simpson, 24 Mar 1948
Capt Robert H. Greene, Jul 1948
Maj James M. Williams, 10 Jul 1948
Capt Francis R. Davison, Sep 1948
Lt Col Edward O. McComas, 23 Sep 1948
Maj James M. Williams, Oct 1948
Lt Col Edward O. McComas, Nov 1948
Maj James M. Williams, 4 Jan 1949
Maj William I. Williams, 14 Feb-1 Apr 1949
Maj Jean K. Woodyard, Jr., 25 Feb 1951
Maj Clyde B. East, 2 May 1951
Maj Bruce B. Fish, 22 Aug 1951
Maj Ruffin W. Gray, 1 Nov 1951
Lt Col Jack P. Williams, 16 Apr 1952
Lt Col Houser Wilson, 28 Jun 1952
Maj Daniel J. Nelson, Feb 1953
Lt Col Ralph F. Newman, Apr 1953-1954
Maj R. E. Morrison, 1955
Lt Col Jenkins, (by Jun) 1955
Lt Col William F. Nuding, Jr., 12 Dec 1955
Maj James M. Jones, Jr., Jul 1958
Lt Col Lawrence P. Smith, Jun 1959
Lt Col Earl A. Butts, Apr 1960-15 Dec 1961
Unkn, 16 Dec 1961-1 Jan 1962
Col Arthur G. Durbeck, 2 Jan 1962
Maj Russell F. Crutchlow, 26 Apr 1962
Lt Col Alexander P. Butterfield, 12 Aug 1962
Lt Col Robert O. Crabtree, 25 Jul 1964
Maj Martin Weissgarber, Jr., 11 May 1965
Col Robert O. Crabtree, 29 Mar 1966
Lt Col Russell F. Crutchlow, 1 Dec 1966
Lt Col Paul H. Hodges, 13 Jun 1968
Col Rolland G. Hull, 18 Jun 1970
Lt Col David R. Elby, 15 Jun 1971
Lt Col Theodore L. Albright, 14 Jun 1972
Lt Col Clifton J. Hawkins, Jul 1973
Lt Col Richard E. Carr, 8 Jul 1975
Lt Col John W. Linihan, 30 Jun 1977
Lt Col Ralph S. Pickett, 11 May 1979
Lt Col Otto K. Habedank, 20 Jun 1980
Lt Col James R. Young, II, 12 Apr 1982
Lt Col James R. Wick, 3 Jan 1984
Lt Col David G. Evans, 29 May 1985

Lt Col Victor M. Martin, 2 Jul 1987
Lt Col Harry J. Sands, III, 27 Apr 1989-1 Oct 1990
Unkn, 15 Mar 1991-1992
Lt Col Michael D. Stevens, by 13 Apr 1992
Lt Col Roger W. Gaebel, 13 Jul 1992
Maj William H. Cilek, 30 Jun 1993-1 Jun 1994

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

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

Korean War
First UN Counteroffensive
CCF Spring Offensive
UN Summer-Fall Offensive
Second Korean Winter
Korea Summer-Fall, 1952
Third Korean Winter
Korea, Summer, 1953

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations (Korea)
25 Feb-21 Apr 1951
9 Jul-27 Nov 1951
1 May-27 Jul 1953

Meritorious Unit Awards

1 Jun 2007-31 May 2009
1 Jun 2011-31 May 2012
1 Jun 2012-31 May 2013
1 Jun 2017-31 May 2018

1 Jun 2018-31 May 2020

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Dec 1952-30 Apr 1953

10 May-27 Aug 1962

1 Sep 1962-31 Aug 1963

1 Aug 1964-5 Jun 1965

6 Jun 1965-31 Dec 1966

1 Jan 1968-31 Dec 1969

1 Jan 1974-31 Dec 1975

1 Jun 1977-31 May 1979

1 Oct 1979-31 May 1980

1 Jul 1981-31 May 1983

1 Jun 1983-31 May 1984

1 Jun 1984-31 May 1986

1 Jun 1987-31 May 1989

1 Oct 1989-[1 Oct] 1990

13 Apr 1992-30 Jun 1993

1 Oct 1993-1 Jun 1994

1 Jun 1998-31 May 2000

1 Jun 2001-31 May 2003

1 Jun 2003-31 May 2004

1 Jun 2004-31 May 2006

1 Jun 2009-31 May 2010

1 Jun 2013-31 May 2014

Cited in the Order of the Day, Belgian Army

6 Jun-[25 Jun] 1944

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation

[25] Feb 1951-31 Mar 1953

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Apr-30 Nov 1966

EMBLEM



15 Observation Squadron emblem approved, 2 Apr 1924



15 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron emblem and patch



15 Reconnaissance Squadron emblem and patch



15 Attack Squadron emblem approved, 9 Mar 2017

MOTTO

OPERATIONS²

Flying training unit, 1917-1919.

The original mission of the squadron was part of the defense force for the New York City area, flying coastal patrols.

From 1921 to 1927, the main focus of the squadron was flying training, including gunnery, observation, reconnaissance, photography and radio familiarization.

Antisubmarine patrols over Gulf of Mexico, Dec 1941-Mar 1942.

During the early stages of World War II, the 15 supported the Field Artillery School in Oklahoma. In 1943, the unit trained British Spitfire pilots in England. Later, the squadron used P-51 and F-6 aircraft during the war. On March 26, 1944, the squadron flew its first combat mission, a photographic reconnaissance flight over France. On June 6, 1944, the 15 received credit for the first aerial victory of D-Day.

Conducted visual and photographic reconnaissance in Korea, 26 Feb 1951-27 Jul 1953. Continued aerial surveillance and reconnaissance in the Far East until inactivation in 1990. 15

²Unit history. *67 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing with the United Nations Forces, Korea. 1954*; Unit history. *67 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, With the United Nations Forces, Korea.* Nd; Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

TRS Members of the "Cotton Pickers" Squadron are proud of their record of having flown over 12,000 missions of daylight reconnaissance. Many of these missions have been deep in enemy territory, along the Yalu River and in MIG filled skies. Their skill in flying RF- 80's and RF 86's is undisputed. Theirs is an important mission with special emphasis on front line basic cover for topographic and tactical studies, the accomplishment of bomb damage assessment, surveillance of enemy activity by coverage of recurring targets and to observe and photograph targets of opportunity such as new construction of installations, movements of troops and supplies.

Four 15 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron RF-101s deployed to Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam, on 20 October and remained for approximately one month under the project name Pipe Stem. They flew 67 reconnaissance sorties over South Vietnam and Laos, developing their photographs by a photo processing unit they brought with them.

On February 4, 1967, the first PACAF aircraft were received by the 15 TRS and these aircraft were soon seen in operation over Vietnam.

RF-101C 56-230 Burt Waltz AAA Laos Rescued 21 Nov 1964
RF-101C 56-190 Charlie Shelton AAA Laos KIA 29 Apr 1965
RF-101C 56-204 George Hall Gunfire NVN POW 27 Sep 1965
RF-101C 56-178 Bob Pitt AAA NVN Crash Landing 5 Oct 1965 Da Nang
RF-101C 56-043 Gordon Page SAM NVN KIA 7 Mar 1966
RF-101C 56-220 Jerdy Wright SAM NVN KIA 7 Mar 1966

Performed an intelligence function for Pacific Air Forces, 1991-1994.

The 15 RS was activated Aug. 1, 1997, at Indian Springs Air Force Auxiliary Field (later renamed Creech AFB).

The squadron continues to fly combat sorties in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. The squadron received its first Predator System in May 1998 and deployed to Southwest Asia in January 1999.

USAF will move all Predator UAV operational and support functions to Indian Springs AFAF, Nev. beginning late next year, according to Inside the Air Force. The 15 and 17th Reconnaissance Squadrons and the Predator Operations Center are operating out of Nellis AFB, Nev. because Indian Springs lacked the communications capability to handle ongoing combat operations. USAF plans to spend up to \$200 million to improve the communications infrastructure at Indian Springs, now host to the UAV Battlelab, which moved there from Eglin AFB, Fla. Officials said space was a concern at Nellis, which conducts advanced training, tactics development, and weapons testing. 2004

An MQ-1B remotely piloted aircraft crashed at Creech AFB, Nev., last June because of the failure of a flight control module that fully deflected the RPA's right aileron, according to Air

Combat Command's abbreviated investigation. "This un-commanded lowering of the aileron on only one wing caused the MQ-1B to begin a roll and turn," stated ACC's June 9 release, summarizing the accident investigation report. "This roll progressed until the MQ-1B's steep angle of bank rendered it incapable of maintaining level flight. The aircraft subsequently lost satellite communication and continued to depart controlled flight until it impacted the ground," states the release. The MQ-1 crashed on the Nevada Test and Training Range on June 27, 2014, totally destroying the \$4.6 million RPA on impact. The MQ-1 was assigned to the 432nd Wing and operated by controllers from the 15 Reconnaissance Squadron—both at Creech. 2015