

18th RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

381st Fighter Squadron constituted, 11 Feb 1943

Activated, 1 Mar 1943

Redesignated 161st Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 25 Aug 1944

Inactivated, 9 Nov 1945

Redesignated 161st Reconnaissance Squadron (Photographic), 9 Jul 1946

Activated, 31 Aug 1946

Redesignated 161st Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron (Photographic), 14 Jun 1948

Redesignated 18th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron (Photographic), 10 Oct 1950

Redesignated 18th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 1 Oct 1966

Inactivated, 30 Sep 1979

Redesignated 18th Reconnaissance Squadron, 14 Mar 2006

Activated, 3 Apr 2006

STATIONS

Hamilton Field, CA, 1 Mar 1943

Santa Rosa AAFld, CA, 23 Aug 1943

Sacramento Mun Aprt, CA, 6 Oct-2 Dec 1943

Keevil, England, 20 Dec 1943

Rivenhall, England, 2 Feb 1944

Staplehurst, England, 14 Apr 1944
Maupertus, France, 4 Jul 1944
Azeville, France, 23 Aug 1944
Montreuil, France, 11 Sep 1944
Sandwieler, Luxembourg, 2 Oct 1944
Le Culot, Belgium, 31 Oct 194 (operated from Conflans, France, 23 Dec 1944-4 Jan 1945)
Venlo, Holland, 11 Mar 1945
Gutersloh, Germany, 16 Apr 1945
Brunswick, Germany, 26 Apr 1945
Wiesbaden, Germany, 19 May 1945
Reims, France, c, 3 Jul-c. 4 Sep 1945
Drew Field, FL, 16 Sep-9 Nov 1945
Brooks Field, TX, 31 Aug 1946
Langley Field, VA, 1 Nov 1946
Shaw AFB, SC, 23 Sep 1949-25 May 1959
Laon, France, 1 Jun 1959
RAF Upper Heyford, England, 1 Sep 1966
Shaw AFB, SC, 30 Jan 1970-30 Sep 1979
Beale AFB, CA, 3 Apr 2006
Beale AFB, CA, 3 Apr 2006-24 Aug 2007
Creech AFB, NV, 11 Dec 2009

ASSIGNMENTS

363rd Fighter (later Tactical Reconnaissance) Group, 1 Mar 1943
67th Reconnaissance Group, 3 Jul-9 Nov 1945
363rd Reconnaissance (later Tactical Reconnaissance) Group, 31 Aug 1946
Fourteenth Air Force, 23 Sep 1949
363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 2 Apr 1951
432nd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 8 Feb 1958
66th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 1 Jun 1959
363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 30 Jan 1970-30 Sep 1979
9th Operations Group, 3 Apr 2006
9 Operations Group, 3 Apr 2006-24 Aug 2007. 432 Operations Group, 11 Dec 2009-.

ATTACHMENTS

10th Photographic Group, 23 Dec 1944-3 Jan 1945
20th Fighter Wing, 20 Sep 1949-2 Apr 1951

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-39, 1943
P-51, 1944-1945
F-6, 1944-1945
F-6, 1946-1947
FP-80, 1946-1955

T-33, 1950-1954
RF-84, 1954-1957
RF-101, 1957
RF-101C
RF-4, 1970-1979
RF-4C
RQ-4, 2006-2007
MQ-1, 2009

COMMANDERS

None, 1 Mar-31 May 1943
Maj Dave H. Culberson, 1 Jun 1943
Cpt Charles W. Lasko, 27 Jul 1944
Cpt Frederick A. Munder, 28 Aug 1944
LTC James L. Rose, 3 Sep 1944
Unkn, Jun-Nov 1945
LTC James L. Rose, 31 Aug 1946
Maj Merritt G. Garner, 11 Sep 1947
LTC George T. Walker, 1 Oct 1947
Maj Edward H. Taylor, 14 Nov 1947
Cpt Dudley S. Aikens, 30 Dec 1947
LTC George T. Walker, 3 Jan 1948
LTC Hugh H. Marble Jr., Sep 1948
Maj Charles W. Keppler, 12 Oct 1948
LTC Hugh H. Marble Jr., 14 Nov 1948
Cpt Robert K. Rhodarmer, Nov 1949
LTC Willie O. Jackson Jr., Dec 1949
Maj Roger K. Rhodarmer, Apr 1951
Cpt Kenneth F. Scattergood, 14 Apr 1952
Maj Ruffian W. Gray, Dec 1952
LTC Houser C. Wilson, Jun 1953
Cpt Charles C. Ritchie, 24 Aug 1956
Maj Stanley R. Sebring, 18 Sep 1956
LTC Clyde B. East, 11 Aug 1958
LTC William D. Brittian, 1962
LTC Alfred C. Simmons, 12 May 1965
Maj John A. Lashuay, Aug 1966
LTC Thomas H. Temple, Jr., 18 Oct 1966
LTC Stewart V. Spragins, Oct 1967
LTC Richard T. White, 18 Jun 1968
LTC Donald T. Lang, 1 Dec 1969
LTC John R. Zartman, 15 Jan 1970
LTC Robert H. Williams, 9 Apr 1970
LTC William L. Gibson, 17 Jul 1972

LTC Donald C. Peterson, 13 Aug 1973
LTC Robert K. Mock, 13 May 1975
LTC Paul R. Schmidt, 4 May 1977
LTC Richard L. Bowers, 17 Jul 1978-30 Sep 1979
LTC Christopher B. Jella, 3 Apr 2006-24 Aug 2007
LTC Mark J. Hoehn, 11 Dec 2009

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

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

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Cited in the Order of the Day, Belgian Army
1 Oct-17 Dec 1944
18 Dec 1944-15 Jan 1945

Belgian Fourragere

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jan-31 Dec 1962
1 Jul 1974-1 Jul 1976
2 Jul 1976-30 Jun 1978

EMBLEM



18th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron emblem: On a disc Air Force blue, bordered black, over a cloud formation white, an Indian scout proper, wearing a head band with feather red, around his neck a scarf, checky, blue and white, wearing a breech cloth red, carrying in his left hand a tomahawk gray and white, and sighting through a telescope gray held in his right hand; the scout flying through the air astride a lightning flash Air Force yellow and red, in base a small cloud of the third. (Approved, 28 Apr 1955)



18th Reconnaissance Squadron emblem: Approved, 9 Aug 2006

MOTTO

NICKNAME

Lonesome Polecats @1956

OPERATIONS

Engaged in air defense operations until Nov 1943. Participated in combat operations in the European Theater of Operations, 24 Feb 1944-5 May 1945. Replacement training, 1950-1953. Engaged in tactical and evaluation exercises in the U.S., including visual and photographic reconnaissance, processing and evaluation of reconnaissance data, 1954-1959. Carried out reconnaissance missions in support of USAFE and North Atlantic Treaty Organization missions, Jun 1959-Jan 1970.

The 18th TRS, based at Upper Heyford Royal Air Force Base, England, began relocating to Shaw AFB, where it was to become a subordinate unit of the 363rd TRW. The first contingent from the 18th, comprised largely of maintenance, administrative, and support personnel, arrived at Shaw AFB on 1 December 1969.

On Nov. 5, 1970, the 18th TRS said goodbye to its eighteen RF-101. The aircraft were transferred to the 188th Air National Guard Tactical Reconnaissance Group at Fort Smith, Ark. The transfer was the beginning of the 18th TRS's conversion to the RF-4C.

From Feb 1970-Sep 1979, regularly participated in visual and photographic reconnaissance missions in CONUS. Provided training for U.S. and allied reconnaissance personnel.

The 18th TRS inactivated on Sept. 30, 1979. All 18th TRS personnel were absorbed by other 363rd TRW units, and the unit's RF-4Cs were divided among the remaining flying squadrons. The deactivation was accomplished in order to facilitate converting Shaw AFB from a reconnaissance to a tactical fighter operation base.

While based at Toul, 22 May 1960, the 18th TRS lost two pilots when Voodoos 56-0076 and 56-0077 collided during a night formation take off. Captain Park H. Baker and 1st Lt Jimmy P. Duren were killed instantly when their aircraft crashed and burned. This was an accident which was witnessed by many of their fellow pilots awaiting takeoff on the runway.

The 18th TRS was involved in two desert operations during 1960. When the Agadir earthquake devastated Morocco; aircraft were dispatched to photograph the stricken areas. Many of these photos were used in the fund raising for financial and medical aid and found their way onto the front pages of national newspapers in Europe and the United States. On the 6th April four aircraft of the squadron were dispatched to Wheelus to photograph and map approximately 8000 square miles of the Libyan desert. The search had been instigated for the ill fated survivors of the World War 2 B-24 *Lady B. Good* which had crashed in that area of desert. The difficult and sensitive mission was completed on the 28th April.

The 1st Reconnaissance Squadron at Beale AFB, Calif.—the U-2's formal training unit—absorbed the mission of the 18th RS in August, Air Combat Command said. The 18th has been training operators of the Global Hawk unmanned recce aircraft, which is to eventually replace the U-2. The merger of the two units is designed to build more understanding of both aircraft and increase mission capability of U-2 and Global Hawk pilots, ACC said. The old units did a good job, but there was not enough crossover, and squadron leaders are hoping to have more versatile intelligence-surveillance-reconnaissance aircrew members as a result. The consolidation comes as the Global Hawk training pipeline expands significantly. In October, students in the course increased 50 percent, from 24 to 36. Classes are also stepping up from six a year to 12. In 2009, the course is expanding to 48 students a year. 2007

RF-101C attrition

56-0209 - Crashed, landing/weather, on Phalsbourg AB, France, 22 JAN 58, no fatalities.

56-0213 - Crashed, control loss, on Torrejon AB, Spain, 23 DEC 58, no fatalities.

56-0062 - Crashed, gear failure, 14nm SE of Nouasseur AB, Morocco, 28 FEB 59, no fatalities, ejected.

56-0074 - Crashed, on take-off, on Phalsbourg AB, France, 13 APR 59, 1 fatality.

56-0208 - Crashed, pitch-up, 9nm SE of Reims, France, 4 NOV 59, no fatalities, ejected.

56-0073 - Crashed, weather/go-around, on Phalsbourg AB, France, 10 MAR 60, no fatalities, ejected.

56-0082 - Crashed, GCA/weather, 13nm S of Phalsbourg AB, France, 22 SEP 60, no fatalities, ejected.

56-0103 - Crashed, mid-air/weather, 2nm NW of Reuilly, France, 29 APR 61, no fatalities, ejected.

56-0118 - Crashed, mid-air/weather, 2nm NW of Reuilly, France, 29 APR 61, no fatalities, ejected.

56-0111 - Crashed, GCA/weather, 1.5nm E of Landouzy la Cour, France, 10 DEC 61, 1 fatality.

56-0205 - Crashed, cause unknown, at Douzillac (Dordogne), France, 8 FEB 62, 4 fatalities.

56-0100 - Crashed, hit mountain in weather, 2.2nm E-SE of Treminis, France, 25 APR 63, 1 fatality.

56-0113 - Crashed, cockpit fire, 18nm SE of Toul AB, France, 17 APR 64, no fatalities, ejected.

56-0200 - Crashed, gyro failure/weather, 10nm N of Schladern, W. Germany, 14 MAY 64, no fatalities, ejected.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 13 Nov 2010

Updated: 25 May 2012

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.

Unit yearbook. *Shaw AFB, SC, 1956*. Army and Navy Publishing Company of Louisiana. Baton Rouge, LA. 1956.