

25 FIGHTER SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

25 Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor), constituted 20 Nov 1940
Activated, 15 Jan 1941
Redesignated 25 Pursuit Squadron (Fighter), 12 Mar 1941
Redesignated 25 Fighter Squadron (Twin-Engine), 15 May 1942
Redesignated 25 Fighter Squadron, 1 Jun 1942
Redesignated 25 Fighter Squadron, Single-Engine, 28 Feb 1944
Inactivated 12 Dec 1945
Activated, 15 Oct 1946
Redesignated 25 Fighter Squadron, Jet Propelled, 19 Feb 1947
Redesignated 25 Fighter Squadron, Jet, 10 Aug 1948
Redesignated 25 Fighter Interceptor Squadron, 1 Feb 1950
Discontinued, 8 Jun 1960
Redesignated 25 Tactical Fighter Squadron, 18 Jun 1965
Organized, 20 Jun 1965
Inactivated, 31 Jul 1990
Redesignated 25 Fighter Squadron, and activated, 1 Oct 1993

STATIONS

Hamilton Field, CA, 15 Jan 1941
March Field, CA, 11 Jun 1941–10 Jan 1942
Karachi, India, 12 Mar 1942

Dinjan, India, 22 Nov 1942 (detachment operated from Sadiya, India, 6 Nov 1942–2 Apr 1943
Jorhat, India, 2 Apr–14 Sep 1943)
Yunnani, China, 14 Sep 1943 (detachment operated from Paoshan, China, 30 Nov 1944–Jan
1945 Liangshan, China, 10 Jan–Feb 1945; Poseh, China, 4 Feb–28 May 1945)
Loping, China, Sep–Nov 1945
Fort Lewis, WA, 11–12 Dec 1945
Yontan Afld, Okinawa, 15 Oct 1946
Naha Afld, Okinawa, 22 May 1947
Itazuke AB, Japan, 22 Sep 1950
Kimpoo AB, South Korea, 23 Oct 1950
Itazuke AB, Japan, 4 Jan 1951
Tsuiki AB, Japan, 22 Jan 1951
Suwon AB, South Korea, 20 Jul 1951
Suwon, South Korea, 27 Jul 1951–26 Jul 1954
Naha AB, Okinawa, 1 Aug 1954–8 Jun 1960
Eglin AFB, FL, 20 Jun 1965–25 May 1968
Ubon RTAFB, Thailand, 28 May 1968
Udorn RTAFB, Thailand, 5 Jul 1974
Clark AB, Philippines, 18 Dec 1975
Kadena AB, Japan, 19 Dec 1975
Suwon AB, South Korea, 1 Feb 1981
Osan AB, South Korea, 10 Nov 1989–31 Jul 1990
Osan AB, South Korea, 1 Oct 1993

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Kadena AB, Okinawa, 17 Jul 1956–1 Aug 1957

ASSIGNMENTS

51 Pursuit (later, 51 Fighter) Group, 15 Jan 1941–12 Dec 1945
51 Fighter (later, 51 Fighter Interceptor) Group, 15 Oct 1946
51 Fighter Interceptor Wing, 25 Oct 1957–8 Jun 1960
Tactical Air Command, 18 Jun 1965
33 Tactical Fighter Wing, 20 Jun 1965
8 Tactical Fighter Wing, 28 May 1968
432 Tactical Reconnaissance (later, 432 Tactical Fighter) Wing, 5 Jul 1974
3 Tactical Fighter Wing, 18 Dec 1975
18 Tactical Fighter Wing, 19 Dec 1975 18 Tactical Fighter Group, 1 May 1978
51 Composite Wing (Tactical) (later, 51 Tactical Fighter Wing), 1 Feb 1981–31 Jul 1990
51 Operations Group, 1 Oct 1993

ATTACHMENTS

51 Fighter Interceptor Wing, 1 Jul–24 Oct 1957

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-40, 1941
P-38, 1944
P-51, 1944-1945
P-47, 1946-1947
F-80, 1947-1951
F-86, 1951-1960
F-4, 1965-1980
A-10, 1982-1989

COMMANDERS

2Lt Tolan, 15 Jan 1941
Lt Col Paul Droz, 30 Apr 1941
Maj Earl J. Harrington, 14 Nov 1943
Lt Col Henry J. Amen, 3 Jun 1944
Lt Col John Habecker, Oct 1944
Maj Albert Criz, 30 Nov 1944
Maj Stanley Birkhold, Mar-12 Dec 1945
Unkn, 15 Oct 1946
Cpt Louis A. Green, 1947
Maj Benjamin F. Long, Jun 1947
Maj Willie G. Walker, Nov 1947
Lt Col James F. Reed, 6 Feb 1948
Lt Col Clyde B. Slocumb Jr., Aug 1948
Maj Robert Mallory, 11 Jul 1949
Lt Col Clure E. Smith Jr., 1 Nov 1949
Lt Col Charles A. Appel, 10 Feb 1951
Maj Edward E. Sharp, May 1951
Maj William T. Whisner, 2 Dec 1951
Lt Col James B. Raebel, Mar 1952
Maj Louis E. Andre Jr., May 1952-unkn
Lt Col William A. Campbell, 11 Mar 1954
Maj Glenroy G. Crewe, 4 Feb 1955
Lt Col Donald V. Miller, 21 Jun 1955
Lt Col Hugh Slater, 4 May 1956
Maj Robert W. Denman, Dec 1957
Lt Col Albert M. Christopher, 1 May 1959-8 Jun 1960
Lt Col Russell E. Taliaferro, 4 Aug 1965
Lt Col Ethan A. Grant, 10 Feb 1966
Lt Col Lloyd Ulrich, 8 Dec 1967
Lt Col Richard E. Skelton, 23 May 1969
Lt Col Donald D. Brown, 21 Nov 1969
Lt Col Earl Anderson, 1 Jun 1970
Lt Col Robert L. Standerwick, 29 Jan 1971
Lt Col Chester L. Eby, 10 Feb 1971

Lt Col Richard E. French, 6 Sep 1971
Lt Col Bradford L. Sharp, 22 Apr 1972
Lt Col George S. Fulgham, 16 Jul 1972
Maj Albert S. Munsch Jr., 12 Nov 1972-unkn
Lt Col George S. Fulgham, Dec 1972
Lt Col Edward W. Owen, 3 May 1973
Lt Col Albert L. Pruden Jr., 20 Oct 1973
Lt Col Richard P. Moore, 23 Feb 1974
Lt Col George W. Acree II, 5 Jul 1974
Lt Col Clark R. Morgan, 1 Oct 1974
Lt Col Jay A. Whitney, 21 Jun 1975
Lt Col James D. Brecher, 5 Nov 1975
Lt Col Carl M. Smith, 17 May 1976
Lt Col James E. Cvik, 12 Jun 1978
Lt Col Jay N. Mitchell, 20 Jun 1979-22 Aug 1980
None (not manned), 23 Aug 1980-31 Dec 1981
Lt Col Harry J. Kieling Jr., 1 Jan 1982
Lt Col Christopher W. DeArmond, 31 Aug 1982
Lt Col Gerald W. Fulaytar, 19 Nov 1983
Lt Col Eugene Korotky, 30 Nov 1984
Lt Col Robert H. Haden, 4 Dec 1985
Col Richard H. Godeke, 29 Dec 1986
Lt Col Thomas G. Sheppard Jr., 23 Nov 1988
Lt Col Kevin D. Phillips, 27 Nov 1989
Lt Col Raymond W. Reher, 29 Dec 1989
None (not manned), Jan-31 Jul 1990
Lt Col Sydney McPherson, 1 Oct 1993
Lt Col John P. Rogers, 25 Jul 1995
Lt Col Lawrence D. Garrison Jr., 3 Jun 1997
Lt Col Kenneth G. Block, 10 Jun 1999
Lt Col Randy J. Petyak, 9 May 2000
Lt Col Brian R. Foley, 17 May 2002
Lt Col Thomas H. Deale, 6 Jun 2003
Lt Col Bruce H. McClintock, 25 May 2004
Lt Col Scott E. Caine, 16 Dec 2005
Lt Col Rodney J. Stokes, 6 Jul 2007

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II

India-Burma

Central Burma

China Defensive
China Offensive

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

Vietnam
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 Counteroffensive
Southwest Monsoon
Commando Hunt V
Commando Hunt VI
Commando Hunt VII
Vietnam Ceasefire

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
Korea, 28 Nov 1951–30 Apr 1952

Presidential Unit Citation
Southeast Asia, 1 Jan–1 Apr 1971

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device
1 Jan 1967–30 Jun 1968
1 Jun–30 Sep 1968
22 Oct 1968–30 Jun 1970
1 Oct 1971–31 Mar 1972
1 Apr–22 Oct 1972

18 Dec 1972–15 Aug 1973

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

29 Aug 1958–19 Jan 1959

1 Sep 1978–30 Sep 1979

1 Oct 1979–31 May 1980

1 Apr 1983–30 Apr 1984

1 May 1984–30 Apr 1985

1 Jul 1985–30 Jun 1987

1 Jul 1987–30 Jun 1989

[1 Oct 1993]-30 Sep 1994

1 Nov 1995-31 May 1997

1 Oct 2002-30 Sep 2004

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations

[22 Sep 1950]–30 Jun 1951

1 Jul 1951–31 Mar 1953

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

[28 May 1968]–28 Jan 1973

EMBLEM





25 Fighter Interceptor Squadron patch



25 Fighter Squadron Emblem: Vert, a dragon erect Or eyed and enflamed Gules armed Argent and grasping in its forelegs an aircraft cannon fesswise Sable smoking Azure; all within a diminished bordure White. (Approved, 22 May 1996; replaced emblem approved, 1 Aug 1947)

MOTTO

Assam Dragons

OPERATIONS

Combat in CBI, 2 Sep 1942–28 May 1945.

The 25 sailed to meet the Japanese aboard the S. S President Coolidge on Jan. 11, 1942. The squadron was part of the first deployment of U. S. forces leaving the mainland after the declaration of war. The journey to Melbourne, Australia, took 20 days. By late March the 25 Pursuit Squadron had arrived in Karachi, India, and set up wartime operations.

The 25 flew its first aerial combat mission over "the Hump" on Sept. 25, 1942, flying a combat

escort mission. After the squadron moved to Dinjan in Assam, India, combat activity increased. It was there that the 25 picked up the name "Assam Draggins."

Operations from Dinjan were concentrated against the Japanese in northern Burma along the upper Chindwin and Irrawaddy Rivers. The 25 Fighter Squadron's first real moment of glory began in February 1943 when the unit was tasked to defend Fort Hertz near Myikina. Fort Hertz was a vital cog in air operations near "the Hump." The 25 bombed and strafed enemy troops, concentrations, supply dumps, bridges and enemy communication lines for twelve consecutive days, but failed to slow the Japanese advance on Fort Hertz. B-25 heavy bombers were needed to halt the enemy's drive, but none were available. Lt. Col. John E. Barr, the executive officer for the 51st Fighter Group, modified a P-40 to carry 1,000 pound bombs, and by May 1943, had halted the Japanese offensive.

The 25 Fighter Squadron encountered more combat activity than any other unit within the 51st Fighter Group during the war. The squadron returned to the United States and was inactivated on Dec 12, 1945. This proved short-lived, however. On Oct. 15, 1945, the 25 was activated at Naha, Okinawa, where the squadron was assigned P-47s and F-80s. As part of the occupation force, the 25 provided defense for the Ryukyu Islands.

The 25 was placed on alert when hostilities erupted in Korea in June 1950. The unit was reassigned to Itazuke Air Base, Japan, in September, and to Kimpo, Korea, by October. The communist counter offensive in December forced a safe retreat of U.N. forces. The 25 flew more than 21 sorties each day that month to save the 2nd Infantry Division, which had become cut off by the enemy near Kunupre. Air cover was officially credited with preventing disastrous losses to the division. On Nov. 20, 1951, squadron pilots received their new F-86s and went to face the communist pilots in their MiG 15s. Maj. William T. Whisner Jr. got his fifth MiG kill on Feb. 23, 1952. When the 51st Group adopted a checkered design for its F-86 tail markings, it also received the designation "Checkertails". The red squadron colors appeared in the design. Thus, the Assam Draggins of World War II became famous as the "Checkertails" of the Korean War.

After the war, the 25 was assigned to the 51st Fighter-Interceptor Wing at Naha AB, Okinawa. While there, the pilots were deployed for one week at a time to Kadena AB, Okinawa. From 1960-1965, the 25 Fighter Squadron remained in a state of suspended animation with virtually no mission and only 20 percent manning. On June 17, 1965, the unit was re-designated the 25 Tactical Fighter Squadron and assigned to the 33rd Tactical Fighter Wing at Eglin AFB, Fla.

On May 31, 1968, the 25 TFS was assigned to the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing and stationed at Ubon and Udorn Royal Thai AFBs, Thailand, once again seeing combat in the skies of Vietnam. Flying F-4 aircraft, the 25 TFS received the Presidential Unit Citation (1971), the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm (1967-1973), and five Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards (1967-1973).

Supported the evacuation of US personnel from Phnom Penh, Cambodia and Saigon, South

Vietnam, Apr 1975. Flew strike missions against Koh Tang Island and Khmer Rouge gunboats during the Mayaguez incident, 13–15 May 1975.

On Jan. 28, 1982, the 25 TFS received its first A-10. The squadron's presence helped maintain a peaceful armistice between North and South Korea until Oct. 2, 1989. It was during that time that the 25 began transferring aircraft to the 19th Tactical Air Support Squadron and other stateside units and inactivated on July 1, 1990. On Oct. 1, 1993, the 25 Fighter Squadron was activated under the 51st Wing at Osan AB, Republic of Korea, under the command of Lt. Col. Syd McPherson. It has since added six A-10 aircraft to its fleet, making it a dual qualified A/OA-10 squadron. The 25 Fighter Squadron Assam Draggins remain the premier close air support fighter squadron on the Korean Peninsula today.

Earlier in March 1982, the 51st added the A-10 to its aircraft inventory with assignment to the 25 Tactical Fighter Squadron at Suwon AB. These aircraft, in camouflage, carried only the aircraft serial number and the two-letter base designation "SU" on its vertical stabilizers.

The 25 was planned for conversion to F-16 and gave up all its A-10s by November 9, 1989. The 25 borrowed a few F-16s as part of the conversion plans but was inactivated on July 31, 1990. The 25 again activated, but with OA-10s, on October 1, 1993

Not operational, Aug 1980–Jan 1982 and Nov 1989–Jul 1990.

The 25 Fighter Squadron at Osan AB, South Korea, has completed its transition to the A-10C ground-attack aircraft, with the departure of the unit's last A-10As. Osan's A-10Cs began arriving in March. Among the improvements, the A-10C configuration features digital cockpit upgrades and allows the pilot to employ satellite-guided munitions. These changes "provide attack pilots with a truly integrated suite of sensors, aircraft, and weapons that build situational awareness and facilitate the rapid destruction of targets," said Maj. Andrew Taylor of Osan's 51st Operations Group. "In short," he added, "the A-10C perfects what was already the world's most respected CAS platform." A-10As began operating at Osan in 1982. The last A-10As left on Dec 4, heading for a new assignment with an Air National Guard unit back in the United States.

2010

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

Created: 13 Jul 2024

Updated:

Sources

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The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. *March Field Air Base, CA, 1941*. Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1941.