

## 28 INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON



### MISSION

The 28 Intelligence Squadron is a classic associate unit supporting the 25th Intelligence Squadron conducting airborne ISR to provide threat warning and precision geo-location to AFSOC and Joint Special Operations Command.

The 28 Intelligence Squadron mission is to organize, train and deliver specialized intelligence directly to United States Special Operations Forces. The specialized mission set includes Tactical Systems Operator crew members, analysts for National Tactical Integration support and maintenance support operations.

### LINEAGE

28 Photographic Laboratory, Bombardment Group, Very Heavy constituted, 25 May 1944

Activated, 1 Aug 1944

Inactivated, 22 Feb 1946

Disbanded, 8 Oct 1948

28 Reconnaissance Technical Squadron constituted, 3 Mar 1950

Activated, 1 May 1950

Inactivated, 15 Apr 1955

Redesignated 28 Intelligence Squadron, 19 Mar 2014

Activated, 17 Apr 2014

28 Photographic Laboratory, Bombardment Group, Very Heavy reconstituted and consolidated with 28 Intelligence Squadron, 18 Sep 2014. Consolidated unit retains 28 Intelligence

Squadron designation

### **STATIONS**

Dalhart AAF, TX, 1 Jun 1944–22 Aug 1944  
Harvard AAF, NE, 22 Aug 1944–10 Mar 1945  
Fort Lawton, WA, 10–17 Mar 1945  
Hickam AAF, Territory of Hawaii, 25–30 Mar 1945  
Northwest Field, Guam, 14 Apr 1945–10 Jun 1946  
Rapid City AFB, SD, 1 May 1950–15 Apr 1955  
Hurlburt Field, FL. 17 Apr 2014

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

501 Bombardment Group, 25 May 1944  
Pacific Air Command, 6 Dec 1945-22 Feb 1946  
655 Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group, 17 Apr 2014

### **ATTACHMENTS**

17 Bombardment Operational Training Wing (Very Heavy), 23 Aug 1944–7 Mar 1945

### **COMMANDERS**

Lt Col Joe Marcinek

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

Air Offensive, Japan

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation Japan  
6–13 July 1945

### **EMBLEM**



On a disc per bend sinister enhanced Azure and Sable, a lightning bolt bend sinisterwise enhanced Or throughout between in chief a key in bend sinisterwise Gules, fimbriated of the second, wards downward and in base a barracuda naiant of the second detailed Argent (Silver Gray) garnished Argent, eyed of the last, iris Gules, pupil Sable, all within a narrow border Silver Gray. Attached below the disc, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Silver Gray border and inscribed "28 INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON" in Silver Gray letters. Attached above the disc, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Silver Gray border and inscribed "EXPLOIT THE NIGHT" in Silver Gray letters.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The barracuda embodies the unit's exploitation of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions by its silent, quick and deadly temperament with its ever watching fiery eyes. The skeleton key symbolizes the unit's ability to unlock the enemy's secrets while protecting its own. The bolt of lightning represents the speed and precision with which the unit conducts its intelligence operations, the knowledge gained from those operations and the destructive power unleashed on its enemies through the use of that knowledge. (Approved, 31 Aug 2015)

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 28 Reconnaissance Technical Squadron was established on 3 Mar 1950, assigned to the 28 Bombardment Group under the 28 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing. The 28 RTS took part in the Atmospheric Nuclear Weapons tests Operation Tumbler–Snapper from 1 Apr 1952 to 5 Jun 1952 by providing aerial and ground technical and training photography to the Defense Nuclear Agency.

The Air Force Special Operations Command's Reserve intelligence squadron recently reached its initial operational capability. The 28 Intelligence Squadron declared IOC approximately two months ahead of schedule, according to Maj. Elisabeth Applegate, the squadron's assistant

director of operations. "The hard work of the Airmen of this squadron led to reaching our IOC goal well before our established deadline," said Lt. Col. Joseph Marcinek, the 28 IS commander. "I'm proud of the job they've done so far and will continue to do in this critical mission." The squadron grew exponentially in its first year, increasing its manning from zero to 120 percent of authorized officers and 83 percent of enlisted for an 89 percent total in manning. During this time, Marcinek and his Airmen focused on recruitment, building processes and programs, training, readiness and integration with the squadron's active duty associate unit, the 25th Intelligence Squadron. Through this growth and transition, the 28 IS relied heavily on support from their local supporting Reserve wing, the 919th Special Operations Wing, according to Applegate. The 919th SOW's force support squadron supplies the fellow Reserve squadron with support on all personnel issues. With IOC reached, the squadron currently works toward full operational capability. During the next year, the 28 IS will focus on the operational functions necessary to be a fully mission capable unit. The squadron's mission is to deliver specialized analysis directly to Air Force Special Operations forces. Ground analysts in the squadron execute national tactical integration missions, including the associated collection, analysis, and dissemination for mission planning and execution downrange and reach-back. The 28 IS also hosts the only aircraft maintenance flight within its group, the 655th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group, located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. The aircraft maintenance flight consists of a highly technical team responsible for C-130, U-28, and CV-22 equipment installations. Those Airmen ensure sensitive electronic equipment is properly maintained, configured, and loaded for mission success. The squadron also provides deployment support and relief to the high operation tempo of the 25th IS. "Declaring FOC will have a positive impact to AFSOC and the 361st Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group, and provide additional support to the dedicated Airmen supporting this important mission," said Marcinek.

The 28 Intelligence Squadron was tasked to deliver specialized collection, analysis, and dissemination directly to their active duty partners the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) and the 361st Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group, and the 25th Intelligence Squadron

The 28 IS was one of the oldest squadrons assigned to the wing. It was activated 1 August 1944 at Dalhart Army Air Field, Texas as the 28 Photographic Laboratory, Bombardment Group, Very Heavy. The Group was moved to Harvard Army Air Field, Nebraska a few weeks later and rotated through Hawaii, Tinian before ultimately ending up on Northwest Field, Guam in support of combat operations in the Pacific Theater. The 28 earned a World War II campaign streamer for the Air Offensive, Japan. After World War II, the squadron was inactivated at Northwest Field on 22 February 1946.

While the 28 Photographic Laboratory, Bombardment Group, Very Heavy was still inactive, the 28 Reconnaissance Technical Squadron was activated at Rapid City, South Dakota (later Ellsworth AFB) as a brand new squadron on 1 May 1950. They served there until 15 April 1955 when they were inactivated. On 19 March 2014, while still inactive, the 28 Reconnaissance Technical

Squadron was redesignated as the 28 Intelligence Squadron. They were reactivated the following month on 17 April 2014 at Hurlburt Field, Florida and assigned to the 655 ISRG. Later that year, 18 Sep 2014, the 28 Photographic Laboratory was reconstituted and consolidated with the 28 Intelligence Squadron, which made these two squadrons one, with a shared history. The newly reborn 28 IS was tasked to deliver specialized collection, analysis, and dissemination directly to their active duty partners the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) and 25th Intelligence Squadron which was a subordinate unit of the 363 ISRW at JB Langley-Eustis, Virginia. When it was reactivated at Hurlburt Field, the 28 IS was commanded by Lt Col Joseph T. Marcinek who assumed command effective 23 September 2014. He relinquished command to Lt Col Kenneth De Walt Aldermann on 10 June 2017 who was succeeded by Maj Elisabeth S. Applegate on 08 April 2019.

The organizational emblem of the 28 Intelligence Squadron was approved 31 August 2015. The emblem features a lightning bolt dividing the disk, on one half is a barracuda and on the other is a key. The barracuda pointed to exploitation of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance through "silent, quick and deadly temperament." The barracuda was an aggressive predator that was known to use shadows and terrain features to mask itself whilst it attempted to surprise its prey. The squadron motto, "Exploit the Night," was chosen primarily because of the nature of the missions flown by the 28 in a special operations environment.

The 28 IS remained in service at Hurlburt Field, Florida and gained a new commander in August when Lt Col Elisabeth S. Applegate assumed command from Lt Col Kenneth Alderman. The 28 IS supported the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) and their assigned Tactical Systems Operator (TSO) crew members through their association with their classic association unit (CAU) partner the 25 IS, and their affiliated units the 361 ISRG and 363 ISRW. During the year, the 28 IS sought to fill the needs of their Classic Association Unit (CAU) by providing specialized, customer- focused support and consistently deliver fully qualified Airmen and officers to work requirements and staff deployments for their CAU. During 2020 it was not uncommon for the 28 IS to have as many as 20 percent of assigned staff engaged in direct support on military personnel authorization (MPA) tours with their CAU or deployed in support of Combatant commanders (COCOMs) worldwide.

By capitalizing on opportunities to increase in-house technical proficiency, the 28 IS provided Seasoning Training for three reserve Direct Support Operators (DS) which increased the number of the mission qualified Airman in the reserve and active squadron by 10 percent and delivered critical support to the CAU. A 28 IS member supported the 25 IS directly by serving as their lead upgrade trainer. The 28 IS even stepped up to provide Airmen to benefit their CAU and the 363 ISRW by providing Airman to the 25 IS Standards and Evaluations flight that facilitated in-processing for twenty new Tactical Systems Operators (TSOs). The 28 IS supported the 25 IS in their creation of a new TSO Processing and Exploitation (PEX) test for Critical Action Procedures. This provided 180 TSOs the opportunity to complete testing online, which lowered in-person visits in support of COVID-19 mitigations

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Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.