

33 FLYING TRAINING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

33 Bombardment Squadron (Medium) constituted, 22 Dec 1939
Activated, 1 Feb 1940
Redesignated 33 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 3 Feb 1944
Redesignated 33 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 30 Apr 1946
Redesignated 33 Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 28 Jul 1948
Discontinued and inactivated, 15 Mar 1963
Redesignated 33 Flying Training Squadron, 9 Feb 1990
Activated, 11 May 1990
Inactivated, 1 Oct 1992
Activated, 1 Oct 1998

STATIONS

Patterson Field, OH, 1 Feb 1940
Langley Field, VA, 16 Nov 1940
Muroc, CA, 9 Dec 1941-28 Jan 1942
Brisbane, Australia, 25 Feb 1942
Ipswich, Australia, 1 Mar 1942
Antil Plains, Australia, 7 Apr 1942
Woodstock, Australia, 20 Jul 1942
Iron Range, Australia, 29 Sep 1942
Woodstock, Australia, 4 Feb 1943

Dobodura, New Guinea, 15 Oct 1943
Nadzab, New Guinea, 10 Jan 1944 (air echelon at Charters Towers, Australia, 11 Jan-19 Feb 1944)
Owi Island, New Guinea, 14 Aug 1944
Angaur, Palau Islands, 26 Nov 1944
Samar, Philippine Islands, 21 Jan 1945
Clark Field, Luzon, 12 Mar 1945
Okinawa, 15 Aug 1945
Ft William McKinley, Luzon, 23 Nov 1945
Kadena AB, Okinawa, 15 Jun 1946- 7 May 1948
Smoky Hill AFB, KS, 18 May 1948
March AFB, CA, 10 May 1949-15 Mar 1963
Reese AFB, TX, 11 May 1990-1 Oct 1992
Vance AFB, OK, 1 Oct 1998

DEPLOYED STATIONS

RAF Station Lakenheath, England, 16 Nov 1948-14 Feb 1949
RAF Station Lakenheath, England, 18 Nov 1949-16 Feb 1950
Kadena AB, Okinawa, 8 Jul-29 Oct 1950
RAF Station Wynton, England, 5 Sep-9 Dec 1951
RAF Station Upper Heyford, England, 9 Dec 1953-5 Mar 1954

ASSIGNMENTS

22 Bombardment Group, 1 Feb 1940
22 Bombardment Wing, 16 Jun 1952-15 Mar 1963
64 Flying Training Wing, 11 May 1990
64 Operations Group, 15 Dec 1991-1 Oct 1992
71 Operations Group, 1 Oct 1998

ATTACHMENTS

22 Bombardment Wing, 10 Feb 1951-15 Jun 1952

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-18, 1940-1941
B-26, 1941-1943
B-25, 1943-1944
B-24, 1944-1945
B-29, 1946-1952
B-47, 1953-1963
T-37, 1990-1992
T-37, 1998

COMMANDERS

1st Lt Theodore Q. Graff, 1 Feb 1940

1st Lt Vernet V. Poupitch, 25 Apr 1940
1st Lt Charles M. Stockdale, 29 May 1940
1st Lt Theodore Q. Graff, 25 Jul 1940
Maj William Ball, 18 Nov 1940
Maj George H. Sparhawk, 15 May 1941
Maj Dwight Devine li, 11 Aug 1941
1st Lt William A. Garnett, 12 Dec 1941
Capt Hubert J. Kcnopack, 26 Apr 1942
Maj Hugh B. Manson, 13 Sep 1942
Maj Richard W. Robinson, 26 Apr 1943
Maj John H. Disbro, 28 Dec 1943
Maj Roger E. Kindig, 1 May 1944
Maj Arthur Henry, 14 Aug 1944
Maj Albert H. Hutchinson, Jr., 8 Feb 1945
Capt Edwin H. Gibb, Jr., 14 Sep- 31 Oct 1945
Unmanned, 1 Nov 1945-14 Jun 1946
Maj Lowell B. Fisher, 15 Jun 1946
Lt Col Roy N. Millyer, Jr., Aug 1947
Capt William P. Lemme, 1 Apr 1948
Maj Edward M. Nichols, Jr., 27 Sep 1948
Lt Col Ralph A. Reeve, 11 Aug 1949
Col Willard W. Wilson, Jun 1950
Lt Col Cecil Metz, 14 Jan 1952
Maj Joseph F. Nesmith, 6 Mar 1952
Lt Col Earle E. Sweetland, Jul 1952
Maj Stanley E. Tucker, Nov 1952 (Acting)
Lt Col Earle E. Sweetland, 29 Jan 1953
Lt Col David Jones, Jul 1954
Col Paul H. Francis, 21 Aug 1954
Maj Joseph W. Cotton, Jr., 9 Feb 1956 (Temporary)
Lt Col Robert H. Murray, Mar 1956
Lt Col Norman J. Keefer, 9 May 1958
Maj Robert M. Halferty, Jun 1960 (Acting)
Lt Col Roy H. Crew, Sept 1960
Lt Col Jeo J. Casagrande, May 1961
Lt Col Gayle Miller, Jun 1962-15 Mar 1963
Lt Col Billy G. Hill, 11 May 1990
Lt Col Michael Miller, 25 Jun-1 Oct 1992
Lt Col Richard Warner, 1 Oct 1998

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Antisubmarine, American Theater

East Indies

Papua

Bismarck Archipelago

New Guinea

Leyte

Luzon

Southern Philippines

Western Pacific

Air Offensive, Japan

China Defensive

China Offensive

Air Combat, Asiatic-Pacific Theater

Antisubmarine, Asiatic-Pacific Theater

Korea

UN Defensive

UN Offensive

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Papua, 23 Jul 1942-[7] Jan 1943

New Guinea, 5 Nov 1943

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

[1 Oct] 1998-30 Jun 1999

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation

10 Jul-24 Oct 1950

EMBLEM



Approved, 10 Apr 1941



33 Flying Training Squadron emblem: On an ultramarine azure disk, a brown TENNE and or dragon head is positioned at fess point. The dragon face is dexter. It is the dragon head emblem of the 33rd Bombardment Squadron. The disk is bordered or. An argent scroll is attached below the disk. The scroll, which is blank, is also bordered or. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are used on the design. The blue represents the sky, the primary theater of Air

Force operations. Yellow signifies the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The dragon's head is symbolic of the 33rd Bombardment Squadron. Nobility, strength, endurance, and excellence are the characteristics of that squadron.

MOTTO

Docile Dragon"
"Red Raiders

OPERATIONS

Antisubmarine patrols from California, Dec 1941-Jan 1942; combat in southwest and western Pacific 5 Apr 1942-7 Jan 1943, 7 Oct 1943-early Jan 1944, and 10 Mar 1944-July 1945.

30 December 1941 Nine Martin B-26 Marauder bombers of the 33d Bombardment Squadron, 22d Bombardment Group, depart Muroc Army Air Field for March Field, California, but only eight arrive. In bad weather, B-26, 40-1475, snags a pine tree and crashes on Keller Peak in the San Bernardino Mountains, killing nine. Wreckage not found until 14 January 1942. Late the next day, a recovery team of sheriff officers and members of the 33 Squadron reaches the site after a four-mile trek with toboggans from Snow Valley. All of the crew had been thrown from the plane except for one, whose body was trapped beneath the fuselage.

On 9 June 1942, B-26 Marauder, #40-1363, ("Flying Cross" or "Rum Runner") of the 33 Squadron, 22nd Bomb Group based at Woodstock, experienced undercarriage problems, and belly landed at Jacksons field, in New Guinea. They had just raided Japanese positions at Lae. Group O. Lt. Dwight Divine is standing on the aircraft on the left and pilot Pierre Powell is on the right. Divine took over the controls and made a perfect wheels up landing with both engines dead and props feathered. They were able to fly the B-26 back to their home base at Woodstock the next day with the engine bay tied up with wire. It was then flown to Tocumwal RAAF Air Depot for proper repairs, after which it was flown to Essendon, Melbourne where it is believed to have been used for administrative flights by (Col.?) Haskin. It is at this point it would have been named the "Rum Runner".

During an attack on Lae, B-26 Marauder, #40-1468, of the 33 Squadron, 22nd Bomb Group, collided out to sea off Lae, with an attacking Japanese A6M2 Zero, flown by Leading Airman Mitsuo Suitsu. Both aircraft disintegrated leaving no chance of survivors.

On 6 January 1943, B-26 Marauder, #40-1404, "Shittenengitten", of the 33 Squadron of the 22nd Bomb Group, made a force landing at 7 Mile airfield at Port Moresby with its hydraulics shot up. The nose art from this aircraft is now on display at the Australian War Memorial. It was recovered from Milne Bay after the war.

On April 18th, Lt. G. Lewis, Lt. Powell, Lt. Frank Coleman, Lt. George Kahle, Lt. Almeida, Lt. R.W. Robinson, Lt. Glenn and Lt. William A. Garnett, and their crews made another strike at Lakunai Drome and shipping at Rabaul, successfully bombed and strafed grounded Jap Zeros, heavy bombers, moored flying boats, and sank a 7,400 ton tanker, a 7,000 ton merchant ship, and

damaged another merchant ship of 6,500 tons. Individual bombing runs were made at different times from different directions. As Lt. Kahle was leaving the target, the Zeros pursuing him peeled off and climbed to intercept Lt. Garnett's ship which was just beginning its bombing run. His ship was last seen entering a cloud over the target, trying to shake off the Zeros on its tail. Since then news has reached the Group that one of the crew, Sgt. Sanger Reed, is now a prisoner of war in Japan. The entire Group missed the capable Squadron Leader with a brilliant future ahead of him - Lt. Garnett, idolised by both officers, and enlisted men of his 33 Squadron. These missions had no pursuit protection and four B-26 holding off as many as 20 aggressive and determined Zeros were common odds. Zeros were able to attack as the bombers approached, then would peel off to give the Ack-Ack a chance, and then would pick up the formation after the bombing run and close in again.

Combat in Korea, 13 Jul-21 Oct 1950.

Trained student pilots, 1990-1992, and since 1998.

Flying Training Squadrons Inactivated. With pilot production down dramatically, the command reassessed the need for four flying training squadrons at each UPT base and concluded two would do. Accordingly, on 1 October 1992, ATC inactivated the following units: the 43d and 49th Flying Training Squadrons at Columbus AFB, Mississippi; the 84th and 86th Flying Training Squadrons at Laughlin AFB, Texas; the 7th and 26th at Vance AFB, Oklahoma; and the 33d at Reese AFB, Texas. That left one T-37 squadron and one T-38 squadron at each UPT wing. As each wing implemented specialized undergraduate pilot training, ATC intended to reactivate one of the squadrons to serve as the T-1A squadron. 1992

USAF UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 28 Aug 2010

Updated: 4 Feb 2019

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.