

## 36<sup>th</sup> OPERATIONS GROUP



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

36<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Group (Interceptor) constituted, 22 Dec 1939  
Activated, 1 Feb 1940  
Redesignated 36<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group on 15 May 1942  
Redesignated 36<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber Group on 20 Jan 1950  
Redesignated 36<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Day Group, 9 Aug 1954  
Inactivated, 8 Dec 1957  
Redesignated 36<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Group, 31 Jul 1985  
Redesignated 36<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 1 Mar 1992  
Activated, 31 Mar 1992  
Inactivated, 1 Oct 1994  
Activated, 15 Mar 2006

#### STATIONS

Langley Field, VA, 1 Feb 1940  
Losey Field, Puerto Rico, 6 Jan 1941  
Morrison Field, FL, 1 Jun 1943  
Mitchel Field, NY, 4 Jun 1943  
Charleston AAB, SC, 22 Jun 1943  
Alamagordo AAB, NM, 17 Sep 1943  
Scribner AAB, NE, 26 Nov 1943  
Camp Shanks, NY, 13-23 Mar 1944  
Kingsnorth, England, 4 Apr 1944  
Brucheville, France, 4 Jul 1944  
Le Mans, France, 25 Aug 1944

Athis, France, c. Sep 1944  
Juvincourt, France, c. 1 Oct 1944  
Le Culot, Belgium, 27 Oct 1944  
Aachen, Germany, 26 Mar 1945  
Niedermendig, Germany, c. 8 Apr 1945  
Kassel/Rothwesten, Germany, c. 21 Apr 1945  
Bolling Field, DC, 15 Feb-9 Sep 1946  
Howard Field, Panama Canal Zone, 15 Oct 1946-15 Jul 1948  
Furstenfeldbruck AB, Germany, 13 Aug 1948  
Bitburg AB, Germany, 17 Nov 1952-8 Dec 1957  
Biturg AB, Germany, 31 Mar 1992-1 Oct 1994  
Andersen AFB, Guam, 15 Mar 2006

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

GHQ Air Force, 1 Feb 1940  
Caribbean Defense Command, Jan 1941  
Caribbean Interceptor Command, 3 Jun 1941  
VI Interceptor (later, VI Fighter) Command, 25 Oct 1941  
First Air Force, 4 Jun 1943  
Second Air Force, 17 Sep 1943  
Ninth Air Force, 4 Apr 1944  
XXIX Tactical Air Command, 1 Oct 1944  
IX Tactical Air Command, 28 Jan 1945  
XII Tactical Air Command, 15 Nov 1945  
Continental Air Forces (later, Strategic Air Command), 15 Feb 1946  
Caribbean Defense Command, 9 Sep 1946  
Caribbean Air Command, 20 Sep 1946  
6<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, 15 Oct 1946  
36<sup>th</sup> Fighter (later, 36<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber; 36<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Day) Wing, 2 Jul 1948-8 Dec 1957  
36<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, 31 Mar 1992-1 Oct 1994  
36<sup>th</sup> Wing, 15 Mar 2006

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

P-36  
P-39  
P-40, 1940-1943  
P-47, 1943-1946  
F-47, 1946-1947  
F-80, 1947-1950  
F-84, 1950-1953  
F-86, 1953-1956  
F-100, 1956-1957  
F-15, 1992-1994

## **COMMANDERS**

LTC Ned Schramm, 1 Feb 1940  
Maj Charles A. Harrington, 15 Jul 1941  
LTC Glenn O. Barcus, 1 Nov 1941  
Maj Richard P; Klocko, 20 Feb 1942  
Maj James B. League Jr., 18 Jul 1942  
LTC William L. Curry, 1 Sep 1942  
Maj Earl H. Dunham, 1 Oct 1942  
LTC William L. Curry, 14 Jan 1943  
LTC Van H. Slayden, 12 Jan 1944  
LTC Paul P. Douglas Jr., 5 Apr 1945  
LTC John L. Wright, 30 Jun 1945  
Maj Arthur W. Holderness Jr., 25 Sep 1945  
LTC William T. McBride, 9 Nov 1945  
Col Henry R. Spicer, 15 Oct 1946  
LTC Paul P. Douglas Jr., Dec 1948  
Col Hubert Zemke, Jan 1949  
Col Charles W. Boedeker, 2 Nov 1949  
Col William A. Daniel, 22 Nov 1949  
LTC George F. Ceulleers, 26 Dec 1950  
LTC Curran L. Jones, 15 Feb 1951  
LTC George T. Lee, 6 Mar 1951  
Col Seth J. McKee, 3 Dec 1951  
Col Marvin E. Childs, 9 May 1953  
Col Edward A. McGough III, 20 Dec 1954  
None (unmanned), 1 Oct 1956-8 Dec 1957  
Col Michael B. Tobin, 23 Mar 1992  
Col John H. Campbell, 7 Aug 1992  
Col John R. Baker, 26 Jul 1993-31 Jul 1994  
Col Reid Langdon

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

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

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

## **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations

France, 1 Sep 1944

Germany, 12 Apr 1945

Cited in 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] May 1956-[1] May 1958

30 Jun 1992-1 Jul 1994

## **EMBLEM**

Group will use the wing emblem with the group designation in the scroll.

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The group took over the mission of the 36th Expeditionary Operations Group and will establish a permanent command structure for Air Force assets Deployed to Andersen.

Departed 2 January 1941 from the port of Newport News on the U.S.A.T. Chateau Thierry for duty stations in Puerto Rico. Arrived 6 January 1941 at Ponce, PR. Flew anti-submarine patrols over the Caribbean. At the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, the group, still in Puerto Rico, was placed on twenty-four-hour alert. The training program was immediately changed to that of intercepting any unidentified aircraft in the area and expanded patrols over the Panama Canal Zone.

By May 1943 it was apparent that a big move was in the offing. Official orders had arrived, directing the group to destroy all its files and records preparatory to leaving Puerto Rico. The 36th was at that time flying P-39S and P-40s and almost all its aircraft were flown to Aruba, in Curacao, and to Panama.

Returned to the United States to train in P-47s. The real move came early in 1944 when the 36th Fighter Group was informed of its future APO number, and, on 22 March 1944, H.M.T. Stirling

Castle pulled out of New York harbor bound for England with 5,500 men aboard, among them the 36th Fighter Group. Twelve days later the Stirling Castle docked at Liverpool. Training, including security lectures, aircraft and tank recognition classes, and training films, took up the better part of the next month.

Served in European Theater from May 1944 through May 1945. Supported D-Day landings at Normandy in Jun 1944 and breakthrough at St Lo, France in Jul 1944. Acquired nickname of Fightin' 36. Participated in the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944. Supported operations during airborne assault across the Rhine in Mar1945. Attack on airfields in southern Germany resulted in destruction to hangars and numerous aircraft.

The 36th Fighter-Bomber Group's combat record showed forty-two enemy aircraft destroyed in the air, fourteen damaged 250 aircraft destroyed on the ground, 112 damaged; 262 armored vehicles destroyed, 159 damaged; 420 locomotives destroyed, 195 damaged; as well as thousands of rail cars, buildings, bridges, gun emplacements, factories, and so on. This was the record of the 36th Fighter-Bomber Group in only 354 days of combat.

Engaged in occupation duties in Germany after V-E Day until Feb 1946. Transferred, without personnel or equipment, to United States. Moved to Howard Field, Panama Canal Zone, in Oct 1946 conducting training missions. In Aug 1948 transferred to Germany as part of United States Air Forces in Europe. Became first US jet fighter equipped unit stationed in Europe.

In March 1946, after putting in ten months in Europe as part of the postwar Occupation forces, the 36th was sent to Bolling Field, at Washington, D.C., and shortly after that to Howard Field, in the Canal Zone. In October the Group was reorganized, and on 2 July 1948 the 36th Fighter-Bomber Wing came into being. The following month, the newly created Wing established itself at Furstenfeldbruck, in Bavaria, at the base which had been the pride of Goring's Luftwaffe and which has more than once been called the world's finest air base. The 36th chalked up another proud "first" when it was outfitted with F-80s and became the first jet unit in Europe.

During the 36th's period at "Fursty," its fame was spread far and wide by the famous Skyblazers, a group of ace pilots whose precision-flying demonstrations has never been equaled for excellence. During the course of 257 shows in twelve countries, the Skyblazers performed before more than ten million dazzled spectators.

Provided air defense for the Central Region of Europe during 1992 -1994.

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Air Force Order of Battle  
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#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
Unit yearbook. *36<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber Wing*. @1952.