

## 39<sup>th</sup> AIR DIVISION



### MISSION

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s the 39th Air Division controlled all of the units responsible for the air defense of north Japan, which included northern Honshu and Hokkaido islands and the contiguous territorial waters. In this role the 39th trained the assigned units and controlled aerial interception missions when Japanese air space was violated. The division also controlled air refueling and ECM missions, and trained personnel of the Japanese Air Self Defense Force in flying operations, radar operations and maintenance, and proper radio procedures.

### LINEAGE

39<sup>th</sup> Air Division (Defense) designated and organized, 1 Mar 1952  
Redesignated 39<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 18 Mar 1955  
Discontinued and inactivated, 15 Jan 1968

### STATIONS

Misawa AB, Japan, 1 Mar 1952-15 Jan 1968

### ASSIGNMENTS

Japan Air Defense Force, 1 Mar 1952  
Fifth Air Force, 1 Sep 1954-15 Jan 1968.

### COMMANDERS

Col Boyd Hubbard Jr., 1 Mar 1952  
Col Curtis R. Low, 30 May 1952  
Col German P. Culver, 6 Jun 1953  
Col William E. Elder, 15 Sep 1953  
BG Edward N. Backus, 9 Aug 1955

BG James O. Guthrie, 25 Jul 1956  
Col William W. Ingenhutt, 2 Jun 1959  
BG Travis M. Hetherington, 24 Jul 1959  
Col Dean Davenport, by 30 Jun 1961  
BG Ernest H. Beverly, 5 Aug 1961  
Col Roscoe C. Crawford Jr., 13 Aug 1963  
Col Robert W. Shick, 29 May 1965  
Col Frank E. Angier, 12 Sep 1966  
BG John W. Harrell Jr., 27 Oct 1966  
Col Oliver B. Bucher Jr., 1 Jul 1967-15 Jan 1968

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

Korean Service

### **Campaign Streamers**

None

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

### **Decorations**

None

## **EMBLEM**





39<sup>th</sup> Air Division emblem: On a shield azure edged and a bend or, over all a roundel, per fess argent and of the first, charged with two electronic discharges chevronways, points to chief gules, all encircled with an annulet of the firmament proper, charged with thirteen stars argent. (Approved 25 Jun 1954.)

#### **MOTTO**

#### **NICKNAME**

#### **OPERATIONS**

After the Soviet Union shot down an RB-29 aircraft on 7 Nov 1954, the 39th provided fighter escort for all friendly reconnaissance aircraft flying near Soviet territory and the Northern Air Defense Sector. The division also supported combat operations during the Vietnam War.

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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.