

50 ATTACK SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

50 Aero Squadron organized, 6 Aug 1917
Redesignated 50 Squadron, 14 Mar 1921
Redesignated 50 Observation Squadron, 25 Jan 1923
Inactivated, 1 Aug 1927
Activated, 1 Nov 1930
Redesignated 50 Reconnaissance Squadron, 25 Jan 1938
Redesignated 50 Reconnaissance Squadron (Medium Range), 6 Dec 1939
Redesignated 50 Reconnaissance Squadron (Heavy), 20 Nov 1940
Redesignated 431 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 22 Apr 1942
Redesignated 5th Reconnaissance Squadron (Very Long Range, Photographic), 29 Apr 1946
Inactivated, 20 Oct 1947
Redesignated 50 Airmanship Training Squadron and activated, 1 Oct 1983
Redesignated 50 Training Squadron, 1 Nov 1994
Redesignated 50 Education Squadron, 1 Jan 2001
Inactivated, 1 Aug 2005
Redesignated 50 Attack Squadron, 13 Feb 2018
Activated, 27 Feb 2018

STATIONS

Kelly Field, TX, 6 Aug-28 Dec 1917
Romsey, England, 24 Jan 1918
Grantham, England, 4 Feb 1918
Winchester, England, 3-13 Jul 1918
Amanty, France, 27 Jul 1918

Behonne, France, 4 Sep 1918
Bicqueley, France, 8 Sep 1918
Remicourt, France, 24 Sep 1918
Clermont-en-Argonne, France, 28 Oct 1918
Langres, France (operated from Longeau), 6 Dec 1918 (B Flight operated from Clermont-en-Argonne to 18 Dec 1918 and from Clamecy thereafter; C Flight operated from Clermont-en-Argonne to 12 Dec 1918 and from La Valbonne thereafter)
Clamecy, France, 19 Jan-19 Apr 1919
Mitchel Field, NY, 9 May 1919
Scott Field, IL, 27 May 1919
Langley Field, VA, Aug 1919
Brooks Field, TX, 25 Jun-1 Aug 1927
Luke Field, TH, 1 Nov 1930
Hickam Field, TH, 9 Oct 1939
Viti Levu, 24 Jul 1942 (air echelon operated from New Hebrides, Aug 1942)
Espiritu Santo, 1 Nov 1942-28 Mar 1943 (forward echelon operated from Guadalcanal, Dec 1942)
Hickam Field, TH, 8 Apr 1943
Funafuti, 11 Nov 1943
Tarawa, 16 Jan 1944
Kwajalein, 31 Mar 1944
Guam, 21 Oct 1944
Okinawa, 2 Jul 1945
Manila, Luzon, Dec 1945
Clark Field, Luzon, 15 Jun 1946-20 Oct 1947
United States Air Force Academy, Colorado, 1 Oct 1983 – 1 Aug 2005
Shaw AFB, SC

ASSIGNMENTS

Unkn, 6 Aug 1917-Sep 1918
I Corps Observation Group, Sep-Nov 1918
Unkn, Nov 1918-Sep 1919
Second Wing, Sep 1919 (attached to 1 Army Observation Group, c. Oct 1919)
1 Army Observation Group, 24 May 1920
Air Service Field Officers School, 10 Feb 1921
2 Wing (attached to Air Service Field Officers [later Air Service Tactical; Air Corps Tactical] School), 8 Aug 1922
Air Corps Training Center, Jun-1 Aug 1927
5 Composite (later Bombardment) Group, assigned, 1 Nov 1930, and attached, 12 Oct 1938
11 Bombardment Group, attached, 1 Feb 1940, and assigned, 25 Feb 1942
US Army Forces, Pacific, 29 Apr 1946
313 Bombardment Wing, 15 Jun 1946
5 Reconnaissance Group, 3 Feb-20 Oct 1947
United States Air Force Academy, 1 Oct 1983

34 Education Group, 31 Oct 1994
432 Operations Group

ATTACHMENTS

1 Provisional Air Brigade for operations, 6 May-3 Oct 1921

WEAPON SYSTEMS

DH-4, 1918-1919

SE-5

O-19, 1930-1936

B-12

A-3

O-19

P-12

B-18, 1938-1941

B-17, 1941-1943

B-24, 1943-1945

F-13, 1946-1947

F-7, 1946-1947

C-47 1946

C-46, 1946-1947

FB-17, 1947

T-43

MQ-9

COMMANDERS

1st Lt Fraser Hale, Jan 1920

1st Lt Isaiah Davies, 1 Apr 1921

Capt Arthur E. Easterbrook, 15 Dec 1921

Capt Floyd E. Galloway, 7 Dec 1924

1st Lt Lewis S. Webster, 23 Mar 1927

1st Lt Byron T. Ward, 25 May 1927

Inactive, 1 Aug 1927-Dec 1927

Capt Paul S. Greene, Dec 1927

1st Lt Walter R. Avery, 27 May 1929

Capt Frank H. Pritchard, 1 Nov 1930

Capt Ulysses G. Jones, 13 Mar 1931

1st Lt Edgar T. Noyes, 1 Oct 1931

Capt Charles G. Brenneman, 19 Oct 1931

Maj Lucas V. Beau, Jr., 13 Oct 1934

1st Lt Charles F. Born, 17 Sep 1936

1st Lt Leland F. Stranathan, 23 Mar 1937

Capt Homer W. Ferguson, 4 Sep 1937

Capt Warren H. Higgins, 1 May 1940

Unknown, Jan 1941-7 Dec 1941
Lt Col Mark D. Bontrager

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War I

St Mihiel

Lorraine

Meuse-Argonne

World War II

Central Pacific

Air Offensive, Japan

Papua

Guadalcanal

Eastern Mandates

Western Pacific

Ryukyus

China Offensive

Air Combat, Asiatic-Pacific Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

South Pacific, [2 Aug-Oct] 1942

Presidential Unit Citation

EMBLEM



The 50 Aero Squadron adopted the Dutch Girl logo of Old Dutch Cleanser to show they meant to

"Clean up on Germany"



The 431 emblem is a square parted diagonally from upper right to lower left comers red above and blue below. (Approved, 15 Feb 1924)



50 Airmanship Training Squadron emblem:

The 50 Education Squadron emblem: The silhouette of a DH-4 on the squadron patch proudly displays the unit's link to a colorful heritage. The Flying Bobcat, also on the patch, represents the 200th Airlift Squadron (200 AS), Colorado Air National Guard. The Guard unit flew and maintained the T-43A, the last aircraft used by the 50.



50 Attack Squadron patch

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Combat as corps observation unit with I Army Corps, 12 Sep-6 Nov 1918; working principally with III Corps School, instructed personnel of ground services in mission and functions of military aviation, Dec 1918-Apr 1919.

The Fiftieth Aero Squadron reached the Front at Bicqueley near Toul on September 8th. It engaged in the operations at St. Mihiel and the Argonne-Meuse first and second offensives. It ceased operations April 1, 1919. This squadron made many reconnaissance's over the lines, taking many pictures and gathering much useful information, during the accomplishment of which it fought off many German attacks and was credited with one victory. It suffered nine casualties, consisting of 5 killed, 2 wounded, and 2 prisoners.

Demonstrations of effectiveness of aerial bombardment on warships, Jun-Sep 1921.

Organized in December 1927 with Organized Reserve personnel as a RAI unit at Dodd Field, TX.

Organized Reserve officers assigned to the unit participated in summer training at Kelly Field, TX, 1928. Designated mobilization training station was Dodd Field, TX, 1927-29.

Withdrawn from the Eighth Corps Area on 27 October 1928 and allotted to the Second Corps Area. Assigned on 13 February 1929 to the 9th Observation Group.

Organized on 27 May 1929 with Organized Reserve personnel as a RAI unit at Mitchel Field, NY.

Activated on 1 November 1930, less Reserve personnel, at Luke Field, TH.

Search missions from Hawaii, 8 Dec 1941-Jul 1942; May-Oct 1943. Combat in Central Pacific, Jun 1942; May, Jun, Jul, Sep 1943; in South and Southwest Pacific, 2 Aug 1942-16 Feb 1943; and in Central and Western Pacific, 13 Nov 1943-12 Aug 1945.

Photomapping in Philippines, Formosa, and the Pescadores, 1946-1947

The 50 Education Squadron mission is to produce officers schooled in the application of Air and Space power. The squadron is divided into two divisions: Military Applications Division and Battlespace Exploitation Division.

Shaw Air Force Base's newest addition, the MQ-9 Reaper group, is activating its 50 Attack Squadron this morning and holding an assumption of command ceremony. Col. Joseph Campo, commander of the 432nd Operations Group at Creech Air Force Base in Nevada, is presiding over the ceremony in which Col. David John is assuming command of the squadron, according to Shaw. Shaw's 50 ATKS is a subordinate of the 432nd OG. "The squadron, which operates MQ-9 Reaper aircraft, will bring operators to Shaw, but no additional aircraft will relocate as a result of the activation," states a news release. It was announced last year that Shaw was the preferred base to get a new Reaper group after an Air Combat Command program identified ways to improve on concerns identified by airmen and their families in the RPA career fields.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 25 Aug 2011

Updated: 8 May 2023

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.