

54th AIRLIFT FLIGHT



LINEAGE

54th Aero Squadron organized, 8 Aug 1917
Redesignated 466th Aero Squadron, 1 Feb 1918
Demobilized, 10 Feb 1919

54th School Squadron, 6 Feb 1923
Activated, 31 Jul 1927
Inactivated, 30 Apr 1931
Activated, 15 Jul 1931
Redesignated 54th Bombardment Squadron 1 Mar 1935

466th Aero Squadron reconstituted and consolidated with 54th School Squadron 1936
Inactivated, 1 Sep 1936

Activated, 1 Oct 1939
Redesignated 54th Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 6 Dec 1939
Disbanded, 1 May 1942

54th Ferrying Squadron constituted, 30 Aug 1942
Activated, 16 Sep 1942
Redesignated 54th Transport Squadron, 19 Mar 1943
Disbanded, 7 Nov 1943
Reconstituted, 19 Sep 1985

554th Reconnaissance Squadron constituted and activated, 9 Feb 1967
Organized, 25 Feb 1967
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1972

54th Bombardment Squadron (Medium), Reconstituted, consolidated (1985) with the 54th Ferrying Squadron, 1985

Redesignated 554th Tactical Intelligence Squadron, 19 Sep 1985
Redesignated 54th Airlift Flight and activated, 1 Apr 1993

STATIONS

Kelly Field, TX, 8 Aug 1917
Hazelhurst Field, NY, 21 Sep-13 Oct 1917
Issoudun, France, 4 Nov 1917
Romorantin, France, 19 Mar 1918
Brest, France, 28 Dec 1918-c. 12 Jan 1919
Garden City, NY, c. 31 Jan-10 Feb 1919
March Field, CA, 31 Jul 1927-30 Apr 1931
Maxwell Field, AL, 15 Jul 1931-1 Sep 1936
Maxwell Field, AL, 1 Oct 1939; Orlando, FL, 2 Sep 1940
Eglin Field, FL, 29 Jun 1941-1 May 1942
Homestead AAB, FL, 16 Sep 1942-7 Nov 1943
Otis AFB, MA, 25 Feb-31 Oct 1967
Korat RTAFB, Thailand, 31 Oct 1967
Nakhon Phanom RTAFB, Thailand, 15 Dec 1970-30 Sep 1972
Maxwell AFB, AL, 1 Apr 1993

ASSIGNMENTS

Unkn, 8 Aug-Nov 1917
Third Aviation Instruction Center, Nov 1917
Air Service Production Center No. 2, Mar-Dec 1918
Unkn, Dec 1918-10 Feb 1919
13th School Group, 31 Jul 1927-30 Apr 1931
Air Corps Tactical School, 15 Jul 1931
2nd Bombardment Group (attached to Air Corps Tactical School), 1 Mar 1935-1 Sep 1936
23rd Composite Group (later, Air Corps Proving Ground Detachment; Air Forces Proving Ground Group), 1 Oct 1939-1 May 1942
15th Ferrying (later, 15 Transport) Group, 16 Sep 1942-7 Nov 1943
Air Defense Command, 9 Feb 1967
553rd Reconnaissance Wing, 25 Feb 1967
56th Special Operations Wing, 15 Dec 1970-30 Sep 1972
502nd Logistics and Operations Group, 1 Apr 1993
502nd Operations Squadron, 17 Jun 1994
42nd Operations Squadron, 1 Oct 1994

WEAPON SYSTEMS

BT-2
DH-4
PT-3
A-3
O-25
B-4
B-18, 1940
B-23, 1940-1942
B-26, 1941-1942

A-12
B-12
B-17
B-25
O-38
OA-9
PB-2
PT-14
PT-17
EC-121, 1967-1970
QU-22, 1970-1972
C-21, 1993

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War I
Theater of Operations

World War II
American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Vietnam
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II
Vietnam Air/Ground
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV
Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969
Vietnam Winter/Spring 1969-1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Southwest Monsoon
Commando Hunt V
Commando Hunt VI
Commando Hunt VII
Vietnam Ceasefire

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Presidential Unit Citation
Southeast Asia, 1 Apr-30 Sep 1972

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device
1 Apr 1967-31 May 1968
1 Jul 1968-15 Apr 1969
15 Dec 1970-30 Nov 1971
1 Dec 1971-29 Feb 1972

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
29 Nov 1967-30 Sep 1972

EMBLEM

Approved on 30 Nov 1993

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Constructed facilities, 1917-1918. Tested equipment, 1940-1942. Ferried aircraft between Florida and British West Indies, 1942-1943. Reconnaissance in Southeast Asia, 1967-1972. Provided airlift services for Air University personnel, 1993



(canvas)



(leather)

LINEAGE

54th Aero Squadron organized, 8 Aug 1917

Redesignated 466th Aero Squadron, 1 Feb 1918

Demobilized, 10 Feb 1919

Reconstituted and consolidated (1936) with 54th School Squadron which was constituted, 6 Feb 1923

Activated, 31 Jul 1927

Inactivated, 30 Apr 1931

Activated, 15 Jul 1931

Redesignated 54th Bombardment Squadron, 1 Mar 1935

Inactivated, 1 Sep 1936

Activated, 1 Oct 1939

Redesignated 54th Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 6 Dec 1939

Disbanded, 1 May 1942

STATIONS

Kelly Field, TX, 8 Aug 1917

Hazelhurst Field, NY, 21 Sep-13 Oct 1917

Issoudun, France, 4 Nov 1917

Romorantin, France, 19 Mar 1918

Brest, France, 28 Dec 1918-12 Jan 1919

Garden City, NY, 31 Jan-10 Feb 1919

March Field, CA, 31 Jul 1927-30 Apr 1931

Maxwell Field, AL, 15 Jul 1931-1 Sep 1936

Maxwell Field, AL, 1 Oct 1939

Orlando, FL, 2 Sep 1940

Eglin Field, FL, 29 Jun 1941-1 May 1942

ASSIGNMENTS

Unkn, 8 Aug-Nov 1917

Third Aviation Instruction Center, Nov 1917

Air Service Production Center No. 2, Mar-Dec 1918

Unkn, Dec 1918-10 Feb 1919

13th School Group, 31 Jul 1927-30 Apr 1931

Air Corps Tactical School, 15 Jul 1931

2nd Bombardment Group (attached to Air Corps Tactical School), 1 Mar 1935-1 Sep 1936

23rd Composite Group (later Air Corps Proving Ground Detachment; Air Forces Proving Ground

Group), 1 Oct 1939-1 May 1942

WEAPON SYSTEMS

BT-2

DH-4

PT-3

A-3

O-25

B-4

B-18

B-23,

B-26,

A-12

B-12

B-17

B-25

O-38

OA-9

PB-2

PT-14

PT-17

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Theater of Operations

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

None

EMBLEM

On a blue disc a lamp of knowledge with the frame in the form of a sinister wing, displayed within a border, all gold. (Approved, 10 Oct 1931)

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Constructed facilities 1917-1918. Tested equipment, 1940-1942.

54th School Squadron (1923-35) (15th School Group)

54th Bombardment Squadron (1935-41)

HQ-Not organized 1923-27

March Field, CA, 1927-31

Maxwell Field, AL, 1931-36

Inactive 1936-39; 1939-40

Orlando, FL, 1940-41

Eglin Field, FL, 1941

Constituted in the Regular Army on 6 February 1923 as the 54th School Squadron, assigned to the 15th School Group, and allotted to the Eighth Corps Area. Designated Active Associate was the Air Service Tactical School 1923-27. Relieved from allotted to the Eighth Corps Area on 28 February 1927 and allotted to the Second Corps Area. Relieved from assignment to the 15th School Group on 31 July 1927, assigned to the 13th School Group, and organized at March Field, CA. Inactivated on 30 April 1931 at March Field. Activated on 15 July 1931 at Maxwell Field, AL, with personnel from the 11th Bombardment Squadron. Concurrently relieved from assignment to the 13th School Group and assigned to the Air Corps Tactical School. Reorganized and redesignated 54th Bombardment Squadron on 1 March 1935, assigned to the 2nd Bombardment Group, and attached to the Air Corps Tactical School. Inactivated on 1 September 1936 at Maxwell Field. Consolidated on 14 October 1936 with the 54th Aero Squadron (a WWI unit organized on 8 August 1917 at Kelly Field, TX; demobilized on 10 February 1919 at Mitchel Field, NY; reconstituted on 14 October 1936). Activated on 1 October 1939 at Maxwell Field and assigned to the 23rd Composite Group. Redesignated as the 54th Bombardment Squadron (Medium) on 6 December 1939. Transferred on 2 September 1940 to Orlando, FL. Transferred on 29 June 1941 to Eglin Field, FL. Location 7 December 1941—Eglin Field, FL. Disbanded on 1 May 1942.

Commanders, 54th School Squadron 54th Bombardment Squadron

Maj. Louis H. Brereton

31 Dec 25-30 Jun 26

Capt. Donald P. Muse

15 Jul 31-10 Sep 31

Maj. Oscar Westover

30 Jun 26-31 Dec 26

1st Lt. Harry H. Mills

10 Sep 31-13 Aug 32

2nd Lt. Leslie F. Young

31 Dec 26-30 Jun 27

Capt. Walter H. Peck
 13 Aug 32-31 Aug 33
 Capt. Rosenham Beam
 26 Jul 27-13 Dec 27
 Maj. Rufus B. Davidson
 31 Aug 33-7 Sep 35
 Capt. Joseph H. Davidson
 13 Dec 27-6 Sep 30
 Maj. Robert T. Zane
 7 Sep 35-14 Jul 36
 Capt. Leo F. Post
 6 Sep 30-30 Apr 31
 Capt. Sigmund F. Landers
 14 Jul 36-1 Sep 36
 Inactive
 30 Apr 31-15 Jul 31
 Inactive
 1 Sep 36-1 Oct 39
 Capt. Edmund F. Freeman
 1 Oct 39-ao Jan 41

410910	RP-36A	38-201	54BS	AFPG	Eglin Field, FL	TOAGL	Jowdy, William J	Hamilton Field, CA
360725	B-4A	30-346	54BS		Maxwell Field, Montgomery, AL	TOA	Schmid, Herman A.	Valparaiso Bomb & Gunnery Rng, FL
410705	PB-2A	35-15	54BS		Eglin Field, FL	FLMF	Freeman, Edmund F.	South Hill, VA
411008	PB-2A	35-21	54BS		Dale Marbry Field, FI	BOF	Aubert, george J	5.5 mi SW Trenton, FL

Units began arriving in June. The 70th Service Squadron came from Kelly Field to operate the base. The 47th School Squadron came from Brooks Field as the training detachment. The 95th Pursuit Squadron from Selfridge Field, Michigan, and the 11th Bombardment Squadron from Langley Field, Virginia, paused briefly at March before moving on to Rockwell Field, San Diego. Lastly, the 44th Observation Squadron and the 23rd Photo Section were both transferred from Post Field, Oklahoma. Later, the 53rd and 54th School Squadrons were activated, and the three training units placed under the 13th School Group. Plans called for 143 training planes, consisting of PT-1, -2 and -3s and DH-4s.

In line with the five-year Air Corps plan, a personnel buildup for tactical units began in the

spring of 1931. However, a final entering class of 130 reported on March 1st for eight months training, so that base facilities could be fully utilized while making the transition. The class which had entered in November 1930, continued on schedule until June. Its departure for Kelly Field coincided with the arrival and activation of units. A new primary class also began in July and completed its initial four months before being transferred to Randolph for the second course. The 13th School Group inactivated on April 30, 1931, as did the 54th School Squadron. Transferred to Randolph was the 47th School Squadron on May 1st and the 53rd School Squadron on October 12th.

290506	DH-4M	AC-31246	54SchSq		March Field, Riverside, CA	FLEF	Chandler, Homer B	March Field, CA
290506	DH-4M	AS-31956	54SchSq		March Field, Riverside, CA	FLEF	Heral, L. S.	unknown
290613	A-3A	27-306	54SchSq		Kelly Field, San Antonio, TX	TACNU	Davenport, Robert Bruce	Kelly Field, TX
290727	O-2K	29-198	54SchSq		March Field, Riverside, CA	FLEF	Goldsborough, William C.	Indio, CA
300206	DH-4M	23-410	54SchSq		March Field, Riverside, CA	FLEFNU	Merrifield, Austin S.	1 mi E of Sorento, CA
300219	DH-4M	AC-31958	54SchSq		March Field, Riverside, CA	FLEF	Wagner, Lester E.	2 mi SE of Ontario, CA
300624	BT-2A	30-216	54SchSq		Kelly Field, San Antonio, TX	FLEF	Moore, Aubrey L.	Kerrville, TX
300718	YPT-6	30-380	54SchSq		March Field, Riverside, CA	TOAGL	Williams, Roger V.	March Field, CA
400208	BC-1I	38-374	54SchSq		Kelly Field, San Antonio, TX	LAC	Sims, Mitchell E.	Kelly Field, TX
420430	AT-6A	41-249	54SchSq		Eglin Field, Valaparisso, FL	TOAEF	Kagan, Abbott	Aux Fld #2, Eglin Field, FL

290506	DH-4M	AC-31246	54SchSq		March Field, Riverside, CA	FLEF	Chandler, Homer B	March Field, CA
290506	DH-4M	AS-31956	54SchSq		March Field, Riverside, CA	FLEF	Heral, L. S.	unknown
290727	O-2K	29-198	54SchSq		March Field, Riverside, CA	FLEF	Goldsborough, William C.	Indio, CA
300206	DH-4M	23-410	54SchSq		March Field, Riverside, CA	FLEFNU	Merrifield, Austin S.	1 mi E of Sorento, CA
300219	DH-4M	AC-31958	54SchSq		March Field, Riverside, CA	FLEF	Wagner, Lester E.	2 mi SE of Ontario, CA
300718	YPT-6	30-380	54SchSq		March Field, Riverside, CA	TOAGL	Williams, Roger V.	March Field, CA

290301	PT-3	28-266	54Sq		March Field, Riverside, CA	LAC	Garrett, Kenneth	1 mi N of Oasis, CA
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LINEAGE

STATIONS

March

DEPLOYED STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

ATTACHMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 25 Sep 2010

Updated:

Sources

AFHRA