

316th OBSERVATION SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

316th Aero Squadron organized, Jul 1918

Demobilized, Dec 1918

316th Squadron (Observation) constituted in the Organized Reserve, 24 Jun 1921

Initiated, 23 Nov 1921

Redesignated 316th Observation Squadron, 25 Jan 1923

316th Aero Squadron reconstituted and consolidated with 316th Observation Squadron, 24 Nov 1936. Consolidated unit designated 316th Observation Squadron

Inactivated, 1 Sep 1940

Disbanded, 31 May 1942

STATIONS

Garden City, NY

Crissy Field, San Francisco, CA, 1921-1940

Inactive 1940-1941

ASSIGNMENTS

91st Division, 1921-21 Feb 1929

312th Observation Group, 1 Oct 1933-1 Sep 1940

WEAPON SYSTEMS

JN-6H

PT-1

PT-3A

PT-6

O-19B

COMMANDERS

1LT August G. Rehlmeier, 23 Nov 1921
1LT Raymond Kearney, Apr 1922
Maj Edward P. Howard, Jul 1922-Jan 1924
Cpt William H. Royle, Sep 1925
Maj Livingston G. Irving, Sep 1927
Cpt William H. Royle, 1 Feb 1928-Mar 1928
Unknown, Mar 28-Jul 1930
Cpt Charles H. Kruse, Jul 1930
Maj Frank A. Flynn, 18 Sep 1934
Maj Charles H. Kruse, 18 Jan 37-Jul 1939
Unknown, Jul 1939-Jun 1940
Maj Frederick E. Edwards, Jun 1940-1 Sep 1940
Inactive, 1 Sep 1940-7 Dec 1941

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

CALL SIGN

OPERATIONS

Constituted in the Organized Reserve on 24 June 1921 as the 316th Squadron (Observation), assigned to the 91st Division, and allotted to the Ninth Corps Area. Initiated on 23 November 1921 at Crissy Field, San Francisco, CA. Redesignated as the 316th Observation Squadron on 25 January 1923. The squadron was one of a few in the Organized Reserve that possessed facilities, equipment, and aircraft. In January 1922 the squadron received the use of a hanger at Crissy Field and was issued five aircraft for training purposes making it the first aircraft equipped reserve squadron in the United States. Relieved on 21 February 1929 from assignment to the 91st Division. Assigned on 1 October 1933 to the 312th Observation Group (XIX Corps). Consolidated on 24 November 1936 with the 316th Aero Squadron (Service) (a WWI unit organized in July 1918 at Garden City, NY; demobilized in December 1918 at Garden City, NY; reconstituted on 24 November 1936). Conducted summer training at Del Monte, CA,

Crissy Field, CA, Moffett Field, CA, or Hamilton Field, CA. Inactivated on 1 September 1940 by relief of personnel. Status: Disbanded on 31 May 1942.

In 1922, at the Presidio of San Francisco in California, Crissy Field became an active site of air reserve training on the West Coast. The reserve program there included the 91st Division, Organized Reserve, and the 316th Observation Squadron, Organized Reserve, generally under the instruction and guidance of the active Air Service's 91st Observation Squadron. In time, reserve units were also organized at San Jose, California, thirty miles south on San Francisco Bay. Assisted by 1st Lts. Benjamin S. Catlin, Jr., and W. A. Maxwell, 1st Lt. Robert E. Selff was in charge of instruction of the reserve squadrons in the triangle formed by Crissy, San Jose, and Mather Field, near Sacramento, California. On February 4 and 5, the squadron mustered for its formal sign-up session, and the Air Service officers accepted twenty-three reserve officers into the squadron as members of the Air Service Reserve Officers

With the assignment of Capt. Armin F. Herold to the 91st Division as Air Officer and the acquisition of two Wright-Hispano-powered aircraft, the actual business of flying training began. The division also acquired an old DeHaviland for the instruction of enlisted mechanics and it detailed a staff sergeant and four specialists to duty with the reserve squadron for this purpose. By April 25, the squadron had thirty-three officers assigned, just two short of its authorized strength, and twenty-five enlisted men under instruction.

The reserve unit at Crissy Field progressed, and on the weekend of February 20-21, 1925, it sent fourteen aircraft on a cross-country flight to Mather Field and back. Departing Crissy in the rain, the planes flew in and out of a 500-foot ceiling all the way across the San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. But, from Benicia, about the midpoint to the Sacramento destination, the ceiling varied, sometimes rising to 1,500 feet. In spite of the clouds and intermittent rain, the formation arrived at Mather on schedule. The return flight next day was uneventful.

Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 4 Sep 2011
Updated:

Sources

US Army Order of Battle 1919-1941. Steven E. Clay. Combat Studies Institute Press. US Army Combined Arms Center. Fort Leavenworth, KS. Nd.