

343 FIGHTER GROUP, AIR DEFENSE



MISSION

LINEAGE

343 Fighter Group constituted, 3 Sep 1942

Activated Sep 1942

Inactivated, 15 Aug 1946

Redesignated 343 Fighter Group (Air Defense), 20 Jun 1955

Activated, 18 Aug 1955

STATIONS

Elmendorf Field, AK, 11 Sep 1942

Ft Glenn, AK, Sep 1942

Elmendorf Field, AK, 3 Dec 1942

Adak, AK, 7 Mar 1943

Amchitka, AK, 25 Jul 1943

Alexai Point, AK, 22 Jan 1944

Shemya, AK, 5 Oct 1945-15 Aug 1946

Duluth Mun Aprt, MN, 18 Aug 1955

ASSIGNMENTS

Eleventh Air Force

31 Air Division

37 Air Division, 1 Jan 1959

30 Air Division, 1 Apr 1959

Duluth Air Defense Sector, 15 Nov 1959

29 Air Division, 1 Apr 1966

34 Air Division, 15 Sep 1969

29 Air Division, 14 Nov 1969

23 Air Division, 19 Nov 1969

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-38

P-40

P-51

F-89

COMMANDERS

Lt Col John S. Chennault, 11 Sep 1942

Lt Col Edgar A. Boadway, 16 Nov 1942

Maj Edgar A. Romberg, 10 Dec 1942

Lt Col Anthony V. Grossetta, 19 Mar 1943

Lt Col James R. Watt, 19 Apr 1943

Maj Edgar A. Romberg, 25 May 1943

Lt Col William E. Elder, 3 Jun 1943

Col Robert H. Jones, 17 Oct 1943

Lt Col Dean Davenport, 18 Oct 1945

Maj Benjamin H. King, 19 Jul-15 Aug 1946

Col George L. Hicks III, 18 Aug 1955

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Aleutian Islands

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

Azure, fimbriated argent, within a diminutive border gules, an Indian arrow issuing from base, in pale, the shaft or, the arrowhead proper, markings and outline black, the thong fastening of the third, superimposed over the arrowhead a missile, in bend sinister, the power stream swirling upward to dexter chief all of the second, a sound barrier symbol in sinister chief sable. (Approved, 3 Feb 1956)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Began operations immediately. Provided air defense for the Aleutians; bombed and strafed Japanese camps, anti-aircraft emplacements, hangars, and radio stations on Kiska; escorted bombers that struck enemy airfields, harbor facilities, and shipping. Flew its last combat mission in

Oct 1943, but carried out patrol and reconnaissance assignments in the area until the end of the war. Later trained, carried mail, and served as part of the defense force for Alaska.

USAF Unit Histories

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.