

348th RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE¹

348th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 28 Jan 1942

Activated, 1 Jun 1942

Inactivated, 8 Nov 1945

Redesignated 348th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 3 Jul 1947

Activated in the Reserve, 17 Jul 1947

Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

Redesignated 348th Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, Heavy and activated, 1 Jan 1953

Redesignated 348th Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 1 Oct 1955

Inactivated, 30 Sep 1973

Redesignated 348th Reconnaissance Squadron, 17 Aug 2011

Activated, 19 Sep 2011

STATIONS

Orlando AB, Florida, 1 Jun 1942

MacDill Field, Florida, 1 Jun 1942

Pendleton Field, Oregon, 29 Jun 1942

Gowen Field, Idaho, 28 Aug 1942

Walla Walla, Washington, 30 Sep 1942

Sioux City AAB, Iowa, 17 Nov 1942-2 Jan 1943

Navarin, Algeria, 16 Mar 1943

Oudna, Tunisia, 4 Aug 1943

Tortorella Airfield, Italy, 13 Dec 1943

¹ Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

Marcianise, Italy, 27 Oct-8 Nov 1945
Brookley Field, Alabama, 17 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949
Fairchild AFB, Washington, 1 Jan 1953
Westover AFB, Massachusetts, 4 Sep 1956-30 Sep 1973
Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota, 19 Sep 2011

ASSIGNMENTS

99th Bombardment Group, 1 Jun 1942-8 Nov 1945
99th Bombardment Group, 17 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949
99th Strategic Reconnaissance (later, 99th Bombardment) Wing, 1 Jan 1953-30 Sep 1973
69th Reconnaissance Group, 19 Sep 2011

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17, 1942-1945
B/RB-36, 1953-1956
B-52, 1956-1973

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 1 Jun-31 Aug 1942
Maj Warren B. Whitmore, 1 Sep 1942
Maj Robert Elliott, 17 Jul 1943
Maj Max E. Davis, 15 Oct 1943
Capt George E. Branson, Dec 1943
Capt Harold E. Murphree Jr., 18 Feb 1944
Maj John A. Christensen, 12 Jun 1944
Maj Frank B. Knepper, C. 1 Sep 1944
Lt Col Robert E. Guay, 26 Apr 1945-Unkn
Unkn, 17 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949
Unkn, 1 Jun 1953-May 1955
Lt Col Wante J. Bartol, By Jun 1955
Maj Oscar C. Fitzhenry, By Dec 1955
Lt Col Wante J. Bartol, Nov 1956
Lt Col Merle M. Jones, Sep 1958
Lt Col John M. Chapman, Jul 1959
Maj John A. Herberg, 18 May 1961
Lt Col Lynn H. Moulthrop Jr., 18 May 1962
Lt Col Donald L. Keplinger, 20 Nov 1965
Lt Col Charles B. Layton, 15 Jun 1967
Lt Col Donald B. Shea, 20 Aug 1969
Lt Col Walter R. Dawes, 3 Nov 1969
Lt Col Drew C. Sleeper, 1 Dec 1969
Lt Col Andrew Pringle, 1 Sep 1970
Maj Carlos M. Ruiz, 22 Sep 1970
Lt Col Donald Macleod Jr., 27 Mar 1973

Lt Col Lawrence Gray, 1 Jul-30 Sep 1973
Lt Col Amanda Brandt, 2014

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Air Offensive, Europe

Tunisia

Sicily

Naples-Foggia

Rome-Arno

Normandy

Northern France

Southern France

North Apennines

Rhineland

Central Europe

Po Valley

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations: Sicily, 5 Jul 1943

Austria, 23 Apr 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device
2-21 Mar 1969 and 15-31 Mar 1970

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Oct 1967-1 Mar 1968

2 Mar-1 Apr 1968

1 Jul 1971-30 Jun 1972

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

2 Mar 1969-31 Mar 1970

EMBLEM



348th Bombardment Squadron



348th Bombardment Squadron, Heavy emblem: On an Air Force blue disc bordered Air Force golden yellow, a light blue globe turning on its axis bendwise, grid lines Air Force blue; encircling the globe in upward flight three white stylized aircraft, shaded Air Force blue leaving Air Force golden yellow condensation trails shaded brown; issuing from the globe four red lightning flashes, to dexter, base, sinister, and chief respectively. (Approved, 17 Nov 1958)

348th Reconnaissance Squadron emblem: On a disc Azure, a globe on its axis bendwise Celeste, gridlined of the field, environed by three stylized deltas, one and two Argent, detailed of the first, contrails Or and Brün, issuant from the globe four lightning flashes, one to dexter chief, one to dexter base, one to sinister chief, and one to sinister base Gules, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "348TH RECONNAISSANCE SQ" in Yellow letters. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "NORTHERN HAWKS" in Yellow letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The unit's motto, "Northern Hawks," is representative of the

location and aircraft of the unit. The three aircraft, the four lightning bolts, and the eight lines of latitude and longitude represent the numerical designation of the Squadron. The light globe on the dark background indicates the twenty-four hour readiness of the unit, and the globe encircling contrails symbolize the Squadron's worldwide capability. The lightning bolts depict the electronic nature of the mission and the communication capabilities of the unit. (Approved, 9 Apr 2012)²

MOTTO

OPERATIONS³

Combat in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations (MTO) and the European Theater of Operations (ETO), 31 Mar 1943-26 Apr 1945. Earned two Distinguished Unit Citations (DUCs) during World War II: on 5 Jul 1943 for a bombing mission against enemy aircraft and installations in Sicily, and on 22-23 Apr 1944 for bombing an enemy aircraft factory in Austria. Served as both a bombardment and a reconnaissance squadron, Jul 1954-c. 21 Feb 1955 and as a reconnaissance squadron, 1 Oct 1955-27 Feb 1956. Trained to become and remained combat-ready in B-52 aircraft, 1956-1973.

² The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

³ Unit yearbook. *The 99th, Caveant Aggressores, 1968 Edition*, 99th Bombardment Wing, Westover AFB, Massachusetts. 1968.