

414 EXPEDITIONARY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE¹

24 Reconnaissance Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 28 Jan 1942
Activated, 3 Feb 1942
Redesignated 414 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 22 Apr 1942
Inactivated, 29 Oct 1945
Redesignated 414 Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron

STATIONS

MacDill Field, FL, 3 Feb 1942
Sarasota, FL, 29 Mar-16 May 1942
Grafton Underwood, England, 11 Jun 1942
Polebrook, England, 8 Sep 1943
Algeria, 19 Nov 1942
Tafaraoui, Algeria, 22 Nov 1942
Biskra, Algeria, 24 Dec 1942
Chateaudun-du-Rhumel, Algeria, 13 Feb 1943
Pont-du-Fahs, Tunisia, 3 Aug 1943
Depienne, Tunisia, 25 Aug 1943
Cerignola, Italy, 11 Dec 1943
Amendola, Italy, 17 Jan 1944
Marcianise, Italy, Oct-29 Oct 1945

¹ Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, Alabama.
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

ASSIGNMENTS

97 Bombardment Group, 3 Feb 1942-29 Oct 1945

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17, 1942

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Antisubmarine, American Theater

Egypt-Libya

Air Offensive, Europe

Tunisia

Sicily

Naples-Foggia

Anzio

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

Steyr, Austria, 24 Feb 1944

Ploesti, Rumania, 18 Aug 1944

EMBLEM



414 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy emblem: Over and through a light pastel blue disc, a small, caricatured, brown puppy with look of supplication on face, seated on the damaged, olive drab-camouflaged tail section of a B-17, proper, and clasping forepaws in prayer, all in front of a large white cloud formation, and emitting white speed lines to rear. (Approved, 24 Jun 1944)

414 Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron emblem: On an Ultramarine Blue disc, over a White cloud the tail section of a still flying but damaged Olive Drab B-17 bomber with a Brown dog in a prayerful sitting position on the rear stabilizer which is torn off exposing the inner structure Yellow, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached below the disc, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "414TH EXPEDITIONARY RECON SQ" in Yellow letters. Attached above the disc, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "ALL AMERICAN" 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 emblem is the historic symbol for the Squadron and harkens to its rich heritage as a bomb unit in the Mediterranean Theater during WWII. The dog, symbolizing the trustworthy and duty-bound Squadron members, riding on the damaged B-17 tail speaks to a specific event in the unit's history. The B-17 "All American" suffered severe damage from a collision with a German aircraft; yet, under the skillful performance of its commander and crew, the crippled aircraft made it successfully back to base. This incident represented the courage and determination of the Squadron's crewmembers and serves as an inspiration for today's service members.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Antisubmarine, Mar-Apr 1942; combat in ETO and MTO, 17 Aug 1942-26 Apr 1945.