

418th FIGHTER DAY SQUADRON



LINEAGE

418th Night Fighter Squadron constituted, 17 Mar 1943
Activated, 1 Apr 1943
Inactivated, 20 Feb 1947
Redesignated 418th Fighter Day Squadron, 6 Dec 1957
Activated, 10 Dec 1957
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1958

STATIONS

Orlando, FL, 1 Apr 1943
Kissimmee AAFM, FL, 21 Aug-25 Sep 1943
Milne Bay, New Guinea, 2 Nov 1943
Dobodura, New Guinea, 22 Nov 1943
Finschhafen, New Guinea, 28 Mar 1944
Hollandia, New Guinea, 12 May 1944
Owi, Schouten Islands, 16 Sep 1944; Morotai, 5 Oct 1944 (ground echelon at Dulag, Leyte, 14-30 Nov 1944, and at San Jose, Mindoro, 15-26 Dec 1944)
San Jose, Mindoro, 26 Dec 1944
Okinawa, 9 Jul 1945
Atsugi, Japan, 6 Oct 1945
Okinawa, 7 Mar 1946-20 Feb 1947
Misawa, Japan, 10 Dec 1957
Clark AFB, Luzon, 25 Mar-1 Jul 1958

ASSIGNMENTS

Air Defense Department, AAF School of Applied Tactics, 1 Apr 1943
V Fighter Command, c. 15 Nov 1943
301st Bombardment Wing, 20 Mar 1946-20 Feb 1947
39th Air Division, 10 Dec 1957
Thirteenth Air Force, 25 Mar-1 Jul 1958

ATTACHMENTS

481st Night Fighter Operational Training Group, 17 Jul-25 Sep 1943
First Air Task Force, 22 Nov 1943

308th Bombardment Wing, 1 Feb 1944
310th Bombardment Wing, c. 15 May 1944
Thirteenth Air Force, 10 Nov 1944
310th Bombardment Wing, 26 Dec 1944-30 Jan 1945
308th Bombardment Wing, 9-c. 30 Jul 1945
310th Bombardment Wing, 22 Oct-10 Nov 1945
V Bomber Command, 10 Nov 1945-20 Mar 1946

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-70, 1943-1944
P-38, 1943-1944, 1946
B-25, 1944, 1945-1946
P-61, 1944-1947
F-100, 1958

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Japan
New Guinea
Bismarck Archipelago
Western Pacific
Leyte
Luzon with Arrowhead
Southern Philippines
Ryukyus
China Offensive

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

EMBLEM

Over and through a blue-green disc, a king bee black and golden orange, wearing a red crown, holding aloft a lighted lantern proper with the right foreleg, and grasping a gray machine gun in the left foreleg, tip-toeing across a white cloud formation in base, and peering over the edge with a look of

ferocity on his face; a crescent moon and two stars of yellow in background. (Approved, 11 Oct 1943)

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Combat in Southwest and Western Pacific, 2 Jan 1944-14 Aug 1945. Not manned, 10 Dec 1957-25 Mar 1958.

418th NFS

Activated: Apr. 1, 1943

Inactivated: Feb. 20, 1947

Milne Bay, New Guinea, Nov. 2-22, 1943

Dobodura, New Guinea, Nov. 22, 1943-Mar. 28, 1944

Finschhafen, New Guinea, Mar. 28-May 12, 1944

Hollandia, New Guinea, May 12-Sept. 28, 1944

Det. Wakde Island, June 8-Aug. 18, 1944 (start of B-25 operations)

Det. Owi Island, Sept. 16-Oct. 5, 1944

Morotai, Halmaheras, NEI, Sept. 28-Dec. 26, 1944

Det. Dulag, Leyte, PI, Nov. 14-30, 1944

San Jose, Mindoro, PI, Dec. 15-26, 1944

Note: The above detachments were the squadron's ground echelon only.

San Jose, Mindoro, PI, Dec. 26, 1944-July 26, 1945

Det. Sanga Sanga Island, Sulu Arch., June-July 1945

Okinawa, July 26-Oct. 6, 1945

Maj. Carroll C. Smith Apr. 1, 1943-Feb. 15, 1945

Capt. William B. Sellers Feb. 15-Nov. 1945

First P-61 received: early September 1944

First enemy aircraft destroyed by P-61 crew: Oct. 7, 1944

Squadron total enemy aircraft destroyed by P-61 crews: 18

Maj. Carroll C. Smith (P)

Lt. Philip B. Porter (R/O)

418th NFS Confirmed victories

Oct. 7, 1944 Dinah Mk. II

Dec. 29, 1944 Irving

Dec. 29, 1944 Irving

Dec. 30, 1944 Rufe

Dec. 30, 1944 Frank

Major Smith is also credited with two additional confirmed and two probable victories while flying P-38s in searchlight cooperative missions. This makes Smith the leading night fighter pilot in the Army Air Forces.

430831	P-70A	42-54112	418 Night FS		Kissimmee AB, FL	TAC	Young, Frank G	Kissimmee AB
430917	P-70A	42-54059	418 Night FS		Kissimmee AAF, FL	LACMF	Smith, Carroll C	Kissimmee AAF

431204	A-20G	42-54139	418NFS			LAC	Eissman, Gilbert P	
460820	P-61B	43-8284	418NFS	301FW		LAC	Barker, Max R	Yontan AB
460920	P-61B	42-39696	418NFS	301FW		LAC	Boyd, Joseph B	Yontan AB
460414	P-61B	42-39576	418NFS			LAC	Brant, Donald M	Kanoya AAB

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.