

4th EXPEDITIONARY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON



LINEAGE

4th Observation Squadron constituted, 22 Nov 1940
Activated, 1 Apr 1941
Redesignated 4th Observation Squadron (Medium), 26 Feb 1942
Redesignated 4th Observation Squadron, 4 Jul 1942
Redesignated 4th Reconnaissance Squadron (Special), 25 Jun 1943
Redesignated 4th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 20 May 1944
Redesignated 4th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Photo-Jet, 17 Jun 1948
Inactivated, 14 Mar 1949
Redesignated 4th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron and activated, 25 Oct 1966
Organized, 18 Nov 1966
Inactivated, 15 Oct 1971
Redesignated 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Flight and converted to provisional status, 31 Jan 2005
Redesignated 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron, 16 May 2007

STATIONS

Ponce Air Base (later, Losey Field), Puerto Rico, 1 Apr 1941
Borinquen Field, Puerto Rico, 27 Oct 1943
Coolidge Field, Antigua, 21 May 1945
Borinquen Field, Puerto Rico, 5 Oct 1945
Rio Hato, Panama, 20 Aug 1946
France Field (later, AFB), Canal Zone, 1 Dec 1947

Howard AFB, Canal Zone, 20 Aug 1948-14 Mar 1949
Bergstrom AFB, TX, 18 Nov 1966-15 Oct 1971

ASSIGNMENTS

13th Composite Wing, 1 Apr 1941
Puerto Rican Department, 11 Jul 1941
72nd Observation Group, 29 Mar 1942
Antilles Air Command, 1 Jun 1943
Caribbean Air Command, 25 Aug 1946
6th Fighter Wing, 1 Jun 1948
5620th Group, 26 Jul 1948
5600th (later 5600th Composite) Wing, 20 Aug 1948-14 Mar 1949
75th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, c. 18 Nov 1966
67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 15 Jul-15 Oct 1971
Assigned to Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate at any time on or after 31 Jan 2005

ATTACHMENTS

Puerto Rican Department, 29 Mar 1942-23 Mar 1943
Antilles Air Task Force, 23 Mar-1 Jun 1943
Provisional Composite Reconnaissance Group, 1 Feb-28 Jul 1948

WEAPON SYSTEMS

O-47B, 1941-1945
O-49, 1941-1945
O-52, 1941-1944
B-18A, 1943
B-18B
B-18C
L-4A, 1943-1945
UC-78, 1943-1945
UC-45F
P-39N, 1943
P-39Q
B-25D, 1944
B-25G
TB-26C, 1944-1945
F-5G, 1945-1946
C-25, 1946-1947
C-47, 1946-1947
CQ-3, 1946-1947
PQ-14, 1946-194
F-6, 1947-1948
FP (later RF)-80, 1947-1949
RF-4C, 1966-1971

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

OA-14
42-38221

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES
RF-4C: BB

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

1Lt Cecil L. Wells, 1 Apr 1941
LTC Eugene H. Rice, 1 May 1941
LTC Willard W. Lazarus, 25 Feb 1942
Cpt Elmer A. Dixon, 29 Jan 1943
Cpt Richard L. Rider, 29 Mar 1943
Maj Gerard F. Markey, 11 Jun 1943
Maj Bertram S. Petersen, 25 Feb 1944
1Lt George M. Ries, Dec 1944
Maj Bertram S. Petersen, Dec 1944
Cpt William F. Monzel, 20 Dec 1944
Cpt Alberto A. Nido, Jun 1945
Maj William F. Monzel, Jun 1945
Cpt Edward M. Fritsch, Dec 1945
1Lt Erwin K. Priwer, 2 Jan 1946
Cpt Ronald G. Rutt, 26 Aug 1946
Cpt Russell J. Nash, Oct 1946
Cpt Valentine W. Krug, 24 Jan 1947
1Lt Homer H. Houghton, c. 26 Oct 1947
1Lt Thomas F. Barton, Nov 1947
Cpt William M. Gates, 15 Dec 1947
Cpt Valentine W. Krug, 20 Dec 1947-unkn
Col Robert O. Crabtree, 18 Nov 1966
LTC Fred W. Wright, Aug 1967
LTC Gustav B. Klatt, Jun 1969
LTC Dannie T. Waddle Jr., Sep-15 Oct 1971

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jan 1968-30 Apr 1969

1 Nov 1969-31 May 1971

15 Jul-15 Oct 1971

EMBLEM

Over and through a red-orange disc, border blue, piped white, a caricatured black bird, yellow beak and feet, smoking a cigar proper and wearing a light blue turtle neck sweater, white aviator's helmet and goggles, having a wood chip proper on the left shoulder and peering through a monocular; the figure leaning against the edge of the disc with feet crossed, expressing an attitude of watchful cockiness. (Approved, 12 Mar 1943)

On a disc Gules, a caricatured bird Sable standing and leaning toward dexter with sinister hand on hip and dexter foot crossed over sinister foot, smoking a cigar of the last flamant of the first, smoke Argent; wearing an aviator's helmet with goggles and peering through a monocular all of the last detailed of the second also wearing a sweater Celeste with a wood chip on the sinister shoulder Or with a beak and feet of the like, all within a narrow border Blue. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "4TH EXP RECONNAISSANCE SQ" in Blue letters. 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 black bird aptly expresses the squadron's spirit and mission by his nonchalant attitude of "observing". His demeanor intimates that the squadron is "looking for trouble". (Approved, 15 Mar 2005; updated, Oct 2009)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The Squadron trained from Apr 1941-Oct 1943 to support ground forces under the 13 Composite Wing alert plan, taking part in maneuvers, towing targets, and tracking missions to train and test installations in the Caribbean.

One of the unit L-4A, made a forced landing in a remote area of Puerto Rico on 3 March 1944 and, while the pilot was unharmed, when a unit Stinson L-1 was sent to investigate and rescue the pilot, it too crashed and suffered major damage. One of the first P-39Q's (42-19618) was destroyed by fire following a crash on a test flight near Mayaguez, Puerto Rico on 24 March 1944 but, again, the Squadron avoided a loss and the pilot got out OK. 2LT John Martin, Jr. was not so fortunate when he crashed a P-39Q on 7 July 10 miles south of Mayaguez and was killed in the crash. Later, on 27 December, another P-39Q was lost at Borinquen Field when 1LT Robert J. Greene was killed. But the greatest loss came on 19 February 1945 when one of the B-25Gs, while attempting a special aerial photography mission of Tobago Island in the British West Indies, crashed with the loss of all six crew members.

In mid-May 1945, the 4th was equipped with F-5Gs and moved to Antigua in the British West Indies where it flew practice missions until the end of the war. On 5 Oct 1945, it returned to

Borinquen Field, Puerto Rico and carried out navigational training and photo missions of installations in the Caribbean perimeter. Reduced to one officer and three enlisted, the squadron placed its aircraft in storage until its move without personnel and equipment to Rio Hato, Panama in 1946. In Panama, it carried out tracking and tow-target missions for the coast artillery.

The squadron received its first jet aircraft FP-80As (later, RF-80As) on 18 Dec 1947 but lost its tow-target and radio control flight capabilities.

From Mar 1948 until its inactivation in Mar 1949, it flew training missions and reconnaissance missions in Central America.

From activation in Nov 1966-Nov 1969, it served as a replacement training unit for crews training in the RF-4C. The squadron lost its mission of training new crews and became an operational reconnaissance squadron at the end of 1969. From then until inactivation in Oct 1971, it flew reconnaissance training missions and maintained a worldwide mobility capability.

The first Air Force MC-12W intelligence-surveillance-reconnaissance aircraft destined for operations in Afghanistan arrived Dec. 27 at Bagram Airfield. That same day, Bagram's 455th Air Expeditionary Wing stood up the 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron, which will operate the twin-engine turboprop aircraft. "Knowledge is power and that is what we provide," said Lt. Col. Douglas Lee, the new unit's commander. Such knowledge, he added, "will help protect Afghans, provide security, and protect coalition lives." The MC-12 provides real-time full-motion video to ground troops and also collects signals intelligence. By late summer 2010, the Air Force expects to have 24 MC-12s operating in Afghanistan out of a force of 30 combat-ready airframes. The other six are already operating in Iraq out of Joint Base Balad. In addition to those 30, there will be another seven MC-12s based stateside that are dedicated to training.

The 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, in October surpassed 10,000 total sorties flown and 50,000 total flight hours with its MC-12s since its airmen began operating them less than two years ago. October also saw the squadron reach another milestone: its MC-12 flights, which provide live overhead streaming video and signals intelligence to ground troops, have resulted in the capture or elimination of more than 4,000 enemy targets. "It's been amazing," said Lt. Col. James Thompson, 4th ERS commander. He said the MC-12s—which have also operated with the 362nd ERS out of JB Balad, Iraq, and with the 361st ERS out of Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.. 2011

471123	AT-6C	42-44051	4TRS	Rio Hato Airfield, PR		MAC	Carnahan, Karubah	20NNW Canasas, PR
431201	P-39Q	42-19628	4TRS			TAC	Greene, Robert J	Borinquen Fld
440216	P-39Q	42-19618	4TRS			MAC	Ries, George M	Arecibo/nr
440302	P-39Q	42-19630	4TRS			LAC	Ries, George M	

440314	L-1A	40-224	4TRS			TOA	Cocks, Samuel W	Isabella/ nr
440324	P-39Q	42- 19618	4TRS			FLEF	Beyer, Johnson (NMI)	Mayaguez
440707	P-39Q	42- 19606	4TRS			KCR	Martin, John (NMI)	Mayaguez/offshore
441106	P-39N	42- 18527	4TRS			LAC	Petersen, Bertram S	
441227	P-39Q	42- 19632	4TRS			KCBLEF	Greene, Robert J	
450521	TB-26C	41- 35212	4TRS			LAC	Williams, John S	Coolidge Fld, BWI
450718	F-5G	44- 26963	4TRS			CBL	Vicha, Joseph J	Coolidge Fld, BWI
450912	TB-26C	41- 35209	4TRS			LAC	Lande, Frank (NMI)	Antigua, BWI
461207	PQ-14B	44- 21873	4TRS			TOA	Rutt, Renald C	Rio Hato AB

471211	F-6D	44-13033	4 TRS			France Field, CZ	BOEF	Gates, William M	over France Field, CZ
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431002	O-52	40-2700	4RS	72RG		TOA	Vicha, Joseph J	Trujillo City
431007	O-52	40-2694	4RS	72RG		CRT	Ries, George M	Losey Fld
430930	O-47B	39-111	4RS			LAC	Ries, George M	Losey Fld *
431123	L-4A	42-36594	4RS			CR	Mortensen, Merle R	Mayaguez
451112	F-7B	44-40147	4RS			LAC	Bowen, David A	Yontan Fld

430115	O-52	40-2697	4OS	72OG		TOA	Farnsworth, Joseph A Jr	Losey Fld
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430611	L-4A	42-36603	4OS	72OG		GAC	Wabishaw, Harold B	Losey Fld
420725	O-52	40-2695	4OS	72OG	Losey Field, PR	LACGL	Davidson, Norman J	Losey Field, PR
220214	JN-6H	AS- 45067	4OS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	LAC	Miller, Walter	Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI
221030	JN-6HG	AS- 45080	4OS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	MAC	Allen, Truman D	undiscernible
230129	DH-4B	AS- 63844	4OS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	KSSPCR	Rupert, Julian	Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI
230524	DH-4B	AS- 63824	4OS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LACNU	Clarke, William B	Molokai Landing Field, HI
230528	DH-4B	AS- 63836	4OS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	FLEF	Clarke, William B	Western end of Island of Molokai, HI
230727	JN-6H	AS- 44884	4OS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	FLEF	Fisher, Harold B.	Emergency Landing Field, Kualoa Point, HI
231024	DH-4B	AS- 64467	4OS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	FLEF	Lundell, Floyd A.	300 yds N of Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI
240227	DH-4B	AS- 64466	4OS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	TOAEF	Goolrick, E. L.	Wheeler Field, HI
250723	DH-4B	22-1045	4OS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	MACO	McBlain, John F.	Oahu Sugar Co., Waipahu, Oahu, HI
260621	DH-4M	AS- 32932	4OS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	FLEF	Smith, Milton J.	19 Infantry Ball Diamond, Wheeler Field, HI
281119	DH-4M	AC- 31301	4OS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	FLEFNO	Goodrich, David W.	Waimanalo, Oahu, HI
300310	DH-4M	AC- 23007	4OS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	FLEFNO	Griffin, Benjamin F.	Mokapu Peninsula, Oahu, HI
300514	OA-1B	27-324	4OS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	LAC	Rawlings, Edwin W.	Alenuihaha Channel, HI
310109	O-19	30-132	4OS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	FLEF	Rouse, H. F.	Schofield Barracks, Oahu, HI
310121	O-19B	30-133	4OS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	LACGL	Rouse, H. F.	Waimanalo, Oahu, HI

310304	OA-1B	27-321	4OS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	TOA	Peterson, George W.	3 mi S of Pearl Harbor, Oahu, HI
310513	O-19B	30-128	4OS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	LACMF	Dodson, Edward A	B Range, Waimanalo, Oahu, HI
310925	OA-1C	28-79	4OS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	TOA	Ramsey, David M	Waimanalo, Oahu, HI
320805	O-19B	30-131	4OS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	FLEF	Choate, R. E. L.	In Water 220 yds NE of Ford Island, Oahu, HI
321213	O-19B	30-133	4OS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	LAC	Malone, Jack M.	Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI
340926	O-19B	30-137	4OS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	FLEF	Hudson, LeRoy	Adjacent to Kipapa Gulch, Oahu, HI
341128	O-19B	30-135	4OS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	LAC	Moorman, Thomas S., Jr	Emergency Landing Field, Kahuku Point, HI
371026	B-12A	33-266	4OS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	LAC	Wheatley, Charles E., Jr	Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI
410620	O-49	40-223	4OS		Losey Field, PR	TOA	Davidson, Norman J	Borinquen Field, PR
411005	RO-52	40-2699	4OS		Losey Field, Ponce, PR	KCRGC	Leffingwell, Charles E	Pt Vacio, Telega, PR
420308	RO-52	40-2698	4OS		Losey Field, PR	LACGL	Cleary, Edward J Jr	Losey Field, PR



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.