

25th AIR SUPPORT OPERATIONS SQUADRON



LINEAGE

Constituted 25th Observation Squadron (Light), 5 Feb 1942
Activated, 2 Mar 1942
Redesignated 25th Observation Squadron, 4 Jul 1942
Redesignated 25th Liaison Squadron, 2 Apr 1943
Inactivated, 25 Mar 1949
Redesignated 25th Tactical Air Support Squadron, 30 Mar 1971
Activated, 8 Jul 1971
Inactivated, 15 Sep 1989
Redesignated 25th Air Liaison Squadron, 26 Sep 1990
Activated, 1 Oct 1990
Redesignated 25th Air Support Operations Squadron, 1 Aug 1994

STATIONS

Salinas AAB, CA, 2 Mar 1942
Esler Field, LA, 26 Jan 1943
Laurel AAFld, MS, 31 Mar-20 Oct 1943
Sydney, Australia, 19 Nov 1943
Brisbane, Australia, 24 Nov 1943
Lae, New Guinea, 11 Feb 1944
Nadzab, New Guinea, 16 Feb 1944
Biak, 7 Sep 1944
Dulag, Leyte, c. 5 Mar 1945
Malabang, Mindanao, 19 Apr 1945
Del Monte, Mindanao, 22 Jan 1945
Dulag, Leyte, 17 Nov 1945
Clark Field, Luzon, c. 10 Jan 1946
Kadena, Okinawa, 22 Apr 1947
Clark Field, Luzon, c. 8 Sep 1947-25 Mar 1949
Eielson AFB, AK, 8 Jun 1971-15 Sep 1989

Schofield Barracks, HI, 1 Oct 1990
Wheeler Admin Annex, HI, 1 Jan 1991

ASSIGNMENTS

71 Observation (later, 71 Reconnaissance) Group, 2 Mar 1942
II Air Support Command (later, II Tactical Air Division), 11 Aug 1943
Fifth Air Force, 19 Nov 1943
V Bomber Command, 24 Nov 1943
71 Reconnaissance (later, 71 Tactical Reconnaissance) Group, 13 Dec 1943
Thirteenth Air Force, 17 Mar 1945
403 Troop Carrier Group, 1 Nov 1945
Thirteenth Air Force, 31 Dec 1945
85 Fighter Wing, 5 Jul 1946
1 Air Division, 30 Mar 1947
Thirteenth Air Force, 15 Sep 1947
Far East Air Forces (attached to 18 Fighter Wing), 1 Dec 1948-25 Mar 1949
5010 Combat Support Group, 8 Jul 1971
343 Composite (later, 343 Tactical Fighter) Wing, 1 Oct 1981-15 Sep 1989
15 Air Base Wing, 1 Oct 1990
6010 Aerospace Defense Group, 24 May 1991
15 Operations Group, 13 Apr 1992

ATTACHMENTS

71 Reconnaissance Group, c. 19 Nov-12 Dec 1943
Thirteenth Air Force, 16 Feb-16 Mar 1945

WEAPON SYSTEMS

O-47
L-1
L-2
P-39
P-40
B-25
L-5, 1943-1947
L-4
UC-61,
UC-78, 1944-1945
C-47, 194-1946
L-5, 1947-1948

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations (Philippines)

10-25 Dec 1944

17 Apr-1 Jun 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan 1973-31 Dec 1974

1 Jan-31 Dec 1975

1 Jan-31 Dec 1976

1 Jan 1977-31 Dec 1978

1 Jan-31 Dec 1979

1 Jan 1980- 30 Sep 1981

1 Jan 1983-30 Jun 1984

1 Jul 1985-30 Jun 1987

1 Jan 1988-[15 Sep] 1989

1 Jul 1991-30 Jun 1993

1 Aug 1994-30 Sep 1995

1 Oct 1995-1 Aug 1997

2 Aug 1997-1 Aug 1999

29 Nov 1999-30 Nov 2001

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

EMBLEM

On a light blue disc, a dexter cubit arm issuing from sinister side with mailed fist argent, grasping the hilt of a sword winged of gold, point to base, charged at the hilt with a red drop bomb. (Approved, 18 Jan 1943)

Approved on 18 Jan 1943

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Nearing Fully Capable: The 25th Air Support Operations Squadron's Air Support Operations Center in Hawaii has proved it has initial operational capability and expects to reach full operational capability within the next couple of months. The 25th ASOS, located at JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, deployed 34 airmen—joint terminal attack controllers, communications specialists, and logisticians—and more than 16 short tons of equipment last month to the Philippines to participate in the annual Balikatan exercise for its IOC test. Calling the exercise "crucial" toward achieving FOC, Lt. Col. John Schaefer III, 25th ASOS commander, said, "We proved we were able to field a self-sustained command and control hub which retained accountability for fixed and rotary winged aircraft while executing requests for close air support and support land maneuver forces." The Hawaii-based ASOC expects to deploy members this fall for two six-month tours to support US Central Command operations. 2010

Antisubmarine patrols, 27 May-20 Aug 1942; combat in Southwest Pacific, Feb 1944-Aug 1945. Not operationally manned or equipped, Jan-1 Oct 1947.

430529	L-5	42-14974	25 Liaison	71 Recon	AAF, Laurel, MS	LAC	Kaufman, Bernard	Ramsey Springs, MS
430806	L-5	42-14869	25 Liaison	71 Recon	AAF, Laurel, MS	MACOB	Barnes, George B	McLaurin Airport, McLaurin, MS
430809	L-5	42-14980	25 Liaison	71 Recon	Laurel AAF, MS	TAC	Chumbley, William E (crew chief)	Laurel AAF, MS
430903	L-5	42-98287	25 Liaison	71 Recon	LAAF, Laurel, MS	LAC	Strange, Ralph G	Ellisville Airport, MS

430223	P-40F	41-13794	25 Obs Sq	71 Obs Grp	Deridder AAB, LA	LACMF	Bright, Lynford H	Deridder AAB, LA
430226	L-4A	42-15240	25 Obs	71 Obs	AAB, DeRidder, LA	LAC	Strohsahl, Preston E	3 mi N Burr Ferry, LA
430304	B-25C	42-32401	25 Obsn	71 Obsn	Esler Field, LA	GAC	McNutt, Milburn D (asst crew chief)	AAB, DeRidder, LA

430618	L-5	42-14986	25 Recon	71 Recon	Laurel AAF, MS	TOA	Schrepfer, Lowell O	Laurel AAF, MS
430629	L-4B	43-918	25 Recon	71 Recon	LAAF Laurel, MS	TAC	Bowen, William E (crew chief)	LAAF Laurel, MS

460703	L-5C	44-17317	25LS	85FW		LAC	Gomes, Frank W	Romblon Island
460709	L-5E	44-17792	25LS	85FW		FLoG	Grever, Elmer H	Naie/ 5mi S
460217	L-5E	44-17874	25LS			LACW	Burton, Robert H	Clark Fld
460228	L-5E	44-17769	25LS			CRBZ	Beistek, Edwin F	Porec Air Strip
460304	L-5E	44-17830	25LS			MIS	James, Thomas G	
460313	L-5E	44-17825	25LS			CRW	Beldoni, Peter (NMI)	Clark Fld
461010	L-5E	44-17973	25LS			LAC	Sowle, Harold J	NAS Subic Bay
461016	L-5	44-17770	25LS			LAC	Hoover, Orval L	Batangas/ 3mi NE

420603	L-2A	42-35867	25OS	71OG	Salinas AAB, Salinas, CA	KSSPCR	Henderson, David B.	5 mo N of Spreckels, CA
420616	L-2A	42-35864	25OS	71OG	Salinas AAB, Salinas, CA	TOA	Strawn, Wesley H.	Fort Ord, CA
420726	C-36B	42-32534	25OS	71OG	Salinas Observation Airdrome, CA	TOAGL	Strait, Delmer H	Salinas Observation Airdrome, CA
421003	P-39D	41-28372	25OS	71OG	Rice, CA	KSSSP	Shirk, Rex A	Rice, CA
421005	L-2A	42-15125	25OS	71OG	Rice, CA	LACGC	Huseby, Sydney A	Blythe AAB, CA
421005	L-2A	42-35859	25OS	71OG	Rice, CA	LACGC	Shinton, John E	Blythe AAB, CA
421231	A-20A	42-86391	25OS	71OG	Salinas, CA	KCRGC	Williams, Louis M	Muroc AAB, CA



July 5, 1971 – The 25th Tactical Air Support Squadron activated at Eielson. Major James Swanson served as the unit's first commander.

September 7, 1971 – Nine disassembled O-2As arrived at Eielson AFB via Sea-Land vans from Osan AB, Korea, for assignment to the 25th Tactical Air Support Squadron.

December 9, 1974 – An O-2A, assigned to the 25th Tactical Air Support Squadron at Eielson AFB, crashed while on a routine training mission on the Fort Greeley training area near Delta Junction. The pilot and co-pilot were both killed.

February 27, 1985 – An RC-135 belonging to Eielson's 6th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing crashed near Valdez, killing all three aboard. Exactly one month later, a 25th Tactical Air Support Squadron pilot died while flying an Air Warrior mission in California.

September 11, 1989 – The last four OV-10s, 67-14624, 67-14630, 67-14643 and 67-14684, assigned to Eielson's 25th Tactical Air Support Squadron departed.

September 15, 1989 – The 25th Tactical Air Support Squadron assigned to Eielson since 1971 was inactivated.

The arrival of the versatile F-4E marked another turning point in AAC's history. It gave AAC a tactical air capability which was further enhanced with the activations of the 25th Tactical Air Support Squadron on 8 July 1971, and the 18th Tactical Fighter Squadron on 1 October 1977.

The former, with its O-2As, provided AAC with a forward air controller support capability while the latter's F-4s were dedicated to supporting ground forces in Alaska. The 25th was equipped with OV-10s in 1986. The squadron was inactivated 1 October 1989. The ground support mission was further improved with the activation of the 3rd Air Support Operations Center Right on 1 June 1980. The 18th Tactical Fighter Squadron was reassigned to the 343rd Composite Wing on 1 January 1982, and converted to A-10s that year. The 343rd, the wartime fighter component of the Eleventh Air Force, had been reactivated at Eielson AFB on 1 October 1981. It was redesignated a tactical fighter wing on 8 June 1984.

Eielson's mission of providing base support to SAC and other commands began to change in the 1970s. The 25th Tactical Air Support Squadron equipped with O-2As was activated on 8 July 1971. A conventional bombing and gunnery range was constructed at Blair Lakes. An electronic

warfare range was constructed in the Yukon training area northeast of Eielson. The 18th Tactical Fighter Squadron was equipped with A-10s and reassigned from Elmendorf AFB to Eielson AFB on 1 January 1982.

A number of facilities were either rehabilitated or built new in the 1980s to service Eielson aircraft. The new facilities included an A-10 maintenance facility and a corrosion control hangar completed in 1986. Also in 1986, OV-10s began to replace the O-2As of the 25th Tactical Air Support Squadron. The O-2As went to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona. On 1 October 1986, the 186th Air Refueling Squadron of the Alaska Air National Guard was activated at Eielson and equipped with four KC-135s.

25 TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON AND 343 TACTICAL FIGHTER WING
INACTIVATED 15 SEP 89

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 16 Nov 2010

Updated:

Sources