

38 TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

38 Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron constituted, 29 Mar 1944
Activated, 1 May 1944
Inactivated, 15 Jan 1946
Redesignated 38 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron (Photographic), 25 Jun 1952
Activated, 10 Jul 1952
Redesignated 38 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron (Photographic-Jet)
Redesignated 38 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron
Inactivated, 1 Apr 1991

STATIONS

Will Rogers Field, OK, 1 May 1944
Muskogee AAFld, OK, 15 May-Nov 1 44
Hollandia, New Guinea, 14 Dec 1944
Morotai, 28 Dec 1944
Clark Field, Luzon, 5 Oct 1945-15 Jan 1946
Nebbiberg AB, Germany, 10 Jul 199
Spangdahlem AB, Germany, 4 May 1953-1 Aug 1957
Phalsbourg AB, France, 31 Jul 1957
Toul/Rosieres AB, France, 17 Oct 1960
Ramstein AB, Germany, 26 Jul 1962
Zweibrucken AB, West Germany, 30 Jan 1973

ASSIGNMENTS

III Tactical Air Division, 1 May 1944

Thirteenth Air Force, 2 Dec 1941
4 Photographic (later Reconnaissance) Group, 1 Feb 1945
Thirteenth Air Force, 5 Dec 1945-15 Jan 1946
10 Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 10 Jul 1952
10 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 8 Dec 1957
66 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 8 Mar 1958

ATTACHMENTS

4 Photographic Group from 12 Dec 1944
66 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing from 8 Jan 1958

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-25, 1944
P-38/F-5, 194, 1945
RF-80, 1952-1956
RF-84, 1955
RF-101
RF-4

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

New Guinea
Leyte
Southern Philippines

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
Jan-31 Dec 1962

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

EMBLEM

4 disc divided diagonally from upper right to lower left white and black by a graduated light blue band with narrow white edges and wider red. borders; on and over the band, between three stars and seven smaller stars all white, a stylized wing silver gray with black outlines; in the upper part of the disc a black and white camera with blue lense in the lower part of eye, white eyeball, blue retina, silver gray eyelid and black pupil, emitting a white beam to the edge of the disc. (Approved 9 Dec 1953)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Combat in Southwest Pacific, 21 Feb-10 Aug 1945.

RF-84F attrition

52-7287 - Crashed, bad landing, Sembach AB, W. Germany, 57/58, no fatalities.

52-7289 - Crashed, bad landing on Phalsbourg AB, FR, SEP 58, fatalities unknown.

52-7348 - Crashed, bad landing, on Laon AB, France 15 OCT 58, 1 fatality.

52-7349 - Crashed, take-off, fuel fire, 2nm N of Nouasseur AB, Morocco, 21 AUG 58, 1 fatality.

52-7368 - Crashed, landing/weather, on Phalsbourg AB, France, 10 APR 58, no fatalities.

52-7369 - Crashed, landing at night/weather, on Phalsbourg AB, France, 9 JUL 58, 1 fatality.

RF-101 attrition

56-0062 - Crashed, gear failure, 14nm SE of Nouasseur AB, Morocco, 28 FEB 59, no fatalities, ejected.

56-0073 - Crashed, weather/go-around, on Phalsbourg AB, France, 10 MAR 60, no fatalities, ejected.

56-0074 - Crashed, on take-off, on Phalsbourg AB, France, 13 APR 59, 1 fatality.

56-0076 - Crashed, collision on night take-off, on Toul AB, France, 22 MAY 60, 1 fatality.

56-0077 - Crashed, collision on night take-off, on Toul AB, France, 22 MAY 60, 1 fatality.

56-0082 - Crashed, GCA/weather, 13nm S of Phalsbourg AB, France, 22 SEP 60, no fatalities, ejected.

56-0100 - Crashed, hit mountain in weather, 2.2nm E-SE of Treminis, France, 25 APR 63, 1 fatality.

56-0103 - Crashed, mid-air/weather, 2nm NW of Reully, France, 29 APR 61, no fatalities, ejected.

56-0111 - Crashed, GCA/weather, 1.5nm E of Landouzy la Cour, France, 10 DEC 61, 1 fatality.

56-0113 - Crashed, cockpit fire, 18nm SE of Toul AB, France, 17 APR 64, no fatalities, ejected.

56-0118 - Crashed, mid-air/weather, 2nm NW of Reully, France, 29 APR 61, no fatalities, ejected.

56-0200 - Crashed, gyro failure/weather, 10nm N of Schladern, W. Germany, 14 MAY 64, no fatalities, ejected.

56-0205 - Crashed, cause unknown, at Douzillac (Dordogne), France, 8 FEB 62, 4 fatalities.

56-0208 - Crashed, pitch-up, 9nm SE of Reims, France, 4 NOV 59, no fatalities, ejected.

56-0209 - Crashed, landing/weather, on Phalsbourg AB, France, 22 JAN 58, no fatalities.

56-0213 - Crashed, control loss, on Torrejon AB, Spain, 23 DEC 58, no fatalities.

22 Sep 1987/1988, A U.S. Navy F-14A BuNo 162707, of VF-74 out of NAS Oceana, Virginia Beach, Virginia, operating from the USS *Saratoga*, accidentally shoots down a USAF RF-4C, 69-0381, of the 26th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, out of Zweibrücken Air Base, West Germany, at 1550 hrs. EDT over the Mediterranean during a NATO exercise, DISPLAY DETERMINATION. Both RF-4C crew eject, pilot Capt. Michael Ross of Portsmouth, Ohio, and WSO Lt. Randy Sprouse of Sumter, South Carolina, both of the 38th TRS, and are rescued by a helicopter from the *Saratoga* within 30 minutes, suffering numerous injuries. A Navy spokesman said that the F-14 downed the RF-4C with an air-to-air missile, but did not know whether it was a Phoenix, a Sparrow or a Sidewinder. This was likely due to insufficient information being relayed to the spokesman; recovery of the F-14 aboard *Saratoga* makes it obvious the missile was an AIM-9 Sidewinder. When told by the *Saratoga*'s Admiral that

they had been shot down, Sprouse remarks "I thought we were supposed to be on the same side?" to which the Admiral replies "We're sorry about this, but most of the time we are." The Tomcat pilot is duly disciplined and permanently removed from flying status.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

38 Tac Recon Sqdn (P-J), 1 Nov-31 Dec 1952.