

## 49 OPERATIONS GROUP



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

49 Pursuit Group (Interceptor) established, 20 Nov 1940  
Activated, 15 Jan 1941  
Redesignated 49 Fighter Group, 15 May 1942  
Redesignated 49 Fighter Group, Single Engine, 20 Aug 1943  
Redesignated 49 Fighter Group, 6 Nov 1944  
Redesignated 49 Fighter-Bomber Group, 1 Feb 1950  
Inactivated, 10 Dec 1957  
Redesignated 49 Tactical Fighter Group, 31 Jul 1985  
Redesignated 49 Operations Group, 1 Nov 1991  
Activated, 15 Nov 1991

#### STATIONS

Selfridge Field, MI, 15 Jan 1941  
Morrison Field, FL, c. 23 May 1941-5 Jan 1942  
Camp Darley (near Melbourne), Australia, 2 Feb 1942  
Bankstown, Australia, 16 Feb 1942  
Brisbane, Australia, 7 Apr 1942  
Darwin, Australia, 17 Apr 1942  
Port Moresby, New Guinea, 9 Oct 1942  
Dobodura, New Guinea, Mar 1943  
Gusap, New Guinea, 20 Nov 1943  
Finschhafen, New Guinea, 19 Apr 1944  
Hollandia, New Guinea, 17 May 1944

Biak, 5 Jun 1944; Tacloban, Leyte, 24 Oct 1944  
San Jose, Mindoro, 30 Dec 1944  
Lingayen, Luzon, c. 25 Feb 1945  
Okinawa, 16 Aug 1945  
Atsugi AB, Japan, 15 Sep 1945  
Chitose AB, Japan, 18 Feb 1946  
Misawa AAB (later, AB), Japan, 31 Mar 1948-23 Jan 1950  
Itazuke AB, Japan, 9 Jul 1950  
Taegu AB, South Korea, 1 Oct 1950  
Kunsan AB, South Korea, 1 Apr 1953  
Komaki AB, Japan, 2 Nov 1953  
Nagoya AB (later, Nagoya Air Stn; Moriyama Air Stn), Japan, 16 Sep 1954  
Misawa AB, Japan, 1 Jun-9 Dec 1957  
Etain/Rouvres AB, France, 10 Dec 1957  
Holloman AFB, NM, 15 Nov 1991

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

GHQ Air Force, 15 Jan 1941  
Third Air Force, 24 May 1941  
III Interceptor Command, 2 Oct 1941  
Allied Air Forces, Southwest Pacific Area, Feb 1942  
Fifth Air Force, 10 Oct 1942  
V Fighter Command, 11 Nov 1942  
85 Fighter Wing, 19 Apr 1944  
308 Bombardment Wing, 5 Jun 1944  
86 Fighter Wing, 11 Jul 1944  
V Fighter Command, 11 Aug 1944  
309 Bombardment Wing, 21 Aug 1944  
86 Fighter Wing, 22 Aug 1944  
308 Bombardment Wing, 26 Sep 1944  
V Fighter Command, 8 Dec 1944  
V Bombardment Command, 10 Nov 1945  
314 Composite Wing, 1 Jun 1946  
49 Fighter (later, 49 Fighter-Bomber) Wing, 18 Aug 1948-10 Dec 1957  
49 Fighter Wing, 15 Nov 1991

### **ATTACHMENTS**

III Interceptor Command, 9 Aug-1 Oct 1941  
8 Fighter-Bomber Wing, 7 Aug-30 Sep 1950  
6149 Tactical Support Wing, 1 Oct-30 Nov 1950  
58 Fighter-Bomber Wing, 16-31 Mar 1953  
Japan Air Defense Force, 2 Nov 1953-31 Aug 1954  
Fifth Air Force, 1 Sep 1954-15 Apr 1957

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

P-35, 1941

P-40, 1941-1944

P-47, 1943-1944

P-38, 1943, 1944-1946

P-51, 1946-1950

F-80, 1948-1951

F-84, 1951-1957

F-86, 1956-1957

F-100, 1957

F-15, 1991-1992

F-4, 1992

F-117, 1992

AT-38, 1992-1997

T-38, 1993

HH-60, 1993-1999

F-117, 1992-2008

AT-38, 1992-1997

T-38, 1993

HH-60, 1993-1999

F-22, 2008

MQ-1, 2009

MQ-9, 2009

## **COMMANDERS**

Maj John F. Egan, 16 Jan 1941

Maj George Mccoy Jr., 2 May 1941

Col Paul B. Wurtsmith, 11 Dec 1941

Col Donald R. Hutchinson, 11 Nov 1942

Lt Col Robert L. Morrissey, 30 Jan 1943

Col James C. Selman, Jul 1943

Lt Col David A. Campbell, Jan 1944

Lt Col Furlo S. Wagner, 9 Jun 1944

Col George A. Walker, 19 Jul 1944

Lt Col Gerald R. Johnson, 10 Mar 1945

Lt Col Clay Tice Jr., 16 Jul 1945

Lt Col Wallace R. Jordan, 2 Feb 1946

Lt Col Charles H. Terhune Jr., Late Feb 1946

Col Herbert L. Grills, 25 Mar 1946

Col Merrill D. Burnside, 20 Jul 1946

Lt Col Clay Tice Jr., 11 Sep 1946

Col Louis R. Hughes Jr., 1 Sep 1947

Lt Col Robert E. Kirtley, 18 Aug 1948

Lt Col Niven K. Cranfill, 11 Mar 1949

Lt Col John R. Murphy, 1 Sep 1949  
Lt Col James A. Rippin, 31 Oct 1949  
Col Wilbur H. Stratton, 10 Nov 1949  
Lt Col Stanton T. Smith Jr., 20 Jan 1950  
Lt Col John R. Murphy, 21 Oct 1950  
Lt Col Leland P. Molland, 10 May 1951  
Col Wilbur J. Grumbles, 20 May 1951  
Col William L. Mitchell, 4 Nov 1951  
Lt Col Gordon F. Blood, 20 May 1952  
Col Charles G. Teschner, 1952  
Col Robert H. Orr, Sep 1952  
Col Richard N. Ellis, 17 Jan 1953  
Col Charles G. Teschner, 1 Apr 1953  
Col Gilbert L. Pritchard, Aug 1953  
Col Leon G. Lewis, 11 Jun 1956  
None (Not Manned), 15 Apr-10 Dec 1957  
Col Frank B. Campbell, 15 Nov 1991  
Col Robert C. Huff, 3 Apr 1992  
Col Arthur P. Weyermuller, 9 Apr 1993  
Col John W. Rosa Jr., 3 May 1995  
Col Kurt A. Cichowski, 18 Aug 1995  
Col Kevin W. Smith, 21 Jul 1997  
Col John A. Snider, 18 Jun 1999  
Col Charles G. C. Treadway, 3 Jul 2001  
Col Andrew W. Papp, 7 Apr 2003  
Col Matthew P. Mckeen, 18 Aug 2004  
Col John K. Forsythe Jr, 30 Jun 2006  
Col Michael P. Stapleton, 3 Jul 2008  
Col Kevin A. Huyck, 9 Jul 2010  
Col Kenneth F. Johnson, 17 Jun 2011  
Col Mark J. Hoehn, 16 Jul 2013

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
East Indies  
Air Offensive, Japan  
China Defensive  
Papua  
New Guinea  
Bismarck Archipelago  
Western Pacific

Leyte  
Luzon  
China Offensive

Korea  
UN Defensive  
UN Offensive  
CCF Intervention  
First UN Counteroffensive  
CCF Spring Offensive  
UN Summer-Fall Offensive  
Second Korean Winter  
Korea Summer-Fall 1952  
Third Korean Winter  
Korea Summer 1953

Kosovo: Kosovo Air

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
Australia, 14 Mar-25 Aug 1942  
Papua, [Oct] 1942-23 Jan 1943  
Philippine Islands, 27 Oct-7 Dec 1944  
Korea, [Jun]-25 Nov 1950  
Korea, 9 Jul-27 Nov 1951

Meritorious Unit Awards  
30 Apr 2008-1 May 2009  
1 Jun 2010-31 May 2011

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards  
1 Jun 1995-31 May 1997  
1 Jun 1998-31 May 1999  
2 May 2004-31 May 2005  
1 Jun 2011-31 May 2013

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations  
[Jun] 1950-7 Feb 1951

8 Feb 1951-31 Mar 1953

**EMBLEM**





## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

In 1941, the group trained in the United States for tactical operations. Provided air defense for northern Australia after moving there in early 1942. Earned a Distinguished Unit Citation for engaging the enemy in frequent and intense aerial combat while operating with limited materiel and facilities, 14 Mar-25 Aug 1942. In New Guinea, flew air defense missions against a Japanese offensive toward Port Moresby and escorted bombers and transports. In Mar 1943, took part in the Battle of the Bismarck Sea. Interdicted enemy installations, supply lines, and troop concentrations in support of Allied ground forces that eventually pushed the Japanese out of New Guinea. Covered Allied landings on Moemfoor and participated in the conquest of Biak. Flew long-range escort and attack missions to Mindanao, Halmahera, Ceram, and Borneo. Engaged enemy fighters, attacked shipping in Ormoc Bay, supported ground forces, and covered the Allied invasion of Luzon. For intensive operations from 27 Oct to 7 Dec 1944 against the Japanese on Leyte, the group earned another DUC. Other missions from the Philippines included strikes against industrial and transportation targets on Formosa and against shipping along the Chinese coast. During the occupation of Japan, took part in maneuvers and surveillance patrols as part of Far East Air Forces.

In the summer of 1950, during the invasion of South Korea, the group covered the evacuation of civilian personnel from Kimpo and Suwon and flew missions against enemy gun positions and troop concentrations in support of UN ground forces. Later, struck interdiction targets in North Korea. Became the first combat jet fighter group to operate from bases in South Korea. Earned third and fourth DUCs for combat air operations in Korea, Jun-Nov 1950 and 9 Jul-27 Nov 1951. Continued air support of ground forces and interdiction missions to the end of the war in 1953. On occasion, attacked special high-priority targets such as the Suiho Dam hydroelectric plants in Jun 1952 and the Kumgang Political School in Oct 1952.

Provided air defense for Japan, 1953-1957. Not operational, 15 Apr-10 Dec 1957.

In 1991, resumed operations, deploying aircraft and crews to Southwest Asia for combat air patrol around Kuwait.

In Mar 1992, also began basic fighter training for USAF crews. Under the 49 Fighter Wing, the group managed the only stealth fighter squadrons in the Air Force. Personnel and aircraft deployed periodically to Southwest Asia to enforce no-fly zones over Iraq, take part in shows of force, and support United Nations weapons inspectors.

One of the group's squadrons flew HH-60 helicopters for search and rescue missions from 1993 to 1999.

Trained German Air Force pilots in the F-4, 1992- and Taiwanese Air Force fighter pilots in the AT-38, 1993-1997.

During the winter and spring of 1999, the group deployed stealth fighters and their crews to Europe for stealth fighter air strikes against Serbia.

In 2003, the group's stealth fighters and crews also took part in air strikes against Iraq during the successful U.S.-led invasion of that country.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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

Unit history. *49 Tactical Fighter Wing, History in Review. 1940-1972.*