

6th NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON



LINEAGE

6th Aero Squadron organized, 13 Mar 1917
Redesignated 6th Squadron, 14 Mar 1921
Redesignated 6th Pursuit Squadron, 25 Jan 1923
Redesignated 6th Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor), 6 Dec 1939
Redesignated 6th Fighter Squadron, 15 May 1942
Redesignated 6th Night Fighter Squadron, 9 Jan 1943
Inactivated, 20 Feb 1947

STATIONS

Ft Kamehameha, TH, 13 Mar 1917
Ford Island (later Luke Field), TH, 25 Sep 1918
Wheeler Field, TH, 11 Jan 1927
Kahuku, TH, 30 Aug 1942
Kipapa, TH, 17 Nov 1942 (one detachment operated from Guadalcanal, 28 Feb-15 Sep 1943, and another from New Guinea, 18 Apr-14 Sep 1943)
John Rodgers Aprt, TH, 3 Mar 1944 (detachment operated from Saipan, 21 June 1944-11 Jan 1945)
Kipapa, TH, 28 Oct 1944
East Field, Saipan, 11 Jan 1945 (detachment operated from Kipapa, TH, 11 Jan-12 May 1945)
Kagman Field, Saipan, Feb-1 May 1945
Kipapa, TH, 12 May 1945
Wheeler Field, TH, 2 Oct 1945-31 May 1946
Atsugi, Japan, 11 Jun 1946
Yokota, Japan, 1 Sep 1946- 20 Feb 1947

ASSIGNMENTS

Hawaiian Department, 13 Mar 1917
2nd Observation (later 5th Observation; 5th Pursuit and Bombardment; 5th Composite) Group, 15 Sep 1919
18th Pursuit (later Fighter) Group, Jan 1927
15th Fighter Group, 16 Mar 1943

VII Fighter Command, 5 Jun 1944
7th Fighter Wing, 12 May 1945
Pacific Air Command, 1 Jan 1946
Fifth Air Force, 11 Jun 1946-20 Feb 1947

ATTACHMENTS

318th Fighter Group, 11 Jan-16 Mar 1945

WEAPON SYSTEMS

N-9
R-6
HS2L
DH-4
HS2L
JN-6
MB-3,
Fokker D-VII
PW-9
DH-4
C-2
P-12
PW-9
B-12
OA-3
P-26
P-36
B-12
A-12
OA-9
P-40, 1941-1942
B-18, 1942
P-70, 1942-1944
P-38, 1943
P-47, 1943-1945
P-61, 1944-1947

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

1LT Walter Miller ao Dec 20-7 Jun 21
1LT Stewart W. Towle 1 May 31-1 Oct 31
1LT J. Thaddeus Johnson 7 Jun 21-7 Aug 22

1LT Edward H. White 1 Oct 31-1 Mar 32
Cpt Horace W. Mooney 7 Aug 22-14 Nov 22
1LT Ralph E. Fisher 1 Mar 32-12 Jan 35
Cpt Edwin J. House 14 Nov 22-1 Dec 23
1LT Ray H. Clark 12 Jan 35-12 Mar 35
Unknown 2 Dec 23-14 Jul 24
Maj Early E. W. Duncan 12 Mar 35-3 Sep 35
Cpt Hugh M. Elmendorf 15 Jul 24-22 Jun 26
Maj John C. Crosthwaite 3 Sep 35-18 Aug 36
1LT Russell L. Meredith 22 Jun 26-1 Aug 26
1LT Bryant L. Boatner 18 Aug 36-16 Nov 36
Cpt Clyde V. Finter 1 Aug 26-8 Mar 28
1LT Homer L. Sanders 16 Nov 36-20 Nov 37
1LT Bernard T. Castor 8 Mar 28-2 Oct 28
1LT Paul D. Bunker, Jr. 20 Nov 37-7 Jan 38
Cpt Lotha A. Smith 2 Oct 28-19 Feb 29
1LT Harry E. Wilson 7 Jan 38-7 Apr 38
1LT Bernard T. Castor 19 Feb 29-1 Jul 29
Cpt Robert W. Douglass, Jr. 7 Apr 38-20 Jul 39
Cpt Frank H. Pritchard 1 Jul 29-6 Nov 29
Cpt Samuel E. Anderson 20 Jul 39-Oct 40
1LT Hoyt S. Vandenburg 6 Nov 29-1 May 31
1LT James R. Watt Oct 40-ao Dec 41
Lt James R. Watt (later Maj) Sept. 27, 1941-Sept. 14, 1942
Cpt Sidney F. Wharton Sept. 14, 1942-Feb. 18, 1943
Cpt Victor M. Mahr Feb. 18-Apr. 11, 1943
Cpt Julius E. Alford (acting) Apr. 12-May 1, 1943
Cpt Victor M. Mahr May 1-June 15, 1943
Cpt Julius E. Alford (acting) June 16-July 7, 1943
Maj Victor M. Mahr July 8, 1943-Apr. 1, 1944
Maj Julius E. Alford Apr. 1-Apr. 15, 1944
Maj Victor M. Mahr Apr. 15-May 15, 1944
Maj Julius E. Alford May 15, 1944-date unknown
Cpt Mark E. Martin Date unknown-Dec. 18, 1944
1LT Robert T. Merrill III Dec. 18, 1944-Jan. 11, 1945
Cpt Mark E. Martin Jan. 11-Mar. 7, 1945
Cpt George W. Mulholland Mar. 7, 1945-Oct. 1945

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

Central Pacific

New Guinea

Northern Solomons

Western Pacific
Air Combat, Asiatic-Pacific Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

None

EMBLEM

On a circular orange field, a gray skull outlined in black forming the hub of a shaded spinning propeller done in black. (Approved, 8 Jul 1924)

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Combat in Central, South, and Southwest Pacific, 7 Dec 1941-14 Aug 1945.

At the same time that the 318th first took up station at Aslito a detachment of the 6th Night Fighter Squadron also moved in with seven P-61 Black Widows. One of these planes made contact with a Kate on the night of 27 June but was able to claim no more than a probable. On 6 July, two different crews each shot down a night raiding Betty bombing and another Betty was destroyed on the night of 14 July after taking most of 134 rounds of 20 mm shells fired at it by a 6th NFS Black Widow.

Japanese attacks against Saipan, begun again as the B-29s started hitting Tokyo from Saipan, lasted into February. In December there were four attacks by Betty bombers all coming at night, one by 25 planes on Christmas night and the rest by a few planes and there were several daylight recon sorties. During one of the latter, on 5 December, a P-38 shot down a Myrt at 30,500 feet ten miles off Tanapag Harbor. In the course of the last three December raids, P-61s of the 6th Night Fighter Squadron shot down six Bettys. Two of these fell on the night of 25 December to the P-61A "Moonhappy" flown by Lt. Dale Haberman with Lt. Raymond Mooney as Radar Observer.

"Scrambled under Condor Base then to Coral Base," read the official report for the mission which took off at 2000 hours and landed at 2220, "and vectored to the north of the Island at altitude of 15,000 feet. Coral Base ordered figure '8' orbits since they had no Bogies in vicinity. Controller notified pilot that there were no Bogies in the vicinity but much Snow was in the area. Contact made with airborne radar at 5 miles, Control notified reported Bogies in vicinity but could give no information. Went into starboard orbit but airborne radar kept picking up Bogie which seemed to be in orbit. Bogie straightened out and headed north. Chased Bogie to the north and let down to 9,000 feet when visual contact was made, opened fire at 1,500 feet and closed in to 700 feet. Bogie made violent turns and hits observed to go into wings and fuselage. Bogie was in a slight dive indicating 300 mph. Bogie last seen to roll to port in semblance of split-S and nose straight down with fires

observed coming from the right wing and engine. Visual lost as Bogie was at 6,000 feet still going straight down, apparently out of control.

"At the same time the Radar Observer called for a star-board turn as a second Bogie was out about two miles. Closed fast on second Bogie letting down to 4,500 feet where visual was made at about 2,500 feet. Closed in to 700 feet and opened fire with hits observed to spray the entire ship. Bogie exploded with its debris hitting P-61 with damage to left cowling. Bogie went down in flames and (was) seen to hit the water. At the time location was estimated as 100 miles north of the Island. Returned to vicinity of Island and brought in to land as fuel was low."

For the entire Marianas-Iwo campaign, the 318th's pilots flew 5,102 combat sorties (1,578 against Pagan Island north of Saipan in neutralization attacks from August through March) and 14,944 patrol sorties. They dropped 1,142 tons of bombs, including napalm, fired 1,591 rockets and claimed the destruction of 31 enemy aircraft. The 6th NFS, which was attached to the 318th, claimed the destruction of 15 enemy planes for the Marianas campaign and returned to Hawaii in May 1945.

All three night fighter squadrons of the Seventh, the 6th, 548th and 549th Squadrons, were equipped with black finished and a few OD Northrop P-61 Black Widows. The 6th NFS, did operate six Douglas P-70 night fighters from late 1943. It had six on hand through May 1944, five in June, four in July and two in August. No unit markings were carried on the P-61s, although a number of them had names and/or artwork on their noses.

First P-61 received: May 1, 1944

First enemy aircraft destroyed by P-61 crew: June 20, 1944

Squadron total enemy aircraft destroyed by P-61 crews: 16

6th Pursuit Squadron (5th Composite Group)

HQ-Luke Field, TH, 1919-27; Wheeler Field, TH, 1927-41

Stationed at Luke Field, TH, as of June 1919 as the 6th Aero Squadron. Assigned on 15 September 1919 to the 2nd Observation Group (subsequently redesignated as the 5th Observation Group, and later the 5th Composite Group). Redesignated as the 6th Squadron (Pursuit) on 14 March 1921. Redesignated as the 6th Pursuit Squadron on 25 January 1923. Transferred on 11 January 1927 to Wheeler Field, TH. Concurrently relieved from assignment to the 5th Composite Group and assigned to the 18th Pursuit Group. Location 7 December 1941—Wheeler Field, TH.

31 Oct 29 - First Lieutenant Hoyt S. Vandenberg assumed command of the 6th Pursuit Squadron at Wheeler Field. For the first time since the arrival of that unit in the islands, it managed to retain the same commanding officer for an entire year. Aircraft assigned to the squadron were DH-4B, PW-9C, and P-12B.

430507	P-70	39-790	6NFS			KLAS	Hornaday, Warren G	Kila Ad/off
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430622	P-70	39-767	6NFS	15FG		LAC	McLeod, Robert W	Jackson AD, Port Moresby
430902	P-70	39-789	6NFS	15FG		TAC	Adams, Burnell W	Jackson Fld, Pt Moresby
431120	P-70	39-774	6NFS	18FG		LAC	Bradner, Jack F	Munda
450210	P-61B	42-39496	6NFS		Kipapa AAF	SF	Tiroson, Jacob A	Kahukhu/ 5mi NW
450221	P-61B1	42-39474	6NFS				Herron, Paul M	Kipapa AB
450303	P-61B	42-39494	6NFS		Kipapa AB (APO 959)	SF	Reese, Lem A	Kipapa AB (APO 959)
450421	P-61B1	42-39425	6NFS			TOA	Hahn, Jack (NMI)	Kipepa AB
461218	P-61B	43-8251	6NFS	3BG		MAC	Ellett, James T	Yokota AAB/ 10mi NNE
461218	P-61B	43-8283	6NFS	3BG		MAC	Wonnacott, Harry J	Yokota AAB/ 10mi NNE
470129	P-61B	43-8259	6NFS	3BG		LAC	Grieder, Orville E	Yokota AAB
460225	AT-6D	44-81482	6NFS			GL	Lyall, John B Jr	Wheeler Fld

420124	P-40B	41-3297	6FS	18FG	Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	KSSPCR	Sprinkle, Kenneth W	Koolau Range Oahu, HI
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270414	PW-9	25-303	6PS	18PG	Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	FLEF	Archer, Cecil E	Naval Mooring Mast, Ewa Mills, Oahu, HI
301020	P-12B	30-61	6PS	18PG	Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	MACT	Hoffman, Edward D.	Waimanalo, Oahu, HI
301120	PW-9C	27-199	6PS	18PG	Schofield Barracks, Oahu, HI	LACGL	Wash, Carlyle H.	John Rogers Airport, Honolulu, Oahu, HI

351106	P-12B	30-64	6PS	18PG	Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	MACT	Truesdall, Karl, Jr	Bellows Field, Oahu, HI
390504	P-26B	33-180	6PS	18PG	Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	GAC	Wintermute, Ira F.	Morse Field, South Cape, Oahu, HI
390515	P-26B	33-195	6PS	18PG	Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LAC	Wintermute, Ira F.	Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI
410814	P-26A	33-86	6PS	18PG	Wheeler Field, THI	LAC	Crawley, Paul R	Wheeler Field, THI
410828	RP-40B	41-5295	6PS	18PG	Wheeler Field, THI	FLEF	Jones, Richard	4 mi S Wheeler Field in pineapple field
410916	P-40B	41-5220	6PS	18PG	Wheeler Field, HI	LAC	Haynes, Jesse M	Old Wheeler Field, HI
411104	RP-26A	33-86	6PS	18PG	Wheeler Field, HI	LACGL	McBride, James L, Jr	Wheeler Field, HI
411122	P-40B	41-5296	6PS	18PG	Wheeler Field, HI	KSSP	Hetsel, Karl F	2 mi SW of Kahuku Point, HI

410421	P-40B	41-5214	6PI	18PI	Wheeler Field, THI	GL	Connor, Ingram C.	Wheeler Field, THI
410603	P-40B	41-5213	6PI	18PI	Wheeler Field, THI	FLEF	Garrison, Hugh E	Wheeler Field, THI
410630	P-26A	33-88	6PI	18PI	Wheeler Field, THI	LAC	Kirsch, Lawrence M	Old Wheeler Field, THI
410707	P-40B	41-5211	6PI	18PI	Wheeler Field, THI	LAC	Wharton, Sidney F.	Wheeler Field, THI

320201	P-6A	29-265	6PS		Selfridge Field, Mt Clemons, MI	FLEF	Pharr, Walter N.	Carleton, MI
211026	DH-4A	AS-24174	6PS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	KSSPDF	Bouquet, Ulric L	1.5 mi SW of Luke Field on Waipie Peninsula, HI
240526	MB-3A	AS-68390	6PS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	TOA	Robertson, George O	Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI
281204	PW-9C	26-455	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	BOSSP	Frost, Norme D.	Wheeler Field, HI

290201	DH-4M	AC-32847	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	TOAEF	Minty, Russell J.	600 yds NE of Hangar # 3101, Wheeler Fld, HI
291002	PW-9C	27-200	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	SSPCR	Stocks, Fred S.	North landing field on Waimanalo, Oahu, HI
291102	PW-9A	26-369	6PS		Schofield Barracks, HI	CRGC	Giffin, James L	John Rodgers Airport, Honolulu, HI
310818	P-12C	31-216	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LACNO	Chambers, Herbert C	Wiamanalo Aux Field, Oahu, HI
320311	P-12E	31-583	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	TAC	White, Edward H.	Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI
321221	P-12B	30-56	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	FLEF	Smith, Frederick W.	Aux Field, Mokuleia, HI
330822	P-12C	31-213	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LACNO	Brecht, Eugene, Jr	Heeia Emergency Landing Field, Oahu, HI
331222	P-12B	30-63	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LACGL	Powel, Nicholas E.	Waimanalo, Ohau, HI
340412	P-12C	31-222	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	TAC	Hix, Guy F.	Wheeler Field, HI
340412	P-12C	31-226	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	TAC	(parked aircraft)	Wheeler Field, HI
341106	MB-3A	AS-68379	6PS		Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI	LACNO	Clark, Milo N	Luke Field, Oahu, HI
341109	P-12B	30-66	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	MAC	Boatner, Bryant L	Wheeler Field, HI
341109	P-12B	30-56	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	MAC	Leubach, David P	Wheeler Field, Hi
351021	P-12B	30-66	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	TACMF	Arnold, Donald D	Wheeler Field, HI
351212	P-12B	30-66	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	TACNO	Truesdall, Karl, Jr	Burns Field, Port Allen, Kauai, HI
360729	P-12E	32-39	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	FLEF	Spicer, Henry R.	In water off Black Point, Oahu, HI
360903	P-12E	32-38	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LACNU	Webster, Benjamin J.	Burns Field, Port Allen, Kauai, HI
361019	P-12E	32-32	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LACGL	Higgs, Frank L	Luke Field, Ford Island, Oahu, HI
361111	P-12E	32-5	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	KSSPCR	Fenander, Walter A.	¼ mi W of Wheeler Field, HI
361112	P-12E	31-558	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LACNO	Penland, Hugh H.	Bellows Field, Oahu, HI

370126	P-12E	31-555	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	FLEF	Higgs, Frank L	Wheeler Field, HI
370325	P-12E	32-1	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LACGL	Davis, Leighton I	Luke Field, Oahu, HI
371025	P-26	unknown	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LACNU	Davis, Leighton I	Bellows Field, Oahu, HI
371106	P-12E	31-568	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LAC	Brewer, George S	Haleeiva Field, Oahu, HI
371129	P-12E	31-568	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	TOANO	Higgs, Frank L	Wheeler Field, HI
371202	P-12E	31-558	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LACGL	Carmichael, Richard H	Kahuku Point, Oahu, HI
380202	P-12E	31-569	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LACGL	Ellert, Lawrence J	Haleiwa Aux Field, Oahu, HI
380207	P-12E	31-555	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	BOMAC	Frutchey, Watson M	Over Ft Shafter, HI
380207	P-12E	31-558	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	MAC	Rindom, Frank O., Jr	Over Ft Shafter, HI
380225	P-12E	31-569	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LACNO	Hickman. Jack W.	Wheeler Field, HI
380426	P-12E	31-564	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LACGC	Bates, Earl E, Jr	Division Review Field, Schofield Barracks, HI
380426	P-12E	31-576	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LACGC	Davis, L. I.	Division Review Field, Schofield Barracks, HI
380720	P-12E	31-554	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LAC	Davis, Leighton I	Wheeler Field, HI
380725	P-26A	33-62	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LAC	Carmichael, Richard H	Wheeler Field, HI
381020	P-26B	33-194	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LACNO	Brewer, George S	Bellows Field, Oahu, HI
381102	P-26B	33-191	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	BOMF	Carmichael, Richard H	Bellows Field, Oahu, HI
381109	P-26B	33-185	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	TAC	Hickman. Jack W.	Wheeler Field, HI
381109	P-26B	33-186	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	TAC	Puryear, Romulus W.	Wheeler Field, HI
381214	P-26A	33-56	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	KCRGC	Frutchey, Watson M	¼ mi offshore, N of Kahuku Village, Oahu, HI
390711	P-26B	33-188	6PS		WheelerField, Oahu, HI	TACNO	Allan, Charles C, Jr	Hickam Field, Oahu, HI

390713	P-26A	33-62	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LACGL	Wilkins, John C.	Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI
390720	P-26B	33-187	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LACNO	Allan, Charles C, Jr	Landed short at Lanai Airport, Lanai, HI
390823	P-26A	33-181	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	BOSSP	Opeil, Charles M.	5 mi SE of Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI
391114	P-36A	38-179	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	LAC	Davis, Allyn T	Wheeler Field, HI
400304	P-26B	33-195	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	BOMAC	Moore, Malcom A.	Over Hickam Field, Oahu, HI
400304	P-26B	33-185	6PS		Wheeler Field, Oahu, HI	BOMAC	Rector, Walter S	Over Hickam Field, Oahu, HI
410826	P-26A	33-59	6PS		Zablan Field, Quezon City, PHI	BOMAC	Juliano, Godofredo M	San Francisco del Monte, Quezon Cty, PHI
410826	P-26A	33-99	6PS		Zablan Field, Quezon City, PHI	BOMAC	Luzon, Ruperto B	San Francisco del Monte, Quezon Cty, PHI
411013	P-26A	33-138	6PS		Batangas Airport, Batangas, PHI	KSSP	Luzon, Ruperto P	Barrio Adya, Lipa, Batangas

440108	P-47D	42-75292	6FS			LAS	Smith, Robert E	Kaneohe Bay
440108	P-47D	42-75292	6FS			LAS	Smith, Robert E	Kaneohe Bay



**6th Night Fighter Sq.
(From 1943)**



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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.