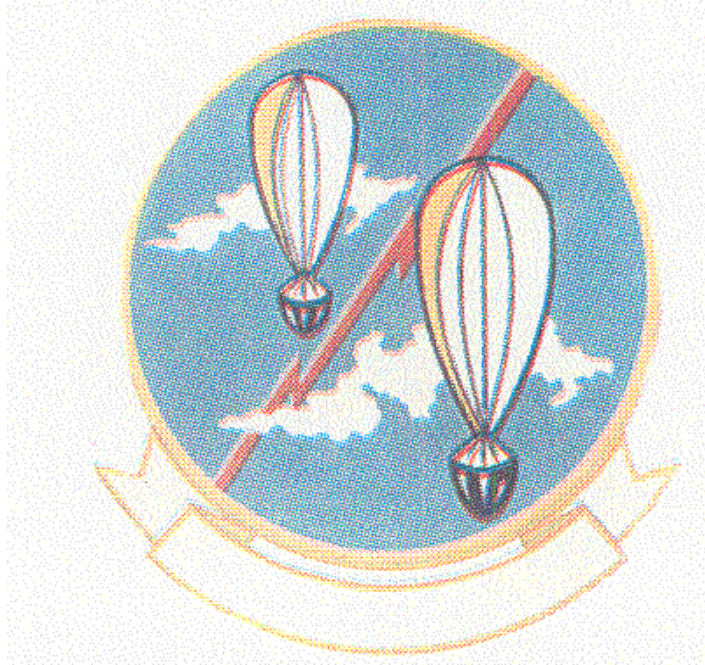


59 WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

59 Reconnaissance Squadron, Long Range, Weather constituted, 1 Aug 1945

Activated, 10 Aug 1945

Redesignated 59 Reconnaissance Squadron, Very Long Range, Weather, 27 Nov 1946

Inactivated, 15 Oct 1947

Redesignated 59 Weather Reconnaissance Flight,

Activated, 8 May 1955

Redesignated 59 Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, 1 Apr 1956

Discontinued, 18 Mar 1960

Organized, 8 Jul 1963

Discontinued and inactivated, 8 May 1964

STATIONS

Will Rogers Field, OK,

Ardmore AAF, OK, 20 Aug 1945

Drew AAF, FL, 7 Oct 1945

MacDill AAF, FL, 7 Dec 1945

Castle AAF, CA, 26 Jan 1946

Fairfield-Suisun AAF, CA, 22 Oct 1946

Ladd AAF, AK, 1 Jun 1947

Kindley AFB, Bermuda

Goodfellow AFB, TX

ASSIGNMENTS

III Reconnaissance Command, 10 Aug 1945
Third Air Force, 24 Aug 1945
Air Transport Command, 13 Mar 1946
308 Reconnaissance Group (Weather), 20 Mar 1948
9 Weather Group, 8 May 1955
9 Weather Reconnaissance Group

WEAPON SYSTEMS

WB-29
TB-50A, 1955
WB-50D, 1956

COMMANDERS

Unknown, Aug-Dec 1945
Maj Paul H. Fackler, 7 Dec 1945
Lt Col Karl T. Rauk, 3 Jan 1946
Lt Col Earl P. Dunphy, 8 May 1955
Lt Col Fellie F. Robinson, 15 May 1958
Lt Col Robert L. Ray, 8 Jul 1963

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

59th Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron Very Long Range Weather insignia depicts the turbulent, conditions encountered by the squadron in fulfilling its mission of providing weather data. (Approved, 14 Feb 1947)



59 Reconnaissance Squadron (Very Long Range) Weather: A high priority of this unit is reconnaissance of Atlantic hurricanes. Because of wide public interest in hurricane activities and as a result of extensive coverage by various news media, this organization has become well known to the general public and all government agencies as the "Hurricane Hunters." The emblem is in the form of the symbol used by meteorologists. The words "Hurricane Hunters" serve to identify the unit and its aircraft. The flags in the center of the emblem signify a hurricane warning. (Approved, 7 Mar 1956)

59 Weather Reconnaissance Squadron emblem: the balloons represent the dual collection mission of the squadron. The shaft of lightning is symbolic of the interest of Air Weather Service in all levels of the atmosphere. The blue sky with white clouds alludes to the level of ordinary weather. (Approved, 9 Jan 1964)

MOTTO

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OPERATIONS

In December 1946 the 59th Reconnaissance Squadron, VLR, Weather moved from Castle Field, California to Fairfield-Suisun Field, California. The squadron flew missions between California and Alaska. The first Ptarmigan mission was flown by this squadron on 7 March 1947.

The 59th Squadron moved to Ladd Field, Alaska in May 1947, completing the movement about 1 June 1947. The squadron headquarters was established at Ladd Field, a detachment was located at Elmendorf Field, Alaska, and B Flight remained at Fairfield-Suisun AAB, California.

4 February 1959, WB-50D, 49-0343, weather reconnaissance aircraft, assigned to 59th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron at Kindley AFB Bermuda was lost on weather track over Atlantic with 12 killed. Crash was observed by a Japanese freighter about 2 hours after takeoff.

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.