

## 62 FIGHTER SQUADRON



### MISSION

62 Fighter Squadron mission is to graduate flight pilots who meet or exceed syllabus standards and their gaining units' expectations. Teach the B-course students what it means to be a fighter pilot. Actively promote quality of life and provide opportunities for personal and professional growth.

### LINEAGE

62 Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) constituted, 20 Nov 1940  
Activated, 15 Jan 1941  
Redesignated 62 Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) (Twin Engine), 31 Jan 1942  
Redesignated 62 Fighter Squadron (Twin Engine), 15 May 1942  
Redesignated 62 Fighter Squadron, 1 Jun 1942  
Redesignated 62 Fighter Squadron, Single Engine, 28 Feb 1944  
Inactivated, 18 Oct 1945  
Activated, 1 May 1946  
Redesignated 62 Fighter Squadron, Jet Propelled, 24 Apr 1947  
Redesignated 62 Fighter Squadron, Jet, 14 Jun 1948  
Redesignated 62 Fighter Interceptor Squadron, 20 Jan 1950  
Inactivated, 30 Apr 1971  
Redesignated 62 Fighter Interceptor Training Squadron, 15 Aug 1974  
Activated, 1 Sep 1974  
Redesignated 62 Tactical Fighter Squadron, 30 Jun 1975  
Redesignated 62 Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, 1 Jan 1981

Redesignated 62 Fighter Squadron, 1 Nov 1991  
Inactivated, 14 May 1993  
Activated, 18 Mar 1994

### **STATIONS**

Savannah AB, GA, 15 Jan 1941  
Charlotte AAB, NC, 26 May 1941  
Wilmington Muni Aprt, NC, 10 Dec 1941  
Bendix Aprt, NJ, 17 Jan 1942  
Newark Muni Aprt, NJ, 31 May 1942  
Bradley Field, CT, 23 Jul–27 Dec 1942  
Kings Cliffe, England, 12 Jan 1943  
Horsham St Faith, England, 5 Apr 1943  
Halesworth, England, 9 Jul 1943  
Boxted, England, 19 Apr 1944  
Debden, England, 15 Sep–11 Oct 1945  
Camp Kilmer, NJ, 16–18 Oct 1945  
Selfridge Field (later, AFB), MI, 1 May 1946  
O'Hare Field-Chicago Intl Aprt (later, O'Hare Intl Aprt), IL, 4 Aug 1950  
K I Sawyer AFB, MI, 1 Oct 1959–30 Apr 1971  
Tyndall AFB, FL, 1 Sep 1974  
MacDill AFB, FL, 30 Jun 1975–14 May 1993  
Luke AFB, AZ, 18 Mar 1994–.

### **DEPLOYED STATIONS**

Myrtle Beach, SC, Oct–Nov 1941  
Ladd Field, AK, 28 Dec 1946–10 Apr 1947  
Oscoda AFB, MI, 1 Apr–6 Jun 1949  
K I Sawyer AFB, MI, 1 Aug–30 Sep 1959

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

56 Pursuit (later, 56 Fighter) Group, 15 Jan 1941–18 Oct 1945  
56 Fighter (later, 56 Fighter Interceptor) Group, 1 May 1946  
4706 Defense Wing, 6 Feb 1952  
501 Air Defense Group, 16 Feb 1953  
56 Fighter Group, 18 Aug 1955  
56 Fighter Wing, 1 Feb 1961  
Duluth Air Defense Sector, 16 Dec 1963  
29 Air Division, 1 Apr 1966  
34 Air Division, 15 Sep 1969  
29 Air Division, 14 Nov 1969  
23 Air Division, 19 Nov 1969–30 Apr 1971  
Air Defense Weapons Center, 1 Sep 1974  
Tactical Air Command, 30 Jun 1975

56 Tactical Fighter (later, 56 Tactical Training; 56 Fighter) Wing, 30 Jun 1975  
56 Operations Group, 1 Nov 1991–14 May 1993  
58 Operations Group, 18 Mar 1994  
56 Operations Group, 1 Apr 1994

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Alaskan Provisional Wing, 28 Dec 1946–c. 10 Apr 1947  
30 Air Division, c. 28 Jul 1950–30 Apr 1951  
142 Fighter-Interceptor Group, 1 May 1951–5 Feb 1952  
473 Fighter Group, 1 Aug–30 Sep 1959

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

P-35, 1941  
P-36, 1941  
P-39, 1941–1942  
P-40, 1941–1942  
P-47, 1942–1945  
P-47, 1946  
P-51, 1946–1947, 1947  
P(later, F)-80, 1947–1950  
F-86, 1950–1959  
F-101, 1959–1971  
F-106, 1974–1975  
F-4  
F-16A, 1980–1993

### **COMMANDERS**

Unkn, 15-20 Jan 1941  
Capt Dixon M. Allison, 21 Jan 1941  
1st Lt Norton H. Van Sicklen Iij, 13 Feb 1941  
2nd Lt James L. Orr, 10 May 1941  
2nd Lt Albert O. Waldon, 26 May 1941  
2nd Lt John M. Davis, 28 May 1941  
1st Lt Raymond W. Worsham Jr., 2 Jun 1941  
Capt David D. Terry Jr., 6 Jun 1941  
Maj David C. Schilling, Jul 1942  
Maj Horace C. Craig, 21 Aug 1943  
Maj Leroy A. Schreiber, 9 Feb 1944  
Lt Col Lucian A. Dade Jr., 16 Apr 1944  
Capt Michael J. Quirk, 13 Aug 1944  
Maj Leslie C. Smith, 11 Sep 1944  
Maj Felix D. Williamson, 26 Jan-18 Oct 1945  
Unkn, 1-4 May 1946  
Maj Paul A. Conger, 5 May 1946

Lt Col Gerald W. Johnson, 23 Jul 1946  
Lt Col William D. Dunham, May 1947-Unkn  
Unkn (But Possibly Maj John C. McClure), Aug 1947-Unkn  
Maj Edward S. Popek, By Dec 1948  
Capt Franklyn E. Moffitt, C. Jun 1949  
Maj Ralph A. Johnson, Jul 1949  
Maj Henry H. Kirby Jr., 15 Sep 1949  
Maj George L. Abel, 10 Oct 1949  
Maj Henry H. Kirby Jr., Dec 1949  
Maj Edwin L. Heller, Jan 1950  
Lt Col Charles E. Parsons Jr., 3 Apr 1950  
Maj Harold M. Wilson, Sep 1951  
Maj Carl A. Rymer, 1 Oct 1951  
Lt Col Frank Q. O'conner, 17 Mar 1952  
Maj Richard C. Garrett, 24 Dec 1952-Unkn  
Maj Edward J. Mason, 8 Sep 1953  
Maj Charles W. Jackson, 28 Oct 1953  
Lt Col Lloyd H. Stinson, 24 Oct 1955  
Maj Kenneth E. Daniels, 8 Nov 1957  
Maj Roy W. King, 21 Sep 1958  
Lt Col Edward P. Mcneff, 1 Aug 1959  
Maj Joe H. Joiner, 1 Apr 1961  
Capt Cecil P. Roberts, 30 Apr 1961  
Lt Col Samuel D. Berman, Jun 1961  
Col Amos W. Waage, 1 May 1964  
Lt Col Austin O. Davis, 30 Nov 1965  
Lt Col Arby J. Thompson, 29 Aug 1967  
Col Carl D. Peterson, 5 May 1969  
Lt Col Cecil G. Foster, Jun 1970-30 Apr 1971  
Col William J. Breckner Jr., 1 Sep 1974  
Maj Charles E. Masuga, 29 Jun 1975  
Lt Col Henry M. Yochum lii, 30 Jun 1975  
Lt Col Lawrence P. Farrell, 7 Mar 1977  
Lt Col Michael P. Blaisdell, 28 Jun 1978  
Lt Col Robert W. Undorf, 4 May 1979  
Lt Col James V. Williford, 14 Aug 1981  
Lt Col George A. Suro, 25 Mar 1983  
Lt Col Royce G. W. Woodell, 1 Mar 1985  
Lt Col William R. Stroud, Feb 1987  
Lt Col Billy S. Clack, 10 Feb 1989  
Lt Col Robert F. Umbarger, 10 Feb 1991  
Lt Col Stephen E. Bozarth, 10 Jul 1992-14 May 1993  
Lt Col Michael E. Roznovsky, 18 Mar 1994  
Lt Col William A. Hewitt, 9 Nov 1995

Lt Col Arthur W. May, 4 Jun 1996  
Lt Col Robin M. Kesterson, 19 Jun 1998  
Lt Col Michael E. B. France, 24 Jun 2000  
Lt Col Marcel P. Schmidt, 17 Aug 2001  
Lt Col Mark M. Lankford, 7 Jul 2003  
Lt Col Gerald F. Lanagan, 21 Jan 2005  
Lt Col Pablo A. Sanchez, 23 May 2007  
Lt Col Bob G. Battema 17 Nov 2008  
Lt Col Brian A. Jackson 30 Jul 2010  
Lt Col Shamsheer Mann 10 Aug 2012  
Lt Col Peter Lee

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

World War II  
American Theater

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Air Offensive, Europe  
Normandy  
Northern France  
Rhineland  
Ardennes-Alsace  
Central Europe  
Air Combat, EAME Theater

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
ETO, 20 Feb–9 Mar 1944  
Holland, 18 Sep 1944

### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards**

1 Jun 1967–31 Dec 1968  
1 Jul 1977–1 Jan 1979  
1 Jul 1980–30 Jun 1982  
1 Jun 1984–31 May 1986  
1 May 1987–30 Apr 1989  
1 May 1989–30 Apr 1990  
1 May 1990–30 Apr 1991  
18-31 Mar 1994

1 Jul 1994-30 Jun 1996  
1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998  
1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 2000  
1 Jul 2001-30 Jun 2003  
1 Jun 2003-30 Jun 2005  
1 Jul 2005-30 Jun 2006  
1 Jul 2006-30 Jun 2007  
1 Jul 2007-30 Jun 2008  
1 Jul 2008-30 Jun 2009  
1 Jul 2009-30 Jun 2010  
1 Jul 2010-30 Jun 2011

## EMBLEM



The bull dogs represents the tenacity and aggressiveness of a fighter squadron, qualities further emphasized by the stance of the subject. The gloved fists symbolizes a clean fighter, while the lightning suggest the squadron's striking power. His expression shows that his is obviously a tough customer, hard to handle in a fight, not easily discouraged, and unafraid. It may further noted that with this squadron presently flying the P-47, the glove designs could be interpreted as thunderbolts and the eight bared teeth could represent the eight guns with which the aircraft is equipped.







Argent, a caricature bulldog affronte in a boxing stance Or, jowls Pink, wearing a jersey Azure charged with two mullets of the first, shorts Gules, shoes of the fourth, each charged on the toe with a mullet White, a scarf Barry Gules and White, an aviator's helmet Brown with goggles Celeste, and boxing gloves Red, each charged with a lightning flash White, all above a cast shadow Light Blue; all within a diminished bordure Blue. The emblem of the 62 FS was inspired by a squadron pet bulldog. It features a cartoon version of the animal as a boxer wearing the colors of the Stars and Stripes. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The bulldog represents the tenacity and aggressiveness of a fighter squadron, qualities further emphasized by the stance of the subject. The gloved fists symbolize a clean fighter, while the lightning suggests the squadron's striking power. His expression shows that he is obviously a "tough customer", hard to handle in a fight, not easily discouraged, and unafraid. COPYRIGHT—Walt Disney. (Approved, 18 Jun 1943)

## MOTTO

## OPERATIONS

December 1942 the 56 Fighter Group is ordered to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey to be ready for the move overseas.

6th January 1943 the 56 Fighter Group personnel are amongst almost 12,000 troops packed on the Cunard liner Queen Elizabeth which has been pressed into service as a high-speed troop transport ship.

12th January 1943 After six days at sea the Queen Elizabeth docks at Gourock in Scotland.

13th January 1943 the 56 Fighter Group arrives at RAF King's Cliffe in Northamptonshire.



29th March 1943. white recognition bands are ordered to be painted around the P-47's cowling, rudder, and elevators to avoid the Thunderbolts being mistaken for the only other radial engine fighter in Europe, the German FW190. The three squadrons are allocated code letters. The 61st is HV, 62 LM, and the 63rd UN.

29th April 1943, the group meets enemy aircraft for the first time and sustains its first casualties. Lt Winston Garth and Capt John McClure of the 62 FS are forced to bail out and become the group's first prisoners of war.

12th June 1943, Walter Cook (62 FS) shoots down an Fw190 to record the group's first enemy aircraft confirmed destroyed.

8th July 1943 the group moves from the comforts of the prewar buildings at Horsham to the new, and still unfinished Station 365 at Halesworth, Suffolk. The enterprising 62 FS commander David Schilling takes possession of the abandoned High Trees farmhouse and turns it into the squadron headquarters. It soon becomes known as Schilling's Acres. Nearby Holton Hall, which has been standing empty, becomes the Officers' Quarters.

18th August 1943 Capt Horace Craig moves up to become 62 FS Commander.

9th February 1944, Leroy Schreiber takes command of the 62 FS.

15th February 1944, in another first for the 56, the group adopts colored cowlings on its P-47's. Using the old squadron colors from 1942 the 61st FS cowlings are painted red, 62 yellow, and 63rd blue. A few weeks later, the red cowling would be adopted by the group with the squadron colors moving to the rudders.

29th March 1944 2 B-24s collide during their group formation and crash at Henham, a few miles from the 56's base at Halesworth. During rescue operations, the bomb load of one Liberator explodes and 6 men from the airfield are killed. Among them are 62 FS ace Stanley "Fats" Morrill and enlisted man Benny Cala. Also lost are Sgt Joseph Trembly of the 33rd Service Group, Lyle Densmore and Richard Weigand of the 2010th FF/Plt and one member of the 1181st MP unit, Tennys Wilcox.

15th April 1944, Maj Lucian Dade is transferred from Group Headquarters to take over command of the 62 FS.

13th August 1944, Mike Quirk takes command of the 62 FS.

23rd December 1944, A historic day for the 56 and Col Schilling. Anticipating that the break in the weather would encourage the Luftwaffe to be up in force supporting the German counter offensive, the 56, under MEW control, was over the Bonn area. After spotting no less than three German formations Schilling asked MEW control why they hadn't spotted them he was told

“Don't worry, stay on original vector for bigger game at 22'000 to 23'000 feet”. The “bigger game” turned out to be two huge formations of Fw190s, estimated to be around 250 in total. Outnumbered by five to one, but with the advantage of height and surprise, Schilling ordered the 61st and 63rd squadrons to attack one formation while he led the 62 to hit the second formation. In the battle that ensued, ranging from 26'000 feet to ground level, the 56 destroyed 32 fighters confirmed, one probable and fourteen damaged. At the briefing before the mission Schilling had informed the pilots that the 56 had been responsible for 25% of the 8th Air Force victories. On this day, the 56 accounted for over 50% of the enemy aircraft to fall that day. They not only created another group record but took the 56's total to well over 800 aircraft destroyed. 3 of the 56's pilots failed to return and two of these were killed. Schilling destroyed 5 enemy aircraft in this action and was awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster to his Distinguished Service Cross and a commendation for “outstanding heroism and splendid leadership.” Later that day Schilling attended a party at a Colchester Officer's Club for children whose fathers were prisoners of war and played Santa Claus.

3rd January 1945 the 56 begins to receive the new P-47M model. The 56 is the only group to fly the M model operationally and the group's individuality is furthered by each squadron adopting a unique paint scheme for its aircraft. The 61st FS aircraft wore all black upper surfaces, the 62 FS aircraft took on a green/grey disruptive pattern while the 63rd FS also decided on a disruptive pattern using two shades of blue. All the aircraft retain unpainted lower surfaces.

26th January 1945 More changes in the command structure as Felix Williamson assumes command of the 62 FS.

During January 1945, the 61st FS becomes the first of the group's squadrons to convert to the P-47M. Engine and ignition problems begin to plague the new fighter, preventing the 61st from flying any missions in the M during January and early February. Having transferred out its old D models, the 61st was reliant on using P-47Ds from the other two squadrons. The workload for the ground crews at this time was particularly heavy, especially for the 62 and 63rd squadrons.

3rd February 1945 the 62 FS begins to convert to the P-47M but unlike the 61st it retains some of its D models.

26th February 1945 More engine problems with the P-47M, traced to split poppet valve diaphragms in the Bendix carburetors, lead to all 67 of the aircraft currently at Boxted being grounded. Engineers from Bendix are able to manufacture replacement gaskets using British materials and all aircraft were modified with 24 hours. The group's operations were affected by the P-47M's unreliability and most of the 14 missions flown that month were only 2 squadron missions using the 62 and 63rd squadrons P-47 Ds. A frustrating time for all, although by the end of the month it is believed that all the problems with the new model have been overcome and the last P-47Ds are withdrawn from Boxted.

4th March 1945 For the first time the 62 FS fields an all P-47M formation for today's Ramrod-Aschaffenberg. Six of its 14 aircraft experience engine problems, mostly involving loss of power, and return early.

As the newly organized United States Air Force developed a new mission, so did the 62. Flying the P-51 and P-80, the squadron performed escort duty for the Strategic Air Command bombers, deploying to Alaska and Europe in this role.

In 1948, "Spike" converted to the interceptor role, a mission the squadron would maintain until 1971. Stationed in the northern tier of the United States, the 62 Fighter Interceptor Squadron flew the P-80, F-86 and F-101 on patrol against the ever-present Soviet bomber threat.

1959 October 27th, Pilot LT COL Edward McNeff along with radar observer Captain Chester Oranges, piloted the Group's first "Voodoo" to K. I. Sawyer. The plane was christened the "U. P. Queen" in honor of native residents. The 62 Fighter Interceptor Squadron from O'Hare airport in Chicago was transferred to K. I. Sawyer and became an operational F-101 "Voodoo" aircraft Squadron after K. I. Sawyer's runway was extended to 12,300 feet long by 300 feet wide with 1000 foot overruns and 24 inches of concrete.

1965 October, the 62 FIS and their "Voodoo's" participates at the "William Tell Worldwide Weapons Meet" in Florida and sweeps the fighter phase of the competition winning eight first place trophies.

1971 April, the F-101 "Voodoo" aircraft equipped 62 FIS is deactivated and replaced by the 87th FIS and its F-106 "Delta Dart" aircraft which were transferred from Duluth, MN.

On Sept. 1, 1974, the squadron began its long history as a fighter-training unit. Activating at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., the 62 assumed the mission of training F-4 and F-106 weapons instructors at the United States Air Force Interceptor Weapons School. The following October, the flag moved again; this time to rejoin the 56 Tactical Fighter Wing at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., and began training F-4 crews for tactical units around the world.

On Jan. 1, 1981, the squadron transitioned to the F-16 "Fighting Falcon" and continued to train fighter pilots until the squadron's inactivation May 12, 1993.

The 62 Fighter Squadron was reactivated March 18, 1994, at Luke Air Force Base, where it currently flies the F-16 Block 25 aircraft.

Luke Christens Second Lightning II Squadron The 62 Fighter Squadron transitioned the F-16 to the F-35A, becoming the second Lightning II pilot training squadron at Luke AFB, Ariz., in a ceremony there earlier this month. "As we open this new chapter in our squadron's history, we will focus our efforts on what we've been doing for three generations training and delivering combat air power," said incoming 62 FS Commander Lt. Col. Gregory Frana during the June 5 transition ceremony. Luke

stood-up the 61st FS as the first of six F-35 training squadrons in October 2013. The 62 FS will begin receiving F-35s next month, and will eventually host US, Italian, and Norwegian conversion training. Luke bid farewell to 308th FS F-16s earlier this month when it inactivated to remerge as the 314th FS at Holloman AFB, N.M. Luke will eventually host a total of 144 strike fighters.2015

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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.