

## 89 TACTICAL MISSILE SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

10 Reconnaissance Squadron (Light) constituted, 20 Nov 1940  
Activated, 15 Jan 1941  
Redesignated 89 Bombardment Squadron (Light), 14 Aug 1941  
Redesignated 89 Bombardment Squadron (Dive), 28 Sep 1942  
Redesignated 89 Bombardment Squadron (Light), 25 May 1943  
Inactivated, 1 Apr 1949  
Redesignated 89 Tactical Missile Squadron and activated, 10 Sep 1962  
Organized, 25 Sep 1962

#### STATIONS

Savannah, GA, 15 Jan 1941-20 Jan 1942  
Brisbane, Australia, 25 Feb 1942  
Charters Towers, Australia, 8 Mar 1942  
Port Moresby, New Guinea, 1 Sep 1942  
Dobodura, New Guinea, 9 May 1943  
Nadzab, New Guinea, 31 Jan 1944  
Hollandia, New Guinea, 13 May 1944  
Dulag, Leyte, 7 Nov 1944  
San Jose, Mindoro, 30 Dec 1944  
Okinawa, 6 Aug 1945  
Atsugi, Japan, 8 Sep 1945  
Itazuke, Japan, 10 Apr 1946  
Itami, Japan, Sep 1946-1 Apr 1949  
Hahn AB, Germany, 25 Sep 1962

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

3 Bombardment Group, 15 Jan 1941  
38 Bombardment Group, 6 May 1946-1 Apr 1949  
United States Air Forces in Europe, 10 Sep 1962  
38 Tactical Missile Wing, 25 Sep 1962

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-18  
A-18, 1941  
A-20, 1941-1945  
B-25, 1942  
A-26, 1945-1949  
MGM-13 Mace, 1962–1966  
BGM-109G 1985-1990

## **COMMANDERS**

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

Antisubmarine, American Theater  
East Indies  
Air Offensive  
Japan  
Papua  
New Guinea  
Bismarck Archipelago  
Western Pacific  
Leyte  
Luzon, Southern Philippines

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

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
Papua, 23 Jul 1942-23 Jan 1943  
New Guinea, 17 Aug 1943

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

#### **EMBLEM**

On a disc per fess debased light turquoise blue and light yellow green, border red, a

conventionalized black falcon with three-bladed propeller with red tips, emerging from large white cloud formation in sinister chief, dropping a parafrag bomb golden orange suspended in air by small white parachute, all emitting white speed lines to rear; four trees, two to dexter, two to sinister, of the second. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The background represents the squadron colors, as well as portraying the colors of coral formation as seen from the air. The blue and green also depict the squadron's air and ground echelons. The composite colors used in the design form the colors of the parent group. The trees are representative of the altitude at which the squadron attacks. The conventionalized falcon symbolizes the combination of the explosive-carrying ability of bombardment aircraft with the speed, maneuverability, and strafing power of pursuit aircraft. The parafrag bomb portrays the squadron's use and development of the newest type of deadly ordnance. (Approved, 4 Oct 1943)

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Antisubmarine, Dec 1941-Jan 1942; combat in Southwest and Western Pacific, Apr 1942-12 Aug 1945.

When the A-24 Dauntless dive bombers were withdrawn from service in the 89th Squadron they were replaced with A-20 Havoc bombers. The 89th Squadron was the first to be equipped with A-20's. They had been shipped from the United States in crates to Brisbane, where they were assembled and then flown to Charters Towers after flight testing in Brisbane.

A total of 10 A-20's were lost in in the first few months of operation of the 89th Squadron. One of the reasons for the incidents were mismanagement of fuel requirements. In another incident, a crew chief ran an A-20A into the Group Operations hut in Charters Towers during an engine run-up.

The ground echelon of the 89th Squadron departed Charters Towers on 17 August 1942 via Townsville enroute to Port Moresby on the Dutch Motor Ship, Maetycker-Batavia.

The 89th TMS was assigned to Site IV near Wueschein.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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### Sources

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