

91st AIR DIVISION, RECONNAISSANCE

MISSION

LINEAGE

91st Photographic Wing, Reconnaissance established, 9 Oct 1943
Activated, 20 Oct 1943
Redesignated 91st Reconnaissance Wing, 20 Jun 1945
Inactivated, 27 Jan 1946
Activated in the Reserve, 20 Dec 1946
Redesignated 91st Air Division, Reconnaissance, 16 Apr 1948
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

STATIONS

Will Rogers Field, OK, 20 Oct 1943
Birmingham AAB, AL, 9 Nov 1943-20 Feb 1944
Nadzab, New Guinea, 30 Mar 1944
Biak, 10 Aug 1944
Leyte, Philippine Islands, 12 Nov 1944
Mindoro, Philippine Islands, 28 Jan 1945
Clark Field, Luzon, Philippine Islands, 24 Mar 1945
Okinawa, 30 Jul 1945
Honshu, Japan, 5 Oct 1945-27 Jan 1946
Newark AAB (later, Municipal Airport), NJ, 20 Dec 1946-27 Jun 1949

ASSIGNMENTS

Third Air Force, 20 Oct 1943-20 Feb 1944
Army Service Forces, 20 Feb-30 Mar 1944
Fifth Air Force, 30 Mar 1944
Far East Air Forces (later, Pacific Air Command, U.S. Army), 8 Aug 1944-27 Jan 1946
First Air Force, 20 Dec 1946-27 Jan 1949

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 20 Oct 1943

LTC James E. Ilgenfritz, 13 Nov 1943
Col Elvin F. Maughan, 18 Dec 1943
Col David W. Hutchinson, 12 Apr 1944
Col Ralph O. Brownfield, 22 Apr 1944
Col John T. Murtha, 23 Aug 1944
Col William C. Sams, 16 Oct 1944-unkn
None (not manned), 20 Dec 1946-5 Jan 1947
Unkn, 6 Jan 1947-unkn
BG Robert L. Copsey by 31 Dec 1947-unkn

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II: New Guinea; Leyte; Luzon

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Subordinate units of the 91st began combat missions in Mar 1944, photographing Japanese airfields, harbors, beach defenses, and personnel areas in New Guinea, the Bismarcks, Borneo, and the southern Philippines. They also reconnoitered target areas and enemy troop positions to provide intelligence for Air Force and Army units. Liaison aircraft rescued Allied flyers forced down in Pacific jungles, and evacuated wounded personnel from forward areas. Frequently fighters, assigned to subordinate units, attacked gun emplacements, bridges, supply dumps, and other installations in support of ground troops. In 1945, as the war with Japan came to a close, the subordinate units flew photographic missions over Kyushu. After hostilities ceased, these flights continued, and the aerial photographs obtained helped to locate prisoner of war (POW) camps and in assessing damage done to the Japanese communications system. Activated in the Reserve at Newark, New Jersey, Dec 1946-Jan 1949. The organization was redesignated as a division in Apr 1948.

Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 26 Mar 2017
Updated:

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