

388 ELECTRONIC COMBAT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

388 Bombardment Squadron (Light) constituted 28 Jan 1942
Activated, 15 Mar 1942
Redesignated 388 Bombardment Squadron (Dive), 27 Jul 1942
Redesignated 388 Bombardment Squadron (Light), 6 Dec 1943
Redesignated 388 Bombardment Squadron, Light, 28 Mar 1944
Redesignated 388 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 19 Jul 1945
Inactivated, 4 Jan 1946
Redesignated 388 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 14 Jul 1947
Activated in the Reserve, 30 Jul 1947
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949
Redesignated 388 Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 29 Jul 1954
Activated, 1 Oct 1954
Redesignated 388 Tactical Fighter Squadron, 1 Jul 1958
Inactivated, 18 Feb 1959
Redesignated 388 Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, 7 Feb 1977
Activated, 1 Jul 1977
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1979
Redesignated 388 Electronic Combat Squadron, 29 Jan 1981
Activated, 1 Jul 1981
Inactivated, 15 Dec 1982
Activated, 15 Dec 2004
Inactivated, 27 Sep 2010

STATIONS

Bowman Field, KY, 15 Mar 1942

Will Rogers Field, OK, 12 Jun 1942
Hunter Field, GA, 18 Aug 1942
DeRidder AAB, LA, 18 Feb 1943
Rice AAFld, CA, 13 Apr 1943
Salinas AAB, CA, 13 Aug-24 Oct 1943
Port Moresby, New Guinea, 30 Nov 1943
Gusap, New Guinea, 3 Jan 1944
Nadzab, New Guinea, 11 Jun 1944
Hollandia, New Guinea, 4 Jul 1944
Tanauan, Leyte, 19 Nov 1944
San Jose, Mindoro, 27 Jan 1945
Mangaldan, Luzon, 11 Feb 1945
Floridablanca, Luzon, 20 Apr 1945
Okinawa, Sep-13 Dec 1945
Ft Lawton, WA, 1-4 Jan 1946
Ellington Field (later, AFB), TX, 30 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949
Clovis AFB, NM, 1 Oct 1954-18 Feb 1959
Mountain Home AFB, ID, 1 Jul 1977-30 Sep 1979
Mountain Home AFB, ID, 1 Jul 1981-15 Dec 1982
NAS Whidbey Island, WA, 15 Dec 2004

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Chia Yi AB, Formosa, 4 Sep-3 Dec 1958

ASSIGNMENTS

312 Bombardment Group, 15 Mar 1942-4 Jan 1946
Tenth Air Force, 30 Jul 1947
312 Bombardment Group, 13 Aug 1947-27 Jun 1949
312 Fighter Bomber Group, 1 Oct 1954
312 Fighter Bomber (later, 312 Tactical Fighter) Wing, 8 Oct 1957-18 Feb 1959
366 Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Jul 1977-30 Sep 1979
366 Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Jul 1981-15 Dec 1982
366 Operations Group, 15 Dec 2004

ATTACHMENTS

Air Task Force 13 [Provisional], 4 Sep-3 Dec 1958

WEAPON SYSTEMS

V-72, 1942-1943
A-24, 1942-1943
A-36, 1943
P-40, 1943-1944
A-20, 1944-1945
B-25, 1944-1945

F-86, 1955-1956
F-100, 1956-1959
F-111, 1977-1979
EF-111, 1981-1982
EA-6, 2004

COMMANDERS

None (not manned), 15 Mar-18 Oct 1942
Maj William H. Kemble Jr., 19 Oct 1942
Maj Joseph B. Bilitzke, 19 Oct 1944
Cpt Wayne B. Brodine, May-Jul 1945
Unkn, Aug 1945-4 Jan 1946
Unkn, 30 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949
LTC Isaac T. Van Patten III, 1 Oct 1954
LTC Richard E. Ryan, by 31 Dec 1955
Cpt Elmer L. Eilers, 26 Jul 1956
Maj William E. Charlson, 26 Jan 1957
Maj Ray L. Obenshain Jr., by 17-18 Feb 1959
LTC Rex L. Dull, 1 Jul 1977
LTC H. Cronin Byrd, 31 Mar 1979
None (not manned), 30 Jun-30 Sep 1979
LTC Herbert T. Pickering Jr., 1 Jul 1981-15 Dec 1982

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Antisubmarine, American Theater
New Guinea
Western Pacific
Leyte
Luzon

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Formosa, 25 Mar-4 Apr 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jul 1977-27 Mar 1978

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

EMBLEM



388 Fighter-Bomber Squadron emblem



388 Electronic Combat Squadron emblem: On a disc Celeste, in base two sabers arced and pointing to base Proper, supporting a shield top embattled Or, fimbriated Azure, charged with a griffin rampant Sable, eyed of the second, all within a narrow border Scarlet. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Scarlet border and inscribed "388 ELECTRONIC COMBAT SQ" in Scarlet letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force 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 shield, suggesting the ancient battle cry, "With my shield or on it!" represents the unit's determination to forge ahead, no matter what the odds. The griffin in mythology was an unconquerable guardian and alludes to the unit's defense of America. The sabers imply to the Squadron's offensive combat capability and together form the letter "V" for victory. (Approved, 24 Jan 1956)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Antisubmarine operations, Dec 1942-Jan 1943; combat in Southwest Pacific and Western Pacific, 13 Jan 1944-21 Jul 1945. F-111 flying training, 1 Sep 1977-29 Jun 1979. Trained EF-111A aircrews, Nov 1981-Dec 1982

The 388 Electronic Combat Squadron, home ported at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash., held a change of command Mar 4. Lt. Col. Eric Johnson relinquished command of the squadron to Lt. Col. William Young Jr. There are 24 Airmen in the 388 ECS to complement approximately 8,000 active duty and reserve Navy personnel stationed at NASWI. Col. John McMullen, 366 Operations Group commander, was the guest speaker and overseer for the event. "Today we celebrate the accomplishments of the outgoing commander, we celebrate the aspirations and excitement of the incoming squadron commander and, finally, we celebrate the proud squadron heritage," said Colonel McMullen. Colonel McMullen had further high praise for Colonel Johnson and his leadership during his tenure as the 388 ECS commander. "(Colonel Johnson) performed magnificently and it's been an honor serving with him over these last 16 months," said Colonel McMullen. "He is a phenomenal commander with an extreme sense of passion for his people. He fought for his people on an individual level and also took on larger issues such as the proper career path for electronic warfare officers, especially from this squadron. Colonel McMullen also spoke about how Colonel Johnson has led his Airmen in various assignments beyond NASWI. "Colonel Johnson has deployed countless people, flying literally thousands of hours over hostile territory," said Colonel McMullen. "He did this while stationed at a geographically separated location, which happens to be a Navy base, and during a time when his unit was one of the highest (operational tempo) units in the Air Force." Colonel Johnson, who has commanded the 388 ECS since Feb. 2006, spoke of the goals set forth by his commander, the contributions of his Airmen, and the contributions of their families.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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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.

Unit yearbook. *312 Fighter-Bomber Wing. Clovis AFB, NM, 1955.*