

1st WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON (PROVISIONAL)

LINEAGE

STATIONS

DEPLOYED STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

ATTACHMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

In preparation for the planned program for reconnaissance overflights of the Soviet Union, two U-2s were disassembled and flown by transport plane to Lakenheath in England. They were reassembled and flight tested, then flown to the USAF base at Wiesbaden in Germany. The so-called 1st Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Provisional (a spurious Air Force designation for what was in fact a CIA unit), was ready for operations.

On 4 July 1956 a U-2 took off from Wiesbaden for the first operational overflight. The plane climbed to altitude over Germany, then flew a circuitous track that took it over Moscow, Leningrad and the Soviet Baltic seacoast before it returned without incident. The photographs of the Soviet Union brought back by the U-2 were, in the case of many areas, the first seen by the US intelligence services since the capture of the German reconnaissance photo archives at the end of World War II. It is known the U-2 carried the ELINT receiver and recorder during that initial overflight.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 26 Oct 2011

Updated:

Published:

Sources

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