

24th TACTICAL MISSILE SQUADRON



LINEAGE

4th Antisubmarine Squadron (Heavy) (constituted as 40th Bombardment Squadron [Medium] on 20 Nov 1940; activated on 15 Jan 1941; redesignated 4th Antisubmarine Squadron [Heavy] on 29 Nov 1942; disbanded on 11 Nov 1943; reconstituted on 19 Sep 1985) and the 74th Air Defense Missile Squadron (BOMARC) (constituted, and activated, on 17 Dec 1959; organized on 1 Apr 1960; inactivated on 30 Apr 1972) consolidated (19 Sep 1985) with the 24th Tactical Missile Squadron (constituted on 9 Nov 1956; activated on 15 Mar 1957; inactivated on 15 Jul 1958). Consolidated squadron retains current designation: 24th Tactical Missile Squadron.

STATIONS

Langley Field, Va, 15 Jan 1941

Orlando AB, Fla, 7 Jun 1941

Westover Field, Mass, 22 Jan 1942

Langley Field, Va, 16 Jun 1942

Mitchel Field, NY, 3 Aug 1942 (detachment operated from Guantanamo, Cuba, 30 Aug 1942; Vernam Field, Jamaica, 14 Sep 1942; Zanderij Field, Surinam, 9 Oct 1942; Vernam Field, Jamaica, 16 Oct-15 Nov 1942)

Gander Lake, Newfoundland, 6-23 Jun 1943

St Eval, England, 30 Jun 1943

Dunkeswell, England, 6 Aug 1943

Podington, England, Nov-11 Nov 1943

Orlando AFB, Fla, 15 Mar 1957-15 Jul 1958

Duluth Muni (later, Duluth Int) Aprt, Minn, 17 Dec 1959-30 Apr 1972

ASSIGNMENTS

13th Bombardment Group (Medium), 15 Jan 1941 (detachment attached to Caribbean Sea Frontier, USN, 30 Aug-9 Oct 1942 and 16 Oct-15 Nov 1942, and to 99th Bombardment Squadron, 9-16 Oct 1942)

25th Antisubmarine Wing, 30 Nov 1942

AAF Antisubmarine Command, 9 Jun 1943

479th Antisubmarine Group, 8 Jul-11 Nov 1943

589th Tactical Missile Group, 15 Mar 1957

588th Tactical Missile Group, 25 Apr-15 Jul 1958

Air Defense Command, 17 Dec 1959
Duluth Air Defense Sector, 1 Apr 1960
29th Air Division, 1 Apr 1966
23d Air Division, 19 Nov 1969-30 Apr 1972

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-18, 1941-1943
B-24, 1943
None, 1957-1958
BOMARC, 1961-1972

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 15 Jan 1941-27 Aug 1942
Capt (later, Maj) Stephen D McElroy (by 28 Aug 1942)-11 Nov 1943
1st Lt Richard N McNeal, 15 Mar 1957
Capt Charles H Sheldt, 13 May 1957
Maj Donald E Dobbins, 25 Jun 1957
Lt Col Lewis S Norman, 1 Oct 1957
Maj Dawson K Hargrove, 10 Dec 1957
unkn, Jan-15 Jul 1958
Maj Edward S Fitzgerald, 1 Apr 1960
Lt Col Gaylord L Fletcher, (by 1 Apr 1961)
Lt Col Bernard R Sorensen (by 1 Jul 1963)
Lt Col Charles D Jones, c. Jul 1967
Lt Col Wallace N Robinson III, 30 Jan 1969
Lt Col Richard F Van Saun, 17 Jul 1970-30 Apr 1972

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War Two, Antisubmarine
Air Offensive Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, 1 Jan 1968-31 May 1969

EMBLEM

Each of these units had an approved emblem. When squadron activates, they may choose squadron emblem.

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 40th Bombardment Squadron (later, the 4th Antisubmarine Squadron*) activated in Jan 1941. Eleven months later with the outbreak of war, the squadron flew its B-18s on antisubmarine patrols and to cover friendly convoys off the U.S. east coast. From the last of Aug until mid-Nov 1942, a detachment consisting of six combat crews and supporting ground crews flew antisubmarine patrols from various bases in the Caribbean. The squadron's aircrews transitioned to B-24s in Apr and May 1943 just before moving to Newfoundland. The ground echelon left the United States for Newfoundland but were diverted to England where the aircrews joined them in late Jun. The aircrews flew first B-24 antisubmarine patrol over the East Atlantic on 13 Jul 1943. By the end of Jul, the squadron claimed two subs sunk and another damaged. In Aug, began to fly over the French Bay of Biscay, where the B-24s frequently encountered and fought enemy aircraft, as well as sinking submarines. On 11 Nov 1943, a few days after the last patrol, the 4th Antisubmarine Squadron disbanded.

The 24th Tactical Missile Squadron activated at Orlando AFB, Fla, on 15 Mar 1957 but was not fully manned until 25 Jun. Thereafter engaged in training but never received missiles before inactivation on 15 Jul 1958.

The 74th Air Defense Missile Squadron organized at Duluth, Minn, on 1 Apr 1960, moved in Jul to the missile site at French River, some 22 miles northeast of Duluth. Received BOMARC B missiles in early 1961 and had first one ready for launch by 18 Aug. Maintained launch ready missiles and trained missile crews until inactivated on 30 Apr 1972.

On March 15, 1957, only two months after activating the 588th TMG, Headquarters, Ninth Air Force, at Shaw AFB, South Carolina, created .mother new tactical missile group, the 589th TMG. Like the 588th, the new 589th TMG was never attached to the 4504th Tactical Missile Wing (Training). The new 589th TMG included the newest tactical missile squadron, the sixth Matador squadron created, the 24th TMS, and the newly created 589th Support Squadron.

The 24th Tactical Missile Squadron was not fully manned until June 25, 1957, some three months after the squadron was formed in March. Nine months after the formation of the 24th, the 17th TMS departed the 588th TMG for Taiwan. The 24th TMS was relieved from the 589th TMG and assigned to the 588th TMG on April 25, 1958, to replace the departed 17th TMS.

The 24th TMS, reassigned as part of the 588th TMG, conducted nine Matador launches between the end of August and 14 November 1957. The 588th's people bivouacked in tents about three miles north of the Matador launch area in an effort to improve the realism of the training. Four more Matadors were launched in March 1958, and the 588th "concluded its training with six Matador launches in November and December 1958." The 24th TMS engaged in crew training, but never received missiles or deployment orders before the squadron was inactivated on July 15, 1958.¹⁸ The 24th TMS was inactivated in July, and all personnel reassigned to the 588th TMG by the time training was completed.

On July 15, 1958, the U.S. Air Force inactivated the 58th Fighter-Bomber Wing, under the command of the 314th Air Division, at Osan Air base, Korea, and reduced its status to group level. Concurrently, HQ USAF activated the 58th Tactical Missile Group in its place at Osan, while at the same time inactivating both the 588th Tactical Missile Group at Orlando and its 24th Tactical Missile Squadron, which had finished its training in preparation for its deployment to Korea. All members and equipment were transferred to Korea and assigned to the newly formed 310th Tactical Missile Squadron and the 58th Support Squadron to man the TM-61C Matador at Osan, some twenty miles south of Seoul. The Matadors, replacing the F-86 of the former fighter squadron, were armed with W-5 nuclear warheads and declared in service on December 16, 1958

74th Air Defense Missile Sq (BOMARC): activated 1 Apr 6Q at Duluth Mun. Aprt, MN, assigned to the Duluth ADS; transferred to the 29th Air Div 1 Apr 66; reassigned to the 23rd Air Div 19 Nov 69; inactivated 30 Apr 72.

24th Tactical Missile Squadron
 Orlando AFB
 MGM-1 Matador 1957-1958
 1957-1958

Inactivated at Orlando AFB 1958, elements eventually joining 310th Tactical Missile Squadron at Osan AB, South Korea.

EMBLEM

On an irregular white patch edged with black, a brown, green, and black fighting cock with red comb and yellow beak and feet. (Approved, 7 Feb 1942)

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Antisubmarine patrols in American Theater, Dec 1941-22 Jun 1943, and in ETO, Jul-30 Oct 1943.

411027	B-18A	37-530	40BS	13BG	Orlando AAB, FL	LAC	Chandler, Louis D	Berwick Airport, Berwick, PA
420118	B-25B	40-2231	40BS	13BG	Orlando AB, FL	KCRGC	Isely, Walter C	Lake Apopka, FL

420221	RA-29	41-23437	40BS	13BG	Westover Field, MA	KTOASSP	Salvo, George C	Westover Field, MA
420316	B-25B	40-2333	40BS	13BG	Westover Field, MA	LAC	Irvin, Joseph R	Westover Field, MA
420320	A-29	41-23329	40BS	13BG	Westover Field, MA	TOAGL	Berry, James F	Westover Field, MA
420518	B-25	40-2169	40BS	13BG	Westover Field, Chicopee Falls, MA	TAC	Martin, Charles A	Bolling Field, Washington, DC
420823	B-18B	37-541	40BS	13BG	Mitchel Field, Hempstead, LI, NY	DTCEF	Majure, Albert L	40° 15' N - 73° 10' W
420904	B-18B	37-539	40BS	13BG	Mitchel Field, Hempstead, LI, NY	DTCEF	Ginther, Richard F	Caribbean Sea 12°10'N - 74°10'W
350830	B-6A	32-180	40BS		Langley Field, Hampton, VA	LACGL	Stanley, Joseph	Sky Harbor Airport, Murfreesboro, TN

421221	B-18BM	37-562	4AntiSubSq	25ASWg	Mitchel Field, LI, NY	FLEF	Hamilton, Joseph L	Mitchel Field, LI, NY
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430811	B-24D	42-40788	4ASS	479ASG	173	TAC	Hayes, Henry R	Dunkeswell/Sta 173
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Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 5 Nov 2011
Updated:

Sources
Unit History. WADS. 1960.