

# 26<sup>th</sup> OPERATIONAL WEATHER SQUADRON



## LINEAGE

26<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron constituted, 30 Sep 1943  
Activated, 10 Oct 1943  
Disbanded, 3 Jun 1944  
Reconstituted, 18 May 1948  
Activated, 1 Jun 1948  
Inactivated, 30 Jun 1972  
Activated, 1 Jan 1975  
Inactivated, 31 Jul 1991  
Redesignated 26<sup>th</sup> Operational Weather Squadron, 5 Feb 1999  
Activated, 1 Oct 1999

## STATIONS

Orlando Army Air Base, FL, 10 Oct 1943-3 Jun 1944  
Brookley AFB, AL, 1 Jun 1948  
Barksdale AFB, LA, 10 Sep 1951-30 Jun 1972  
Barksdale AFB, LA, 1 Jan 1975-31 Jul 1991  
Barksdale AFB, LA, 1 Oct 1999

## ASSIGNMENTS

Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics (later, Army Air Forces Tactical Air Center), 10 Oct 1943-3 Jun 1944  
104<sup>th</sup> Weather (later, 2104<sup>th</sup> Air Weather) Group, 1 Jun 1948  
2059<sup>th</sup> Air Weather Wing, 24 Oct 1950  
2101<sup>st</sup> Air Weather Group, 16 Sep 1951  
1<sup>st</sup> Weather Group, 20 Apr 1952  
3<sup>rd</sup> Weather Wing, 8 Oct 1956 - 30 Jun 1972  
3<sup>rd</sup> Weather Wing, 1 Jan 1975-31 Jul 1991  
608<sup>th</sup> Air Operations Group, 1 Oct 1999

## COMMANDERS

## HONORS

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

None

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Oct 1960 – 31 Jan 1963

1 Jul 1976 - 30 Jun 1978

### **EMBLEM**

The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. Against the background of sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations, the blue saltire bearing the arrow crossed by the lightning bolt commemorates the squadron's history and organization in September 1943. The fleur-de-lis and anemometer, emblematic of weather service, with the star compass signifies the unit's participation in the weather service global mission. The star compass also denotes the squadron's Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The placement of the stars two and six allude to the squadron's numerical designation. The emblem bears the Air Force colors gold and ultramarine blue. (Approved, 3 Nov 1965)

### **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

### **MOTTO**

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

Operational Weather Squadrons conduct weather operations in support of Total Force Army and Air Force operations covering a specified geographical region of the world. Weather officers and enlisted weather technicians operate around the clock to provide installation forecasts, aviation hazard decision aids, flight weather briefings, and weather advisories, watches and warnings.

These regional weather 'hubs' are responsible for producing base or post forecasts, developing weather decision aids, briefing aircrews, and issuing weather advisories, watches and warnings for all units in their geographical area. Using automated observing systems located at most major installations and communicating with base or post weather flights, the squadron is able to 'forecast' the weather for the entire area of responsibility from one central location.

The 26th Operational Weather Squadron, located at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., is responsible for producing and disseminating mission planning and execution weather analyses,

forecasts, and briefings for Air Force, Army, Guard, Reserve, and combatant command forces operating at 133 installations/sites in a 13-state region of the southeastern United States. The 26th OWS also produces 11,000 weather warning/advisories, 32,000 terminal aerodrome forecasts, 31,000 graphical aviation hazard products and 30,000 flight weather briefings per year. In addition to its operational mission, the 26th OWS serves as the training center for 20 percent of all new Air Force enlisted forecasters and weather officers. After completing an 8-month initial skills course, new weather apprentices report to the 26th OWS to complete a 15-month upgrade training process.

In response to a request from the commanding general of the Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics for an assigned weather squadron, the Army Air Forces headquarters constituted today's 26th Operational Weather Squadron on September 30, 1943, as the 26th Weather Squadron. The squadron activated on October 10, 1943, under the command of Lt Col Chester W. Cecil, Jr., at Orlando Army Air Base, Florida. In addition to his squadron duties, Colonel Cecil served as the 26th Weather Regional Control Officer and staff weather officer for the Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics. Later redesignated the Army Air Forces Tactical Air Center, the School of Applied Tactics was activated on October 16, 1942, to train selected officers under simulated combat conditions. More than 840 weather officers attended the Weather Staff Officer course conducted at the School of Applied Tactics during World War II. The Army Air Forces disbanded the 26<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron on June 3, 1944, and squadron personnel were transferred in-place to Squadron B, 902d Army Air Forces Base Unit. The newly independent United States Air Force The 26th's Time at Barksdale Began in the 1950s reconstituted the 26<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron on May 18, 1948. On June 1, it activated the 26th at Brookley Air Force Base, near Mobile, Alabama. The Air Force assigned the 26th to the 104<sup>th</sup> Weather Group, which was later redesignated the 2104th Air Weather Group. The 26th Weather Squadron was soon indirectly supporting Operation VITTLES as Brookley transports, including the limited production C-74 Globemaster I, began participating in the Berlin Airlift. The 26th's current emblem was approved on November 3, 1965, replacing its first emblem approved in 1944. The 26th Weather Squadron was reassigned to the 2059th Air Weather Wing on October 24, 1950, as part of Air Weather Service's restructuring to eliminate the Weather Groups. The 26th Weather Squadron moved its headquarters to Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, on September 10, 1951, in order to align itself with the headquarters of Strategic Air Command's Second Air Force at Barksdale for which the 26th had been given functional responsibility under Air Weather Service's new organizational scheme. In continuing Air Weather Service reorganizations, the 26th was reassigned to the 2101st Air Weather Group on September 16, 1951, and to the 1<sup>st</sup> Weather Group on April 20, 1952. The squadron began its long association with the 3d Weather Wing on October 8, 1956, to which it was assigned until it was inactivated on June 30, 1972. The 26th was again activated and assigned to the 3d Weather Wing on January 1, 1975. The 26th continued at Barksdale until the divestiture of Air Weather Service. The squadron was inactivated on July 31, 1991. As part of Air Force Weather's re-engineering, the squadron was redesignated the 26<sup>th</sup> Operational Weather Squadron on February 5, 1999, and again activated at Barksdale on October 1, 1999, where it was assigned to Eighth Air Force's 608th Air Operations Group.



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Air Force Order of Battle  
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Sources

Unit History. LINEAGE AND HONORS OF THE OPERATIONAL WEATHER SQUADRONS. Air Force Weather History Office. Offutt AFB, NE. Mar 2003.

## 26<sup>th</sup> WEATHER SQUADRON



### LINEAGE

Constituted the 26th Weather Squadron on 30 September 1943  
activated 10 October 1943.  
disbanded on 3 June 1944.  
reconstituted on 18 May 1948  
activated 1 June 1948.  
Inactivated 30 June 1972  
activated 1 January 1975

### STATIONS

Orlando AAB, Florida  
Brookley AFB, Alabama, 1 June 1948.  
Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, on 10 September 1951

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics (later Army Air Forces Tactical Air Center) 10

October 1943

104th Air Weather (later 2104th Air Weather) Group 1 June 1948

2059th Air Weather Wing on 24 October 1950

2101st Air Weather Group [MAJCON] 16 September 1951

1st Weather Group 20 April 1952

3d Weather Wing 8 October 1956.

3d Weather Wing 1 January 1975

## **COMMANDERS**

10 Oct 43	Col Chester W. Cecil, Jr.
1 Jun 48	Maj Eckwood H. Reagan
24 Jan 48	Maj Joseph B. Smith
Jan 51	LTC Norman E. King
10 Sep 51	LTC Stephen W. Pournaras
Mar 54	LTC Jack H. Pelander
23 Mar 57	LTC Lawrence D. Connolly
17 Aug 57	LTC Robert L. Sorey
1 Aug 62	Col Paul E. McAnally
26 Jun 65	Col Lawrence D. Connolly
18 Jun 68	Col Leonard E. Zapinski
5 Dec 69	LTC Donald W. Moon
6 Jan 70	Col John C. Ball
1 Jun 71	LTC Kenneth F. Gordon
20 Jul 71	Col Gordon W. Schmal
1 Jan 75	LTC Frank D. Reader
25 Jun 75	LTC Tommy D. Guest
19 Jul 78	LTC David L. Donley
29 Mar 82	LTC Ronald D. Haynes
17 Nov 83	LTC Patrick J. Larkin
1 Jul 85	LTC George E. Duffield

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Oct 1960-31 Jan 1963

1 Jul 1976-30 Jun 1978

## **EMBLEM**

FIRST EMBLEM: Approved on 20 April 1944

SECOND EMBLEM: Approved on 3 November 1965

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

FIRST EMBLEM: None attributed.

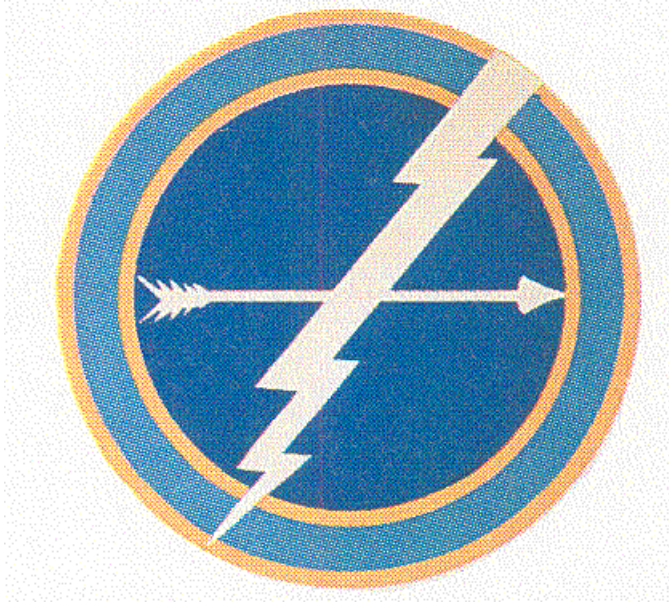
SECOND EMBLEM: Against the background of sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations, the blue saltire bearing the arrow crossed by the lightning bolt commemorates the squadron's history and organization in September 1943. The fleur-de-lis and anemometer, emblematic of Air Weather Service, with the star compass signifies the unit's participation in the Air Weather Service global mission. The star compass also denotes the squadron's Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The placement of the stars two and six allude to the squadron's numerical designation. The emblem bears the Air Force colors of golden yellow and ultramarine blue.

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Det 4, Loring AFB, ME  
Det 6, Pease AFB, NH  
Det 8, Griffiss AFB, NY  
Det 12, Plattsburgh AFB, NY  
Det 14, Eaker AFB, AR  
Det 15, Grand Forks AFB, ND  
Det 19, Whiteman AFB, MO  
Det 20, Barksdale AFB, LA  
Det 22, Carswell AFB, TX  
Det 23, McConnell AFB, KS  
Det 24, K. I. Sawyer AFB, MI  
Det 26, Grissom AFB, IN  
Det 28, Wurtsmith AFB, MI



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Sources