

9th ATTACK SQUADRON



LINEAGE

9th Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) constituted, 20 Nov 1940
Activated, 15 Jan 1941
Redesignated 9th Fighter Squadron, 15 May 1942
Redesignated 9th Fighter Squadron, Twin Engine, 25 Jan 1943
Redesignated 9th Fighter Squadron, Single Engine, 19 Feb 1944
Redesignated 9th Fighter Squadron, Two Engine, 6 Nov 1944
Redesignated 9th Fighter Squadron, Single Engine, 8 Jan 1946
Redesignated 9th Fighter Squadron, Jet Propelled, 1 May 1948
Redesignated 9th Fighter Squadron, Jet, 10 Aug 1948
Redesignated 9th Fighter Bomber Squadron, 1 Feb 1950
Redesignated 9th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 8 Jul 1958
Redesignated 9th Fighter Squadron, 1 Nov 1991
Redesignated 9th Attack Squadron

STATIONS

Selfridge Field, MI, 15 Jan 1941
Morrison Field, FL, 22 May 1941–4 Jan 1942
Melbourne, Australia, 2 Feb 1942
Williamstown, Australia, 14 Feb 1942
Darwin, Australia, 17 Mar 1942
Port Moresby, New Guinea, 10 Oct 1942
Dobodura, New Guinea, 6 Mar 1943
Gusap, New Guinea, 16 Dec 1943
Hollandia, New Guinea, 16 May 1944
Biak, 26 Jun 1944

Tacloban, Leyte, 24 Oct 1944
San Jose, Mindoro, 30 Dec 1944
Lingayen, Luzon, 26 Feb 1945
Okinawa, 16 Aug 1945
Atsugi, Japan, 15 Sep 1945
Chitose AB, Japan, 17 Feb 1946
Misawa AB, Japan, 26 Mar 1948
Itazuke AB, Japan, 27 Jun 1950
Misawa AB, Japan, 15 Aug 1950
Itazuke AB, Japan, 17 Sep 1950
Taegu AB, South Korea, 30 Sep 1950
Komaki AB, Japan, Dec 1952–10 Dec 1957
Etain/Rouvres AB, France, 10 Dec 1957
Spangdahlem AB, Germany, 25 Aug 1959–15 Jul 1968
Holloman AFB, NM, 15 Jul 1968

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Bitburg AB, Germany, 12 Sep–11 Oct 1970
Hahn AB, Germany, 9 Sep–7 Oct 1971
Takhli RTAFB, Thailand, 13 May–5 Oct 1972
Bitburg AB, Germany, 4 Feb–15 Mar 1973 and 6 Sep–7 Oct 1975
Hahn AB, Germany, 22 Sep–21 Oct 1976
Ramstein AB, Germany, 10 Sep–10 Oct 1977

ASSIGNMENTS

49th Pursuit (later, 49th Fighter; 49th Fighter Bomber) Group, 15 Jan 1941
49th Fighter Bomber (later, 49th Tactical Fighter; 49th Fighter) Wing, 10 Dec 1957
49th Operations Group, 15 Nov 1991

ATTACHMENTS

Japan Air Defense Force, 17 Dec 1952–Nov 1953
49th Fighter-Bomber Wing, 17 Aug–6 Sep 1950 and 15 Apr–9 Dec 1957
36th Tactical Fighter Wing, c. 12 Sep–c. 11 Oct 1970
50th Tactical Fighter Wing, 9 Sep–7 Oct 1971
36th Tactical Fighter Wing, 4 Feb–15 Mar 1973 and 6 Sep–7 Oct 1975
50th Tactical Fighter Wing, 22 Sep–21 Oct 1976
86th Tactical Fighter Wing, 10 Sep–10 Oct 1977

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-35, 1941
P-40, 1941–1943
P-47, 1943–1944
P-38, 1943, 1944–1946
P-51, 1946–1948, 1949–1950
F-80, 1948–1951
F-84, 1951–1957

F-100D
F-100F, 1957
F-105, 1962-1967
F-4, 1967-1978, 1992
F-15, 1978-1992

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

F-80C

49-0543	49-0736	49-0835	49-1887	49-0526	49-0602
49-0448	49-0772	49-0501	49-1807	49-0530	49-0772
49-0515	49-0050	49-0814	49-0805	49-0808	
49-0464	49-0688	49-0876	49-1880	49-0729	

F-84E

51-0528
51-0530
50-1225

P-35

36-410
36-386

P-38F

42-12624

P-38G

42-13032	43-2215	42-12848	43-2199	43-2318	42-12696
42-12712	43-2194	43-2284	43-2271	43-2208	42-12856
42-12866	43-2199	43-2269	42-12860	43-2196	
42-12863	43-2217	43-2287	42-12694	43-2388	

P-38H

42-66514
42-66516
42-66544
42-66576

P-40E

41-36166	41-25163	41-5509	41-36090	41-36089
41-24821	41-35943	41-5648	41-36164	41-36240

P-40K

42-46268

P-51D

44-72890	44-15154	44-15151	44-64083	44-63336	44-64031
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44-73876 44-73640 44-73866 44-72647 44-73781 44-73383

P-51K
44-12097
44-12097

F-100D
54-2163
54-2247
55-3678
55-3701

F-100F
56-3819
56-3877
56-3879

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

F-4D HO

UNIT COLORS

Red

Red vertical stabilizer/rudder with a white lightning bolt and red nose band.

COMMANDERS

Maj James C. Selman, 15 Jan 1941
Cpt Ben S. Irvin, 19 Sep 1942
Maj Jesse C. Peaslee, 3 Nov 1942
Cpt Sidney S. Woods, 22 May 1943
Cpt Paul J. Slocum, 22 Aug 1943
Maj Wallace R. Jordan, 5 Sep 1943
Maj Gerald R. Johnson, 1 Oct 1943
Maj Wallace R. Jordan, Jan 1944
Maj Robert M. McComsey, Oct 1944
Maj Wallace R. Jordan, 1 Nov 1944
Cpt William F. Williams (acting), 31 Dec 1944
Cpt John R. Petrovich, 23 Jan 1945
Cpt Herbert Blake, 17 Oct 1945
1LT John A. Willis, 31 Dec 1945
Cpt Martin E. McCoy, Jan 1946
Maj Verne Bivin, 6 Oct 1947
Cpt Bedford R. Underwood, 3 Feb 1948
Maj Daniel F. Sharp, 21 Dec 1948
LTC Charles H. Williams, Mar 1950
Maj Frank T. Ellis, 5 Sep 1950

LTC Charles H. Williams, 25 Nov 1950
Maj George G. Loving Jr., 7 Apr 1951
LTC James F. Sprinkle, 29 Jul 1951
Maj Eugene S. Williams, 14 Dec 1951
Maj Kenneth L. Skeen, 29 Jan 1952
LTC James R. Jarrell III, 28 Mar 1952
LTC William F. Georgi, Aug 1952
Unkn, Jan 1953-1954
LTC Deward E. Bower, Dec 1952-unkn
LTC Edmund G. Edwards, 1955-unkn
LTC Richard Cateledge, c. 1956
LTC Harford P. Jenks, c. Apr 1957
Maj Roy L. Garr, 10 Dec 1957
Maj Ray O. Roberts, 18 Dec 1957
Maj Wilson G. Hall, 15 Nov 1958
Maj Alvin R. Moorman, 1 Nov 1959
Maj James A. Eaglen, 20 Jul 1961
Maj Charles C. Botvidson, 12 Aug 1961
LTC Harry K. Evans, 16 Feb 1962
LTC James A. Eaglen, 20 Apr 1962
LTC Louis R. Vogt, 30 Jul 1964
LTC Richard H. Schoeneman, 15 May 1965
LTC Felix C. Fowler, Apr 1967
LTC Robert L. Larsh, by 30 Jun 1969
LTC Richard A. Housum, 19 Jan 1970
LTC Joseph L. Hutto, 1 Oct 1970
LTC James E. Tuck, 10 Dec 1971
LTC Richard P. Pearson, 11 Dec 1972
LTC Thomas L. Wallace, 25 Mar 1974
LTC Terry J. Guess, 27 Oct 1975
LTC Anthony S. Cushenberry, 24 Jun 1976
LTC Ross L. Meyer, 2 Jun 1977
LTC Richard K. Koehnke, 1 Dec 1977
LTC John M. Stover, 2 Jul 1979
LTC Thomas D. Allbee, 30 Dec 1980
LTC Jeffrey G. Cliver, 18 Jun 1982
LTC Jerry D. Hokkanen, 9 Dec 1983
LTC James E. Tims, 18 Dec 1985
LTC Richard B. Barnett, 22 May 1987
LTC Michael L. Gentrup, 17 Mar 1989
LTC Neil G. Kacena, 1 Mar 1991
LTC William Aten III, 25 Feb 1993
LTC David DellaVolpe, 25 Jun 1993
LTC Eric J. Rosborg, 1 Jul 1993
LTC Donald L. Hargarten, 30 Jun 1994
LTC William Crabbe III, 8 Jul 1994

LTC Gregory A. Feest, 8 Jun 1995
LTC Joseph A. Salata Jr., 13 Jun 1997
LTC Paul M. Carpenter, May 1999
LTC Philip W. McDaniel, 28 Apr 2000
LTC George D. Kramlinger, 23 Feb 2001
LTC David E. Wooden, 8 Jul 2002
LTC Ward F. Juedeman, 18 Jun 2004

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II
East Indies
Air Offensive, Japan
China Defensive
Papua
New Guinea
Bismarck Archipelago
Western Pacific
Leyte; Luzon
Southern Philippines
China Offensive

Korea
UN Defensive
UN Offensive
CCF Intervention
First UN Counteroffensive
CCF Spring Offensive
UN Summer-Fall Offensive
Second Korean Winter
Korea Summer-Fall, 1952
Third Korean Winter

Vietnam
Vietnam Ceasefire

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Australia, [18] Mar–25 Aug 1942
Papua, [c. 15 Oct] 1942–23 Jan 1943

New Britain, 23 Oct–7 Nov 1943
Philippine Islands, 27 Oct–7 Dec 1944
Korea, 27 Jun–25 Nov 1950
Korea, 9 Jul–27 Nov 1951

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device
5 May 1972–6 Oct 1972

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Mar 1964–28 Feb 1966
1 Mar 1966–30 Jun 1967
1 Jan 1971–15 Apr 1972
1 Jun 1995–31 May 1997
1 Jun 1998–31 May 1999
2 May 2004–31 May 2005

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations
27 Jun 1950–7 Feb 1951
8 Feb 1951–31 Mar 1953

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
10 May–5 Oct 1972

EMBLEM

On a disc Ultramarine Blue, border Black, a Red bend surmounted by a White, winged, knight's helmet, facing to dexter. Approved, 24 Jan 1946.

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

The history of the 9FS insignia began at Darwin. Since the 49th had been under the command of the RAAF, it was thought the units should adopt a coat of arms insignia similar to the Australians' royal insignias of heraldry. South of Darwin at the Humpty Doo area cattle station, the 9th was nicknamed the "Fighters of Humpty Doo". Some said C. Selman may have been the first to draw a 9FS insignia. It's also been said that "The Flying Knights" design was drawn up by S. Woods and R. Blachly while the 9th was at Dobodura, and there it was refined to the patch form.

Ralph Wandrey describes the old 9FS insignia as follows: "The knights' helmet with the closed visor represented readiness for battle. The red stripe was positioned for bar sinister which was for the blood we drew, and in heraldry represented a bastard - which we considered ourselves to be in the Army Air Force!"

MOTTO

NICKNAME

Fighters of Humpty Doo
The Iron Knights
The Tin Heads

OPERATIONS

The 9th Fighter Squadron was activated as the 9th Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) on 15 January 1941 at Selfridge Field, Michigan. Redesignated as the 9th Fighter Squadron on 15 May 1942, the unit saw combat throughout the Southwest Pacific campaign during World War II, earning four Distinguished Unit Citations and two Presidential Unit Citations during the war. The squadron had the distinction of being the first Air Force unit to land and operate from the Philippine Islands following the Japanese occupation of that country, and was selected as the Honor Guard at the start of the occupation of Japan. Fourteen aces served with the 9th during WWII, including Major Richard Bong, the top American ace of the war.

The 9th Fighter Squadron continued to operate from bases in Japan and Korea through the Korean War, flying the P-51 Mustang, F-80 Shooting Star, and F-84 Thunderjet. The unit moved to the European theater in 1957, first at Etain/Rouvres, France, and then at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, where the squadron participated in exercises and competitions in both Europe and the United States. Following conversion to the F-4, the 9th Tactical Fighter Squadron was reassigned to Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, in July 1968.

The squadron was part of the 49th Tactical Fighter Wing deployment to Takhli Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, from May through September 1972 to support combat operations over Vietnam. The unit earned the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor device and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross during this period. The squadron returned to its WWII mission of air superiority in 1978 with the conversion to the F-15 Eagle.

Portions of squadron deployed to Southwest Asia to fly combat air patrol for Coalition operations, 20 Jun–5 Dec 1991

F-4 training for German Air Force pilots, Jul 1992

The unit became operational in the F-117A Stealth Fighter in 1993. As one of only two operational Stealth Fighter squadrons, the 9th Fighter Squadron continues to support exercises around the world, as well as providing air show and public display support world-wide. The unit most recently deployed to Italy in support of Operation DELIBERATE FORCE over the former Yugoslavia, and to Germany during Operation ALLIED FORCE to conduct air operations over Serbia. For its continued excellence, the 9th Fighter Squadron earned its fourth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, awarded Aug. 31, 1999

The 8th and 9th Fighter Squadrons are the only two combat-ready F-117 squadrons in the world. They deploy worldwide as tasked by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, using special low observable technologies to deliver precision-guided weapons against high-value, heavily defended targets. The 8th and 9th Fighter Squadrons provide the National Command Authority with a fully autonomous special combat capability for low-profile military operations.

10 May 1995 An F-117A , 85-0822, crashes 7 miles S of Zuni, New Mexico, while on a training mission. The pilot, Capt. Kenneth W. Levens, 35, of the 9th Fighter Squadron, was killed in the crash. The autopilot apparently disengaged, aircraft enters inverted near-vertical dive, impacts on the Zuni Indian Pueblo in a 70 degree dive with 120 degrees starboard bank at more than 600 mph at 2225 hrs, creating a 30 foot crater. A Kirtland AFB H-60 Blackhawk finds the impact site shortly after 0000 hrs.

Officials at Holloman AFB, N.M., activated the 9th Attack Squadron as the base's second MQ-9 remotely piloted aircraft training unit. "MQ-9 training requirements have doubled," said SMSgt. James Howard, 9th AS superintendent. "By having two training squadrons, it enables us to train more students to meet that requirement," he added. The 9th AS stood up during a Sept. 28 ceremony. The unit will train half of the Reaper operators who receive their instruction at Holloman. The base's 29th AS will train the others. Both units will share the base's complement of MQ-9s, which currently stands at 11 aircraft. "Last year, the US Air Force trained more RPA aircrew than traditional pilots, and that is a trend that is likely to continue," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Patton, 9th AS commander.



Air Force Order of Battle
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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 history. *49th Tactical Fighter Wing, History in Review. 1940-1972.*