

58 OPERATIONS GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

58 Pursuit Group (Interceptor), established, 20 Nov 1940

Activated, 16 Jan 1941

Redesignated 58 Fighter Group, 15 May 1942

Redesignated 58 Fighter Group, Single-Engine, 20 Aug 1943

Inactivated, 27 Jan 1946

Redesignated 58 Fighter-Bomber Group, 25 Jun 1952

Activated, 10 Jul 1952

Inactivated, 8 Nov 1957

Redesignated 58 Tactical Missile Group, 17 Jun 1958

Activated, 15 Jul 1958

Discontinued and inactivated, 25 Mar 1962

Redesignated 58 Operations Group and activated, 1 Oct 1991

STATIONS

Selfridge Field, MI, 15 Jan 1941

Baton Rouge, LA, 5 Oct 1941

Dale Mabry Field, FL, 4 Mar 1942

Richmond AAB, VA, 16 Oct 1942

Philadelphia Muni Aprt, PA, 24 Oct 1942

Bradley Field, CT, c. 3 Mar 1943

Green Field, RI, 28 Apr 1943

Grenier Field, NH, 16 Sep-22 Oct 1943
Sydney, Australia, 19 Nov 1943
Brisbane, Australia, 21 Nov 1943
Dobodura, New Guinea, 28 Dec 1943
Saidor, New Guinea, 3 Apr 1944
Noemfoor, 30 Aug 1944
San Roque, Leyte, 18 Nov 1944
San Jose, Mindoro, 30 Dec 1944
Mangaldan, Luzon, 5 Apr 1945
Porac, Luzon, 18 Apr 1945, Okinawa, 10 Jul 1945
Japan, 26 Oct 1945
Fort William McKinley, Luzon, 28 Dec 1945-27 Jan 1946
Taegu AB, South Korea, 10 Jul 1952
Osan-Ni (later, Osan) AB, South Korea, 15 Mar 1955-8 Nov 1957
Osan AB, South Korea, 15 Jul 1958-25 Mar 1962
Luke AFB, AZ, 1 Oct 1991
Kirtland AFB, NM, 1 Apr 1994

ASSIGNMENTS

Northeast Air District (later, First Air Force), 16 Jan 1941
3 Interceptor Command, 2 Oct 1941
1 Fighter Command, 17 Oct 1942
Fifth Air Force, 19 Nov 1943
5 Fighter Command, by 6 Mar 1945
Far East Air Forces, 23 Nov 1945
Pacific Air Command, by 10-27 Jan 1946
58 Fighter-Bomber Wing, 10 Jul 1952-8 Nov 1957
Fifth Air Force, 15 Jul 1958
314 Air Division, 24 Apr 1959-25 Mar 1962
58 Fighter (later, 58 Special Operations) Wing, 1 Oct 1991

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-35, 1941-1943
P-36, 1941-1943
P-39, 1941-1943
P-40, 1941-1943
P-47, 1943-1945
F-84, 1952-1954
F-86, 1954-1957
TM-61C (Matador), 1958-1962
F-15, 1991-1994
F-16, 1991-1994
UH-1, 1994
HH-60, 1994

MH-53, 1994
TH-53, 1994-2001
HC-130, 1994-1997, 2000
MC-130, 1994
C-12, 1999-2002
MH-53, 1994-2007
TH-53, 1994-2001
HC-130, 1994-1997, 2000
MC-130, 1994
C-12, 1999-2002
CV-22, 2006
TH-1H, 2008

COMMANDERS

Capt John M. Sterling, 15 Jan 1941-unkn
Maj Louis W. Chick Jr., Unkn
Col Gwen G. Atkinson, 8 Dec 1942
Lt Col Edward F. Roddy, 12 Mar 1945
Unkn Sep-Dec 1945
not manned, 28 Dec 1945-27 Jan 1946
Col Charles E. Jordan, 1952
Col Frederick J. Nelander, 1953
Col George V. Williams, 1954
Col William R. Brown, 1954
Col Clifford D. Nash, 1 Nov 1955-unkn
Lt Col Chris J.H. Schaefer Jr., 15 Jul 1958
Lt Col Bowers W. Espy, 22 Apr 1959
Col Alex T. McSwain, 2 Sep 1959
Lt Col Gordon B. Compton, 1 Jul 1960
Lt Col Walter A. Gremban, Feb 1961
Col Francis B. Howes Jr., 17 Jul 1961
Lt Col Walter A Gremban, 7 Dec 1961
Lt Col Enos L. Commons, 28 Feb-25 Mar 1962
Col Steven R. Polk, 1 Oct 1991
Col Bron A. Burke, 15 Jun 1992
Col Neil A. Youngman, 1 Apr 1994
Col David A. Schantz, 23 Jun 1995
Col Dale A. Kissinger, 22 Apr 1996
Col John H. Folkerts, 9 Jul 1996
Col Jeffrey B. Harrison, 19 May 1997
Col Bernard V. Moore II, 9 Jul 1999
Col Bradley A. Heithold, 8 May 2001
Col Michael W. Callan, 24 May 2002
Col Paul R. Harmon, 19 Aug 2003

Col Leonard A. Smales, 28 Jun 2005
Col John J. Maubach, 2 Jul 2007
Col Robert K. Abernathy, 17 Jul 2009
Col Dagvin R.M. Anderson, 5 Jul 2011
Col Arthur D. Davis , 21 Jun 2013
Col Shelley Rodriguez, 6 Jul 2015
Col Richard A. Carrell, 16 Jun 2017

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Bismarck Archipelago
New Guinea
Leyte
Luzon
Southern Philippines
Western Pacific
Ryukyus
China Offensive
Air Offensive, Japan

Korea
Korea, Summer-Fall 1952
Third Korean Winter
Korea, Summer 1953

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Philippines, 26 Dec 1944
Korea, 1 May-27 Jul 1953

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Apr 1992-31 Mar 1994
1 Jan 1993-30 Jun 1994
1 Jul 1994-31 Dec 1995
1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998
1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 2000
1 Jul 2001-30 Jun 2002

1 Jul 2002-30 Jun 2003
1 Jul 2003-30 Jun 2004
1 Jul 2004-30 Jun 2005
1 Jul 2006-30 Jun 2007
1 Jul 2007-30 Jun 2008
1 Jul 2011-30 Jun 2013

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation
10 Jul 1952-31 Mar 1953

EMBLEM



58 Fighter-Bomber Group Azure, on clouds in base a representation of the Greek mythological goddess Artemis with quiver and bow, in her chariot drawn by two deer, all or. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Diana, or Artemis, daughter of Jupiter and granddaughter of Mars, the god of War, was the Greek Olympian goddess of the Chase, of night, of magic, lakes, rivers and woods. Always returning successfully from her ventures, this goddess is symbolical of the functions of the organization. (Approved, 18 Nov 1952)



58 Tactical Missile Group: The emblem is symbolic of the group. Per bend light blue and azure between in sinister chief an atomic symbol argent detailed of the second, and in dexter base three mullets palewise of the third, a missile throughout bendwise or surmounted in pale by a chessman's knight of the third, all within a diminished border of the like. **SIGNIFICANCE:** A golden missile, representing [the group's] primary mission, is displayed against a divided background of light and dark blue to represent day and night. A chess knight symbolizes the unit's strategic and tactical mobility. The atomic symbol, representing the atom used in electronics, represents the guidance and communications functions and the nuclear capability of missiles. The stars on the field of blue suggest the vast reaches of space through which guided missiles operate. 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. (Approved, 14 Apr 1960)

58 Operations Group will use the wing emblem with the group designation in the scroll. Approved, 4 Aug 2021.

MOTTO

NON REVERTAR INULTUS--I will not return unavenged.

OPERATIONS

From beginning of World War II until 1943, served as replacement training unit for fighter pilots. Trained for combat and moved overseas to Southwest Pacific Theater in 1943. Began combat operations in Feb 1944, providing protection for U.S. bases and escorting transports initially, then escorting bombers over New Guinea and sea convoys to Admiralty Islands. From Noemfoor, bombed and strafed Japanese airfields and installations on Ceram, Halmahera, and the Kai Islands. Moved to the Philippines in Nov, flew fighter sweeps against enemy airfields, supported U.S. ground forces, and protected sea convoys and transport routes. Earned a DUC for strafing a Japanese naval force that was attacking a U.S. base on Mindoro on 26 Dec 1944. Beginning in Jul 1945, attacked railways, airfields, and enemy installations in Korea and Kyushu, Japan from Okinawa. After V-J Day, flew reconnaissance missions over Japan. Moved without personnel or equipment to the Philippines in Dec to be inactivated in Jan 1946.

Activated in Korea during the Korean War, absorbed the personnel and equipment of the 136 Fighter-Bomber Group, then provided close air support for UN ground forces and attacked enemy airfields and installations. Having entered the war with slow, short-ranged F-84D ThunderJets, the 58 FBG transitioned in late 1952 to the new "G" model, designed with more speed and range. New targets included enemy ports, railroads, and airfields. The group attacked the major supply port of Sinuiju in September, inflicting heavy damage without loss of personnel or aircraft. Combining with other fighter-bomber units, it attacked the Kumgang Political School at Odong-ni in October 1952 and the North Korean tank and infantry school at Kangso in February 1953. In May, the 58th FBG bombed North Korean dams, flooding enemy lines of communication and rice fields. On July 27, 1953, attacked runway at Kanggye and, with the 49 FBG, bombed Sunan Airfield for the final action of fighter-bombers in the Korean War. Earned a second DUC for its actions in the last three months of the war.

After the war, provided air defense for South Korea and deployed tactical components on rotational basis to Taiwan, Jan 1955-Feb 1957.

In Oct 1958, armed with tactical missiles to provide air defense of South Korea until 1962.

From Oct 1991, conducted combat crew training for F-15E aircrews and F-16 pilots; F-16C/D squadrons had a secondary, wartime mission of augmenting national air defenses. Early in 1993, added a mission of training international (Republic of Singapore) pilots in F-16 A/B aircraft, the first one arriving in Mar 1993. The next month, the group lost its wartime mission.

In Apr 1994, gave up fighter pilot training function and moved without personnel or equipment from Luke to Kirtland AFB, NM, taking over the resources of the 542 Crew Training Wing (which inactivated). Trained aircrews in special operations and in search, rescue, and recovery. Additional missions included training pararescue and combat control teams, deploying personnel and equipment to support contingencies, and conducting search and rescue missions at request of local authorities.

The 58 OG also accomplished all USAF undergraduate helicopter training via the 23 Flying Training Squadron at Ft. Rucker, AL.

On 11 Sep 2001, after terrorists hijacked four civilian airliners and flew three of them into buildings in New York and Washington, the group airlifted a federal task force to Pennsylvania to investigate the crash site of the fourth airliner.

Deployed personnel to support combat operations in Afghanistan (2001-) and Iraq (2003-).

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

Created: 19 Feb 2025

Updated:

Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.