

22d FIGHTER SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE¹

22d Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) constituted, 22 Dec 1939

Activated, 1 Feb 1940

Redesignated 22d Fighter Squadron, 15 May 1942

Redesignated 22d Fighter Squadron, Single Engine, 20 Aug 1943

Inactivated, 31 Mar 1946

Activated, 15 Oct 1946

Redesignated 22d Fighter Squadron, Jet Propelled, 27 Oct 1947

Redesignated 22d Fighter Squadron, Jet, 17 Jun 1948

Redesignated 22d Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 20 Jan 1950

Redesignated 22d Fighter-Day Squadron, 9 Aug 1954

Redesignated 22d Tactical Fighter Squadron, 8 Jul 1958

¹ 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.

War Insignia Stamp Album, Vol. 2, Postamp Publishing Co., 1942.

Unit yearbook. *36 Fighter Bomber Wing*. @1952

Unit yearbook. *36 Fighter Bomber Wing, Germany, 1954*.

History. *Wheelus Field; The Story of the US Air Force in Libya. The Early days 1944-1952*. R. L. Swetzer.

Historical Division Office of Information USAFE. 15 Jan 1965.

Redesignated 22d Fighter Squadron, 1 Oct 1991

STATIONS

Langley Field, VA, 1 Feb 1940

Losey Field, Puerto Rico, 6 Jan 1941

Vega Baja, Puerto Rico, 13 Dec 1941 (detachment operated from Waller Field, Trinidad, 6 Dec 1941–Oct 1942)

Waller Field, Trinidad, Oct 1942 (detachments operated from Aruba, 2 Sep 1942–Apr 1943; Curacao, 2 Sep 1942–Apr 1943 and Zandery Field, Surinam, 16 Sep 1942–16 Feb 1943)

Morrison Field, FL, 27 May 1943

Mitchel Field, NY, 4 Jun 1943

Charleston, SC, 21 Jun 1943

Alamogordo AAFld, NM, 17 Sep 1943

Scribner AAFld, NE, 26 Nov 1943–Mar 1944

Kingsnorth, England, 5 Apr 1944

Brucheville, France, 3 Aug 1944

Le Mans, France, 5 Sep 1944

Athis, France, 23 Sep 1944

Juvincourt, France, 5 Oct 1944

Le Culot, Belgium, 27 Oct 1944

Aachen, Germany, 28 Mar 1945

Niedermennig, Germany, 8 Apr 1945

Kassel/Rothwesten, Germany, 21 Apr 1945–15 Feb 1946

Bolling Field, DC, 15 Feb–31 Mar 1946

Howard Field, CZ, 15 Oct 1946–25 Jul 1948

Furstenfeldbruck AB, Germany, 13 Aug 1948

Bitburg AB, Germany, 28 Oct 1952

Spangdahlem AB, Germany, 1 Apr 1994

ASSIGNMENTS

36th Pursuit (later, 36th Fighter) Group, 1 Feb 1940–31 Mar 1946

36th Fighter (later, 36th Fighter-Bomber; 36th Fighter-Day) Group, 15 Oct 1946

36th Fighter-Day (later, 36th Tactical Fighter, 36th Fighter) Wing, 8 Dec 1957

36th Operations Group, 31 Mar 1992

52d Operations Group, 1 Apr 1994

ATTACHMENTS

36th Fighter-Day Wing, 1 Oct 1956–7 Dec 1957

WEAPON SYSTEMS

X/YP-37, 1940

P-36A, 1940–1942

P-40, 1941, 1942–1943

P-39, 1941–1943

P-47, 1943–1945
P-47, 1946–1947
P(later F-)80B, 1947–1950
F-84E, 1950–1953
F-86, 1953–1956
F-100, 1956–1961
F-105, 1961–1966
F-4, 1966–1977
F-15, 1977

COMMANDERS

Capt Glenn O. Barcus, 1 Feb 1940
Col Cecil Wells, 1941-1942
Maj John D. Stevenson, Unkn
Lt Col Frank S. Perigo, 1943
Lt Col Joseph K. Kirkup, By Jun 1943
Lt Col Hallock P. K. Walmsley, 17 Aug 1944
Maj Ray S. Mcclung, 8 Oct 1944
Cpt Cyril G. Browne Jr., 20 Jan 1945
Maj Wilton H. Earle, Feb 1945
Maj Richard N. Phelps, 9 Jul 1945-Unkn
Lt Col Benjamin F. Preston Jr., 15 Oct 1946
Maj Younger A. Pitts Jr., 1949
Lt Col Paul Douglas, 1949
Maj Herbert H. Jordan, Dec 1949
Lt Col George H. Christ, Unkn
Lt Col Harmon E. Burns, Jan 1952
Maj William H. Norris, Unkn
Lt Col Darrell S. Cramer, 14 May 1953
Maj Erwin B. Elrod, 9 Dec 1953
Maj Norman P. Phillips, Jul 1955
Maj Moss K. Fletcher, 12 Jul 1958
Maj Van E. Chandler, 12 Sep 1959
Lt Col William H. Nelson, 26 May 1961
Lt Col Richard O. Ransbottom, 25 May 1962
Lt Col Robert M. White, 17 Jun 1964
Lt Col Ralph C. Reynolds, 1 Jul 1964
Lt Col Walter H. Baxter Iii, 12 Jun 1967
Lt Col Phillip C. Davis, 28 May 1969
Lt Col Harry A. Spannuas, 15 Jan 1971
Lt Col Donald L. Miller, 28 Oct 1971
Lt Col David M. Taylor, 3 Jan 1973
Lt Col James F. Knight, 24 Jun 1974
Lt Col Philip W. Handley, 28 May 1976

Lt Col Richard F. Stamm, 30 Jun 1978
Lt Col Robert G. Pollock, 22 Feb 1980
Lt Col Robert J. Casey, 9 Jul 1982
Lt Col John D. Lauher, 23 Jun 1983
Lt Col Theodore Hailes Iv, 23 Jun 1985
Lt Col James C. Watkins, 2 Feb 1987
Lt Col William R. Looney, 27 Jan 1988
Lt Col David L. Sonnenburg, 3 Jul 1989
Lt Col Stephen D. Randolph, 22 Oct 1990
Lt Col Donald O. Ross, 22 May 1992
Lt Col Michael C. Henchey, 7 Jun 1993
Lt Col Kenneth S. Callicut, 1 Apr 1994
Lt Col Dennis A. Rea, 19 Dec 1994
Lt Col John K. Roll, 7 Jan 1997
Lt Col Charles W. Lyon, 29 Apr 1998
Lt Col Jonathan E. Bitler, 21 Jun 1999
Lt Col Timothy W. Strawther, 11 Jun 2001
Lt Col Henry M. Reed Iii, 20 Dec 2002
Lt Col John M. Sepanski, 19 May 2004
Lt Col Russell J. Quinn, 5 Aug 2005
Lt Col Julian M. Chesnutt, 12 May 2006
Lt Col Douglas J. Nikolai, 14 Mar 2008

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Antisubmarine, American Theater
Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
France, 1 Sep 1944
Germany, 12 Apr 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

May 1956–May 1958

1 Jan–31 Dec 1968

1 Dec 1973–30 Apr 1975

1 Jul 1975–30 Jun 1977

1 Jul 1977–30 Jun 1979

1 Jul 1986–30 Jun 1988

1 Jul 1988–30 Jun 1990

1 Sep 1990–31 Jul 1991

30 Jun 1992–[31 Mar] 1994

[1 Apr] 1994–30 Jun 1995

1 Aug 1995–31 Jul 1997

1 Jul 1997–30 Jun 1999

24 Mar–10 Jun 1999

1 Jul 1999–30 Jun 2001

1 Jul 2001–30 Jun 2003

1 Jul 2003–30 Jun 2005

Cited in the Orders of the Day, Belgian Army

1 Oct–17 Dec 1944

18 Dec 1944–15 Jan 1945

Belgian Fourragere

EMBLEM



22 Pursuit Squadron emblem: Practical demonstration of the good-neighborly friendship existing between the United States and the South Americas is evidenced by the comrade-at-arms spirit of the American and Guatemalan air corps. Jointly patrolling hundreds of miles of land and sea in both the Caribbean and Pacific areas of Central American territory, the huge bombers, scouters, and fighters of both nations frequently dip wings in passing. Operating from Ponce Air Base, Puerto Rico, the Twenty-second Pursuit Squadron of interceptors does its

"trick" over vast expanses of water and land in this new formation of coordinated patrol. A part of the Thirty-sixth Pursuit Group, the Twenty-second, the first tactical squadron, was formed February 1 1940 at Langley Field, Virginia. Symbolizing the fire engine red of the squadron and its fierce striking power, the Disney studios vitalized its insignia as a fierce eagle, talons spread, descending to the attack within an aura of lightning flashes.



On a Grayed Medium Blue disc, a caricatured, pugnacious, Black, Brown, and Yellow bumblebee with White wings, in flight toward dexter, wearing Brown boxing gloves, and leaving White speed lines toward rear. (Approved, 27 Jun 1945)



MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Antisubmarine operations, Mar 1942–15 May 1943; combat in ETO, 8 May 1944–8 May 1945. Maintained combat fighter proficiency in Europe.

Departed 2 January 1941 from the port of Newport News on the U.S.A.T. Chateau Thierry for duty stations in Puerto Rico. Arrived 6 January 1941 at Ponce, PR. Transferred to Losey Field, PR, and, as part of the 36 Pursuit Group, assigned to the Caribbean Defense Command.

30 August 1940 A Curtiss YP-37, 38-476, of the 22d Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor), 36 Pursuit Group, Langley Field, Virginia, piloted by Homer M. Truitt, is moderately damaged in a ground loop on landing at Langley Field.

During the following 11 months, the Squadron gradually made at home at Ponce and began the process of converting from the P-36A to P-40's although, between June and November, the unit had one P-39D as well as five P-40E's.

On 6 December 1941, the day before the U.S. was rudely awakened to war, a detachment of nine P-39D's from the Squadron had been dispatched to Waller Field, Trinidad. This detachment, from that date on, carried out the bulk of the Squadron's operations, and the few aircraft remaining at Ponce and Vega Baja consisted of three P-36A's, five P-39D's and a AT-6.

On 7 December 1941, the Squadron was placed on 24 hour alert status and, immediately prior to Pearl Harbor, the Squadron's relatively new P-40E's were flown down to Panama to reinforce the defense units there and were replaced entirely with Bell P-39D's flown into Puerto Rico from the U.S. The Squadron numbered 25 officers and 153 other ranks at the time.

On 13 December, the unit Headquarters moved from Ponce to Vega Baja Field, an auxiliary aerodrome, to provide better interception coverage for the island. Dawn and dusk patrols were flown over the sea and around the island sectors that fell under the Squadrons responsibility.

Inactivated after the war, the 22 was activated in 1946 in the Canal Zone flying the F-80. It was relocated to Furstenfeldbruck, Germany, in 1948, flying the F-84. The 22 FS helped form the Skyblazers.

On 7 June 1951, the 22d Fighter-Bomber Squadron arrived at Wheelus. The following day, an F-84 of the 22d Fighter-Bomber Squadron experienced a flame-out and made a crash landing in the Mediterranean. A crash boat was standing by and picked up the pilot, who had minor injuries only, a scant six minutes after he hit the water. On 26 June the 23d Fighter-Bomber Squadron replaced the 22d.

15 May 1953 A F-84E, 51-628, of the 22d Fighter-Bomber Squadron, collided with two USAF C-119 Flying Boxcars of the 10th Troop Carrier Squadron, 60th Troop Carrier Group, flying in formation near Weinheim, Germany, sending all three planes down in flames. Fairchild C-119C Flying Boxcar, 51-8235, was struck by the fighter, which then hit struck C-119C, 51-8241, three Flying Boxcar crew killed, three injured. F-84 pilot James W. Chilton parachutes to safety.

16 April 1958 U.S. Air Force pilot 1st Lt. Robert Yoshizumi, 26, of Honolulu, survives ejection from his disabled North American F-100C-25-NA Super Sabre, 54-1982, at 300 feet (91 m) altitude. Fighter, of 36 Fighter-Day Wing, 22 Fighter-Day Squadron, Bitburg Air Base, crashes in eastern suburb of Matzen, West Germany after entering spin. He suffers only minor injuries as his parachute swings one time before landing.

During Operation Desert Storm, members of "The Big 22" flew and fought from both Al Kharj Air Base, Saudi Arabia, and Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. The 22 FS amassed more than 7,000 combat hours during the conflict and was the only squadron in the coalition to achieve kills on both fronts.

F-15C Aircraft of 22 Fighter Squadron, crashed Near Crailsheim, Germany Killing The Pilot. 1992-1993

As part of the drawdown at Bitburg AB, the unit's F-15s were sent to Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, in the spring of 1994. The squadron was transferred to Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, April 1, 1994. The squadron flies the Block 50 F-16CJ. In 1998, the 22 FS transitioned from a primary general-purpose air interdiction squadron to its new primary mission as a "Wild Weasel" unit performing suppression of enemy air defenses (SEAD). The Stinger's most current version of the F-16, outfitted with the high-speed anti-radiation missiles (HARM), GPS guided-inertial aided munitions, and the HARM targeting system (HTS) pod, is a lethal platform against enemy air defense systems.

The 22 FS was quickly put into combat with its new capability when it deployed to Operation

Northern Watch in January 1999, and engaged Iraqi radars with 12 HARMs while protecting coalition assets during heightened tensions with Iraq.

After three months at ONW, the squadron was retasked and returned to Spangdahlem AB where they flew combat missions into northern Yugoslavia protecting F-117s and B-2s striking key military targets in and around Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in support of Operation Allied Force. The pilots of the 22 FS flew combat missions over Yugoslavia and fired 202 HARMs at Serbian radars. In addition, the squadron performed its secondary and tertiary missions, employing 16 MK-84s on key military targets while providing air superiority.

In December 2000 to March 2001, the squadron was assigned to Air Expeditionary Force 9. The Stingers regularly fly combat missions in support of Operations Northern and Southern Watch.

In September 2001, America endured a terrorist attack upon the World Trade Center. In response to U.S. presidential directives, "The Big 22" provided fighter escort to C-17 aircraft over Afghanistan during humanitarian relief missions, within 100 hours of notification, as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. This effort served as the template for USAFE's Euro Lightning operations concept.

In January 2003, the squadron forward deployed as the 22 Expeditionary Fighter Squadron to Southwest Asia in support of U.S. Central Command and flew combat missions during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. The squadron played a key role during the 27-day air war by fulfilling its "Wild Weasel" mission of suppressing enemy air defenses and destroying Iraqi radar sites.

F-16s of the US Air Forces in Europe began a two-month rotational assignment at Incirlik AB, Turkey, in January, after a hiatus of more than sixteen years. F-16 pilots from the 52nd Fighter Wing's 22 Fighter Squadron at Spangdahlem AB, Germany, arrived 3 January. They were replaced when pilots from the 23rd FS arrived on 2 February. More than 650 sorties were flown between the two squadrons. The successful rotational training concluded at the end of February. Access to the Konya AB bombing range was granted by Turkish officials. The weather in Turkey was considerably better than the winter weather in Germany, which improved the quality of the training flights. 2007