

26 WEAPONS SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

26 Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) constituted, 20 Nov 1940
Activated, 15 Jan 1941
Redesignated 26 Pursuit Squadron (Fighter), 12 Mar 1941
Redesignated 26 Fighter Squadron (Twin-Engine), 15 May 1942
Redesignated 26 Fighter Squadron, 1 Jun 1942
Inactivated, 13 Dec 1945
Activated, 15 Oct 1946
Redesignated 26 Fighter Squadron, Jet-Propelled, 19 Feb 1947
Redesignated 26 Fighter Squadron, Jet, 10 Aug 1948
Redesignated 26 Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, 1 Feb 1950
Inactivated, 9 Apr 1959
Redesignated 26 Flying Training Squadron, 13 Dec 1989
Activated, 19 Jan 1990
Inactivated, 1 Oct 1992
Redesignated 26 Weapons Squadron, 18 Sep 2008
Activated, 30 Sep 2008

STATIONS

Hamilton Field, CA, 15 Jan 1941
March Field, CA, 10 Jun 1941-11 Jan 1942
Karachi, India, 13 Mar 1942
Dinjan, India, 10 Oct 1942

Kunming, China, 7 Oct 1943 (detachments operated from Nanning, China, 8 Mar-Nov 1944;
Liangshan, China, May-20 Jun 1944; Kweilin, China, 20-30 Jun 1944; Poseh, China, Jan 1945;
Liangshan, China, Jan and Mar 1945; Laohokow, China, Jan-Feb 1945)
Nanning, China, 1 Aug 1945
Loping, China, Sep-Nov 1945
Ft Lewis, WA, 12-13 Dec 1945
Yontan, Okinawa, 15 Oct 1946
Naha, Okinawa, 22 May 1947
Clark AFB, Philippines, 11 Jul 1955-9 Apr 1959
Vance AFB, OK, 19 Jan 1990-1 Oct 1992
Nellis AFB, NV, 30 Sep 2008

ASSIGNMENTS

51 Pursuit (later, 51 Fighter) Group, 15 Jan 1941-13 Dec 1945
51 Fighter (later, 51 Fighter-Interceptor) Group, 15 Oct 1946
Thirteenth Air Force, 1 Oct 1957
6200 Air Base Wing, 5 Jun 1958-9 Apr 1959
71 Flying Training Wing, 19 Jan 1990
71 Operations Group, 15 Dec 1991-1 Oct 1992
USAF Weapons School, 30 Sep 2008

ATTACHMENTS

6302 Air Base Group, 20 Sep 1950
6351 Air Base Wing, 25 Jun 1951
Thirteenth Air Force, 11 Nov 1954

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-40, 1941
P-51, 1944-1945
P-47, 1946-1947
F-80, 1947
F-86, 1953-1959
T-38, 1990-1992
MQ-1, 2008
MQ-9, 2008

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 15 Jan 1941
Francis E. Brenner, 1 Jan 1942
Capt Herbert W. Davis, 1 Sep 1942
Maj Francis E. Brenner, 1 Oct 1942
Capt Herbert W. Davis, 1 Jul 1943
Maj Edward M. Nollmeyer, 23 Oct 1943
Maj Robert L. Van Ausdall, 1 May 1944

Maj W. E. Blankenship, 1 Nov 1944
Capt Claude C. Beck, 15 Feb 1945
Capt Max Hernandez, 1 Mar 1945
Maj Robert L. Van Ausdall, 1 Apr 1945
Maj John S. Craig, 1 Jul 1945
Maj Max Hernandez, Nov-13 Dec 1945
Maj John M. Etchemendy, Unkn
Maj Frank J. Keller, Aug 1949
Lt Col Edward F. Laclare, By Apr 1950
Lt Col Clayton M. Isaacson, 19 Feb 1951
Lt Col Bernard Mccaskill, Jr., Jun 1951
Maj Claude W. Hanley Jr., 5 Feb 1952
Lt Col Francis B. Gallagher, 5 Mar 1952
Maj Claude W. Hanley Jr., May 1952
Lt Col Frederick F. Ploetz, May 1953
Lt Col Homer W. Morris, 26 Jun 1955
Lt Col I. B. Jack Donalson, Jun 1956
Lt Col Richard A. Toole, 2 Jul 1958-9 Apr 1959
Lt Col Alan D. Minkel, 19 Jan 1990
Lt Col Leonard L. Jarman, 27 Jul 1990
Lt Col James C. Thomas, 24 Jul-1 Oct 1992
Lt Col Daniel J. Turner, 30 Sep 2008

HONORS

Service Streamers

Korean Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II

China Defensive

China Offensive

India-Burma

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

China, 20 Apr 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Apr 1990-31 Mar 1992

EMBLEM



26 Fighter Squadron emblem



26 Fighter Interceptor Squadron emblems



26 Flying Training Squadron emblems



26 Weapons Squadron emblem: On a disc Or, a stylized Bengal tiger Proper riding a stylized "Mustang" horse Proper at full gallop to sinister; all within a narrow border Azure. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "26 WEAPONS SQUADRON" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** 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. The "Mustang" alludes to the P-51 Mustang flown by the unit as the 26 Pursuit Squadron. The tiger represents the power of the Air Force. The tiger on the mustang's back is symbolic of the Air Force's dependence upon each squadron carrying out its mission in order for the Air Force to accomplish its mission. The swift advance of both animals indicates the readiness of the Squadron to perform its assigned mission. (Approved, 20 Mar 1945; Updated rendition approved, 31 Mar 1995; Newest rendition approved, 28 Jan 2009)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Served in China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater, 1942-1945. Air defense of Ryukyu Islands and later the Philippines, 1946-1959.

Pilots took part in Korean conflict, 1950-1953.

Conducted undergraduate pilot training, 1990-1992.

With pilot production down dramatically, the command reassessed the need for four flying training squadrons at each UPT base and concluded two would do. Accordingly, on 1 October 1992, ATC inactivated the following units: the 43d and 49th Flying Training Squadrons at Columbus AFB, Mississippi; the 84th and 86th Flying Training Squadrons at Laughlin AFB, Texas; the 7th and 26 at Vance AFB, Oklahoma; and the 33d at Reese AFB, Texas. That left one T-37 squadron and one T-38 squadron at each UPT wing. As each wing implemented specialized undergraduate pilot training, ATC intended to reactivate one of the squadrons to serve as the T-1A squadron. 1992

Weapons Officer and Sensor Operator Advanced Tactics Course training, 2008

The USAF Weapons School at Nellis AFB, Nev., has activated the 26 Flying Training Squadron as the 26 Weapons Squadron, one dedicated to producing elite Predator and Reaper unmanned aerial vehicle pilots and sensor operators. The unit's first class is to commence in January. Col. Scott Kindsvater, commandant of the Weapons School, called the stand-up of the new UAV squadron "a momentous occasion for a community of aviators that have been without this level of tactical integration and training in their history." He noted, too, that it's the first activation of a new unit for the school since creation of the F-117 and B-2 divisions in 2002.

A series of errors led to the crash of an MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft last December during a combat training mission at the Nevada Test and Training Range. Preflight, contract technicians improperly configured throttle-related settings in the ground control station. The pilot conducting the preflight inspection—who was not the pilot who flew the Reaper during the mission—did not execute all parts of the checklist and thus did not notice this. During the mission, as the pilot tried to change the Reaper's altitude by adjusting the throttle, "the misconfigured throttle commanded the aircraft engine to produce reverse thrust" that led to a stall that ultimately resulted in the crash. The MQ-9 and crew were assigned to the 26 Weapons Squadron at Nellis AFB, Nev. In addition to the Reaper, the Air Force lost one inert bomb, one Hellfire training missile, a mission kit, and one missile rail in the crash. The loss of the MQ-9 and the other items is valued at \$9.6 million. 2013

MQ-9 Reapers, flown by US Air Force Weapons School pilots, conducted the first "ripple attack" against multiple maritime threats during a Weapon System Evaluation Program in Florida from March 14-17. During the exercises, which took place at Duke Field and Eglin Air Force Base, MQ-9s flew alongside Air Force fighter jets, Navy helicopters, E-8 Sentry, and U-28A surveillance aircraft to evaluate the MQ-9's ability to use Hellfire rockets to attack maritime threats, including a scenario with as many as 35 boats, according to an Eglin release. "Air Force Reaper crews better know how to find, fix, track, target, engage, and assess maritime targets and do so in an integrated fashion," Lt. Col. Bryan Callahan, commander of the 26 Weapons Squadron of the Weapons School at Nellis AFB, Nev., in the release. "That's why this WSEP is so important and why it's critical that we hit all of our shots." The program included Reapers from the 432nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Creech AFB, Nev.; a ground control station and two Reaper teams from the Texas Air National Guard in Houston; and a Reaper Aircraft Maintenance Unit from Holloman AFB, N.M. The tests built on last year's first from the WSEP, where a Reaper fired live weapons at maritime platforms for the first time. 2016

An MQ-9 Reaper assigned to the 26 Weapons Squadron at Nellis AFB, Nev., successfully struck a target in the Gulf of Mexico on March 17, marking the first time the Reaper was successfully used to interdict sea-going targets in a joint exercise. "For our [RPA] community it's a big step forward, it's a mission set we had looked at for a long time, and training opportunities over water are not very prevalent at Nellis," said Capt. Timothy Ford, the 26 WPS flight commander. During the joint exercise, Reaper crews also integrated with other aircraft including A-10s, F-16s, and the F-35A. In addition to hitting the maritime target, Reaper crews coordinated attacks with the F-35 for the first time, and built collaboration and deconfliction skills, said Capt. Ryan Cross, a training officer

with the 26 WPS. Airmen with the 26 WPS are collaborating to improve tactics in other mission sets at the Weapons School as well, to include using the MQ-9 in strike and close air support scenarios. 2015

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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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 yearbook. *March Field Air Base, CA, 1941*. Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1941.