

## 430<sup>th</sup> PURSUIT SQUADRON



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

430<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron (Construction) organized, Jan 1918

Redesignated 37th Spruce Squadron, Jul 1918

Demobilized, Jan 1919

430<sup>th</sup> Squadron (Pursuit), constituted in the Organized Reserve, 15 Oct 1921

Redesignated 430<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron, 25 Jan 1923

37th Spruce Squadron reconstituted and consolidated with 430<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron, 25 Nov 1936. Consolidated organization designated 430<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron.

Inactivated, 2 Oct 1939

Disbanded, 31 May 1942

### STATIONS

Vancouver Barracks, WA

Not initiated 1921-22

St. Joseph, MO Mar 1922-26

Richards Field, Kansas City, MO, 26 May 1926-39

Inactive 1939-41

### ASSIGNMENTS

310th Pursuit Group

### WEAPON SYSTEMS

PT-1

O-2H  
BT-2A

## **COMMANDERS**

Unknown Mar 22-ao May 30  
Capt. John W. Ranson ao May 30-ao Jan 36  
Unknown ao Jan 36-ao Jul 38  
Maj. Thomas L. Dawson ao Jul 38-2 Oct 39  
Inactive 2 Oct 39-7 Dec 41

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

### **EMBLEM**

### **MOTTO**

### **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Constituted in the Organized Reserve on 15 October 1921 as the 430th Squadron (Pursuit), assigned to the 310th Pursuit Group (Sixth Army), and allotted to the Seventh Corps Area. Initiated in March 1922 at St. Joseph, MO. Redesignated as the 430th Pursuit Squadron on 25 January 1923. Relocated on 26 May 1926 to Richards Field, Kansas City, MO. This squadron was one of the few in the Organized Reserve that possessed facilities, equipment, and aircraft. Squadron personnel were largely pilots and ground support personnel employed by Trans-World Airways (TWA) at the Kansas City Municipal Airport. Participated in a "Fly By" in June 1932 for the Honorable Patrick J. Hurley, Secretary of War, at the grand opening of the Kansas City-St. Louis Waterway. Consolidated on 25 November 1936 with the 430th Aero Squadron (Construction) (a WWI unit organized in January 1918 at Vancouver Barracks, WA; redesignated as the 37th Spruce Squadron in July 1918; demobilized in January 1919 at Vancouver Barracks; reconstituted on 25 November 1936). Operated from Paso Robles Airfield, CA, in support of the 40th Division during the 1937 Fourth Army Maneuver. Conducted summer training at Marshall Field, KS; Richards Field, MO; Camp Dodge, IA; or Camp Ripley, MN, 1922-40. Inactivated on 2 October 1939 at Richards Field by relief of personnel. Status: Disbanded on 31 May 1942.

The 430th Pursuit Squadron, formed from Kansas City reservists, deployed from its base at Richards Field, and flew to Marshall Field at Fort Riley, Kansas, in August 1932 for its two-week active duty training. There, for the first time in its history, the squadron had available fourteen service planes, three P-6s, three O-25s and eight O1-Es. In addition, a BT-2C and a PT-3 were available to flyers who needed dual work. This was also the first year the 430th could count a large number of its men who were experienced in all types of service planes. Many of its younger officers, graduates of the Air Corps Advanced Flying School, had served on active duty for a year or two with a tactical unit. Many others were commercial pilots who flew the military service planes on inactive duty at Richards Field. Fortified by this caliber of flying personnel, the squadron launched a tactical training program immediately upon reaching Fort Riley. In other years, more than half the time at camp had been consumed by dual instruction for officers who had not flown since their last active duty periods. Consequently, in 1932 the 430th put in much time on gunnery and bombing ranges as well as on formation flying and combat routine. Typifying the training all across the country that year, the airmen completed a map problem, working with the ground units of the Kansas National Guard.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

Sources

*US Army Order of Battle 1919-1941*. Steven E. Clay. Combat Studies Institute Press. US Army Combined Arms Center. Fort Leavenworth, KS. Nd.