

69 FIGHTER SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

69 Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) constituted 20 Nov 1940
Activated, 15 Jan 1941
Redesignated 69 Fighter Squadron, 15 May 1942
Redesignated 69 Fighter Squadron, Single-Engine, 20 Aug 1943
Inactivated, 27 Jan 1946
Redesignated 69 Fighter Bomber Squadron, 25 Jun 1952
Activated, 10 Jul 1952
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1958
Redesignated 69 Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, 22 Aug 1969
Activated, 15 Oct 1969
Inactivated, 16 Mar 1983
Redesignated 69 Tactical Fighter Squadron, 14 Apr 1983
Activated, 1 Jul 1983
Redesignated 69 Fighter Squadron, 1 Nov 1991
Inactivated on 2 Feb 2001
Activated on 1 Feb 2010

STATIONS

Selfridge Field, MI, 15 Jan 1941
Harding Field, LA, 6 Oct 1941
Dale Mabry Field, FL, 3 Mar 1942

Drew Field, FL, 19 Jun 1942
Sarasota, FL, 25 Jul 1942
Dale Mabry Field, FL, 26 Sep 1942
Richmond AAB, VA, 16 Oct 1942
Philadelphia Muni Aprt, PA, 4 Nov 1942
Bradley Field, CT, 5 Mar 1943
Bedford AAFld, MA, 1 May 1943
Suffolk County AB, NY, 28 Aug 1943
Grenier Field, NH, 15 Sep–22 Oct 1943
Brisbane, Australia, 21 Nov 1943
Dobodura, New Guinea, 29 Dec 1943
Saidor, New Guinea, 3 Apr 1944
Noemfoor, 6 Sep 1944
San Roque, Leyte, 18 Nov 1944
San Jose, Mindoro, 22 Dec 1944
Mangaldan, Luzon, c. 8 Apr 1945
Porac, Luzon, 17 Apr 1945
Okinawa, 8 Jul 1945
Japan, 26 Oct 1945
Manila, Philippines, 28 Dec 1945–27 Jan 1946
Taegu AB, South Korea, 10 Jul 1952
Osan-Ni AB (later, Osan AB), South Korea, 9 Mar 1955–1 Jul 1958
Luke AFB, AZ, 15 Oct 1969–16 Mar 1983
Moody AFB, GA, 1 Jul 1983–2 Feb 2001
Luke AFB, AZ, 1 Feb 2010

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Clark AB, Philippines, 26 Jan–16 Feb 1955
Chia Yi Field, Formosa, 17 Feb–c. 8 Mar 1955
Tainan AB, Taiwan, 2 Apr–2 Jun 1956 and c. 11 Oct–30 Nov 1956
Kimpo AB, South Korea, 19 Jul–10 Sep 1957
Tainan AB, Taiwan, 18 Sep–4 Nov 1957
Chia Yi AB, Taiwan, 5 Nov–10 Dec 1957
Al Minhad, United Arab Emirates, 8–28 Jan 1991
King Fahd AB, Saudi Arabia, 29 Jan–4 Mar 1991
Al Minhad, United Arab Emirates, 5–15 Mar 1991
Al Khaj, Saudi Arabia, 16 Mar–15 Jun 1991
Dhahran AB, Saudi Arabia, 16–30 Jun 1991

ASSIGNMENTS

58 Pursuit (later, 58th Fighter) Group, 15 Jan 1941–27 Jan 1946
58 Fighter-Bomber Group, 10 Jul 1952
58 Fighter-Bomber Wing, 8 Nov 1957–1 Jul 1958
58 Tactical Fighter Training (later, 58 Tactical Training) Wing, 15 Oct 1969–16 Mar 1983

347 Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Jul 1983
347 Operations Group, 1 May 1991
944 Operations Group, 1 Feb 2010

ATTACHMENTS

Thirteenth Air Force, 26 Jan–16 Feb 1955
Air Task Force Five, Provisional, 17 Feb–9 Mar 1955, Air Task Force Thirteen, Provisional, 2
Apr–2 Jun 1956, c. 11 Oct–30 Nov 1956, 18 Sep 1957–10 Dec 1957
Tactical Fighter Wing Provisional, 388, 8 Jan–15 Mar 1991
Tactical Fighter Wing Provisional, 4404, 16 Mar 1991 to 30 Jun 1991

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-35, 1941–1942
P-36, 1941–1942
P-39, 1941–1942
P-40, 1942–1943
P-47, 1943–1945
F-84, 1952–1954
F-86, 1954–1958
F-104, 1969–1983
F-4, 1983–1988
F-16, 1988

COMMANDERS

Capt John C. Kilborn, unkn-8 Apr 1941
1Lt Woodrow W. Korges, 8 Apr 1941
Capt William G. Eyres, 19 Jun 1942
Capt Lance Call, 27 Jun 1942
Capt Harold J. Whiteman, 25 Sep 1942
Capt Carl W. Stuke Jr., 12 Dec 1942
Maj Milton M. Self, 2 Feb 1943
Capt George V. Bosenback, 17 Apr 1945
Maj Thomas H. Winburn, Apr 1945
Maj Stanley O. Andrews, 22 May 1945-unkn
Maj Nile C. Greer, 10 Jul 1952
Maj Benjamin W. Atwood, Nov 1952
Maj Robert F. Hood, 8 Jun 1953-unkn
Maj John D. Rosenbaum, 19 Oct 1954-unkn
Lt Col Clarence E. Anderson Jr., 6 Feb 1956
Maj William P. Nacy Jr., 1957-1 Jul 1958
Lt Col William J. Warren, 15 Oct 1969
Lt Col James L. Foster, by Sep 1970
Lt Col Joseph R. Nevers, by Mar 1972
Lt Col John W. Harrison, by Jun 1973

Lt Col Gerald J. Friedman, 10 Mar 1975
Lt Col Burton T. Miller, 16 Aug 1976
Lt Col James A. Nelson, 3 Oct 1977
Lt Col Charlie W. Hastings, 13 Jan 1979
Lt Col Larry E. Carrigan, 19 May 1980
Lt Col Robert A. Patterson, 13 Nov 1981-16 Mar 1983
Lt Col David B. Dingee, 5 Aug 1983
Lt Col Casmier Jaszczak, 21 Dec 1984
Lt Col Timothy A. Mueller, 19 Dec 1986
Lt Col Marvin D. Marshall, 11 Jul 1988
Lt Col Harry F. Davis, 22 Nov 1989
Lt Col Robert M. Hylton, 26 Jul 1991
Lt Col Robert W. Penar, 14 Feb 1992
Lt Col Thomas D. Ardern, 4 Jun 1993
Lt Col Urban E. Dishart III, 1 Jul 1995
Lt Col Robert Yates, 2 Feb 1996
Lt Col Michael A. Snodgrass, 7 Jul 1997
Lt Col Leonard T. Coleman, 4 Dec 1998
Lt Col Michael O. Beale, 8 Jun 2000-2 Feb 2001
Lt Col Steven Speckhard, 1 Feb 2010
Lt Col Miguel F. Torrealday, 4 Jun 2011
Lt Col Robert D. Whitehouse, 14 Nov 2011

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Air Offensive, Japan

New Guinea

Bismarck Archipelago

Western Pacific

Leyte

Luzon

Southern Philippines

China Offensive

Korea

Korea Summer-Fall, 1952

Third Korean Winter

Korea, Summer 1953

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Philippine Islands, 26 Dec 1944
Korea, 1 May–27 Jul 1953

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

15 Oct–31 Dec 1969
1 Jan 1971–31 Dec 1972
1 Jan 1975–31 Dec 1976
1 Jan 1978–31 Dec 1979
23 Feb 1991–22 Feb 1993
1 Jun 1994–31 May 1996
1 Jun 1997–31 May 1999

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

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

EMBLEM



On a sky blue disc, edged of gold, a mailed sinister cubit arm of the second issuing from the sinister base and grasping a torch of gold, fired proper; all in front of a lightning bolt bend sinisterwise of gold, issuing from a white cloud formation in sinister chief, and terminating in front of a similar cloud formation in dexter base. (Approved 25 Jun 1942.)



69 Tactical Fighter Squadron emblem



Gray, a cartoon werewolf head caboshed Buff, hair, pupils and inner ear Sable, langued, nose and ears Gules, armed Argent; all within a diminished bordure of the third. (Approved, 20 Sep 1990)



69 Fighter Squadron emblem: On a disc Celeste, a cartoon werewolf head caboshed Eggshell, detailed Buff, hair, pupils and inner ears Sable, langued Sanguine, nose, ears and mouth Gules, highlighted Argent, armed of the last, detailed Silver Gray, all within narrow border Black. Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "69 FIGHTER SQ" in Black letters. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "WEREWOLVES" in Black letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The cartoon werewolf is a visual portrayal of the Squadron's motto. The wolf is symbolic of the individual forces of the unit's aircraft and the wolf-pack spirit that Squadron personnel personify in fulfilling the functions of military preparedness. (Approved, 16 Nov 1994)

MOTTO

Werewolves

OPERATIONS

Operational and replacement training unit, Mar 1942–Apr 1943. Combat in Southwest and Western Pacific, 17 Feb 1944–14 Aug 1945.

Combat in Korea, 10 Jul 1952–27 Jul 1953.

Air defense in South Korea, Jul 1953–Jun 1958.

69 Tactical Fighter Squadron received its first F-4C Phantom this month when it was flown from the McDonnell factory in St. Louis, Missouri. Additional aircraft were expected to arrive at about 20 per month until March 1965 at which time the fighter squadrons of the 8th TFW would be at full strength., Nov 1964

Advanced training in F-104s for German pilots, 1969–1983.

Combat in Southwest Asia, Jan–Feb 1991.

69 FS deployed to Prince Sultan Ab, Al Kharj, Saudi Arabia, in support of OSW, 5 Sep-8 Dec

1996.

On 16 November 2000, at 3:48 PM local time, an F-16CG, S/N 89-2104, and a Cessna 172, N73829, collided midair near Bradenton, Florida. The mishap F-16, call sign Ninja 2, assigned to the 69 Fighter Squadron, 347th Wing, Moody AFB, Georgia, was part of a two-ship low level, surface attack tactics sortie. The Cessna 172, call sign Cessna 829, registered to Crystal Aero Group, had taken off from the Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport. The F-16 pilot ejected safely from his crippled aircraft less than a minute after the collision. The Cessna pilot sustained fatal injuries. The F-16 impacted in an unpopulated area causing fire damage to surrounding vegetation, but no damage to any structures. The Cessna 172 broke up in midair with the wreckage impacting a golf course and surrounding homes causing minor damage. There were no injuries to civilians on the ground. Shortly before impact, Ninja flight had cancelled Instrument Flight Rules service and descended under Visual Flight Rules toward the entry point for VR-1098, a published low level training route. However, the lead F-16, call sign Ninja 1, had developed a 9-11 mile position error in its Inertial Navigation System. Ninja 1 did not recognize this error and unknowingly led his flight into the controlled airspace surrounding Sarasota-Bradenton Airport, heading south at 2000 feet. Cessna 829, flying under Visual Flight Rules, but following radar vectors from Tampa Approach, was also transiting that controlled airspace, heading northwest, in a climb from 1600 feet to 3500 feet. These flight paths placed Ninja 2 and Cessna 829 on a collision course that neither pilot recognized in time to avoid the mishap. Approximately 30 seconds prior to the midair collision, Tampa Approach received a Mode C Intruder (Conflict) Alert between Cessna 829 and Ninja 1's 1200 code. They did not issue a safety alert. There are two causes of this mishap, both supported by clear and convincing evidence. First, Ninja 2 and Cessna 829 failed to "see and avoid" each other in sufficient time to prevent the mishap. Second, Tampa Approach failed to transmit a safety alert to Cessna 829 when their radar system generated "Conflict Alert" warnings. In addition, there were three factors that substantially contributed to the mishap, all supported by substantial evidence. First, Ninja 1 lost situational awareness and descended under Visual Flight Rules into Tampa Class B airspace without clearance. Second, Ninja 1 failed to recognize a significant position error in his aircraft's Inertial Navigation System and unknowingly navigated the flight into Sarasota Class C airspace without the required communications with Tampa Approach. Third, Ninja 1 failed to recognize a cursor slew bias in his ground attack steering and unknowingly navigated the flight onto a collision course with Cessna 829.

Luke Squadron activated: Air Force Reserve Command activated the 69 Fighter Squadron March 5 at Luke AFB, Ariz. "It is with great pride and honor that we are able to bring the 69 Fighter Squadron," said Lt. Col. Steve Speckhard, the unit's commander. From 1969 to 1983, the squadron operated out of Luke as the 69 Tactical Flying Training Squadron, teaching German pilots to fly F-104s. It was inactivated in 2001 at Moody AFB, Ga. In its new form, the 69 FS is organized under Luke's 944th Fighter Wing. It is constituted with members of Luke's 301st FS who changed their patch during the reactivation ceremony. They will work with Luke's active duty 56th FW to train F-16 pilots. The 301st FS is transferring to Holloman AFB, N.M., to join active duty airmen there in operating F-22s. Its standup is scheduled in April.

USAF Unit 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.