

69th RECONNAISSANCE GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

69th Observation Group constituted, 21 Aug 1941
Activated, 3 Sep 1941
Redesignated 69th Reconnaissance Group, Apr 1943
Redesignated 69th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, Aug 1943
Redesignated 69th Reconnaissance Group, Jun 1945
Inactivated, 29 Jul 1946
Activated, 19 Sep 2011

STATIONS

Paso Robles, CA, 3 Sep 1941
Salinas, CA, 3 Oct 1941
San Bernardino, CA, 13 Dec 1941
Ontario, CA, 1 Jun 1942
Laurel, MS, Nov 1942
Esler Field, LA, Mar 1943
Alexandria, LA, 31 Mar 1943-10 Sep 1943
Abilene AAFld, TX, Sep 1943
Esler Field, LA, Nov 1943
Key Field, MS, Jan-Feb 1945
Nancy, France, 22 Mar 1945
Haguenau, France, 2 Apr-30 Jun 1945
Drew Field, FL, Aug 1945
Stuttgart AAFld, AR, Nov 1945
Brooks Field, TX, Dec 1945-29 Jul 1946

Grand Forks AFB, ND, 19 Sep 2011

ASSIGNMENTS

4th Air Support Command, 3 Sep 1941
IV Ground Air Support Command, 30 Jun 1942
Second Air Force, 21 Aug 1942
II Ground Air Support Command, 7 Sep 1942
3rd Air Support Command, 6 Aug 1943
III Reconnaissance Command, 25 Sep 1943
Third Air Force, 9 Oct 1943
III Tactical Air Division, 18 Apr 1944
XII Tactical Air Command, 27 Mar 1945
Ninth Air Force, 20 May 1945
Third Air Force, 9 Jul 1945
Tactical Air Command, 21 Mar-29 Jul 1946
9th Reconnaissance Wing, 19 Sep 2011

WEAPON SYSTEMS

O-38
O-46
O-47
O-52
L-1
L-2
L-3
L-4
L-5
L-49
P-39
P-40
B-25
A-20
F-6
A-26

COMMANDERS

Maj William C. Sams, 3 Oct 1941
Col John N. Jeffers, 9 Dec 1941
Col Kenneth R. Crosher, 8 Nov 1942
Maj Cecil E. West, 12 May 1943
LTC Eugene C. Woltz, 29 Sep 1943
LTC Arthur Fite, Jr., 26 Oct 1944
Col John T. Shields, 21 Jan 1945
LTC Richard A. Morehouse, c. 20 Feb 1946

Col Russell A. Berg, 10 Mar-29 Jul 1946
Col Scott Winstead

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

Antisubmarine, American Theater
Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

None

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Flew antisubmarine patrols along the Pacific coast after Pearl Harbor. Engaged primarily in air-ground training during 1943 and 1944. Began training with F-6's in Jan 1945 for duty overseas. Moved to France, Feb-Mar 1945. Flew visual-reconnaissance and photographic missions to provide intelligence for ground and air units.

Members of the 69th Reconnaissance Group at Grand Forks AFB, N.D., launched one of their RQ-4 from Grand Forks for the first time, representing another milestone in Global Hawk operations at the base. Prior to the Aug. 7 mission, these airmen had only controlled Global Hawks operating in Southwest Asia, not ones flying locally. "Our pilots are already flying daily Afghanistan missions remotely from [Grand Forks] and are well trained," said Col. Scott Winstead, 69th RG commander. we need to work on developing and exercising local process and procedure for the local area so the local flying community gets used to our operation," he added. Though the unit's pilots are operational, the group's Global Hawks have yet to receive their sensor payloads-the MP-RTIP ground-surveillance radar, said group officials. As a result, the unit's sensor operators haven't yet qualified on the radar, and prime contractor Northrop Grumman is working with the University of North Dakota to develop the training curriculum. The group's first Global Hawk arrived at Grand Forks last fall. 2012

Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson announced the re-designation of the 319th Air Base Wing at Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota, as the 319th Reconnaissance Wing, May 11.

The re-designation, initiated by Gen. Mike Holmes, Air Combat Command commander, aligns Grand Forks AFB's host wing and the 69th Reconnaissance Group. The 69th RG, which flies the high-altitude, remotely-piloted RQ-4 Global Hawk aircraft, has been aligned under the 9th Reconnaissance Wing at Beale AFB, California, since it initiated operations as a tenant at Grand Forks AFB in 2011.

Although there won't be any changes to aircraft or operations at Beale AFB, changes at Grand Forks AFB are expected to begin this summer. Wilson stated, "You know some people talk about these as being autonomous, or talk about them as drones, but they are not. It is our Airmen, always on watch with their ingenuity, pushing the limits for our joint warfighters around the world." When the 69th RG mission and personnel align under the 319th RW, the unit will be activated as the 319th Operations Group and the 69th Reconnaissance Group will inactivate. The 319th OG will continue to execute the Global Hawk's intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission in support of worldwide, full-spectrum operations. The official re-designation ceremony is scheduled for June 28, in conjunction with the Grand Forks AFB change of command between Col. Benjamin Spencer and Col. Cameron Pringle. 2019

Air Force Order of Battle
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Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.