

8th Fighter Squadron

Lineage.

Constituted as 8th Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor)
on 20 November 1940.

Activated on 15 January 1941.

Redesignated 8th Fighter Squadron on 15 May
1942

Redesignated 8th Fighter Squadron, Single
Engine, on 20 August 1943

Redesignated 8th Fighter Squadron, Two Engine,
on 6 November 1944

Redesignated 8th Fighter Squadron, Single
Engine, on 8 January 1946

Redesignated 8th Fighter Squadron, Jet Propelled,
on 1 May 1948

Redesignated 8th Fighter Squadron, Jet, on 10 August 1948

Redesignated 8th Fighter-Bomber Squadron on 1 February 1950

Redesignated 8th Tactical Fighter Squadron on 8 July 1958

Redesignated 8th Fighter Squadron on 1 November 1991.

Unmanned on 16 May 2008.

Remanned on 25 September 2009.

Inactivated on 15 July 2011.¹

Activated on 4 August 2017.²

Honors.

Campaign Streamers.

World War II Asiatic-Pacific Theater:

East Indies [1942]

Air Offensive, Japan [1942-1945]

China Defensive [1942-1945]

Papua [1942-1943]

New Guinea [1943-1944]

Western Pacific [1944-1945]

Leyte [1944-1945]

Luzon [1944-1945]

Southern Philippines [1945]

China Offensive [1945]

Campaign Streamers. (Continued)

¹ ACC SO GB-72, 15 June 2011

² AETC SO G-17-17, 25 July 2017



Korea:

UN Defensive [1950]
UN Offensive [1950]
CCF Intervention [1950-1951]
First UN Counteroffensive [1951]
CCF Spring Offensive [1951]
UN Summer-Fall Offensive [1951]
Second Korean Winter [1952]
Korea Summer-Fall, 1952 [1952]
Third Korean Winter [1952-1953]
Korea, Summer 1953 [1953]

Vietnam:

Vietnam Ceasefire [1972-1973]

Southwest Asia:

Ceasefire [1991-1995]

Kosovo:

Kosovo Air [1999]

Global War on Terrorism:

Global War on Terrorism -Expeditionary

Decorations.**Distinguished Unit Citations**

Australia, [c. 20 April]-25 August 1942;
Papua, [c. 30 September] 1942-23 January 1943;
New Guinea, 14 May 1943;
Philippine Islands, 27 October-7 December 1944;
Korea, [2 July]-25 November 1950;
Korea, 9 July-27 November 1951.

Meritorious Unit Award

1 June 2010-13 May 2011³

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

5 May 1972-6 October 1972 with Combat "V" Device
1 March 1964-28 February 1966
1 March 1966-30 June 1967
1 January 1971-15 April 1972
1 June 1995-31 May 1997⁴

Decorations. (Continued)

³ ACC SO GA-105, 29 July 2011

⁴ ACC SO GA-006/1998

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (Continued)

1 June 1998-31 May 1999⁵

2 May 2004-31 May 2005⁶

1 Jun-[15 Jul] 2011

Special Honors.

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII).

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations: [2 July] 1950-7 February 1951;

8 February 1951-31 March 1953.

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm: 9 May 1972-4 October 1972.

Squadron – 207 Total Aerial Victory Credits.

Squadron Aces:

Name

Aerial Victories

In Sq Lifetime Total

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----|------|
| Capt Robert W. Aschenbrener | 10 | 10 |
| Capt Ernest A. Harris | 10 | 10 |
| 1st Lt. Robert H. White | 9 | 9 |
| Capt George E. Kiser | 4 | 9 |
| 1st Lt. Sammie A. Pierce | 7 | 7 |
| 1st Lt. James B. Morehead | 5 | 7 |
| Capt Willie C. Drier | 6 | 6 |
| 1st Lt. James P. Hagerstrom | 6 | 14.5 |
| 1st Lt. Robert L. Howard | 7 | 7 |
| 1st Lt. Donald W. Meuten | 6 | 6 |
| 2d Lt. Nial K. Castle | 5 | 5 |
| 1st Lt. William C. Day, Jr. | 5 | 5 |
| 1st Lt. Marion C. Felts | 5 | 5 |
| Capt Nelson D. Flack, Jr. | 5 | 5 |

Assignments. 49th Pursuit (later 49th Fighter; 49th Fighter-Bomber) Group, 15 January 1941 (attached to 49th Fighter-Bomber Wing, 15 April-15 October 1957); 49th Fighter-Bomber (later, 49th Tactical Fighter; 49th Fighter) Wing, 10 December 1957 (attached to 26th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, c. 15 September-8 October 1970 and 24 August-1 October 1971); 50th Tactical Fighter Wing, 8 March-2 April 1973 and 6 September-6 October 1975); 49th Operations Group, 15 November 1991-15 July 2011 (Unmanned 16 May 2008-25 September 2009);⁷ 54th Fighter Group, 4 August 2017⁸-.

Stations. Selfridge Field, Michigan, 15 January 1941; Morrison Field, Florida, c. 23 May 1941-4 January 1942; Melbourne, Australia, 2 February 1942; Canberra, Australia, 16 February 1942; Darwin, Australia, 17 April 1942; Port Moresby, New Guinea, 25 September 1942; Dobodura, New Guinea, 15 April 1943; Tsili Tsili, New Guinea, 30 August 1943; Gusap, New Guinea, c. 29 October 1943; Hollandia, New Guinea, 3 May 1944; Biak, 23 June 1944; Tacloban,

⁵ ACC SO GA-052/1999

⁶ ACC SO GA-003, 1 February 2006

⁷ ACC SO GB-72, 15 June 2011

⁸ AETC SO G-17-17, 25 July 2017

Leyte, 25 October 1944; San Jose, Mindoro, 2 January 1945; Lingayen, Luzon, 27 February 1945; Okinawa, 17 August 1945; Atsugi, Japan, 15 September 1945; Chitose AB, Japan, c. 20 February 1946; Misawa AB, Japan, 2 April 1948; Ashiya AB, Japan, 30 June 1950; Itazuke AB, Japan, 8 July 1950; Taegu AB, South Korea, 29 September 1950; Kunsan AB, South Korea, 1 April 1953; Misawa AB, Japan, 4 November 1953-10 December 1957; Etain/Rouvres AB, France, 10 December 1957; Spangdahlem AB, Germany, 25 August 1959-15 July 1968; Holloman AFB, New Mexico, 15 July 1968-15 July 2011,⁹ (Unmanned 16 May 2008-25 September 2009) (deployed at Ramstein AB, Germany, c. 12 September-c. 11 October 1970 and 10 September-6 October 1971; Takhli Royal Thai AFB, Thailand, 12 May-4 October 1972; Hahn AB, Germany, 3 March-5 April 1973 and 5 September-6 October 1975; Ramstein AB, Germany, 21 September-20 October 1976 and 22 August-22 September 1977), 4 August 2017¹⁰-.

Aircraft.

Seversky P-35, 1941
Curtis P-40 Warhawk, 1942-1944
Republic P-47 Thunderbolt, 1943-1944
Lockheed P-38 Lightning, 1944-1946
North American P-51 Mustang, 1946-1949, 1950
Lockheed F-80 Shooting Star, 1948-1951
Republic F-84 Thunderjet, 1951-1957
North American F-100 Super Sabre, 1957-1962
Republic F-105 Thunderchief, 1962-1967
McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II, 1967-1978
McDonnell Douglas F-15 Eagle, 1978-1992
Northrup Grumman AT-38 Talon, 1992-1998
Lockheed F-117 Nighthawk, 1998-2008
Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor, 2009-2011
Lockheed F-16 Fighting Falcon, 2017-.

Emblem. Approved on 12 May 1960, replaced emblem approved on 7 January 1952. Needs a digital redraw.

Blazon. On and over an Air Force golden yellow disc within a narrow black border, a black sheep, his eye white, standing on a red lightning flash fesswise, abased, the lightning pointing to dexter (right).

Motto. THE BLACK SHEEP.

Significance. The emblem represents the squadron and its mission. The sheep has been retained because of its historical significance. Symbolic of the "daredevil" qualities of fearlessness and boldness, he characterizes the squadron and its personnel. The lightning upon which he stands, indicates the unit's striking power. Yellow is the squadron's official color designation.

⁹ ACC SO GB-72, 15 June 2011

¹⁰ AETC SO G-17-17, 25 July 2017

Commanders.

8th Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) [15 January 1941-14 May 1942]

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Capt Robert D. Van Auken | unkn-1 April 1942 |
| Capt Allison W. Strauss | 1 April 1942 |
| Maj Mitchell E. Sims | 27 April 1942- 14 May 1942 |

8th Fighter Squadron [15 May 1942-19 August 1943]

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Maj Mitchell E. Sims | 15 May 1942- c. November 1942 |
| Maj Robert V. McHale | unkn-19 August 1943 |

8th Fighter Squadron, Single Engine [20 August 1943-5 November 1944]

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Maj Robert V. McHale | 20 August 1943 |
| Capt Charles E. Petersen | c. 22 May 1944 |
| Maj William C. Drier | by 30 August 1944-4 November 1944 [Ace] |

8th Fighter Squadron, Two Engine [6 November 1944-7 January 1946]

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Maj William C. Drier | 6 November 1944 | [Ace] |
| Maj Mark H. Vinzant Jr. | 22 May 1945 | |
| Capt James A. Chandler | by 27 October 1945-7 January 1946 | |

8th Fighter Squadron, Single Engine [8 January 1946-30 April 1948]

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Capt James A. Chandler | 8 January 1946 |
| Capt Bedford R. Underwood | by 1 January 1948 |
| Maj Verne E. Bivin | by 1 February 1948-30 April 1948 |

8th Fighter Squadron, Jet Propelled [1 May 1948-9 August 1948]

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Maj Verne E. Bivin | by 1 May 1948; |
| Maj John A. Duganne | by 30 April 1948-9 August 1948 |

8th Fighter Squadron, Jet [10 August 1948-31 January 1950]

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Maj John A. Duganne | 10 August 1948 |
| Capt John D. Mattie | by 31 October 1948 [1.5 kills] |
| Lt Col John A. Duganne | by 1 February 1949-31 January 1950 |

8th Fighter-Bomber Squadron [1 February 1950-7 July 1958]

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lt Col John A. Duganne | 1 February 1950 | |
| Lt Col Benjamin H. King | c. 11 November 1950 | [Ace] [Brigadier General] |
| Maj Irving W. Boswell | April 1951 | |
| Lt Col James B. Fishburn | July 1951 | |
| Lt Col Erwin B. Elrod, | 30 November 1951-c July 1952 | |
| Lt Col William F. Georgi | unkn-January 1953 | [Brigadier General] |
| Maj Frank D. Henderson Jr. | January 1953 | |
| Maj Lucius G. Lacroix | 1 April 1953 | [2 kills] |
| Maj Robert E. Carey | 10 June 1953 | |
| Lt Col John L. Gregory Jr. | by December 1953 | |
| Lt Col Paul J. Imig | March 1955-unkn | |
| Lt Col Charles H. Duncan | by June 1957 | [4.5 kills] |
| Maj James O. Cowee | 10 December 1957-7 July 1958 | |

8th Tactical Fighter Squadron [8 July 1958-31 October 1991]

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Maj James O. Cowee | 8 July 1958 | |
| Maj Stephen L. Bettinger | 15 November 1958 | [Ace] |
| Maj John L. Peters | 9 September 1960 | |
| Lt Col Francis B. Clark | c. 17 July 1961 | |
| Lt Col Robert A. Evans | 13 November 1962 | |
| Lt Col James M. Morris | September 1964 | [Ace] |
| Maj Walter S. Bruce | by 31 December 1965 | |
| Lt Col Lloyd C. Smith | 24 June 1968 | |
| Lt Col Lester W. Krushat | by December 1968 | |
| Lt Col James B. Ross | by 30 June 1969 | |
| Lt Col James R. Lawver | 4 February 1970 | |
| Lt Col Donald W. Hobart | 13 November 1970 | |
| Lt Col William L. Anderson | 27 October 1972 | |
| Lt Col Harry E. Vreeland | 3 May 1974 | |
| Lt Col James E. LaPine | 3 March 1976 | |
| Lt Col Donald W. Kilgus | 1 December 1977 | |
| Lt Col Patrick S. Dotson Jr. | 18 January 1980 | |
| Lt Col Joseph M. Henderson Jr. | 25 September 1981 | |
| Lt Col David E. Rickert | 18 July 1983 | |
| Lt Col Robert L. Summers | 1 July 1985 | |
| Lt Col Jerry D. Coy | 12 November 1986 | |
| Lt Col William G. Stinebaugh | 26 August 1988 | |
| Lt Col Gary B. Wood | 2 October 1989 | |
| Lt Col John D. W. Corley | 28 May 1991-31 October 1991 | [General, ACC] |

8th Fighter Squadron on 1 November 1991-19 May 2011.

4 August 2017-Present.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Lt Col John D. W. Corley | 1 November 1991 | [General, ACC] |
| Lt Col Edward T. Schantz | 14 August 1992 | |
| Lt Col James P. Hunt | 1 July 1993 | [Major General] |
| Lt Col Michael P. Setnor | 10 February 1995 | |
| Lt Col Michael Roller | 14 June 1996 | |
| Lt Col Gary R. Woltering | 27 June 1997 | |
| Lt Col David A. Moore | 1 July 1999 | |
| Lt Col Matthew P. McKeon | 13 July 2001 | |
| Lt Col David F. Toomey | 2 June 2003 | |
| Lt Col Christopher Williams | 20 May 2005 | |
| Lt Col Todd J. Flesch | 5 January 2007 | |
| Unmanned | 16 May 2008 | |
| Lt Col Craig Baker | 25 Sept 2009-15 July 2011. ¹¹ | [Brigadier General] |
| | | |
| Lt Col Mark A. Sletten | 4 August 2017-Present | |

[Bios checked for 2017]

Operations. Combat in Southwest Pacific, c. 20 Apr 1942-4 Aug 1945. Combat in Korea, 2 Jul 1950-27 Jul 1953. Combat in Southeast Asia, c. 12 May-2 Oct 1972. Portions of the squadron deployed to Southwest Asia to fly combat air patrol, 19 September-19 December 1991.

Narrative.

On 20 November 1940, the 8th Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) was constituted. On 15 January 1941, the unit activated assigned to the 49th Pursuit (later 49th Fighter; 49th Fighter-Bomber) Group at Selfridge Field, Michigan. There it flew Seversky P-35. Around 23 May 1941, the 8th moved to Morrison Field, Florida and trained to go overseas. On 4 January 1942, the unit departed the Morrison Field arriving at Melbourne, Australia, on 2 February 1942. There it flew the Curtiss P-40 Warhawk. On 16 February 1942, the 8th moved to Canberra, Australia. On 17 April 1942, it move to Darwin, Australia. On 15 May 1942, it was redesignated as the 8th Fighter Squadron. On 25 September 1942, the 8th moved to Port Moresby, New Guinea. On 15 April 1943, it moved to Dobodura, New Guinea. At some point in 1943, the unit began to also fly the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt. On 20 August 1943, it was redesignated 8th Fighter Squadron, Single Engine. On 30 August 1943, the 8th moved to Tsili Tsili, New Guinea, and two months later, moved again to Gusap, New Guinea. On 3 May 1944, the 8th moved to Hollandia, New Guinea and to Biak on 23 June 1944. During 1944, the squadron replaced its old aircraft with Lockheed P-38 Lightning aircraft. On 25 October 1944, the 8th moved to Tacloban, Leyte. On 6 November 1944, the squadron was redesignated as the 8th Fighter Squadron, Two Engine. On 2 January 1945, the 8th moved to San Jose, Mindoro, then Lingayen, Luzon on 27 February 1945. On 14 August 1945, the Japanese surrendered. Three days later, the 8th moved to Okinawa. During the war, the 8th Fighter Squadron earned 10 campaign streamers.

¹¹ ACC SO GB-72, 15 June 2011

On 15 September 1945, the unit moved to Atsugi, Japan. On 8 January 1946, it was redesignated 8th Fighter Squadron, Single Engine, and equipped with the North American P-51 Mustang. About five weeks later, the 8th moved to Chitose AB, Japan, and to Misawa AB, Japan, on 2 April 1948. On 1 May 1948, it was redesignated as the 8th Fighter Squadron, Jet Propelled and equipped with the Lockheed F-80 Shooting Star. On 10 August 1948, the unit was redesignated as the 8th Fighter Squadron, Jet. On 1 February 1950, it was redesignated as the 8th Fighter-Bomber Squadron.

The North Korean Army invaded south Korea during the last week of June 1950. On 30 June 1950, the 8th moved to Ashiya AB, Japan and to Itazuke AB, Japan, on 8 July 1950, flying P-51s for a short time before switching back to F-80s. On 29 September 1950, the unit moved to Taegu AB, South Korea. On 1 April 1953, the 8th moved to Kunsan AB, South Korea. During the Korean War, the squadron earned 10 campaign streamers.

On 4 November 1953, the 8th moved back to Misawa AB, Japan. Between 15 April 1957 and 15 October 1957, the squadron was attached to the 49th Fighter-Bomber Wing. On 10 December 1957, the squadron left Misawa AB leaving its equipment behind moving to Etain/Rouvres AB, France. Equipped with North American F-100 Super Sabre aircraft, the 8th was assigned to the 49th Fighter-Bomber (later, 49th Tactical Fighter; 49th Fighter) Wing. On 8 July 1958, the unit was redesignated the 8th Tactical Fighter Squadron. On 25 August 1959, the squadron moved to Spangdahlem AB, Germany. In 1962, it converted to the Republic F-105 Thunderchief. In 1967, the unit converted to the McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II. On 15 July 1968, the 8th moved to rejoin the recently moved 49th Tactical Fighter Wing at Holloman AFB, New Mexico. While at Holloman AFB, the 8th deployed to Ramstein AB, Germany, for a month starting about 12 September 1970 and between 10 September 1971 and 6 October 1971. During both deployments, the unit was attached to 26th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing. The first deployed attachment was between around 15 September 1970 and 8 October 1970 with the second between 24 August 1971 and 1 October 1971. Between 12 May 1972 and 4 October 1972, the 8th deployed with the 49th Tactical Fighter Wing to Takhli Royal Thai AFB, Thailand to take part in the War in Southeast Asia. For its part, the 8th earned the Vietnam Ceasefire campaign streamer.

Returning to Holloman AFB, the 8th deployed to Hahn AB, Germany, between 3 March 1973 and 5 April 1973, and again between 5 September 1975 and 6 October 1975. During those deployments, the unit was attached to 50th Tactical Fighter Wing between 8 March 1973 and 2 April 1973 and again between 6 September 1975 and 6 October 1975. Between 21 September 1976 and 20 October 1976 and again between 22 August 1977 and 22 September 1977, the 8th deployed to Ramstein AB, Germany. In 1978, the squadron converted to the McDonnell Douglas F-15 Eagle. On 1 November 1991, the unit was redesignated the 8th Fighter Squadron. On 15 November 1991, the 8th was assigned to the 49th Operations Group. Between 19 September 1991 and 19 December 1991, portions of the squadron deployed to Southwest Asia to fly combat air patrols. While there, the 8th Fighter Squadron earned the Southwest Asia Ceasefire campaign streamer.

In 1992, the 8th Fighter Squadron converted to the Northrup Grumman AT-38 Talon. In 1998, the unit converted to the Lockheed F-117 Nighthawk. For the squadron's support during Kosovo operations, it earned the Kosovo Air campaign streamer. On 16 May 2008, for the first time since 1941, the 8th Fighter Squadron inactivated.

On 25 September 2009, the 8th Fighter Squadron reactivated at Holloman AFB, assigned to the 49th Operations Group, equipped with the Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor. During the next two years, the squadron deployed to Southwest Asia. For its efforts, it earned the Global War on Terrorism -Expeditionary campaign streamer. On 15 July 2011, the squadron inactivated.

On 4 August 2017, the 8th fighter Squadron reactivated at Holloman AFB under the 54th Fighter Group, 56th Fighter Wing, to train pilots to fly the Block 42 F-16C/D.

Prepared 28 August 2017

Prepared by Rick Griset