

## 308th Fighter Squadron

### Lineage.

Constituted as 308 Pursuit Squadron  
(Interceptor) on 21 January 1942.  
Activated on 30 January 1942.  
Redesignated 308 Fighter Squadron on  
15 May 1942.  
Redesignated 308 Fighter Squadron,  
Single Engine, on 20 August 1943.  
Inactivated on 7 November 1945.

Activated on 20 August 1946.  
Redesignated 308 Fighter Squadron, Jet,  
on 15 June 1948.  
Redesignated 308 Fighter-Bomber Squadron  
on 20 January 1950.  
Redesignated 308 Fighter-Escort Squadron on  
16 July 1950.  
Redesignated 308 Strategic Fighter Squadron on 20 January 1953.  
Redesignated 308 Fighter-Bomber Squadron on 1 April 1957.  
Redesignated 308 Tactical Fighter Squadron on 1 July 1958.  
Redesignated 308 Tactical Fighter Training Squadron on 9 October 1980.  
Redesignated 308 Tactical Fighter Squadron on 1 October 1986.  
Redesignated 308 Fighter Squadron on 1 November 1991.<sup>1</sup>  
Inactivated on 25 June 2015.<sup>2</sup>



### Honors

#### Campaign Streamers.

##### World War II European-African-Middle Eastern Theater:

Air Offensive, Europe [1942–1944]  
Algeria-French Morocco with Arrowhead [1942]  
Tunisia [1942-1943]  
Sicily [1942-1943]  
Naples-Foggia [1943-1944]  
Anzio [1944]  
Rome-Arno [1944]  
Normandy [1944]  
Northern France [1944]  
Southern France [1944]  
North Apennines [1944-1945]  
Rhineland [1944-1945]  
Central Europe [1945]

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<sup>1</sup> TAC SO G-12, 1 November 1991

<sup>2</sup> AETC SO G-15-9, 18 June 2015

**Campaign Streamers (Continued).**

**World War II European-African-Middle Eastern Theater (Continued):**

Po Valley [1945]

Air Combat [1941–1945]

**Vietnam:**

Vietnam Defensive [1965-1966]

Vietnam Air [1966]

Vietnam Air Offensive [1966-1967]

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II [1967-1968]

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III [1968]

Vietnam Air/Ground [1968]

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV [1968-1969]

Tet 1969 Counteroffensive [1969]

Vietnam Summer-Fall 1969 [1969]

Vietnam Winter-Spring 1970 [1969-1970]

Sanctuary Counteroffensive [1970]

Southwest Monsoon [1970]

Vietnam Cease Fire [1972-1973]

**Decorations.**

**Distinguished Unit Citations**

Rumania, 21 April 1944

Poland, 25 July 1944

**Presidential Unit Citations**

Southeast Asia, 8 June 1966–16 April 1967

Southeast Asia, 1 May–31 December 1968

**Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards**

4–16 July 1952

1 March–30 November 1962

17 December 1966–30 April 1968 with Combat “V” Device

18 December 1972–27 January 1973 with Combat “V” Device

23 February 1991–22 February 1993

1 July 1994–30 June 1996<sup>3</sup>

1 July 1996–30 June 1998<sup>4</sup>

1 July 1998–30 June 2000<sup>5</sup>

1 July 2001–30 June 2003<sup>6</sup>

1 June [July] 2003–30 June 2005<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> AETC SO GA-18/1996

<sup>4</sup> AETC SO GA-12/1998

<sup>5</sup> AETC SO GA-9/2000

<sup>6</sup> AETC SO GA-55/2004

<sup>7</sup> AETC SO GA-0052/2006

**Decorations. (Continued)****Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (Continued)**

1 July 2005-30 June 2006<sup>8</sup>  
1 July 2006-30 June 2007<sup>9</sup>  
1 July 2007-30 June 2008<sup>10</sup>  
1 July 2008-30 June 2009<sup>11</sup>  
1 July 2009-30 June 2010<sup>12</sup>  
1 July 2010-30 June 2011<sup>13</sup>  
1 July 2011-30 June 2012<sup>14</sup>  
1 July 2012-30 June 2013<sup>15</sup>  
1 July 2013-30 June 2014<sup>16</sup>

**Special Honors.**

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm,  
16 December 1966–15 October 1970

**Squadron – 184.5 Total Aerial Victory Credits. 12 Squadron Aces:**

| <u>Name</u>                           | <u>Aerial Victories</u> |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
|                                       | <u>In Sq</u>            | <u>Lifetime Total</u> |
| Capt Royal N. Baker                   | 3                       | 16.5                  |
| Col William A. Daniel <sup>17</sup>   | 2                       | 5                     |
| Capt William J. Dillard <sup>18</sup> | 2                       | 6                     |
| Major Harry W. Dorris                 | 5.25                    | 5.25                  |
| Capt Robert J. Goebel                 | 11                      | 11                    |
| Capt Walter J. Goehausen, Jr.         | 10                      | 10                    |
| Maj Frank A. Hill                     | 2                       | 7                     |
| 1st Lt Richard F. Hurd                | 6                       | 6                     |
| Capt Leland P. Molland                | 11                      | 11                    |
| Capt Jack R. Smith                    | 5                       | 5                     |
| 1st Lt Frederick O. Trafton, Jr.      | 5                       | 5                     |
| Capt John J. Voll                     | 21                      | 21                    |

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<sup>8</sup> AETC SO GA-045/2007

<sup>9</sup> AETC SO G-054/2008

<sup>10</sup> AETC SO G-071/2009

<sup>11</sup> AETC SO G-025/2010

<sup>12</sup> AETC SO G-086/2011

<sup>13</sup> AETC SO G-171/17 April 2012

<sup>14</sup> AETC SO G-036, 1 March 2013

<sup>15</sup> AETC SO G-017, 1 February 2014

<sup>16</sup> AETC SO G-029, 8 January 2015

<sup>17</sup> **NOTE:** Became an ace while in the squadron.

<sup>18</sup> **NOTE:** Became an ace while in the squadron.

**Assignments.** 31st Pursuit (later, 31st Fighter) Group, 30 January 1942–7 November 1945. 31st Fighter (later, 31st Fighter-Bomber; 31 Fighter-Escort) Group, 20 August 1946 (attached to 31st Fighter-Escort Wing, 27 July 1951–15 June 1952); 31st Fighter-Escort (later, 31st Strategic Fighter; 31st Fighter-Bomber; 31st Tactical Fighter) Wing, 16 June 1952 (attached to Alaskan Air Command, 5 December 1956–7 January 1957; Unknown, 15-21 August 1958, 22 August 1958–19 January 1959, 11 July–c. December 1959, 7 Mar–c. 19 July 1961; 18th Tactical Fighter Wing, 13 March–30 April 1963; Unknown, 1 May–3 July 1963; 7231st Combat Support Group, 9 Feb–5 May 1964 and 9 March–8 July 1965); 3d Tactical Fighter Wing, 2 December 1965 (attached to 31st Tactical Fighter Wing, 15 November–25 December 1966); 31st Tactical Fighter Wing, 25 December 1966; 4403d Fighter Wing, 5 October 1970; 31st Tactical Fighter Wing, 30 October 1970 (attached to 432d Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 28 April–29 July 1972; 8th Tactical Fighter Wing, 11 December 1972–11 June 1973); 31st Operations Group, 1 November 1991 (attached to 347th Operations Group, c. 11 September–19 November 1992); 347th Operations Group, 20 November 1992; 56th Operations Group, 1 April 1994–25 June 2015.<sup>19</sup>

**Stations.** Baer Field, Indiana, 30 January 1942; New Orleans AB, Louisiana, 6 Feb-19 May 1942; Atcham, England, c. 10 June 1942; Kenley, England, 1 August 1942; Westhampnett, England, 25 August–23 October 1942; Tafaraoui, Algeria, 8 November 1942 (operated from Casablanca, French Morocco, 10–31 January 1943); Thelepte, Tunisia, 6 February 1943; Tebessa, Algeria, 17 February 1943; Canrobert, Algeria, 21 February 1943; Kalaa Djerda, Tunisia, 25 February 1943; Thelepte, Tunisia, 11 March 1943; Djilma, Tunisia, 7 April 1943; Le Sers, Tunisia, 12 April 1943; Korba, Tunisia, 20 May 1943; Gozo, c. 30 June 1943; Ponte Olivo, Sicily, 14 July 1943; Agrigento, Sicily, 19 July 1943; Termini, Sicily, c. 2 August 1943; Milazzo, Sicily, 2 September 1943; Montecorvino, Italy, 20 September 1943; Pomigliano, Italy, 14 October 1943; Castel Volturno, Italy, 14 January 1944; San Severo, Italy, 2 April 1944; Mondolfo, Italy, 3 March 1945; Triolo, Italy, 14 July–5 August 1945; Drew Field, Florida, August–7 November 1945. Giebelstadt, Germany, 20 August 1946; Kitzingen, Germany, c. 30 September 1946–25 June 1947; Langley Field, Virginia, 25 June 1947; Turner Field (later, Air Force Base), Georgia, 4 September 1947 (deployed at Manston Royal Air Force Station, England, 26 December 1950–25 July 1951; Misawa Air Base, Japan, 20 July–16 October 1952; Chitose Air Base, Japan, 7 November 1953–9 February 1954; Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, 5 December 1956–7 January 1957; Hahn Air Base, Germany, 15 August–21 August 1958; Aviano Air Base, Italy, 22 August 1958-19 January 1959); George Air Force Base, California, 15 March 1959 (deployed at Moron Air Base, Spain, 11 July–c. December 1959; Aviano Air Base, Italy, 7 March-c. 19 July 1961); Homestead, Air Force Base, Florida, 1 October 1962-c. 5 December 1965 (deployed at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, 13 March–30 April 1963; Itazuke Air Base, Japan, 1 May–3 July 1963; Cigli Air Base, Turkey, 9 Feb–5 May 1964 and 9 March–8 July 1965); Bien Hoa Air Base, South Vietnam, c. 7 December 1965; Tuy Hoa Air Base, South Vietnam, 15 November 1966–30 September 1970; England Air Force Base, Louisiana, 5 October 1970; Homestead Air Force Base, Florida,

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<sup>19</sup> AETC MO MO-2, 25 March 1994; AETC SO G-15-9, 18 June 2015

30 October 1970 (deployed at Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, 28 April–29 July 1972; Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, 11 December 1972–11 June 1973; operated from Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, c. 11–30 September 1992); Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, 1 October 1992; Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, 1 April 1994–25 June 2015.<sup>20</sup>

**Aircraft.**

Curtis P-40 Warhawk, 1942  
Bell P-39 Airacobra, 1942  
Supermarine Spitfire, 1942–1943  
North American P (later, F)-51 Lightning, 1943–1945 and 1947–1949  
Lockheed P (later, F)-80 Shooting Star, 1946–1947  
Republic F-84 Thunderjet, 1948–1957  
North American F-100 Super Sabre, 1957–1970  
McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II, 1970–1986  
Lockheed F-16 Fighting Falcon, 1986–2015.

**Emblem.** Originally approved on 10 January 1962; newest rendition approved on 18 July 1995.

**Blazon.** Checky Argent and Vert, on an arrowhead point to base throughout Silver Gray fimbriated Sable, a dexter cubit arm vambraced fesswise issuant from sinister Argent grasping a sword point to base of the like, hilt of the second and piercing a cloud issuing from base White; all within a diminished bordure Or.

Attached above the disc a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "308th FIGHTER SQ " in Yellow letters.

Attached below the disc a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed " EMERALD KNIGHTS" in Yellow letters.

**Official Motto.** Emerald Knights

**Significance.** Yellow is an Air Force color and refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The checky field suggests the field of battle. The arrowhead denotes the aircraft of the squadron in association with the field of battle. The arm in armor, grasping a sword, symbolizes the unit's ability to defend the peace. The sword piercing the cloud stands for the sky, the unit's theater of operation.

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<sup>20</sup> AETC MO-2, 25 March 1994; AETC SO G-15-9, 18 June 2015

**Commanders.**

**308th Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) [30 January 1942 - 15 May 1942]**

|                  |                                                  |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Maj Fred M. Dean | 30 January 1942-15 May 1942 (Lieutenant General) |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------|

**308th Fighter Squadron [15 May 1942-20 August 1943]**

|                        |                            |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Maj Fred M. Dean       | 15 May 1942                | (Lieutenant General) |
| Maj Delwin B. Avery    | 1 September 1942           |                      |
| Capt Frank A. Hill     | 10 February 1943           |                      |
| Maj Delwin B. Avery    | 4 March 1943               |                      |
| Capt Thomas B. Fleming | May 1943                   |                      |
| Maj John H. Paulk      | 8 July 1943-20 August 1943 |                      |

**308th Fighter Squadron, Single Engine [20 August 1943-7 November 1945;  
20 August 1946-15 June 1948]**

|                          |                           |       |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| Maj John H. Paulk        | 20 August 1943            |       |
| Maj Walter J. Overend    | 14 October 1943           |       |
| Lt Col James G. Thorsen  | 18 February 1944          |       |
| Maj Harry W. Dorris      | 24 June 1944              | [Ace] |
| Maj Leland P. Molland    | 28 July 1944              | [Ace] |
| Maj Frank A. Wagner      | 4 December 1944           |       |
| Lt Col James G. Thorsen  | 2 February 1945-Unknown   |       |
| Unknown                  | 20 August 1946            |       |
| Lt Col Shannon Christian | October 1947-15 June 1948 |       |

**308th Fighter Squadron, Jet [15 June 1948-20 January 1950]**

|                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lt Col Shannon Christian | 15 June 1948              |
| Maj Ray M. Hilliard      | July 1948-20 January 1950 |

**308th Fighter-Bomber Squadron [20 January 1950-16 July 1950]**

|                     |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Maj Ray M. Hilliard | 20 January 1950-16 July 1950 |
|---------------------|------------------------------|

**308th Fighter-Escort Squadron [16 July 1950-20 January 1953]**

|                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Maj Ray M. Hilliard      | 16 July 1950                   |
| Lt Col Jerrold M. Vivian | 15 August 1952-20 January 1953 |

**308th Strategic Fighter Squadron [20 January 1953-1 April 1957]**

|                          |                        |       |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------|
| Lt Col Jerrold M. Vivian | 20 January 1953        |       |
| Lt Col Frank W. Klibbe   | September 1953         | [Ace] |
| Maj John W. Santry       | 17 January 1955        |       |
| Maj John E. Pitts, Jr.   | July 1956-1 April 1957 |       |

**308th Fighter-Bomber Squadron [1 April 1957-1 July 1958]**

|                          |                               |                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Maj John E. Pitts, Jr.   | 1 April 1957                  | (Brigadier General) |
| Maj Donald N. Standfield | 24 September 1957-1 July 1958 |                     |

**Commanders. (Continued)*****308th Tactical Fighter Squadron [1 July 1958-9 October 1980]***

|                                |                                    |                          |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Maj Donald N. Standfield       | 1 July 1958                        |                          |
| Maj Robinson Risner            | 15 March 1959                      | [Ace](Brigadier General) |
| Maj John B. Butler             | 15 July 1960                       |                          |
| Lt Col Virgil K. Meroney       | 31 August 1960                     | [Ace]                    |
| Maj William Peters             | 17 December 1961                   |                          |
| Maj Louie E. Lovitt            | 28 April 1962                      |                          |
| Lt Col Alfred N. King          | 14 August 1962                     |                          |
| Lt Col Durward B. Russell, Jr. | 22 September 1964                  |                          |
| Lt Col Alan E. Wockenfuss      | c. June 1966                       |                          |
| Lt Col Hubert N. Skidmore      | c. 1967                            |                          |
| Lt Col Jack M. Smith           | c. 19 March 1968                   |                          |
| Lt Col Thomas G. Ferrara       | 1968                               |                          |
| Lt Col James Rodeen            | 30 June 1969                       |                          |
| Lt Col William J. Hosmer       | 30 August 1969                     |                          |
| Lt Col Henry Buttelman         | 28 March 1970                      | [Ace]                    |
| Lt Col David L. Robb           | 6 July 1970-c. 15 October 1970     |                          |
| Unknown                        | c. 15 October 1970-30 October 1970 |                          |
| Lt Col George L. Schulstad     | 30 October 1970                    | (Brigadier General)      |
| Lt Col Benjamin F. Ingram, Jr. | 19 February 1971                   |                          |
| Lt Col Robert F. Johnston, II  | 3 October 1971                     |                          |
| Lt Col Thomas E. Colvin        | 1 September 1972                   |                          |
| Lt Col Steve Braswell          | 10 November 1972                   |                          |
| Lt Col Abner Prophett          | 1 March 1973                       |                          |
| Lt Col Henry D. Canterbury     | 23 July 1973                       | (Major General)          |
| Lt Col James D. Terry          | 31 January 1975                    |                          |
| Lt Col Earnest L. Coleman      | 27 July 1976                       |                          |
| Lt Col Wilbur E. Roberts       | 6 June 1977                        |                          |
| Lt Col Marcus F. Cooper, Jr.   | 22 June 1978                       |                          |
| Lt Col Timothy F. McConnell    | 6 February 1980-9 October 1980     |                          |

***308th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron [9 October 1980-1 October 1986]***

|                             |                                 |  |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Lt Col Timothy F. McConnell | 9 October 1980                  |  |
| Lt Col Lester D. Alford     | 10 August 1981                  |  |
| Lt Col Kenneth A. Frey      | 13 April 1983                   |  |
| Lt Col James P. Soden       | 18 November 1983                |  |
| Lt Col Max R. Hix           | 27 December 1985-1 October 1986 |  |

***308th Tactical Fighter Squadron [1 October 1986-1 November 1991]***

|                           |                               |  |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Lt Col Max R. Hix         | 1 October 1986                |  |
| Lt Col Douglas M. Hosmer  | 30 October 1986               |  |
| Lt Col Robert R. Scott    | 25 October 1987               |  |
| Lt Col Michael B. Larkin  | 28 April 1989                 |  |
| Lt Col Phillip B. Straley | 16 June 1989-1 November 1991. |  |

**Commanders. (Continued)****308th Fighter Squadron [1 November 1991-.]**

|                                         |                                         |                     |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Lt Col Phillip B. Straley               | 1 November 1991                         |                     |
| Lt Col Frederick D. Van Valkenburg, Jr. | 10 July 1992                            | (Brigadier General) |
| Lt Col Ricardo M. Cazessus              | 25 June 1993                            |                     |
| Lt Col Kevin W. Smith                   | 1 April 1994 <sup>21</sup>              |                     |
| Lt Col William C. Coutts                | 17 March 1995 <sup>22</sup>             |                     |
| Lt Col Lawrence L. Wells                | 11 July 1996 <sup>23</sup>              | (Major General)     |
| Lt Col Timothy P. Orwell                | 11 July 1997 <sup>24</sup>              |                     |
| Lt Col James M. Smothermon              | 1 December 1997 <sup>25</sup>           |                     |
| Lt Col Michael C. Barton                | 13 December 1999 <sup>26</sup>          |                     |
| Lt Col Samuel C. Johnston               | 19 January 2001 <sup>27</sup>           |                     |
| Lt Col John M. Sieverling               | 29 January 2002 <sup>28</sup>           |                     |
| Lt Col David E. Ellis                   | 9 July 2003 <sup>29</sup>               |                     |
| Lt Col Kenneth E. Lacy                  | 24 June 2005 <sup>30</sup>              |                     |
| Lt Col Jeffrey C. Schroeder             | 16 May 2007 <sup>31</sup>               |                     |
| Lt Col Jeffrey R. Jenssen               | 14 May 2009 <sup>32</sup>               |                     |
| Lt Col Christopher Colcord              | 2 June 2011-. <sup>33</sup>             |                     |
| Lt Col Christopher A. Bacon             | 11 July 2013-25 June 2015 <sup>34</sup> |                     |

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<sup>21</sup> [311 FS SO SO=GF-001, 25 March 1994]

<sup>22</sup> 308 FS SO SO-GF-005, 15 March 1995

<sup>23</sup> 308 FS SO SO-GF-002, 13 June 1996

<sup>24</sup> 308 FS SO G-003, 9 July 1997

<sup>25</sup> 308 FS SO GL-002, c. 2 December 1997

<sup>26</sup> 308 FS SO GF-002, 9 December 1999

<sup>27</sup> 308 FS SO GL-001, 9 January 2001

<sup>28</sup> 56 FW SO GL-1, 28 January 2002

<sup>29</sup> 56 FW SO 308FS-GL-03-4, 9 July 2003

<sup>30</sup> 56 FW SO 56OG-G-2005-12, 24 June 2005

<sup>31</sup> 308 FS SO G-2007-005, c. 21 May 2007

<sup>32</sup> 308 FS SO G-035, 12 June 2009

<sup>33</sup> 308 FS SO G-012, 2 June 2011

<sup>34</sup> 56 MSG SO GS-24, 11 July 2013; AETC SO G-15-9, 18 June 2015



**Narrative.**

On 21 January 1942, the unit was constituted as the 308th Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor). It activated at Baer Field, Indiana, on 30 January 1942, was assigned to the 31st Pursuit (later, 31st Fighter) Group. On 6 February 1942, the unit moved to New Orleans AB, Louisiana. During this period, the squadron trained in flew the Curtis P-40 Warhawk and Bell P-39 Airacobra. On 15 May 1942, the unit was redesignated as the 308th Fighter Squadron. Four days later, the unit left for Europe without aircraft. Around 10 June 1942, the squadron arrived at Atcham, England. Equipped with the Supermarine Spitfire, the squadron trained in the aircraft for two months. On 1 August 1942, the unit moved to Kenley, England, where it began flying combat missions on the 17th. On 25 August 1942, the squadron moved to Westhampnett, England, where it continued to fly combat mission in the Theater of Operations (ETO).

On 23 October 1942, the squadron departed for the Mediterranean Theater of Operations (MTO). It landed at Tafaraoui, Algeria, 8 November 1942, the first day of the Allied invasion of North Africa. Between 10 and 31 January 1943, the squadron operated from Casablanca, French Morocco. On 6 February 1943, the squadron moved to Thelepte, Tunisia. On 17 February 1943, the unit relocated to Tebessa, Algeria. Four days later, it moved to Canrobert, Algeria and four days after that to Kalaa Djerda, Tunisia. On 11 March 1943, it moved back to Thelepte, Tunisia. On 7 April 1943, the squadron moved to Djilma, Tunisi, and five days later to Le Sers, Tunisia. The North Africa Campaign ended on 13 May 1943. Seven days later, the squadron moved to Korba, Tunisia. In preparation for the invasion of Sicily, around 30 June 1943, the squadron moved to an island off of Malta by the name of Gozo. The invasion began on 9 July 1943. Five days after that, the squadron moved to Ponte Olivo, Sicily, and then Agrigento, Sicily, five days after that. Around 2 August 1943, the unit moved to Termini, Sicily. The invasion ended on 17 August 1943. On 20 August 1943, the squadron was redesignated as the 308th Fighter Squadron, Single Engine. On 2 September 1943, the day before the Allies invaded Italy, the squadron moved to Milazzo, Sicily. Eighteen days later, the squadron moved to Montecorvino, Italy. On 14 October 1943, it moved again to Pomigliano, Italy. About this time, the squadron converted to the North American P-51 Lightning, which it flew for the rest of the war. In preparation for the Allied amphibious landings at Anzio, the squadron moved to Castel Volturno, Italy, on 14 January 1944. On 2 April 1944, the unit move to San Severo, Italy, and on 3 March 1945 to Mondolfo, Italy. On 14 July 1945, the squadron moved to Triolo, Italy. On 5 August 1945, it departed for the United States. It arrived at Drew Field, Florida, in August 1945, and was inactivated on 7 November 1945. During World War II, the 308th created 12 aces and was credited with 184.5 aerial victories. For its efforts, the squadron garnered 2 Distinguished Unit Citations and 15 campaign streamers.

The 308th Fighter Squadron, Single Engine, was reactivated on 20 August 1946, flying the Lockheed P (later, F)-80 Shooting Star at Giebelstadt, Germany. It was reassigned to the 31st Fighter (later, 31st Fighter-Bomber; 31 Fighter-Escort) Group. Around 30 September 1946, the squadron moved to Kitzingen, Germany. On 25 June 1947, the squadron moved to Langley Field, Virginia, and flew the North American P-51 Lightning. On 4 September 1947, the squadron moved to Turner Field (later, Air Force

Base), Georgia. In 1948, the squadron began a yearlong transition to the Republic F-84 Thunderjet. On 15 June 1948, the unit was redesignated as the 308th Fighter Squadron, Jet. On 20 January 1950, the squadron was redesignated as the 308th Fighter-Bomber Squadron and then the 308th Fighter-Escort Squadron on 16 July 1950. Between 26 December 1950 and 25 July 1951, the unit deployed to Manston Royal Air Force Station, England. On 27 July 1951, the squadron was attached to 31st Fighter-Escort Wing. On 16 June 1952, the unit was official assigned to the 31st Fighter-Escort (later, 31st Strategic Fighter; 31st Fighter-Bomber; 31st Tactical Fighter) Wing. Four day later, the squadron deployed at Misawa Air Base, Japan, and remained there until 16 October 1952. On 20 January 1953, the unit was redesignated as the 308th Strategic Fighter Squadron. Between 7 November 1953 and 9 February 1954, the squadron deployed at Chitose Air Base, Japan. Between 5 December 1956 and 7 January 1957, the 308th deployed to Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, and was attached to Alaskan Air Command. In 1957, the squadron converted to the North American F-100 Super Sabre and was redesignated as the 308th Fighter-Bomber Squadron on 1 April 1957. On 1 July 1958, the squadron was redesignated as the 308th Tactical Fighter Squadron. Between 15 August and 21 August 1958, the unit deployed at Hahn Air Base, Germany, but was attached to an unknown organization. The next day, it deployed at Aviano Air Base, Italy, and remained there until 19 January 1959. While there, it was attached to an unknown organization. On 15 March 1959, the squadron moved to George Air Force Base, California. Between 11 July and December 1959, the unit was deployed at Moron Air Base, Spain, and attached to an unknown organization. From 7 March to around 19 July 1961, the squadron deployed at Aviano Air Base, Italy, and attached to an unknown organization. On 1 October 1962, the squadron moved to Homestead, Air Force Base, Florida.

Between 13 March and 30 April 1963, the unit deployed at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, and was attached to 18th Tactical Fighter Wing. The next day the squadron deployed at Itazuke Air Base, Japan, was attached to an unknown organization and stayed until 3 July 1963. Between 9 February and 5 May 1964, the unit deployed to Cigli Air Base, Turkey, and was attached to 7231st Combat Support Group. Between 9 March and 8 July 1965, the 308th deployed again to Cigli Air Base, and was attached to 7231st. On 2 December 1965, the squadron was assigned to the 3d Tactical Fighter Wing.

Around 5 December 1965, the squadron left Homestead, and a couple of days later arrived at Bien Hoa Air Base, South Vietnam. On 15 November 1966, it moved to Tuy Hoa Air Base, South Vietnam and was attached to the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing until 25 December 1966, when it was assigned to the 31st. On 30 September 1970, the squadron left Tuy Hoa Air Base, and on 5 October 1970 arrived at England Air Force Base, Louisiana, and was assigned to the 4403d Fighter Wing. On 30 October 1970, it moved to Homestead Air Force Base, Florida, reassigned to the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing, and began flying the McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II. Between 28 April and 29 July 1972, the squadron deployed at Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, and was attached to the 432d Tactical Reconnaissance Wing. Between 11 December 1972 and 11 June 1973, the unit deployed to Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, and was attached to the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing. During this period, the squadron flew

combat missions Southeast Asia. During the war in Southeast Asia, the 308th earned 2 Presidential Unit Citations, 13 campaign streamers, and a Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm.

In 1974, the squadron became an F-4 replacement training unit. On 1 April 1976, the unit picked up an additional mission of the Air Defense of southern Florida. On 9 October 1980, the squadron was redesignated as the 308th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron.

During 1986, the squadron converted to the Lockheed F-16 Fighting Falcon and lost its training mission. On 1 October 1986, the unit was redesignated as the 308th Tactical Fighter Squadron. On 1 November 1991, the squadron was redesignated as the 308th Fighter Squadron and reassigned to the 31st Operations Group. On 24 August 1992, Hurricane Hugo devastated Homestead Air Force Base, Florida. Around 11 September 1992, the squadron began operating from Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, and was attached to the 347th Operations Group. On 1 October 1992, the move to Moody Air Force Base was made permanent, thus ending its Air Defense of southern Florida mission. On 20 November 1992, the unit was assigned to 347th Operations Group. While at Moody Air Force Base, the squadron trained to deploy in support of US national security interests and global military contingencies. On 1 April 1994, the squadron was assigned to the 56th Operations Group at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The squadron conducted qualification training for USAF student pilots and proficiency training for instructor pilots and rated pilots already qualified in F-16 aircraft, 1994-2015. On 25 June 2015, the 308th Fighter Squadron inactivated.

**Lineage, Assignments, Stations, and Honors through 7 May 2009.**

**Commanders, Aircraft, and Operations through 30 September 2008.**

**Supersedes** published information contained in: Judy G. Endicott (ed.), *USAF Active*

**Prepared by** Patsy Robertson.

**Reviewed by** Daniel Haulman.

**Updated** 30 June 2015

**Updated by** Rick Grisct