

## 54th Operations Support Squadron

### Lineage.

Constituted as 54th Airdrome Squadron on 25 January 1943.

Activated on 1 February 1943.

Redesignated as 54th Airdrome Squadron (Special), 16 April 1943.

Disbanded on 1 April 1944.

Reconstituted and redesignated as 54th Operations Support Squadron on 1 May 1993.

Activated on 16 May 1993.

Inactivated on 31 October 1994.

Activated on 1 March 2014.



### Honors.

#### *Service Streamers.*

**World War II American Theater**

### Decorations.

#### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Award:**

11 March 2014-30 June 2014<sup>1</sup>

#### **Air Force Organizational Effectiveness Award:**

1 September 1992 [16 May 1993]-31 August 1994<sup>2</sup>

**Assignments.** Second Air Force, 1 February 1943-1 April 1944. 54th Operations Group, 17 May 1993-31 October 1994. 54th Fighter Group, 1 March 2014-.

**Stations.** Fairmont AAF, Nebraska, 1 February 1943; Casper AAB, Wyoming, 25 March 1943; Fairmont AAF, Nebraska, 9 May 1943-31 October 1944. United States Air Force Academy, Colorado, 16 May-31 October 1994. Holloman AFB, New Mexico, 1 March 2014-.

**Aircraft.** None.

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<sup>1</sup> AETC SO G-029, 8 January 2015

<sup>2</sup> DAF SO GB-191/1995

**Emblem.** Approved on 5 May 2014.

**Blazon.** On a disc per pale Azure and Argent, below in chief a pellet surmounted in dexter by a crescent of the second, and in sinister a bezant, a cobra poised to strike Sable, underbelly and fimbriation Silver Gray, eyed Or, mouth Gules, all within a narrow border Black.

Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed “54TH OPERATIONS SUPPORT SQ” in Black letters.

**Motto.** None.

**Significance.** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The background represents the night sky which is symbolic of night operations and operations that are hard to detect, a hallmark of remotely piloted aircraft units. The disc with the sun and crescent moon represent the readiness of the Squadron to carry out its mission at any time. The cobra, head reared and poised to attack, symbolizes the Squadron’s strength, resilience and preparedness to strike the enemy.

**Commanders.**

***54th Airdrome Squadron [1 February 1943-15 April 1943]***

Unknown

1 February 1943-15 April 1943

***54th Airdrome Squadron (SP) [16 April 1943-1 April 1944]***

Unknown

16 April 1943-1 April 1944

***54th Operations Support Squadron [16 May 1993-31 October 1994]***

Lt Col James W. Spencer

bef 1 August 1994

Lt Col Gary A. Frith

1 August 1994<sup>3</sup>–31 October 1994.

***54th Operations Support Squadron [1 March 2014-.]***

Lt Col Marshall F. Chalverus

1 March 2014<sup>4</sup>

Lt Col Jerod G. Rick

27 March 2015-Present.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> USAFA SO G-19, 29 July 1994

<sup>4</sup> 49 WG SO GS-14-004, 14 March 2014

<sup>5</sup> 49 WG SO GS-15-003, 24 March 2015

**Narrative.**

The unit was originally constituted on 25 January 1943 as the 54th Airdrome Squadron and activated on 1 February 1943 at Fairmont Army Air Field, near Fairmont Nebraska. It was assigned to Second Air Force. On 25 March the unit shifted to Casper AAB, Wyoming. On 16 April 1943, it was redesignated the 54th Airdrome Squadron (Special). On 9 May, it returned to Fairmont AAF. What made airdrome squadrons special was they were organized, trained and equipped for tactical employment as ground servicing units to support the combat units stateside and/or in the combat zone. Their mission was to furnish all of the necessary "housekeeping" functions such as administration, mess and security, chemical and medical services, furnishing and supplying first and secondary echelon maintenance and supply, and to organize and operate airdromes. Airdrome squadrons were organized to meet the demand for a higher degree of mobility that was desired in air warfare. It took about six weeks to move and set up a combat unit's organic maintenance and support capabilities in a new location. The operational units could not go that long without maintenance and support functions and still be ready to conduct operations. Therefore, the special airdrome squadrons filled that role temporarily, either stateside or overseas. Fairmont AAF supported the testing and advanced training of bomber aircrew members. Two of the fundamental strategic bombing skills crews received advanced training on were long distance navigation and formation flying. The 451st Bombardment Group was the first of seven bombardment groups to be assigned to the field. Of the seven, only two other groups were stationed there while the 54th was there. They were the 485th and 16th Bombardment Groups. The first two groups flew the Consolidated B-24 Liberator. The 16th Bombardment Group arrived shortly before the 54th disbanded and flew the Boeing B-29 Superfortress. On 1 April 1944, the 54th Airdrome Squadron (Special) was disbanded.

The squadron was reconstituted and redesignated as the 54th Operations Support Squadron on 1 May 1993 and activated 15 days later at the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado. While there it reported to the 54th Operations Group and supported flying operations at the base. On 31 October 1994, the unit was inactivated.

On 1 March 2014, the squadron was reactivated at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, and reports to the 54th Fighter Group. There it supports the group's mission to train the best F-16 pilots in the world.

**Lineage, Assignments, Stations, and Honors through 16 Apr 2014.**

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**Updated** 23 June 2015

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