

## 309th Fighter Squadron

### Lineage.

Constituted as 309th Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor)  
on 21 January 1942.

Activated on 30 January 1942.

Redesignated 309th Fighter Squadron on  
15 May 1942.

Redesignated 309th Fighter Squadron, Single Engine,  
on 20 August 1943.

Inactivated on 7 November 1945.

Activated on 20 August 1946.

Redesignated 309th Fighter Squadron, Jet,  
on 15 June 1948.

Redesignated 309th Fighter-Bomber Squadron on 20 January 1950.

Redesignated 309th Fighter-Escort Squadron on 16 July 1950.

Redesignated 309th Strategic Fighter Squadron on 20 January 1953.

Redesignated 309th Fighter-Bomber Squadron on 1 April 1957.

Redesignated 309th Tactical Fighter Squadron on 1 July 1958.

Redesignated 309th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron on 1 July 1982.

Redesignated 309th Tactical Fighter Squadron on 1 October 1986.

Redesignated 309th Fighter Squadron on 1 November 1991.<sup>1</sup>

Inactivated on 31 December 1993.

Activated on 1 April 1994.<sup>2</sup>

Not manned 30 May 2014.<sup>3</sup>

Remanned 2 July 2014.<sup>4</sup>



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

<sup>2</sup> AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

<sup>3</sup> Hist of the 56 FW, 1 Oct 2013 – 30 Sep 2014 (FOUO), pp. 10-11 (Info used is not FOUO).

<sup>4</sup> 56 MSG SP GS-25-14, 18 July 2014

## **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 with Arrowhead [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]  
Po Valley [1945]  
Air Combat [1941–1945]

#### **Vietnam:**

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 69/Counteroffensive [1969]  
Vietnam Summer-Fall 1969 [1969]  
Vietnam Winter-Spring 1970 [1969-1970]  
Sanctuary Counteroffensive [1970]  
Southwest Monsoon [1970]

### ***Decorations.***

#### **Distinguished Unit Citations,**

Rumania, 21 April 1944  
Poland, 25 July 1945

#### **Presidential Unit Citation**

Vietnam, 1 May-31 December 1968.

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

1 June–16 December 1966 with Combat "V" Device  
17 December 1966–30 April 1968 with Combat "V" Device

**Decorations.** (Continued)

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

4 July 1952–16 July 1952  
1 March 1962–30 November 1962  
1 July 1994–30 June 1996<sup>5</sup>  
1 July 1996–30 June 1998<sup>6</sup>  
1 July 1998–30 June 2000<sup>7</sup>  
1 July 2001–30 June 2003<sup>8</sup>  
[1 July] 2003–30 June 2005<sup>9</sup>  
1 July 2005–30 June 2006<sup>10</sup>  
1 July 2006–30 June 2007<sup>11</sup>  
1 July 2007–30 June 2008<sup>12</sup>  
1 July 2008–30 June 2009<sup>13</sup>  
1 July 2009–30 June 2010<sup>14</sup>  
1 July 2010–30 June 2011<sup>15</sup>  
1 July 2011–30 June 2012<sup>16</sup>  
1 July 2012–30 June 2013<sup>17</sup>  
1 July 2013–30 May 2014<sup>18</sup>  
1 July 2015–30 June 2016<sup>19</sup>  
1 July 2016–30 June 2017<sup>20</sup>  
1 July 2017–30 June 2018<sup>21</sup>  
1 July 2018–30 June 2019<sup>22</sup>

**Special Honors.**

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm,  
[16 December] 1966–October 1970.

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<sup>5</sup> AETC SO GA-18, 15 November 1996

<sup>6</sup> AETC SO GA-12, 9 November 1998

<sup>7</sup> AETC SO GA-9, 8 December 2000

<sup>8</sup> AETC SO GA-55, 29 April 2004

<sup>9</sup> AETC SO GA-0052, 22 June 2006

<sup>10</sup> AETC SO GA-045, 8 May 2007

<sup>11</sup> AETC SO G-054, 28 February 2008

<sup>12</sup> AETC SO G-071, 3 April 2009

<sup>13</sup> AETC SO G-025, 11 March 2010

<sup>14</sup> AETC SO G-086, 9 May 2011

<sup>15</sup> AETC SO G-171, 17 April 2012

<sup>16</sup> AETC SO G-036, 1 March 2013

<sup>17</sup> AETC SO G-017, 1 February 2014

<sup>18</sup> AETC SO G-029, 8 January 2015

<sup>19</sup> AETC SO G-022, 22 March 2017

<sup>20</sup> AETC SO G-015, 19 Dec 2017

<sup>21</sup> AETC SO G-057, 20 May 2019

<sup>22</sup> AETC SO G-013, 18 Dec 2019

**Squadron – 173.75 Total Aerial Victory Credits. 15 Squadron Aces:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Aerial Victories</u>	
	<u>In Sq</u>	<u>Lifetime Total</u>
1st Lt John M. Ainlay	8	8
Capt Samuel J. Brown	5.5	15.5
Capt George T. Buck, Jr. <sup>23</sup>	3	6
Capt Frderick J. Dorsch, Jr.	8.5	8.8
1st Lt Richard D. Faxon	5	5
1st Lt Raymond F. Harmeyer	6	6
Maj Frank A. Hill	5	7
Capt George G. Loving, Jr.	5	5
Capt Murray D. McLaughlin	7	7
Capt Carl W. Payne	5	5
Capt Dale E. Shafer <sup>24</sup>	4	7
1st Lt Robert D Thompson	5.25	5.25
Lt Col Harrison R. Thyng	5	10
Maj Victor E. Warford	8	8
Capt David C. Wilhelm	5	5

**Assignments.** 31st Pursuit (later, 31st Fighter) Group, 30 January 1942-7 November 1945. 31st Fighter (later, 31st Fighter-Bomber; 31st 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 January -9 February 1957; Unknown, 9 July-15 November 1960 and 9 October-26 November 1961; 18th Tactical Fighter Wing, 17 July -22 December 1962 and 26 September-30 December 1963; 7231st Combat Support Group, 5 August-27 November 1964 and 18 January -31 March 1966; 41st Combat Support Group, 1-24 April 1966); 4403d Tactical Fighter Wing, 9 October 1970; 31st Tactical Fighter (later, 31st Tactical Training; 31st Tactical Fighter; 31st Fighter) Wing, 30 October 1970; 31st Operations Group, 1 November 1991 (attached to 363d Operations Group, 28 August-19 November 1992); 363d Operations Group, 20 November 1992-31 December 1993. 56th Operations Group, 1 April 1994-Present (Unmanned\_30 May 2014-2 July 2014.<sup>25</sup>

**Stations.** Baer Field, Indiana, 30 January 1942; New Orleans Air Base, Louisiana, 6 February-19 May 1942; High ErCALL, England, c. 12 June 1942; Westhampnett, England, 1 August-23 October 1942; Tafaraoui, Algeria, 8 November 1942; La Senia, Algeria, 14 November 1942; Thelepte, Tunisia, 6 February 1943; Tebessa, Algeria, 17 February 1943; Youks-les-Bain,

<sup>23</sup> **NOTE:** Became an ace while in the squadron.

<sup>24</sup> **NOTE:** Became an ace while in the squadron.

<sup>25</sup> AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994; 56 MSG SP GS-25-14, 18 July 2014; Hist of the 56 FW, 1 Oct 2013 – 30 Sep 2014 (**FOUO**), pp. 10-11 (Info used is not **FOUO**).

Algeria, 22 February 1943; Kalaa Djerda, Tunisia, 26 February 1943; Thelepte, Tunisia, 11 March 1943; Djilma, Tunisia, 7 April 1943; Le Sers, Tunisia, 12 April 1943; Korba, Tunisia, 17 May 1943; Gozo, 3 July 1943; Ponte Olivo, Sicily, 13 July 1943; Agrigento, Sicily, 21 July 1943; Termini, Sicily, 5 August 1943; Milazzo, Sicily, 5 September 1943; Montecorvino, Italy, 21 September 1943; Pomigliano, Italy, 14 October 1943; Castel Volturno, Italy, c. 19 January 1944; San Severo, Italy, 4 April 1944; Mondolfo, Italy, 4 March 1945; Triolo, Italy, 15 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 and 7 November 1953-9 February 1954; Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, 5 January-9 February 1957); George Air Force Base, California, 15 March 1959 (deployed at Aviano Air Base, Italy, 9 July-15 November 1960; Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, 9 October-26 November 1961); Homestead Air Force Base, Florida, 1 June 1962-13 December 1966; (deployed at Kadena Air Base, Japan, 7 July-22 December 1962; Itazuke Air Base, Japan, 26 September-31 December 1963; Cigli Air Base, Turkey, 5 August-27vNovember 1964 and 18 January-24 April 1966); Tuy Hoa Air Base, South Vietnam, 16vDecember 1966-October 1970; England Air Force Base, Louisiana, c. 9 October 1970; Homestead Air Force Base, Florida, 30 October 1970 (operated from Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, 23 August-30 September 1992); Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, 1 October 1992-31 December 1993. Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, 1 April 1994-Present (Unmanned\_30 May 2014-2 July 2014).<sup>26</sup>

#### **Aircraft.**

Curtis P-40 Warhawk	1942
Bell P-39 Airacobra	1942
Supermarine Spitfire	1942-1943
North American P-51 Lightning	1943-1945, and 1947-1948
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	1986-1993, and 1994-.

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<sup>26</sup> AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994; 56 MSG SP GS-25-14, 18 July 2014; Hist of the 56 FW, 1 Oct 2013 – 30 Sep 2014 (**FOUO**), pp. 10-11 (Info used is not **FOUO**).

**Emblem.** Originally approved on 27 November 1944; newest rendition approved on 18 July 1995.

**Blazon.** Azure blended per. pale Celeste to sinister, Donald Duck in animated anger Proper garbed in a flight jacket and P-3 crash helmet Light Blue and Argent grasping in dexter hand a board bendwise sinister with a nail in the end Proper and in sinister hand a lightning flash bendwise above his head Or, above a demi-globe issuant from base, Celeste grid lined of the first land masses Brown and below in chief a mullet of eight Argent; in dexter the constellation, Ursa Major in mullets of four White; all within a diminished bordure of the first.

Attached below the disc a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "309th FIGHTER SQ" in Blue letters.

**Official Motto.** None.

**Significance.** Blue and 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 disc is blended dark to light blue indicating the unit's day and night defense capabilities. The single star and constellation depict the squadron's pioneering efforts in the establishment of celestial navigation as a viable and integral method of navigation for fighter units. Donald Duck in flight gear grasping a lightning bolt and board with nail, symbolizes the lineage of the unit as a fighter squadron and its defense and striking capabilities through in-flight refueling. It also implies the squadron's participation in two historic long range ocean crossings.

**Commanders.**

***309th Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) [30 January 1942-15 May 1942]***

Maj [Bio 1st Lt] Harrison R. Thyng	30 January 1942 - 15 May 1942	
		[Ace][Major General]

***309th Fighter Squadron [15 May 1942-20 August 1943]***

Maj Harrison R. Thyng	15 May 1942	[Ace][Major General]
Maj Frank A. Hill	12 May 1943	[Ace]
Maj Carl W. Payne	13 July 1943 – 20 August 1943.	[Ace]

## Commanders. (Continued)

### ***309th Fighter Squadron, Single Engine [20 August 1943-7 November 1945; 20 August 1946 – 15 June 1948]***

Maj Carl W. Payne	20 August 1943	[Ace]
Capt Robert E. McCarthy, Jr.	14 October 1943	
Maj Garth B. Jared	9 November 1943	
Maj John M. Meader	18 April 1944	
Lt Col Victor E. Warford	22 May 1944	[Ace]
Maj George T. Buck, Jr.	12 October 1944	[Ace]
Maj Simon H. Johnson, Jr.	16 February 1945	
Maj Julius D. Shivers	9 May 1945-Unknown	
Unknown,	20 August 1946-October 1947	
Lt Col Robert W. Stevens	October 1947 - 15 June 1948.	

### ***309th Fighter Squadron, Jet [15 June 1948-20 January 1950]***

Lt Col Robert W. Stevens	15 June 1948	
Maj Arthur D. Thomas	November 1948 - 20 January 1950.	

### ***309th Fighter-Bomber Squadron [20 January 1950-16 July 1950]***

Maj Arthur D. Thomas	20 January 1950	
Maj William R. Young	c. 1950.	

### ***309th Fighter-Escort Squadron [16 July 1950-20 January 1953]***

Maj William R. Young	c. 1950	
Maj Don V. Booty	April 1951	
Lt Col Charles W. Lenfest	January 1952 - 20 January 1953	[Ace][Brigadier General]

### ***309th Strategic Fighter Squadron [20 January 1953-1 April 1957]***

Lt Col Charles W. Lenfest	20 January 1953	[Ace][Brigadier General]
Lt Col Hayden C. Curry	June 1953	
Maj Adrian E. Drew	January 1955	
Capt David W. Williams	October 1955	
Maj Donald W. Maggert	April 1956 - 1 April 1957.	

### ***309th Fighter-Bomber Squadron [1 April 1957-1 July 1958]***

Maj Donald W. Maggert	1 April 1957	
Maj James E. Bean	11 October 1957	
Maj Arthur H. Johnson, Jr.	25 April 1958 - 1 July 1958.	

## Commanders. (Continued)

### ***309th Tactical Fighter Squadron [1 July 1958-1 July 1982]***

Maj Arthur H. Johnson, Jr.	1 July 1958	
Lt Col Louis R. Vogt	15 March 1959	
Maj John B. Butler	1959	
Maj Herbert L. Prevost	1960	
Lt Col Garth L. Reynolds	13 December 1961	
Maj Aubrey C. Edinburgh	1 April 1963	
Lt Col Garth L. Reynolds	9 September 1963	
Lt Col Tom L. DeGraffenried	8 June 1964-5 November 1965	
Lt Col Carlos O. Beasley	1965	
Lt Col Freddie L. Poston	c. 7 January 1966	
		[Lieutenant General]
Lt Col Daniel J. Sheehan, Jr.	1 November 1967	
Lt Col David S. Renshaw	1968	
Lt Col Lawrence W. Whitford, Jr.	6 February 1969	
Lt Col Ronald A. Berdoy	26 September 1969	
Lt Col Clarence D. Glenn	24 August-c. 15 October 1970	
Lt Col Charles W. Hetherington	30 October 1970	
Lt Col Donald V. MacKellar	10 May 1972	
Lt Col Steve Braswell	10 March 1973	
Lt Col Donald A. Elliott	24 May 1974	
Lt Col Edward S. Joiner	9 September 1975	
Lt Col Ralph E. Beekman	31 December 1977	
Lt Col Michael G. Major	26 November 1979	
Lt Col Travis E. Harrell	3 April 1981 – 30 June 1982	[Brigadier General]

### ***309th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron [1 July 1982-1 October 1986]***

Lt Col Travis E. Harrell	1 July 1982	[Brigadier General]
Lt Col Thomas R. Lanum	13 July 1982	
Lt Col William D. Ray	24 July 1984	
Lt Col David L. Haas	12 June 1986 - 1 October 1986	

### ***309th Tactical Fighter Squadron [1 October 1986-1 November 1991]***

Lt Col David L. Haas,	1 October 1986	
Lt Col Robert D. O'Dell,	7 June 1988	
Lt Col Thomas B. Poole,	29 December 1989 - 1 November 1991	



## Commanders. (Continued)

### **309th Fighter Squadron [1 November 1991–31 December 1993; 1 April 1994-.]**

Lt Col Thomas B. Poole	1 November 1991	
Lt Col Thomas A. Gilkey	July 1992-31 December 1993	
Lt Col Charles B. Oltman	1 April 1994 <sup>27</sup>	
Lt Col Randy S. Wenzel	13 July 1995 <sup>28</sup>	
Lt Col William D. McConnell	31 January 1997 <sup>29</sup>	
Lt Col Philip A. Oppenheimer	1 February 1999 <sup>30</sup>	
Lt Col Christopher P. Bisgrove	25 February 2000 <sup>31</sup>	
Lt Col Neal R. Carbaugh	1 October 2001 <sup>32</sup>	
Lt Col Roy D. McMickel	19 March 2003 <sup>33</sup>	
Lt Col Keith S. Miller	23 March 2004 <sup>34</sup>	
Lt Col Peter F. Davey	12 May 2006 <sup>35</sup>	
Lt Col Peter Bilodeau	23 May 2008 <sup>36</sup>	
Lt Col Daniel T. Lasica	21 May 2010 <sup>37</sup>	[Brigadier General]
Lt Col Stephane Wolfgeher	24 May 2012 <sup>38</sup>	
None (not manned)	30 May 2014-1 July 2014 <sup>39</sup>	
Maj (later, Lt Col) William H. McKibban	2 July 2014 <sup>40</sup>	
Maj (later, Lt Col) Kathryn K. Gaetke	24 June 2016 <sup>41</sup>	
Lt Col James D. Smith	29 June 2018 <sup>42</sup>	
Lt Col Matthew P. Eldredge	19 June 2020-Present. <sup>43</sup>	

## Narrative.

Combat in European Theater of Operations (ETO) and Mediterranean Theater of Operations (MTO), c. 17 August 1942-3 May 1945. Combat in Southeast Asia, 20 December 1966-

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<sup>27</sup> 58 MSS SO SO-GAJ-01, 25 March 1994

<sup>28</sup> 56 FW SO SO-GAJ-01, 12 July 1995

<sup>29</sup> 309 FS SO SO-GJ-02, 16 January 1997

<sup>30</sup> 309 FS SO SO-GJ-02, c. 26 January 1999

<sup>31</sup> 309 FS SO SO-GJ-01, c. 28 February 2000

<sup>32</sup> 309 FS SO SO GJ-001, 1 October 2001

<sup>33</sup> 309 FS SO 309FS GS-1, 10 March 2003

<sup>34</sup> 309 FS SO 56 OSS-6-2004-3, 17 March 2004

<sup>35</sup> 309 FS SO 56OG-G2006-05, 4 May 2006

<sup>36</sup> 309 FS SO G-018, 22 May 2008

<sup>37</sup> 56 MSG SO G-006, 19 May 2010

<sup>38</sup> 56 MSG SO G-004, 9 April 2012

<sup>39</sup> Hist of the 56 FW, 1 Oct 2013 – 30 Sep 2014 (FOUO), pp10-11 (Info used is not FOUO).

<sup>40</sup> 56 MSG SO GS-25-14, 18 July 2014

<sup>41</sup> 56 MSG SO G-15-16, 21 June 2016

<sup>42</sup> 56 MSG SO G-11-18, 31 May 2018

<sup>43</sup> 56 MSG SO G-20-016, 18 June 2020

c. 10 September 1970. Replacement training for undergraduate and navigator graduates in F-4 tactical fighter aircraft, 1970-1986; and F-16 aircraft, 1986-1993. Assigned to Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, after Hurricane Hugo devastated Homestead Air Force Base, Florida, on 24 August 1992. Conducted qualification training for USAF student pilots and proficiency training for instructor pilots, 1994-.

On 21 January 1942, the unit was constituted as the 309th 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 12 June 1942, the squadron arrived at High Ercall, England. Equipped with the Supermarine Spitfire, the squadron trained in the aircraft for two months. On 1 August 1942, the unit moved to Westhampnett, England, where it began flying combat missions in the Theater of Operations (ETO) on the 17th.

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. On 14 November 1942, the squadron operated from La Senia, Algeria. On 6 February 1943, the squadron moved to Thelepte, Tunisia. On 17 February 1943, the unit moved to Tebessa, Algeria. Five days later, it moved to Youks-les-Bain, 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. Four days later, the squadron moved to Korba, Tunisia. In preparation for the invasion of Sicily, on 3 July 1943, the squadron moved to an island off of Malta by the name of Gozo. The invasion began on 9 July 1943. Four days after that, the squadron moved to Ponte Olivo, Sicily, and then Agrigento, Sicily, eight days after that. On 5 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 309th Fighter Squadron, Single Engine. On 5 September 1943, two days after the Allies invaded Italy, the squadron moved to Milazzo, Sicily. Sixteen 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, around 14 January 1944. On 4 April 1944, the unit move to San Severo, Italy, and on 4 March 1945 to Mondolfo, Italy. On 15 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 inactivated on 7 November 1945. During World War II, the 309th created 15 aces and was credited with 173.75 aerial victories. For its efforts, the squadron garnered 2 Distinguished Unit Citations and 15 campaign streamers.

The 309th Fighter Squadron, Single Engine, 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 309th Fighter Squadron, Jet. On 20 January 1950, the squadron was redesignated as the 309th Fighter-Bomber Squadron and then the 309th 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 309th Strategic Fighter Squadron. Between 7 November 1953 and 9 February 1954, the squadron deployed at Misawa Air Base, Japan. Between 5 January and 9 February 1957, the 309th 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 309th Fighter-Bomber Squadron on 1 April 1957. On 1 July 1958, the squadron was redesignated as the 309th Tactical Fighter Squadron. On 15 March 1959, the squadron moved to George Air Force Base, California. From 9 July-15 November 1960, the squadron deployed at Aviano Air Base, Italy, and attached to an unknown organization.

Between 9 October and 26 November 1961, the unit deployed at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, and was attached to an unknown organization. On 1 October 1962, the squadron moved to Homestead, Air Force Base, Florida. Between 7 July and 22 December 1962, the unit was deployed at Kadena Air Base, Japan, and attached to 18th Tactical Fighter Wing. Between 26 September and 31 December 1963, the squadron deployed at Itazuke Air Base, Japan, was attached to the 18th Tactical Fighter Wing. Between 5 August and 27 November 1964, the unit deployed to Cigli Air Base, Turkey, and was attached to 7231st Combat Support Group. Between 18 January and 24 April 1966, the 309th deployed again to Cigli Air Base, and was attached to 7231st until 1 April 1966 when it was attached to the 41st Combat Support Group.

On 13 December 1966, it left Homestead, and three days later arrived at Tuy Hoa Air Base, South Vietnam. In October 1970, the squadron left Tuy Hoa Air Base, and around 9 October 1970 arrived at England Air Force Base, Louisiana, and was assigned to the 4403d Fighter Wing. In Southeast Asia, the squadron flew combat missions. During the war in Southeast Asia, the 309th earned a Presidential Unit Citation, 10 campaign streamers, and a Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm. 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. In 1970, the squadron became a replacement training unit for undergraduate and navigator graduates in F-4 tactical fighter aircraft. On 1 July 1982, the squadron was redesignated as the 309th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron.

During 1986, the squadron converted to the Lockheed F-16 Fighting Falcon and retained its training mission. On 1 October 1986, the unit was redesignated as the 309th Tactical Fighter Squadron. On 1 November 1991, the squadron was redesignated as the 309th Fighter Squadron and reassigned to the 31st Operations Group. On 24 August 1992, Hurricane Andrew devastated Homestead Air Force Base, Florida. On 23 August 1992, the squadron began operating from Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, and was attached to the 363d Operations Group. On 1 October 1992, the move to Shaw Air Force Base was made permanent. On 20 November

1992, the unit was assigned to 363d Operations Group. On 31 December 1993, the squadron inactivated.

On 1 April 1994, the squadron reactivated at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, and was assigned to the 56th Operations Group. During this time, the 309th conducted qualification training for USAF student pilots and transition training for pilots in F-16 aircraft. On 30 May 2014, the squadron was unmanned and re-manned on 2 July 2014. Since re-manning, the squadron conducted qualification training for USAF and Partner Nation student pilots and transition training for pilots in F-35A aircraft.

**Locally Updated on** 21 Sept 2020

**Locally Updated by** Rick Griset