63d Fighter Squadron

Lineage.
Constituted as 63d Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) on 20 November 1940.
Activated on 15 January 1941.
Redesignated 63d Fighter Squadron (Twin Engine) on 15 May 1942.
Redesignated 63d Fighter Squadron on 1 June 1942.
Redesignated 63d Fighter Squadron, Single Engine, on 28 February 1944.
Inactivated on 18 October 1945.
Activated on 1 May 1946.
Redesignated 63d Fighter Squadron, Jet Propelled, on 24 April 1947.
Redesignated 63d Fighter Squadron, Jet, on 14 June 1948.
Redesignated 63d Fighter-Interceptor Squadron on 20 January 1950.
Inactivated on 8 January 1958.

Redesignated 63d Tactical Fighter Squadron on 12 May 1975.
Activated on 30 June 1975.
Redesignated 63d Tactical Fighter Training Squadron on 1 October 1981.
Redesignated 63d Fighter Squadron on 1 November 1991.
Inactivated on 30 September 2009.

Activated on 1 August 2016.

Honors.
Service Streamers.
World War II American Theater

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1 TAC SO G-12, 1 November 1991
2 AETC SO G-09-45, 24 September 2009
3 AETC SO G-16-18, 28 June 2016
Honors. (Continued)

Campaign Streamers.

World War II European-African-Middle Eastern Theater
   Air Combat [1941-1945]
   Air Offensive Europe [1942-1944]
   Normandy [1944]
   Northern France [1944]
   Rhineland [1944-1945]
   Ardennes-Alsace [1944-1945]
   Central Europe [1945]

Decorations.

Distinguished Unit Citations
   European Theater of Operations, 20 February-9 March 1944
   Holland, 18 September 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
   1 January 1977-1 January 1979
   1 July 1980-31 May 1982
   1 June 1984-31 May 1986
   1 May 1987-30 April 1989
   1 May 1989-30 April 1990
   1 May 1990-30 April 1991
   25 Feb 1993-31 March 1994
   1 July 1994-30 June 1996
   1 July 1996-30 June 1998

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4 WD GO 85/1945
5 WD GO 102/1945
6 WD GO 103/1945
7 WD GO 118/1945
8 WD GO 114/1945 & WD GO 24/1947
9 WD GO 116/1945
10 WD GO 34/1944
11 WD GO 34/1944
12 DAF SO GB-719, 30 November 1979
13 DAF SO GB-117, 22 February 1983
14 DAF SO GB-275/1987
15 TAC SO GA-053, 29 August 1989
16 TAC SO GA-048, 16 August 1990
17 TAC SO GA-069, 26 September 1991
18 AETC SO GA-78, 28 Feb 1995
19 AETC SO GA-18, 15 November 1996
20 AETC SO GA-12, 9 November 1998
Decorations. (Continued)

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (Continued)

1 July 1998-30 June 2000\(^{21}\)
1 July 2001-30 June 2003\(^{22}\)
[1 July] 2003-30 June 2005\(^{23}\)
1 July 2005-30 June 2006\(^{24}\)
1 July 2006-30 June 2007\(^{25}\)
1 July 2007-30 June 2008\(^{26}\)
1 July 2015-30 June 2016\(^{27}\)
1 July 2016-30 June 2017\(^{28}\)
1 July 2017-30 June 2018\(^{29}\)
1 July 2018-30 June 2019\(^{30}\)

Squadron – 174.25 Total Aerial Victory Credits. 10 Squadron Aces:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>In Sq</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maj Harold E. Comstock</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maj Paul A. Conger</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Lt Joseph L. Egan, Jr</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Lt George F. Hall</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt Cameron M. Hart</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt Gerald W. Johnson</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maj Walker M. Mahurin</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>24.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Lt Glen D. Schiltz, Jr</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Lt John H. Truluck, Jr</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt John W. Vogt, Jr</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{21}\) AETC SO GA-9, 8 December 2000
\(^{22}\) AETC SO GA-55, 29 April 2004
\(^{23}\) AETC SO GA-0052, 22 June 2006
\(^{24}\) AETC SO GA-045, 8 May 2007
\(^{25}\) AETC SO G-054, 28 February 2008
\(^{26}\) AETC SO G-071, 3 April 2009
\(^{27}\) AETC SO G-022, 22 March 2017
\(^{28}\) AETC SO G-015, 19 Dec 2017
\(^{29}\) AETC SO G-057, 20 May 2019
\(^{30}\) AETC SO G-013, 18 Dec 2019

\(^{31}\) SOURCE: AF Historical Research Agency's Aerial Victory Credit database
Assignments. 56th Pursuit (later, 56th Fighter) Group, 15 Jan 1941-18 October 1945. 56th Fighter (later, 56th Fighter-Interceptor) Group, 1 May 1946; 4708th Defense Wing, 6 February 1952; 4706th Defense Wing, 1 July 1952; 527th Air Defense Group, 16 Feb 1953; 56th Fighter Group, 18 August 1955-8 Jan 1958. 56th Tactical Fighter (later, 56th Tactical Training; 56th Fighter) Wing, 30 June 1975; 56th Operations Group, 1 November 1991; 58th Operations Group, 25 February 1993\(^{32}\); 56th Operations Group, 1 April 1994-30 September 2009.\(^{33}\)


Aircraft.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aircraft</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seversky P-35</td>
<td>1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtis P-36 Hawk</td>
<td>1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell P-39 Airacobra</td>
<td>1941-1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtis P-40 Warhawk</td>
<td>1941-1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic P-47 Thunderbolt</td>
<td>1942, 1943-1945, and 1946-1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North American P-51 Mustang</td>
<td>1946-1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lockheed P (later, F)-80 Shooting Star</td>
<td>1947-1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northrop F-89 Scorpion</td>
<td>1955-1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lockheed F-16 Fighting Falcon</td>
<td>1981-2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lockheed Martin F-35A Lightning</td>
<td>2017-.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Emblem. Originally approved on 26 Jan 1956; newest rendition approved on 2 March 1995. Awaiting Redraw by TIOH.

Blazon. Gules, on a triangle Azure three lightning flashes issuant from dexter Argent surmounted by a panther stalking inverted to dexter base Sable garnished and winged at its forepaws White, enfilting an orbit ring charged with a flight symbol of the first; all with in a diminished bordure of the second.

\(^{32}\) ACC MO-1, 23 February 1993
\(^{33}\) AETC SO G-40, 20 April 1994; AETC SO G-09-45, 24 September 2009
\(^{34}\) ACC MO-1, 23 February 1993; AETC SO G-09-45, 24 September 2009
**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 triangle reflects the three phases of combat – seek, destroy and return. The lightning bolts suggest the ordnance of the aircraft the squadron flies. The panther symbolizes the squadron personnel as swift, cunning, and efficient in performing their mission. The orbit ring stands for the worldwide mobility capabilities of the unit. The flight symbol indicates that the technology will advance fighter aircraft faster and higher in the future.

**Commanders.**

**63d Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) [15 January 1941-31 January 1942]**
- Unknown
- 15 January 1941-Unknown;

**63d Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) (Twin Engine) [31 January 1942-15 May 1942]**
- Unknown
- 31 January 1941-Unknown;

**63d Fighter Squadron (Twin Engine) [15 May 1942-1 June 1942]**
- Unknown
- 15 May 1941
- Maj Philip E. Tukey, Jr.
- by June 1942;

**63d Fighter Squadron [1 June 1942-28 February 1944]**
- Maj Philip E. Tukey, Jr.
- 1 June 1942;
- Maj Sylvestor V. Burke
- 30 September 1943;
- Maj Gerald W. Johnson
- 22 Feb 1944-28 February 1944
  - [Ace][Lieutenant General]

**63d Fighter Squadron, Single Engine [28 February 1944-18 October 1945; 1 May 1946- 24 April 1947]**
- Maj Gerald W. Johnson
- 28 Feb 1944
- [Ace][Lieutenant General]
- Maj Robert A. Lamb
- 28 March 1944
  - [Ace]
- Maj Don M. Goodfleisch
- 29 May 1944
- Capt Joseph L. Egan, Jr.
- 17 July 1944
  - [Ace]
- Unknown
- 20-21 July 1944
- Maj Harold E. Comstock
- 22 July 1944
  - [Ace]
- Maj Paul A. Conger
- 20 Jan 1945
  - [Ace]
- Maj George E. Bostwick
- 19 March 1945-Unknown
  - [Ace]
- Unknown
- 1-16 May 1946
- Maj George W. Orr
- 17 May 1946-24 April 1947
Commanders. (Continued)

63d Fighter Squadron, Jet Propelled [24 April 1947-14 June 1948]
   Maj George W. Orr    24 April 1947
   Lt Col John S. Loisel

63d Fighter Squadron, Jet [14 June 1948-20 January 1950]
   Unknown     14 June 1948
   Maj William L. Jacobsen by December 1948
   Maj Charles J. Bowers c. 15 September 1949
   Maj William B. Hawkins, Jr. by December 1949

63d Fighter-Interceptor Squadron [20 January 1950-8 January 1958]
   Maj William B. Hawkins, Jr. 20 January 1950
   Lt Col Charles W. King by June 1950 [Ace]
   Maj William F. Shaeffer c. 1951 [Ace]
   Capt Morris B. Pitts by April 1952
   Lt Col William F. Shaeffer c. April 1952-Unknown [Ace]
   Lt Col J. T. Jarman by April 1957-Unknown
   none (not manned) 1 November 1957-8 Jan 1958

63d Tactical Fighter Squadron [30 June 1975-1 October 1981]
   Lt Col Lawrence R. Brehm 30 June 1975
   Lt Col Jerome D. Siderius 10 April 1976
   Lt Col Lester P. Brown, Jr. 25 June 1977 [Major General]
   Lt Col Robert W. Lambert 4 May 1979
   Lt Col Gary G. Nelson 1 May 1981-1 October 1981

63d Tactical Fighter Training Squadron [1 October 1981-1 November 1991]
   Lt Col Robert W. Highley 6 May 1983
   Lt Col Edward A. Hopler June 1984
   Lt Col Bruce R. Lamping May 1986
   Lt Col Billy J. Hall, Jr. June 1988
   Lt Col William T. Edwards 5 July 1990-1 November 1991
Commanders. (Continued)

63d Fighter Squadron [1 November 1991-24 September 2009.]

Lt Col William T. Edwards 1 November 1991
Lt Col Ronald E. Fly 17 July 1992
Lt Col William H. Christian Jr. 12 March 1993
Lt Col Gary D. Brunner 1 July 1994
Lt Col Thomas J. Schrader 17 May 1996
Lt Col Philip M. Ruhlman 12 June 1997
Lt Col Robert R. Topp 15 June 1999
Lt Col Michael J. Stuart 26 Jan 2001
Lt Col Thomas J. Schrader 4 June 2002
Lt Col Scott L. Pleus 25 June 2004 [Major General]
Lt Col Jeffrey C. Lovelace 25 May 2006
Lt Col Jack W. Maixner 12 May 2008-30 September 2009

Lt Col Matthew J. Vedder 1 August 2016
Lt Col Curtis W. Dougherty 21 June 2018
Lt Col Jason B. Curtis 4 June 2020-Present

Narrative.
Constituted as 63d Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) on 20 November 1940, the unit activated on 15 January 1941 at Savannah Air Base, Georgia. Assigned to the 56th Pursuit (later, 56th Fighter) Group, the squadron trained with the Seversky P-35 and the Curtis P-36 Hawk in Georgia and after 26 May at Charlotte Army Air Base, North Carolina. Later that year and into 1942, the squadron flew the Bell P-39 Airacobra and Curtis P-40 Warhawk on Air Defense and operational training unit missions. In October and November 1941, the squadron deployed to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. About 10 December 1941, the unit moved to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. On 15 January 1942, the squadron moved again to Farmingdale, New York. On the last day of the month, it was redesignated as the 63d Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) (Twin Engine). On 15 May

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35 63 FS SO SO-GC-01, 8 March 1993
36 63 FS SO SO-GC-2, 30 June 1994
37 63 FS SO SO GC 02, 20 May 1996
38 63 FS SO SOGC-01, 9 June 1997
39 63 FS SO SOGC-08, 10 June 1999
40 63 FS SO SOGC-02, 5 January 2001
41 63 FS SO SOGC-01, 30 May 2002
42 63 FS SO 56-OSS-G-2004-07, 3 June 2004
43 63 FS SO 56 OG-G2006-08, 28 April 2006
44 63 FS SO G-017, 8 May 2008; AETC SO G-09-45, 24 September 2009
45 56 MSG SO G-22-16, 1 August 2016; AETC SO G-16-18, 28 June 2016
46 56 MSG SO G-23-18, 27 June 2018
47 56 MSG SO G-20-009, 5 June 2020
1942, it was redesignated again as the 63d Fighter Squadron (Twin Engine). On 1 June 1942, it was redesignated as the 63d Fighter Squadron. That month the squadron converted to the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt. On 2 September 1942, the squadron moved to Bridgeport Muni Airport, Connecticut. On 27 December 1942, the unit left the field for the war in Europe. On 12 January 1943, it arrived at Wittering, England. On 5 April 1943, it moved to Horsham St Faith, England. The squadron flew its first combat mission in European Theater of Operations (ETO) just over a week later. On 9 July 1943, the unit moved to Halesworth, England. On 28 February 1944, it was redesignated as the 63d Fighter Squadron, Single Engine. On 19 April 1944, the squadron moved to Boxted, England. On 21 April 1945, it flew its last combat mission. Around 15 September 1945, the squadron moved to Little Walden, England, in preparation to return to the United States. The unit left on 11 October 1945 and arrived five days later at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, where it inactivated on 18 October 1945. During the war, the squadron created 10 aces and was credited with 174.25 aerial victories.

On 1 May 1946, the squadron reactivated at Selfridge Field (later, Air Force Base), Michigan. Assigned again to the 56th Fighter (later, 56th Fighter-Interceptor) Group it flew it’s old friend, the Thunderbolt. The squadron converted to the North American P-51 Mustang that year. In 1947, the squadron converted to the Lockheed P (later, F)-80 Shooting Star, and on 24 April 1947, was redesignated as the 63d Fighter Squadron, Jet Propelled. On 14 June 1948, it was redesignated as the 63d Fighter Squadron, Jet. The squadron was redesignated the 63d Fighter-Interceptor Squadron on 20 January 1950. During 1950, it transitioned to the North American F-86 Sabre. Around 5 January 1951, the squadron moved to Oscoda (later, Wurtsmith) Air Force Base, Michigan. On 6 February 1952, the 63d was assigned to the 4708th Defense Wing. On 1 July 1952, the squadron was assigned to the 4706th Defense Wing. On 16 February 1953, it was assigned to the 527th Air Defense Group. In 1955, the unit converted to the Northrop F-89 Scorpion and then added the F-86 back into the mix. On 18 August 1955, the squadron was reassigned to the 56th Fighter Group and moved to O'Hare International Airport, Illinois. The 63d was inactivated on 8 Jan 1958. During this period, it’s mission was Air Defense.

On 12 May 1975, the squadron was redesignated as the 63d Tactical Fighter Squadron. On 30 June 1975, the squadron activated at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, joined the 56th Tactical Fighter (later, 56th Tactical Training; 56th Fighter) Wing, and began flying the McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II. In 1981, the squadron converted to the Lockheed F-16 Fighting Falcon. On 1 January 1981, the squadron was redesignated as the 63d Tactical Fighter Training Squadron. On 1 November 1991, the unit was redesignated as the 63d Fighter Squadron and reassigned to the 56th Operations Group. During this period the squadron’s mission was that of an F-4, and later F-16, replacement training unit with a combat-ready commitment.

On 25 February 1993, the 63d moved to Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, and was assigned to the 58th Operations Group to fly F-16s. On 1 April 1994, the squadron was reassigned to the 56th Operations Group. During this time, the 63d conducted qualification training for USAF student pilots and transition training for pilots in F-16 aircraft. The squadron inactivated on 30 September 2009.
On 1 August 2016, the 63d Fighter Squadron reactivated at Luke Air Force Base assigned to the 56th Operations Group. Its mission is to conduct qualification training for USAF and Partner Nation student pilots and transition training for pilots in F-35A aircraft.

**Locally Updated on** 21 September 2020
**Locally Updated by** Rick Griset