

550th Fighter Squadron

Lineage.

Constituted 550th Night Fighter Squadron on
3 May 1944.

Activated on 1 June 1944.

Inactivated on 4 January 1946.

Redesignated 550th Tactical Fighter Training
Squadron and activated on 18 January 1970.¹

Redesignated 550th Fighter Squadron on
1 November 1991.²

Inactivated 14 November 1991.³

Activated 25 March 1994.⁴

Inactivated on 31 March 1995.⁵

Activated 3 April 2017.⁶



Honors.

Campaign Streamers.

World War II Asiatic-Pacific Theater

New Guinea [1943-1944]

Leyte [1944-1945]

Decorations.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 January 1971-31 December 1972⁷

23 June 1976-31 December 1976⁸

1 January 1978-31 December 1979⁹

1 August 1982-31 May 1984¹⁰

1 October 1989-30 September 1991¹¹

25 March 1994-31 March 1994¹²

¹ TAC SO G-2, 15 January 1970

² TAC SO G-12, 1 November 1991

³ TAC SO GB-18, 14 November 1991

⁴ AETC SO G-29, 14 March 1994

⁵ AETC SO G-23, 15 February 1995

⁶ AETC SO G-17-8, 2 March 2017; Amend AETC SO G-17-9, 3 March 2017

⁷ DAF SO GB-818/1973

⁸ DAF SO GB-118, 1 March 1978

⁹ DAF SO GB-022, 19 January 1981

¹⁰ DAF SO GB-415/1985

¹¹ TAC SO GA-012, 4 December 1991

¹² AETC SO G-78/1995

Special Honors.

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII).

Assignments. Fourth Air Force, 1 June 1944 (attached to 319th Wing, 1 June-2 November 1944); Thirteenth Air Force, 2 December 1944; XIII Fighter Command, 12 December 1944-4 December 1945 (attached to XIII Bomber Command, 14 February 1945; 85th Fighter Wing, 7 April-June 1945). 58th Tactical Training Wing, 18 January 1970¹³; 405th Tactical Training Wing, 29 August 1979¹⁴; 58th Operations Group, 1 October 1991¹⁵-14 November 1991.¹⁶ 58th Operations Group, 25 March 1994-1 April 1994; 56th Operations Group, 1 April 1994-31 March 1995. 56th Operations Group, 3 April 2017-.¹⁷

Stations. Hammer Field, California, 1 June 1944; Visalia Army Air Field, California, 25 August-2 November 1944; Hollandia, New Guinea, 14 December 1944 (detachment operated from Middelburg Island, 31 December 1944-14 February 1945); Morotai, 14 February 1945 (detachment operated from Tacloban, Leyte, 8 March-April 1945); Tacloban, Leyte, 7 April-4 December 1945 (detachments operated from Zamboanga, Mindanao, 27 April-17 June 1945; Sanga Sanga, Sulu, 28 May-August 1945; and Puerto Princesa, Palawan, 9 June 1945-19 June 1945); Camp Stoneman, California, 3 January 1946-4 January 1946. Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, 18 January 1970-14 November 1991.¹⁸ Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, 25 March 1994¹⁹-31 March 1995. Kingsley Field Air National Guard Base, Oregon, 3 April 2017-.²⁰

Aircraft.

Vultee BT-13 Valiant	1944
Beechcraft AT-10 Wichita	1944
Northrop YP-61 Black Widow	1944
Northrop P-61 Black Widow	1944-1945
Douglas P-70 Nighthawk	1944-1945
Lockheed P-38 Lightning	1945
North American F-100 Super Sabre	1970-1971
McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II	1971-1974;
McDonnell Douglas F-15 Eagle	1974-1989; 2017-
McDonnell Douglas F-15E Strike Eagle	1989-1991, 1994-1995.

Emblem. Originally approved on 10 Apr 1978; newest rendition approved on 26 June 2017.

¹³ TAC SO G-2, 15 January 1970

¹⁴ TAC SO GA-95, 20 August 1979

¹⁵ TAC SO GB-3, 1 October 1991

¹⁶ TAC SO GB-18, 14 November 1991

¹⁷ AETC SO G-17-8, 2 March 2017; Amend AETC SO G-17-9, 3 March 2017

¹⁸ TAC SO G-2, 15 January 1970; TAC SO GB-18, 14 November 1991

¹⁹ AETC SO G-29, 14 March 1994

²⁰ AETC SO G-17-8, 2 March 2017; Amend AETC SO G-17-9, 3 March 2017

Blazon. On a disc Azure, a stylized eagle displayed throughout, with talons extended forward, Proper; all within a narrow border Yellow.

Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed “550TH FIGHTER SQ” in Yellow 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 gold brown American bald eagle, poised in flight with claws extended forward, is a powerful and majestic symbol of freedom. It embodies great strength and lethality of air operations.

Commanders.

550th Night Fighter Squadron [1 June 1944-4 January 1946]

Maj Robert A. Tyler 2 June 1944-04 January 1946

550th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron [18 January 1970-1 November 1991;

Lt Col Michael G. Filliman	18 January 1970-30 June 1970
Unit unmanned	1 June 1970-30 June 1971
Lt Col Elvis E. Crooks	1 July 1971
Lt Col Robert D. Rossmeisl	15 January 1973
Lt Col James W. DuBois	15 July 1974 ²¹
Lt Col John S. Walker	15 December 1975
Lt Col Clyde R. Robbins	27 August 1976
Lt Col Michael T. Dowell	26 May 1977 ²²
Lt Col Daniel J. Sherlock	27 September 1977 ²³ [Brigadier General]
Lt Col John A. Madden	3 August 1979 ²⁴
Lt Col John C. Marshall	8 May 1981 ²⁵
Lt Col Michael J. Langston	3 September 1982 ²⁶
Lt Col Thomas C. Waskow	25 June 1984 ²⁷ [Lieutenant General]
Lt Col Hollis K. Fox	26 June 1986 ²⁸
Lt Col David J. Perron	1 April 1988 ²⁹
Lt Col Terry W. Branson	9 March 1990 -1 Nov 1991. ³⁰

²¹ 58 CSG 162327Z JUL 74 MSG

²² 58 CSG SO G-26, 27 May 1977

²³ 58 CSG SO G-39, 8 November 1977

²⁴ 550 TFTS SO G-24, 3 August 1979

²⁵ 58 CSG SO G-19, 8 May 1981

²⁶ 832 CSG SO G-55, 3 September 1982

²⁷ 832 CSG SO G-017, 25 June 1984

²⁸ 832 CSG SO G-37, 20 June 1986

²⁹ 832 CSG SO G-27, 31 March 1988

³⁰ 832 MSS SO G-15, 6 March 1990

Commanders. (Continued)

550th Fighter Squadron [1 November 1991-14 November 1991; 25 March 1994-31 March 1995; 3 April 2017-Present]

Lt Col Terry W. Branson	1 Nov 1991 -14 Nov 1991. ³¹
Lt Col John H. Tweedy	25 March 1994 ³²
Lt Col Thomas K. Mascot	5 August 1994-31 March 1995 ³³
Lt Col Brad E. Orgeron	3 April 2017-Present ³⁴

Narrative.

The 550th Night Fighter Squadron was constituted on 3 May 1944. On 1 June 1944, it activated at Hammer Field, California, and assigned to Fourth Air Force, but attached to the 319th Wing as of that date. As part of its training, squadron pilots flew the Vultee BT-13 Valiant, Beechcraft AT-10 Wichita, and Northrop YP-61 Black Widow. On 25 August 1944, the .squadron was sent to Visalia Army Air Field, California, which was a sub-installation of Hammer Field. At that point in their training and throughout much of the war, squadron aircrews flew Northrop P-61 Black Widow and the Douglas P-70 Nighthawk. On 2 December 1944, the unit was ready to go to the Pacific Theater and was reassigned to Thirteenth Air Force. On 12 December 1944, the 550th Night Fighter Squadron was assigned to the XIII Fighter Command. Two days later it arrived at Hollandia, New Guinea. Between 31 December 1944 and 14 February 1945, the unit had a detachment operating from Middelburg Island. On 14 February 1945, the 550th Night Fighter Squadron moved to Morotai Island and was attached to XIII Bomber Command. On 8 March 1945, the unit began operating a detachment from Tacloban, Leyte. On 7 April 1945, the rest of the squadron moved to Tacloban and attached to the 85th Fighter Wing. Between 27 April and 17 June 1945, the unit had a detachment flying out of Zamboanga, Mindanao. Between 28 May and August 1945, another detachment flew out of Sanga Sanga, Sulu. Between 9 and 19 June 1945, a third detachment flew out of Puerto Princesa, Palawan. The end of combat for the unit in June mirrored the end of the unit's attachment to the 85th Fighter Wing. At some point in 1945, the 550th Night Fighter Squadron flew the night fighter version of the Lockheed P-38 Lightning. On 4 December 1945, the 550th Night Fighter Squadron departed Tacloban, Leyte. On 3 January 1946, the unit arrived at Camp Stoneman, California, and inactivated the next day. The 550th earned a Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, and two campaign ribbons for its actions in the Pacific Theater.

On 18 January 1970, the unit was redesignated the 550th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, assigned to the 58th Tactical Training Wing, and activated at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, to flying the North American F-100 Super Sabre. The next year, it transitioned to the McDonnell

³¹ TAC SO GB-18, 14 November 1991

³² 555 FS SO SO-G-52, 6 April 1992

³³ 550 FS SO SO-GI-03, 12 August 1994; AETC SO G-23, 15 February 1995

³⁴ SO G-14-16, 56 MSG, 21 Jun 2016; AETC SO G-17-8, 2 March 2017; Amend AETC SO G-17-9, 3 March 2017

Douglas F-4 Phantom II. In 1974, the 550th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron transitioned to the McDonnell Douglas F-15 Eagle. On 29 August 1979, the unit was reassigned to the 405th Tactical Training Wing. In 1989, the unit transitioned to the McDonnell Douglas F-15E Strike Eagle. On 1 October 1991, the 550th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron was reassigned to the 58th Operations Group. On 1 November 1991, the unit was redesignated 550th Fighter Squadron. Thirteen days later, the 550th Fighter Squadron inactivated. During that period, the unit's mission was to train aircrew to fly its aircraft.

On 25 March 1994, the 550th Fighter Squadron reactivated at Luke Air Force Base, assigned to the 58th Operations Group and continued its mission to train aircrews to fly the F-15E Strike Eagle. On 1 April 1994, the 550th Fighter Squadron was reassigned to the 56th Operations Group. On 31 March 1995, the 550th Fighter Squadron inactivated. While at Luke, it received six Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards.

On 3 April 2017, the 550th Fighter Squadron reactivated at Kingsley Field Air National Guard Base, Oregon. Assigned to the 56th Operations Group, the unit conducted pilot training flying the F-15 Eagle as part of the Chief of Staff of the USAF's Total Force Initiative.

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Prepared by Rick Griset