308th Fighter Squadron

Lineage.
Constituted as 308th Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) on 21 January 1942.
Activated on 30 January 1942.
Redesignated 308th Fighter Squadron on 25 May 1942.
Redesignated 308th Fighter Squadron, Single Engine, on 20 August 1943.
Inactivated on 7 November 1945.

Activated on 20 August 1946.
Redesignated 308th Fighter Squadron, Jet, on 15 June 1948.
Redesignated 308th Fighter-Bomber Squadron on 20 January 1950.
Redesignated 308th Fighter-Escort Squadron on 16 July 1950.
Redesignated 308th Strategic Fighter Squadron on 20 January 1953.
Redesignated 308th Fighter-Bomber Squadron on 1 April 1957.
Redesignated 308th Tactical Fighter Squadron on 1 July 1958.
Redesignated 308th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron on 9 October 1980.
Redesignated 308th Tactical Fighter Squadron on 1 October 1986.
Redesignated 308th Fighter Squadron on 1 November 1991.¹
Inactivated on 25 June 2015.²

Activated 2 July 2018.³

¹ TAC SO G-12, 1 November 1991
² AETC SO G-15-9, 18 June 2015
³ AETC SO G-18-10, 30 April 2018
Honors

Campaign Streamers.

World War II European-African-Middle Eastern Theater:
- Air Offensive, Europe [1942–1944]
- Algeria-French Morroco 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]
- 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]
- 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
Honors. (Continued)

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 19964
1 July 1996-30 June 19985
1 July 1998-30 June 20006
1 July 2001-30 June 20037
1 June [July] 2003-30 June 20058
1 July 2005-30 June 20069
1 July 2006-30 June 200710
1 July 2007-30 June 200811
1 July 2008-30 June 200912
1 July 2009-30 June 201013
1 July 2010-30 June 201114
1 July 2011-30 June 201215
1 July 2012-30 June 201316
1 July 2013-30 June 201417
1 July 2014-[25] June 201518
1 July 2018-30 June 201919

4  AETC SO GA-18/1996
5  AETC SO GA-12/1998
6  AETC SO GA-9/2000
7  AETC SO GA-55/2004
8  AETC SO GA-0052/2006
9  AETC SO GA-045/2007
10  AETC SO G-054/2008
11  AETC SO G-071/2009
12  AETC SO G-025/2010
13  AETC SO G-086/2011
14  AETC SO G-171/17 April 2012
15  AETC SO G-036, 1 March 2013
16  AETC SO G-017, 1 February 2014
17  AETC SO G-029, 8 January 2015
18  AETC SO G-006, 14 October 2016
19  AETC SO G-013, 18 Dec 2019
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:

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


20 NOTE: Became an ace while in the squadron.
21 NOTE: Became an ace while in the squadron.
22 AETC MO MO-2, 25 March 1994
23 AETC SO G-15-9, 18 June 2015
24 AETC SO G-18-10, 30 April 2018

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25 AETC MO-2, 25 March 1994
26 AETC SO G-15-9, 18 June 2015
27 AETC SO G-18-10, 30 April 2018
Aircraft.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aircraft</th>
<th>Year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curtis P-40 Warhawk</td>
<td>1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell P-39 Airacobra</td>
<td>1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supermarine Spitfire</td>
<td>1942–1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North American P-51 Mustang</td>
<td>1943–1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lockheed P (later, F)-80 Shooting Star</td>
<td>1946–1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North American P-51 Mustang</td>
<td>1947–1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic F-84 Thunderjet</td>
<td>1948–1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North American F-100 Super Sabre</td>
<td>1957–1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lockheed F-16 Fighting Falcon</td>
<td>1986–2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lockheed F-35A Lightning II</td>
<td>2018-.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Emblem. Originally approved on 10 January 1962; newest redraw approved on 10 October 2018.

Blazon. On a disc checky Argent and Vert, on an arrowhead point downwards, throughout, Argent (Silver Gray), fimbriated Sable, issuant from sinister a dexter cubit arm vambraced fesswise of the first, grasping a sword palewise of the first, point downwards, hilt of the second, and piercing a cloud issuing from base of the first; all within a narrow border Black.

Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed “EMERALD KNIGHTS” in Black letters.

Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed “308TH FIGHTER SQ” in Black letters.

Official Motto. Emerald Knights

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 checkered background 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.
Commanders.

**308th Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) [30 January 1942 - 25 May 1942]**

Maj Fred M. Dean 30 January 1942-25 May 1942 [Lieutenant General]

**308th Fighter Squadron [25 May 1942-20 August 1943]**

Maj Fred M. Dean 25 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
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
Commanders. (Continued)

308th Fighter Squadron [1 November 1991-25 June 2015]
[2 July 2018-]

Lt Col Phillip B. Straley  1 November 1991
Lt Col Frederick D. Van Valkenburg, Jr.  10 July 1992 [Brigadier General]
Lt Col Ricardo M. Caressus  25 June 1993
Lt Col Kevin W. Smith  1 April 199428
Lt Col William C. Coutts  17 March 199529
Lt Col Lawrence L. Wells  11 July 199630 [Major General]
Lt Col Timothy P. Orwell  11 July 199731
Lt Col James M. Smothermon  1 December 199732
Lt Col Michael C. Barton  13 December 199933
Lt Col Samuel C. Johnston  19 January 200134
Lt Col John M. Sieverling  29 January 200235
Lt Col David E. Ellis  9 July 200336
Lt Col Kenneth E. Lacy  24 June 200537
Lt Col Jeffrey C. Schroeder  16 May 200738
Lt Col Jeffrey R. Jenssen  14 May 200939
Lt Col Christopher Colcord  2 June 201140
Lt Col Christopher A. Bacon  11 July 2013-25 June 201541

Unmanned  2 July 201842
Lt Col Robert D. Miller  30 November 2018-43

28 [311 FS SO SO=GF-001, 25 March 1994]
29 308 FS SO SO-GF-005, 15 March 1995
30 308 FS SO SO-GF-002, 13 June 1996
31 308 FS SO SO-G-003, 9 July 1997
32 308 FS SO SO GL-002, c. 2 December 1997
33 308 FS SO SO GF-002, 9 December 1999
34 308 FS SO SO GL-001, 9 January 2001
35 56 FW SO GL-1, 28 January 2002
36 56 FW SO SO 308FS-GL-03-4, 9 July 2003
37 56 FW SO SO 560G-G-2005-12, 24 June 2005
38 308 FS SO SO G-2007-005, c. 21 May 2007
39 308 FS SO SO G-035, 12 June 2009
40 308 FS SO SO G-012, 2 June 2011
42 AETC SO G-18-10, 30 April 2018
43 56 MSG SO G-19-002, 6 November 2018
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, and 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 the Curtis P-40 Warhawk and the Bell P-39 Airacobra. On 19 May 1942, the unit left for Europe without aircraft. Six days later, the unit was redesignated as the 308th Fighter Squadron. 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. Three days later, it was redesignated as the 308th Fighter Squadron, Single Engine. Five days after the name change, the squadron moved to Westhampnett, England, where it continued to fly combat missions in the European Theater of Operations (ETO).

On 23 October 1942, the squadron departed for the Mediterranean Theater of Operations (MTO). The unit arrived at Tafaraoui, Algeria, 8 November 1942, during 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 moved to Tebessa, Algeria. Four days later, it moved to Canrobert, Algeria and four days after that to Kalaa Djerda, Tunisia. On 11 March 1943, the squadron 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 later, 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 of Sicily ended on 17 August 1943. 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 Mustang, which it flew for the rest of the war. In preparation for the Allied amphibious landings at Anzio, Italy, the squadron moved to Castel Volturino, Italy, on 14 January 1944. On 2 April 1944, the unit moved to San Severo, Italy, and on 3 March 1945 to Mondolfo, Italy. On 14 July 1945, the squadron moved to Triolo, Italy. With the war in Europe over, the squadron departed for the United States on 5 August 1945. It arrived at Drew Field, Florida, in August 1945, and inactivated on 7 November 1945. During World War II, the 308th garnered 15 campaign streamers.

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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 returned to the United States moving to Langley Field, Virginia, and again flew the North American P-51 Mustang. 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 officially assigned to the 31st Fighter-Escort (later, 31st Strategic Fighter; 31st Fighter-Bomber; 31st Tactical Fighter) Wing. Four days later, the squadron deployed to 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 to 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, 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 deployed at Moron Air Base, Spain, attached to an unknown organization. Between 7 March and around 19 July 1961, the squadron deployed at Aviano Air Base, Italy, 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 to Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, and was attached to 18th Tactical Fighter Wing. The next day, the squadron deployed to 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 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing.

Around 5 December 1965, it 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 4403rd 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 432nd 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. 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. Around 11 September 1992, the squadron operated 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 the 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. On 2 July 2018, the 308th Fighter Squadron reactivated, but remained unmanned until 30 November 2018, when it re-manned. The 308th Fighter Squadron conducted qualification training for USAF and Partner Nation student pilots and proficiency training for instructor pilots and rated pilots qualified in F-35A aircraft.

**Locally Updated on** 20 February 2020

**Locally Updated by** Rick Griset