

## 63d Fighter Squadron

### Lineage.

Constituted as 63d Pursuit Squadron  
(Interceptor) on  
20 November 1940.

Activated on 15 January 1941.

Redesignated: 63d Pursuit Squadron  
(Interceptor) (Twin Engine) on  
31 January 1942.

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 Jan 1950.

Inactivated on 8 Jan 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.<sup>1</sup>

Inactivated on 30 September 2009.<sup>2</sup>



### Honors.

#### *Service Streamers.*

**World War II American Theater**

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

<sup>2</sup> AETC SO G-09-45, 24 September 2009

***Campaign Streamers.***

**World War II European-African-Middle Eastern Theater**

Air Offensive Europe [1942-1944]  
Normandy [1944]  
Northern France [1944]  
Rhineland [1944-1945]  
Ardennes-Alsace [1944-1945]  
Central Europe [1945]  
Air Combat [1941-1945]

**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<sup>3</sup>  
1 July 1980-31 May 1982<sup>4</sup>  
1 June 1984-31 May 1986<sup>5</sup>  
1 May 1987-30 April 1989<sup>6</sup>  
1 May 1989-30 April 1990<sup>7</sup>  
1 May 1990-30 April 1991<sup>8</sup>  
25 Feb 1993-31 March 1994<sup>9</sup>  
1 July 1994-30 June 1996<sup>10</sup>  
1 July 1996-30 June 1998<sup>11</sup>  
1 July 1998-30 June 2000<sup>12</sup>  
1 July 2001-30 June 2003<sup>13</sup>  
1 June [July] 2003-30 June 2005<sup>14</sup>  
1 July 2005-30 June 2006<sup>15</sup>  
1 July 2006-30 June 2007<sup>16</sup>  
1 July 2007-30 June 2008<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> DAF SO GB-719, 30 November 1979

<sup>4</sup> DAF SO GB-117, 22 February 1983

<sup>5</sup> DAF SO GB-275/1987

<sup>6</sup> TAC SO GA-053, 29 August 1989

<sup>7</sup> TAC SO GA-048, 16 August 1990

<sup>8</sup> TAC SO GA-069/1991

<sup>9</sup> AETC SO GA-78, 28 Feb 1995

<sup>10</sup> AETC SO GA-18/1996

<sup>11</sup> AETC SO GA-12/1998

<sup>12</sup> AETC SO GA-9/2000

<sup>13</sup> AETC SO GA-55/2004

<sup>14</sup> AETC SO GA-0052/2006

<sup>15</sup> AETC SO GA-045/2007

<sup>16</sup> AETC SO G-054/2008

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Aerial Victories</u> <sup>18</sup>	
	<u>In Sq</u>	<u>Total</u>
Maj Harold E. Comstock	5	5
Maj Paul A. Conger	5	11.5
1st Lt Joseph L. Egan, Jr.	5	5
1st Lt George F. Hall	6	6
Capt Cameron M. Hart	6	6
Capt Gerald W. Johnson	7	16.5
Maj Walker M. Mahurin	19.5	24.25
1st Lt Glen D. Schiltz, Jr.	8	8
1st Lt John H. Truluck, Jr.	7	7
Capt John W. Vogt, Jr.	5	8

**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 Feb 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 Feb 1993<sup>19</sup>; 56th Operations Group, 1 April 1994<sup>20</sup>-30 September 2009.<sup>21</sup>

**Stations.** Savannah Air Base, Georgia, 15 Jan 1941; Charlotte Army Air Base, North Carolina, 26 May 1941 (deployed at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, October-November 1941); Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, c. 10 December 1941; Farmingdale, New York, 15 Jan 1942; Bridgeport Muni Airport, Connecticut, 2 September-27 December 1942; Wittering, England, 12 Jan 1943; Horsham St Faith, England, 5 April 1943; Halesworth, England, 9 July 1943; Boxted, England, 19 April 1944; Little Walden, England, c. 15 September-11 October 1945; Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, 16-18 October 1945. Selfridge Field (later, Air Force Base), Michigan, 1 May 1946; Oscoda (later, Wurtsmith) Air Force Base, Michigan, c. 5 January 1951; O'Hare International Airport, Illinois, 18 August 1955-8 Jan 1958. MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, 30 June 1975; Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, 25 Feb 1993-<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> AETC SO G-071/2009

<sup>18</sup> SOURCE: AF Historical Research Agency's Aerial Victory Credit database

<sup>19</sup> ACC MO-1, 23 February 1993

<sup>20</sup> AETC SO G-40, 20 April 1994

<sup>21</sup> AETC SO G-09-45, 24 September 2009

<sup>22</sup> ACC MO-1, 23 February 1993

**Aircraft.**

Seversky P-35, 1941  
Curtis P-36 Hawk, 1941  
Bell P-39 Airacobra, 1941-1942  
Curtis P-40 Warhawk, 1941-1942  
Republic P-47 Thunderbolt, 1942, 1943-1945, and 1946-1947  
North American P-51 Mustang, 1946-1947  
Lockheed P (later, F)-80 Shooting Star, 1947-1950  
North American F-86 Sabre, 1950-1954, 1955-1957  
Northrop F-89 Scorpion, 1955-1958  
McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II, 1975-1981  
Lockheed F-16 Fighting Falcon, 1981-2009

**Emblem.** Originally approved on 26 Jan 1956; newest rendition approved on 2 March 1995.

**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, enfiling an orbit ring charged with a flight symbol of the first; all with in a diminished bordure of the second.

**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;

**Commanders. (Continued)**

***63d Fighter Squadron [1 June 1942-28 February 1944]***

Maj Philip E. Tukey, Jr.	1 June 1942;	
Maj Sylvester 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	

***63d Fighter Squadron, Jet Propelled [24 April 1947-14 June 1948]***

Maj George W. Orr	24 April 1947	
Lt Col John S. Loisel	May 1947-Unknown	

***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	

**Commanders. (Continued)**

***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	

***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 <sup>23</sup>	
Lt Col Gary D. Brunner	1 July 1994 <sup>24</sup>	
Lt Col Thomas J. Schrader	17 May 1996 <sup>25</sup>	
Lt Col Philip M. Rhulman	12 June 1997 <sup>26</sup>	
Lt Col Robert R. Topp	15 June 1999 <sup>27</sup>	
Lt Col Michael J. Stuart	26 Jan 2001 <sup>28</sup>	
Lt Col Todd P. Harmer	4 June 2002 <sup>29</sup>	
Lt Col Scott L. Pleus	25 June 2004 <sup>30</sup>	[Brigadier General]
Lt Col Jeffrey C. Lovelace	25 May 2006 <sup>31</sup>	
Lt Col Jack W. Maixner	12 May 2008-30 September 2009. <sup>32</sup>	

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<sup>23</sup> 63 FS SO SO-GC-01, 8 March 1993

<sup>24</sup> 63 FS SO SO-GC-2, 30 June 1994

<sup>25</sup> 63 FS SO SO GC 02, 20 May 1996

<sup>26</sup> 63 FS SO SOGC-01, 9 June 1997

<sup>27</sup> 63 FS SO SOGC-08, 10 June 1999

<sup>28</sup> 63 FS SO SOGC-02, 5 January 2001

<sup>29</sup> 63 FS SO SOGC-01, 30 May 2002

<sup>30</sup> 63 FS SO 56-OSS-G-2004-07, 3 June 2004

<sup>31</sup> 63 FS SO 56 OG-G2006-08, 28 April 2006

<sup>32</sup> 63 FS SO G-017, 8 May 2008; AETC SO G-09-45, 24 September 2009

### **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 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 United States 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 its old friend, the Thunderbolt. The squadron converted to the North American P-51 Mustang that year. The next year, 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, its 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.

**Lineage, Assignments, Stations, and Honors through 7 May 2009.**

**Commanders, Aircraft, and Operations through 30 September 2008.**

**Prepared by** Patsy Robertson.

**Reviewed by** Daniel Haulman.

**Prepared** 30 June 2015

**Prepared by** Rick Griset