

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 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 1991.¹

Inactivated on 30 September 2009.²

Activated on 1 August 2016.³

Honors.

Service Streamers.

World War II American Theater



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]⁴

Normandy [1944]⁵

Northern France [1944]⁶

Rhineland [1944-1945]⁷

Ardennes-Alsace [1944-1945]⁸

Central Europe [1945]⁹

Decorations.

Distinguished Unit Citations

European Theater of Operations, 20 February-9 March 1944¹⁰

Holland, 18 September 1944¹¹

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 January 1977-1 January 1979¹²

1 July 1980-31 May 1982¹³

1 June 1984-31 May 1986¹⁴

1 May 1987-30 April 1989¹⁵

1 May 1989-30 April 1990¹⁶

1 May 1990-30 April 1991¹⁷

25 Feb 1993-31 March 1994¹⁸

1 July 1994-30 June 1996¹⁹

1 July 1996-30 June 1998²⁰

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 2000²¹
1 July 2001-30 June 2003²²
[1 July] 2003-30 June 2005²³
1 July 2005-30 June 2006²⁴
1 July 2006-30 June 2007²⁵
1 July 2007-30 June 2008²⁶
1 July 2015-30 June 2016²⁷
1 July 2016-30 June 2017²⁸
1 July 2017-30 June 2018²⁹
1 July 2018-30 June 2019³⁰
1 July 2019-30 June 2020³¹
1 July 2020-30 June 2021³²

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Aerial Victories</u> ³³	
	<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

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 AETC SO G-013, 16 Dec 2020

³² AETC SO G-009, 15 Nov 2021

³³ 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 1993³⁴; 56th Operations Group, 1 April 1994-30 September 2009.³⁵

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 January 1958. MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, 30 June 1975; Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, 25 February 1993-30 September 2009.³⁶

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
Lockheed Martin F-35A Lightning	2017-.

Emblem. Originally approved on 26 January 1956; replaced emblem approved on 22 June 1943. 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, enfiling an orbit ring charged with a flight symbol of the first; all with in a diminished bordure of the second.

³⁴ ACC MO-1, 23 February 1993

³⁵ AETC SO G-40, 20 April 1994; AETC SO G-09-45, 24 September 2009

³⁶ 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;
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63d Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) (Twin Engine) [31 January 1942-15 May 1942]

Unknown	31 January 1941-Unknown;
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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 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	

Commanders. (Continued)

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 ³⁷	
Lt Col Gary D. Brunner	1 July 1994 ³⁸	
Lt Col Thomas J. Schrader	17 May 1996 ³⁹	
Lt Col Philip M. Rhulman	12 June 1997 ⁴⁰	
Lt Col Robert R. Topp	15 June 1999 ⁴¹	
Lt Col Michael J. Stuart	26 Jan 2001 ⁴²	
Lt Col Todd P. Harmer	4 June 2002 ⁴³	
Lt Col Scott L. Pleus	25 June 2004 ⁴⁴	[Lieutenant General]
Lt Col Jeffrey C. Lovelace	25 May 2006 ⁴⁵	
Lt Col Jack W. Maixner	12 May 2008-30 September 2009. ⁴⁶	
Lt Col Matthew J. Vedder	1 August 2016 ⁴⁷	
Lt Col Curtis W. Dougherty	21 June 2018 ⁴⁸	
Lt Col Jason B. Curtis	4 June 2020-Present. ⁴⁹	

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

³⁷ 63 FS SO SO-GC-01, 8 March 1993

³⁸ 63 FS SO SO-GC-2, 30 June 1994

³⁹ 63 FS SO SO GC 02, 20 May 1996

⁴⁰ 63 FS SO SOGC-01, 9 June 1997

⁴¹ 63 FS SO SOGC-08, 10 June 1999

⁴² 63 FS SO SOGC-02, 5 January 2001

⁴³ 63 FS SO SOGC-01, 30 May 2002

⁴⁴ 63 FS SO 56-OSS-G-2004-07, 3 June 2004

⁴⁵ 63 FS SO 56 OG-G2006-08, 28 April 2006

⁴⁶ 63 FS SO G-017, 8 May 2008; AETC SO G-09-45, 24 September 2009

⁴⁷ 56 MSG SO G-22-16, 1 August 2016; AETC SO G-16-18, 28 June 2016

⁴⁸ 56 MSG SO G-23-18, 27 June 2018

⁴⁹ 56 MSG SO G-20-009, 5 June 2020

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 its 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 25 February 2022

Locally Updated by Rick Grisct