

33d Fighter Wing
Eglin AFB, Florida
Heritage Pamphlet
1943 – 2025



33d Fighter Wing History Office
Prepared by Mr. Travis Workman
Current as of 27 August 2025

The crest of the 33D Fighter Wing is a shield-shaped emblem. It features a central vertical sword with a flame at its tip, set against a background of blue and gold wavy lines representing clouds. The shield is bordered by a gold line. Below the shield is a scroll containing the text "33D FIGHTER WING".

Blazon

Azure, on a pale and wavy or, a sword point to chief of the field flammant gules and argent, all within a diminished bordure of the second.

Significance

Blue and gold are the colors of the Air Corps. The nebular partition line is the heraldic representation for clouds. The flaming sword symbolizes the righting of a wrong and retribution to the enemy, which is the purpose of the 33d Fighter Wing.

Motto

FIRE FROM THE CLOUDS

Table of Contents

33d Fighter Wing (FW) Emblem, Blazon, Motto, and Significance	2
Current Commander.....	3
History of the 33 FW	6
Aerial victories of 33 FW	18
Chronology of Nomad Commanders.....	23
Wing Chronology	25

33d Fighter Wing Commander



Col. DAVID M. SKALICKY

Colonel David M. Skalicky is the Commander, 33rd Fighter Wing, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. Previously, he served as the Chief, Force Application Division, Joint Staff, J8, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. In this position, he led twenty Joint Staff professionals to identify, assess, and prioritize programmed, projected, and potential Joint Force warfighting capability needs.

Colonel Skalicky entered the Air Force as a graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Minnesota, while earning a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering & Mechanics. He also holds a master's degree in international relations from Webster University and a master's degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College.

Colonel Skalicky attended Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training at Sheppard AFB, Texas, and has served in a variety of positions at the squadron, group, and wing level, including the Commander of Air Combat Command's F-22 Demonstration Team, Chief of Wing Safety, Commander of the 90th Fighter Squadron and Commander of the 354th Operations Group. He has deployed multiple times to the INDOPACOM and CENTCOM AORs and served as an Operations Inspector for the Air Combat Command Inspector General.

Colonel Skalicky is a combat-experienced Command Pilot with 2,800 hours in the F-35A, F-22A, F-15C/D, T-38, and T-37.

EDUCATION

1999 Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering & Mechanics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.

2002 Basic Officer School, Tyndall AFB, Fla.

2005 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2008 Air Command and Staff College (Correspondence), Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2012 Masters of Political Science in International Relations, Webster University, Mo.
2012 US Army Command & Staff College, Ft Leavenworth, Kan.
2014 Air War College (Correspondence), Maxwell AFB, Ala.
2019 Masters of National Security Strategy, National War College, Washington D.C.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Superior Service Medal
Legion of Merit
Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters
Air Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal
Air Force Achievement Medal
Joint Meritorious Unit Award
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with six oak leaf clusters
Combat Readiness Medal
National Defense Service Medal
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

(Current as of July 2024)

33d Fighter Wing History



33d Fighter Group patch WWII

The 33d Pursuit Group (Interceptor) activated on 15 January 1941 at Mitchel Field, Long Island, New York. Initially assigned to the 8th Pursuit Group, U.S. Army Air Corps, the group was the first of its kind formed under the Army's new "*Parent and Satellite Plan*", the 8th Pursuit was the parent and the 33d its satellite, meaning the 8th Pursuit was responsible for the training of the 33d's airmen and getting them operationally ready. Initially containing three flying squadrons, the 58th Fighter Squadron (FS), 59 FS, and 60 FS along with a headquarters unit and a support squadron, referred initially as the "J" squadron. The airmen of the 33d began training in the P-39 *Airacobra* and converted to the P-40 *Warhawk* after completion of their initial training. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, the group provided air defense along the mid-Atlantic coast from Connecticut to Virginia, as well as a brief period along the west coast from Seattle to San Francisco. The 33d conducted numerous mobilizations and/or temporary duty assignments between January 1941 and the fall of 1942. Mobilizations which proved invaluable in the years which followed. The group roamed, becoming "nomads" of Northern Africa, Europe, Asia, and beyond.



58th, 59th, and 60th Fighter Squadrons

On 12 October 1942, redesignated a Fighter Group (FG), the 33d deployed to combat, departing Philadelphia enroute the Mediterranean Theater of Operations (MTO) to take part in the war in North Africa and beyond. The 33d, under the command Colonel William Moymer, entered combat on 10 November 1942. The fighter group's three fighter squadrons, seventy-seven P-40s in total, catapulted off the deck of the aircraft carrier *USS Chenango* joining the assault force and subsequent occupation of Port Lyautey, French Morocco. After the successful completion of the attack, the 33d established its headquarters at Casablanca, Morocco. Days later the fighter squadrons were bolstered with additional pilots and aircraft from the group's support squadron, the "J", dubbed the "Joker" squadron, launching from the British Carrier *HMS Archer*.



33d Fighter Group, USS Chenango 1942

While in Morocco, the 33d provided close air support for ground forces, flew bombing and strafing missions against personnel concentrations, port installations, fuel dumps, bridges, highways, and rail lines throughout the North African campaign area. The Nomads received a Distinguished Unit Citation for their defense of the Thelepte airdrome in Tunisia on 15 January 1943 when nine German JU-88 *Stukas* began bombing the airfield. Nomad pilots patrolling the area began attacking the formation essentially driving off the bomber escorts. On the ground, Nomad pilots took off amidst the bombardment and engaged the enemy bombers. Outnumbered two to one, the pilots of the 33d shot down eight JU-88 bomber aircraft, with the remainder of enemy aircraft taken out by anti-aircraft guns from the troops below.

Throughout the North African campaign Nomads flew armed reconnaissance and escort missions over a triangular area of Tunisia, from Kasserine to Gabes to Sousse. Pilots attacked troop concentrations, port installations, fuel dumps, bridges, traffic on roads, and railways. The actions of the 33d proved crucial to the allied gain of time to consolidate ground forces ahead of its advance and subsequent invasion of Sicily and Italy. During the invasion of Sicily and Italy, the 33d moved forward to Tunisia's Cape Bon Peninsula. Nomads provided air support for the advancing armies of General Patton and Field Marshall Montgomery. During this timeframe the Tuskegee airmen of the 99th Fighter Squadron were attached to the 33d. The Tuskegee airmen flew their first combat missions of the war alongside that of the 33d on 2 June 1943.

Through the remainder of the war, after the invasion of Sicily, the 33d participated in numerous campaigns and missions that included Naples-Foggia, Anzio, Rome-Arno, India-Burma, China, and Central Burma. In the timeframe between November 1942 and October 1945, the 33d carried out their mission from thirty-two different locations spanning eight different countries as well as from two aircraft carriers. The group roamed, conducting numerous relocations, earning them the nickname "Nomads." Alas, December 1945, the group's roaming temporarily came to end upon its inactivation at Camp Shanks, New York at the close of the war.

During WWII, the Nomads flew with several famous units. Units which included, the Tuskegee Airmen, the Free French Forces of the Lafayette Escadrille, as well as the “Flying Tigers” of 14th Air Force. Ultimately, during WWII, nomads accounted for 114.5 aerial victories, with three pilots attaining “Ace” status: Colonel Momyer, Maj. Levi Chase, and Maj. John Bradley. Ultimately, the 33d Fighter Group was awarded five Bronze Battle Stars for its participation in the Algerian-French Morocco, Tunisian, Sicilian, Naples-Foggia, and Rome-Arno campaigns. Nomad pilots earned a total of 1002 Air Medals, 96 Distinguished Flying Crosses, one Distinguished Service Cross, 10 Silver Stars, one Distinguished Flying Cross (British), one Chevalier de Legion d’Honneur (French), one L’Order D’Armes Aerienne (French), two Cite de Corps d’Armee (French), and one Croix de Guerre (French).



Maj. Levi Chase in the cockpit of his P40. He shot down two aircraft with the 58 FS and eight as the 60 FS Commander

Post WWII

In August 1946, eight months after the 33d’s inactivation, the Nomads were reactivated and deployed to Neubiburg Army Air Base, Germany, near Munich, participating in the post-war occupation of Germany. In July 1947 the group’s manning was reduced to zero strength and relocated to Bad Kissingen, Germany and by August the group had been administratively transferred from Germany without manning to Andrews Army Airfield, Maryland. Within a matter of months, the group was once again transferred from Maryland to Roswell Field (Walker AFB), New Mexico where it would be re-manned. Assigned to the 8th Air Force (AF), within Strategic Air Command (SAC), the nomads were given wing status in the newly formed United States Air Force (USAF) on 15 October 1947. Stationed at Roswell, the wing executed routine training events, flew practice escort and intercept missions, and took part in aerial reviews; doing so until they were relocated once again to Otis AFB, Massachusetts in November 1948.

Assigned to 1st Air Force and redesignated the 33d Fighter Interceptor Wing, in January 1950, the wing provided Eastern Air Defense for the United States until February 1952 when it was de-activated once again with its squadrons being absorbed by other active wings. Historically, when a unit had become dispersed/ deactivated, it

was rarely reconstituted; however, in 1955 Air Defense Command (ADC) leaders became concerned with the diminishing morale in its formations and intent on increasing the morale or the “esprit de corps” of its peacetime outfits. Therefore, the USAF resurrected some of the older, more colorful units, such as the historic nomads. On June 1955 the nomads reactivated as the 33d Fighter Group assigned to the 4707th Air Defense Wing of the Eastern Air Defense Force (Air Defense Command) at Otis AFB. Of the three original squadrons, only the 58th and 60th were reconstituted. In September 1956, the group was redesignated the 33d Fighter Wing; however, in August 1957 it was deactivated yet again and the wing’s personnel were absorbed by various units throughout the Boston Air Defense Sector.

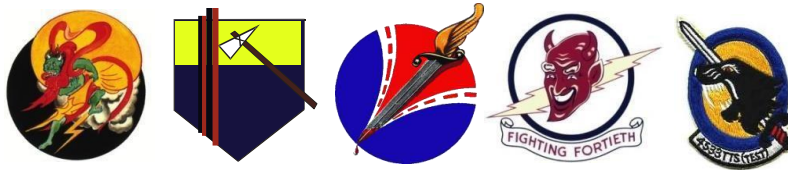


58th, 59th, and 60th Fighter Interceptor Squadrons

Eight years later, April 1965, the nomads returned to service once again reactivated as the 33d Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW), making its home at Eglin AFB, Florida. Assigned to the Ninth Air Force, Tactical Air Command (TAC). The 33 TFW consisted of the 786th, 787th, 788th, and 789th Tactical Fighter Squadrons (TFS), the 33d Organizational Maintenance Squadron (OMS), the 33d Armament and Electronic Maintenance Squadron (AEMS), the 33d Munitions Maintenance Squadron (MMS), and the 33d Field Maintenance Squadron (FMS). The wing’s mission transformed from one solely based on Air Defense to inclusion of attack and destruction of enemy forces through nuclear or conventional means while maintaining the capability of short notice worldwide deployment.

Months after activation, in June 1965, the wing’s Tactical Fighter Squadrons, the 786th, 787th, 788th, and 789th were inactivated and replaced by that of the 4th, 16th, 25th, and 40th TFSs. The latter four squadrons would be the principal elements of the nomads over the next few years. Additionally, in 1967, the wing added the 4533d Tactical Training Squadron (Test). A squadron organized similarly to a typical fighter

squadron but responsible for testing of aircraft and munitions. The test squadron operated under the 33 TFW until April 1971, when it was reassigned out of the 33d.



4th, 16th, 25th, and 40th Tactical Fighter Squadrons & 4533d Tactical Training Squadron (Test)

Vietnam War Era

Shortly after reactivation, the 33 TFW began participating in various exercises designed to help ready its worldwide readiness and capability. The wing executed several stateside deployments, with its first overseas deployment since WWII occurring in August 1966 with elements of the 16 TFS deploying to Bodo Air Station, Norway to conduct joint operations with the Norwegian Air Force. In May 1967, the wing's 40 TFS, deployed to Ubon, Thailand making it the first of its squadrons deployed in support of combat operations since WWII. The wing retained the squadron designators; however, once the squadron's crews were on station in Thailand, the deployed 40 TFS members came under the command of the 8 TFW which renamed/reassigned them to the 555th Tactical Fighter Squadron. At Eglin the 33d re-formed a new 40th Tactical Fighter Squadron but its members it trained and deployed became that of the 8 TFW. Ultimately, the 33 TFW, besides contributing to the war effort participated in numerous deployments throughout the timeframe in places which included the Panama Canal Zone, Turkey, Puerto Rico, Republic of Korea, and Southeast Asia.

The nomads of the 33 TFW trained and deployed combat ready squadrons to Southeast Asia throughout the Vietnam War; however, most of the deployed squadrons were redesignated and assigned to other wings upon arrival in theater. The wing equipped, trained, and deployed a total of eight combat ready squadrons in support of the Vietnam War. In September 1970, the 33 TFW regained the 58th and 59th Tactical Fighter Squadrons (TFS) replacing the 16 TFS and 40 TFS. One year later in 1971 the USAF reactivated the 60 TFS completing the historic reconstitution of the wing with its original fighter squadrons from 1941.

Shortly after reactivating, in April 1972, the 58 TFS deployed to Thailand in support of Operation CONSTANT GUARD II, at the latter part of the war. On 2 June, the 58 TFS became the first unit temporarily deployed with Tactical Air Command (TAC) to down a MiG when Maj. Philip W. Handley and WSO, Lt. John J. Smallwood, downed a MiG-19. Major Handley shot down the MiG with his 20-millimeter M-61 cannon after all four of their missiles malfunctioned. Ultimately, during this one rotation, the 58 TFS flew over 1900 sorties, most of which were strike missions, earning the squadron the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device.



Airmen from the 58 TFS onboard a C-5A Galaxy bound for Udorn Royal Thai AFB in April 1972. The 33 TFW sent 18 F-4Es and 514 personnel in support of Operation CONSTANT GUARD II.



MiG-19 killers from left to right; Lt Smallwood, weapons systems officer, Sgt Steve Alsup, crew chief, and Maj Handley, pilot, pose by their F-4E.

Post-Vietnam

In the years following the Vietnam War, the 33 TFW continued participation in numerous training exercises and maintained their combat readiness. The wing's squadrons deployed to places that included Panama, Germany, and Hawaii, and to participated in exercises such as William Tell, Red Flag, and Blue Flag. On 26 August 1972 the wing deployed two F-4 aircraft and six crews to Republic of South Korea in support of Operation PAUL BUNYAN. The 58 TFS provided air support for NATO's response to the killing of two American soldiers by North Korean infantrymen on the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea. An incident that promulgated U.S. forces being placed at Defense Condition (DEFCON) 3.

By the late 70's, the nomads had become one of the nation's top air superiority wings and in 1979 it was equipped with the nation's frontline fighter, the F-15. The first test of the wing's air superiority with the new fighter occurred in October 1983 during Operation URGENT FURY. America's response to the seizing control of the island of Grenada off the coast of Venezuela. During the short conflict, Nomads flew combat air patrols and air intercept missions. Six years later, in December 1989, the Nomads were called upon once again to provide air superiority in the skies over Panama during Operation JUST CAUSE. While 33 TFW pilots did not engage the enemy during either of the operations or conflict, Nomad presence provided invaluable support towards mission success.

Desert Storm

In August 1990 the Nomads were once again called upon to demonstrate air superiority in the skies over northwestern Saudi Arabia, supporting Operation DESERT SHIELD, the buildup of coalition forces prior to Operation DESERT STORM. Operating out of King Faisal AB, Saudi Arabia, on 17 January 1991, the opening day of Operation DESERT STORM, the Nomads were tasked to clear the skies around Baghdad of enemy aircraft to facilitate the opening of an "air corridor" for a second allied strike force. At 0310 in the morning that first day, the 33 FW's Capt. Jon K. "J.B." Kelk scored the first aerial kill of the war shooting down a MiG-29 with an AIM-7 missile. Shortly thereafter, Capt. Robert E. "Cheese" Graeter downed two Iraqi Mirage F-1s for the second and third kills of the war. Later the same day, Nomads continued to dominate the skies over Iraq when Captains Rhory R. "Hozer" Draeger and Charles J. "Sly" Magill, USMC, intercepted and destroyed two MiG-29s west of Baghdad.



33 FW F-15Cs over Kuwait in 1991, and deployment patch.

Nomad pilots scored the most combat kills of any allied unit during Operation DESERT STORM. A total of sixteen Iraqi aircraft were shot down by the Nomads, with the last of the wing's kills being credited to the wing commander, Col. Rick Parsons. After Desert Storm the 33 FW remained deployed to Saudi to conduct Combat Air Patrol (CAP) and High Value Airborne Asset (HVAA) protection missions over the area in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.

Post Desert Storm

In June 1992, the 33d Fighter Wing re-organized and activated the 33d Operations Group (OG), 33d Logistics Group (LG), 33d Logistics Support Squadron (LSS), and the 728th Air Control Squadron (ACS). Operations in Southwest Asia remained constant. The 33 FW's deployments in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH became a routine rotation for the Nomads.



33 OG, 33LG, 33 LSS, 728 ACS

While supporting SOUTHERN WATCH, on the night of 25 June 1996, terrorists detonated a car bomb outside Khobar Towers. A complex which housed 33 FW personnel. A total of nineteen airmen lost their lives, twelve of which were from the 33 FW. The fallen airmen represented a cross-section of the wing, being crew chiefs, expeditors, weapons loaders, mechanics, production superintendents, program managers, and technicians. Upon their return to Eglin, wing personnel received Commendation and Achievement medals for bravery and 105 Purple Hearts for wounds suffered from the bombing. Three Nomads received special recognition. As the only medic in the area of the explosion, Capt. Robert "Mo" Treadway, Jr., performed life saving duties, supervised the evacuation of the building, and evaluated over 400 wounded airmen. His actions earned him recognition as Air Combat Commands (ACC's) Flight Surgeon of the Year. TSgt George Burgess and SrA Roger Wilson received the Airman's Medal for their heroic actions in assisting others out of the building.



Terrorists detonated a fuel truck outside the northern fence of the Khobar Towers complex near King Abdul Aziz Air Base, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Nineteen airmen were killed in the attack, 12 from the 33 FW. (Photo taken by a member of the 33 FW).



Nomad Memorial with its sword flame, stands as a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice made by 33d Fighter Wing airmen (on Eglin AFB)

In the timeframe between 1991 until the end of the decade in 1999, the wing supported a myriad of Operations that included: SOUTHERN WATCH, NORTHERN WATCH, RESTORE HOPE, SUPPORT SOVEREIGNTY, SUPPORT JUSTICE III & IV, CORONET MACAW, STEADY STATE, DENY FLIGHT, DESERT CALM and ALLIED FORCE. The wing's personnel continued the tradition began by the Fighter Group in WWII, a tradition of wandering from one place to the next whenever called upon.

War on Terror

On September 11, 2001, terrorist once again put the nation at war and the nomads answered the call to duty. Operations ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF), the war against the Taliban and Al Qaeda in Afghanistan, and Operation NOBLE EAGLE (ONE), homeland defense, commenced following the terrorist attacks on U.S. soil. The 33 FW deployed in support of OEF; however, no complete units were tasked, only sections of units. Operation NOBLE EAGLE required Nomads to deploy for direct and indirect support. Nomad pilots flew combat air patrols over major U.S. cities, vital structures, and special events, including space shuttle launches and major sporting events. The 728 ACS provided aerial surveillance for the southeastern U.S. and President George W. Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas.



President George W. Bush with members of the 728 ACS during their deployment to Fort Hood, Texas. The Demons provided aerial surveillance for the area surrounding the President's ranch in Crawford, Texas.

In August 2002, the 33 FW underwent a major organizational change once again, in response to the Air Force's transition to combat wing organizational structures. The wing gained the 33d Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (AMXS) which consisted of maintenance personnel from the wing's fighter squadrons. Additionally, the 33d Logistics Group became the 33d Maintenance Group and the 33d Logistics Support Squadron, redesignated as the 33d Maintenance Operations Squadron.

The 33 FW deployed to Southwest Asia in March 2003 supporting the invasion of Iraq by coalition forces in what would be known as Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF). Attached to the 485th Air Expeditionary Wing, beginning on 19 March, 58 FS pilots flew combat air patrols over Iraq once again. Meeting no resistance from the enemy, after seven weeks with the initial air campaign of the invasion complete, the 33 FW returned to Eglin on 24 April. Support of OIF, by the 33 FW, continued with that of 728 ACS afterwards. It was during one of the ACS's deployments the wing another of its members. While on convoy to Baghdad on 13 May 2003, Staff Sergeant Patrick L. Griffin, Jr., stepped on an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) during a routine stop near Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq, killing him instantly.

The 33 FW continued providing air control support until the 728 ACS was removed from the wing in May 2008 ahead of the wing's transition from providing combat support to that of training. In 2008 the 33 FW began the process of changing its decade's long mission of providing air superiority via the F-15 to that of being the Air Force's primary training center for the most technological advanced aircraft in the world, the Joint Strike Fighter, the F-35. After flying the F-15 for more than three decades, the 33 FW divested its aircraft and transitioned from Air Combat Command (ACC) to that of Air Education and Training Command (AETC) in October 2009. The Wing reactivated under AETC with the 33d Operations Group, 58th Fighter Squadron, Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501 (VMFAT-501), Strike Fighter Squadron 101 (Navy/VFA-101), 33d Operations Support Squadron (OSS), and 33d Aircraft Maintenance (AMXS) assigned.

During the transition period, while the wing awaited delivery of the new F-35 fighter, the wing utilized four F-16 aircraft on loan from Luke AFB to maintain pilot and maintenance proficiency. After two years of waiting and prepping the wing's transition to the new airframe, on 14 July 2011, Lt Col. Eric Smith, of the 58 FS, the first AETC pilot certified in the F-35A, delivered the 33 FW's first fifth generation fighter.



33 OSS, 58 FS, 33 AMXS, 33 MXS, VMFAT-501, VFA-101

The 33 FW took on its new mission of training pilots and maintenance personnel on the F-35. The wing began training personnel of the Air Force, Navy, Marines, in addition to international partner nations of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program. The 33 FW assumed Air Traffic Control and Air Battle Manager (ABM) training, activating the 337th Air Control Squadron (ACS) located at Tyndall AFB in 2012. Additionally, as part of the technical advances of the F-35, the wing took on the F-35 Intelligence Formal Training Unit (IFTU) within the 33d Operations Support and a portion of the Air Force Special Operations (IFTU) at Hurlburt Field, FL.



337 ACS

The wing, alongside its Navy and Marine counterparts ramped up training in the new F-35. By July 2014, VMAT-501, the Marines F-35C unit, were removed from operational control of the 33d and returned to that of the Marines at MCAS Beaufort, SC. As the number of F-35's delivered increased, so did the Air Force's need to train combat ready pilots; therefore, in October 2021 the 33d reactivated one of its original Fighter Squadrons, the 60 FS. The year 2022 came to close, planning began on placement of another training group within the wing. A group that would be tasked with training the nation's international partners on the F-35.

In September 2022, the 33 FW activated Detachment 1 at Ebbing National Guard Base, Fort Smith, Arkansas. For two years the detachment coordinated the stand-up of an additional Fighter Group and Fighter Squadron on a base owned by the 188th Wing of the National Guard. Lt Col.'s Andrew Nash and Jonathan Hassell commanded the detachment and on 2 July 2024, the wing activated the 85th Fighter Group and the 57th Fighter Squadron. The unit's mission would be the training of foreign pilots for the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program of the F-35.

By September 2024, the 85 FG and 57 FS were poised to receive the first FMS pilots and aircraft, those of Poland. As the first Polish Air Force pilots trained in simulators at Eglin, Ebbing National Guard base prepared for the receipt of the first two Polish F-35As. On 23 December 2024, the first Polish F-35As landed at Ebbing with the Group's first training flights occurring on 31 January 2025 consisting of a 57 FS instructor pilot and a Polish student. In May of 2025 the 85 FG and 57 FS attained Initial Operating Capability (IOC) and in August the wing activated a completely new squadron, designated the 33d Training Squadron (TRS) designed to take on the increasing amount of training across all squadrons.


In the timeframe from wing's transition to the JSF in 2009 to present day, the milestones in training personnel on the F-35 are numerous. Milestones or "firsts" such as the first night flights, aerial refueling, and employment of ordinance by the highly technical aircraft are only a few of the significant events the wing has accomplished. The Nomads of the 33 FW continue building upon their rich heritage by providing pilots and maintenance personnel with superior operational experience to roam wherever and whenever duty calls.




60 FS, 33d FW/Det 1, 85 FG, 57 FS, 33 TRS

33d FG/FW Aerial Victories

World War II

NAME	RANK	UNIT	LOCATION	DATE	CREDITS
Abbott, Hershell	1 Lt	58 FS	MTO	18 Dec 42	1.0
Bach, John V.	2 Lt	59 FS	MTO	8 Aug 43	1.0
Baker, Clarence T.	Maj	58 FS	CBI	15 Jan 45	1.0
Baleski, John J., Jr.	1 Lt	58 FS	MTO	27 Jan 44	1.0
Ballew, John	1 Lt	58 FS	MTO	27 Jan 44	1.0
Beggs, Carl L.	2 Lt	59 FS	MTO	15 Jan 43	1.0
Bent, John T.	2 Lt	58 FS	MTO	13 Jan 43	1.0
Bishop, Lynn	1 Lt	58 FS	MTO	16 Sep 43	1.0
Bland, John W.	1 Lt	58 FS	MTO	10 Apr 43	1.0
Boone, Carmon B.	Capt	59 FS	MTO	15 Jan 43	1.0
Bounds, Carson W.	2 Lt	58 FS	MTO	12 Jan 43	1.0
Bradley, John L.	Capt	59 FS	MTO	1 Feb 43	2.0
		58 FS		24 Mar 43	1.0
				30 Mar 43	1.0
				12 Jul 43	1.0
Brown, Robert G.	Capt	33 FG	MTO	10 Jul 43	1.0
Byrne, Bernard R.	2 Lt	59 FS	MTO	15 Sep 43	1.0
Campbell, Douglas H.	2 Lt	59 FS	MTO	1 Feb 43	1.0
Campbell, Robert C.	2 Lt	59 FS	MTO	16 Jan 44	1.0
Chase, Levi R.	Capt	58 FS	MTO	18 Dec 42	1.0
				22 Dec 42	1.0
				31 Jan 43	1.0
				2 Feb 43	1.0
				15 Mar 43	1.0
				30 Mar 43	1.0
				1 Apr 43	1.0
				5 Apr 43	1.0
Cochran, Philip G.	Maj	58 FS	MTO	11 Jan 43	1.0
				13 Jan 43	1.0
Cross, Willard D.	1 Lt	60 FS	MTO	11 Jul 43	1.0

Davidson, Denver B.	Maj	58 FS	MTO	4 Apr 43	1.0
Davis, William R., Jr.	1 Lt	58 FS	MTO	10 Apr 43	1.0
Day, Harry L., Jr.	2 Lt	58 FS	MTO	27 Jan 44	1.0
Duncan, Charles H.	Capt	58 FS	MTO	24 Mar 43	1.0
				29 Mar 43	1.0
				31 Mar 43	2.5
Erwin George R.	1 Lt	60 FS	MTO	31 Mar 43	1.0
Fackler, Robert F.	2 Lt	58 FS	MTO	4 Jan 43	1.0
Faver, Wilfred L.	2 Lt	59 FS	MTO	17 Sep 43	1.0
Frese, Alfred G., Jr.	1 Lt	58 FS	CBI	18 Oct 44	1.0
Garbarino, Joseph A.	2 Lt	58 FS	MTO	27 Jan 44	1.0
Goulait, Bert J.	2 Lt	58 FS	MTO	4 Apr 43	1.0
Gray, James W., Jr.	2 Lt	58 FS	MTO	8 Jan 43	1.0
				31 Mar 43	1.0
				10 Apr 43	1.0
				4 May 43	1.0
Hanson, Stanley K.	1 Lt	60 FS	MTO	31 Mar 43	1.0
Harris, Howard R.	1 Lt	58 FS	MTO	10 Apr 43	1.0
Hemphill, Robert C.	1 Lt	60 FS	MTO	29 Mar 43	1.0
Haselby, Johnnie V.	1 Lt	58 FS	MTO	24 Mar 43	1.0
Horton, Franklin W.	Maj	33 FG	MTO	5 Apr 43	1.0
Hubbard, Mark E.	Maj	59 FS	MTO	15 Jan 43	1.0
				1 Feb 43	1.0
				24 Mar 43	1.0
Kantner, Robert P.	2 Lt	58 FS	MTO	31 Mar 43	1.0
Lamb, Thomas J.	2 Lt	59 FS	MTO	15 Sep 43	1.0
Linn, James D.	2 Lt	60 FS	MTO	29 Mar 43	1.0
Lovette, James K.	1 Lt	60 FS	MTO	15 Mar 43	1.0
Makely, John C.	2 Lt	59 FS	MTO	15 Sep 43	1.0
Matuch, George, Jr.	1 Lt	60 FS	MTO	1 Apr 43	1.0
McBride, William P.	1 Lt	60 FS	MTO	29 Mar 43	1.0
McMills, Phil R.	1 Lt	60 FS	MTO	11 Jun 43	1.0
				15 Sep 43	1.0

Momyer, William W.	Col	33 FG	MTO	4 Jan 43	1.0
				8 Jan 43	1.0
				12 Mar 43	1.0
				24 mar 43	1.0
				31 Mar 43	1.0
Moyer, Harry A.	2 Lt	59 FS	MTO	17 Sep 43	1.0
Neal, George S.	1 Lt	60 FS	MTO	2 Feb 43	1.0
				29 Mar 43	1.0
Neely, Gray	2 Lt	59 FS	MTO	10 Jul 43	1.0
Nightingale, George W.	2 Lt	59 FS	MTO	1 Feb 43	1.0
Partee, Lloyd W.	2 Lt	58 FS	MTO	31 Mar 43	1.0
Pence, Daniel K.	1 Lt	58 FS	CBI	15 Jan 45	2.0
Poillion, Charles B.	1 Lt	58 FS	MTO	9 Dec 42	1.0
				19 Dec 42	1.0
Posey, Eldon E.	2 Lt	59 FS	MTO	30 Mar 43	1.0
Powell, Millard S.	2 Lt	58 FS	MTO	27 Jan 44	1.0
Raddin, James H.	2 Lt	59 FS	MTO	12 Jan 43	1.0
Rathbun, Daniel B.	Capt	60 FS	MTO	29 Mar 43	1.0
Rice, John D.	1 Lt	60 FS	MTO	11 Jul 43	1.0
Rouse, Harold P.	FO	58 FS	CBI	8 Oct 44	1.0
Scholl, Walter, Jr.	2 Lt	59 FS	MTO	12 Jan 43	1.0
				30 Mar 43	1.0
Scidmore, Kenneth B.	Capt	60 FS	MTO	11 Jul 43	1.0
Shelton, William M.	1 Lt	58 FS	MTO	16 Sep 43	1.0
Skipper, Jack	2 Lt	58 FS	MTO	12 Jul 43	1.0
				27 Jan 44	1.0
Smith, Robert H.	2 Lt	59 FS	MTO	15 Jan 43	1.0
Stetch, Leroy A.	2 Lt	60 FS	MTO	15 Mar 43	1.0
Stetson, Loring F., Jr.	Lt Col	33 FG	MTO	15 Sep 43	1.0
Stewart, Glenn E.	1 Lt	59 FS	MTO	26 Aug 43	1.0

				15 Sep 43	1.0
Thomas, Tom A., Jr.	2 Lt	58 FS	MTO	22 Dec 42	1.0
				11 Jan 43	1.0
				30 Mar 43	1.0
Thompson, Lassiter	1 Lt	58 FS	MTO	30 Mar 43	1.0
				10 Apr 43	1.0
Tobin, Edward J.	2 Lt	59 FS	MTO	2 Feb 43	1.0
Tyler Morgan, S.	2 Lt	59 FS	MTO	8 Aug 43	1.0
				9 Aug 43	1.0
				17 Aug 43	1.0
Van Rossum, Clarence B.	2 Lt	60 FS	MTO	3 Jun 43	1.0
				19 Oct 43	1.0
Watkins, Alton O.	1 Lt	58 FS	MTO	8 Jan 43	1.0
Watts, Blanchard K.	1 Lt	59 FS	MTO	8 Aug 43	1.0
				17 Sep 43	1.0
Wilson, Harold M.	1 Lt	58 FS	MTO	24 Mar 43	1.0
				31 Mar 43	1.0
Wirth, Donald J.	2 Lt	58 FS	MTO	30 Mar 43	1.0
Woodward, Nathan L.	2 Lt	58 FS	MTO	27 Jan 44	1.0
33 FG sub-total					8
58 FS sub-total					53.5
59 FS sub-total					29
60 FS sub-total					24
TOTAL					114.5

Key: CBI=China Burma India; MTO= Mediterranean Theater of Operations

Vietnam

NAME	RANK	UNIT	LOCATION	DATE	CREDITS
Ettell, Michael J.	Lt Cdr (WSO, USN)	58 FS	SEA	12 Aug 72	1.0
Handley, Philip W.	Maj	58 FS	SEA	2 Jun 72	1.0
Richard, Lawrence G.	Capt (USMC)	58 FS	SEA	12 Aug 72	1.0
Smallwood, John J.	1 Lt (WSO)	58 FS	SEA	2 Jun 72	1.0
TOTAL					4

Key: SEA=Southeast Asia

Desert Storm

NAME	RANK	UNIT	LOCATION	DATE	CREDITS
Draeger, Rhory R.	Capt	59 FS	ODS	17 Jan 91	1.0
				26 Jan 91	1.0
Graeter, Robert E.	Capt	58 FS	ODS	17 Jan 91	2.0
Kelk, Jon K.	Capt	58 FS	ODS	17 Jan 91	1.0
Magill, Charles J.	Capt (USMC)	58 FS	ODS	17 Jan 91	1.0
Murphy, Anthony R.	Capt	58 FS	ODS	7 Feb 91	2.0
Parsons, Richard N.	Col	33 FW	ODS	7 Feb 91	1.0
Pitts, Lawrence E.	Capt	58 FS	ODS	19 Jan 91	1.0
Rodriguez, Cesar A.	Capt	58 FS	ODS	19 Jan 91	1.0
				26 Jan 91	1.0
Rose, David B.	Capt	60 FS	ODS	29 Jan 91	1.0
Schiavi, Anthony E.	Capt	58 FS	ODS	26 Jan 91	1.0
Tollini, Richard C.	Capt	58 FS	ODS	19 Jan 91	1.0
Underhill, Craig W.	Capt	58 FS	ODS	19 Jan 91	1.0
TOTAL					16
Grand TOTAL					134.5

Key: ODS=Operation Desert Storm

Chronology of Nomad Commanders

33d Pursuit Group (Interceptor)

Maj Minthorne W. Reed..... Jan 1941
Col Elwood R. Quesada 7 Oct 1941

33d Fighter Group

Col William W. Momyer..... 29 Jun 1942
Col Loring F. Stetson, Jr..... 17 Oct 1943
Lt Col Oliver G. Cellini 7 Jun 1944
Col David D. Terry, Jr. 9 Sep 1944
Col Frank L. Dunn..... 2 Mar 1945
Col Barton M. Russell..... 20 Aug 1946

33d Fighter Wing

Lt Col Joseph C. Smith 5 Nov 1947
Col Gwen G. Atkinson Jan 1948
Col Arthur C. Agan, Jr. 23 May 1949

33d Fighter Interceptor Wing

Col Harrison R. Thyng Apr 1951
Col Leon W. Gray Oct 1951 – Feb 1952

33d Fighter Wing (Air Defense)

Col Hilmer C. Nelson..... 18 Oct 1956
Col Delbert H. Hahn..... 30 Jun 1957
Not Manned..... 1 Jul – 18 Aug 1957

33d Tactical Fighter Wing

Unmanned..... 9 Feb – 31 Mar 1965
Col David C. Jones..... 1 Apr 1965
Col George I. Ruddell 1 Oct 1965
Col Robert W. Maloy 26 Aug 1966
Col Abner M. Aust, Jr. 12 May 1967
Col Franklin L. Fisher 15 Jun 1967
Col Richard C. Henry 30 Sep 1970
Col William E. Skinner 24 Mar 1972
Col Gordon B. Mickelson 10 May 1973
Col Donald C. Hanto 15 Feb 1975
Col David L. Nichols..... 29 Apr 1977

Brig Gen Charles R. Hamm.....	20 Jul 1979
Col Stanton R. Musser.....	21 Apr 1980
Col Jack R. Petry	22 Jan 1982
Col Robert K. Wagner	19 Aug 1983
Col George J. Forster.....	14 May 1985
Col John P. Jumper.....	19 Feb 1987
Col Robert W. Mendell.....	19 Jan 1988
Col Rick N. Parsons.....	30 May 1989
Col Gregory S. Martin.....	29 Aug 1991

33d Fighter Wing

Col William R. Looney.....	4 Jun 1993
Col Carrol H. Chandler.....	15 May 1995
Col Gary R. Dylewski.....	28 Mar 1996
Col Felix Dupre.....	3 Oct 1997
Col John T. Brennan	5 Apr 1999
Col Herbert J. Carlisle	2 Mar 2001
Col Ted Kresge.....	14 Feb 2003
Col Brett Williams	30 Jul 2004
Col Russell J. Handy	15 Jun 2006
Col Todd P. Harmer	4 Jan 2008
Col David A. Hlatky.....	1 Oct 2009
Col Andrew J. Toth.....	31 Mar 2011
Col Todd D. Canterbury	14 Jun 2013
Col Lansing R. Pilch	19 Jun 2015
Col Paul D. Moga.....	13 Apr 2017
Col Jon S. Wheeler, Jr.	28 May 2019
Col Jack R. Arthaud.....	30 Jul 2021
Col David M. Skalicky	22 Jul 2023- Present

Chronology

Pre - World War II

1941

15 Jan 33d Pursuit Group (Interceptor) activated Mitchel Field, New York. Group assigned P-39 *AiraCobra*.



P-39 Airacobra

World War II

1942

20 Oct 33d Fighter Group, under the command of Colonel William W. Momyer, departed Hampton Roads, Virginia bound for German occupied French Morocco. Pilots and 77 P-40 Warhawks were onboard the USS Chenango while the remainder of the group traveled onboard the USS Susan B. Anthony.



P-40 Warhawk

8 Nov The naval convoy arrived off the coast of Northern Africa with the 33 FG. The amphibious attack on French Morocco began.

10 Nov Seventy-seven P-40s from the 33 FG catapult off the carrier USS Chenango, bound for the newly occupied Port Lyautey airdrome.

14 Nov The 33 FG "J" squadron (dubbed the "Joker" Squadron for the joker's ability to complete any hand), stood-up at Rabat Morocco and provided replacement pilots and aircraft for the combat squadrons.

6 Dec Flying P-40s, the 33d Fighter Group's 58th Fighter Squadron moved to the rather sparse forward fighter field at Thelepte, becoming the first USAAF unit to be based inside Tunisia. The unit was primarily responsible for supporting ground troops and undertaking low-level attacks on transportation targets such as rail lines, bridges, and road traffic.

1943

7 Jan 58 FS of the 33d FG re-located to Oujda Algeria enroute to Tunisia and the active front. Forced to stop along way and dig-in Blida, Algeria on 9 Jan.

11 Jan Group arrives at Thelepte, Tunisia furthestmost aerodrome on the front. Lafayette Group 2/5 equipped with 13 P-40 aircraft joined the 33 FG at Thelepte, the Tunisian front.

15 Jan The 33d Fighter Group (FG) received a Distinguished Unit Citation for its defense of the Thelepte airdrome. Nine German JU-88 Stukas, escorted by four MC-202s, attacked the field. Patrolling aircraft attacked the formation driving off the escorts. On the ground, P-40 pilots took off amidst the bombardment and engaged the enemy. Outnumbered more than two to one, they shot down eight JU-88s, with the remaining bombers taken out by anti-aircraft guns.

9 Feb 33 FG re-locates from Thelepte, Tunisia to Youks-les-Bains, Algeria. By 14 Feb the group had re-located to Telergma, Algeria for long overdue rest and relaxation from combat actions. Although escort missions were completed during this timeframe.

2 Mar Group re-located to Berteaux, Algeria resuming combat actions.

21 Mar Group re-located once again to Sbeitla, Tunisia.

31 Mar The 33d Fighter Group was credited with 12.5 aerial victories, its highest single-day total for the war. This concluded a three-day run of 26.5 kills for the Group.

22 May Group begins re-location from Menzel Terminus, Tunisia.

31 May Under command of Lt Col Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the 99 FS "Tuskegee Airmen," arrived at Fardjouna on Cape Bon, reporting to the 33 FG. Consisting of veterans who took part in the invasion of North Africa and fought air battles over Algeria, French Morocco, and Tunisia, the 33 FG was considered ideally suited for introducing inexperienced pilots into air warfare.

2 Jun	The 99 FS flew their first combat missions of WWII in P-40 Warhawks while assigned to the 33 FG.
9 Jun	Group re-located to Sousse, Tunisia.
18 Jun	Re-located to Pantelleria Island in the Mediterranean.
18 July	Re-located from Pantelleria Island to Licata, Sicily.
13 Sep	Re-located from Sicily to Paestum, Italy.
18 Nov	Re-located to Santa Maria, Italy.

1944

1 Jan	Re-located to Cercola, Italy
20 Feb	Re-located to Karachi, India. Began flying P-47 Thunderbolts.

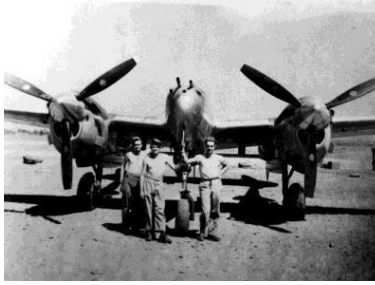


P- 47 Thunderbolt

18 Apr	Re-located to Shwangliu, China
9 May	Re-located to Pungchacheng, China
3 Sep	Re-located to Nagaghuli, India
26 Dec	Re-located to Sahmaw, India

1945

5 May	33d re-located to Piardoba, India. Group began flying the P-38 Lightning.
-------	---



P- 38 Lightning

- 15 Nov 33 FG boarded American ship Torrens and sailed to New York
- 7 Dec The nomads arrived in New York and moved into Camp Shanks
- 8 Dec 33d Fighter Group inactivated

Post WWII

1946

- 20 Aug 33d Fighter Interceptor Wing activated at Neubiberg, Germany. Group began flying the P-51 Mustang.



P-51 Mustang

1947

- Jul 33d re-located to Bad Kissingen, Germany
- 25 Aug 33d returned to states to Andrews Field, MD.
- 16 Sep 33d re-located to Roswell, NM.

1948

- 16 Nov 33d re-locates to Otis AFB, Mass. Group transitions to flying the F-84 Thunderjet. One of the first groups in the newly founded Air Force to do so.



F-84 Thunderjet

1950

20 Jan 33d re-designated Fighter Interceptor Wing (FIW). Wing began flying the F-86 Sabre.



F-86 Sabre

1 Sep 33d FIW assigned to Eastern Defense Force

1952

6 Feb 33d FIW deactivated.

1955

18 Aug 33d re-activated (as a group) at Otis AFB, Mass; assigned to the 4707th Air Defense Wing of the Eastern Air Defense Force. Only two of its original squadrons assigned: 58th and 60th. Wing assigned the F-89 Scorpion.



F-89 Scorpion

1956

14 Sep 33d Fighter Wing activated at Otis AFB.

1957

18 Aug 33d Fighter Wing de-activated once again. The 58th and 60th absorbed by other units within the Boston Air Defense Sector.

Vietnam War Era

1965

1 Apr 33d Tactical Fighter Wing activated at Eglin AFB. Assigned to 9th Air Force, Tactical Air Command (TAC). Activated with 786th, 787th, 788th, and 798th, Tactical Fighter Squadrons (TFS) along with 33d Organizational Maintenance Squadron (OMS), 33d Armament and Electronic Maintenance Squadron (AEMS), 33d Munitions Maintenance Squadron (MMS) and the 333d Field Maintenance Squadron (FMS).

22 May The wing's first two F-4C aircraft arrived at Eglin AFB.



F-4 Phantom

20 Jun 786th, 787th, 788th, and 798th TFSs deactivated and replaced with 4th 16th, 25th, and 40th TFSs.

28 Jun Captain Michael J. Lesicko, 33 TFW Flying Safety Officer, was killed as the result of an accidental ejection seat firing in an F-4C.

15 Jul Headquarters Squadron of the USAF Tactical Air Warfare Center (TAWC) attached to 33d TFW.

1966

23 Feb Captain Pyne and Lieutenant Gibbs were killed when their F-4C went down over the Gulf of Mexico.

21 May Major James Saunders (4 TFS) was killed in an F-4C accident at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. Lieutenant Nester, Weapons Systems Officer, ejected safely.

- 27 Aug First overseas deployment for the 33d since WWII. 16 TFS deployed to Bodo Air Station, Norway for joint operations with Norwegian Air Force, in exercise BAR FROST.
- 16 Sep First Lieutenant Douglas B. Rose, a 33 TFW (16 TFS) pilot on temporary duty to the 555 TFS in southeast Asia, downed a MiG-17. First Lieutenant Hubert E. Buchanan was listed as missing in action when his F-4 was lost on the same day. Captured and becoming a POW, Lieutenant Buchanan was later released on 4 March 1973.
- 1 Nov 33d OMS deactivated.

1967

- 22 May 33d participates in deployment to Panama Canal zone as part of Operation COMBAT BUSTER.
- 26 May 33d deploys 40 TFS to Ubon Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand in support of Vietnam War. 40 TFS absorbed by 8 TFW and renamed 555 TFS. 33d Wing retains and rebuilds 40 TFS.
- 25 Jul 33d deploys the 4th TFS to Ubon Thailand. The squadron was absorbed into the 435 TFS, 8 TFW. The 4 TFS was reconstituted at Eglin.
- 11 Oct The 16 TFS assigned to the 33 TFW deployed to Udorn Royal Thai AB, Thailand. The unit was redesignated as the 13 TFS and the 16 TFS was reconstituted at Eglin.
- 7 Dec The 4533d Tactical Training Squadron (Test) activated as a unit of the 33 TFW. It assumed responsibility for testing aircraft and munitions previously supported by the 33rd's 25 TFS.

1968

- 1 May 33 AEMS and 33 MMS deactivated as tactical wings and squadrons within TAC reorganized under the TAC "enhancement program." The program aimed to increase mobility and self-sufficiency tactical squadrons. Instead of having several small "flight" squadrons, each dependent on the Wing maintenance squadrons, the maintenance squadron was incorporated into each of the tactical units.
- 28 May 33d deployed the 25 TFS to Ubon, Thailand. The unit was the first all-weather unit capable of delivering the "Muscle Shoal," a munition and sensing device dropped along suspect enemy routes of infiltration to detect and impede enemy foot or vehicular traffic) ordinance in Southeast Asia.

13 Nov The 40 TFS assigned to the 33 TFW deployed to Korat Royal Thai AB, Thailand, the first unit equipped with the F-4E in the southeast Asia combat area.

1969

9 Apr 33d deployed 4th TFS to DaNang AB, Vietnam.

16 Apr 33d deployed 16th TFS to DaNang AB, Vietnam; however, TFS diverted to Kunsan AB, Korea instead. The unit was permanently reorganized under the 366 TFW on 12 April.

7 May 33d deployed 40th TFS to DaNang, Vietnam but is also diverted to Kunsan AB, Korea. The unit redesignated the 421 TFS under the 354 TFW. The 16 TFS designator was returned to the 33d.

8 Jun The wing deactivated 333d Field Maintenance Squadron and activated the 33d Field Maintenance Squadron.

13 Oct Eighteen F-4E assigned to the 16 TFS deploy to Cigli AB, Turkey in support of exercise DEEP FURROW 69. Squadron returns 31 Oct.

13 Dec Ten aircraft of the 16 TFS deploy to Ramey AB, Puerto Rico in support of an Air National Guard Operational Readiness Inspection.

1970

26 May 16 TFS deploys 21 aircraft to Kunsan AB, Korea for alert duty CORONET SWIFT IX. Deployment ends 10 Sep 1970.

15 Oct 33d deactivated 40 TFS.

1 Dec 33d TFW reconstituted the 58th and 59th TFSs.

1971

12 Apr 33d deactivated 4533 Tactical Training Squadron (Test).

1 Mar 33 MMS was reactivated

1 Sep 33d reconstituted and 60th TFS

1972

4 Mar 33d participated in deployment to PUNCH CARD exercises held in Alaska. Exercises designed to train aircrew and support personnel in artic operations.

- 1 Apr 33 AEMS and the 33 OMS reactivated.
- 27 Apr 33d tasked with immediate deployment to Udorn, Thailand for participation in CONSTANT GUARD II. Wing deploys 58 TFS.
- 2 Jun 58 TFS Maj Phillip Handley (pilot) and Lt. John Smallwood (WSO) shoot down a MiG-19. Major Handley maneuvered behind the MiG and used the 20 mm M-61 nose gun after all four missiles failed to launch.
- 12 Aug 58 TFS interservice exchange aircrew, Captain Lawrence G. Richard, USMC, and Lt Commander Michael J. Ettle, USN, downed a MiG-21 over Vietnam while assigned to the 58 TFS. This was the second and last kill for the 33 TFW during the Vietnam War.
- 16 Sep Capt. William Kangas (58 TFS) and his WSO Capt. Frederick Cunliffer (523 TFS) ejected from their F-4 in the Gulf of Tonkin after sustaining severe battle damage on a mission to destroy North Vietnamese coastal defense artillery. Both rescued by U.S. Navy patrol boats.

1973

- 23 Jan 58 TFS personnel and F-4Es deployed to Seymour Johnson AFB, North Carolina to support the funeral procession for the late President Lyndon B. Johnson over Washington, D.C.
- 8 Feb 33d deployed to Alaska for participation in PUNCH CARD XVIII/ACE CARD VI exercise.
- 8 Jun 58 TFS deployed 196 personnel to Ubon Royal Thai AB, Thailand in support of Operation CONSTANT GUARD.
- 16 Jun Capt. John J. Smallwood, former 58 TFS weapons systems officer, listed as “missing in action” in Cambodia. His status officially changed to “killed in action” in October 1979.

1974

- 24 Mar 33d deploys the 59 TFS 18 aircraft and crews to Howard AFB, Panama to support Operation BLACK HAWK III, exercise designed to test defense measures for the Panama Canal Zone.
- 14 Jun 58 TFS designated as a primary air-to-air superiority squadron and the 59 TFS as a primary air-to-ground nuclear and air-to-ground conventional squadron. One year later (1 July) the 58 TFS’ mission changed to air-to-ground.

Post-Vietnam War

1976

- 19 Jan 33 TFW sent its only reciprocal engine (prop) aircraft to Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona for retirement. The C-131B *Samaritan* acted as an Airborne Sensor Relay Post and was the last in Tactical Air Command (TAC).



C-131B Samaritan

- 20 Aug The wing deployed two F-4E aircraft to the Republic of Korea in response to the “tree chopping” (Operation Paul Bunyan) incident in which two Americans were killed.

1977

- 7 Jan 33 TFW alert facility completed its first NORAD Alert Force evaluation.
- 15 Mar 59 TFS became the first unit in the USAF to attain Initial PAVE SPIKE Operational Capability. Pave Spike provided precision laser designation, ranging, and tracking of ground targets for attack with conventional ordnance or laser-guided weapons.
- 29 Apr Nomads won the SEA BARON VIII Tactical Weapons Delivery competition at Homestead AFB, Florida. The competition determined the top tactical fighter wing in Ninth AF.
- 1 May Headquarters TAC changed the 33d’s mission from air-to-surface to air-to-air.
- 2 Sep Two 58 TFS aircrew members were fatally injured during Exercise RED FLAG77-9 when their F-4E crashed during an F-15 aggressor flight over the Nellis AFB tactical range.

1978

- 17 Feb Two 59 TFS aircrew members fatally injured during Exercise RED FLAG when their F-4E crashed during a combat training mission over the Nellis AFB tactical range.

- 1 Jul The 33d Organizational Maintenance Squadron was redesignated the 33d Aircraft Generation Squadron. The 33d Field Maintenance Squadron was redesignated the 33d Equipment Maintenance Squadron. The 33d Avionics Maintenance Squadron was redesignated the 33d Component Repair Squadron, and the 33d Munitions Maintenance Squadron was inactivated.

- 22 Sep The wing assumed alert status in response to Nicaraguan alert initiatives – CORONET DUCK.

- 15 Sep The 33 TFW commemorated the introduction of the F-15 Eagle into the wing with an arrival ceremony. 58 TFS first squadron officially designated an F-15 squadron.



F-15 Eagle

1979

- 28 May The wing's last F-4E was transferred to the 347 TFW at Moody AFB, Georgia, ending 14 years of F-4 operations at Eglin AFB.

- 15 Jun The 33 TFW forms the 60 TFS (activated 1 June 1971) to conduct pilot mission qualification training for PACAF pilots in READY EAGLE III.

- 18 Jun The wing performed its first live missile firing from an F-15 during a joint exercise at Eglin AFB with the 36 TFW from Bitburg, Germany. It was also the first live firing of an AIM-9L.

- 3 Jul 33d received the first F-15C to be delivered to an operational Air Force unit. It was one of two hands-on maintenance trainers for READY EAGLE III.

- 4 Aug 58 TFS completed the wing's first Exercise RED FLAG with the F-15 Eagle. The Gorillas flew 208 sorties and 303 hours during the exercise.

1981

- 2 Nov Maj. John T. Booker was killed when two F-15s from the 60 TFS collided during a routine night in-flight refueling mission over the Gulf of Mexico.
- 5 Dec The 60 TFS deployed five F-15s and 44 personnel for Exercise BUC THRUST at MacDill AFB, Florida.

1982

- 4 Jan The wing temporarily assumed peacetime air defense alert, joining NORAD in protecting American airspace.
- 20 Jan The first edition of *The Nomad* was published to provide the wing's 2000 personnel with news and events related to the 33d's activities. The *Phantom Phynque* was a 33 TFW newsletter in the early 1970s published by the wing's Consolidated TAC Information Office.
- 22 Oct All three fighter squadrons (58th, 59th, 60th) participated in RED FLAG 83-1 at Nellis AFB, Nevada. They flew 307 sorties during the exercise that ended on 4 December.

1983

- 4 Feb Capt. David K. Rusk, 59 TFS, crashed his F-15 into the Gulf of Mexico south of Tyndall AFB. He ejected successfully.
- 27 Aug Two 33d Aircraft Generation Squadron airmen were killed in a head-on collision with a stolen ambulance driven by a former mental patient driving against traffic through Eglin's east gate.
- 6 Oct First Lieutenant Thomas C. Jordan, 60 TFS, ejected safely from his F-15 after a mid-air collision with an F-5 during Exercise MAPLE FLAG XII.
- 22 Oct The 33 TFW flew combat air patrols and air intercept missions for Operation URGENT FURY, the wing's first operational deployment of F-15s and first combat deployment since the Vietnam War.

1984

- 27 Oct The 33 TFW won the Sperry Lou Benne trophy as the top F-15 team at the William Tell weapons meet.

1986

- 25 Oct The 33 TFW won its second straight William Tell competition.

1987

13 Nov 33 TFW won the first-ever Long Arrow competition. The competition pitted the Nomads against three other F-15 units and tested the wing's ability to execute a long-range mission and provide force protection.

1988

28 May General Larry D. Welch, Air Force Chief of Staff, announced the 33 TFW as 1987 winners of the Colombian Flight Safety Award.

1989

6 Jul Captain Leo Moore, 58 FS, was forced to eject from his F-15 near Camden Ridge, Alabama. Captain Moore ejected safely. The incident ended 76 months of no Class A mishaps for the wing.

19 Dec Nomads deployed for Operation JUST CAUSE. Tasked with patrolling skies over Panama, protect U.S. lives, and key sites, and assist with the capture and delivery of General Noriega to competent authorities and neutralize the Panamanian Defense Force.

28 Dec Capt. Bartle M. Jackson, 59 TFS, was killed when his F-15 crashed 40 miles south of Apalachicola, Florida. The crash occurred during an exercise while engaged in tight maneuvers against F-16s from Moody AFB, Georgia.

Gulf War Era

1990

28 Aug The Nomads' deployed to Operation DESERT SHIELD. Twenty-Four F-15Cs and 769 personnel departed Eglin for King Faisal Air Base in northwestern Saudi Arabia. In four months, Nomads recorded nearly 5,000 flight hours in over 1,700 training sorties leading up to DESERT STORM.

1991

17 Jan Operation DESERT STORM. At 0310L, Captain Jon K. "J.B." Kelk (58 TFS) scored the first aerial kill of the war destroying a Soviet-built MiG-29 with an AIM-7 missile. Capt. Robert E. "Cheese" Graeter (58 TFS) downed two Iraqi Mirage F-1s for the second and third kills of the war. Later that day, Capt. Rhory R. "Hozer" Draeger (59 TFS) and Capt. Charles J. "Sly" Magill, USMC, (58 TFS) intercepted and destroyed two MiG-29s west of Baghdad.

19 Jan Operation DESERT STORM. Capt. Richard C. "Kluso" Tollini (58 TFS) and Capt. Lawrence E. "Cherry" Pitts (58 TFS) each destroyed a MiG-25 in the

vicinity of Mudaysis Airfield, Iraq. Capt. Craig W. “Mole” Underhill (58 TFS) and Capt. Cesar A. “Rico” Rodriguez (58 TFS) downed MiG-29s bringing the total of Nomad kills to nine.

- 26 Jan Operation DESERT STORM. Capt. Cesar A. “Rico” Rodriguez (58 TFS), Capt. Rhory R. “Hozer” Draeger (59 TFS), and Capt. Anthony E. “Kimo” Schiavi (58 TFS) each destroyed a MiG-23 northwest of Mudaysis Airfield, Iraq. It was Capt. Rodriguez’ and Capt. Draeger’s second MiG kill of the war.
- 29 Jan Operation DESERT STORM. Capt. David G. “Logger” Rose (60 TFS) downed a MiG-23 while on patrol southeast of Kirkuk. It was the 13th aerial victory for the 33 TFW (P) of the war.
- 7 Feb Operation DESERT STORM. Col. Rick N. Parsons, 33 TFW Commander, and Capt. Anthony R. “E.T.” Murphy (58 TFS) recorded the last kills for the wing of the war. Colonel Parsons shot down an SU-7 fighter becoming the only wing commander with a kill and Captain Murphy knocked down two SU-7s in the same engagement bringing the 33 TFW aerial victory total to 16.
- 12 Apr 33 TFW (P) returned to Eglin AFB with a hero’s welcome. The wing recorded 16 aerial victories during Operation DESERT STORM, the most of any deployed unit.
- 13 May As a result of the 58 FS’s performance during Operation DESERT STORM, the squadron won the 1990 Hughes Achievement trophy as the best air defense/air superiority squadron in the Air Force.
- 1 Oct Cold War came to a close, the USAF reorganized and restructured how it operated and many of its units beginning with MAJCOMs. The 33d Tactical Fighter Wing was redesignated the 33d Fighter Wing. The 58th, 59th, and 60th Tactical Fighter Squadrons were redesignated Fighter Squadrons.
- 1 Dec 33d Logistics Group (LG) and 33d Operations Group (OG) activated under the 33 FW for the first time since August 1957.
- 9 Dec 60 FS deployed to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia with 12 F-15s and 221 personnel under the 4404th Composite Wing (Provisional). First of many rotations to the region for the 33 FW following the Gulf War.

1992

- 15 Mar 59 FS deployed 12 aircraft and 256 personnel to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

17 Mar	58 FS won the 1991 Hughes Achievement trophy as the best air defense/air superiority squadron in the Air Force for the second straight year.
5 Apr	During the deployment to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, the 59 FS scrambled in response to Iraqi aircraft being airborne in the AOR. No engagement occurred.
1 May	728th Air Control Squadron (ACS) activated under the 33 FW.
1 Jun	Realignment/restructure actions of the USAF; headquarters ACC re-assigned the 33 FW from TAC to ACC, Ninth AF. SAC, TAC, and MAC were inactivated. The new MAJCOMs would become ACC which covered TAC and SAC, as AMC which assumed duties of MAC.
13 Jul	33 FW lost F-15 aircraft 85-0016 in the Gulf of Mexico when a faulty part caused the aircraft to spin during departure. Pilot ejected safely.
3 Aug	Personnel and equipment of the 728 ACS deployed to the Caribbean for Operation SUPPORT SOVEREIGNTY, providing radar support for the drug intervention effort.
1 Oct	Personnel and equipment of the 728 ACS deployed to South America for Operation SUPPOR JUSTICE III in support of the drug intervention effort.
4 Oct	Personnel and equipment of the 728 ACS deployed to Jamaica for Operation CORONET MACAW in support of the drug intervention effort.
9 Dec	58 FS deployed 12 F-15s and 253 personnel to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia for continued support of operations after DESERT STORM. 728 ACS deployed to Somalia for Operation RESTORE HOPE.

1993

1 Feb	59 FS won the 1992 Hughes Achievement trophy as the best air defense/air superiority squadron in the Air Force.
17 Mar	60 FS deployed 206 personnel to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.
1 Oct	728 ACS conducted counter-narcotics operations in the Amazon jungles of Peru in support of Operation SUPPORT JUSTICE IV. They were the first U.S. military unit in the area.

1994

4 Jan	59 FS deployed 12 F-15s to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.
-------	--

5 Jun	728 ACS deployed to Turkey in support of Operation PROVIDE COMFORT and maintained tactical satellite equipment.
26 Jun	59 FS and Ninth AF team won top honors at the Long Shot competition, Nellis AFB, Nevada. The 60 FS accumulated the most points for an air-to-air unit at the competition for composite strike forces.
12 Sep	33 FW deployed 24 F-15s to Haiti (Puerto Rico) in support of Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY.
5 Dec	58 FS deployed 18 F-15s and 250 personnel to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.

1995

15 Mar	60 FS deployed 282 personnel to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.
24 Jun	59 FS deploys to Keflavik Naval Air Station, Iceland in support of the Iceland Defense Force. Six F-15s and 56 personnel supported the deployment.
8 Sep	Detachment 4, OL-B activated at Eglin AFB.
25 Sep	The 728 ACS deployed 54 people to Monte Jacontenente, Italy in support of Operation DENY FLIGHT. They provided surveillance of the Adriatic Sea and the UN sanctioned no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia.
3 Oct	60 FS deployed to Keflavik Naval Air Station, Iceland in support of the Iceland Defense Force.
20 Dec	728 ACS deployed 22 personnel to Colombia in support of Operation STEADY STATE, an anti-drug interdiction mission.

1996

13 Jan	59 FS deployed 18 F-15s to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.
16 Mar	58 FS deployed 18 F-15s and 260 personnel to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.
25 Jun	A terrorist bomb killed 12 members of the 33 FW stationed at the

Khobar Towers complex near King Abdul Aziz Air Base, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. The Nomads deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.

- 25 Jun 60 FS deployed 12 F-15s and 177 personnel on Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) III to Doha, Qatar under the 4417th Wing (Provisional).
- 28 Jun 59 FS deployed to Keflavik Naval Air Station, Iceland with 5 F-15s and 65 personnel in support of the Iceland Defense Force.
- 30 Jun President Bill Clinton spoke at the Khobar Tower memorial service in King Hangar.
- 19 Aug 59 FS, as part of the Ninth AF team, won overall honors at the Long Shot competition, a composite strike force exercise.
- 26 Sep In a ceremony at Eglin's base theater, 105 Nomads received Purple Hearts for injuries sustained in the Khobar Towers bombing. In addition, 19 Air Force Commendation and Achievement medals for bravery were awarded.
- 2 Oct 60 FS deployed five F-15s and 58 personnel to Keflavik Naval Air Station, Iceland in support of the Iceland Defense Force.
- 27 Nov 728 ACS deployed 91 personnel to Kuwait in support of Operation DESERT CALM.

1997

- 1 Jan 59 FS deployed 18 F-15s and over 300 personnel to Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.
- 8 Feb 59 FS surpassed 1,000,000 flight hours while deployed for Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.
- 19 May 60 FS won the 1996 Hughes Achievement trophy as the best air defense/air superiority squadron in the Air Force.
- 1 Oct 60 FS deployed five F-15s and 58 people to Keflavik Naval Air Station, Iceland in support of the Iceland Defense Force.
- 21 Nov 58 FS deployed 12 F-15s and 210 personnel to Shaikh Isa, Bahrain and attached to the 347th Air Expeditionary Wing (Provisional).

1998

- 20 Jan 60 FS deployed 12 F-15s and over 200 personnel to Shaikh Isa, Bahrain and attached to the 347th Air Expeditionary Wing (Provisional).

15 Jun	728 ACS deployed 100 personnel to Ali Al Salem AB, Saudi Arabia in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.
23 Jul	60 FS and 33 MXS deployed over 100 personnel and six F-15s to Incirlik AB, Turkey for the wing's first deployment in support of Operation NORTHERN WATCH.
12 Sep	58 FS and 33 MXS deployed 80 personnel and six F-15s to Incirlik AB, Turkey in support of Operation NORTHERN WATCH.
10 Dec	60 FS and 33 MXS deployed 18 F-15s and 312 personnel to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.
16 Dec	First Lieutenant Brian Baldwin, 58 FS, piloted the first USAF F-15 to reach 6,000 flying hours.
16 Dec	60 FS participated in Operation DESERT FOX while deployed to Prince Sultan AB, Saudi Arabia. The goal was to degrade Saddam Hussein's ability to make and use weapons of mass destruction, diminish Saddam's ability to wage war against his neighbors, and demonstrate to Saddam the consequences of violating international obligations.

1999

5 Jan	Two 60 FS F-15s were part of a six-ship multi-service formation fired air-to-air missiles against Iraqi aircraft in violation of the no-fly zone over southern Iraq. This was the first air-to-air confrontation with Iraq since the end of the Persian Gulf War. No kill was confirmed.
12 Jan	58 FS and 33 MXS deployed 18 F-15s and over 300 personnel to Prince Sultan AB, Saudi Arabia in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.
19 Jan	33 FW dedicated an F-15 Eagle to Nomads past, present and future, for their dedication to performing the mission. The Eagle was placed on static display at the ACC area entrance to Nomad Way.
15 Feb	60 FS and 33 MXS deployed five F-15s and 58 personnel to Keflavik Naval Air Station, Iceland, to support the Iceland Defense Force.
19 Mar	Detachment 19, 372d Training Squadron replaced Detachment 4, OL-B at Eglin AFB.
15 Apr	59 FS deactivated.
18 Jul	60 FS and 33 MXS deployed six F-15s and approximately 100 personnel to Incirlik AB, Turkey, in support of Operation NORTHERN WATCH.

- 23 Sep 58 FS and 33 MXS deployed five F-15s and 116 personnel to Incirlik AB, Turkey, in support of Operation NORTHERN WATCH.
- 2 Oct 60 FS deployed four F-15s and 58 personnel to Keflavik Naval Air station, Iceland in support of the Iceland Defense Force.

2000

- 21 Mar Lt. Col. Jay Denny, Lt. Col. Scot Brown, and Capt. Edward Corcoran completed the first Night Vision Goggle (NVG) upgrade sorties making the 60 FS the first active-duty F-15C unit in ACC to become NVG capable.
- 24 Jun 60 FS completed a three-day super surge with 362 sorties, a new world record for F-15 units.
- 27 Nov 728 ACS deployed 118 personnel to Ali Al Salem AB, Kuwait, for a 90-day rotation providing 24-hour command and control, surveillance for enforcement of the no-fly zone over Iraq.
- 8 Dec 58 FS, 33 MXS and 33 LSS deployed 335 personnel and 18 F-15Cs to Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.

2001

- 2 Jun 728 ACS conducted a North American Aerospace Defense (NORAD) air defense exercise with the South East Air Defense Sector (SEADS).
- 11 Jun 60 FS and 33 MXS deployed 105 personnel to Prince Sultan AB, Saudi Arabia, for Operation SOUTHERN WATCH. Six F-15s from the 58 FS deployment remained in country for the 60 FS.

War on Terror

- 14 Sep 33 FW generated 16 F-15Cs (deployed six) and deployed a composite total of 382 personnel to Dobbins ARB, GA in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE. Pilots from the wing staff, both fighter squadrons, and the 33d Operations Support Squadron (OSS), flew 850.5 hours in 235 combat air patrol sorties over major U.S. cities through 31 Dec.
- 23 Nov 728 ACS deployed to Cape Canaveral Air Station, FL to provide aerial radar surveillance for the launch of the Space Shuttle Endeavor. The shuttle successfully launched on 5 December without incident.
- 21 Dec 728 ACS deployed a mobile tactical radar package and 108 personnel to Fort Hood, TX to provide aerial radar surveillance for President George W. Bush's home in Crawford.

2002

- 27 Feb 58 FS deployed to Langley AFB, Virginia to support Operation NOBLE EAGLE (ONE). The squadron integrated extensively with the North East Air Defense Sector (NEADS) to fulfill National Command Authority and North American Aerospace Defense taskings. Various missions included the Defensive Counter Air role for point defense of the nation's capital and other locations, as well as roving escort for the movement of the President and Vice President of the United States. The 58 FS deployed 246 personnel, and 16 F-15C/D aircraft, and flew 482 sorties for a total of 2,029.6 hours through 17 Apr.
- 30 May 60 FS deployed 60 personnel and five F-15s to Keflavik, Iceland to support Exercise Coronet East 111.
- 5 Jun 60 FS deployed 162 personnel and 13 F-15s to Cold Lake, Canada to support Exercise MAPLE FLAG 35.

2003

- 3 Feb 60 FS deployed and redeployed 131 personnel and ten F-15s to Tyndall AFB, FL in support of a Weapon System Evaluation Program WSEP.
- 7 Mar 58 FS, 33 AMXS, and 33 MXS deploy with 12 F-15s to South West Asia in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. Personnel and squadrons attached to the 485th Air Expeditionary Wing.
- 14 Mar 60 FS deployed to Nellis AB, Nevada for 51 days for an exercise and training at the Warfighting Integration Center (WIC).

2004

- 31 Jan 99 personnel and 12 F-15s from the 60 FS deployed to Robert Gray Army Airfield, West Fort Hood, TX in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE.
- 20 Feb 254 personnel and 16 F-15s from the 58 FS deployed to Nellis AFB, NV in support of F-22 Operations, Test and Evaluation (OT&E) Comparison Tests.
- 21 Feb 189 personnel and 17 F-15s from the 60 FS deployed to Nellis AFB, NV to participate in Exercise RED FLAG.
- 2 Apr 728 ACS held a memorial ceremony for SSgt Pat Griffin, killed while deployed on 22 March 2004, during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

29 Apr	728 ACS “Demons” participated in Exercise VIRTUAL FLAG 04-03 (in garrison) with Distributed Mission Operations Center (DMOC) at Kirtland AFB, NM.
13 May	728 ACS personnel deployed to King’s Bay Naval Submarine Base, Georgia to provide radar coverage for the Gathering of Eight (G-8) Summit at Sea Isle, GA.
27 May	180 personnel and 14 F-15s deployed to Cold Lake near Alberta, Canada for Exercise MAPLE FLAG. The exercise compared to the USAF’s RED FLAG.
19 Jul	117 personnel and 6 F-15s from the 60 FS deployed to Robert Gray Army Airfield, West Fort Hood, TX in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE.
7 Aug	109 personnel and 8 F-15 aircraft from the 58 FS deployed to Langley AFB, VA in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE.
11 Aug	117 personnel and 6 F-15s from the 60 FS deployed to Robert Gray Army Airfield, West Fort Hood, TX in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE.
9 Oct	123 personnel and 12 F-15 aircraft from the 58 FS deployed to Langley AFB, VA in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE.
27 Oct	148 personnel and 10 F-15s from the 60 FS deployed to Nellis AFB, NV in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE and Weapons Instructor Course (WIC).
8 Nov	728 ACS participated in FORSCOM’s Exercise Joint Systems Training Exercise (JSTE) 05-01 as a Command and Reporting Center (CRC) subordinate to the Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC) (White Cell) located at Fort Bliss, TX. The intent of the exercise was to emphasize Joint Interoperability Training.
26 Dec	92 personnel and 6 F-15s from the 58 FS deployed to Robert Gray Army Airfield, West Fort Hood, TX to provide security for the POTUS over his ranch in Crawford, TX

2005

5 Jan	728 ACS Advanced Echelon Team (ADVON) deployed to Balad AB, Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF).
27 Jan	168 personnel and 12 F-15s assigned to the 33 FW deployed to Nellis AFB, NV in support of F-16 Weapons School.

28 Jan	96 personnel and 8 F-15s assigned to the 33 FW deployed to Tyndall AFB, FL in support of Weapons System Evaluation Training (WSET).
7 Feb	186 personnel and 12 F-15s deployed to Cold Lake near Alberta, Canada for Exercise MAPLE FLAG. The exercise compared to the USAF's RED FLAG.
19 Mar	162 personnel and 11 F-15s assigned to the 33 FW deployed to Holloman AFB, NM to support the Roving Sands portion of Joint RED FLAG 05.
22 Mar	120 personnel and 8 F-15s assigned to the 33 FW deployed to Homestead ARB, FL for Dissimilar Air Combat Training (DACT).
16 Jun	99 personnel and 6 F-15s deployed to Nellis AFB, NV to support F-22 testing.
22 Jun	60 FS won the Raytheon Trophy, for air-to-air superiority.
Sep	Eglin AFB underwent a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Site Survey. As a result, the decision was made to transition from the F-15 to the F-35, Lightning II, Joint Strike Fighter.
6 Sep	124 personnel and 6 F-15s assigned to the 33 FW deployed to Beni Suef AB, Egypt to support CENTCOM Exercise BRIGHT STAR.
15 Sep	33 FW personnel and aircraft covered Operation NOBLE EAGLE taskings for the 159th Air National Guard, LA due to Hurricane Katrina.
9 Oct	123 personnel and 12 F-15s deployed to Langley AFB, VA in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE.
29 Oct	58 FS and 60 FS deployed to Nellis AFB to provide adversary training for the F-16 Weapons School.
4 Dec	106 personnel and 8 F-15s assigned to the 33 FW deployed to Tyndall AFB, FL in support of Weapons System Evaluation Training (WSET).

2006

1 Jan	ACC and AETC conduct a Site Activation Task Force survey of Eglin AFB and the 33 FW for feasibility of bringing the F-35 to the base.
31 Jan	60 FS deployed 2 F-15s to Washington, D.C. to provide security for the President's State of the Union Address.
31 Jan	58 FS deployed 99 personnel and 12 F-15s to Robert Gray Army Airfield, Fort Hood, TX in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE.

1 Feb	99 personnel and 12 F-15s assigned to the 60 FS deployed to Robert Gray Army Airfield, Fort Hood, TX in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE protecting the POTUS during the Super Bowl.
4 Feb	125 personnel and 12 F-15s assigned to the 58 FS deployed to Nellis AFB, NV, for Exercise RED FLAG.
28 Mar	60 FS deployed 82 personnel and 6 F-15s to Robert Gray Army Airfield, Fort Hood, TX in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE.
1 Apr	Joint Strike Fighter Project Office established at Eglin AFB.
8 Apr	33 FW hosted various units for Dissimilar Air Combat Training (DACT). The 410th Operations Training Squadron, Canadian Fighter Weapons Training School were among attendees.
13 May	150 personnel and 12 F-15s assigned to the 33d Fighter Wing deployed to Charleston AFB, SC for Dissimilar Air Combat Training (DACT). While there, members of the team conducted a flyover of the Darlington NASCAR.
13 May	728 ACS personnel deployed to Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.
13 Jun	58 FS deployed 80 personnel and 6 F-15s to Robert Gray Army Airfield, Fort Hood, TX in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE.
19 Jun	33 FW hosted various units for Dissimilar Air Combat Training (DACT).
21 Jul	58 FS deployed 80 personnel and 6 F-15s to Robert Gray Army Airfield, Fort Hood, TX in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE.
2 Aug	58 FS deployed 80 personnel and 6 F-15s to Robert Gray Army Airfield, Fort Hood, TX in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE.
10 Aug	Air Force announced plans to train U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force pilots as well as allied nations on the F-35 at Eglin AFB.
18 Aug	231 personnel and 16 F-15s assigned to the 33 FW deployed to Savannah IAP (Travis Field), GA for Dissimilar Air Combat Training (DACT).
25 Aug	728 ACS conducted "Demon Dare" exercise. The exercise was to prepare personnel for their upcoming deployment to Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

29 Oct	Personnel and aircraft from the 60 FS deployed to Nellis AFB, NV for training in the Weapons System Evaluation Program (WSEP), also known as Exercise COMBAT ARCHER.
25 Nov	33 FW deployed 191 personnel and 6 F-15s to King Khalid Airbase, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for Exercise FALCON NEST.
4 Dec	192 personnel and 16 F-15s assigned to the 33 FW deployed to Tyndall AFB, FL for Weapons System Evaluation Training (WSEP).
15 Dec	First F-35 flight test completed at the Lockheed Martin Plant, Fort Worth, TX.

2007

18 Feb	The 60 FS departed for Nellis AFB, NV to support the Weapons Instructor Course (WIC).
2 Mar	58 FS deployed and redeployed 105 personnel and eight F-15C Eagles to Tyndall AFB, FL in support of the Weapon System Evaluation Program (WSEP).
14 Mar	60 FS conducted a cross country to Homestead AFB, FL to conduct Dissimilar Air Combat training (DACT). The squadron took 12 personnel and four F-15 Eagles to Homestead Air Reserve Station (ARS) FL.
27 Mar	60 FS deployed 16 F-15 Eagles and 245 Airmen to Elmendorf AFB AK as part of the deployment for RED FLAG 07-1 scheduled for 5 April through 21 April 2007. RED FLAG-Alaska, a Pacific Air Forces (PACAF)-sponsored exercise, was originally named COPE THUNDER. It was moved to Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, from Clark Air Base, Philippines, in 1992 after the eruption of Mount Pinatubo on June 15, 1991, forced the curtailment of operations. COPE THUNDER was redesignated RED FLAG-Alaska in 2006.
1 May	58 FS deployed to Nellis AFB, NV for WIC Support. Deployed through 25 May.
6 Jun	58 FS and the 60 FS deployed to Charleston AFB, North Charleston, S.C. The squadrons deployed 26 personnel and eight F-15 airframes for DACT.
10 Aug	60 FS deployed 97 members and six F-15 Eagles to Gray AAF, TX to provide protection for the POTUS. The deployment was in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE. This deployment was to fly Combat Air Patrol (CAP) over Crawford TX during the president's vacation. The 60 FS flew 18 scramble sorties, eight Kansas City-ONE (The President made a stop at Kansas City) sorties, four Counter terrorism (CT) sorties and 16 deployed-

redeployed sorties for a total of 110.6 hours. This included 23 battle stations, eight runway alerts and 22 alert scrambles that resulted in nine real world two-ship scramble launches. One of the 33 FW primary missions was to support ONE throughout the United States.

12 Sep 60 FS received another tasking for an ONE mission to protect the POTUS. The squadron deployed 92 personnel and six F-15s to Gray AAF, TX, to provide CAP missions over Crawford, TX. The 60 FS flew two scramble sorties, and 16 deployed- redeployed sorties for a total of 29.4 hours. This included six battle stations, two runway alerts and two alert scrambles that resulted in one real world two-ship scramble launch.

2008

10 Jan 728 ACS deployed from Eglin AFB in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. This made the fifth deployment for the unit since the war began in March 2003. Approximately 200 members were tasked for the deployment.

25 Jan 33 FW hosted 16 F-16 Vipers and their associated personnel for two weeks of Weapon System Evaluation Program (WSEP) training. This deployment was significant because it was the first time a COMBAT ARCHER and COMBAT HAMMER were combined in one exercise.

7 Feb Four aircraft from the 60 FS participated in an Operation NOBLE EAGLE (ONE) mission for the Space Shuttle Atlantis Launch. The ONE mission provided air combat patrol to ensure the safety of the launch and personnel involved.

13 Feb 33 FW conducted approximately 14 sorties during an ONE mission over Camp David. The operation enforced the Temporary Flight Restriction zone established by the Federal Aviation Administration.

20 Feb 1Lt Ali Jivanjee, assigned to the 58 FS, crashed his F-15 at sea during a training exercise as result of an air-to-air mishap. The other aircraft's pilot, Capt Tucker Hamilton ejected safely from his aircraft.

29 Mar 60 FS deployed 16 F-15 Eagles and 229 personnel for Exercise RED FLAG 08-2 in Alaska.

7 Apr Headquarters ACC staff personnel conducted a Site Activation Task Force visit to ensure the transition from the F-15 to the F-35 was on track.

10 Apr 58 FS deployed to Robert Gray Army Airfield, Fort Hood Texas in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE. Their primary mission was to enforce Temporary Flight Restrictions around Crawford Ranch. The deployment consisted of 6 F-15s and 88 personnel.

1 May	33 FW took part in Exercise ARDENT SENTRY 2008, a Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed, U.S. Northern Command sponsored homeland defense and Defense Support of Civil Authorities exercise. ARDENT SENTRY was designed to provide local, state, federal, Department of Defense (DOD), and non-governmental organizations and agencies involved in homeland security emergency management the opportunity to participate in a full range of training scenarios to better prepare participants in response to national crisis.
15 May	210 Airmen and 16 F-15C Eagles departed Eglin AFB, FL. for Cold Lake, Alberta Canada for the Canadian sponsored multi- national air exercise MAPLE FLAG. Exercise MAPLE FLAG was one of the largest Joint Air Force exercises in the world.
13 Jun	60 FS deployed for WSEP training at Tyndall AFB, FL.
9 Jul	In the first significant event of the transition to the new JSF-F-35, the 33 FW transferred three F-15C Eagles to the 159th Fighter Wing (159 FW) Louisiana Air National Guard (LANG) stationed at the Naval Air Station New Orleans, a joint use base for the Navy, Air Force Reserve and the LANG.
26 Jul	60 FS deployed 183 personnel and 12 F-15s to Savannah International Airport (IAP, Travis Field), GA for Dissimilar Air Combat training (DACT).
13 Aug	33d FW transferred three F-15s from the 60 FS to the 159 FW LANG, New Orleans as part of the drawdown on the wing from the F-15.
27 Aug	33 FW flew with a civilian owned MiG-21 at Eglin for DACT training. The MiG was owned by a private citizen from Chicago, IL; he contracted his time and aircraft for the training.
26 Oct	58 FS deployed 10 F-15s and 170 personnel to Al Dhafra, United Arab Emirates to support AFCENT exercise IRON FALCON 09-01.
4 Dec	60 FS flew their last sortie leading to the drawdown of the F- 15 fleet for conversion to F-35. 60 FS personnel merged into the 58 FS until they all received new assignments. The 60 FS remained actively attached to the 33 FW throughout the transition from ACC to AETC.
23 Dec	58 FS completed 16 sorties out of Eglin supporting Operation NOBLE EAGLE (ONE) over the skies of the nation's capital.

2009

16 Jan	58 FS flew ONE missions over President-elect Barack Obama's journey to Washington, D.C. for his inauguration.
--------	---

6 Feb	58 FS provided ONE coverage over Chicago, IL.
17 Feb	The 58 FS deployed to Tyndall AFB to participate in WSEP.
15 Mar	58 FS flew ONE missions in support of the Space Shuttle <i>Discovery</i> launch.
20 Mar	58 FS flew ONE missions over Camp David, Maryland. Missions 20-22 and 27 – 29 Mar.
13 Apr	58 FS deployed to Grenada to support President Obama's visit to the Summit of the Americas Five trip.
23 Apr	An F-35 flew a local sortie and flew several approaches in the pattern. Following the flight, the F-35 was available for individuals with base access to view up close at the McKinley Climatic Laboratory.
7 May	58 FS deployed to Savannah International Airport, GA for DACT training.
8 Sep	The last three of the wing's F-15s departed Eglin AFB after more than 30 years.
1 Oct	In a ceremony presided over by Major Generals William L. Holland, Commander 9th Air Force (AF), and Gregory A. Feest, Commander, 19 AF, the 33d Fighter Wing (FW) transitioned from 9 AF to 19 AF and from Air Combat Command to Air Education and Training Command. The wing transitioned to its new mission of training fighter pilots in the Air Force's newest 5th generation aircraft, the F-35 Lightning II, Joint Strike Fighter. Col. David A. Hlatky assumed command of the wing.
1 Oct	HQ 9 AF activated Detachment 33 (Det 33) in support of the drawdown for the ACC F-15 mission. Lt Col Maria Marion assumed command of Det 33.

2010

1 Apr	VMFAT-451 re-activated at the National Naval Aviation Museum on board Naval Air Station Pensacola. The unit re-designated as Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron (VMFAT) 501, making it the first F-35B training squadron stood-up. 33d FW assumed operational control, making it the first time a Marine Corps flying squadron had ever been embedded into an Air Force Wing.
23 Apr	513th Electronic Warfare Squadron (EWS) activated under 53d Electronic Warfare GROUP (EWG), Eglin AFB. 513 EWS sole provider of electronic warfare supporting the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

- 27 Apr 33 FW hosted the first Readiness Review conference previously known as Site Activation Task Force (SATAF), and the Functional System Design Review Team (FSDRT) to ensure the Joint Strike Fighter Program was going as planned.
- 3 May 33d Maintenance Operations Squadron activated; Maj Joe Sablatura assumed command of the squadron. 33 OG comprised: 33 OSS, 58 FS and Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron-501 (VMFAT-501, USMC). 33d Maintenance Group comprised three squadrons: 33d Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (AMXS), 33d Maintenance Operations Squadron (MOS), and the 33d Maintenance Squadron (MXS).
- 16 Jul 359th Training Squadron (TRS) activated at Eglin AFB. Lt Col Teal Clark assumed command of the squadron. The 359 TRS functions as an associate unit to Eglin AFB and the 33 FW, however the squadron was assigned to the 82d Training Group headquartered at Sheppard AFB, Texas. The unit's mission was to provide training for USAF, USMC, USN, and partner nation maintainers of the F-35, Lightning II, Joint Strike Fighter.
- 28 Jul Air Force announced Eglin AFB would be limited to 59 F-35s vice the original 107 originally considered for training. F-35 production at the Marietta, Georgia plant began full-rate-production rates to produce one aircraft per day.
- 31 Jul 9 AF deactivated Detachment 33 on Eglin AFB.
- 19 Oct U.S. Navy, Commander Naval Air Forces, Fleet Integration Team (CNAF/FIT), Eglin AFB, hosted the Lightning II Integration Transition Team (LITT) conference.
- 21 Oct Israeli Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, Colonel Ben Sira and General Dan visited the 33 FW.
- 16 Nov Members of the Israeli Air Force visited the 33 FW.

2011

- 13 Jan Four F-16 aircraft arrived from Luke AFB, AZ to assist 33 FW pilots in maintaining certifications. Flying/training operations began on 18 January 2011.
- 13 Apr Maj Gen Jarmo Lindberg, Commander, Finland Air Force, visited the 33 FW.
- 18 Apr Lockheed Martin delivered the first F-35 full-mission simulator to the 33 FW.

- 2 Jun 33 FW hosted the Air and Space Interoperability Council (ASIC) National Directors Meeting. ASIC is a 5-nation entity consisting of both air forces and navies from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and United States.
- 15 Jun 33 FW held a System Requirements Review (SRR) for the JSF program.
- 14 Jul 33 FW received the first F-35A, Lightning II, Joint Strike Fighter, tail number 08-0747 (AF-9). Wing received tail number 08-0746 on 19 Jul.



F-35 Lightning II

- 26 Aug 33 FW held a rollout ceremony for the F-35.
- 11 Oct VMFAT-501 pilot conducted a Short Take-Off and Vertical Landing (STOVL) test of a F-35B.
- 9 Dec 58 FS, Director of Operations, Lt Col. Eric Smith, completed first taxi operations of a wing's F-35, tail number 08-0750.

2012

- 11 Jan VMFAT-501 received the first two F-35B aircraft, tail numbers BF-6 and BF-8.
- 24 Feb VMFAT-501 conducted an F-35B rollout ceremony.
- 28 Feb Wing received flight clearance for the F-35 from Air Force Aeronautical Systems Center (ASC).
- 1 Mar Operating Location A, 33d Operations Group, activated on Hurlburt Field. Tasked with training Air Force Special Operations intelligence professionals on integration with the F-35.

6 Mar	58 FS flew its first F-35A sortie.
19 Mar	33 FW began formal training for pilots and maintainers of the F- 35 at the Academic Training Center.
10 Apr	Wing conducts first formation flight of two F-35s. Pilots from 58 FS and VMFAT-501.
11 Apr	KC-135R assigned to the Nebraska Air National Guard, aerial refueled an F-35A of the 33 FW. First air-to-air refueling of an F-35A, tail number 08-0748.
31 May	Lt. Col. Lee Kloos, 58 FS Commander became the first Air Force (Non-Test pilot) qualified in the F-35A.
11 Jul	33FW accomplished its 100 th JSF sortie: 74 in the F-35A and 26 in the F-35B.
16 Jul	Maj. Jay Spohn becomes first Air National Guard pilot to fly the F-35A as well as becoming its first instructor pilot.
23 Jul	Squadron Leader Jim Schofield of the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force becomes first partner nation pilot to fly the F-35B at Eglin AFB.
1 Oct	The 337th Air Control Squadron (ACS) activated and placed under 33rd Operations Group (OG)
15 Oct	33FW attained its 500th F-35 sortie.

2013

7 Jan	The first F-35 pilot class began at the 33 FW's Academic Training Center (ATC).
11 Mar	33 FW's Academic Training Center conducted first classified course.
28 Mar	33 FW graduated first class of F-35A pilots. Pilots began 7 Jan 2013.
28 Mar	F-16's on loan from 56 FW returned to Luke AFB.
17 Apr	33 FW's newly constructed aircraft maintenance hangar, building 1417, dedicated to Lt Col (R) Edward J. Saylor. Saylor began his Army Air Corps/ Air Force career as an enlisted flight engineer and maintainer. He served on crew#15 of the Doolittle Raiders. After World War II, Saylor attained a commission and served as a maintenance officer until retiring in 1967.

- 6 May 33 FW received its first Block 2A F-35A aircraft.
- 13 Jun 33rd Maintenance Squadron (MOS) inactivated.
- 22 Jun VFA-101 received its first F-35C, US Navy variant.
- 26 Aug 33 FW began training six F-35 maintenance personnel from the Netherlands. Marked the first joint (international) training of F-35 maintenance personnel on the F-35.
- 27 Aug 33 FW conducted its first weapon load on an F-35A by load team: MSgt Karen Griffin, TSgt Russ Fontaine, and SSgt Steven Dash of the 33d Maintenance Group (MXG).

2014

- 24 Mar 33 FW conducted first night flight of assigned F-35s (11-5022 and 11-5024). Flown by Lt. Col. Matthew Renbarger, 58 FS/CC and Maj. Josef Morris, 58 FS/ADO.
- 17 Jun 33 FW conducted first hot-pit refueling of an F-35A.
- 28 Oct 33 FW participated in Exercise SOUTHERN STRIKE in Gulfport Mississippi. Exercise focused on Agile Combat Employment through a combined force of Air National Guard, Army National Guard, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard units. 33 FW participated through 17 Nov 2014.
- 5 Dec 33 FW attended Exercise CHECKERED FLAG at Tyndall AFB. The exercise integrated 4th and 5th generation aircraft to enhance mobility and employment capabilities of aviators and maintainers.

2015

- 6 May Lt Col. Christine Mau, 33d Operations Group (OG) Deputy Commander, became first female to pilot an F-35A.
- 7 Dec 33 FW attended Exercise Checkered Flag at Tyndall AFB. Exercise lasted until 18 Dec 2015.

2016

- 24 Jan 33 FW sent three F-35As to Exercise JADED THUNDER at Avon Park, FL. The exercise, a multi-national joint exercise, provided 33FW pilots training in tactical combat operations.

- 3 Mar 33 FW pilots successfully dropped first munitions (inert GBU-12 D/Bs) from its F-35As.
- 8 Mar 33 FW supported Army Ranger training with two F-35As. The F-35s provided close air support for the 3d ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.
- 22 Aug 33 FW deployed 185 personnel and fourteen F-35As in support of Exercise NORTHERN LIGHTNING at Volk Field, WI. Exercise provided pilots with joint training environment focused on air interdiction and close air support against highly integrated air defense systems. Exercise lasted through 2 Sep 2016.
- Sep 33 FW graduated its 500th F-35 student pilot.
- 6 Dec Six F-35As and 124 personnel assigned to the 33 FW participated in Exercise CHECKERED FLAG at Tyndall AFB, Florida. Exercise lasted through 16 Dec 2016.

2017

- 31 Jan 33 FW participated in Weapons Systems Evaluation Program (WSEP)/COMBAT ARCHER at Tyndall AFB. Exercise lasted through 2 Feb.
- 13 Mar 33 FW participated in WSEP/COMBAT HAMMER at Tyndall AFB. Exercise lasted through 17 Mar.
- 10 Apr 33 FW participated in Exercise ATLANTIC TRIDENT at Langley AFB. Exercise lasted through 27 Apr and provided pilots with joint inter-nation collaborative practice at honing air supremacy skills. It was the second annual exercise.
- 12 Oct 33FW celebrated its seventieth anniversary.
- 6 Nov 33 FW participated in Exercise CHECKERED FLAG at Tyndall AFB, Florida. Exercise lasted through 17 Nov.

2018

- 30 Jan 33 FW hosted the Lightning TOP OFF Course (LiTOC) A total of eight F-35 units from across the Air Force and Navy participated in the two-week event.
- 29 Mar 33 FW a small contingent of maintenance personnel to train Navy counterparts on board the USS Abraham Lincoln.

14 Dec 33 FW participated in Combat Archer 19-03; an Air-to-Air Weapons Evaluation Program held at Tyndall AFB.

2019

29 May Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 101, the “Grim Reapers,” deactivated. The 33 FW and the Navy F-35C pilots shared the flightline and training mission since the wing took on the F-35 training mission.

12 Aug 33 FW deployed F-35s to participate in Northern Lightning Exercise 2019 located at Volk Field, WI. The two-week exercise brought together nearly 1,000 personnel from twenty different units from the Air Force, National Guard, Navy, and Marine Corps.

19 Sep 33 FW fired its first AIM-9X missiles from an F-35A.

2020

14 Sep 58 FS deployed to Savannah Georgia to take part in Exercise SAVANNAH SHIFT.

21 Dec 33 FW graduated its 10,000th F-35 maintainer, U.S. Marine, Private First Class, Haily Tomlinson, an F-35 Engine Mechanic, from the wing’s Air Training Center (ATC).

2021

6 Aug 33 FW deployed the 58th Fighter Squadron to Eielson AFB AK.

29 Oct 33 FW reactivated the 60th Fighter squadron.

2022

4 Mar 60 FS conduct independent flying operations.

10 Aug 33 FW deployed and participated in Northern Lightning 2022

2023

13 Mar 33 FW deployed the 58 FS to MacDill AFB and the 60 FS to NAS Key West to conduct two-weeks of off-station training attempting to defer sorties lost to weather attrition. During the two-weeks the wing zero sorties were lost due to weather attrition.

2 Aug 58 FS deployed 14 aircraft and necessary personnel for off-station training to Volk Air National Guard, WI.

3 Aug 60 FS deployed 14 aircraft and necessary personnel for off-station training to Mountain Home AFB, ID.

2024

8 Jan Winter storm within the Eglin area initiated a short notice hangaring of 42 aircraft and the fly away of six aircraft to MacDill AFB. Damaging winds of 70 knots or greater and tornadic activity was predicted. Storm passed without any damages to wing facilities or equipment.

26 Jan 33 FW hosted the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) class of 1959, recognizing their 65th Anniversary. The class of 1959 was the first class to enter USAFA, beginning their journey at Lowry AFB, Colorado while the academy was being built in Colorado Springs.

1 Feb 60 FS deployed 14 Aircraft and personnel to Savannah, GA, Exercise CROWVANNAH for off-station training.

20 Feb 58 FS deployed 14 Aircraft and personnel to MacDill AFB, FL for off-station training.

5 Mar Two of the wing's F-35s aided in flight tests of the Marine Corps XQ-58A Valkyrie. The XQ-58 A is a highly autonomous low-cost tactical unmanned air vehicle. It was the aircraft's second test flight.

29 Apr Conference brought together subject matter experts within the aircrew performance community from five MAJCOMS that included: AETC, ACC, AMC, AFMC, and AFSOC. The summit elicited innovations and best practices from the field of human performance. A total of 470 people were in attendance (80 speakers) from Army/Navy, 5 partner nations, 7 Universities (including John's Hopkins, UVA, Ohio State, and Harvard), 13 industry partners, and 19 different agencies (including HAF, SAF, USSF, USSOCOM, AFMED). Foreign national partners from the UK, Australia, Finland, and the Netherlands were also in attendance.

3 May 33 FW participated in a Pilot Interchange trip to Finland with JPO and AFSAT reps. The team garnered positive feedback, improved program confidence, and raised U.S. awareness on the high strength of Finland F-35 training candidates and its readiness to provide the resources needed for successful training.

22 May 33 FW's "Pilot Fit Facility" outfitted the 1,000th pilot. The facility is responsible for providing personalized fitting of flight gear to F-35 pilots. Pilots from around the world received proper fitting flight gear at the facility. Captain Ryosuke Sugimoto of the Japanese Air Self-Defense Force was the 1,000th pilot.

Jun	33 MXS personnel completed F-1 tubing & Onboard Inert Gas Generation modifications, HMOD-47 requirement, 6 years ahead of the FY30 due date, for the last aircraft in the wing's fleet. The modification decreased the 33 FW fleet's severe weather flight restrictions from 25 to 10 nautical miles.
13 Jun	60 FS conducted live fire event. Pilots dropped live GBU-12's and 31's as well as fired the aircraft's 25mm cannon.
25 Jun	33 FW observed the anniversary of the Khobar Towers bombing. The wing and the community held a ceremony at the memorial on the 33 FW campus. Event coordinated and executed by 33 MXS personnel. The 53-member team executed the ceremony to honor 19 fallen Airmen. Two-hundred visitors attended, from eleven different states, of which forty-one were family members of the fallen.
2 Jul	33 FW officially activated the 85th Fighter Group and 57th Fighter Squadron at Ebbing National Guard Base, Arkansas. The Geographically Separated Units (GSUs), located at Ebbing National Guard Base, Arkansas is charged with training Foreign Military Sales (FMS) pilots. A dual assumption of command ceremony, presided over by Colonel Skalicky, was held. Col. Nicholas Ihde took command of the 85 FG and Lt Col. Jonathan Hassell assumed command of the 57 FS.
22 Jul	58 FS IPs and students conducted Pilot flight training (PFT) at Eielson AFB, AK. Training conducted with Eielson F-35s. Students and Instructors re-caged to INDOPACAM operations and ACE concepts while gaining familiarity to real world Russian/Chinese bomber intercepts IVO Alaska. Home station flying operations continued for the 58 FS, but at a reduced rate. In total 46 personnel deployed to Eielson AFB to conduct off-station training.
15 Oct	Reorganization within the Army led to U.S. Army ceased providing Ground Liaison Officer (GLO) support to 33 FW.
9 – 20 Sep	9 - 20 Sep – 60 FS deployed eight aircraft and associated personnel off-station to Ebbing National Guard Base, AR to conduct a major Agile Combat Employment (ACE) exercise through 20 September. The crews established training curricula that would integrate foreign pilots into the program, and conducted familiarization flights with the F-35A aircraft.
20 Sep	85 FG held a F-35 FMS Support Facility ribbon cutting ceremony at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, AR. AETC/CC, Lt. Gen. Brian Robinson, 33 FW leadership, joined by state and local community leaders, officially opened Ebbing as an FMS base for the training of foreign pilots in their F-35s.

- 27 Sep The wing exceeded FY24 Flying Hour Program by over 500 hours resulting in the 33 FW/CC designating the day (Friday, 27 Sep) as a “Goal Day”.
- 7 – 11 Oct 58 FS conducted small deployment to Ebbing National Guard Base, AR. Squadron deployed four aircraft to conduct off-station ACE training. The 33 AMXS generated 4 aircraft for 20 sorties during the TDY. The TDY presented a unique opportunity to integrate with the 57th Fighter Squadron and validate that Ebbing Field was ready to accept and fly partner-nation F-35A aircraft.
- 21 Oct 60 FS participated in Checkered Flag 25-1 at Tyndall AFB. The squadron executed F-35 ACE operations out of Tyndall AFB and upgraded 3x IPs to Mission Commanders preparing them for Weapons School via the exercise.
- 5 Dec 58 FS conducted a small off-station deployment to Ebbing National Guard Base, AR. Squadron deployed four aircraft to conduct off-station ACE training. Deployed on Monday, 3 December and returned on Friday, 7 December.
- 23 Dec Ebbing Air National Guard base and the 85 FG welcomed the first two Polish F-35 aircraft. Poland, the first of four FMS countries to arrive to train at Ebbing between 2024 and 2030.

2025

- 31 Jan 85 FG and 57 FS execute first Polish FMS flights at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Arkansas.
- 9 May 85 FG held Initial Operation Capability (IOC) at Ebbing for FMS training.
- 30 May 58 FS departed TDY to Volk Field, WI. Squadron returned to Eglin on 12 June.
- 17 Jun 60 FS conducted ACE exercise at Ebbing.
- 25 Jun 33 FW held the annual Khobar Tower memorial ceremony. The ceremony marked the twenty-ninth anniversary of the bombing of Khobar Towers.
- 11 Jul 60 FS departed TDY to Fort Worth TX. Returned to Eglin 24 July.
- 8 Aug 33d Training Squadron (TRS) activated. An entirely new constituted unit with the mission of maintaining administrative oversight of training and trainees.