

# CHRONOLOGY

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1940-11-20	55th Pursuit Group constituted at Hamilton Field, CA. This is the first time the 55th designator is used.
1941-01-15	55th Pursuit Group activated at Hamilton Field, CA
1944-03-03	55th Fighter Group is first American fighter unit to fly over Berlin. 8th AF bombers were recalled due to bad weather, but the fighters never got the recall message.
1946-08-20	55th Fighter Group inactivated
1947-02-24	55th Reconnaissance Group activated at MacDill Field, FL. First time for the 'reconnaissance' designator.
1947-09-18	US Air Force becomes an independent service. Signed into law by Pres Harry S Truman.
1948-06-01	The 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Group redesignated at Forbes AFB, KS.
1948-06-13	Offutt Field becomes Offutt AFB under the Department of the Air Force.
1950-11-01	55th Strategic Reconnaissance Group reactivated at Barksdale AFB, LA. Primary aircraft were RB-29s and RB-50s. Moved to Ramey AFB, PR, and redesignated as the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing.
1953-03-15	55SRW RB-50 was attacked by Soviet aircraft. The crew returned fire, the MiG withdrew and the RB returned safely to Yokota AB, Japan.
1953-07-29	A 55SRW RB-50 was shot down by Soviet aircraft. Fifteen crewmen perished and were the first 55th Cold War casualties. The co-pilot survived and was rescued by the US Navy.
1954-06-14	55SRW completes transition to an all jet unit in RB-47s.
1960-07-01	A Soviet MiG shot down a 55SRW RB-47 over the Barents Sea. Four crewmen die and two were rescued by a Russian trawler crew. Navigator John McKone and copilot Bruce Olmstead were incarcerated in Lubyanka Prison in Moscow for seven months.
1961-01-25	crewmen John McKone and Bruce Olmstead, who survived a Soviet shootdown of their aircraft and were imprisoned on 1 July 1960, were released by Soviets and returned to US as a 'good will gesture' to the newly installed President John F. Kennedy.

1961-02-03	SAC began continuous operation of Airborne Command Post, "Looking Glass", flown by 34 ARS (not part of 55th as yet)
1965-01-26	Detachment One of the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing established at Offutt AFB, NE, while the parent wing remained at Forbes AFB, KS, flying RB-47s.
1965-04-29	55th RB-47 attacked by North Korean MiGs over Sea of Okhotsk. Crew returned fire, evaded, and recovered badly damaged aircraft at Yokota AB, Japan.
1966-07-01	55SRW (Det 1) Offutt AFB, NE, assumed responsibilities for the flight operations of the EC-135 Airborne Command Post missions, "Looking Glass".
1966-08-16	HQ 55th SRW officially moved to Offutt AFB, NE, from Forbes AFB, KS. Det 1, 55th SRW designated at Forbes AFB, KS. Deactivated circa Feb-Mar 1967
1967-01-27	55SRW receives first RC-135 at Offutt AFB, NE.
1967-04-01	55SRW flies first operational RC-135 sortie.
1970-11-17	Soviet aircraft fire in the vicinity of an RC-135 over the Pachora Sea north of the Soviet Union. The crew continued on and completed its mission and returned safely to RAF Mildenhall, UK. Last known hostile activity by any unfriendly nation toward 55th aircraft.
1975-11-01	1 Airborne Command and Control Sqd. was transferred from Andrews AFB, MD, to under the 55th at Offutt, and the wing assumed operations of the E-4 aircraft.
1979-01-09	First Birthday Ball held at Offutt Officers Club. Created by wing commander Colonel Regis F. A. Urschler.
1986-03-01	55th SRWing becomes host unit at Offutt AFB, NE
1990-08-01	55th SRW deploys first assets to SW Asia before the Gulf War. Remains in operation there until present.

1991-09-01	The 55th SRW was renamed the 55th Wing, New shield similar to WWII Ftgr Gp.
1991-12-26	Official end of Cold War.
1992-06-01	Strategic Air Command deactivated; Air Combat Command activated with 55th Wing under it
1998-09-25	Final ABNCP "Looking Glass" mission flown.
2003-02-03	55th acquired responsibility for the EC-130H Compass Call missions at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, as the 55th Electronic Combat Group
2009-02-06	Deployed 55th assets fly 7000th RAJ mission in SW Asia.
2014-07-01	25th Air Force standup with IRS assets, including 55th Wing, under its command
2016-10-06	595 Command and Control Group stands up and the E4 mission leaves the 55th Wing.
<p>List compiled in September 2005 by Max Moore Updated July 2015.  Subsequently sent to 55th Wing Historian for archives. Also sent to 55th Wing PA in early 2016 and 27 Sep 2016.</p>	