



# FACT SHEET

USAF Fact Sheet  
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## 11<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Squadron

### Mission

The 11<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Squadron is currently in operation at Indian Springs Air Force Auxiliary Field, Nev., and is the first of only two of the Air Force's RQ-1A/A *Predator* unmanned aerial vehicle, or UAV, squadrons. It provides theatre commanders with deployable, long endurance, real-time reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition. The squadron operates medium and high altitude multi-sensor platforms to locate, identify and report battlefield conditions to warfighters. In addition, the 11<sup>th</sup> RS collects, exploits and distributes imagery and intelligence products to theater commanders and national-level leadership and conducts all *Predator* aircrew qualification training.

### Background

Following its activation in March, 1942, the 11<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron engaged in reconnaissance, mapping artillery adjustment, bombing and strafing missions throughout the United States in support of Army Training during World War II. The squadron arrived at its 13<sup>th</sup> duty station in early 1946, Shaw Field, S.C., where it was inactivated.

A little over a year later, it was activated again, this time at March Air Force Base, Calif. Squadron members flew RB-26s. The squadron flew primarily photographic reconnaissance training missions in the Southwest United States until its inactivation in March 1949.

In September, 1953, the squadron was activated at Kimpo Field, Republic of Korea, where members flew WB-26s on weather reconnaissance and electronic countermeasures missions. After moving to Japan in December of 1954, the 11<sup>th</sup> TRS regained its photo reconnaissance mission in August of 1956 with a primary mission of flying over the Korean Demilitarized Zone.



The squadron was transitioned to jet aircraft in 1957, when WB- and RB-26s were replaced with RB-66s. In 1958 the 11<sup>th</sup>'s mission expanded to include weather reconnaissance once again with the addition of the WB-66Bs to its aircraft inventory. In March of 1960, the squadron was once again inactivated.

In April 1966, the 11<sup>th</sup> TRS continued its reconnaissance career with RF-4Cs at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. By October, the squadron was combat-ready and was deployed to the Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand. Shortly after their arrival at Udorn, the crews of the 11<sup>th</sup> began flight combat reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam and Laos. In addition to combat reconnaissance missions, the also flew daily weather reconnaissance missions over planned strike areas for 7<sup>th</sup> Air Force.

The 11<sup>th</sup> TRS experimented with laser targeting to get photographic targets at night during the spring of 1969 and began using long-range navigation in May 1970. Including its participation in Cambodia, the squadron flew 26,493 combat missions in Southeast Asia and earned 10 combat streamers before ceasing combat operations Oct. 24, 1970. A month later the squadron was inactivated.

The 11<sup>th</sup> TRS would no stay inactive for long. On July 1, 1971, it became the 11<sup>th</sup> Tactical Drone Squadron flying DC-130s with AQM-34 jet-powered reconnaissance drone at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. The squadron added Ch-3s in 1972 and by 173 was using the helicopters to midair retrieve the drones. They also tested the Maverick-equipped BGM-34 air-to-ground attack drones in 1974 and 1975 as well as a new reconnaissance drone, the AQM-2V, in 1976. By 1978, the drone program was winding down and the squadron was inactivated in 1979.

Prior to its activation at Nellis in 1995, the 11<sup>th</sup> RS was assigned to the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Force as the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Intelligence Squadron between 1991 and 1994.

**(Current as of January 2001)**