

553rd Reconnaissance Wing Korat RTAFB, Thailand



Batcats

The 553rd Reconnaissance wing insignia was designed by the world famous cartoonist, Mr. Milton Caniff. Mr. Caniff is best known for his comic strip, "Steve Canyon." The following is Mr. Caniff's explanation of the insignia he designed:

"The device shows an aggressive jungle cat-like creature, facing forward, airborne on gigantic bat wings. The entire area of the beast is colored midnight blue, but the eyes glow white against the nocturnal shading. The mouth is red.

The right front paw of the animal appears to be touching a representational design of the top of a globe marked with latitudinal and longitudinal lines.

In the upper left corner of the yellow field are shown jagged lines in the configuration of the ancient navigator's lines of position for a star "fix." The point of impact is indicated by a white circle within which is the ancient sign for sulphur. This is drawn in bright red.

The white eyes of the BAT CAT make clear the reconnaissance mission of the organization, while the deep blue signifies the secrecy surrounding the effort. The red mouth highlights the heat of the striking power implicit in the BAT CAT. The midnight blue and the golden yellow of the field further emphasize the day and night capability of the Wing, whether flying blind or not.

The tiger-like cat creature denotes the militant attitude of the personnel involved in the assigned task. The bat wings signify the sensitivity of the classified equipment issued to the 553rd and its application. The representation of the globe denotes the worldwide potential of the Wing and its mission. The sulphur sign at point of the "fix" dramatizes the enormity of the power which can be delivered to such a place as a result of the skill of the Wing."

The words "Caveat Cattam" translated from Latin means "Beware of the Cat."