

# 111<sup>th</sup> OPERATIONS GROUP

## MISSION

The mission of the 111th Operations Group is to organize, train and equip a team of professional Airmen capable of employing the MQ-9 weapon system to its maximum potential in support of assigned taskings.

## LINEAGE

391<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium) constituted, 15 Jan 1943  
Activated, 21 Jan 1943  
Redesignated 391<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (Light) in Jul 1945  
Inactivated, 25 Oct 1945  
Redesignated 111<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Light) and allotted to ANG (Pa), 24 May 1946  
Extended federal recognition, 20 Dec 1948  
Redesignated 111<sup>th</sup> Composite Group, 1 Nov 1950  
Redesignated 111<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Light), 1 Feb 1951  
Ordered to active service, 1 Apr 1951  
Redesignated 111<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Group (Medium), 1 Aug 1951  
Inactivated, 16 Jun 1952  
Relieved from active federal service and returned to Pennsylvania Commonwealth control on 15 November 1952  
Redesignated 111<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber Group, 1 Jan 1953  
Redesignated 111<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Interceptor Group, 1 Jul 1955  
Redesignated 111<sup>th</sup> Air Transport Group, 1 Apr 1962  
Redesignated 111<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Group, 8 Jan 1966  
Redesignated 111<sup>th</sup> Tactical Air Support Group, 27 May 1969  
Inactivated, 30 Jun 1974  
Reactivated and redesignated 111<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 1 Oct 1995  
Inactivated, 31 Mar 2011  
Activated, 2016

## STATIONS

MacDill Field, FL, 21 Jan 1943  
Myrtle Beach Bombing Range, SC, 24 May 1943

Godman Field, KY, 4 Sep-31 Dec 1943  
Matching, England, 25 Jan 1944  
Roye/Amy, France, 19 Sep 1944  
Assche, Belgium, 16 Apr 1945  
Vitry-en-Artois, France, 27 May-27 Jul 1945  
Camp Shanks, NY, Oct-25 Oct 1945  
Philadelphia Intl Aprt, PA, 1 Apr 1951  
Fairchild AFB, WA, 10 Apr 1951-16 Jun 1952  
Willow Grove, PA, 1963

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Third Air Force, 21 Jan 1943  
99<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, 25 January 1944 – 27 July 1945  
53rd Fighter Wing, 20 Dec 1948  
Pennsylvania Air National Guard, 1 Nov 1951

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-26 Marauder  
B-26 Invader  
B-29  
F-51D  
F-84F  
F-94A  
F-94B  
F-94C  
F-89H  
C-97  
U-3A  
O-2  
OA-37B  
A-10  
MQ-9

### **COMMANDERS**

Col Gerald E. Williams, 23 Jan 1943-1945  
Col Joseph B. McManus, 1 Apr 1951  
Col Edward D. Edwards, 24 Jun 1951  
Col S. E. Manzo, 8 Nov 1951-16 Jun 1952

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy  
Northern France  
Rhineland  
Ardennes-Alsace  
Central Europe

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation  
Germany, 23-26 Dec 1944

#### **EMBLEM**

Per bend or and azure, a bend counter compony sable and argent between in chief a Pegasus of the second and in base a cluster of three feathers of the first surmounted by a mullet of the fourth and third. (Approved, 11 Jan 1954)

#### **MOTTO**

VIRTUTE ALISQUE—With Wings and Courage

#### **NICKNAME**

#### **OPERATIONS**

Trained with B-26's for duty in Europe with Ninth AF. Moved to England, Jan-Feb 1944. Entered combat on 15 Feb 1944 and during the ensuing weeks bombed targets such as airfields, marshalling yards, bridges, and V-weapon sites in France and the Low Countries to help prepare for the invasion of Normandy. Attacked enemy defenses along the invasion beaches on 6 and 7 Jun 1944. From Jun to Sep, continued cross-Channel operations, which included attacks on fuel dumps and troop concentrations in support of Allied forces during the breakthrough at St Lo in Jul 1944, and strikes on transportation and communications to block the enemy's retreat to the east. Began flying missions from bases on the Continent in Sep 1944, extending its area of operations into Germany and continuing its attacks against enemy railroads, highways, troops, bridges, ammunition dumps, and other targets. Contributed vital assistance to ground forces during the Battle of the Bulge by attacking heavily defended positions such as bridges and viaducts, 23-26 Dec 1944; for these missions, performed without fighter escort in the face of intense flak and overwhelming attacks by enemy aircraft, the group was awarded a DUG. From Jan to May 1945, and using A-26's beginning in Apr, the group concentrated its attacks on the German transportation and communications system. Flew its last mission on 3 May.

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Air Force Lineage and Honors  
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#### **Sources**

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.