

## 112<sup>th</sup> AIR REFUELING GROUP



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

350<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group activated, 1 Oct 1942  
Constituted 350<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, 2 Oct 1942  
Inactivated, 7 Nov 1945  
Redesignated 112<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group and allotted to ANG (PA), 24 May 1946  
Extended federal recognition, 22 Apr 1949  
Redesignated 112<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor Group, 1 Oct 1952  
Redesignated 112<sup>th</sup> Fighter Bomber Group, 1 Dec 1952  
Redesignated 112<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Group  
Redesignated 112<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Group  
Inactivated 1 Oct 1993

#### STATIONS

Bushey Hall, England, 1 Oct 1942  
Duxford, England, Oct 1942  
Oujda, French Morocco, 6 Jan 1943  
Oran, Algeria, 14 Feb 1943  
Maison Blanche, Algeria, May 1943  
Rerhaia, Algeria, 17 Jul 1943  
Sardinia, 5 Nov 1943

Corsica, 6 Feb 1944  
Tarquinia, Italy, 8 Sep 1944  
Pisa, Italy, 2 Dec 1944-14 Jul 1945  
Seymour Johnson Field, NC, 25 Aug-7 Nov 1945  
Pittsburgh, PA

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Eighth Air Force, 1 October 1942  
VIII Fighter Command, 2 October 1942 – 6 January 1943  
Twelfth Air Force, 6 January 1943 – 14 July 1945  
III Fighter Command, 25 August – 7 November 1945  
53d Fighter Wing, 22 April 1949  
111th Air Defense Wing, 1 November 1950  
Pennsylvania Air National Guard, 1 July 1956

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

P-39  
P-400  
P-38  
P-47  
KC-135E

### **COMMANDERS**

LTC Richard P Klocko, 14 Oct 1942  
Maj Ariel W Nielsen, 24 Feb 1943  
LTC Marvin L McNickle, 1 Mar 1943  
LTC Ariel W Nielsen, Sep 1943  
LTC John C Robertson, 22 Oct 1944  
Col Ariel W Nielsen, Feb 1945  
Col John C Robertson, 20 Jun 1945-unkn  
LTC Lawrence F. Santerini  
Col Richard L. Prave  
Col Edward J. Bollen  
LTC Peter R. Phillipy  
LTC Albert B. Starr  
LTC Thomas Chantler  
Maj George Swearingen

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

Air Combat, EAME Theater  
Tunisia

Sicily  
Naples-Foggia  
Rome-Arno  
Southern France  
North Apennines  
Po Valley

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation: Italy, 6 Apr 1944

### **EMBLEM**



350<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group

112<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Group emblem: Per bend azure and or, on a bend sable between a Pegasus salient argent and a keystone charged with a ruffed grouse proper, a group of four vols with upper edges of wings parallel to the edge of the ordinary, each vol overlapping the next from dexter to sinister alternating of the fourth and second, a diminished border of the third. (Approved, 10 Sep 1954)

### **MOTTO**

IN COMMON CAUSE

### **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Activated in England on 1 Oct 1942 by special authority granted to Eighth AF prior to constitution as 350th Fighter Group on 2 Oct 1942. The air echelon moved from England to North Africa, Jan-Feb 1943; the ground echelon, which had been formed in the US, arrived in North Africa about the same time. The group operated with Twelfth AF from Jan 1943 until the end of the war, flying patrol and interception missions, protecting convoys, escorting aircraft, flying reconnaissance missions, engaging in interdiction operations, and providing close support for ground forces. Used P-39's, P-400's, and a few P-38's before converting to P-47's during Aug-Sep 1944.

Operated against targets in Tunisia until the end of that campaign. Defended the coast of Algeria during the summer and fall of 1943. Afterward, operated primarily in support of Allied forces in Italy until the end of the war, bombing and strafing rail facilities, shipping docks, radar and transformer stations, power lines, bridges, motor transports, and military installations. Received a DUC for action in western Italy on 6 Apr 1944 when, despite intense flak and attacks by numerous enemy interceptors, the group flew ten missions, hitting troops, bridges, vehicles, barracks, and air warning installations.

Also covered Allied landings on Elba in Jun 1944 and supported the invasion of Southern France in Aug. 1LT Raymond L. Knight was awarded the Medal of Honor for missions on 24 and 25 Apr 1945: voluntarily leading attacks, through intense antiaircraft fire, against enemy airdromes in northern Italy, Lt Knight was responsible for eliminating more than 20 German planes intended for assaults on Allied forces; attempting to return his shattered plane to base after an attack on 25 Apr, Lt Knight crashed in the Apennines. The group moved to the US, Jul-Aug 1945.

On 1 Oct, the 112<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group and attached squadrons, the 146<sup>th</sup> and 147<sup>th</sup>, was redesignated Fighter Interceptor Group and Squadrons, with no change in mission. This action was premature and was brought about by a mix-up in signals. On 1 Dec, all units were again redesignated Fighter-Bomber. The 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron was also redesignated Fighter Bomber and was relieved from assignment to the 112<sup>th</sup> Fighter Bomber Group effective 1 Jan 1953.

On October 1, 1993, the 112th ARG was inactivated resulting in the loss of 305 military and 65 civilian positions. This resulted in the 146th once again reuniting with the 147th under the same flag.

---

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 23 May 2020

Updated:

Sources

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