

146 OPERATIONS GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

373 Fighter Group constituted, 25 May 1943
Activated, 15 Aug 1943
Inactivated, 7 Nov 1945
Redesignated 146 Fighter Group and allotted to ANG (CA), 24 May 1946
Extended federal recognition, 16 Sep 1946
Redesignated 146 Composite Group, Nov 1950
Redesignated 146 Fighter Group in Feb 1951
Ordered into active service, 1 Apr 1951
Redesignated 146 Fighter-Bomber Group, 1 Jun 1951
Relieved from active duty, 1 Jan 1953
Redesignated 146 Fighter Interceptor Group, 1 Jul 1955
Redesignated 146 Air Transport Group, 1 Oct 1961
Federalized and placed on active duty, 1 Oct 1961
Released from active duty and returned to California state control, 31 Aug 1962
Redesignated 146 Military Airlift Group, 8 Jan 1966
Redesignated 146 Tactical Airlift Group, 1 Apr 1970
Inactivated, 30 June 1974
Activated and redesignated 146 Operations Group, 16 March 1992

STATIONS

Westover Field, MA, 15 Aug 1943
Norfolk, VA, 23 Oct 1943
Richmond AAB, VA, 15 Feb-15 Mar 1944
Woodchurch, England, 4 Apr-4 Jul 1944
Tour-en-Bassin, France, 19 Jul 1944
St-James, France, 19 Aug 1944
Reims, France, 19 Sep 1944
Le Culot, Belgium, 22 Oct 1944

Venlo, Holland, 11 Mar 1945
Lippstadt, Germany, 20 Apr 1945
Illesheim, Germany, 20 May-Jul 1945
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 4 Aug 1945
Seymour Johnson Field, NC, 20 Aug 1945
Mitchel Field, NY, 28 Sep-7 Nov 1945
Lockheed Air Terminal, CA, 1 Apr 1951
Moody AFB, GA, 10 May 1951
George AFB, CA, 25 Oct 1951-1 Jan 1953
Lockheed Air Terminal, Burbank, CA, 1 Feb 1948 – 1 Nov 1952
Moody AFB, GA, 1 Apr 1951 – 1 Nov 1952
Van Nuys Airport, California, 1 Jan 1953 – 30 Jun 1974
Channel Islands ANGB, Port Hueneme, CA, 16 CA 1992

ASSIGNMENTS

Ninth AF
Strategic Air Command
146 Airlift Wing

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Mission Aircraft

P-47, 1944
F-51
C-130

Support Aircraft

COMMANDERS

Maj Ansel J Wheeler, 23 Aug 1943
Col William H Schwartz Jr, 25 Aug 1943
Col James C McGehee, 17 Nov 1944
LTC James F McCarthy, May 1945-unkn
LTC Jack D Blanchard, 1 Apr 1951
Col Cecil E West, Jun 1951
Col Earl H Dunham, 22 Jun 1951
LTC Jack D Blanchard, 7 Jan 1952
Col Amos F Riha, 4 Apr 1952
Col Paul P Douglas, 27 Oct 1952-1 Jan 1953
LTC Oscar A. Hurt, #1974
Col Paul Hargrove Sep 2007 - Aug 2008
LTC Gregory F. Jones

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
Rhine River, 20 Mar 1945

French Croix de Guerre with Palm
Aug 1944

Cited in the Order of the Day, Belgian Army
1 Oct 1944
18 Dec 1944-15 Jan 1945

Belgian Fourragere

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
1 Jul 1965-30 Jun 1967

EMBLEM

Azure (light blue), on a pale or, a futuristic interceptor aircraft sable, highlighted white, overall in saltire a sword piercing a vulture's wing both argent, detailed and outlined of the third. (Approved, 21 Jun 1957)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Flew first combat mission, a fighter sweep over Normandy, on 8 May 1944, and then took part in preinvasion activities by escorting B-26s to attack airdromes, bridges, and railroads in France. Patrolled the air over the beachhead when the Allies launched the Normandy invasion on 6 Jun 1944, and hit troops, tanks, roads, fuel depots, and other targets in the assault area until the end of the month.

Moved to the Continent in Jul 1944; struck railroads, hangars, boxcars, warehouses, and other

objectives to prevent enemy reinforcements from reaching the front at St Lo, where the Allies broke through on 25 Jul 1944. Bombed such targets as troops, gun emplacements, and armored vehicles to aid ground troops in the Falaise-Argentan area in Aug 1944.

During the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945, concentrated on the destruction of bridges, marshalling yards, and highways. Flew armed reconnaissance missions to support ground operations in the Rhine Valley in Mar 1945, hitting airfields, motor transports, and other objectives. Received a DUC for a mission, 20 Mar 1945, that greatly facilitated the crossing of the Rhine by Allied ground forces: without losing any planes, the group repeatedly dived through barrages of anti-aircraft fire to bomb vital airfields east of the river; also attacked rail lines and highways leading to the Rhine, hitting rolling stock, motor transports, and other objectives. Continued tactical air operations until 4 May.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.