

305th OPERATIONS GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

305th Bombardment Group (Heavy) established, 28 Jan 1942
Activated, 1 Mar 1942
Redesignated 305th Bombardment Group, Heavy, 20 Aug 1943
Inactivated, 25 Dec 1946
Redesignated 305th Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, 11 Jun 1947
Activated, 1 Jul 1947
Inactivated, 6 Sep 1948
Redesignated 305th Bombardment Group, Medium, 20 Dec 1950
Activated, 2 Jan 1951
Inactivated, 16 Jun 1952
Redesignated 305th Operations Group, 29 Aug 1991
Activated, 1 Sep 1991
Inactivated, 15 Oct 1993
Activated, 1 Oct 1994

STATIONS

Salt Lake City AAB, UT, 1 Mar 1942
Geiger Field, WA, 11 Jun 1942
Muroc, CA, 4 Jul 1942
Fort Dix, NJ, 29 Aug-4 Sep 1942
Grafton Underwood, England, 13 Sep 1942
Chelveston, England, 11 Dec 1942

St Trond, Belgium, 25 Jul 1945
Lechfield, Germany, 19 Dec 1945-25 Dec 1946
Andrews Field (later, AFB), MD, 1 Jul 1947-6 Sep 1948
MacDill AFB, FL, 2 Jan 1951-16 Jun 1952
Grissom AFB, IN, 1 Sep 1991-15 Oct 1993
McGuire AFB, NJ, 1 Oct 1994

ASSIGNMENTS

II Bomber Command, 1 Mar 1942
16th Bombardment Wing, Jul-23 Aug 1942
VIII Bomber Command, 10 Sep 1942
1st Bombardment (later, 1st Combat Bombardment) Wing, 12 Sep 1942
40th Combat Bombardment Wing, 16 Sep 1943
9th Air Division, 16 May 1945
98th Bombardment Wing, 15 Sep 1945
40th Bombardment Wing, c. 15 Nov 1945
European Air Materiel Command, 20-25 Dec 1946
Strategic Air Command, 1 Jul 1947-6 Sep 1948
305th Bombardment Wing, 2 Jan 1951-16 Jan 1952
305th Air Refueling Wing, 1 Sep 1991-15 Oct 1993
305th Air Mobility Wing, 1 Oct 1994

ATTACHMENTS

102nd Provisional Heavy Combat Bombardment Wing, 13 Dec 1942-15 Sep 1943
Ninth Air Force for operational control, 16 May-c. 14 Sep 1945

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17, 1942-1946
B-18, 1942
B-24, 1942
UC-64, 1946
B-29, 1951
KC-135, 1991-1993
EC-135, 1991-1992
C-141, 1994-2004
KC-10, 1995
C-12, 1994-1995
C-17, 2004

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 1-14 Mar 1942
Cpt John H. deRussy, 15 Mar 1942
LTC Ernest H. Lawson, 1 Apr 1942
LTC Fay R. Upthegrove, 27 May 1942

Col Curtis E. LeMay, 3 Jun 1942
LTC Donald K. Fargo, 18 May 1943
LTC Delmar E. Wilson, Jun 1943
LTC Thomas K. McGehee, 1943
Col Ernest H. Lawson, Nov 1943
LTC William E. Sault, 13 Jun 1944
Col Anthony Q. Mustoe, 22 Jun 1944
Col Henry G. MacDonald, 23 Oct 1944
LTC James M. Graybeal, 2 May 1945
LTC James D. Motyl, 17 Jun 1945
Col Henry G. MacDonald, 24 Jun 1945
Col Paul L. Barton, 22 Apr 1946
Lt Col James D. Motyl, 29 Sep 1946
Col George M. Palmer, 2-15 Oct 1946
None (not manned), 16 Oct-25 Dec 1946
None (not manned), 1 Jul 1947-6 Sep 1948
LTC James B. Irwin, 2 Jan 1951
Col Elliott Vandevanter Jr., 1 Feb-9 Feb 1951
None (not manned), 10 Feb 1951-16 Jun 1952
Col Irving W. Boswell III, 1 Sep 1991-15 Oct 1993
Col Arthur F. Diehl III, 1 Oct 1994
Col Michael C. Gould, 27 Feb 1995
Col Paul E. Schutt, 7 Jun 1996
Col Robert C. Cosand, 17 Mar 1998
Col Mark E. Stearns, 27 Apr 1999
Col John I. Pray, 30 Oct 2000
Col Jeffrey G. Franklin, 19 Apr 2002
Col James S. Chesnut, 8 Jul 2002
Col Jonathan D. VanGuilder, 10 Jun 2004

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

France, 4 Apr 1943

Germany, 11 Jan 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

[1 Oct] 1994-30 Jun 1996

1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998

1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 1999

1 Jul 1999-30 Jun 2000

1 Jul 2000-30 Jun 2001

1 Jul 2001-30 Jun 2002

1 Jul 2002-30 Jun 2003

1 Jul 2003-30 Jun 2004

EMBLEM

Group will use the wing emblem with the group designation in the scroll.

MOTTO

CAN DO!

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Trained in various states for overseas bombardment missions, Mar-Sep 1942.

Activated 1 Mar. 42 at Salt Lake City AB, Utah. Training at this base and from 11 Jun. 42, at Geiger Fd, Wash. Intensive training at Muroc Lake AB, Cal. from 29 Jun. to 20 Aug. 42.

Sailed on Queen Mary 5 Sep. 42 and disembarked Greenock on 12 Sep. 42. Air echelon assembled at Syracuse, NY. And spent six weeks in advanced flight training. Received new B-17F and left for UK Oct. 42, via Presque Isle, and Gander to Prestwick.

Entered combat over occupied Europe on 17 Nov. On 27 Jan 1943, the group participated in the Eighth Air Force's first raid on Germany. It attacked naval targets, factories, harbors, marshalling yards, and industrial targets in Germany, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Norway in 1943 and 1944.

The group earned two Distinguished Unit Citations, one for a 4 Apr 1943 mission to Paris, France, and another for an 11 Jan 1944 raid on aircraft factories in central Germany. In Feb 1944, the group participated in the "Big Week" raids against the German aircraft industry.

Later in 1944, it flew interdiction and air support sorties in addition to strategic bombing missions. In preparation for the Allied invasion of Normandy in Jun 1944, the 305th attacked V-weapon sites, airfields, and repair shops. On D-day, the group bombed enemy strongholds in the battle area. In Jul 1944, it struck enemy positions at St. Lo for an Allied offensive from Normandy into central France.

The group bombed German anti-aircraft batteries in Sep 1944 to cover the Allied airborne invasion of the Netherlands. In Dec 1944 and Jan 1945, it participated in the Battle of the Bulge by striking enemy positions in the Ardennes Forest. The group also supported the Allied airborne assault across the Rhine River in Mar 1945. It sometimes flew night missions.

On 25 Apr, the group flew its final combat mission of World War II. After the war, it participated in the initial American occupation of Europe.

The group also conducted photographic mapping missions over Europe and North Africa.

Between 20-27 Jul. 45 Group moved St. Trond, Belgium, where it conducted photo-mapping flights (Project "Casey Jones") over Europe and North Africa. On 15 Dec. 45 moved to Lechfeld, Germany (which it had bombed 18 Mar. 44) to continue photographic work. Gradually run down during 1946, with inactivation of 364BS on 1 Jul. 46. 423BS of 306BG attached to Group after this date but by end of Oct. 46 Group had ceased all operations. Officially inactivated 25 Dec. 46. On the Continent came under 9AF and on 15 Nov 45 under USAFE. Activated in 1951 as SAC B-29 unit and as 305BW converted to B-47s in 1953. Later became one of USAFs two B-58 units.

First Mission: 17 Nov 42

Last Mission: 25 Apr 45

Total Missions: 337

Total Credit Sorties: 9,231

Total Bomb Tonnage: 223,625 tons (73 tons leaflets)

A/C MIA: 154

E/A Claims: 332-97-185

Not operational from 16 Oct-25 Dec 1946.

During two periods of activation, between Jul 1947 and Sep 1948 and between Jan 1951 and Jun 1952, the group was manned only from 2 Jan-9 Feb 1951.

Between Sep 1991 and Oct 1993, the group managed air refueling squadrons, but they did not fly between 1 Jul and 15 Oct 1993.

Commenced transport operations in 1994 and resumed tanker missions in 1995.

Managed strategic airlift, airdrop, and air refueling assets of the 305 Air Mobility Wing.

Supported combat operations in Afghanistan (2001-) and Iraq (2003-) and humanitarian airlifts for victims of natural disasters.

Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 26 Nov 2010
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.