

320 AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING



MISSION

The 320 Air Expeditionary Wing (320 AEW) is a provisional United States Air Force unit assigned to the Air Force District of Washington. It is stationed at Bolling AFB, District of Columbia. The 320 AEW may be activated or inactivated at any time.

LINEAGE

320 Bombardment Group (Medium) established, 19 Jun 1942

Activated, 23 Jun 1942

Redesignated 320 Bombardment Group, Medium, 31 Aug 1944

Inactivated, 4 Dec 1945

Redesignated 320 Bombardment Group, Light, 26 May 1947

Activated in the Reserve, 9 Jul 1947

Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

320 Bombardment Wing, Medium established and activated, 1 Dec 1952

Discontinued, 15 Sep 1960

Redesignated 320 Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 15 Nov 1962

Organized, 1 Feb 1963

320 Bombardment Group, Light and 320 Bombardment Wing, Heavy consolidated, 31 Jan 1984

Inactivated, 30 Sep 1989

Redesignated 320 Air Expeditionary Group, and converted to provisional status, 19 Nov 1998

Activated, 1 Dec 1998

Inactivated, 1 Dec 2001

Redesignated 320 Air Expeditionary Wing, 1 Feb 2002

Activated, 26 Jan 2014

Inactivated, 31 Jan 2014

STATIONS

MacDill AAB, FL, 23 Jun 1942

Drane Field, FL, 8 Aug-Sep 1942; (advanced echelon: Fort Dix, NJ, 29 Aug-5 Sep 1942; Hethel, England, 12 Sep-11 Nov 1942; Oran, Algeria, 21 Nov 1942), (ground echelon: Camp Kilmer, NJ, 23-26 Sep 1942; Tibenham, England, 4 Oct-9 Nov 1942; Oran, Algeria, 21 Nov 1942 [includes advance echelon from this point on]; Tafaraoui, Algeria, 22 Nov 1942; Relizane, Algeria, 19 Dec 1942; La Senia, Algeria, 8 Jan 1943), (flight echelon: Baer Field, IN, 19 Sep 1942; Morrison Field, FL, 19 Nov-2 Dec 1942; Tafaraoui, Algeria, 29 Dec 1942 La Senia, Algeria, 5 Jan 1943)

Tafaraoui, Algeria, 28 Jan 1943

Montesquieu, Algeria, 10 Apr 1943

Massicault, Tunisia, 29 Jun 1943

El Bathan, Tunisia, 28 Jul-28 Oct 1943

Djeideida, Tunisia, 31 Oct 1943 (air echelon)

Decimomannu, Sardinia, 1 Nov 1943 (ground echelon), 9 Nov 1943 (air echelon)

Alto, Corsica, 20 Sep 1944

Dijon, France, 20 Nov 1944

Dole Airdrome, Tavaux Citie, France, 2 Apr 1945

Herzogenaurach, Germany, 20 Jun 1945;

Clastres, France, 3 Oct-20 Nov 1945

Camp Myles Standish, MA, 3-4 Dec 1945

Mitchel Field (later, AFB), NY, 9 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949

March AFB, CA, 1 Dec 1952-15 Sep 1960

Mather AFB, CA, 1 Feb 1963-30 Sep 1989

Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia, 1 Dec 1998-1 Dec 2001

Doha International Airport ("Camp Snoopy") and Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, 2001–2006

Seeb International Airport, Oman,

Al Ain International Airport (Al Daftra AB), Abu Dhabi, UAE,

Bolling AFB, District of Columbia, 2006; 2009

Joint Base Andrews, MD

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Brize Norton RAF Station, England, 5 Jun-4 Sep 1954

Andersen AFB, Guam, 5 Oct 1956-11 Jan 1957

ASSIGNMENTS

III Bomber Command, 23 Jun 1942

XII Bomber Command, 14 Sep 1942

7 Fighter (later, 47th Bombardment) Wing, Feb 1943

2686 Medium Bombardment Wing (Provisional), 6 Jun 1943

42 Bombardment Wing, 25 Aug 1943

XII Bomber Command, 1 Jan 1944

42 Bombardment Wing, 1 Mar 1944
IX Air Force Service Command, 29 May-20 Nov 1945
Boston Port of Embarkation, 3-4 Dec 1945
4 Bombardment Wing (later, 4th Air Division), 9 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949
12 Air Division, 1 Dec 1952-15 Sep 1960
Department of the Air Force, 16 Sep 1960
Strategic Air Command, 15 Nov 1962
14 Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Feb 1963
18 Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Jul 1965
47 Air Division, 2 Jul 1966
14 Strategic Aerospace Division, 31 Mar 1970
47 Air Division, 30 Jun 1971
14 Air Division, 1 Oct 1972
47 Air Division, 1 Oct 1982
12 Air Division, 23 Jan 1987
Fifteenth Air Force, 15 Jul 1988-30 Sep 1989
9 Air and Space (later, 9 Aerospace) Expeditionary Task Force-SOUTHERN WATCH, 1 Dec
1998-1 Dec 2001
1 Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force

ATTACHMENTS

1 Air Disarmament Wing, 29 May-c. 1 Oct 1945
7 Air Division, 3 Jun-4 Sep 1954
3 Air Division, 5 Oct 1956-11 Jan 1957

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-26, 1942-1945
AT-6, 1947-1949
AT-11, 1947-1949
B-29, 1952-1953
KC-97, 1952-1960
YRB-47, 1953-1954
B-47, 1953-1960
B-52F, 1963-1965
B-52, 1965, 1966-1972, 1973-1989
KC-135, 1963-1965, 1965, 1966-1972, 1973-1986
T-29, 1973
None, 1998-2001
C-130, 2001

COMMANDERS

None (not manned), 23-30 Jun 1942
Maj John F. Batjer, 1 Jul 1942
Lt Col John A. Hilger, 5 Aug 1942

Col Flint Garrison, Jr, 25 Oct 1942
Lt Col John Fordyce, 15 Feb 1943
Col Karl E. Baumeister, 25 May 1943
Lt Col Stanford W. Gregory, 25 Sep 1943
Lt Col Eugene B. Fletcher, 25 Oct 1943
Maj William L. Marble, 1 Feb 1944
Col Eugene B. Fletcher, 1 Mar 1944
Col Ashley E. Woolridge, 2 Nov 1944
Lt Col Blaine B. Campbell, 28 May 1945-unkn
Maj LeRoy C. Meyers, 9 Jul 1947-unkn
Lt Col Louis R. Black, Nov 1947-unkn [at least through 7 Aug 1948]
Col Loran D. Briggs, 1 Dec 1952
Col Francis W. Nye, c. 28 Feb 1953
Col Olbert F. Lassiter, 11 May 1953
Lt Col Russell F. Ireland, 21 May 1953
Col Olbert F. Lassiter, 25 May 1953
Lt Col Russell F. Ireland, 26 May 1953
Col Loran D. Briggs, 4 Jun 1953
Col Ernest C. Eddy, 27 Apr 1954
Col William R. Large, Jr, 1 May 1954
Col Ernest C. Eddy, 25 Jun 1955
Col Robert B. Miller, 15 Jul 1955
Col Robert J. Hughey, 12 Jan 1957
Col William J. Crumm, 22 Apr 1957
Col Robert J. Hughey, 20 Oct 1958
Col David I. Liebman, 8 May 1959
Col Thomas G. Netcher, 10 Jul 1959
Col Frank W. Hansley, (by 20) Aug-15 Sep 1960
None (not manned), 16 Sep 1960-31 Jan 1963
Col Merrill N. Moore, 1 Feb 1963
Col Van R. Parker, 20 Jun 1963
Col Owen A. Weddle, 11 Feb 1965
Col Van R. Parker, (by 26) Jul 1965-30 Nov 1965
Unkn, 1 Dec 1965-31 Mar 1966
Col Van R. Parker, 1 Apr 1966
Col Richard D. Butler, 31 Aug 1966
Col Clyde R. Denniston, Jr, 18 Jul 1969
Col Donald G. Prieve, 8 Jan 1971
Col Richard N. Cody, 28 Feb 1972
Col Lawton W. Magee, 8 Aug 1972
Col Richard N. Cody, 17 Feb 1973
Col Lawton W. Magee, 9 Mar 1973
Col William A. Eveland, 26 Mar 1973
Col Lawton W. Magee, 7 Nov 1973

Col Curtis R. Smith, 9 Sep 1974
Col William M. Charles, Jr, 31 Aug 1977
Col Sidney D. Rogers, 13 Mar 1979
Col Charles C. McDonald, 20 Aug 1979
Col Richard B. Goetze, Jr, 17 Feb 1981
Col George L. Butler, 17 Mar 1982
Col George W. Golding, 23 May 1983
Col David J. Pederson, 19 Nov 1984
Col John J. Haluska, Jr, 25 Mar 1986
Col David F. Johnson, 24 May 1987-30 Sep 1989
Col James C. Harper, by 30 Jun 1999
Col Frederick R. Rauch II, 2 Jul 2000
Unkn, 1 Dec 2000-1 Dec 2001

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Tunisia
Sicily
Naples-Foggia
Anzio
Rome-Arno
Southern France
North Apennines
Rhineland
Central Europe
Air Combat, EAME
Antisubmarine, EAME

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
18 Jun-31 Jul 1965
1 Dec 1965-1 Mar 1966
2 Mar-1 Apr 1966
1 Jun 1974-30 Jun 1976

Distinguished Unit Citations

Italy, 12 May 1944
Germany, 15 Mar 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with the Combat "V" Device
1 Jun 2000-31 May 2001

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
18 Jun-31 Jul 1965 and 1 Dec 1965-1 Mar 1966
2 Mar-1 Apr 1966
1 Jul 1974-30 Jun 1976
1 Jul 1981-30 Jun 1983
[1 Dec] 1998-31 May 1999
1 Jun 1999-31 May 2000

French Croix de Guerre with Palm
Apr, May, Jun 1944

EMBLEM



320 Bombardment Group



320 Bombardment Wing

320 Air Expeditionary Wing emblem: Per fess enhanced dovetailed Celeste and Azure, in chief per fess three four-pointed mullets Or, trimmed Argent, over a torch Sable, trimmed of the fourth, winged of the third, flamant elongated of the like and Gules, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "320 AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The torch by itself represents liberty and enlightenment. The wings represent airpower. Together, the flaming winged torch represents the unit's mission. The act of holding the torch aloft with

wings denotes lighting the way in the darkest night of adversity. The three stars represent the three contingency missions that the unit will stand firm to preserve: continuity of government, military support to civil authorities and support for national security events. The stars simultaneously represent the three Air Force wings that comprise the majority of the unit's personnel, specifically the 11th Wing, the 316th Wing and the 79th Medical Wing. (Originally approved, 23 Nov 1951 for 106th Bombardment Wing, Medium; officially transferred to 320 Wing, by mutual consent of both units, 5 Dec 1952)

MOTTO

STRENGTH THROUGH AWARENESS

OPERATIONS

After training in Florida for overseas duty in the summer of 1942, the group flew antisubmarine patrols over the Mediterranean, Feb-Mar 1943. Between Apr and Jul, it flew missions against enemy shipping in the approaches to Tunisia, attacked installations in Sardinia, participated in the reduction of Pantelleria, and supported the invasion of Sicily. Bombed interdiction and close support targets in support of the invasion of Italy in Sep 1943. Supported forces at Salerno and knocked out targets to aid the seizure of Naples and the crossing of the Volturno River. Flew missions to Anzio and Cassino and flew interdiction operations in central Italy to support the Allied advance on Rome. Earned the French Croix de Guerre with Palm for actions in support of Allied offensive operations in central Italy, Apr-Jun 1944. Earned a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for a 12 May 1944 mission which bombed, in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire, enemy troop concentrations near Fondi to support a Fifth Army offensive. From Jun to Nov 1944, the group flew interdiction missions in the Po Valley of northern Italy and close support missions for the invasion of southern France. Bombed enemy targets in France and Germany until V-E day. Earned a second DUC for the 15 Mar 1945 bombing of enemy installations of the Siegfried Line that contributed to a Seventh Army breakthrough. In the summer of 1945, the group participated in the occupation and disarmament of Germany. Returned to the U.S. in Dec 1945, where it inactivated.

Trained as an Air Force Reserve light bombardment group from Jul 1947 to Jun 1949.

Conducted global bombardment and air refueling missions in support of Strategic Air Command (SAC) commitments, Dec 1952-Sep 1960 and from Feb 1963-Oct 1986.

Replaced 106th Bombardment Wing, Medium, in Dec 1952. Conducted global bombardment training and air refueling operations to meet SAC commitments, 1952-1960.

Deployed as a wing to Brize Norton RAF Station, England, 5 Jun-4 Sep 1954, and Andersen AFB, Guam, 5 Oct 1956-11 Jan 1957.

Trained B-47 cadre for 96th Bombardment Wing, Medium, Dec 1953-Jan 1955.

1957 320 bombardment wing (bw) conducted unit simulated combat missions bold guy i and

crazy horse. Wing conducted pop up operations involving practice low level bombing and navigation tactics.

1957 320 bw returned from one hundred day rotation to guam. Wing's b-47 aircraft participated in unit simulated combat mission (operation white horse).

1959 320 bombardment wing (bw) flew night mass stream missions each monday night. Wing participated in operation big sickle. Ten b-47 aircraft dispatched on operation spring tonic (test of navigation and bombing capabilities of strategic air command b-47 aircraft).

Lent aircraft, aircrews, and support personnel to other SAC organizations for operations in Southeast Asia, Feb-Jul 1965, Dec 1965-Mar 1966, and Jun 1972-Oct 1973.

Trained T-29 pilots for Fifteenth Air Force, Jul-Oct 1973.

Gave up air refueling in 1986, but continued bombardment training missions until 1989, when it inactivated with the closure of its home base.

In the early 1980s, the 320 BW and the 441 BS were equipped to carry, and trained in the employment of, the US Navy's AGM-84 Harpoon missile and various types of anti-ship mines as part of a joint USN-USAF initiative to employ USAF bomber aircraft in maritime operations.

The 904 ARS was inactivated 1 October 1986 and its older KC-135As modified to KC-135E standard and redistributed to other SAC units or sent to AMARC at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona for storage. The 441 BS with its B-52Gs was inactivated on 30 September 1989. It was the first squadron to inactivate with the gradual drawdown of the B-52G fleet pursuant to START reductions of the USAF strategic bomber force.

The 320 Bombardment Wing was inactivated on 30 September 1989. It was the first B-52 wing to be inactivated in conjunction with the phased retirement of the B-52G fleet and was also made in conjunction with the pending closure of Mather AFB in 1993 due to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) action.

In 1997, the 320 was reactivated as the 320 Air Expeditionary Group at Eskan Village, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. As an element of U.S. Central Command Air Forces / 9th Air Force, the 320 AEG was a ground-based non-flying organization, with the 320 AEG replacing the earlier 4409th Air Base Group (Provisional) at Eskan that had been in existence since Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM in 1990–91.

The primary mission of the 320 AEG at Eskan was to provide liaison with Saudi Arabian Ministry of Defense and Aviation for Eskan Village and to provide host base support to the combatant staff of Joint Task Force Southwest Asia and the 9th Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force, including its associated Coalition Air Operations Center, conducting Operation SOUTHERN WATCH, which provided principal senior command and control of all U.S. and Coalition combat flying units

enforcing the "No Fly Zone" over Southern Iraq prior to execution of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM in 2003. The 320 AEG also supported United States Military Training Mission Saudi Arabia, the U.S. Office of Program Management – Saudi Arabian National Guard as well as the Royal Air Force and French Air Force headquarters elements also located at Eskan Village.

Between Dec 1998 and Dec 2000, provided civil engineering, logistics, medical, communication, and security force services at Eskan Village near Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

In 2005 the 320 Air Expeditionary Group was replaced by the 64th Air Expeditionary Group, a component of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing

The 320 AEW was activated at Bolling in December 2006 for former President Gerald Ford's state funeral during the Christmas and New Year holidays, attaching 634 personnel to complete a 10-day mission in three joint-operation areas. In less than 12 hours from notification, the 320 AEW deployed 167 joint forces and equipment for JTF Ceremony Forward.

The 320 AEW was activated in December 2008 to support Air Force requirements during the 2009 Presidential Inauguration, working with the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee, or AFIC.

USAF Unit Histories

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Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook, *Mather AFB, CA. Jenny to Jets, 45th Anniversary, 1918-1963*, Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc., Baton Rouge, LA, 1963.