

## 365<sup>th</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, MEDIUM



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

365<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 28 Jan 1942

Activated, 1 Mar 1942

Inactivated, 25 Dec 1946

Redesignated 365<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 11 Jun 1947

Activated, 1 Jul 1947

Inactivated, 6 Sep 1948

Redesignated 365<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 20 Dec 1950

Activated, 2 Jan 1951

### STATIONS

Salt Lake City, UT, 1 Mar 1942

Geiger Field, WA, 11 Jun 1942

Muroc, CA, 4 Jul-23 Aug 1942

Grafton Underwood, England, 11 Sep 1942

Chelveston, England, 11 Dec 1942

St Trond, Belgium, 25 Jul 1945

Lechfeld, Germany, Dec 1945-25 Dec 1946 (operated principally from Tripoli, Libya,  
Jan-Oct 1946

Port Lyautey, French Morocco, Oct-Dec 1946)

Andrews Field, MD, 1 Jul 1947-6 Sep 1948  
MacDill AFB, FL, 2 Jan 1951  
Bunker Hill AFB, IN, 1 Jun 1959

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

305<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 1 Mar 1942  
XII Tactical Air Command, 1 Nov-25 Dec 1946  
305<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 1 Jul 1947-6 Sep 1948  
305<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 2 Jan 1951  
305<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, 16 Jun 1952

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-17, 1942-1946  
B-17E  
B-17F  
B-17G  
B-29, 1951-1953  
B-47, 1952-1961  
B-58, 1961

### **COMMANDERS**

LTC Winifred O. Craft, #1954

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

None

#### **Campaign Streamers**

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

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
France, 4 Apr 1943  
Germany, 11 Jan 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jan 1954 1 Mar 1957

### **EMBLEM**

On a shield, blue, two swords, natural colors crossed horizontally, bordered, golden yellow, over which is an eagle, natural colors, facing to the right, wings spread horizontally, perched on top of a globe, natural colors, bordered, golden yellow, and with latitude and longitude lines, white. (Approved, 20 June 1952)

### **MOTTO**

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

Combat in ETO, 17 Nov 1942-25 Apr 1945. Photo-mapping, 17 Jun 1945-Dec 1946. Apparently not manned, 1947-1948.

Reactivation of the 365th Bombardment Squadron (Medium) on 2 January 1951, saw the beginning of a job with many problems: That of bringing a tactical outfit of virtual paper status to the smooth hard-hitting outfit it has now become. In the process of "sharpening up", a tip of the "brain bucket" goes to the officers who stood at the helm during those trying and sometimes unrewarding periods. 1st Lt. A. R. Barrios held down the fort at the time of reactivation and was succeeded by Lt. Colonel Bob Erwin who arrived in May of 1951. Major Dick Pordllo, serving as Operations Officer, succeeded Colonel Erwin as C.O. in September of that year and continued in shaping of the Bomb Squadron until Colonel Robert E. L. Michie arrived in November 1951 to assume command and continue until April 1954. Colonel Michie was then appointed Director of Operations for the Wing and Major Bob Kuertz was assigned as temporary CO., pending arrival of Lt. Colonel Winfred Craft. Each piece of equipment is fried on and checked for any defects.

From a flying safety point of view, the 365th has achieved superior results. There are no B-47 major accidents on the books, and incident reporting comes first so that our right hand is always aware of the left. In February 1953, the squadron submitted and acknowledged as pilot and crew of the Month, Major Jim Hall, for outstanding airmanship in a T-33, Major Paul Von Ins, Major Bill Wilborn, and Captain Jim Ray, as the outstanding B-47 crew in the interest of flying safety.

The squadron departed MacDill on 3 September 1953 for temporary duty in the United Kingdom, and scored as the most effective outfit in the first max effort. Needless to say, we scored another first that first Saturday night for singing, not necessarily the best, but the loudest.

Although many personnel have departed the organization to fill the new B-47 cadres, the rapid orientation of replacement personnel and the increased efforts of the older members of the organization has enabled full accomplishments of the scheduled training. The squadron is fully combat ready and recently completed an Air Force Operational Readiness Test.

On December 27, 1960, USAF Headquarters advised the AMC that each B-58 wing would have 40, rather than 36 aircraft. Accordingly, each squadron would be assigned 12 B-58's. At that time, and throughout the forthcoming operational years of the B-58 in AF service, the assigned B-58 squadrons would consist of the 63rd (Medium), 64th (Medium), and the 65th (Medium) for the 43rd BW, and the 364th (Medium), 365th (Medium), and the 366th (Medium) for the 305th BW. Eventually, each wing would have 70 crews certified as combat ready. A normal duty assignment for a crew was between three and five years. Accordingly, the wing training program was designed to add three combat-ready crews to the wing each six-month period.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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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. *305 Bombardment Wing, M, Can Do! 1954*. Army and Navy Publishing Co., Baton Rouge, LA. 1954.