

384th AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

384th Bombardment Group (Heavy) established, 25 Nov 1942

Activated, 1 Dec 1942

Redesignated 384th Bombardment Group, Heavy, 11 Aug 1944

Inactivated, 28 Feb 1946

Redesignated 384th Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, 9 Jul 1947

Activated in the Reserve, 16 Jul 1947

Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

384th Bombardment Wing, Medium established, 23 Mar 1953

Activated, 1 Aug 1955

Discontinued and inactivated, 1 Sep 1964

Redesignated 384th Air Refueling Wing, Heavy, 15 Nov 1972

Activated, 1 Dec 1972

384th Bombardment Group, Very Heavy and 384th Air Refueling Wing, Heavy consolidated (31 Jan 1984

Redesignated 384th Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 1 Jul 1987

Redesignated 384th Wing, 1 Sep 1991

Redesignated 384th Bomb Wing, 1 Jun 1992

Redesignated 384th Bomb Group, 1 Jan 1994

Inactivated, 1 Oct 1994

Redesignated 384th Air Expeditionary Group, and converted to provisional status, 4 Dec 2001

STATIONS

Gowen Field, ID, 1 Dec 1942

Wendover Field, UT, 2 Jan 1943
Sioux City AAB, IA, 3 Apr-9 May 1943 (ground echelon)
Kearney, NE, 5 Apr-17 May 1943 (air echelon)
Camp Kilmer, NJ, 11-26 May 1943 (ground echelon)
Grafton Underwood, England, 3 Jun 1943
Istres, France, Jun 1945-28 Feb 1946
Nashville Muni Aprt (later, Berry Field), TN, 16 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949
Little Rock AFB, AR, 1 Aug 1955-1 Sep 1964
McConnell AFB, KS, 1 Dec 1972-1 Oct 1994

DEPLOYED STATIONS

RAF Station Brize Norton, England, 3 Jan-5 Apr 1957

ASSIGNMENTS

II Bomber Command, 1 Dec 1942-May 1943
103rd Provisional Heavy Bombardment Combat Wing, c. 4 Jun 1943
41st Combat Bombardment Wing, 16 Sep 1943
40th Combat Bombardment (later, 40th Bombardment) Wing, 6 Jun 1945-28 Feb 1946
21st Bombardment Wing, (later, 21st Air Division), 16 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949
825th Air (later, 825 Strategic Aerospace) Division, 1 Aug 1955-1 Sep 1964
12th Strategic Missile (later, 12th Air) Division, 1 Dec 1972
19th Air Division, 1 Jul 1973
Eighth Air Force, 13 Jun 1988
Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Jul 1989
Eighth Air Force, 1 Sep 1991-1 Oct 1994
Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate at any time after 4 Dec 2001

ATTACHMENTS

7th Air Division, 3 Jan-5 Apr 1957

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-47, 1956-1964
KC-97, 1961-1962, 1962-1963
KC-135, 1964
KC-135, 1972-1992
B-1, 1988-1994

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 1 Dec 1942-1 Jan 1943
Col Budd J. Peaslee, 2 Jan 1943
Col Julius K. Lacey, 8 Sep 1943
Col Dale O. Smith, 23 Nov 1943
LTC William E. Buck Jr., 2 Aug 1944 (temporary)
Col Dale O. Smith, 9 Sep 1944

Col Theodore R. Milton, 24 Oct 1944
LTC Robert W. Fish, 17 Jun 1945
LTC Lloyd D. Chapman, 18 Oct 1945
Col Robert F. Harris, 4 Feb 1946
Col Hudson H. Upham, 26-28 Feb 1946 (additional duty)
LTC J. H. Meyer, 1948-unkn
Col Malcolm A. Bailey, 1 Aug 1955 (additional duty)
LTC Edward D. Gaitley Jr., Oct 1955
Col George D. Hughes, 1 Nov 1955
Col Delmar E. Wilson, 18 Nov 1955
Col Robert H. Strauss, 14 Jan 1957
Col Davison Dalziel, 3 Dec 1958
Col Willis F. Lewis, 3 Feb 1960
Col James O. Britt, 1 May 1961
Col Henry L. Hogan III, 13 Jun 1962
Col Sherman F. Martin, 13 Jun 1963
Col Stanley Lucich, 25 Jun-1 Sep 1964
Col Harold R. Austin, 1 Dec 1972
Col Ray C. O'Neal, 11 May 1973
Col John A. Bradford, 31 Aug 1974
Col Marion S. Hardin, 24 Feb 1977
Col James C. Hughes, 27 Jun 1978
Col Gerald A. Blake, 16 Jun 1980
Col Basil D. Gregorios, 29 Jun 1981
Col Richard A. Steeves, 21 Jul 1983
Col Patrick P. Caruana, 5 May 1986
Col Phillip J. Ford, 18 Jun 1987
Col Charles T. Robertson Jr., 24 Jan 1989
Col John C. Mangels, 13 Feb 1990
Col Edgar A. Ott, 16 Jul 1992
BG Charles R. Henderson, 4 Aug 1993
Unkn, 1 Jul-1 Oct 1994

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

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
11 Jan 1944; 24 Apr 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

15 Feb-30 Dec 1957
1 Jul 1974-30 Jun 1976
1 Jul 1976-30 Jun 1978
1 Jul 1980-30 Jun 1981
1 Jul 1987-30 Jun 1989
30 May 1990-29 May 1992

EMBLEM

On a shield of the sky, between two cloud formations in chief and one in base throughout proper, five stars, one, two, and two or, the one in chief emitting a ray to each star of the like voided azure, and a lightning flash palewise to base point gules fimbriated argent, all within a diminutive border of the last. (Approved, 9 Apr 1958)

MOTTO

Keep The Show On The Road

A loss on the second mission led to the Group's motto. A B-17 piloted by Major Selden L McMillin - the Group Deputy CO, known as "Major Mac" - was shot down. They managed to make a crash landing in Holland, but the crew was taken prisoner. Soon after, Colonel Peaslee received a postcard from Major Mac telling him to "KEEP THE SHOW ON THE ROAD". The 384th adopted this as their motto, and so it remains to this day

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Unmanned until late Dec 1942. Trained in U.S. for heavy bombardment operations from early 1943 until it moved to England to serve the Eighth Air Force.

June 22, 1943, was the day of the 384th Group's first combat mission. The first mission was unsuccessful. Two airmen were killed, three wounded, two aircraft were lost and 11 damaged.

Entered combat on 22 Jun 1943 with a mission against Antwerp, Belgium. Strategic bombardment of enemy industries and airfields in France and Germany. Targets included

airdromes in France and industrial complexes in Germany.

On January 11, 1944, the 384th Bombardment Group participated in the first large scale air raid. The 384th Bombardment Group's target was Halberstadt, Germany. Though under 25 minutes of sustained flack fire and an enemy aircraft trailing a bomb on a steel cable through their formation, the Group lost no aircraft. The 384th Bombardment Group destroyed six enemy aircraft with two 'probables' and either destroyed or dealt heavy damage to targets.

Took part in Eighth Air Force heavy bomber attacks on the German aircraft industry during Big Week, 20-25 Feb 1944. Received another DUC for leading the 41st Wing on a 24 Apr 1944 raid on an aircraft factory and airfield at Oberpfaffenhofen. The group also bombed ports, communication centers, oil facilities, and cities, attacking such targets as oils storage plants in Leipzig and Berlin, ports at Hamburg and Emden, and marshalling yards at Duren and Mannheim. Attacked installations along the coast of Normandy prior to and during the Jun 1944 Allied invasion. Bombed airfields and communiation lines beyond the beachhead and supported ground troops during a breakthrough at St. Lo, 24-25 Jul. Raided tank and artillery concentrations north of Eindhoven to assist the airborne assault on Holland in Sep 1944. During the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945, bombed enemy communications and fortifications. Aided the Allied assault across the Rhine River in Germany in Mar 1945 by attacking marshalling yards, railroad junctions, and bridges. From Jun to Sep 1945, flew U.S. soldiers from Europe to Casablanca, Morocco, for return to the United States. On the return trip, flew French repatriots from Africa to France. Airlifted displaced Greeks from Germany to their homeland, Sep-Oct 1945. Moved Allied troops to Germany for occupation duty, Nov-Dec 1945.

First Mission: 22 Jun 1943

Last Mission: 25Apr 1945

Total Missions: 314

Total Credit Sorties: 9,348

Total Bomb Tonnage: 22,415.4 tons (16.2 tons leaflets)

Aircraft missing in action: 159

Enemy aircraft claims: 165-34-116

From Jul 1947 to Jun 1949, trained in the Reserve as a very heavy bombardment group. Although activated in Aug 1955, lacked aircraft until 1956. Trained for strategic bombardment missions, 1956-Jul 1964, and for aerial refueling, Aug 1961-Oct 1963 and Apr-Aug 1964.

Deployed at RAF Station Brize Norton, England, 3 Jan-5 Apr 1957.

384 BMW regained combat ready status in Jun 59.

The Cuban Missile Crisis forced the deployment of eleven of the 384th Bomb Wing's B-47Es to municipal airports around the country. Eventually, 40 were deployed. The dispersion would enhance the survivability of the aircraft in case of a Soviet first strike from Cuba. Airlift support for this dispersion operation was provided by Fairchild C-123B Provider aircraft operated by the

384th BW. The refueling element of the 384th Bomb Wing, operating KC-97 supported "Common Cause," the combined reconnaissance effort over Cuba. These 384th Bomb Wing tankers were supported by six additional KC-97's of the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing from Forbes Air Force Base, Kansas. Khrushchev capitulated on October 28, by agreeing to withdraw the SS-4's from Cuba. The Americans observed the withdrawal by air. Though the 55th's crews were returned to Forbes on November 2, the aircraft that they operated remained at Little Rock Air Force Base. These aircraft would be operated by the 70th Air Refueling Squadron until "Common Cause" was concluded.

Inactivated on 1 Sep 1964. After activation as an Air Refueling Wing in Dec 1972, trained for and performed global air refueling missions. Supported the aerial evacuation of Americans from South Vietnam in 1975. Provided air refueling for the U.S. invasion of Grenada in 1983. Became the first unit to receive the re-engined KC-135R aircraft in Jul 1984. In Jul 1987, the wing regained a bombardment mission, but retained air refueling capabilities. In 1990, the organization deployed B-1 to Australia for the first time. Large numbers of its personnel and aircraft were deployed to southwestern Asia in 1990 and 1991 for the defense of Saudi Arabia and the liberation of Kuwait.

In mid-1992, the 384th became the 384th Bomb Wing. At the same time, the Air Force restructured the major commands. The 384 BW and the 384 ARS moved from the inactivated SAC. The 384 BW moved under the newly activated Air Combat Command while the 384 ARS joined Air Mobility Command, remaining at McConnell as an associate unit.

The Air Force announced additional changes to McConnell in May of 1992. The Kansas Air National Guard (the 184th Fighter Group), long a resident of McConnell, converted from F-16s to B-1B and became the 184th Bomb Group. In January 1994, the 22 ARW assumed the role as host wing, moving without personnel and equipment from March AFB, California. The 384 BW became the 384th Bomb Group until the unit transferred all of its B-1s to the Air National Guard Component before inactivating on 30 September 1994.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 20 Jun 2011

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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.