

385th AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

385th Bombardment Group (Heavy) established, 25 Nov 1942

Activated, 1 Dec 1942

Redesignated 385th Bombardment Group, Heavy, 20 Aug 1943

Inactivated, 28 Aug 1945

385th Strategic Aerospace Wing established and activated, 15 Nov 1962

Organized, 1 Jan 1963

Discontinued and inactivated, 15 Dec 1964

385th Bombardment Group, Heavy and 385th Strategic Aerospace Wing consolidated, 31 Jan 1984

Redesignated 385th Air Expeditionary Group, and converted to provisional status, 12 Jun 2002

STATIONS

Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 1 Dec 1942

El Paso, TX, 21 Dec 1942

Geiger Field, WA, 1 Feb 1943

Great Falls AAB, MT, 11 Apr-Jun 1943

Great Ashfield, England, 8 Jul 1943-Aug 1945

Sioux Falls, AAFld, SD, 14-28 Aug 1945

Offutt AFB, NE, 1 Jan 1963-15 Dec 1964

ASSIGNMENTS

II Bomber Command, 1 Dec 1942

Eighth Air Force, 6 Jul 1943

VIII Bomber Command, 8 Jul 1943

4th Bombardment (later, 4th Combat Bombardment) Wing, 13 Jul 1943

93rd Combat Bombardment Wing, 17 Feb 1945

45th Combat Bombardment Wing, 24 May 1945
20th Bombardment Wing, 18 Jun-Aug 1945
Strategic Air Command, 15 Nov 1962
818th Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Jan 1963-15 Dec 1964
Air Mobility Command to activate or inactivate at any time after 12 Jun 2002

ATTACHMENTS

401st Provisional Combat Wing Bombardment), 13 Jul-12 Sep 1943)

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17, 1943-1945
KC-135, 1963-1964
Atlas D, 1963-1964

COMMANDERS

Maj David B. Lancaster Jr., 1 Dec 1942
None (not manned), 24 Dec 1942-Feb 1943
Col Elliot Vandevanter Jr., 3 Feb 1943
Col George Y. Jumper, 24 Aug 1944
Col William H. Hanson, 2 Jun 1945
Maj Totton J. Anderson, 29 Jun 1945-unkn
None (not manned) 15 Nov-31 Dec 1962
Col Edwin H. Garrison, 1 Jan 1963
Col Allan A. Lathan, 20 Aug-15 Dec 1964

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

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

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Regensburg, Germany, 17 Aug 1943

Zwickau, Germany, 12 May 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
1 Oct 2011-30 Sep 2012

EMBLEM



385th Bombardment Group, Heavy

385th Air Expeditionary Group emblem: Gules, a pair of wings displayed Or, overall two bombs descending in chevron reversed Gris, highlighted Argent, detailed Sable, emitting three lightning flashes, one to dexter base, one to base, and one to sinister base of the fourth, all within a diminished bordure of the second. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "385TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP" 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 lightning bolts signify the speed and power the group projects around the world. The placement of three lightning bolts is intended to reinforce the Air Force core values--Integrity, Service and Excellence. The bombs are representative of power as well as the ability of the Group to transport equipment or fuel to the warfighter globally. The wings are used to illustrate that the group uses flight as the primary means to carry out the mission. The unit motto is "Ales Victoria," translated, "Winged Victory." The symbols were replicated from the World War II emblem of the 385th Bombardment Group and modified to illustrate the current mission for the 385th Air Expeditionary Group.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATION

Trained for heavy bombardment operations, Feb-Jun 1943 and moved in early Jul to England,

entering combat on 17 Jul 1943. Conducted strategic bombardment missions against targets such as industrial areas, air bases, oil refineries, and communication centers in Germany, France, Poland, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Norway until the end of the war in Europe in May 1945. Received a Distinguished Unit Citation for a raid on an aircraft factory at Regensburg, Germany, on 17 Aug 1943, after which group members flew their bombers on to North Africa, accomplishing the first B-17 "shuttle" raid. Earned a second Distinguished Unit Citation for a 12 May 1944 raid on an aircraft repair plant at Zwickau, Germany, which involved a very long flight against very heavy enemy opposition. Sometimes flew ground support and interdiction missions. In Jun 1944, attacked coastal defenses in preparation for the Normandy invasion, and on D-day, 6 Jun, bombed marshalling yards and crucial road intersections. Bombed enemy positions in support of Allied ground forces attempting a breakthrough at St. Lo in Jul 1944. During the Battle of the Bulge, attacked enemy positions, communications, and fortifications. Bombed troop concentrations and communication centers in Germany, Mar-Apr 1945, to assist the final thrust into Germany. After victory in Europe in early May, airlifted prisoners of war from Germany to Allied centers and flew food to Holland. The air echelon returned to the United States in Jun 1945, while the ground echelon sailed by ship in Aug. Arrived in Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 14 Aug 1945 and inactivated on 28 Aug. Organized at Offutt AFB, NE, on 1 Jan 1963, the wing controlled a mixture of strategic missiles and air refueling aircraft, which were used to support Strategic Air Command commitments worldwide. The wing inactivated in Dec 1964 after phasing out its Atlas "D" missiles.

First Mission: 17 Jul 1943

Last Mission: 20 Apr 1945

Total Missions: 296

Total Credit Sorties: 8,264

Total Bomb Tonnage: 18,494.0 tons (184.9 tons supplies)

Aircraft missing in action: 129

Other Operational losses: 40

Enemy aircraft claims: 287 80 95

6 food missions May 45, 458.2 tons.

Controlled a mixture of strategic missiles and air refueling aircraft in the 1960s; the former served as a deterrent force and the latter provided airborne command post services and supported SAC's global air refueling mission.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 20 Jun 2011

Updated: 11 Jan 2013

Sources

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