

409th AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

409th Bombardment Group (Light) Constituted, 1 Jun 1943

Activated

Redesignated 409th Bombardment Group, Light, 27 Apr 1944

Inactivated, 7 Nov 1945

Converted to provisional status, redesignated 409th Air Expeditionary Group and allotted to United States Air Forces Europe to activate or inactivate as needed, 5 Feb 2001

Activated, 15 Nov 2001

Inactivated, 2003

Activated, 5 Sep 2003

Inactivated, 23 Sep 2003

Activated, 4 Sep 2005

Inactivated, 27 Sep 2005

Activated, 9 Aug 2007

Inactivated, 20 Aug 2007

Activated, 30 Jan 2008

Inactivated, 4 Mar 2008

Activated, 1 Jan 2011

Inactivated

STATIONS

Will Rogers Field, OK, 1 Jun 1943

Woodward AAF, OK, 2 Oct 1943

DeRidder AAB, LA, 10 Dec 1943–10 Feb 1944

RAF Little Walden, England, 7 Mar 1944

Bretigny Airfield, France, Sep 1944

Laon-Couvron Airfield, France, Feb–Jun 1945
Seymour Johnson Field, NC, Aug 1945
Westover Field, MA, 6 Oct - 7 Nov 1945
Camp Sarafovo, Bulgaria, 15 Nov 2001-unknown
Vaziani Military Base, Georgia, 5 Sep 2003-25 Sep 2003
Vaziani Military Base, Georgia, 4 Sep 2005-27 Sep 2005
Keflavik Air Station, Iceland, 9 Aug 2007-20 Aug 2007
Accra, Ghana, 30 Jan 2008-4 Mar 2008
Arba Minch, Ethiopia, 1 Jan 2011

ASSIGNMENTS

Third Air Force, 1 Jun 1943
III Bomber Command, 6 Aug 1943
97th Combat Bombardment Wing (later 97th Bombardment Wing), 7 Mar 1944
First Air Force, 15 Aug 1945 - 7 Nov 1945
United States Air Forces Europe to activate or inactivate anytime after Nov 2001
16th Air Expeditionary Task Force, 15 Nov 2001
17th Expeditionary Air Force, 1 Apr 2012

ATTACHMENTS

Sixteenth Air Force, 5 Sep 2003-23 Sep 2003
Sixteenth Air Force, 4 Sep 2005-27 Sep 2005
48th Fighter Wing, 9 Aug 2007-20 Aug 2007
Third Air Force, 30 Jan 2008-4 Mar 2008
Seventeenth Air Force, 1 Jan 2011

WEAPON SYSTEMS

A-20, 1943–1945
A-26, 1945
KC-10, 2003

COMMANDERS

Col Preston P Pender, Jun 1943
Col Thomas R Ford, 4 Jul 1944-1945

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jan 2011-30 Jun 2011

EMBLEM

On a shield Azure, surmounting two munitions in saltire Silver Gray fimbriated and detailed Sable, garnished Buff, the snarling head of a baboon in trian aspect faced of the second, fur of the fourth fimbriated and detailed of the third, teeth Argent, all within a bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "409TH 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 baboon is “the most adaptable of the ground dwelling primates and lives in a variety of habitats. Baboons are very intelligent and crafty plus very loyal parents” according to the African Wildlife Foundation. As an Air Expeditionary Group, the 409th is also very adaptable, loyal, intelligent and crafty. The baboon’s first line of defense is deterrence, as is the position of the United States Military. A baboon will flash its teeth to ward off aggressors; accordingly, the baboon in the Group emblem is flashing its teeth. The munitions are generic; they are crossed in back forming the backbone of the organization providing support and safety.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Bombed coastal defenses, V-weapon sites, airdromes, and other targets in France, Apr-Jun 1944, in preparation for the invasion of Normandy. Supported ground forces during the Normandy campaign by hitting gun batteries, rail lines, bridges, communications, and other objectives. During Jul 1944, aided the Allied offensive at Caen and the breakthrough at St Lo with attacks on enemy troops, flak positions, fortified villages, and supply dumps. Supported Third Army's advance toward Germany, Aug-Nov 1944, operating from bases in France beginning in Sep. Converted to A-26 aircraft in Dec and participated in the Battle of the Bulge (Dec 1944-Jan 1945) by attacking lines of communication and supply. Continued to operate against targets in Germany until May 1945. Flew last mission on 3 May, attacking an ammunition dump in Czechoslovakia.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 15 Feb 2012

Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.