

422nd BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, MEDIUM

MISSION

LINEAGE

33rd Reconnaissance Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 28 Jan 1942
Activated, 1 Mar 1942
Redesignated 422nd Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 22 Apr 1942
Inactivated, 25 Dec 1946
Redesignated 422nd Bombardment Squadron (Light), 15 Nov 1952
Activated, 1 Jan 1953
Inactivated, 23 Mar 1954
Redesignated 422nd Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 6 Oct 1958
Activated, 1 Jan 1959
Discontinued and inactivated, 15 Feb 1961

STATIONS

Salt Lake City, UT, 1 Mar 1942
Geiger Field, WA, 11 Jun 1942
Muroc, CA, 4 Jul-23 Aug 1942
Grafton Underwood, England, 12 Sep 1942
Chelveston, England, 11 Dec 1942
St Trond, Belgium, 25 Jul 1945
Lechfeld, Germany, 19 Dec 1945-25 Dec 1946
Langley AFB, VA, 1 Jan 1953-23 Mar 1954
Sculthorpe RAF Sta. England, 20 Dec 1953-23 Mar 1954
MacDill AFB, FL, 1 Jan 1959
Bunker Hill AFB, IN, 1 Jun 1959
Carswell AFB, TX, 1 Oct 1959
Bunker Hill AFB, IN, 15 Mar 1960-15 Feb 1961

ASSIGNMENTS

305th Bombardment Group, 1 Mar 1942-25 Dec 1946
4430th Air Base Wing, 1 Jan 1953
Tactical Air Command (attached to 405th Fighter Bomber Wing), 1 May 1953
Third Air Force (attached to 47th Bombardment Wing), 20 Dec 1953
47th Bombardment Group, 8 Feb-23 Mar 1954
305th Bombardment Wing, 1 Jan 1959
3958th Operational Evaluation and Training Group, 1 Oct 1959
305th Bombardment Wing, 8 Mar 1960-15 Feb 1961

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17, 1942-1946
B-17F
B-17G
B-26, 1953
B-45, 1953-1954
B-47, 1959

COMMANDERS

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 Citation
France, 4 Apr 1943

EMBLEM

On a yellow shield of distinctive design a sword (red hilt and steel blade) point to base emitting four red flashes (two to the right and two to the left) in chief a stylized white oval cloud formation in back of and above the sword hilt and bearing four blue stars in an arc above four blue smaller stars, two on each side of the hilt; all within a narrow red border. (Approved, 22 Oct 1953)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Combat in ETO, 17 Nov 1942-19 Apr 1945: daylight bombing to 6 Sep 1943; night bombing with RAF, 8 Sep-4 Oct 1943; leaflet missions, mostly at night, 7 Oct 1943-24 Jun 1944; pathfinder for daylight bombing operations, . 22 Mar-23 May 1944; daylight bombing after 6 Jul 1944. Photomapping, 17 Jun 1945-Aug. 1946.

Airlift supporting special operations also included activities designed to demoralize the enemy. Psychological operations involved leaflet drops, electronic jamming, and broadcasting. Leaflet drops began in August 1943 over France. Although the Eighth Air Force also used other bomber units, a special leaflet squadron, the 422d Bombardment Squadron, handled most of the drops. By the time of the Normandy invasion, this unit had dispersed 599 million leaflets. When its operations ended on 9 May 1945, the 422d Bombardment Squadron had flown 2,334 sorties and airdropped about 1.76 billion leaflets, losing only 3 aircraft and sustaining 16 fatalities.

Apparently not operationally manned or equipped after Jun 1959.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

Sources

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