

458th AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

458th Bombardment Group (Heavy) established, 19 May 1943
Activated, 1 Jul 1943
Redesignated 458th Bombardment Group, Heavy, 16 Aug 1944
Redesignated 458th Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, 5 Aug 1945
Inactivated, 17 Oct 1945
Redesignated 458th Operations Group and activated, 1 Jun 1992
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1995
Redesignated 458th Air Expeditionary Group and converted to provisional status, 5 Feb 2001
Activated, 27 May 2004
Inactivated, 11 Jun 2004
Activated, 5 May 2006
Inactivated, 6 Jun 2006
Activated, 3 Sep 2006
Inactivated, 20 Sep 2006
Activated, 26 Jul 2007
Inactivated, 20 Sep 2007
Activated, 11 Oct 2007
Inactivated, 13 Nov 2007
Activated, 26 Nov 2007
Inactivated, 25 Jul 2011

STATIONS

Wendover Field, UT, 1 Jul 1943
Gowen Field, ID; 28 Jul 1943
Kearns, UT, 11 Sep 1943
Wendover Field, UT, 15 Sep 1943
Tonopah AAFld, NV, 31 Oct-29 Dec 1943
Horsham St Faith, England, Jan 1944-14 Jun 1945

Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 12 Jul 1945
Walker AAFld, KS, 25 Jul 1945
March Field, CA, 1 Aug-17 Oct 1945
Barksdale AFB, LA, 1 Jun 1992
McGuire AFB, NJ, 1 Oct 1994-1 Jul 1995
Cherbourg Fld, France, 27 May-11 Jun 2004
Goulmine, Morocco, 5 May-6 Jun 2006
Kaduna, Nigeria, 3-20 Sep 2006
Ramstein AB, Germany, 26 Jul-20 Sep 2007
Ramstein AB, Germany, 11 Oct-13 Nov 2007
Ramstein AB, Germany, 26 Nov 2007-25 Jul 2011

ASSIGNMENTS

Second Air Force, 1 Jul 1943
Eighth Air Force, 28 Jan 1944
2nd Bomb Division, 8 Feb 1944
Second Air Force, 11 Jul-17 Oct 1945
22nd Air Refueling Wing, 1 Jun 1992
380th Air Refueling Wing, 1 Jul 1993
438th Airlift Wing, 1 Apr 1994
305th Air Mobility Wing, 1 Oct 1994-1 Jul 1995
United States Air Forces in Europe to activate or inactivate at any time on or after 5 Feb 2001
3rd Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force, 27 May-11 Jun 2004
United States Air Forces in Europe, (attached to Air Command Europe, 5 May-6 Jun 2006
United States Air Forces in Europe (attached to Air Command, Europe), 3-20 Sep 2006
United States Air Forces in Europe, (attached to Third Air Force, 26 Jul-20 Sep 2007
United States Air Forces in Europe (attached to Third Air Force), 11 Oct-13 Nov 2007
United States Air Forces in Europe (attached to Third Air Force [Air Forces Europe]), 26 Nov
2007- 25 Jul 2011

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24, 1943-1945
B-24H
B-29, 1945
KC-10, 1992-1995
None, 2004-2011

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 1 Jul 1943
Lt Col Robert F. Hardy, 28 Jul 1943
Col James H. Isbell, 16 Dec 1943
Col Allen F. Herzberg, 10 Mar 1945
Capt Patrick Hays, 13 Aug 1945
Maj Bernard Carlos, 17 Aug 1945

Maj V. R. Woodward, 22 Aug 1945
LTC Wilmer C. Hardesty, 3 Sep-17 Oct 1945
Col Arthur J. Lichte, 1 Jun 1992
Col Robert D. Glass, 1 Apr 1994
LTC James C. Rennie, 24 Jun 1994-30 Jun 1995
Unkn, 27 May-11 Jun 2004
Unkn, 5 May-6 Jun 2006
Unkn, 3-20 Sep 2006
Unkn, 26 Jul-20 Sep 2007
Unkn, 11 Oct-13 Nov 2007
Unkn, 26 Nov 2007
Col John S. Shapland, 5 May 2009
Col Kevin M. Walsh, 10 Jun 2009
Col Brian T. Vaughn, 30 Oct 2009
Col Kevin M. Walsh, 1 Apr 2010
Col John J. Hokaj, 1 May 2010
Col Mark E. Swiney, 19 Oct 2010
Col James S. Wildes Jr., 22 Nov 2010
Col Darrell S. Mosley, 8 Dec 2010
Col Brian T. Vaughn, 10 Feb 2011
Col David W. Barnes, 21 Feb 2011-25 Jul 2011

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

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

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
[1 Jun 1992]-30 Jun 1993
1 Jul 1994-1 Jul 1995

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Activated 1 Jul 1943 at Wendover Field, Utah. Assembly began at Gowen Field, Idaho, on 28 Jul 1943 under command of Lt Col Robert F. Hardy. Trained there until early Sep 1943 then moved Kearns Field, Utah. After four days Headquarters moved to Wendover Field, Utah on 15 Sep 1943. Final move of training period 31 Oct 1943 to Tonopah AAFeld, Nev Ground echelon to port of embarkation 29 Dec 1943. Air echelon flew to UK via southern ferry route, last aircraft arriving 18 Feb 1944. Ground echelon sailed New York on USS Florence Nightingale 18 Jan 1944.

Began bombardment on 2 Mar 1944, and afterward operated primarily against strategic objectives in Germany. Hit such targets as the industrial area of Saarbrucken, oil refineries at Hamburg, an airfield at Brunswick, aircraft factories at Oschersleben, a fuel depot at Dulmen, a canal at Minden, aircraft works at Brandenburg, marshalling yards at Hamm, and an aircraft engine plant at Magdeburg. Carried out some interdictory and support operations in addition to the strategic missions. Helped to prepare for the invasion of Normandy by striking gun batteries, V-weapon sites, and airfields in France; hit coastal defenses in support of the assault on 6 Jun 1944; afterward, bombed bridges and highways to prevent the movement of enemy materiel to the beachhead. Attacked enemy troops to aid the Allied breakthrough at St Lo in Jul. Ceased bombardment during Sep 1944 to haul gasoline to airfields in France. Struck transportation lines during the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945. Attacked enemy airfields to assist the Allied assault across the Rhine in Mar 1945. Flew last combat mission on 25 Apr 1945.

Redeployed USA in Jun 1945. Aircraft left Horsham St. Faiths, 14 Jun 1945. Ground echelon sailed on Queen Mary from Greenock, 6 Jul 1945, arriving New York, 11 Jul 1945. Personnel on 30 days R & R. Group established Walker AAFd, KS, 25 Jul 1945, and later March Field, CA to train as B-29 unit but with end of war in Pacific, Group run down and inactivated 17 Oct 1945.

First Mission: 24 Feb 1944

Last Mission: 25 Apr 1945

Total Missions: 240

Total Credit Sorties: 5,759

Total Bomb Tonnage: 13,204

Aircraft missing in action: 47

Other operational losses: 18

Enemy aircraft claims: 28-3 14

Controlled two KC-10 squadrons that supported aerial refueling of aircraft in deployed areas, 1992-1995. Performed Space Shuttle support missions, 2007-2011.

Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 14 Aug 2012
Updated:

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