

459 OPERATIONS GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

459 Bombardment Group (Heavy) established, 19 May 1943
Activated, 1 Jul 1943
Redesignated 459 Bombardment Group, Heavy, 20 Aug 1943
Inactivated, 28 Aug 1945
Redesignated 459 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, 11 Mar 1947
Activated in the Reserve, 19 Apr 1947
Redesignated 459 Bombardment Group, Medium, 27 Jun 1949
Ordered to active service, 1 May 1951
Inactivated, 16 Jun 1951
Redesignated 459 Troop Carrier Group, Medium, 30 Dec 1954
Activated in the Reserve, 26 Jan 1955
Inactivated, 14 Apr 1959
Redesignated 459 Tactical Airlift Group, 31 Jul 1985
Redesignated 459 Operations Group and activated in the Reserve, 1 Aug 1992

STATIONS

Alamogordo AAFld, NM, 1 Jul 1943
Davis-Monthan Fld, AZ, 28 Jul 1943
Kearns, UT, 31 Aug 1943
Davis-Monthan Fld, AZ, 21 Sep 1943
Westover Fld, MA, 31 Oct 1943-3 Jan 1944

Guilia Afld, Cerignola, Italy, 12 Feb 1944-c Jul 1945
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 16-28 Aug 1945
Long Beach AAFld, CA, 19 Apr 1947
Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, 27 Jun 1949-16 Jun 1951
Andrews AFB, MD, 26 Jan 1955-14 Apr 1959
Andrews AFB, MD, 1 Aug 1992

ASSIGNMENTS

Second Air Force, 1 Jul 1943
First Air Force, 31 Oct 1943
304 Bombardment Wing, 25 Jan 1944
Second Air Force, 13-28 Aug 1945
304 Bombardment Wing (later, 304 Air Division), 19 Apr 1947
Eighth Air Force, 27 Jun 1949
Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Apr 1950-16 Jun 1951
459 Troop Carrier Wing, 26 Jan 1955-14 Apr 1959
459 Airlift Wing, 1 Aug 1992

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24, 1943-1945
T-6, 1947-1949
T-7, 1947-1949
T-11, 1947-1949
Unkn, 1949-1951
C-45, 1955-1958
C-46, 1955-1957
C-119, 1957-1959
C-141, 1992
KC-135

COMMANDERS

Col Marden M. Munn, 28 Jul 1943
Col Henry K. Mooney, 13 Aug 1944
Lt Col William R. Boutz, 19 May 1945
Lt Col J. C. Bailey, 30 May 1945-unkn
Unkn, 19 Apr 1947-16 Jun 1951
Unkn, 26 Jan 1955-Apr 1958
Lt Col Campbell Y. Jackson, Apr 1958-14 Apr 1959
Col Hanferd J. Moen Jr., 1 Aug 1992
Col Randall W. Young, 7 Aug 1994
Lt Col Kelly C. Curtis, 8 Jan 1995
Col Hanferd J. Moen Jr., 16 Jun 1995
Col Louis C. Cusimano, 9 Sep 1995
Lt Col James T. Rubeor, 4 Aug 1996

Lt Col David E. Doyle, 11 Mar 1998
Lt Col Edsel A. Frye, 21 Apr 2004
Col Robert N. Maddox, 9 Jan 2005
Col Brian S. Davis, Jan 2012
Col Russell A. Muncy

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Air Offensive, Europe
Rome-Arno
Normandy
Northern France
Southern France
North Apennines
Rhineland
Central Europe
Po Valley
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
Bad Voslau, Austria, 23 Apr 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
1 Oct 1993-30 Sep 1995
1 May 2002-30 Apr 2004
1 Jan 2005-31 Dec 2006

EMBLEM



Group will use the wing emblem with the group designation in the scroll.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Trained for combat with B-24s from summer 1943 to Jan 1944, when the group moved to Italy. Between Mar 1944 and Apr 1945, flew strategic bombardment missions under the Fifteenth Air Force, raiding targets such as oil refineries, aircraft and munitions factories, industrial areas, airfields, and communication centers in Italy, France, Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Austria, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Greece. In Mar 1944, attacked railroads in Italy to cut enemy supply lines leading to the Anzio beachhead. Earned a Distinguished Unit Citation for a 23 Apr 1944 mission against an aircraft factory and airfield at Bad Voslau, Austria. Took part in the pre-invasion bombing of southern France in Aug 1944. In Apr 1945, struck railroad bridges, marshalling yards, and depots to support Allied forces in northern Italy. Returned to the United States and inactivated in Aug 1945.

Between Apr 1947 and May 1951, served as a reserve bombardment group. Called to active service in May 1951, but inactivated the next month. Between Jun 1955 and Apr 1959, served as a reserve troop carrier group in the metropolitan Washington, DC area. Activated again in the Reserve in Aug 1992 as an airlift group to fly jet transports as part of the Total Force concept.

Since 1992, the group's crews and aircraft have taken part in numerous contingency and humanitarian airlift operations, training exercises, Air Mobility Command channel flights, and aeromedical evacuation missions. The group also provided air transportation for the deployment of other units.

Supported airlift requirements of the Tactical Air Command, 1955 to 1959 and of Air Mobility

Command from 1992 to 2003. Supported air refueling requirements of the Air Mobility Command since 2003. Provided airlift support for contingency operations in Afghanistan (2001), and Iraq (2003) as well as numerous humanitarian airlift missions worldwide. Assumed AMC's channel mission (ATLANTIC EXPRESS) during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Transported Al Qaeda detainees to NS Guantanamo Bay Cuba (Operation FUNDAMENTAL JUSTICE – 2002). Deployed entire aircraft inventory to Operation IRAQI FREEDOM to fly critical airlift and aeromedical evacuation missions (2003). Conducted an AEF deployment to Turkey as the 90 Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron (2005). The group also provided air transportation for the deployment of other units.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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