

## 460<sup>th</sup> SPACE WING



### MISSION

The wing's operational mission is to provide missile warning, missile defense, technical intelligence, nuclear detonation detection, satellite-command and control, battlespace awareness and robust communications to the President, secretary of defense, combatant commanders, intelligence agencies and global warfighters. The wing's team of space professionals operates the Space-Based Infrared System, which is composed of the Defense Support Program satellites and the next generation SBIRS satellites.

The 460th SW operates and maintains Buckley AFB, Colo. It provides security, communications, civil engineering, personnel, services, logistics and medical support to more than 79 active duty/Guard/Reserve units from all branches of military service and approximately 90,000 military, civilian and retired personnel. The wing, comprised of approximately 1,700 military, civilians and contractors, also plans and executes infrastructure and quality-of-life programs to make Buckley a model AFB. It ensures world-class support, maintains operationally ready forces and provides superior customer service.

### LINEAGE

460<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Heavy) established, 19 May 1943

Activated, 1 Jul 1943

Redesignated 460<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, Heavy 3 Sep 1944

Inactivated, 26 Sep 1945

460<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing established and activated, 2 Feb 1966

Organized, 18 Feb 1966

Inactivated, 31 Aug 1971

460<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, Heavy and 460<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing consolidated, 31 Jan 1984

Redesignated 460<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 19 Sep 1989  
Activated, 1 Oct 1989  
Inactivated, 1 Oct 1990  
Redesignated 460<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing, 26 Apr 2001  
Activated, 1 Oct 2001  
Redesignated 460<sup>th</sup> Space Wing, 19 Aug 2004

### **STATIONS**

Alamogordo AAFld, NM, 1 Jul 1943  
Kearns AAB, UT, 31 Aug 1943  
Chatham AAFld, GA, 29 Oct 1943  
Camp Patrick Henry, VA, 4-13 Jan 1944 (ground echelon)  
Spinazzola, Italy, 11 Feb 1944-Jun 1945  
Waller Field, Trinidad, 15 Jun 1945  
Paramirim Field, Natal, Brazil, 30 Jun-26 Sep 1945  
Tan Son Nhut AB, South Vietnam, 18 Feb 1966-31 Aug 1971  
Taegu AB, South Korea, 1 Oct 1989-1 Oct 1990  
Buckley AFB, CO, 1 Oct 2001

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

II Bomber Command, 1 Jul 1943  
Second Air Force, 6 Oct 1943  
I Bomber Command, 29 Oct 1943  
55<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, 5 Feb 1944  
South Atlantic Division, Air Transport Command, 15 Jun-26 Sep 1945  
Pacific Air Forces, 2 Feb 1966  
2<sup>nd</sup> Air Division, 18 Feb 1966  
Seventh Air Force, 1 Apr 1966-31 Aug 1971  
Seventh Air Force, 1 Oct 1989-1 Oct 1990  
Fourteenth Air Force, 1 Oct 2001

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-24, 1943-1945  
RB-57, 1966-1971  
EB/RB-66, 1966  
RF-4, 1966-1971  
RF-101, 1966-1970  
RC-47, 1966-1967  
EC-47, 1967-1971  
RF-4, 1989-1990

### **COMMANDERS**

Unkn, 1 Jul-11 Aug 1943  
Col Robert T. Crowder, 12 August 1943

Col Bertram C. Harrison, 16 Apr 1944  
LTC Harold T. Babb, 20 Sep 1944  
Col John M. Price, 18 Oct 1944-unkn (at least through Apr 1945)  
Unkn, 18 Feb-13 Mar 1966  
Col Edward H. Taylor, 14 Mar 1966  
Col Robert G. Williams, Mar 1967  
BG Robert J. Holbury, 21 Dec 1967  
Col Leslie J. Westbert, 8 Jul 1968  
Col Hal L. Fitzpatrick, 28 May 1969  
Col Harry M. Chapman, 21 Jun 1969  
Col James E. Tilton, 1 May 1970  
Col Dale L. Flowers, 15 Apr 1971  
Col Jerome F. O'Malley, 1-31 Aug 1971  
Col Gene N. Patton, 1 Oct 1989  
LTC Robert S. Hillmer, 13 Aug-1 Oct 1990  
Col James A. Sands, 1 Oct 2001  
Col Allen Kirkman, Jr., 39 Jun 2003  
Col David W. Zeigler, 20 Jun 2005

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

### **Service Streamers**

World War II American Theater

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

Rome-Arno

Southern France

North Apennines

Po Valley

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Vietnam  
Vietnam Air  
Vietnam Air Offensive  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III  
Vietnam Air/Ground  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV  
TET 69/Counteroffensive

Vietnam Summer/Fall, 1969  
Vietnam Winter/Spring 1970  
Sanctuary Counteroffensive  
Southwest Monsoon  
Commando Hunt V  
Commando Hunt VI

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation  
Austria, 26 Jul 1944

### **Presidential Unit Citations (Southeast Asia)**

18 Feb 1966-30 Jun 1967  
1 Sep 1967-10 Jul 1968  
11 Jul 1968-31 Aug 1969  
1 Feb-31 Mar 1971

### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device**

1 Jul 1969-30 Jun 1970  
1 Jul 1970-30 Jun 1971

### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Award**

1 Oct 1989-[1] Oct 1990  
1 Oct 2001-1 Oct 2002  
2 Oct 2002-2 Oct 2003

### **Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm**

1 Apr 1966-31 Aug 1971

### **EMBLEM**



460<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing emblem: Azure, in chief a winged eye Proper, wings extended fesswise Argent, the eye emitting six rays throughout Or, three in pile to chief and three in pile reversed surmounted in base by a demi-globe Celeste, gridlined Sable, encircled by two elliptical orbits in saltire of the second, each surmounted at dexter and sinister apex by a Pole Star of four points Yellow garnished Gold Brown, all within a diminished border of the third. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "460TH AIR BASE WING" in Blue letters. 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 winged eye reflects the unit's heritage. The two orbiting Pole Stars depict the Active Duty and Reserve Components supported the Wing. The globe symbolizes the global nature of the Wing's mission. (Approved, 3 Dec 2001)

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Trained at bases in New Mexico, Utah, and Georgia for heavy bombardment operations. Moved to Italy in Feb 1944 and entered combat on 19 Mar under the Fifteenth Air Force. Served primarily as a strategic bombardment organization until Apr 1945. Bombed enemy marshalling yards, oil refineries and storage facilities, aircraft factories, industrial areas, and other objectives in Italy, France, Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Austria, Rumania, Yugoslavia, and Greece. Earned a Distinguished Unit Citation for leading a wing formation through adverse weather and heavy enemy fire to attack an airfield and aircraft facilities in Zwolfaxing, Austria, on 26 Jul 1944.

The group also flew some interdiction and support missions. Supported the invasion of southern France in Aug by raiding submarine pens, marshalling yards, and gun positions in the assault area. Struck bridges, viaducts, ammunition dumps, railroads, and other targets to aid the advance of Allied forces in northern Italy. Flew its last World War II combat mission on 26 Apr 1945. Moved to Trinidad and then to Brazil in Jun 1945 to assist in moving redeployed personnel from Europe to the United States.

The group's ground echelon moved to Camp Patrick, Va., in January 1944 and sailed aboard the Liberty Ship Thomas R. Marshall. It arrived in Spinazzola, Italy, Feb. 11. The air echelon flew the group's aircraft via the southern route and arrived at Spinazzola shortly after the ground echelon.

The unit entered combat as part of the 15th Air Force, flying its first combat mission March 19, 1944, against the marshaling yards at Matkovic, Yugoslavia. It operated primarily as a strategic bombardment organization until April 1945. During that period, it attacked oil refineries, oil storage facilities, aircraft factories, railroad centers, industrial areas and other objectives throughout Italy, France, Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Austria, Romania, Yugoslavia and Greece.

The group received a distinguished unit citation for leading a wing formation through adverse weather and heavy enemy fire to attack an airdrome and aircraft facilities in Zwolfaxing, Austria, July 26, 1944.

It also participated in some interdiction and support missions including the invasion of southern France in August 1944. It hit bridges, viaducts, ammunition dumps, railroads, and other targets to aid in the advance of allied forces in northern Italy. It flew its last combat mission April 26, 1945.

By June 1945, the group had moved to Trinidad and then to Brazil to support the Air Transport Command in moving re-deployed personnel from Europe to the United States. The group was deactivated Sept. 26, 1945.

Twenty years later, the 460th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing was organized in February 1966 to control and administer tactical reconnaissance resources in Southeast Asia. Assigned and attached tactical reconnaissance and tactical electronic warfare squadrons and squadron-sized detachments flew day and night visual, photographic, radar, thermographic, and electronic reconnaissance missions to meet the combat needs of the 2nd Air Division until April 1966 and for the 7th Air Force thereafter. It then divided reconnaissance in Southeast Asia with another wing in September 1966.

In October 1966, it assumed aircraft maintenance responsibility for all U.S. Air Force organizations using Tan Son Nhut AB, South Vietnam. It continued its reconnaissance operations through August 1971 and was inactivated Aug. 31 that year.

On Oct. 1, 2001, Air Force officials renamed and activated the 460th again, this time as the 460th Air Base Wing. On Aug. 19, 2004, the 460th became a space wing and gained a new group and squadron and assumed operational control of several others. The wing added the 460th Operations Group, 460th Operations Support Squadron which took over operational responsibilities for the 2nd, 8th and 137th Space Warning Squadrons from the 21st Space Wing. A year later, wing continued growing when its medical squadron became the 460th Medical

Group.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.