

## 466<sup>th</sup> AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP



### **MISSION**

The 466th Air Expeditionary Group provides specified Administrative and Operational control of more than 1,800 Airmen at more than 90 locations across Afghanistan. This includes Joint Expeditionary Tasking airmen and Individual Augmentees assigned against Joint organizations.

466th Air Expeditionary Group mission is: provide total visibility and accountability of Joint Expeditionary Tasking airmen from training, deployment, employment and redeployment; Support airmen with Administrative and Operational control responsibilities; Ensure Tactical Commanders; Ground commanders and Joint Organizations, is fully supported with the right airmen, in the right job with the right skills, on time. The Group supports International Security Assistance Force operations with essential resources to strengthen security and build a solid infrastructure.

The 466th AEG is comprised of Airmen from more than 115 Air Force Specialty Codes including security forces, explosive ordnance disposal, civil engineering, contracting, communications, medical, intelligence, legal and logistics support to train local officials and rebuild the country.

The four squadrons under the group are:

- 766th Air Expeditionary Squadron based at FOB Sharana
- 466th Air Expeditionary Squadron based at Kandahar Airfield
- 866th Air Expeditionary Squadron based at Camp Phoenix
- 966th Air Expeditionary Squadron based at Bagram

### **LINEAGE**

466<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Heavy) constituted, 19 May 1943  
Activated, 1 Aug 1943

Redesignated 466th Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, Aug 1945  
Inactivated, 17 Oct 1945  
Converted to provisional status, redesignated 466<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Group and assigned to  
United States Air Forces Central Command to activate as needed.  
Activated, May 2009  
Inactivated,  
Activated, 26 Nov 2012

### **STATIONS**

Alamogordo AAFld, NM, 1 Aug 1943  
Kearns, UT, 31 Aug 1943  
Alamogordo AAFld, NM, 24 Nov 1943  
Topeka AAFld, KS, 5-13 Feb 1944  
Attlebridge, England, 7 Mar 1944-6 Jul 1945  
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 15 Jul 1945  
Pueblo AAB, CO, 25 Jul 1945  
Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 15 Aug-17 Oct 1945  
Bagram Air Base, May 2009 - Nov 2012  
Manas, Kyrgyzstan, 26 Nov 2012 - Feb 2014  
Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, Febr 2014

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

IV Bomber Command, 1 Aug 1943 – Feb 1944  
96<sup>th</sup> Combat Bombardment Wing, 7 Mar 1944 – 6 Jul 1945  
Second Air Force, 15 Jul - 17 Oct 1945  
455<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing, May 2009  
9<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Task Force, 26 Nov 2012

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-24, 1943  
B-24H  
B-24J  
B-24L  
B-24M  
B-29, 1945

### **COMMANDERS**

Maj Beverly E. Steadman, 23 Aug 1943  
Maj Walter A. Smith, Jr., 29 Aug 1943  
Col Walter G. Bryte, Jr., 2 Sep 1943  
Col Arthur J. Pierce, 17 Dec 1943  
Col Luther J. Fairbanks, 1 Aug 1944  
Col William H. Cleveland, 1 Nov 1944  
Col Elvin S. Ligon, 17 Feb 1945-Aug 1945

Col John D. Cline, Nov 2012 - Oct 2013  
Col Timothy G. Lee, Oct 2013 - Aug 2014  
Col Scott M. Guilbeault, Aug 2014 - Aug 2015  
Col Brian D. Burns, Aug 2015

## HONORS

### Service Streamers

### Campaign Streamers

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

### Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

### Decorations

## EMBLEM



466<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, Heavy emblem: Azure between a label in chief and olive branches Silver Gray detailed Argent issuant from crossed swords of the last hilt pommel and hand guard Or to base, a mullet of the second fimbriated and outlined to leave a void in the shape of a pentagon point to base White, all within a diminished bordure of the fourth. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "466TH 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 label and crossed swords represent government security. The olive branches signify accountability, and the star is a symbol for development.

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Ground echelon to port of embarkation, air echelon by southern ferry route. Ground element sailed from New York on Queen Mary, 28 Feb 1944.

Entered combat on 22 Mar 1944 by participating in a daylight raid on Berlin. Operated primarily as a strategic bombardment organization, attacking such targets as marshalling yards at Liege, an airfield at St Trond, a repair and assembly plant at Reims, an airdrome at Chartres, factories at Brunswick, oil refineries at Bohlen, aircraft plants at Kempten, mineral works at Hamburg, marshalling yards at Saarbrucken, a synthetic oil plant at Misburg, a fuel depot at Dulmen, and aero engine works at Eisenach. Other operations included attacking pillboxes along the coast of Normandy on D-Day (6 Jun 1944), and afterward striking interdiction targets behind the beachhead; bombing enemy positions at St Lo during the Allied breakthrough in Jul 1944; hauling oil and gasoline to Allied forces advancing across France in Sep; hitting German communications and transportation during the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945; and bombing the airfield at Nordhorn in support of the airborne assault across the Rhine on 24 Mar 1945. Flew last combat mission on 25 Apr 1945, striking a transformer station at Traunstein.

First Mission: 22 Mar 1944

Last Mission: 25 Apr 1945

Total Missions: 232

Total Credit Sorties: 5,762

Total Bomb Tonnage: 12,914 tons

Aircraft missing in action: 47

Other Operational losses: 24

Enemy aircraft claims: 29-3-14

Redeployed USA Jun/Jul 1945. Aircraft left Attlebridge mid-Jun 1945. Ground echelon sailed from Greenock on Queen Mary 6 Jul 1945, arriving New York, 11 Jul 1945. Personnel received 30 days R & R. Group established Sioux Falls AAFd, SD. Selected for B-29 training and established Pueblo AAB, CO and then Davis-Monthan Fld, AZ. With termination of hostilities in Pacific, Group run down and inactivated 17 Oct 1945.

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Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 28 May 2011

Updated: 11 Jan 2013

### Sources

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

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