

42nd AIR DIVISION



MISSION

LINEAGE

42nd Bombardment Wing (Dive) established, 8 Feb 1943

Activated, 16 Feb 1943

Redesignated 42nd Bombardment Wing (Medium), 31 Jul 1943

Redesignated 42nd Bombardment Wing, Medium, 23 Oct 1944

Inactivated, 25 Oct 1945

Redesignated 42nd Air Division, 2 Mar 1951

Organized, 10 Mar 1951

Discontinued, 16 Jun 1952

Activated, 16 Jun 1952

Inactivated, 8 Jan 1958

Activated, 15 Jul 1959

Redesignated 42nd Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Jun 1962

Redesignated 42nd Air Division, 1 Jul 1963

Inactivated, 2 Jul 1969

Activated, 1 Jan 1970

Inactivated, 9 Jul 1991

STATIONS

Birmingham AAB, AL, 22 Feb-31 Jul 1943

Ariana, Tunisia, 21 Aug 1943

Elmas Field, Sardinia, 15 Nov 1943

Borgo, Corsica, 21 Sep 1944
Dijon, France, 24 Nov 1944
Camp Shanks, NY, 24-25 Oct 1945
Bergstrom AFB, TX, 10 Mar 1951-16 Jun 1952
Bergstrom AFB, TX, 16 Jun 1952-8 Jan 1958
McConnell AFB, KS, 15 Jul 1959
Blytheville AFB, AR, 1 Jul 1963-2 Jul 1969
Blytheville AFB, AR, 1 Jan 1970
McCoy AFB, FL, 30 Jun 1971
Blytheville AFB (later, Eaker AFB), AR, 1 Sep 1973
Grand Forks AFB, ND, 16 Jun 1988-9 Jul 1991

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Anniston AAFld, AL, 16-30 Jun 1943

ASSIGNMENTS

Third Air Force, 16 Feb 1943
Twelfth Air Force, 31 Jul 1943
Northwest African Strategic Air Force, 21 Aug 1943
XII Bomber Command, 1 Sep 1943
Fifteenth Air Force 1 Nov 1943
Twelfth Air Force, 1 Jan 1944
XII Tactical Air Command, 27 Nov 1944
First Tactical Air Force (Provisional), 6 Jan 1945
XII Tactical Air Command, 21 May 1945
United States Air Forces in Europe, 26 Jul 1945
Army Service Forces, 13 25 Oct 1945
Eighth Air Force, 10 Mar 1951-16 Jun 1952
Eighth Air Force, 16 Jun 1952
Second Air Force, 1 Apr 1955
Ninth Air Force, 1 Jul 1957
Eighteenth Air Force, 1 Oct 1957
Twelfth Air Force, 1-8 Jan 1958
Second Air Force, 15 Jul 1959-2 Jul 1969
Second Air Force, 1 Jan 1970
Eighth Air Force, 1 Jan 1975-9 Jul 1991

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 16 Feb-23 Aug 1943
BG Robert M. Webster, 24 Aug 1943
BG John P. Doyle, 1 Sep 1944-31 Oct 1945
BG Clarence T. Edwinson, 15 Mar 1951
Col Ivan W. McElroy, 4 Jul 1957-8 Jan 1958
MG Kenneth O. Sanborn, 15 Jul 1959

Col Norton H. Van Sicklen, 2 Jul 1960
BG Murray A. Bywater, 1 Jul 1962
BG William B. Martensen, 1 Jul 1963
Col Sherman F. Martin, 1 Jul 1964
Col John W. Livingston, 14 Jul 1965
BG Harold W. Ohlke, 18 Jul 1965
BG Roger L. Hicks Jr., 18 Aug 1966
Col Ralph T. Holland, 1 Jul 1967
Col William H. Cooper, 18 Aug 1968 2 Jul 1969
BG James E. Hill, 1 Jan 1970
BG Woodrow A. Abbott, 30 Jun 1971
BG Edward O. Martin, 16 Aug 1971
BG John J. Murphy, 29 Jun 1973
BG James R. McCarthy, 9 May 1975
BG Louis C. Buckman, 19 Jul 1978
BG Rudolph F. Wacker, 15 Aug 1979
BG Donald L. Marks, 19 Aug 1982
BG Larry D. Fortner, 23 May 1984
BG David J. Pederson, 1 Feb 1987
BG Patrick P. Caruana, 14 Sep 1989
Col Harvard L. Lomax (additional duty), 7 Aug 1990
Col James H. Reid (additional duty), 19 Nov 1990
BG Patrick P. Caruana, 18 Mar-9 Jul 1991

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Rhineland

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

French Croix de Guerre with Palm

Apr-Jun 1944

EMBLEM



Per chevron inverted azure and light blue between in chief a fleur de lis or enarched with four mullets of four points above two of same argent, all between two lightning bolts gules fimbriated of the fourth and in base saltirewise a palm and an olive branch of the last, in fess point a cloud formation of the like and over all in pale a winged mace displayed or, all within a diminished border of the last. (Approved, 29 Dec 1965)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The wing first saw combat in the invasion of Italy, where its units flew close support missions to stop the German counterattack on the beachhead at Salerno during Sep 1943. As the Allied forces progressed, the 42d took a leading part in interdicting Axis road and rail transport, and later in 1944, in the attacks against the monastery at Cassino. In Aug 1944, it supported the Allied landings in southern France. As the war drew to a close the 42d attacked German positions along the Siegfried Line and, in support of the Allied forces in their sweep across southern Germany, bombed enemy strong points, and communications and supply facilities. Becoming an Air Division in Mar 1951, the 42d equipped and trained its assigned units to conduct strategic air warfare using nuclear or conventional weapons anywhere in the world. It also trained and maintained air refueling assets. Tankers from units assigned to the 42d supported the Eielson Tanker Task Force and, over the years, occasionally deployed to Spain for Spanish Area Support. The division conducted numerous staff assistance visits and simulated no notice inspections, and participated in exercises such as Buy None and Global Shield. Aircraft and personnel from units assigned to the division, at various times in the late 1960s and early 1970s, deployed to Southeast Asia and took part in Arc Light and Young Tiger operations. Subordinate units of the 42d deployed aircraft and personnel in support of the war in

Southwest Asia.

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