

49th AIR DIVISION (OPERATIONAL)



MISSION

LINEAGE

49th Bombardment Operational Training Wing (Medium) established, 17 Mar 1943

Activated, 31 Mar 1943

Redesignated 49th Bombardment Wing (Medium), 18 Oct 1943

Redesignated 49th Bombardment Wing (Heavy), 4 Dec 1943

Redesignated 49th Bombardment Wing, Heavy, Aug 1944

Inactivated, 16 Oct 1945

Activated in the Reserve as 49th Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy, 20 Dec 1946

Redesignated 49th Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy, 31 Dec 1946

Redesignated 49th Air Division, Bombardment, 16 Apr 1948

Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

Redesignated 49th Air Division, 25 Oct 1951

Activated, 7 Nov 1951

Redesignated 49th Air Division, Operational, 1 Apr 1952

Redesignated 49th Air Division (Operational), 15 Nov 1954

Inactivated, 1 Jul 1956

STATIONS

Columbia AAB, SC, 31 Mar 1943

Greenville AAB, SC, 28 Apr 1943-2 Feb 1944

Bari, Italy (remained in Italy, possibly at other stations), 11 Mar 1944-16 Oct 1945

Miami AAFld, FL, 20 Dec 1946-27 Jun 1949

Langley AFB, VA, 7 Nov 1951-21 May 1952

Sculthorpe Royal Air Force (RAF) Station (later, RAF Sculthorpe), England, 1 Jun 1952-1 Jul 1956

ASSIGNMENTS

Third Air Force, 31 Mar 1943-3 Feb 1944

Army Service Forces, 3 Feb 1944

Fifteenth Air Force, 11 Mar 1944-16 Oct 1945

Fourteenth Air Force, 20 Dec 1946

Ninth Air Force, 22 Dec 1948

Fourteenth Air Force, 1 Feb-27 Jun 1949

Tactical Air Command, 7 Nov 1951

Third Air Force, 5 Jun 1952-1 Jul 1956

COMMANDERS

BG William L. Lee, 31 Mar 1943

Col Robert F. Worden, 4 Aug-16 Oct 1945

Col James D. Jones, 7 Nov 1951

BG John D. Stevenson, by 28 Feb 1952

BG James F. Whisenand, 26 Feb 1955-1 Jul 1956

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Rome Arno

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

None

EMBLEM

Quarterly argent and sable, rising from base the outline of an atomic cloud counterchanged, overall a lightning flash issuing from sinister chief and striking to dexter base or. (Approved, 23 Dec 1953)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 49th moved in the spring of 1944 to Italy, where its units began flying missions. As a strategic bombardment organization, it attacked such targets as oil refineries, marshalling yards, aircraft factories, bridges, and airfields in Italy, Germany, Austria and Bulgaria. Subordinate units inflicted heavy damage on the oil refineries at Ploesti, participated in the invasion of southern France in Aug 1944, and supported the final advances of Allied armies in northern Italy in Apr 1945. Beginning in 1947, the 49th served in the Reserve for two years, during which time it was redesignated as an Air Division. After activation in the Regular Air Force, the division moved to England and served the United States Air Forces in Europe. No combat elements were assigned, but wings were attached for operations. The division supervised and participated in numerous training missions such as Quick Shot, Kingpin, and Bear Claw.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

Sources

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