

5 OPERATIONS GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

2nd Group (Observation), Authorized (established) and organized, 15 Aug 1919
Redesignated 5 Group (Observation), 14 Mar 1921
Redesignated 5 Group (Pursuit and Bombardment), 9 Jun 1922
Redesignated 5 Group (Composite), 11 Jul 1922
Redesignated 5 Composite Group, unkn date
Redesignated 5 Bombardment Group, 9 Mar 1938
Redesignated 5 Bombardment Group (Medium), 6 Dec 1939
Redesignated 5 Bombardment Group (Heavy), 20 Nov 1940
Redesignated 5 Bombardment Group, Heavy, 12 Sep 1944
Redesignated 5 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, 30 Apr 1946
Redesignated 5 Reconnaissance Group, Very Long Range, Photographic, 11 Mar 1947
Redesignated 5 Strategic Reconnaissance Group, 16 Jul 1949
Redesignated 5 Strategic Reconnaissance Group, Heavy, 14 Nov 1950
Inactivated, 16 Jun 1952
Redesignated 5 Operations Group, 29 Aug 1991
Activated, 1 Sep 1991

STATIONS

Luke Field, TH, 15 Aug 1919
Hickam Field, TH, 1 Jan 1939
Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides, 1 Dec 1942

Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, 19 Aug 1943
Munda, New Georgia, 4 Feb 1944
Momote Afd, Los Negros, Admiralty Islands, 7 Apr 1944
Wakde, New Guinea, 17 Aug 1944
Noemfoor, Schouten Islands, 22 Sep 1944
Morotai, Halmahera, Molucca Islands, 16 Oct 1944
Samar, Philippine Islands, 5 Mar 1945
Clark Field, Luzon, Philippine Islands, Dec 1945-6 May 1949
Mountain Home AFB, ID, 26 May 1949
Fairfield-Suisun (later, Travis) AFB, CA, 9 Nov 1949-16 Jun 1952
Minot AFB, ND, 1 Sep 1991

ASSIGNMENTS

Hawaiian Department, 15 Aug 1919
18th Composite Wing (later, 18th Wing; 18th Bombardment Wing), 1 May 1931
VII Bomber Command, 29 Jan 1942
Thirteenth Air Force, 4 Jan 1943
XIII Bomber Command, 13 Jan 1943
Far East Air Forces (later, Pacific Air Command, U.S. Army), 15 Dec 1945
Thirteenth Air Force, 15 May 1946
313th Bombardment Wing, 10 Jun 1946
Thirteenth Air Force, 5 Feb 1947
313th Bombardment Wing, 15 Mar 1947
Thirteenth Air Force, 1 Jan 1948
Far East Air Forces, 1 Dec 1948
Thirteenth Air Force, 16 May 1949
311th Air Division, 26 May 1949
5 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 16 Jul 1949-16 Jun 1952
5 Wing (later, 5 Bomb) Wing, 1 Sep 1991

ATTACHMENTS

Thirteenth Air Force, 7 Aug-31 Dec 1947
18th Fighter Wing, 1 Dec 1948-16 May 1949
9th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 9 Nov 1949-10 Feb 1951

WEAPON SYSTEMS

DH-4, 1919-1929
HS-2L (flying boat), 1919-1926
N-9, 1919-1920
R-6, 1919-1920
Fokker D-VII, 1920-1926
JN-6, 1920-1929
MB-3, 1920-1926
NBS-1, 1922-1929

LB-5, 1923-1929
SE-5, 1924-1926
PW-9, 1927
B-4, 1929-1937
B-5, 1929-1937
LB-6, 1929-1937
OA-1, 1929-1937
O-19, 1929-1937
P-12, 1930-1937
B-12, 1934-1939
A-3, 1936-1938
B-18, 1938-1942
B-17, 1941-1943
B-24, 1943-1945
LB-30, 1942
C-46, 1947-1948
B/FB-17, 1947-1949
F-2, 1947-1949
F-9, 1947
F-13, 1947-1948
RB-29, 1948-1951
RB-36, 1951
B-52, 1991
KC-135, 1991-1992
T-38, 1994-1995

COMMANDERS

Capt George C. Furrow, 19 Aug 1919
Maj Hugh H. Knerr, 19 Sep 1919
Maj Sheldon H. Wheeler, 4 Nov 1919
Capt Harry H. Young, 13 Jul 1921
Maj John B. Brooks, 25 Jul 1921
Capt Robert Oldys, 31 Aug 1921
Maj George E. Stratemeyer, 12 Apr 1922
Maj George H. Peabody, 17 Jul 1922
Maj George E. Stratemeyer, 1 Nov 1922
Capt Robert Oldys (Later, Olds), 16 Jan 1923
Capt Karl H. Gorman, 13 Apr 1923
Maj George E. Lovell Jr., 11 Aug 1923
Maj Arnold N. Krogstad, 7 Apr 1924
Maj George E. Lovell Jr., 9 Jan 1926
Maj Henry J. F. Miller, 26 May 1926
Maj Percy E. Van Nostrand, 26 Aug 1926
Capt Raymond E. O'Neill, 24 May 1929

Maj Maxwell Kirby, 21 Aug 1929
Capt James F. Powell, 17 Jun 1932
Maj Vincent B. Dixon, 23 Sep 1932
Capt Wolcott P. Hayes, 26 Oct 1934
Maj Asa N. Duncan, 12 Jan 1935
Lt Col Millard F. Harmon, Oct 1936
Col Shepler W. Fitzgerald, Sep 1938
Lt Col Edwin B. Bobzien, Caug 1941
Col Arthur W. Meehan, 1942
Col Brooke E. Allen, 1 Nov 1942
Col Marion D. Unruh, 10 Aug 1943
Lt Col Joseph E. Reddoch Jr., 31 Dec 1943
Col Thomas C. Musgrave Jr., 4 Apr 1944
Col Joseph E. Reddoch Jr., 21 Apr 1944
Col Thomas C. Musgrave Jr., 15 Aug 1944
Maj Albert W. James, 28 Feb 1945
Col Isaac J. Haviland, 15 Mar 1945
Lt Col Albert W. James, 5 Jul 1945-Unkn
None (Not Manned), 1946-1947
Col Herbert K. Baisley, 16 Jan 1947-Unkn
Col William E. Basye, 1949
Col Walter E. Arnold, 27 Feb 1950-9 Feb 1951 (Permanent), 10 Feb 1951-16 Jun 1952
(Additional Duty)
Unkn, 1 Sep-30 Oct 1991
Col Thomas B. Goslin, 31 Oct 1991
Lt Col Roy R. Heddleston, 19 Jun 1992
Col Robert J. Elder Jr., 23 Jul 1993
Col Curtis M. Bedke, 5 Dec 1994
Col John G. Miller, 22 Jul 1996
Col Floyd L. Carpenter, 14 Jul 1998
Col Johnnie R. Madison, 17 Jul 2000
Col Daniel J. Charchian, 12 Aug 2002
Col Eric N. Single, 9 Mar 2004
Col Tom Gilbert, 9 Sep 2005

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Central Pacific
Guadalcanal
New Guinea
Northern Solomons

Eastern Mandates
Bismarck Archipelago
Western Pacific
Leyte
Luzon
Southern Philippines

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Woleai Island, 18 Apr-15 May 1944
Borneo, 30 Sep 1944

Presidential Unit Citation (Navy)
South Pacific, [1-9 Dec] 1942

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device
1 Jun 1999-31 May 2001

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Jul 1991-30 Jun 1993
1 Jun 1994-31 May 1996
1 Jun 2002-31 May 2004

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WW II)

EMBLEM



5 Composite Group

The colors of the shield are those of the Air Service at the time the organization of the 5 Group. The parting lines represent the clouds. The winged Death's head is militant representation of the functions of the air Service in war. The crest is of the family of Lt Frank Luke in whose honor Luke Field was named. The colors of the crest are those of the Air Service. The following Hawaiian tradition has it that there were two invisible birds. Kiwaha and Halulu which were the birds of the station or guardians of the realm. They were called Kiaio ka lewa (Guardians of the upper regions) and were highly thought of by all warriors of ancient Hawaii. The expression was often used before a battle. There were no regular war cries. The Motto is historically and linguistically Hawaiian.





MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Took part in training exercises and maneuvers and staged aerial reviews in Hawaii, 1919-1941.

In 1938, the group bombed Mauna Loa, a Hawaiian volcano, in order to divert a lava stream from the city of Hilo. Sowed seeds from the air for the Territorial Forestry Division in 1937-1938.

On 7 Dec 1941, the group suffered the loss of B-17 and B-18 bombers when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, but it sent two B-17s to search vainly for the Japanese task force. Patrolled the Hawaiian Islands until November 1942, taking part in the Battle of Midway (3-6 Jun 1942). The group's 72d Squadron moved to Espiritu Santo in Sep to join the 11th Bombardment Group as part of a Mobile Force, Pacific. By Jan 1943, all of the 5 group's squadrons operated with the 11th group's squadrons from Espiritu Santo or Guadalcanal. Served in combat with the Thirteenth Air Force during the Allied drive from the Solomon Islands to the Philippines. Crews flew long patrol and photographic missions over the Solomon Islands and the Coral Sea, attacked Japanese shipping off Guadalcanal, and raided enemy airfields in the northern Solomons until Aug 1943. Struck enemy installations on the islands of Bougainville, New Britain, and New Ireland. Earned a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for raiding the heavily defended Japanese base on Woleai in April and May 1944. The following summer the group attacked enemy bases on Yap, Truk, and the Palau Islands to prepare for the U.S. invasion of Peleliu and Leyte. Earned a second DUC for a mission through heavy flak and fighter defenses to bomb petroleum installations at Balikpapan, Borneo on 30 Sep 1944. Between October 1944 and the summer of 1945, the group raided enemy installations on Luzon, Ceram, Halmahera, and Formosa, supported ground forces in the Philippines and Borneo, and patrolled the Chinese coast.

Unmanned between early 1946 and early 1947. Using aerial photography, the group mapped parts of the Philippines, Formosa, and the Pescadores, 1947-1949.

In May 1949, the group moved from the Philippines to Idaho and later that year to California to perform strategic reconnaissance missions.

Not operational from 10 Feb 1951 until 16 Jun 1952, when it was inactivated.

After activation in North Dakota in 1991, the group trained for bombing missions. Briefly between 1991 and 1992, it also administered an air refueling squadron.

In the late 1990s, the group deployed aircrews and bombers to Southwest Asia and Europe for operations against Iraq and Serbia.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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

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