

7 OPERATIONS GROUP



MISSION

The 7 Operations Group is the operational flying component of the 7th Bomb Wing. The group is responsible for executing global conventional bombing directed by proper command authority. It is the largest B-1B operations group comprised of 33 B-1s and 1,140 people assigned to three squadrons - 9 and 28 Bomb Squadrons, 7 Operations Support Squadron

LINEAGE

First Army Observation Group established and organized, 6 Sep 1918
Demobilized, Apr 1919

1 Army Observation Group established and organized, 1 Oct 1919

Redesignated 7 Group (Observation), 26 Mar 1921

Inactivated, 30 Aug 1921

Redesignated 7 Observation Group, 25 Jan 1923

Redesignated 7 Bombardment Group, 24 Mar 1923

Activated, 1 Jun 1928

Redesignated 7 Bombardment Group (Heavy), 6 Dec 1939

Redesignated 7 Bombardment Group, Heavy, 15 Oct 1944

Inactivated, 6 Jan 1946

Redesignated 7 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy and activated, 1 Oct 1946

Redesignated 7 Bombardment Group, Heavy, 20 Jul 1948

Inactivated, 16 Jun 1952

Redesignated 7 Operations Group, 29 Aug 1991

Activated, 1 Sep 1991

Inactivated, 1 Jan 1993

Activated, 1 Oct 1993

First Army Observation Group and 7 Operations Group consolidated 13 Jan 1994. Consolidated organization retained 7 Operations Group designation.

STATIONS

Gondreville, France, 6 Sep 1918
Vavincourt, France, 22 Sep 1918-Apr 1919
Park Field, TN, 1 Oct 1919
Langley Field, VA, 28 Oct 1919-30 Aug 1921
Rockwell Field, CA, 1 Jun 1928
March Field, CA, 30 Oct 1931
Hamilton Field, CA, 5 Dec 1934
Merced Field, CA, 5 Nov 1935
Hamilton Field, CA, 22 May 1937
Ft Douglas, UT, 7 Sep 1940-13 Nov 1941
Brisbane, Australia, 22 Dec 1941-4 Dec 1942 (air echelon operated from Java, 14 Jan-1 Mar 1942)
Karachi, India, 12 Mar 1942
Dum-Dum, India, 30 May 1942
Karachi, India, 9 Sep 1942
Pandaveswar, India, 12 Dec 1942
Kurmitola, India, 17 Jan 1944
Pandaveswar, India, 6 Oct 1944
Tezpur, India, 7 Jun 1945
Kudhkundi, India, 31 Oct-7 Dec 1945
Camp Kilmer, NJ, 5-6 Jan 1946
Fort Worth AAFld (later, Carswell AFB), TX, 1 Oct 1946-16 Jun 1952
Carswell AFB, TX, 1 Sep 1991-1 Jan 1993
Dyess AFB, TX, 1 Oct 1993

ASSIGNMENTS

Air Service, First Army, 6 Sep 1918-Apr 1919
2 Wing, 1 Oct 1919-30 Aug 1921
IX Corps Area, 1 Jun 1928
1 Bombardment Wing, 30 Oct 1931
IX Corps Area, 1 Oct 1933
1 Wing, 1 Mar 1935
20 Bombardment Wing, 18 Dec 1940
II Bomber Command, 5 Sep 1941
Far East (later, Fifth) Air Force, c. 22 Dec 1941
Tenth Air Force, Mar 1942
Army Air Forces, India-Burma Theater, 12 Jun-7 Dec 1945
New York Port of Embarkation, 5-6 Jan 1946
Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Oct 1946
Eighth Air Force, 1 Nov 1946

7 Bombardment Wing, 17 Nov 1947-16 Jun 1952
7 Wing (later, 7 Bomb) Wing, 1 Sep 1991-1 Jan 1993
7 Wing (later, 7 Bomb) Wing, 1 Oct 1993

ATTACHMENTS

India China Division, Air Transport Command, 15 Jun-18 Sep 1945

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Breguet 14
DH-4
Salmson 2
Spad XIII
Sopwith FE-2, 1918-1919
Unkn, 1919-1921
OA-2, 1928-unkn
LB-7, 1929-unkn
B-3
B-4
O-19
O-38
B-12, 1934-1936
B-10, 1936-1937
B-18, 1937-1940
B-17, 1939-1942
B-25
LB-30, 1942
B-24, 1942-1945
B-29, 1946-1948
B-36, 1948-1951
B-52, 1991-1993
KC-135, 1991-1993
B-1, 1993
C-130, 1993-1997

COMMANDERS

Lt Col John N. Reynolds, 6 Sep 1918-unkn
Unkn, 1919-1921
1st Lt Harry J. Martin, 17 Mar 1921
1st Lt Bernard S. Thompson, 6 May 1921
1st Lt Harry J. Martin, 6 Jun 1921
Inactive, 1 Sep 1921-1 Jun 1928
Maj Albert L. Sneed 1 Jun 1928
Capt Frank H. Pritchard, 10 Jul 1928
Maj Carl A. Spaatz, 6 May 1929

Maj Joseph T. McNarney, 29 Oct 1931
Maj Leo A. Walton, 3 Jul 1933
Maj Charles T. Phillips, 11 May 1934
Capt Lewis R. P. Reese, 8 Oct 1934
Lt Col Clarence L. Tinker 5 Nov 1934
Col Davenport Johnson 31 Aug 1936
Lt Col George E. Stratemeyer, 17 Nov 1936
Lt Col Joseph T. McNarney, 15 Aug 1938
Maj Earl H. DeFord, 5 Mar 1939
LTC Ralph Royce, 26 Aug 1939
Maj Earl H. DeFord, 7 Apr 1941
Maj Stanley K. Robinson, 6 Oct 1941
Maj Austin A. Straubel, 29 Jan 1942
1st Lt James E. Tull, 7 Feb 1942 (acting)
Col Cecil E. Combs, 22 Mar 1942
Col Conrad F. Necrason, 1 Jul 1942
Lt Col William A. Delahay, Feb 1944
Col Aubrey K. Dodson, 27 Mar 1944
Col Harvey T. Alness, 6 Nov 1944
Col Howard F. Bronson Jr., 24 Jun 1945-unkn
Col John G. Erickson, 1 Oct 1946
Col Hewitt T. Wheelless, 16 Dec 1946
Col Alan D. Clark, 27 Jun 1947 (additional duty after 17 Nov 1947)
Col Charles D. Farr, 7 Feb 1949
Col John A. Roberts, 17 Aug 1949
Col Richard T. Black 24 Oct 1950
None (not manned, 16 Feb 1951-16 Jun 1952)
Col Charles R. Hardesty, 1 Sep 1991
Col Joseph F. Czarkowski, 7 Apr 1992-1 Jan 1993
Col Thomas A. O'Riordan, 1 Oct 1993
Col Andrew M. Gessner, 14 Feb 1994
Col Anthony M. Beat, 18 May 1995
Col Anthony F. Przybyslawski, 23 Aug 1996
Col Douglas L. Raaberg, 19 May 1998
Col Christopher Miller, 3 Apr 2000
Col Michael R. Moeller, 17 Aug 2001
Col Jeffrey K. Beene, 22 Jul 2003
Col Scott A. Vander Hamm, 8 Jul 2005
Col J.C. Valle, 22 May 2007
Col Charles E Catoe, 18 Jul 2008
Col Gerald V. Goodfellow, 11 Jun 2010
Col Mark Bennett, 13 Jun 2011
Col Mark Bennet
Col Jason R. Combs

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War I

St Mihiel

Meuse-Argonne

Lorraine

World War II

Burma

East Indies

India-Burma

China Defensive

Central Burma

China Offensive

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Netherlands East Indies, 14 Jan-1 Mar 1942

Thailand, 19 Mar 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jun 1996-31 May 1998

1 Jun 1998-31 May 2000

1 Jun 2002-31 May 2004

1 Jun 2005-31 May 2007

EMBLEM



Azure, on a bend or three crosses pattee sable. Crest: On a wreath of the colors (or and azure) a drop bomb palewise sable piercing a cloud proper. (Approved, 30 Jan 1933, modified 12 Sep 1952)



7 Operations Group patch

MOTTO

MORS AB ALTO - Death from Above

OPERATIONS

The First Army Observation Group, made up of the 24th and 91st Aero [Observation] and the 9th Aero [Night Observation] Squadrons, performed photographic reconnaissance and day and night visual reconnaissance of the battle field area, especially in the enemy's rear areas opposite the area of attack, Sep-Nov 1918. Demobilized in France in Apr 1919.

1st Army Observation Group established 1 Oct 1919 at Park Field, TN. Inactivated less than two years later, on 30 Aug 1921. Activated again as the 7th Bombardment Group on 1 Jun 1928. For the

next eleven years, engaged in training activities, flights of mercy, experimentation with air refueling and air transport of supplies, and participation in various exercises and air shows. Group was in the process of moving to the Philippines when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on 7 Dec 1941. Six of the Group's B-17 aircraft reached Hawaii during the enemy attack but landed safely. The ground echelon, on board a ship in the Pacific Ocean, was diverted to Australia. The air echelon moved its B-17s via North Africa and India to Java, where from 14 Jan to 1 Mar 1942, it operated against the Japanese advancing through the Philippines and Netherlands East Indies. Reunited with the ground echelon in India in Mar 1942, the group resumed combat under Tenth Air Force against targets in Burma. It received B-25s and LB-30s in early 1942 but by the end of the year had converted entirely to B-24s. From then through Sep 1945, bombed airfields, fuel and supply dumps, locomotive works, railways, bridges, docks, warehouses, shipping, and troop concentrations in Burma and struck oil refineries in Thailand, power plants in China and enemy shipping in the Andaman Sea. Ceased bombing operations in late May 1945 and was attached to the Air Transport Command to haul gasoline from India over the Himalayas to China. Returned to US in Dec 1945 and inactivated the following month.

Activated on 1 Oct 1946 as a B-29 bombardment group. Received its first B-36 in late 1948 and by mid-1949 completed conversion. Began flying B-36Ds equipped with jet pods in Aug 1950 but on 16 Feb 1951 became a paper organization. With all assigned flying squadrons reassigned directly to the 7th Bombardment Wing, the group inactivated on 16 Jun 1952.

As part of a major Air Force-wide reorganization, the Group was redesignated 7th Operations Group and again became the combat element of the 7th Wing. It controlled two B-52 squadrons and one KC-135 air refueling squadron. When flying operations ended at Carswell AFB, TX in Dec 1992, the group inactivated the following month.

Upon activation of the 7th Wing at Dyess AFB, TX on 1 Oct 1993, the group again activated as the combat element of the wing. Equipped with B-1Bs and C-130s, the group's mission included bombardment and tactical airlift. It lost its airlift responsibilities in Apr 1997. At that time it also gained a conventional bombing mission.

In Nov 1998, deployed several aircraft to Oman in support of Operation Desert Fox, where the B-1 flew its first combat missions on 17 and 18 Dec 1998. Since 1999, trained bomber aircrews for global conventional bombing.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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