

## 9 OPERATIONS GROUP



### MISSION

The 9 Operations Group includes the squadrons tasked to execute the 9 Reconnaissance Wing's operational mission. The group has six squadrons totaling more than 500 personnel. It is responsible as the Department of Defense's single-point manager for the U-2 Dragon Lady and RQ-4 Global Hawk high-altitude reconnaissance fleets. It organizes, trains and equips U-2 and RQ-4 combat elements for worldwide employment to include peacetime intelligence gathering, contingency operations, conventional war fighting and Emergency War Order support.

### LINEAGE

9 Group (Observation) established, 19 Jul 1922  
Organized, 1 Aug 1922  
Redesignated 9 Observation Group, 25 Jan 1923  
Redesignated 9 Bombardment Group, 1 Mar 1935  
Redesignated 9 Bombardment Group (Medium), 6 Dec 1939  
Redesignated 9 Bombardment Group (Heavy), 20 Nov 1940  
Redesignated 9 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, 28 Mar 1944  
Inactivated, 20 Oct 1948  
Redesignated 9 Strategic Reconnaissance Group, and activated, 1 May 1949  
Redesignated 9 Bombardment Group, Heavy, 1 Apr 1950  
Redesignated 9 Bombardment Group, Medium, 2 Oct 1950  
Inactivated, 16 Jun 1952  
Redesignated 9 Strategic Reconnaissance Group, 31 Jul 1985  
Redesignated 9 Operations Group, 29 Aug 1991  
Activated, 1 Sep 1991

### STATIONS

Mitchel Field, NY, 1 Aug 1922-6 Nov 1940  
Rio Hato, Panama, 12 Nov 1940  
Waller Field, Trinidad, 30 Oct 1941-31 Oct 1942  
Orlando AB, FL, 31 Oct 1942  
Dalhart AAFld, TX, 9 Mar 1944  
McCook AAFld, NE, 19 May-18 Nov 1944  
North Field, Tinian, 28 Dec 1944  
Clark Field, Luzon, 15 Apr 1946  
Harmon Field, Guam, 9 Jun 1947-20 Oct 1948  
Fairfield-Suisun (later, Travis) AFB, CA, 1 May 1949-16 Jun 1952  
Beale AFB, CA, 1 Sep 1991

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

II Corps Area, 1 Aug 1922  
19 Composite Wing, 1 Apr 1931  
II Corps Area, c. 25 Jan 1933  
2 Wing, 1 Mar 1935  
19 Bombardment Wing, 12 Nov 1940  
VI Bomber Command, 25 Oct 1941  
AAF School of Applied Tactics (later, AAF Tactical Center), 31 Oct 1942  
Second Air Force, 9 Mar 1944  
313 Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy, c. 28 Dec 1944  
Twentieth Air Force, 9 Jun 1947-20 Oct 1948  
9 Strategic Reconnaissance (later, 9 Bombardment) Wing, 1 May 1949-16 Jun 1952  
9 (later, 9 Reconnaissance) Wing, 1 Sep 1991

### **ATTACHMENTS**

VI Interceptor [later, VI Fighter] Command, 28 Jan 1942-unkn 1942

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

O-1  
O-11  
O-13  
O-25  
O-31  
O-38  
O-39  
O-40  
O-43  
YO-31  
YO-35  
YO-40  
OA-2  
A-3

B-6  
C-8, 1922-1936  
B-10, 1936-1938  
B-18, 1938-1942  
B-17, 1942-1944  
B-24, 1942-1944  
B-25, 1943-1944  
B-26, 1943-1944  
C-73, 1943-1944  
B-29, 1944-1947  
RB-17, 1949-1950  
B-29, 1949-1951  
RB-29, 1949-1950  
B-36, 1949-1950  
KC-135, 1991-1993  
U-2, 1991  
T-38, 1991  
TR-1, 1991-1993  
SR-71, 1995-1999

#### **COMMANDERS**

Maj Walter R. Weaver, 23 Aug 1922  
Maj William N. Hensley, Jr., 17 Jul 1923  
Lt Col Benjamin D. Foulois, 22 Jul 1925  
Maj Howard C. Davidson, 20 Dec 1927  
Maj John N. Reynolds, 1 Jan 1928  
Lt Col Henry C. Pratt, 1 Jun 1928  
Maj William O. Ryan, 23 Jul 1929  
Lt Col John H. Howard, 2 Sep 1929  
Maj Carlyle H. Walsh, 4 May 1933  
Maj Follett Bradley, 1 Jun 1933  
Col Walter H. Frank, 23 Aug 1934  
Lt Col Carl W. Connell, 1 Aug 1937  
Col Ross F. Cole, Apr 1940  
Maj Charles F. Born, Aug 1941-May 1942  
Lt Col Stuart P. Wright, 1942  
Lt Col Gerald E. Williams, 1942  
Col Harry G. Montgomery, 10 Nov 1942  
Col James T. Connally, 15 Dec 1942  
Col Donald W. Eisenhart, 1 May 1944  
Col Henry C. Huglin, 6 Mar 1945  
Col David Wade, 17 Sep 1945-C. 25 Apr 1947  
None (Not Manned), 25 Apr 1947-20 Oct 1948  
Lt Col Walter Y. Lucas, 1 May 1949

Col Donald W. Eisenhart, 24 Aug 1949  
Col William P Brett, 27 Mar 1950  
Lt Col Walter Y. Lucas, 24 Jun 1950  
Col Clifford J. Heflin, 6 Jul 1950-10 Feb 1951  
None (Not Manned), 10 Feb 1951-16 Jun 1952  
Col Robert F. Behler, 22 Nov 1991  
Col George A. Lafferty, 30 Jul 1993  
Col James F. Shambo, 3 Jan 1995  
Col James P. Hunt, 3 Sep 1996  
Col R. Kent Traylor, 25 Jun 1998  
Col Alan L. Vogel, 23 Aug 2000  
Col Gregory D. Augst, 16 Jul 2002  
Col Gregory A. Kern, 8 Jun 2004  
Col Harry D. Polumbo, 15 May 2006

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Antisubmarine, American Theater  
Eastern Mandates  
Western Pacific  
Air Offensive, Japan

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
Kawasaki, Japan, 15-16 Apr 1945  
Japan, 13-28 May 1945

### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards**

1 Sep 1991-30 Jun 1993  
1 Jul 1994-30 Jun 1995  
1 Jun 1996-31 May 1998  
1 Jun 1998-31 May 2000  
1 Jun 2000-31 May 2002  
1 Jun 2002-31 May 2004

## **EMBLEM**



9th BOMBARDMENT GROUP



Group will use the wing emblem with the group designation in the scroll.

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

The group's mission is global high-altitude manned aerial reconnaissance and surveillance.

Trained, took part in maneuvers, and participated in air shows, 1922-1940.

Ground elements departed from the port of New York 5 November 1940 on the U.S.A.T. Chateau Thierry and arrived 12 November 1940 at Rio Hato Airfield in Panama. Aircraft and crews departed Mitchel Field on 17 November 1940 for Rio Hato and arrived several days later. Transferred on 30 October 1941 to Waller Field, Trinidad. Performed antisubmarine patrols and reconnaissance of the

Vichy French fleet at Martinique, Dec 1941-Oct 1942, using B-18 aircraft from a base in Trinidad.

Returned without personnel or equipment to the United States on 31 Oct 1942. The group trained cadres for heavy and medium bombardment units that had received ground instruction at the AAF School of Applied Tactics in Orlando, Florida. Developed operational bombardment tactics and tested special devices and equipment. After Mar 1944, prepared for combat. Moved to the Pacific theater at the end of the year and commenced operations late in Jan 1945 with attacks against Japanese-held Maug Island in the northern Marianas. After that, struck targets in Japan, at first flying high-altitude daylight missions against industrial targets. In Mar 1945, began incendiary raids at night. Earned a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for bombing the industrial area of Kawasaki in Apr 1945. In Apr and May, assisted the Allied assault on Okinawa by striking airfields that the Japanese were using to launch aircraft against the invasion force. Dropped mines in Japan's Inland Sea to disrupt enemy shipping, earning a second DUC in May 1945.

Immediately after the war, dropped food and supplies to former Allied prisoners and took part in show-of-force missions over the Japanese home islands. After redesignation as a strategic reconnaissance group on 1 May 1949, flew missions from California, 1949-1950.

Resumed a strategic bombardment mission in Apr 1950, training until Feb 1951.

U.S. military operations in Afghanistan in late 2001 and Iraq in early 2003, the group also flew the unmanned RQ-4 Global Hawk aircraft.

The 9 Reconnaissance Wing flew its final MC-12W Liberty sortie from Beale AFB, Calif., ending Air Combat Command's operation of the aircraft on Sept. 16. "The MC-12 is a great story because it linked those people in the aircraft with people on the ground and it allowed them to carry out a critically important mission," 9 RW Commander Col. Douglas Lee said in a release. Beale's 427th Reconnaissance Squadron has flown the aircraft since June 2011, following the Air Force's decision to normalize the MC-12 as a permanent fleet. Air Force MC-12s clocked some 400,000 combat flying hours and more than 79,000 sorties over Iraq and Afghanistan since they were first deployed in June 2009, according to officials. The Air Force is retaining 13 of the 41-strong fleet to stand up a special operations-tasked unit with the Oklahoma Air National Guard, while eight MC-12s are transferring to the Army. "Although the mission is leaving ... the aircraft are going to very good homes," said 9 Operations Group Commander Col. Darren Halford. "Our joint and Total Force partners will ensure the MC-12 continues to help find, fix, and finish the enemies of freedom." 2015

---

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 12 Dec 2010

Updated: 30 Apr 2024

#### Sources

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

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