

## 301 OPERATIONS GROUP



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

301 Bombardment Group (Heavy) established, 28 Jan 1942  
Activated, 3 Feb 1942  
Redesignated 301 Bombardment Group, Heavy, 20 Aug 1943  
Redesignated 301 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, 5 Aug 1945  
Inactivated, 15 Oct 1945  
Activated, 4 Aug 1946  
Redesignated 301 Bombardment Group, Medium, 28 May 1948  
Inactivated, 16 Jun 1952  
Redesignated 301 Operations Group, 29 Aug 1991  
Activated, 1 Sep 1991  
Inactivated, 1 Jun 1992  
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Aug 1992

### STATIONS

Geiger Field, WA, 3 Feb 1942  
Alamogordo, NM, 27 May 1942  
Richmond AB, VA, 21 Jun-19 Jul 1942  
Chelveston, England, Aug 1942  
Tafaroui, Algeria, 26 Nov 1942 (air echelon)  
Maison Blanche, Algeria, 5 Dec 1942 (air echelon)  
Biskra, Algeria, 16 Dec 1942 (air echelon)  
St-Barbe-du-Tlelat, Algeria, 21 Dec 1942 (ground echelon)  
Ain M'lila, Algeria, 17 Jan 1943

St Donat, Algeria, 6 Mar 1943  
Oudna, Tunisia, 6 Aug 1943  
Cerignola, Italy, 7 Dec 1943  
Lucera, Italy, 2 Feb 1944-Jul 1945  
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 28 Jul 1945  
Mountain Home AAFld, ID, 17 Aug 1945  
Pyote AAFld, TX, 23 Aug-15 Oct 1945  
Clovis AAFld, NM, 4 Aug 1946  
Smoky Hill AAFld (later, AFB), KS, 16 Jul 1947  
Barksdale AFB, LA, 7 Nov 1949-16 Jun 1952  
Malmstrom AFB, MT, 1 Sep 1991-1 Jun 1992  
Carswell AFB (later, ARS), TX, 1 Aug 1992  
NAS JRB Fort Worth, TX

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Second Air Force, 3 Feb 1942  
First Air Force, 21 Jun 1942  
VIII Bomber Command, c. 9 Aug 1942  
XII Bomber Command, 14 Sep 1942  
5 Bombardment Wing, Jan 1943  
Second Air Force, Jul 1945  
16 Bombardment Operational Training Wing, 17 Aug-15 Oct 1945  
Fifteenth Air Force, 4 Aug 1946  
301 Bombardment Wing, 5 Nov 1947-16 Jun 1952  
301 Air Refueling Wing, 1 Sep 1991-1 Jun 1992  
301 Fighter Wing, 1 Aug 1992

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-17, 1942-1945  
B-29, 1947-1951  
KB-29, 1949-1951  
KC-135, 1991-1992  
F-16, 1992

### **COMMANDERS**

Col Ronald R. Walker, Feb 1942  
Lt Col Samuel J. Gormly Jr., Feb 1943  
Col John K. Brown Jr., 3 Sep 1943  
Col Jean R. Byerly, 24 Nov 1943  
Lt Col Karl T. Barthelmess, 25 Dec 1943  
Col John F. Batjer, 3 Mar 1944  
Lt Col John D. Moorman, Sep 1944  
Col Ernest S. Holmes Jr., 8 Dec 1944  
Lt Col Robert H. Allyn, 1945

Col Raymond L. Winn, 31 Aug 1945-Unkn  
Unkn, Aug 1946-Jul 1947  
Col George L. Robinson, 1 Aug 1947  
Lt Col Frank W. Ellis, Sep 1947  
Lt Col Thomas J. Classen, 20 Jun 1949  
Col Harris E. Rogner, 21 Jul 1949  
Col Chester C. Cox, 15 Dec 1950  
Col Horace M. Wade (additional duty), 2 Mar 1951-16 Jun 1952  
Col Larry L. Evanoff, 1 Sep 1991-1 Jun 1992  
Lt Col Craig S. Ferguson, 1 Aug 1992  
Lt Col Thomas A. Dyches, 28 Jun 1993  
Lt Col Kevin E. Pottinger, 17 Jun 1998  
Lt Col Jeffrey S. Smiley, 26 Apr 2001  
Col Kenneth Bachelor, 2 Oct 2004  
Col Tommy Williams, 4 Nov 2006  
Col Bruce R. Cox, 6 Jun 2008  
Lt Col Kurt Gallegos, April 2010  
Col David D. Sundlov, 8 Jul 2017  
Col Joshua G. Padgett, 4 Oct 2019

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Antisubmarine, American Theater  
Air Offensive, Europe  
Egypt-Libya  
Tunisia  
Sicily  
Naples-Foggia  
Anzio  
Rome-Arno  
Normandy  
Northern France  
Southern France  
North Apennines  
Rhineland  
Central Europe  
Po Valley  
Air Combat, EAME

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Tunisia, 6 Apr 1943

Germany, 25 Feb 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

30 Jun 1995-1 Jul 1997

1 Oct 2000-30 Sep 2002

1 Oct 2002-30 Sep 2004

1 Oct 2004-30 Sep 2006

1 Oct 2006-30 Sep 2008

## EMBLEM



301 Bombardment Group emblem: Azure, three ravens pendent from a spear fess-ways. The Shield is in the colors of the Air Force. The numerical designation of the organization is shown by the three impaled ravens on the single spear— as well as being an allusion to the powers of the organization to bag multiple objectives—or three birds with one stone. At the time of the adoption of this insignia there were three such principal enemies, Hitler, Tojo and Mussolini. (Approved 11 Aug 1942)



Azure, two lightning bolts in saltire or behind in pale an Indian spear, head argent, shaft of the second and feathered proper, overall an annulet argent winged of the second and encircling a pomme. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and yellow are the colors traditionally used by the Air Force. The two lightning bolts symbolize speed, while their position in saltire indicates strength. The Indian spear alludes to the unit's location as well as the [Republic F-105] *Thunderchief* aircraft. The pair of wings, a flight symbol, in conjunction with the white ring suggests the mission readiness and operational effectiveness of the 301 Operations Group. The green disc symbolizes an island and represents the unit's World War II service in the Pacific Theater.

#### **MOTTO**

WHO FEARS?

The motto "Who Fears?" is expressive of the fearlessness of the personnel and is a slogan of possibilities in stimulating morale.

#### **OPERATIONS**

After activation in Feb 1942, trained with B-17s. Air echelon operated 5-15 Jun 1942 from Muroc Dry Lake, CA, and performed anti-submarine patrols off the California coast. Reunited with ground echelon after arrival in England in Aug 1942.

Entered combat with Eighth Air Force in Sep 1942. Attacked enemy-held submarine pens, airfields, railroads, bridges, and other targets in western Europe, especially France. Reassigned to Twelfth Air Force and moved to North Africa in Nov 1942. Bombed docks, shipping facilities, airdromes, and railroad yards in Tunisia, Sicily, and Sardinia, and attacked enemy shipping between Tunisia and Sicily.

Earned a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for a 6 Apr 1943 attack on an enemy ship convoy off Bizerte, in spite of heavy antiaircraft fire, thus depriving Axis forces of many supplies for their defense of Tunisia. Assaulted gun positions on Pantelleria, May-Jun 1943. Flew numerous missions to Italy, Jul-Oct 1943.

Reassigned to Fifteenth Air Force on 1 Nov 1943. Moved to Italy in Dec 1943 to direct its attacks against strategic targets such as oil centers, communications, and industrial areas in Italy, France, Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Greece. Earned a second DUC for bombing aircraft production centers at Regensburg, Germany in spite of heavy enemy fighter opposition. Provided air support for Allied forces in the Anzio and Cassino areas of Italy.

Supported the Allied invasion of southern France, the Soviet advance in the Balkans, and an Allied offensive in Italy's Po River Valley. Returned to the United States in Jul 1945 and inactivated on 15 Oct.

First Mission: 5 Sep 1942

Last Mission: 8 Nov 1942

Total Missions: 8

Total Credit Sorties: 10

Total Bomb Tonnage: 1858

Aircraft missing in action: 1

Enemy aircraft claims: 351

Activated in 1946 but not manned until Aug 1947. Trained with B-29s for bombardment operations. Deployed to Furstenfeldbruck AB, Germany, Jul-Aug 1948; to RAF Station Scampton, England, Oct 1948-Jan 1949; and to RAF Stations Lakenheath and Sculthorpe, May-Nov 1950. Added an air refueling mission in 1949.

In Feb 1950, rotated squadrons to Goose Bay, Labrador, for air refueling training in cold climates. Reduced to "paper" strength in Feb 1951 and inactivated in Jun 1952.

Refueled aircraft in CONUS and provided tankers and crews for various Tanker Task Forces in Saudi Arabia, Sep 1991-May 1992. After activation in the Reserve on 1 Aug 1992, trained for possible world-wide deployment for counter-air, interdiction and close air support missions. Supported Operation Deny Flight in Bosnia-Herzegovina, deploying F-16 aircraft and crews to Aviano AB, Italy, 1 Dec 1993-2 Jan 1994. Elements deployed again to Aviano, 2 Jan-9 Mar 1996 to enforce a no-fly zone over Bosnia. Deployed aircraft and personnel to Karup AS, Denmark, for a combined force exercise, 24 May-Jun 1997. Elements participated training exercises and deployments, including Operations Northern Watch in 1999-2000; Southern Watch in 2001; Noble Eagle 2001-; and Iraqi Freedom, 2003-.

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USAF 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.  
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.  
Unit yearbook. *301 Bombardment Wing, Barksdale AFB, LA. 1950.*