# **401 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, HEAVY**



#### **MISSION**

## **LINEAGE**

11 Reconnaissance Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 28 Jan 1942 Activated, 15 Apr 1942 Redesignated 401 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 22 Apr 1942 Redesignated 401 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, Inactivated, 7 Nov 1945

#### **STATIONS**

Harding Field, LA, 15 Apr 1942 MacDill Field, FL, 13 May 1942 Walla Walla, WA, 22 Jun-24 Aug 1942 Kimbolton, England, 13 Sep 1942 Bassingbourn, England, 14 Oct 1942-22 Jun 1945 Drew Field, FL, 3 Jul-7 Nov 1945

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

91 Bombardment Group, 15 Apr 1942-7 Nov 1945

#### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-17, 1942-1945

#### **COMMANDERS**

HONORS Service Streamers None

## **Campaign Streamers**

Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe
Air Combat, EAME Theater

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations Hamm, Germany, 4 Mar 1943 Germany, 11 Jan 1944

#### **EMBLEM**

On a light purple rectangle, long axis vertical, the comic strip character, 'HAIRLESS JOE, proper, wearing red brown, patched trousers and black, sleeveless jacket, grasping and holding aloft a very large yellow club with spike through end, balancing on the right foot, on a large light turquoise blue aerial bomb, and the comic strip character, LONESOME POLECAT, proper, wearing a red brown breech cloth and head band, having one white feather, trimmed black, in the headdress, seated astride the large aerial bomb, behind HAIRLESS JOE, and holding aloft in the right hand a light turquoise blue axe with yellow handle, all in front of a white disc within a green annulet, edged white. (Approved, 18 Oct 1944)

```
SUBJECT: Organizational Insignia.

10 : Commanding Officer, AAF Station 121, APO 057, U.S. Army.

1. In compliance with 2d Ind, Ltr Hq 8AF, 452.05, dated 23 February 1945 the insignia of this organization is forwarded herewith.

2. The characters on this insignia, Hairless Joe and Longsome Polecat, are symbolic of a resolutes and willingness to seek and destroy the enexty. The earthward bound bomb represents the primary scapon of war used against the fow by this organization.

3. This insignia was drawn and designed by al Cuop Famous certoonist and creator of these two comic strip characters.

For the Squadron Commander:
```

## **MOTTO**

#### **OPERATIONS**



Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force.

Maxwell AFB, AL. Created: 13 Aug 2011 Updated:

#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL. The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.