

438th AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING



MISSION

The 438th AEW trains, advises and assists today's Afghan Air Force in order to develop its operational capability. The AAF operates the Mi-17 transport helicopter, Mi-35 attack helicopter and C-27 Spartan. Until June 2011, the AAF will operate the An-32.

LINEAGE

438th Troop Carrier Wing, Medium established, 10 May 1949
Activated in the Reserve, 27 Jun 1949
Ordered to active service, 10 Mar 1951
Inactivated, 14 Mar 1951
Redesignated 438th Fighter-Bomber Wing, 26 May 1952
Activated in the Reserve, 15 Jun 1952
Inactivated, 16 Nov 1957
Redesignated 438th Military Airlift Wing, and activated, 27 Dec 1965
Organized, 8 Jan 1966
Redesignated 438th Airlift Wing
Inactivated, 1 Oct 1994
Redesignated 438th Air Expeditionary Wing and converted to provisional status, 4 Dec 2001

STATIONS

Offutt AFB, NE, 27 Jun 1949-14 Mar 1951
General Billy Mitchell Field, WI, 15 Jun 1952
McGuire AFB, NJ, 8 Jan 1966

ASSIGNMENTS

Tenth Air Force, 27 Jun 1949-14 Mar 1951
Tenth Air Force, 15 Jun 1952-16 Nov 1957
Military Air Transport Service (later, Military Airlift Command), 27 Dec 1965
Twenty-First Air Force, 8 Jan 1966

WEAPON SYSTEMS

T-6, 1949-1951
C-46, 1949-1951
T-6, 1952-1954
C-46, 1953
F-51, 1953-1954
T-33, 1954-1957
F-80, 1954-1957
F-86, 1957
C-130, 1966-1968
C-135, 1966-1967
C-141, 1967

COMMANDERS

Col Robert E. Flesher, 27 Jun 1949-14 Mar 1951
Inactive, 14 Mar 51
Col Robert E. Haynes, 15 Jun 1952
LTC Joseph J. Lingle, 19 Sep 1956-Nov 1957
Inactive, 16 Nov 57
None (not manned), 27 Dec 1965-7 Jan 1966
BG Roland J. Barnick, 8 Jan 1966
Col Gilbert G. Smith, Jr., 25 Jul 1967 (acting), 1 Aug 1967 (permanent)
BG John H. Herring, Jr., 1 Aug 1968
Col Gilbert G. Smith, Jr., 14 Jun 1969
BG John W. Harrell, Jr., 11 Aug 1969
BG Keith L. Christensen, 30 Sep 1970
BG George M. Wentsch, 15 Jun 1972
BG Emil N. Block, Jr., 28 Jan 1974
Col James L. Gardner, Jr., 1 May 1976
Col Duane H. Erickson, 16 Feb 78
Col Allen G. Myers III, 26 Feb 79
Col (BG) Larry D. Wright, 9 Feb 81
Col John T. Lawell, 6 Feb 83
Col (BG) James J. LeCleir, 22 Jun 83
Col Jerold L. Weiss, 13 Aug 85
Col Frank M. Pearce, 12 Jun 87
Col William B. Morrison III, 13 Jul 89
Col Kirby A. Woehst, 19 Jul 90
BG George A. Gray III, #1993
BG Tim Ray, #2012
BG Michael D. Rothstein

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

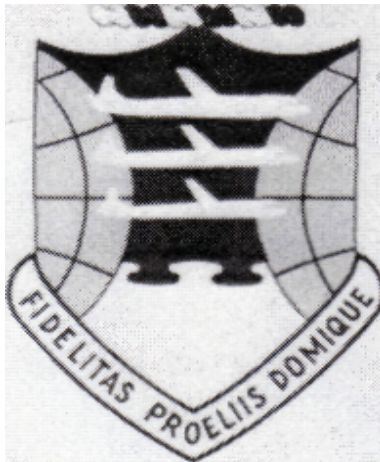
Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jun 1966-30 Apr 1968

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Apr-31 Oct 1968

EMBLEM

438th Military Airlift Wing emblem: A shield per fess nebuly abaisse, azure and argent, two Ranches representing hemispheres proper, latitude and longitude lines of the first, superimposed with three stylized aircraft, of the second, flying in pale, detail of the third. (Approved, 16 May 1966)



438th Airlift Wing emblem

438th Air Expeditionary Wing emblem: Per bend sinister Purpure and Argent, a globe per bend sinister Argent and Azure, land masses and grid lines counterchanged, fimbriated Or, in base a flight symbol of the first point to dexter emitting an 'S' shaped ribbon contrail Yellow, fimbriated Purpure, doubled White barry Purple palewise behind the globe, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "438TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING" in Blue letters. Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The shield division suggests night and day and denotes the unit's ability to conduct operations twenty-four hours a day. The globe symbolizes the global mission of the unit and emphasizes the ability to complete the mission anywhere in the world. The lashing spear, with twisting contrails, symbolizes the speed and accuracy of the Group's combat capability. (Approved August 19, 1993 and modified on January 28, 2009)

MOTTO

FIDELITAS PROELIIS DOMIQUE—Dependability in war and peace

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The wing trained in the Reserve for troop carrier operations, Jun 1949-Mar 1951 and for fighter-bomber missions, Jun 1952-Nov 1957.

Replaced the 1611th Air Transport Wing, Heavy, in Jan 1966. Transported military cargo, mail, and passengers worldwide, particularly in the eastern United States, Atlantic, European, and Mediterranean areas, with frequent special missions to the Arctic, the Antarctic, South America, the Far East, and to the Southeast Asia combat area during the conflict there.

The group flew global transport missions for the Military Airlift Command between Sep 1978 and Jun 1980. Between Nov 1991 and Oct 1994, the group participated in numerous contingency, humanitarian airlift, and peacekeeping operations around the world.

Two Air Expeditionary Wings will operate in Afghanistan as part of Operation Freedom's Sentinel, the new mission that began Jan. 1 following the end of US combat operations there, said Air Forces Central Command spokesman Lt. Col. Tadd Sholtis. The 438th AEW will be based in the capital of Kabul, with personnel at other locations as well. It will "train, advise, and assist" the Afghan Air Force in developing "a sustainable air capability" supporting the 350,000-strong indigenous Afghan security forces, said Sholtis. The missions it will teach include airlift, aeromedical evacuation, tactical reconnaissance, and ground attack. The 455th AEW, based at Bagram Air Base, but with satellite locations, "will maintain a counterterrorism capability in Afghanistan" targeting the remnants of al Qaeda and preventing either an al Qaeda "resurgence" or "external plotting against US targets or the homeland," he added. Members of the Taliban won't be targeted per se, but "we may provide combat enabler support" to the Afghan security forces "in limited operations" to "prevent detrimental strategic effects to Afghan forces or operations," Sholtis said. US Air Force personnel will account for about 20 percent of the 13,000 US troops remaining in Afghanistan, Sholtis noted. 2015

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 25 Sep 2010

Updated:

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.