

## 462 AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

462 Bombardment Group (Heavy) (B-29) established, 19 May 1943

Activated, 1 Jul 1943

Redesignated 462 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, 19 Nov 1943

Inactivated, 31 Mar 1946

462 Strategic Aerospace Wing established and activated, on 15 Nov 1962

Organized, 1 Feb 1963

Discontinued and inactivated, 25 Jun 1966

462 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy and 462 Strategic Aerospace Wing consolidated, 31 Jan 1984

Redesignated 462 Air Expeditionary Group, and converted to provisional status, 12 Jun 2002

#### STATIONS

Smoky Hill AAFld, KS, 1 Jul 1943

Walker AAFld, KS, 28 Jul 1943-Mar 1944

Piardoba, India, Apr 1944-Apr 1945

West Field, Tinian, Apr-5 Nov 1945

MacDill Field, FL, Nov 1945-31 Mar 1946

Larson AFB, WA, 1 Feb 1963-25 Jun 1966

#### ASSIGNMENTS

Second Air Force, 1 Jul 1943  
58 Bombardment Wing, 1 Aug 1943  
Second Air Force, 3 Nov 1943  
58 Bombardment Wing, 20 Nov 1943  
XX Bomber Command, 7 Jul 1944  
58 Bombardment Wing, 25 Apr 1945-31 Mar 1946  
Strategic Air Command, 15 Nov 1962  
18 Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Feb 1963-25 Jun 1966  
Air Mobility Command to activate or inactivate at any time after 12 Jun 2002

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-26, 1943  
YB-29, 1943  
B-17, 1943-1944  
B-29, 1943-1946  
Titan I, 1963-1965  
B-52D, 1963-1966  
KC-135, 1963-1966

### **COMMANDERS**

Col Alan D. Clark, 5 Aug 1943  
Col Richard H. Carmichael, 26 Aug 1943  
Col Alfred F. Kalberer, 20 Aug 1944  
Unkn, Feb-31 Mar 1946  
None (not manned), 15 Nov 1962-31 Jan 1963  
Col David A. Tate, 1 Feb 1963  
Col Alex W. Talmant, 19 Jul 1965  
Col Clyde W. Owen, 15 Mar-25 Jun 1966

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

World War II American Theater

#### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
India-Burma  
Air Offensive, Japan  
China Defensive  
Western Pacific  
Central Burma

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

## **Decoration**

Distinguished Unit Citations

Yawata, Japan, 20 Aug 1944

Tokyo and Yokohama, Japan, 23, 25, and 29 May 1945

## **EMBLEM**

462 Strategic Aerospace Wing emblem: Light blue, in dexter chief a lightning bolt gules and an olive branch argent saltirewise, overall an air foil bendwise of the third and or, in dexter base a sphere azure with land masses of the third, in sinister chief seven mullets of the fifth highlighted of the third and all within a diminished border of the last. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. 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. Light blue, in dexter chief a lightning bolt gules and an olive branch argent saltirewise, overall an air foil bendwise of the third and or, in dexter base a sphere azure with land masses of the third, in sinister chief seven mullets of the fifth highlighted of the third and all within a diminished bordure of the last. (Approved, 7 Feb 1963)

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Prepared for combat as one of the initial B-29 units. Moved to India piecemeal during the first half of 1944. From there, transported supplies over the Himalaya Mountains (the "Hump") to staging fields in China before entering combat with an attack on railroad shops at Bangkok, Thailand, on 5 Jun 1944.

On 15 Jun 1944, took part in the first Army Air Forces strike on the Japanese home islands since the Doolittle Raid in Apr 1942. Operating from India and China, bombed transportation centers, naval installations, iron works, aircraft plants, and other targets in Japan, Thailand, Burma, China, Formosa, and Indonesia. From a staging base in Ceylon, mined the Moesi River on Sumatra in Aug 1944 on the longest bombardment flight of World War II.

Earned a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for a daylight attack on iron and steel works at Yawata, Japan, in Aug 1944. Although most of the group personnel sailed for Tinian in late Feb 1945, the air echelon continued to fly missions from India until late Mar 1945. On 5 May 1945, aircrews from the group took part in the first mission from Tinian against the Japanese homeland. Conducted mining, strategic bombardment, and incendiary raids on urban areas of Japan. For strikes on industrial areas of Tokyo and Yokohama in May 1945, the group earned a second DUC. Returned to the United States in late 1945 and inactivated on 31 Mar 1946.

From 1963 to 1965, conducted strategic bombardment training, missile training, and air refueling missions, continuing all but the missile training until Apr 1966. Inactivated on 25 Jun 1966.

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USAF Unit Histories  
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Sources

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