

90 OPERATIONS GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

90 Bombardment Group (Heavy) established, 28 Jan 1942
Activated, 15 Apr 1942
Redesignated 90 Bombardment Group, Heavy, 20 Aug 1943
Inactivated, 27 Jan 1946
Redesignated 90 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, 11 Jun 1947
Activated, 1 Jul 1947
Inactivated, 6 Sep 1948
Redesignated 90 Bombardment Group, Medium, 20 Dec 1950
Activated, 2 Jan 1951
Inactivated, 16 Jun 1952
Redesignated 90 Operations Group, 29 Aug 1991
Activated, 1 Sep 1991

STATIONS

Key Field, MS, 15 Apr 1942
Barksdale Field, LA, 17 May 1942
Greenville, AAB, SC, 21 Jun 1942
Ypsilante, MI, 9 Aug 1942
Camp Stoneman, CA, 29 Aug-3 Sep 1942 (ground echelon)
Hickam Field, TH, Sep 1942
Iron Range, Queensland, Australia, Nov 1942
Port Moresby, New Guinea, 10 Feb 1943

Dobodura, New Guinea, 22 Dec 1943
Nadzab, New Guinea, 23 Feb 1944
Wakde Island, 22 Jun 1944
Biak Island, 10 Aug 1944
San Jose, Mindoro, 26 Jan 1945
Ie Shima, Ryukyu Islands, c. 10 Aug 1945
Ft William McKinley, Luzon, Dec 1945-26 Jan 1946
Andrews Field (later, Andrews AFB), MD, 1 Jul 1947-6 Sep 1948
Fairchild AFB, WA, 2 Jan 1951
Forbes AFB, KS, 14 Mar 1951-16 Jun 1952
F. E. Warren AFB, WY, 1 Sep 1991

ASSIGNMENTS

III Bomber Command, 15 Apr 1942
VII Bomber Command, 12 Sep 1942
V Bomber Command, Nov 1942
Far East Air Forces, 23 Nov 1945-27 Jan 1946
Strategic Air Command, 1 Jul 1947-6 Sep 1948
90 Bombardment Wing, Medium, 2 Jan 1951-16 Jun 1952
90 Missile (later, 90th Space) Wing, 1 Sep 1991

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24, 1942- 1945
Minuteman III, 1991
Peacekeeper, 1991

COMMANDERS

1LT Norman W. Enloe, 17 Apr 1942
Lt Col Eugene P. Mussett, 17 May 1942
Col Roger M. Ramey, 14 Sep 1942
Lt Col Eugene P. Mussett, 16 Oct 1942
Col Arthur Meehan, 21 Oct 1942
Lt Col Arthur H. Rogers, 16 Nov 1942
Col Ralph E. Koon, 18 Nov 1942
Col Arthur H. Rogers, 11 Jul 1943
Lt Col Harry J. Bullis, 20 Dec 1943
Col Carl A. Brandt, 15 Mar 1944
Col Edward W. Scott Jr., 10 Jun 1944
Lt Col Wilson H. Banks, 8 Dec 1944
Col Ellis L. Brown, 24 Feb-Oct 1945
None (not manned), Nov 1945-27 Jan 1946
None (not manned), 1 Jul 1947-6 Sep 1948
Lt Col William L. Gray, Jan 1951
None (not manned) 16 Feb 1951-16 Jun 1952

Col Michael D. Jackson, 1 Sep 1991
Col Franklin J. Blaisdell, 10 Feb 1992
Col Leslie J. Hamblin, 20 Jul 1993

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Papua
Guadalcanal
Northern Solomons
Bismarck Archipelago
New Guinea
Leyte
Luzon
Southern Philippines
Western Pacific
Air Offensive, Japan
China Defensive
China Offensive

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Papua, 23 Jul 1942-23 Jan 1943
New Guinea, 13 and 15 Sep 1943

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Aug 1991-31 Jul 1993
1 Oct 1994-30 Sep 1995
1 Sep 1996-31 Aug 1998
1 Oct 1999-30 Sep 2000
1 Jan-31 Dec 2001

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

EMBLEM



90 Bombardment Group emblems



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

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Prepared for combat with B-24s before moving to Southwest Pacific and began flying bombing missions immediately on arrival in Nov 1942. Attacked enemy airfields, troop concentrations, ground installations and shipping in New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, Palau, and the southern Philippines. Received a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for operations in Papua, Jul 1942-Jan 1943, participated in the Battle of Bismarck Sea in Mar 1943, and earned another DUC for strikes through heavy flak and fighter opposition on enemy airfields at Wewak, New Guinea, in Sep 1943. During 1944, supported the New Guinea Campaign for first six months, then made long-range raids on oil refineries at Balikpapan, Borneo, in Sep and Oct. From Jan 1945, supported ground forces on Luzon, attacked industries on Formosa, and bombed railways,

airfields, and harbor facilities on the Asiatic mainland. After the war, flew reconnaissance missions over Japan and ferried Allied prisoners of war from Okinawa to Manila. Ceased operations by Nov 1945.

The 90th Bomb Group had arrived in Queensland with all of their forty-eight B-24D Liberators. They had not lost one single aircraft during their 5,000 mile journey, just a few minor incidents.

The ground echelon of the 90th Bomb Group left Honolulu Harbour at 11:00am on 8 November 1942 on board the SS Republic and SS Torrens. They were escorted by the battleships USS Colorado and USS Maryland and four destroyers. They arrived off Townsville in north Queensland on 24 November 1942. SS Torrens docked at the Townsville wharves on 25 November 1942. The men disembarked and were taken to Armstrong's Paddock, a US Army Staging area in Townsville.

When the 90th Bomb Group arrived at Iron Range, the two strips named Claudie and Gordon, were still unfinished and not sealed. Tents were pitched amongst the trees for accommodation. Conditions were primitive. Snakes, insects, scorpions, etc were prevalent. The men of the 90th Bomb Group described it as the worst airfield they were ever posted at during the war.

On 16 November 1942 a Liberator crashed during take-off (see above) killing 11 men and damaging four aircraft. The first B-24 that took off on this raid on Rabaul, #41-11902 "Punjab", vanished without a trace on this mission. It was piloted by the Commanding Officer of the 320th Squadron, Major Raymond S. Morse. Also on board was the Group Commander, Colonel Arthur W. Meehan, who was co-pilot. This loss in combination with the above crash caused some significant morale problems amongst the men of the 90th Bomb Group.

From the middle of 1944, the Liberators of 90th Bomb Group were a natural metal finish. They were adorned with the Skull and Cross Bombs markings of the Jolly Roger. The insignia was designed by Sgt. Leonard Baer. He made a large aluminium stencil. Each of the various Squadrons had a different colour background:

From Sep 1991, responsible for maintaining and operating on alert the wing's assigned missiles, including training missile crew members.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.