

## 38 TACTICAL MISSILE GROUP



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

38 Bombardment Group (Medium) constituted, 20 Nov 1940  
Activated, 15 Jan 1941  
Redesignated 38 Bombardment Group, Light, 6 May 1946  
Inactivated, 1 Apr 1949  
Activated, 1 Jan 1953  
Redesignated 38 Bombardment Group, Tactical, 1 Oct 1955  
Inactivated, 8 Dec 1957  
Redesignated 38 Tactical Missile Group, 31 Jul 1985 (Remained inactive)

#### STATIONS

Langley Field, VA, 15 Jan 1941  
Jackson AAB, MS, 5 Jun 1941-18 Jan 1942  
Doomben Field, Australia, 25 Feb 1942  
Ballarat, Australia, 8 Mar 1942  
Amberley Field, Australia, 30 Apr 1942  
Eagle Farms, Australia, 10 Jun 1942  
Breddan Field, Australia, 7 Aug 1942  
Townsville, Australia, 30 Sep 1942  
Port Moresby, New Guinea, Oct 1942  
Nadzab, New Guinea, 4 Mar 1944  
Biak, 1 Oct 1944  
Morotai, 15 Oct 1944  
Lingayen, Luzon, 29 Jan 1945

Okinawa, 25 Jul 1945  
Itazuke, Japan, 22 Nov 1945  
Itami, Japan, 26 Oct 1946-1 Apr 1949  
Laon AB, France, 1 Jan 1953

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

3 Bomber (later, III Bomber) Command, 15 Jan 1941 – 18 Jan 1942  
V Bomber Command  
V Fighter Command, 1 Aug 1942  
Fifth Air Force, 22 Nov 1945  
38 Bombardment Wing 18 Aug 1948 – 1 Apr 1949; 1 Jan 1953 – 8 Dec 1957

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-18  
B-25  
B-26  
A-26  
B-26  
B-57

### **COMMANDERS**

Lt Col Robert D Knapp, 15 Jan 1941  
Col Fay R. Uptegrove, 18 Jan 1942-Unkn  
Lt Col Brian O'Neill, 19 Oct 1942  
Lt Col Lawrence Tanberg, 1 Oct 1943  
Lt Col Carl C. Lausman, Jul 1944  
Maj Howard M. Paquin, 18 Aug 1944  
Col Edward M. Gavin, 9 Nov 1944  
Lt Col Edwin H. Hawes, 16 Mar 1945  
Lt Col Vernon D. Torgerson, 9 Aug 1945  
Lt Col Bruce T. Marston, 12 Sep 1945  
Lt Col Joseph P. Gentile, 17 Mar 1946  
Lt Col John P. Crocker, 16 May 1946  
Col C. J. Bondley Jr., 2 Jul 1946  
Col Dale D. Brannon, 12 Nov 1946  
Col C. J. Bondley Jr., 13 Dec 1946  
Col John J. Hutchison, 25 Jan 1947  
Col Donald D. Fitzgerald, 26 Feb 1948  
Col Preston P. Fender, 7 May 1948  
Lt Col Charles R. Johnson, 18 Jul 1948-1 Apr 1949  
Lt Col Max H. Mortensen, 1 Jan 1953  
Col Glen W. Clark, 16 Mar 1953  
Col Broadus B. Taylor, 6 Jun 1955

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

Air Offensive, Japan

China Defensive

Papua

New Guinea

Bismarck Archipelago

Western Pacific

Leyte

Luzon

Southern Philippines

China Offensive

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations

Papua, [Sep] 1942-23 Jan 1943

New Britain, 24-26 Dec 1943

New Guinea, 16-17 Jun 1944

Leyte, 10 Nov 1944

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

#### **EMBLEM**

38 Bombardment Group, Light emblem: Azure a winged sword point downward argent, the hilt and pommel charged with a torteau, a pomeis, and a bezant, a fleur-de-lis fretting the blade or, between two cloud formations of the second issuing from dexter and sinister base. (Approved, 16 Apr 1954)

#### **MOTTO**

#### **OPERATIONS**

The ground echelon moved to Australia, Jan-Feb 1942, while the air echelon remained in the US for further-training. Air echelons of two squadrons arrived in Hawaii in May 1942 and took part in the Battle of Midway; they did not rejoin the group and eventually were reassigned. Air echelons of the other squadrons arrived in Australia in Aug 1942. the group operated from bases in Australia, New Guinea, and Biak, Sep 1942-Oct 1944, attacking Japanese airfields and shipping and supporting ground forces in New Guinea and the Bismarck Archipelago. Received another DUG for two missions over New Guinea, 16 and 17 Jun 1944, against Japanese airfields, merchant ships, and naval vessels. Moved to the Moluccas in Oct and bombed airfields, ground installations, harbors, and shipping in the southern Philippines in support of the US invasion of

Leyte. Struck a large enemy convoy in Ormoc Bay in Nov 1944 to prevent the landing of reinforcements, being awarded a DUG for the mission. After moving to the Philippines in Jan 1945, supported US ground forces on Luzon, bombed industries on Formosa, and attacked shipping along the China coast. Stationed temporarily on Palawan in Jun for participation in the pre-invasion bombing of Japanese installations on Borneo. Moved to Okinawa in Jul 1945 and conducted several attacks on industries, railways, and shipping in southern Japan.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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