

46 OPERATIONS GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

46 Bombardment Training Wing established, 15 Feb 1943

Activated, 21 Feb 1943

Redesignated 46 Bombardment Operational Training Wing, 15 Apr 1943

Inactivated, 9 Apr 1946

Disestablished, 8 Oct 1948

Reestablished and redesignated 46 Operations Group, 31 Aug 1993

Activated, 8 Sep 1993

STATIONS

Dalhart AAB, TX, 21 Feb 1943

Ardmore AAFld, OK, 15 Sep 1943

Colorado Springs, CO, 21 Jun 1945-9 Apr 1946

Eglin AFB, FL, 8 Sep 1993

ASSIGNMENTS

II Bomber Command, 21 Feb 1943

I (later XX) Bomber Command, 15 May 1943

Second Air Force, 6 Oct 1943

Strategic Air Command, 21 Mar-9 Apr 1946

46 Test Wing, 8 Sep 1993

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17

B-24 1943-1945

F-15, 1993

F-16, 1993

F/EF-111, 1993-1995

NC-130, 1993

UH-1, 1993

A-10, 1994

COMMANDERS

Col Ivan M. Palmer, 21 Feb 1943
Col Ernest H. Lawson, 4 Apr 1943
Brig Gen Frank A. Armstrong Jr., 10 Sep 1943
Col Ralph E. Koon, 15 Apr 1944
Col Brooke E. Allen, 28 May 1945-unkn
Lt Col Joseph F. Briganti, 8 Sep 1993
Col Harry C. Walker III, 8 Oct 1993
Col James R. Heald, 27 Jul 1996
Col Kevin P. Burns, 26 Jun 1998
Col Clyde D. Moore III, 12 Jul 2000
Col Patrick E. Duffy, 17 Jun 2002
Col Gary L. Plumb, 15 June 04
Col Gary L. Plumb, 15 June 2004
Col William Thornton, 14 Jul 2006

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II
American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
[8 Sep]-31 Dec 1993
1 Jan-31 Dec 1994
1 Jan-31 Dec 1995
1 Jan-31 Dec 1997
1 Jan 1998-31 Dec 1999
1 Jan-31 Dec 2000
1 Jan-31 Dec 2001
1 Jan-31 Dec 2002
1 Jan-31 Dec 2003
1 Jan-31 Dec 2004
1 Jan-31 Dec 2005
1 Jan-31 Dec 2006

EMBLEM

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

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 46 trained groups and heavy bombardment replacement crews for combat, 1943-1945. Upon assuming the flying mission for the 46th Test Wing, the group designed and executed flight and ground test and evaluation of USAF conventional munitions and electronic countermeasures, Sep 1993.

On August 20, 1943, Ardmore Army Air Field passed from the Third Air Force to the Second Air Force. Things seemed to solidify for the first time, September 16, 1943, with the transfer of the 46th Bombardment Operational Training Wing of the 20th Bomber Command (Headquarters, Biggs Field, El Paso, Texas) to Ardmore. With this move, the 46th BOTW became responsible for direction and supervision of Ardmore and seven other fields.

This wing had been stationed at Dalhart, Texas under the recent command, September 10, 1943, of Brigadier General Frank A. Armstrong, Jr. Armstrong, who was promoted to Brigadier General, February 8, 1943, had recently returned from overseas duty with impressive combat experience in B-17s before arriving at Dalhart and Ardmore AAFld.

Soon after the arrival of the 46th BOTW, a full contingency of men and Boeing B-17 Squadrons 588, 589, 590 and 591, from the 395th Bombardment Group arrived from Ephrata Army Air Base, Washington. Barracks that had been sparsely occupied since activation, were quickly filled with support troops from various locations. In quick succession, five bombing ranges (2,550-plus acres each) and an air-to-ground gunnery range (9,430 acres) were added to the facilities of the field.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

Created: 25 Jan 2025

Updated:

Sources

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