

332nd AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING



MISSION

The 332nd AEW is the only Air Force wing in Iraq and is comprised of 8 distinct groups, five of which are located at Balad:

332nd Expeditionary Operations Group: The operations group is responsible for all expeditionary flying operations at the 332nd. The group oversees the day to day operations of two F-16 fighter squadrons (one active and one Guard or Reserve), a Predator UAV squadron, a C-130 squadron and a combat search and rescue squadron (HH-60s). In addition, the operations group oversees a range of support functions such as airfield management, air traffic control, intelligence, weather and an expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation flight.

332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Group: The maintenance group provides combat-ready aircraft and munitions to the air component commander in support of coalition forces throughout Iraq. The group is comprised of two squadrons responsible for on- and off-aircraft maintenance and sortie generation in support of F-16CG/C+, C-130H, HH-60G Pave Hawk, and MQ-1L Predator aircraft, as well as launch, recovery and servicing support for military and commercial transient aircraft. The group also has administrative control over an Air Mobility Command detachment, responsible for direct maintenance support for Air Force airlift assets.

332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group: The mission support group provides a wide range of expeditionary combat support capabilities necessary to protect, enable and sustain combat operations for the 332d Air Expeditionary Wing and its tenant units. These functions are spread among seven different squadrons responsible for communications, services, contracting, civil engineering, force protection, personnel accountability and logistics readiness operations.

332nd Expeditionary Medical Group: The medical group provides a wide range of medical services to Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines throughout the Iraqi theater of operations. The group operates the Air Force Theater Hospital, the equivalent of a Level 1 trauma center, and

sees more than 650 patients per month. It also operates the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility (CASF), often described as a way station for strategic patient movement, which is responsible for prepping patients for aeromedical evacuation out of theater. The medical group also runs the Air Force clinic, which is responsible for handling routine medical appointments for the Airmen assigned to Balad.

732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group: The 732nd EMSG provides oversight and advocacy for Air Force personnel spread across six squadrons who are operationally assigned to U.S. Army and Marine units throughout Iraq. These Airmen include security forces, civil engineers, lawyers, interrogators, military working dog teams, intelligence specialists, and airfield managers. These Airmen are under tactical, or day to day, control of Army and Marine units, while administratively and operationally controlled by the 732nd EMSG.

Geographically Separated Groups: In addition to overseeing the five groups at Balad, the Wing is responsible for the 407th, 506th and 447th Air Expeditionary Groups, located at AN Base, Kirkuk Air Base and Sather Air Base (at Baghdad International Airport) respectively.

Approximately 3,500 airmen are assigned to Balad while another 3,100 are assigned to the three geographically separated groups and at more than 40 forward operating bases around the country performing a variety of diverse missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

LINEAGE

332nd Fighter Wing established, 28 Jul 1947

Organized, 15 Aug 1947

Inactivated, 1 Jul 1949

Redesignated 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing and converted to provisional status, 19 Nov 1998

Activated, 12 Aug 2002

Inactivated, 8 May 2012

STATIONS

Lockbourne AAB (later, AFB), OH, 15 Aug 1947-1 Jul 1949

Al Jaber, Kuwait, 12 Aug 2002

ASSIGNMENTS

Ninth Air Force, 15 Aug 1947-1 Jul 1949

9th Air Expeditionary Task Force, 12 Aug 2002

ATTACHMENTS

First Air Force, 15 Jan-1 Feb 1949

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P (later, F)-47, 1947-1949

COMMANDERS

Maj Edward C. Gleed, 15 Aug 1947
Col Benjamin O. Davis Jr., 22 Aug 1947-1 Jul 1949
Col Michael Koscheski

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group prior to 15 Aug 1947

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Rome Arno

Normandy

Northern France

Southern France

North Apennines

Rhineland

Central Europe

Po Valley

Air Combat EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

Germany, 24 Mar 1945

EMBLEM

Azure, on a fess nebuly Or, a panther passant Sable, armed and incensed Gules, all within a diminished bordure of the second. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "332D 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 panther symbolizes the Squadron's strength, dedication and devotion to duty. The flames emitting from its mouth represent the unit's capability to accomplish the Air Force mission worldwide. The blue and yellow nebule connotes day and night operations. (Approved, 15 Jan 1943)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Replaced 477th Composite Group and 580th Air Service Group as part of a "wing-base" service test in Jul 1947. Participated in firepower demonstrations, gunnery training, and operational missions to maintain combat proficiency, 1947-1949.

"Six thousand hours equates to 250 days in the cockpit, not counting all the time in ground ops before and after flight," said Brig. Gen. Burt Field, commander of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Balad AB. "That is an incredible amount of time in a high-G, high-speed, high-stress arena." The 6,000-flying-hour milestone is also equivalent to traveling As a Reservist, Maj. Jennifer West is the commander of the 920th Maintenance Operations Flight, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. As a civilian helicopter pilot, she leads aerial mountain and glacier tours out of Juneau, Alaska, and flies people and supplies out to oil rigs off the coast of Louisiana. Above are some photos Col. Reinhard Schmidt (left), 914th Airlift Wing commander, and Col. Patrick Ginavan, 107th AW commander, unveil the new tail flash design that will be on all Niagara C-130H2 aircraft. 2008

332nd AEW Reactivated, New Missions Planned The Air Force, which continues to build up its in-theater infrastructure to support Operation Inherent Resolve, reactivated the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at an undisclosed Persian Gulf nation earlier this month. With more aircraft and missions operating from the base, Air Forces Central Command re-designated the 332nd Air Expeditionary Group as a full-fledged AEW. Col. Mike Kocheski took over command of the 332nd AEW during a May 19 ceremony at the new wing, where Maj. Gen. Peter Gersten, commander of the 9th Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force, declared the wing would be "expanding in terms of mission sets" in the near future. The 332nd AEW eventually will incorporate a rescue group to support OIR taskings within the region, and will add an air advisory group to assist Iraqi Air Force, Army, and aviation assets grow in capability. The 332nd AEG stood up late last year in the Gulf region to support USAF deployments for OIR, to include A-10s and other assets. "We've come a long way, but there's much more to be done," Gersten said. The 332nd AEW inactivated previously in 2012, after supporting combat operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn. 2015

The 1st Expeditionary Rescue Group activated at an undisclosed base in the Persian Gulf region to provided combat search and rescue for coalition forces operating over Iraq and Syria,. After ISIS fanatics burned a downed Jordanian F-16 pilot to death in February, "it became readily apparent that we needed a rescue group to harmonize rescue initiatives across the Levant area of

operations," 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander Col. Michael Koscheski said in a release. The US military has conducted two personnel recovery missions in theater to date-including an attempt to rescue the Jordanian pilot-and aircrew had flown some 6,419 airstrikes through the end of August. The unit stood up to assume responsibility for the Guardian Angels, HH-60s helicopters, and HC-130 rescue support aircraft in the region, Sept. 1.2015

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 31 Aug 2011

Updated: 11 Dec 2013

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.