

## 379<sup>th</sup> AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

379<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Heavy) established, 28 Oct 1942  
Activated, 3 Nov 1942  
Redesignated 379<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, Heavy, 11 Aug 1944  
Inactivated, 25 Jul 1945

379<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, Medium established, 23 Mar 1953  
Activated, 1 Nov 1955  
Redesignated 379<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 9 Jan 1961

379<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, Heavy and 379<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, Heavy consolidated, 31 Jan 1984. Consolidated organization designated 379<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, Heavy.

Redesignated 379<sup>th</sup> Wing, 1 Sep 1991  
Redesignated 379<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, 1 Jun 1992  
Inactivated, 30 Jun 1993  
Redesignated 379<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing, and converted to provisional status, 4 Dec 2001

#### STATIONS

Geiger Field, UT, 3 Nov 1942  
Gowan Field, ID, 26 Nov 1942  
Wendover Field, UT, 2 Dec 1942  
Sioux City AAB, IA, 3 Feb-Apr 1943  
Bovington, England, 26 Apr 1943 (air echelon)  
Kimbolton, England, 20 May 1943 (ground echelon), 21 May 1943 (air echelon)

Casablanca, French Morocco, 17 Jun-25 Jul 1945  
Homestead AFB, FL, 1 Nov 1955  
Wurtsmith AFB, MI, 9 Jan 1961-30 Jun 1993

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Second Air Force, 3 Nov 1942  
15<sup>th</sup> Bombardment (later, 15 Bombardment Training) Wing, 26 Nov 1942  
Eighth Air Force, 26 Apr 1943  
VIII Bomber Command, 20 May 1943  
103<sup>rd</sup> Provisional Heavy Bombardment Combat Wing, 22 May 1943  
41<sup>st</sup> Combat Bombardment Wing, 16 Sep 1943  
North African Division, Air Transport Command, 16 Jun-25 Jul 1945  
Second Air Force, 1 Nov 1955  
823<sup>rd</sup> Air Division, 1 Jun 1956  
40<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 9 Jan 1961  
Eighth Air Force, 8 Jun 1988  
Ninth Air Force, 1 Jun 1992-30 Jun 1993  
Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate at any time after 4 Dec 2001

### **ATTACHMENTS**

813<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 1 Nov 1955-31 May 1956  
5<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 6 Mar-12 May 1957

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-17F, 1942  
B-17G  
KC-97, 1956  
B-47, 1956-1960  
B-52H, 1961  
B-52G, 1977  
KC-135A, 1961

### **COMMANDERS**

None (not manned), 3-25 Nov 1942  
Col Maurice A. Preston, 26 Nov 1942  
LTC James A. DuBose Jr., 21 Jun 1944 (temporary)  
Col Maurice A. Preston, 15 Jul 1944  
Col Lewis E. Lyle, 11 Oct 1944  
LTC Lloyd C. Mason, 6 May 1945  
LTC Horace E. Frink, 23 May 1945-unkn  
Maj James C. Harrington, 1 Nov 1955  
LTC William L. Hosler Jr., 2 Nov 1955  
Col Travis M. Hetherington, 10 Nov 1955  
LTC William L. Hosler Jr., 12 Nov 1955 (temporary)

LTC Ralph D. Gahl, 18 Nov 1955 (temporary)  
LTC William L. Hosler Jr., 26 Nov 1955 (temporary)  
Col William H. Cleveland, 1 Jun 1957  
Col John B. McPherson, 3 Mar 1958  
Col Joseph A. Kelly, 18 Sep 1959  
Col Roland W. Bergamyer, 15 Oct 1959  
Col Richard R. Stewart, 1 Aug 1960  
Col John H. Kunkel, Jr., 9 Jan 1961  
Col Gerard G. Wolke, 13 Jun 1962  
Col Paul K. Carlton, 25 Jun 1962  
Col Boyd B. White, 18 Nov 1963  
Col Andrew J. Bratton, Jr., 9 Jan 1964  
Col Boyd B. White, 19 May 1965  
Col William R. Calhoun, Jr., 15 Jun 1965  
Col Pat H. Earhart, 15 Jun 1966  
Col Lawrence W. Steinkraus, 9 Aug 1968  
Col Colin C. Hamilton, Jr., 21 Apr 1969  
Col John W. Burkhart, 23 Feb 1970  
Col Thomas M. Ryan, Jr., 14 Jul 1972  
Col Perrin W. Gower, Jr., 25 Oct 1972  
Col Kelly H. Burke, 3 Jan 1973  
Col Donald N. Webster, 13 Jun 1974  
Col Edwin L. Smith, 15 Apr 1975  
Col Henry W. Boardman, 8 Jul 1975  
Col John J. Doran, Jr., 11 Jul 1977  
Col William H. Campbell Jr., 1 Aug 1991-30 Jun 1993  
BG Stephen Wilson, # 2009  
BG Randy A. Kee

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia  
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**  
Grenada 1983

**Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
Continental Europe, 29 May 1943-31 Jul 1944  
Germany, 11 Jan 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1963-30 Jun 1964  
1 Jul 1970-30 Jun 1971  
1 Jul 1978-30 Jun 1979  
1 Jul 1989-30 Jun 1991

**EMBLEM**



379<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, Heavy

379<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing emblem: Per bend Azure and Gules, on a lightning flash per bend throughout Or, seven stars per bend Argent, all between a dart, with three stars arched and an atomic symbol encircled by nine stars, all of the last, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "379TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** 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 significance of the emblem is the manner in which it portrays the expeditionary mission. The upper portion of the shield, together with the dart-like air vehicle represents expeditionary airpower capabilities. The lightning flash illustrates the great speed with which the power of the Wing can be unleashed. The lower portion of the shield is symbolic of the historic valor of the Wing's personnel, past and present. The atomic symbol commemorates the Wing's

operational heritage dating from the atomic era. The stars are grouped to depict the Wing's numerical designation. In the end, the emblem is a symbol of peace, since the power of force is dedicated to protect the free peoples of the world. (Approved, 23 Aug 1956)

### **MOTTO**

DILIGENTIA ET ACCURATIO—Precision and accuracy

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

Trained in B-17 bombardment operations, Dec 1942-Apr 1943. Moved to England, with the air echelon flying their B-17s via the North Atlantic route in Apr 1943 and the ground echelon crossing by ship in May. Began operations with Eighth Air Force on 29 May, engaging primarily in bombardment of strategic targets such as industries, oil refineries, storage plants, submarine pens, airfields, and communications centers in Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, Norway, and Poland. Received a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for operations over Europe, May 1943-Jul 1944. Received a second DUC for flying without fighter protection into central Germany to attack vital aircraft factories on 11 Jan 1944. On several occasions attacked interdiction targets and operated in support of ground forces. Bombed V-weapon sites, airfields, radar stations, and other installations before the Normandy invasion in Jun 1944; bombed defended positions just ahead of the Allied landings on 6 Jun; and struck airfields, rail choke points, and gun emplacements during the campaign that followed. Bombed enemy positions to assist ground troops at St Lo during the breakthrough, 24-25 Jul 1944. Attacked German communications and fortifications during the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945, and bridges and viaducts in France and Germany to aid the Allied assault across the Rhine, Feb-Mar 1945. Flew last combat mission on 25 Apr 1945. Combat crews, ordnance, armament, and radar personnel transferred from the group in May 1945. The remainder of the group moved to French Morocco in Jun, assigned to Air Transport Command and soon inactivated.

First Mission: 29 May 1943

Last Mission: 25 Apr 1945

Total Missions: 330

Total Credit Sorties: 10,492

Total Bomb Tonnage: 26,459.6 tons (43 tons leaflets)

Aircraft Missing in Action: 141

Enemy aircraft Claims: 249-57-135

Replaced 4276th Air Base Squadron at Homestead AFB, Fla, in Nov 1955 and spent next few months becoming organized and manned.

Received tactical aircraft in Apr 1956 and commenced training for air refueling and strategic bombardment operations.

Deployed at Sidi Slimane AB, Morocco, Mar-May 1957. Transferred B-47s beginning Oct 1960

and moved to Wurtsmith AFB, Mich, without equipment in Jan 1961.

Reequipped with KC-135 and B-52, conducted air refueling operations since Jan 1961 and strategic bombardment training since May 1961.

Supported combat operations in Southeast Asia with KC-135 and crews and B-52 crews, 1965-1975.

47 buck/vi missions that were related to tanker operations in southeast asia; snow time missions that were used to make bombing penetration runs against targets in the united states and also to exercise the capabilities of the north american air defense command 1967

Spanish area support missions that supported refueling requirements of USAFE fighter ferrying movements and strategic air command reconnaissance missions 1968

Coronet circle mission that provided tanker service to fighters flying to southeast asia 1968

Coronet town that was the same mission as coronet circle; castle tanker task force support to refuel b-52 called arc light; young tiger operations related to refueling missions over southeast asia; maintenance, supply, and training on agm-28b, b-52h, and kc-135. 1968

Snow time missions that were used to make bomber penetration runs against targets in the united states and the defenses of the north american air defense command (norad) 1970

Giant lance airborne alert test supported aerial refueling needs of the goose tanker task force; tanker support for refueling of air operations over southeast asia (sea) called young tiger; burning pipe mission that refueled sea deployed fighters; spanish tanker task force and the eielson tanker task force were manned by aircraft of the 920 air refueling squadron from 5 to 20 feb 70;

Deployed air refueling aircraft and crews to provide inflight refueling supporting the buildup for the war against iraq, beginning in aug 1990, as well as air refueling support during the conflict.

Members of the 379th deployed as the lead wing forming the 1708 provisional bomb wing in jeddah, saudi arabia. On 18 jan, bombers flew from wurtsmith to attack targets of the iraqi republican guard, then recovered at jeddah.

Deployed bombers and aircrews to additional locations to participate in the conflict, jan-mar 1991.

On 18 jan 1991, launched 12 aircraft loaded with armaments on a strike mission against targets in iraq (this was the first combat mission launched from wurtsmith afb).

379 bmw deployed aircraft and crews to moron ab, spain in feb 1991.

Deployed on alaskan tanker task force (attf) operation in mar 1991.

Began preparing for closure of wurtsmith afb beginning the second half of 1991.

The final b-52 transferred on 15 dec 1992 and the wing inactivated on 30 jun 1993

The 379th Air Expeditionary Wing in Southwest Asia combined its active-duty and Air Force Reserve C-130 assets in February to form a new squadron. Active-duty C-130J models from the 41st Airlift Squadron and C-130Es from the 61st AS and 2nd AS combined with Reserve C-130Hs from the 357th AS to form the new 746th AS. The 41st and 61st are deployed from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., while the 2nd AS is from Pope AFB, N.C. The 357th hails from Maxwell AFB, Ala. Combining the Reserve and active-duty squadrons into one cohesive unit creates a unique opportunity for the crews to learn from one another, said Lt. Col. Dan Tulley, 41st AS commander. Taking four distinct squadrons that don't normally work together at their home stations and uniting them in a deployed environment may seem like a daunting task, he said. But the strengths each of them bring to the fight far surpass any challenges they will have to overcome. "We get to play off of the strengths of each other," Colonel Tulley said. "AFRC brings a lot of experience, and working together should be a great opportunity to share knowledge and expertise on handling a C-130 in combat." 2008

Before the start of Operation Freedom's Sentinel on Jan. 1, combat aircraft operating with the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing from al Udeid AB, Qatar, conducted their final missions supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, the US combat mission in Afghanistan since 2001. Assets from al Udeid flying over Afghanistan during the final days of OEF included B-1 bombers from the 9th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, E-8 JSTARS ground-surveillance platforms of the 7th Expeditionary Airborne Command and Control Squadron, C-130 transports from the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, KC-135 tankers from the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, and RC-135 Rivet Joint electronic eavesdropping aircraft from the 733rd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron, according to a base release. With the dawn of OFS, wing operations are transitioning to support the post-combat US advisory role in Afghanistan. While the US ground footprint is smaller there now, "our airpower need remains," said Col. Jim Dittus, 379th Expeditionary Operations Group commander. 2015

B-1s will be taking a break from the fight in the Middle East for the first time since 2001, as aircraft assigned to the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing head home this month for aircraft modifications. Within the past six months, aircraft and crews, deployed from Ellsworth AFB, S.D., flew 490 sorties and dropped 4,850 bombs. The group dropped 2,224 bombs in one month, more than any other B-1B unit, topping the previous deployed team's mark of 1,068 bombs, said Capt. Abraham Smith, officer-in-charge of the 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. "Hundreds of thousands of manpower hours have been put into the past six months to keep these aircraft running and it's been a very challenging and an exhausting deployment; however we've found ways to make it enjoyable," Smith said. The B-1B modification, which includes three different improvements to the aircraft's avionics, is one of the largest ever. Lt. Col.

Michael Williams, who leads the 419th Flight Test Squadron at Edwards AFB, Calif., told Air Force Magazine last year the modification is so big it "ought to be called the B-1C." 2016

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Air Force Order of Battle

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#### 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.