

## 386<sup>th</sup> AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

386<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium) established, 25 Nov 1942

Activated, 1 Dec 1942

Redesignated 386<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, Medium, 20 Aug 1943

Redesignated 386<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, Light, 23 Jun 1945

Inactivated, 7 Nov 1945

Redesignated 386<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber Group, 31 Oct 1955

Activated, 8 Apr 1956

Inactivated, 8 Jul 1957

Redesignated 386<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Group, 31 Jul 1985

Redesignated 386<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Group and converted to provisional status, 25 Jul 2000

Activated, 1 Sep 2000

#### STATIONS

MacDill Field, FL, 1 Dec 1942

Lake Charles AAB, LA, 9 Feb-8 May 1943

Snetterton Heath, England, 3 Jun 1943

Boxted, England, 10 Jun 1943

Great Dunmow, England, 24 Sep 1943

Beaumont-sur-Oise, France, 2 Oct 1944

St. Trond, Belgium, 9 Apr-27 Jul 1945

Seymour Johnson Field, NC, 7 Aug 1945

Westover Field, MA, 30 Sep-7 Nov 1945

Bunker Hill AFB, IN, 8 Apr 1956-8 Jul 1957

Kuwait City, Kuwait, 1 Sep 2000

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

III Bomber Command, 1 Dec 1942

Eighth Air Force, 2 Jun 1943

VIII Bomber Command, 4 Jun 1943

VIII Air Support Command, 15 Jun 1943

IX Bomber Command, 16 Oct 1943

99<sup>th</sup> Combat Bombardment (later, 99 Bombardment) Wing, 5 Dec 1943

First Air Force, Aug-7 Nov 1945

Ninth Air Force, 8 Apr 1956-8 Jul 1957

9<sup>th</sup> Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force-Southern Watch, 1 Sep 2000

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-26, 1942-1945

A-26, 1944-1945

F-86, 1956-1957

F-100, 1957

## **COMMANDERS**

Col Lester J. Maitland, 1 Dec 1942

Col Richard C. Sanders, 18 Nov 1943

Col Joe W. Kelly, 22 Jan 1944

Col Thomas G. Corbin, 25 Aug 1944-1945

Capt Amos B. Leighton, 8 Apr 1956

Col Billy Cornett, Dec 1956

Maj Kendall B. Dowis, Jul-8 Jul 1957

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

## **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation  
ETO, 30 Jul 1943-30 Jul 1944

**EMBLEM**

None

**MOTTO**

**NICKNAME**

**OPERATIONS**

Beginning in Jul 1943, the group bombed airfields, marshalling yards, and gun positions in enemy-occupied northwestern Europe. It attacked V-weapon sites along the coast of France during the winter of 1943-1944. During Big Week, 20-25 Feb 1944, it bombed enemy airfields in the Netherlands and Belgium. Preceding the invasion of Normandy, the group bombed marshalling yards, gun positions, airfields, and bridges across the Seine River. On D-Day, 6 Jun 1944, and during the rest of the Normandy campaign, it attacked coastal batteries, bridges, supply and fuel storage sites, gun positions, and troop concentrations. The group earned a Distinguished Unit Citation for operations between 30 Jul 1943 and 30 Jul 1944 because it had the most outstanding record of all B-26 groups in the European Theater of Operations (ETO) for that time period. It supported Allied forces at Caen and participated in a massive bombardment of enemy positions at St. Lo on 25 Jul 1944 that contributed to an Allied breakthrough. In Aug 1944, the group bombed targets to help clear the Falaise gap, and the next month it attacked strong points in Brest. After moving to the continent in Oct 1944, the group attacked enemy strong points, storage depots, communications, and other targets in France, the Netherlands, and Germany. During the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945, it attacked bridges to cut off enemy reinforcements and supplies. The group continued to strike German communications, transportation, and storage facilities until May 1945. Between Apr 1956 and Jul 1957, trained to maintain readiness for fighter-bomber armed strikes wherever needed.

First Mission: 30 Jul 1943

Last Mission: 8 Oct 1943

Total Missions: 30

Aircraft missing in action: 6

Enemy aircraft claims: 9 destroyed

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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.