

438th AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

438th Troop Carrier Group constituted, 14 May 1943

Activated, 1 Jun 1943

Inactivated, 15 Nov 1945

Redesignated 438th Troop Carrier Group (Medium), allotted to the reserve and activated, 27 Jun 1949

Called to active duty, 10 Mar 1951

Inactivated, 14 Mar 1951

Redesignated 438th Fighter Bomber Group, allotted to the reserve and activated, 15 Jun 1952

Redesignated 438th Military Airlift Group

Inactivated

Redesignated, 438th Air Expeditionary Group

STATIONS

Baer Field, IN, 1 Jun 1943

Sedalia AAFld, MO, 11 Jun 1943

Laurinburg-Maxton AAB, NC, Oct 1943

Baer Field, IN, 15-28 Jan 1944

Welford, England, Feb 1944

Greenham Common, England, Mar 1944

Prosnes, France, Feb 1945

Amiens/Glisy, France, May-3 Aug 1945

Baer Field, IN, 16 Sep 1945

Lawson Field, GA, 1 Oct-15 Nov 1945

Offutt AFB, NE, 27 Jun 1949-14 Mar 1951
General Billy Mitchell Field, WI, 15 Jun 1952
Milwaukee, WI, Jan 1953
McGuire AFB, NJ, 15 Sep 1978-1 Jun 1980

ASSIGNMENTS

Ninth Air Force

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-47

COMMANDERS

LTC William F. Stewart, 1 Jun 1943
Col John M. Donalson, 13 Jul 1943
Col Lucion N. Powell, 27 Dec 1944-1945

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Rome-Arno
Normandy
Northern France
Southern France¹
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
France, [6-7] Jun 1944

EMBLEM



438th Military Airlift Group emblem

438th Air Expeditionary Group emblem: Per bend sinister Purpure and Argent, a globe per bend sinister Argent and Azure, land masses and grid lines counterchanged, fimbriated Or, in base a flight symbol of the first point to dexter emitting an 'S' shaped ribbon contrail Yellow, fimbriated Purpure, doubled White barry Purple palewise behind the globe, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "438TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP" 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 shield division suggests night and day, and denotes the unit's ability to conduct operations twenty-four hours a day. The globe symbolizes the global mission of the unit and emphasizes the ability to complete the mission anywhere in the world. The lashing spear, with twisting contrails, symbolizes the speed and accuracy of the Group's combat capability. (Approved, 10 Aug 1954)

MOTTO

NUNQUAM NON PARATUS—Never Unprepared

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Until Jun 1945, trained for and participated in airborne operations, flew resupply and reinforcement missions to combat zones, evacuated casualties, and hauled freight. Received a DUC for dropping paratroops in Normandy and towing gliders with reinforcements during the invasion of France in Jun 1944. A detachment went to Italy in Jul 1944 and participated in the invasion of Southern France in Aug by dropping paratroops and towing gliders that carried reinforcements; also hauled freight in Italy before returning to England late in Aug. In Sep the group helped to supply Third Army in its push across France, and transported troops and supplies when the Allies launched the airborne operation in Holland. Flew supply missions to battle areas, including two flights to Bastogne, during the Battle of the Bulge (Dec 1944-Jan

1945). Moved to France, Feb-Mar 1945. Dropped paratroops during the airborne attack across the Rhine in Mar. Evacuated Allied prisoners of war after V-E Day.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 28 May 2011

Updated:

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.