

441st AIR EXPEDITIONARY SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

441 Bombardment Squadron (Medium) constituted, 19 Jun 1942
Activated, 1 Jul 1942
Redesignated 441 Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 9 Oct 1944
Inactivated, 7 Dec 1945
Redesignated 441 Bombardment Squadron, Light, 26 May 1947
Activated in the Reserve, 9 Jul 1947
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949
Redesignated 441 Bombardment Squadron, Medium, and activated, 1 Dec 1952
Discontinued, 15 Sep 1960
Redesignated 441 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 15 Nov 1962
Organized, 1 Feb 1963
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1989
Redesignated, 441 Air Expeditionary Squadron, and converted to provisional status, 13 May 2011

STATIONS

MacDill Field, FL, 1 Jul 1942
Drane Field, FL, 8-28 Aug 1942
Hethel, England, 12 Sep 1942
Tibenham, England, 1 Oct 1942
La Senia, Algeria, 9 Jan 1943

Tafaraoui, Algeria, 28 Jan 1943
Montesquieu, Algeria, 14 Apr 1943
Massicault, Tunisia, 29 Jun 1943
El Bathan, Tunisia, 29 Jul 1943
Decimomannu, Sardenia, 9 Nov 1943
Alto, Corsica, 19 Sep 1944
Dijon/Longvic, France, 11 Nov 1944
Dole/Tavaux, France, 2 Apr 1945
Pfriemd, Germany, 20 Jun 1945
Clastres, France, Oct-28 Nov 1945
Camp Kilmer, NJ, 5-7 Dec 1945
Mitchel Field, NY, 9 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949
March AFB, CA, 1 Dec 1952-15 Sep 1960
Mather AFB, CA, 1 Feb 1963-30 Sep 1989

ASSIGNMENTS

320 Bombardment Group, 1 Jul 1942-4 Dec 1945
Army Service Forces, 5-7 Dec 1945
320 Bombardment Group, 9 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949
320 Bombardment Wing, 1 Dec 1952-15 Sep 1960
320 Bombardment Wing, 1 Feb 1963-30 Sep 1989
Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate at any time on or after 13 May 2011

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-26, 1942-1945
B-29, 1952-1953
YRB-47, 1953
B-47, 1953-1960
B-52, 1963-1989

COMMANDERS

Cpt Craig E. Walling, 1 Jul 1942
Maj Charles L. Persons, Jr., 11 Jul 1942
Maj Charles L. Belcher, 5 Jun 1943
Maj Clarence E. Kirley, 28 Oct 1943
Cpt Elmer G. Oglietti, 11 Feb 1944
Cpt Lawrence E. Probasco, 23 Mar 1944
Cpt Ralph I. Berge, 20 Apr 1944
Maj Sidney P. Smith, 27 Jul 1944
Maj Robert Deatley, 13 Mar 1945
Cpt Charles J. O'Mahoney, 26 Mar 1945-unkn
Unkn, 9 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949
LTC David S. Pallister, 1 Dec 1952
Maj William R. Griner, Jr., 26 Jan 1955

LTC John W. Swanson, 7 Mar 1955
LTC Edward C. Unger, Feb 1957
LTC Roy F. Crow, Jul 1958-15 Sep 1960
LTC Harry D. Gilpin, 1 Feb 1963
LTC Ralph W. Jones, Jun 1963
LTC James D. Kleine, Jr., Jun 1967
LTC Joe W. Kennedy, Jun 1968
LTC Mahlon D. Loomer, 16 Jul 1969
LTC Robert L. Yarbrough, 24 Oct 1971
Maj Billy W. Anderson, 28 Jul 1972 (acting)
LTC George A. Dugard, 11 Sep 1972
LTC Kenneth N. Chapman, 17 Apr 1973
LTC Frederick J. Tillman, Sep 1974
LTC John Lally, 1 Apr 1975
LTC Guy H. Holt, 28 Feb 1977
LTC Alan D. Rogers, 31 Jul 1978
LTC Carlton L. Betts, 30 Mar 1981
LTC John R. Ratledge, 30 Jul 1982
LTC Barry J. Codron, 10 Feb 1984
LTC Stephen M. Gross, 12 Oct 1984
LTC William E. Fitzpatrick, 5 Mar 1986
LTC Neal D. Coyle, 1 May 1987
LTC Larry F. Smith, 27 Jan-30 Sep 1989

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Tunisia

Sicily

Naples-Foggia

Anzio

Rome-Arno

Northern France

Southern France

North Apennines

Rhineland

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Antisubmarine, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Italy, 12 May 1944

Germany, 15 Mar 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

18 Jun-31 Jul 1965 and 1 Dec 1965-1 Mar 1966

2 Mar-1 Apr 1966

1 Jul 1974-30 Jun 1976

1 Jul 1981-30 Jun 1983

French Croix de Guerre with Palm

Apr, May, and Jun 1944

EMBLEM



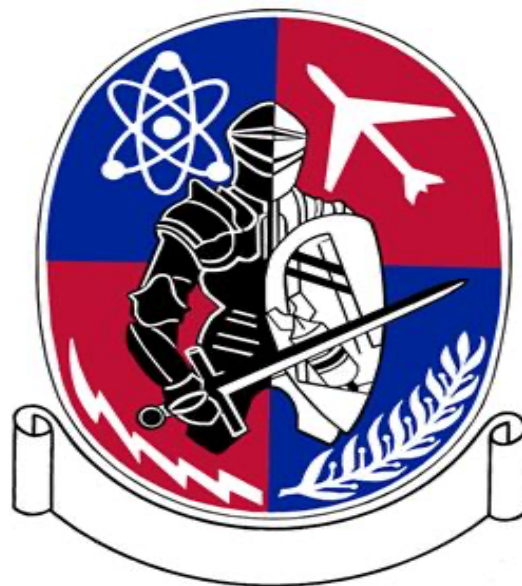
The initial 441st Squadron insignia consisted of an outline of the U.S. map with the lions heart escutcheon above it and the Air Corps winged prop over it on the left. Across the map ran a scroll with the Latin motto *Finis Origine Pendet* (the end depends upon the beginning). This insignia was used by the squadron from its inception in 1943 until early 1944 and was commonly painted on the nose of the aircraft. The early A-2 jacket patch used the same insignia made out of tufted cloth.



In early 1944, while on Sardinia, the Squadron altered their design background to a quadranted circle of red and yellow overlaid with a royal blue silhouette of a B-26. The winged Air Corp prop was placed in the lower left quadrant and the Lions Heart in the upper right quadrant. At this time as well, the patch was changed on the A-2 jackets to this same insignia. The patch was made of leather.



On a red disc with a white border a gray aircraft tail with deep red markings supporting a caricatured black duck with yellow bill and feet holding with his right wing a green bomb point to base with deep red bands, all outlined with black. (Approved, 7 Apr 1954)



Approved, 3 Jun 1964

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Antisubmarine patrols in the Mediterranean, Feb-Mar 1943; combat in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations and European Theater of Operations, 22 Apr 1943-1 May 1945. Participated in exercises and training programs prior to discontinuing in Sep 1960. Beginning in 1963, maintained capability to conduct long-range bombardment operations in B-52. Rotated aircraft and aircrews in support of war in Southeast Asia, 1969-1973. Maintained conventional bombing capabilities after the end of US involvement in Vietnam War until unit inactivated on 30 Sep 1989.

18 June 1965 On the very first Operation Arc Light mission flown by Boeing B-52 of SAC to hit a target in South Vietnam, a total of 30 B-52Fs depart Andersen AFB, Guam just after midnight, flying in ten cells of three aircraft, to hit a suspected Viet Cong stronghold in the Bến Cát District, 40 miles N of Saigon. Unexpected tailwinds from a typhoon cause the bombers to arrive seven minutes early at their refueling point with KC-135 tankers over the South China Sea at a point between South Vietnam and the island of Luzon. The three planes of Green Cell, in the lead, begin a 360 degree turn to make their rendezvous, and in doing so cross the path of Blue Cell and directly towards oncoming Yellow Cell. In the darkness, Boeing B-52F, 57-0047, and Boeing B-52, 57-0179, both aircraft of the 441st Bombardment Squadron, 320th Bombardment Wing, Mather AFB, California, but flown by crews assigned to the 20th Bombardment Squadron, 7th Bomb Wing, Carswell AFB, Texas and attached to the 3960th Strategic Wing, Andersen AFB, Guam, collided, killing eight crew, with four survivors, plus one body recovered. The four are located and picked up by an HU-16A-GR Albatross amphibian, 51-5287, but it is damaged on take-off by a heavy sea state and those on board have to transfer to a Norwegian freighter and a Navy vessel, the Albatross sinking thereafter. Another B-52 loses a hydraulic pump and radar, cannot rendezvous with the tankers and aborts to Okinawa. Twenty-seven Stratofortresses drop on a one-mile by two-mile target box from between 19,000 and 22,000 feet, a little more than 50 percent of the bombs falling within the target zone. The force returns to Andersen except for one bomber with electrical problems that recovers to Clark AFB, the mission having lasted 13 hours. Post-strike assessment by teams of South Vietnamese troops with American advisors find evidence that the VC had departed the area before the raid, and it is suspected that infiltration of the south's forces have tipped off the north because of the ARVN troops involved in the post-strike inspection.

USAF Unit Histories

Created: 26 Aug 2011

Updated: 31 May 2023

Sources

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

Unit yearbook, *Mather AFB, CA, Jenny to Jets 45th Anniversary, 1918-1963*, Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc., Baton Rouge, LA, 1963.