

447th AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP



MISSION

The 447th AEG provides aerial port, command and control of the military runway, aerial control, base operating support, combat Airmen and combat medical support. The group also supports U.S. and coalition forces with airlift, supplies and delivery of these forces and materials within the Baghdad area. The 447th operates a true joint environment, with Air Force aerial port Airmen working next to U.S. Army Soldiers. The airfield is a joint civilian-military airport, with a military ramp on the west side and a civilian runway and terminal on the other that is used for international civilian flight operations.

The 447th Air Expeditionary Group's forces are organized under seven squadrons: civil engineer, communications, logistics readiness, medical, operations support, security forces and force support. Several staff agencies also support the 447th AEG including: Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection, Chaplain, Command Post, Finance, Protocol, Public Affairs and Safety. The 447th AEG commander oversees all seven squadrons, and is the Sather Air Base commander and the Senior Airfield Authority for the west side of BIAP.

LINEAGE

447th Bombardment Group (Heavy) constituted, 6 Apr 1943

Activated, 1 May 1943

Inactivated, 7 Nov 1945

Redesignated 447th Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, allotted to the reserve, activated, 12 Aug 1947

Redesignated 447th Bombardment Group, Medium, Jun 1949

Ordered to active duty, 1 May 1951

Inactivated, 16 Jun 1951

STATIONS

Ephrata AAB, WA, 1 May 1943
Rapid City AAB, SD, 1 Jul 1943
Harvard AAFld, NE, Aug-11 Nov 1943
Rattlesden, England, 29 Nov 1943-1 Aug 1945
Drew Field, FL, 14 Aug-7 Nov 1945
Bergstrom Field, TX, 12 Aug 1947
Castle AFB, CA, 26 Jun 1949-16 Jun 1951

ASSIGNMENTS

Eighth Air Force
Strategic Air Command

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17
B-29

COMMANDERS

LTC Robert D. McDonald, 10 May 1943
Col Hunter Harris, Jr., 23 May 1943
Col William J. Wrigglesworth, 25 Sep 1944
LTC Louis G. Thorup, 31 Mar 1945
LTC Wilfred Beaver, 1 Jul 1945-unkn
Unkn, 1 May-16 Jun 1951
Col William T. Cahoon

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



Gules, a bend Azure, overall a stylized aircraft nose to dexter chief Sable, charged with a circle of 12 mullets over the aircraft and bend Argent, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "FIAT JUSTITIA RUAT COELUM" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The stylized aircraft silhouette symbolizes the Group's prowess in dominating the skies, its unity of mission and its dedication to country and unit. The stars laid upon a background of red and blue signify the 447th's achievements for the United States, both during day and night operations.

MOTTO

FIAT JUSTITIA RUAT COELUM--Let Justice Be Done Though The Heavens Fall

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Entered combat in Dec 1943 and operated chiefly as a strategic bombardment organization. From Dec 1943 to May 1944, helped to prepare for the invasion of the Continent by attacking submarine pens, naval installations, and cities in Germany; ports and missile sites in France; and airfields and marshaling yards in France, Belgium, and Germany. During Big Week, 20-25 Feb 1944. Took part in intensive campaign of heavy bombers against the German aircraft industry. Supported the invasion of Normandy in Jun 1944 by bombing airfields and other targets near the beachhead. Aided the breakthrough at St Lo in Jul and the effort to take Brest in Sep. Pounded enemy positions to assist the airborne invasion of Holland in Sep. Also dropped supplies to Free French forces during the summer of 1944. Turned to strategic targets in Germany in Oct 1944, placing emphasis on sources of oil production until mid-Dec. During the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945, the group assaulted marshaling yards, railroad bridges, and communications centers in the combat zone. Then resumed operations against targets in

Germany, attacking oil, transportation, communications, and other objectives until the war ended. During this period, also supported the airborne assault across the Rhine (Mar 1945).

From December 1943 to May 1944, the 447th helped prepare for the invasion of the European continent by attacking submarine pens, naval installations, and cities in Germany; missile sites and ports in France; and airfields and marshaling yards in France, Belgium and Germany. The group conducted heavy bombardment missions against German aircraft industry during Big Week, Feb. 20 to 25, 1944.

First Mission: 24 Dec 1943

Last Mission: 21 Apr 1945

Total Missions: 257

Total Credit Sorties: 7,605

Total Bomb Tonnage: 17,102.9 tons (394.9 tons supplies)

Aircraft Missing in Action: 97

Other Operational losses: 43

Enemy aircraft claims: 86-41-66

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 1 Jun 2011

Updated: 11 Jan 2013

Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.