

489 BOMB GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

489 Bombardment Group (Heavy) constituted, 14 Sep 1943
Activated, 1 Oct 1943
Redesignated 489 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, Mar 1945
Inactivated, 17 Oct 1945
Redesignated 489 Bomb Group
Activated, 17 Oct 2015

STATIONS

Wendover Field, UT, 1 Oct 1943-3 Apr 1944
Halesworth, England, 1 May-Nov 1944
Bradley Field, CT, 12 Dec 1944
Lincoln AAFld, NE, 17 Dec 1944
Great Bend AAFld, KS, 28 Feb 1945
Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 3 Apr 1945
Fairmont AAFld, NE, 13 Jul 1945
Ft Lawton, WA, 23 Aug 1945
March Field, CA, 2 Sep-17 Oct 1945
Dyess AFB, TX

ASSIGNMENTS

307 Bomb Wing

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24

B-29

B-1

COMMANDERS

Col Ezekiel W. Napier, 20 Oct 1943

Lt Col Robert E. Kollimer, 5 Feb 1945

Col Paul C. Ashworth, 11 Apr 1945-unkn



Col Denis A. Heinz

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

American Theater

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



Sable, on pile in bend sinister issuing from dexter base and throughout Or, edged Argent, issuing from dexter base a demi-sphere Azure, gridlined and edged of the third, axis to sinister chief, below a stylized bomb bend sinisterwise Gules, detailed of the third and edged of the first, point facing the sphere's top axis point, emitting from the tail four contrails of the third; all within a diminished bordure Yellow. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "489 BOMB 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 falling bomb signifies the swift, unwavering ability of targeting precision, which is emblematic of the strength, ferocity and focus of a fine fighting organization. The ray of sun encompassing the globe shows the United States of America's capability for global reach and is symbolic of the organizations ability to maintain air superiority worldwide. (Approved, 23 May 2016)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Activated 1 Oct. 43 at Wendover Field, Utah. Complete formation and training of Group took place at this base (apart from special detachments). Left Wendover 3 April 1944, air echelon flying to UK via southern ferry route. Ground echelon sailed Boston on USS Wakefield 13 Apr 1944.

Entered combat on 30 May 1944, and during the next few days concentrated on targets in France in preparation for the Normandy invasion. In an attack against coastal defenses near Wimereaux on 5 Jun 1944, the group's lead plane was seriously crippled by enemy fire, its pilot was killed, and the deputy-group commander, Lt Col Leon R Vance Jr, who was commanding the formation, was severely wounded; although his right foot was practically severed, Vance took control of the plane, led the group to a successful bombing of the target, and managed to fly the damaged aircraft to the coast of England, where he ordered the crew to bail out; believing a wounded man had been unable to jump, he ditched the plane in the Channel and was rescued. For his' action during this mission, Vance was awarded the Medal of Honor. The group supported the landings in Normandy on 6 Jun 1944, and afterward bombed coastal defenses, airfields, bridges, railroads, and V-weapon

sites in the campaign for France. Began flying missions into Germany in Jul and engaged primarily in bombing strategic targets such as factories, oil refineries and storage plants, marshalling yards, and airfields in Ludwigshafen, Magdeburg, Brunswick, Saarbrucken, and other cities until Nov 1944. Other operations included participating in the saturation bombing of German lines just before the breakthrough at St Lo in Jul, dropping food to the liberated French and to Allied forces in France during Aug and Sep, and carrying food and ammunition to Holland later in Sep. Returned to the US, Nov-Dec 1944, to prepare for redeployment to the Pacific theater. Redesignated 489 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy in Mar 1945. Equipped with B-29's. Alerted for movement overseas in the summer of 1945, but war with Japan ended before the group left the US.

First Mission: 30 May 1944

Last Mission: 10 Nov 1944

Total Missions: 106

Total Credit Sorties: 2,998

Total Bomb Tonnage: 6,951 tons

Aircraft missing in action: 29

Other Operational Losses: 12

Enemy aircraft claims: 1-0-0

Selected for redeployment to Pacific theatre and became non-operational 14 Nov 1944. Relieved of assignment 29 Nov 1944 and returned USA. Aircraft and high proportion personnel reassigned to depots or other units in UK. Group established Bradley Field, CT 12 Dec 1944, and was shortly thereafter transferred to Lincoln AFB, Neb. to train as B-29 unit. Equipped with this aircraft at Great Bend AAFd, Kan. from Mar 1945. Alerted for movement to 8AF in Pacific late summer of 1945 but with termination of hostilities remained in USA and was inactivated 17 Oct 1945 at March Field, CA.

The Air Force Reserve reactivated the 489 Bomb Group at Dyess AFB, Texas, on Oct. 17. The group, which includes the 345th Bomb Squadron, the 489 Maintenance Squadron, and the 489 Aerospace Medical Flight, operates under the 307th Bomb Wing at Barksdale AFB, La. It will provide B-1 training as well as combat support alongside with its classic associate, the 7th Bomb Wing at Dyess, states a release. Col. Denis Heinz, commander of the 489 BG, said he is happy to be part of the unit's . "As I read books published by former group members, I was in awe of their ability to fly, fight, and win under such austere conditions," Heinz said. "I am proud now to be part of a heritage that dates back to the early days of World War II, when the original 489 fought a much different war." 2015

10/19/2015 The 489 Bomb Group was activated as an Air Force Reserve unit during a ceremony here Oct. 17. The 307th Bomb Wing's newly reactivated 489 BG, which encompasses more than 250 Airmen across the 345th Bomb Squadron, 489 Maintenance Squadron and the 489 Aerospace Medical Flight, will be working closely with the 7th Bomb Wing, providing a formal training mission and combat support operations as the first-ever B-1B Lancer-occupied Air Force Reserve unit. The unit will be furthering Total Force Integration, which aims to integrate active duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard components by using the B-1B Lancers at Dyess for their mission. "We are fairly small and have been trying to get integrated and be a part of this team, and

we are pleased with the 7th Bomb Wing's reception," said Maj. Stephanie Treadaway, 489 BG executive officer. "Everyone from leadership level to Airmen has been extremely helpful. We want to be here, and we are very excited for this new transition." The influx of Airmen and their families that will be a part of the 489 BG will add several hundred people to the Abilene community. "I'd say the community is excited about having more Airmen," said Bob Christopher, honorary commander for the 7th BW vice commander. "People are the driving machines for us. The Airmen spend their money on Abilene, Abilene spends its money on Dyess and vice versa. It all flows together and does us good." Establishing an Air Force Reserve unit helps retain Airmen already trained in their fields when they choose to leave active duty, allowing reservists to collaborate with active duty members in a local environment. Working so closely creates better working relationships, benefitting both parties when deployed while also providing the Air Force with a larger force when needed. "Now, more than ever, our nation demands dominance from our Air Force," said Col. Bruce Cox, 307th BW commander. "As the Air Force Reserve Command's only bomber wing, it is my great honor to partner with the 7th Bomb Wing in the B-1 mission area. The citizen-Airmen of the 489 are incredibly excited to join the professional Airmen of the 7th Bomb Wing in their quest to fly, fight and win with the mighty BONE."

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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