

968 EXPEDITIONARY AIRBORNE AIR CONTROL SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

858 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 14 Sep 1943
Activated on 1 Oct 1943
Redesignated 858 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 20 Aug 1943
Redesignated 858 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 5 Aug 1945
Inactivated, 17 Oct 1945.

658 Bombardment Squadron, Medium constituted, 11 Aug 1958
Activated, 1 Oct 1958
Discontinued and inactivated, 1 Jan 1962

858 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy and 658 Bombardment Squadron, Medium and redesignated as 968 Airborne Warning and Control Squadron, 19 Sep 1985

Redesignated 968 Expeditionary Airborne Air Control Squadron, and converted to provisional status, 25 Jan 2002
Activated, 13 Dec 2002
Inactivated, 22 May 2003
Activated, 26 Feb 2013

STATIONS

Alamogordo AAFld, NM, 1 Oct 1943-1 Jan 1944
North Pickenham, England, 1 Jan 1944
Cheddington, England, 19 Jun 1944

Harrington, England, 10 Aug 1944-Aug 1945
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 14 Aug 1945
Kirtland Field, NM 17 Aug-17 Oct 1945
Mountain Home AFB, ID, 1 Oct 1958-1 Jan 1962
Thumrait, Oman, 13 Dec 2002-22 May 2003
Al Dhafra, United Arab Emirates, 26 Feb 2013

ASSIGNMENTS

492 Bombardment Group, 1 Oct 1943
VIII Air Force Composite Command, 21 Jun 1944
492 Bombardment Group, 5 Aug 1944-17 Oct 1945
9 Bombardment Wing, 1 Oct 1958-1 Jan 1962
Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate at any time after 25 Jan 2002
405 Expeditionary Operations Group, 13 Dec 2002-22 May 2003
380 Expeditionary Operations Group, 26 Feb 2013

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24, 1943-1945
C-47, 1944
A-26, 1945
DeHavilland Mosquito, 1945
B-47, 1958-1961
E-3, 2002-2003
E-3, 2013

COMMANDERS

Maj Robert F. Hambaugh, 1 Oct 1943
Maj Earle J. Aber Jr., 24 Jun 1944
Lt Col Col Robert L. Boone, 10 Aug 1944
Maj Bestow Rudolph, 13 Nov 1944
Capt Willard H. Smith (acting), 30 Nov 1944
Lt Col Robert L. Boone, 1 Feb 1945
Maj Ernest S. Holzworth, 7 Jun 1945
Capt Sam Freehling (acting), 30 Aug 1945-unkn
Lt Col Robert C. Morris Jr., 1 Oct 1958
Lt Col Earl A. Lilley, 1 May 1959
Lt Col Sherwin G. Desens, Feb 1960
None (not manned), 1 Oct 1961-1 Jan 1962
Lt Col Donald W. Clements, 13 Dec 2002
Lt Col John W. Black, 23 Jan 2003-unkn
Lt Col Peter P. Mykytyn III, 26 Feb 2013
LT Col Edward G. Goebel Jr., 30 Apr 2013

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Southern France
Rhineland
Central Europe
Air Combat, EAME

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
Germany and German Occupied Territory, 20 Mar-25 Apr 1945

French Croix de Guerre with Palm

EMBLEM



On a disc Gules, four bendlets crossed in saltire Argent, surmounted by a bomb bend sinisterwise, fins up, Silver Gray, overall a panther stalking to dexter Sable, langued of the first, eyed Or, masked Azure, fimbriated of the second, all within a narrow border Black. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "968 EAACS" in Black 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 scarlet background denotes the hazards of airborne command and control missions. The panther depicts the Squadron's agility to project airborne command and control capability. The double X represents four runways,

signifying the Squadron is a flying unit. The bomb represents the unit's ability to place ordnance on target and on time in conjunction with fighter/bomber assets. (Approved, 18 Aug 1961; newest rendition approved, 17 May 2013)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Combat in European Theater of Operations (ETO), 11 May-18 Jun 1944 and 17 Sep 1944-11 Mar 1945; leaflet operations, 19 Jun-4 Aug 1944; CARPETBAGGER missions, 10 Aug-16 Sep 1944 and 12 Mar-25 Apr 1945.



Strategic bombardment training, 1958-1961

Provided early warning of enemy activity and controlled friendly aircraft over the area of operations, 2002-2003.

Airborne warning and air control since 26 Feb 2013.

Members of the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing activated the 968th Expeditionary Airborne Air Control Squadron, an E-3 AWACS unit, at the wing's undisclosed operating location in Southwest Asia. They said the new unit is "the first enduring AWACS squadron" at the base, according to the 380th AEW's April 2 release. "This squadron was activated to usher in a new era in AWACS," said Lt. Col. Peter Mykytyn, 968th EAACS commander. "For the first time this unit will have a one-year commander supported by units from Pacific Air Forces and Air Combat Command," he added. The activation took place on March 25. The squadron traces its lineage to 1943 and the European theater of World War II, states the release. 2013

Oct 2002 – E-3 crews deployed as part of the 968th Expeditionary Airborne Air Control Squadron logged the 10,000th flying hour in support of OEF. The unit had supported OEF since September 2001.

Airmen of the 968th Expeditionary Airborne Air Control Squadron flew the unit's 4,000th combat sortie since the squadron began supporting operations in Southwest Asia in 2007, according to an Air Force release. The milestone sortie took place on April 5. The squadron is currently the only AWACS unit operating in US Central Command's area of responsibility, according to the mid-April release. "This accomplishment is not only a testament to the aircrews and staff that have rotated through the AOR, but also a phenomenal feat for AWACS maintainers," said Lt. Col. Ed Goebel, 968th EAACS commander. "The significance of this is even greater because it occurred in conjunction with the Afghanistan elections," he said. AWACS airplanes surveil the air and provide battlespace awareness and tactical command and control to commanders. "Every mission counts and every time we step to the jet, people are depending on us," said Capt. Kinsley Jordan, aircraft commander with the squadron. 2014

Air Force Unit Histories

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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.