

28 OPERATIONAL WEATHER SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

28 Weather Squadron constituted, 30 May 1945
Activated, 5 Jun 1945
Inactivated, 9 Nov 1945
Activated, 1 Mar 1949
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1971
Activated, 1 Jul 1980
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1991
Redesignated 28 Operational Weather Squadron, 5 Feb 1999
Activated, 17 Feb 1999

STATIONS

Seymour Johnson Field, NC, 5 Jun-9 Nov 1945
Bushy Park, England, 1 Mar 1949
South Ruislip, England, 7 Jun 1949
Bushy Park, England, 22 Mar 1951
RAF Northolt, England, 24 Oct 1962
RAF Mildenhall, England, 1 Jul 1980-30 Sep 1991
Shaw Air Force Base, SC, 17 Feb 1999

ASSIGNMENTS

Army Air Forces Weather Wing (later, Service), 5 Jun-9 Nov 1945
2105 Air Weather Group (later, 2058 Air Weather Wing), 1 Mar 1949

2 Weather Wing, 8 Feb 1954-Jul 1971
2 Weather Wing, 1 Jul 1980-30 Sep 1991
609 Air Operations Group, 17 Feb 1999

COMMANDERS

Maj Leo A. Kiley, Jr., 5 Jun 1945
Maj John J. Scott, 1 Mar 1949
Col Charles R. Dole, 12 Apr 1951
LTC Everett J. Cartwright, Jan 1953
LTC John W. Kodis, Jul 1953
LTC Guy N. Gosewisch, 17 Jun 1954
LTC Arnold R. Hull, 20 Jun 1957
Col Wray B. Bartling, 3 Aug 1958
LTC Milton M. Hause, 20 Aug 1960
Col George A. Williamson, 15 Jul 1963
Col Jacob P. Accola, 22 Jul 1966
Col Robert D. Johnston, 10 Jun 1967
Col Newton R. Galligar, Sep 1970
LTC Arthur L. Boright, 1 Jul 1981
LTC Glenn W. McBride, 18 Jul 1981
LTC Robert P. Wright, 29 Jul 1984
LTC Donald W. Pittman, 20 Jun 1986

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Jan 1968 – 31 Dec 1969
1 Jul 1982 - 30 Jun 1984
1 Jul 1990 - 30 Sep 1991

EMBLEM



This unofficial emblem depicting the mobile mission of the 28 Weather Squadron adorned the unit's 1945 history report.





28 Weather Squadron emblem: The blue and black background colors indicate day and night, and are symbolic of the around-the-clock mission of the unit. The three lightning flashes are symbolic of the three main Air Force Commands which the 28th Weather Squadron supports, i.e.. Strategic Air Command, Tactical Air Command, and Military Air Transport Service. The cumulonimbus cloud is a weather symbol. It is commonly known as an "anvil top" cloud and this is again repeated in the iron anvil. The arm and the hammer indicate the drive of the unit. Taken together, the arm and hammer, the iron anvil, the cloud, and the lightning symbolize the forcefulness of the 28th Weather Squadron. (Approved, 10 April 1959)



28 Operational Weather Squadron emblem: On a disc per pale Azure and Sable, a cumulonimbus cloud Argent, detailed of the field, emitting three lightning flashes, one to dexter chief, one to

sinister chief and one to base Or, charged with an anvil of the second, issuant from sinister chief an arm of the fourth, detailed Nugget Gold, grasping a hammer, prepared to strike the anvil of the second, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "EYE ON THE SKY" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "28 OPERATIONAL WEATHER SQ" in Yellow letters. **SIGNIFICIANCE:** 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 background colors indicate day and night and symbolize the round-the-clock mission of the unit. The lightning flashes originally stood for the three major commands supported by the Squadron: Strategic Air Command, Tactical Air Command and Military Air Transport Service. Today, the lightning flashes represent the concepts of strategic operations, tactical missions and global reach pioneered by those commands. The cumulonimbus cloud is a weather symbol, easily recognized by its anvil shaped top and emphasized by the iron anvil. The arm and hammer represent the drive of the unit. Combined, the arm and hammer, the cloud, the anvil and lightning symbolize the effectiveness of the 28 in supporting military operations. (Approved, 10 Apr 1959)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

On January 26, 1945, the commanding general of the Army Air Forces in the Pacific requested two mobile weather squadrons be activated for projected land operations in the theater's forward area. The Weather Wing constituted the 27th and 28 Weather Squadrons on May 30, 1945. The squadrons activated at Seymour Johnson Field, North Carolina, on June 5, 1945, and underwent intensive training. The squadrons were ordered to port for movement to the Pacific in August 1945, but the order was soon thereafter rescinded when Japan capitulated. Both squadrons were inactivated on 9 Nov 1945. The 28 Weather Squadron was reactivated on March 1, 1949, at Bushy Park, England to provide weather services for Air Force and Army units within the British Isles. The 28's predominant customer was the 3d Air Division.

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The 28 Weather Squadron was reactivated on March 1, 1949, at Bushy Park, England to provide weather services for Air Force and Army units within the British Isles. The squadron was assigned to the 2105th Air Weather Group, redesignated the 2058th Air Weather Wing in October 1951.

The 28's predominant customer was the 3d Air Division which was activated in 1948 under the command of then-Maj Gen Leon W. Johnson, a member of the initial cadre of officers assigned to the Air Corps weather service when it was formed in 1937 and a World War II Medal of Honor recipient.

The headquarters of the 28 Weather Squadron was relocated to South Ruislip, England, near 3d Air Division headquarters, on June 7, 1949; but returned to Bushy Park in March 1951. The headquarters moved to Royal Air Force Northolt, England, on October 24, 1962.

The 28 was reassigned to the 2d Weather Wing on February 8, 1954, in concert with an Air Weather Service overseas wing reorganization.

The 28 Weather Squadron's emblem was in use by 1952. The Air Force officially approved its use on April 10, 1959.

As one of seven weather squadrons eliminated as part of an Air Force directed Military Airlift Command programming action to reduce Air Weather Service command elements, the 28 Weather Squadron was inactivated on July 1, 1971, and its detachments assigned to the 31st Weather Squadron.

Air Weather Service commander Brig Gen Albert J. Kaehn, Jr., approved a reorganization plan in 1979 that included reactivation of the 28 Weather Squadron, which he officiated on July 1, 1980, at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England. Detachments of the 28 at Lakenheath, Bentwaters, Woodbridge, Mildenhall, Upper Heyford, Fairford, and Alconbury Royal Air Force stations were activated simultaneously.

With the Air Force directed divestiture of Air Weather Service "to give mission commanders ownership of their weather support resources," the 28 Weather Squadron and its detachments were again inactivated on September 30, 1991.

Under the Air Force Weather re-engineering effort, the 28 Weather Squadron was redesignated the 28 Operational Weather Squadron on February 5, 1999. The 28 was activated at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, on February 17, 1999, and assigned to the Air Combat Command's 609th Air Operations Group, severing its deep roots planted in England during the Cold War.

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Both Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM took place in the Central Command's area of responsibility. The 28 Operational Weather Squadron (OWS), collocated with the Air Force's Ninth Air Force at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, assumed responsibility for that area, providing regional weather data as needed for both the U.S. Air Force and the Army. The squadron furnished theater forecast data electronically to the combat weather teams that deployed, freeing them to concentrate on adapting the data to the missions at hand.

The Squadron HQ was at the non-flying base at West Ruislip, to the west of London, and had detachments at Lakenheath, Marham and Sculthorpe. The Squadron's converted WB-29 undertook long range met flights into the Atlantic and up beyond the ice cap.

Det 3, RAF Lakenheath, England
Det 4, RAF Bentwaters, England
Det 15, RAF Mildenhall, England
Det 17, RAF Upper Heyford, England
Det 18, RAF Fairford, England
Det 26, RAF Greenham Common, England
Det 36, RAF Alconbury, England

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

Created: 13 Jul 2024

Updated:

Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Lineage and Honors of the Operational Weather Squadrons. Air Force Weather History Office. Offutt AFB, NE. Mar 2003.

Daniel Haulman. *Weather in Air Campaigns, 1990-2003*. 24 June 2003