

## 2 OPERATIONS GROUP



### MISSION

Develop and provide combat-ready B-52 aircrew in support of nuclear deterrence and global operations SAFE...SECURE...EFFECTIVE...to support the President of the United States and Combatant Commanders.

### LINEAGE

1 Day Bombardment Group organized, 10 Sep 1918  
Demobilized, Nov 1918

1 Day Bombardment Group, organized, 18 Sep 1919  
Redesignated 2 Group (Bombardment), 31 Mar 1921  
Redesignated 2 Bombardment Group, 25 Jan 1923

1 Day Bombardment Group and 2 Bombardment Group consolidated, 8 Apr 1924

Redesignated 2 Bombardment Group (Heavy), 6 Dec 1939  
Redesignated 2 Bombardment Group, Heavy, 20 Aug 1943  
Inactivated, 28 Feb 1946  
Redesignated 2 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, 1 May 1946  
Activated, 1 Jul 1947  
Redesignated 2 Bombardment Group, Medium, 12 Jul 1948  
Inactivated, 16 Jun 1952  
Redesignated 2 Operations Group, 29 Aug 1991  
Activated, 1 Sep 1991

## **STATIONS**

Amanty, France, 10 Sep 1918  
Maulan, France, 23 Sep-Nov 1918  
Ellington Field, TX, 18 Sep 1919  
Kelly Field, TX, 25 Sep 1919  
Langley Field, VA, 1 Jul 1922  
Ephrata, WA, 29 Oct 1942  
Great Falls AAB, MT, 27 Nov 1942-Mar 1943  
Camp Don B. Passage, French Morocco, 12 Apr 1943 (ground echelon)  
Marrakesh, French Morocco, 16 Apr 1943 (air echelon)  
Navarin, Algeria, 22 Apr 1943 (air echelon), 25 Apr 1943 (ground echelon)  
Chateaudun-de-Rhumel, Algeria, 27 Apr 1943  
Ain M'lila, Algeria, 17 Jun 1943  
Massicault, Tunisia, 31 Jul 1943  
Bizerte, Tunisia, 2 Dec 1943  
Amendola, Italy, 9 Dec 1943  
Foggia, Italy, 19 Nov 1945-28 Feb 1946  
Andrews Field, MD, 1 Jul 1947  
Davis-Monthan Field (later, AFB), AZ, 24 Sep 1947  
Chatham AFB, GA, 1 May 1949  
Hunter Field (later, AFB), GA, 22 Sep 1950-16 Jun 1952  
Barksdale AFB, LA, 1 Sep 1991

## **DEPLOYED STATIONS**

Alpena, MI, 5-8 Aug 1940  
Lakenheath RAF Station, England, 10 Aug-22 Nov 1948  
Marham RAF Station, England, 18 Feb-16 May 1950  
Mildenhall England, 4 May 1951-30 Aug 1951

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

1 Pursuit Wing, 10 Sep-Nov 1918  
Unkn, 18 Sep 1919-1922  
2 Wing, Jul 1922  
Northeast Air District (later, First Air Force), 19 Nov 1940  
1 Bomber Command, Sep 1941  
AAF Antisubmarine Command, 13 Oct 1942  
Second Air Force, 29 Oct 1942  
Northwest African Training Command, Apr 1943  
Northwest African Strategic Air Force, 20 Apr 1943  
XII Bomber Command, 1 Sep 1943  
5 Bombardment Wing, 1 Nov 1943  
40 Bombardment Wing, 15 Dec 1945-28 Feb 1946  
Strategic Air Command, 1 Jul 1947  
Eighth Air Force, 24 Sep 1947

2 Bombardment Wing, 5 Nov 1947-16 Jun 1952  
2 Wing (later, 2 Bomb Wing), 1 Sep 1991

### **ATTACHMENTS**

43 Bombardment Wing, 5 Nov 1947-31 Dec 1948  
3<sup>rd</sup> Air Division, 18 Feb-16 May 1950

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

DH-4, 1918  
Breguet 14, 1918  
DH-4  
MB-2 (NBS-1)  
LB-1  
Caproni bomber  
HP O/400  
LB-5  
LB-7  
B-3  
B-5  
Y1B-9  
B-6, 1931-1936  
A-17  
A-20  
OA-9 (1940-1941)  
B-10 (1937)  
XB-15 (1938-1939)  
B-17 (1937-1942)  
B-18 (1937-1942)  
B-25  
B-23  
B-34  
B-17  
B-29, 1947-1950  
B-50, 1949-1951  
B-52, 1991  
KC-135, 1991-1993  
KC-10, 1991-1992

### **COMMANDERS**

Maj J. L. Dunsworth, 12 Sep 1918  
Lt Col Thomas S. Bowen, Oct 1918-unkn  
Maj Ralph P. Cousins, 15 Jun 1919  
Maj Jenner Y. Chisum Sep 20-28 Mar 1921  
Lt Col Charles H. Danforth, 28 Apr 1921

Maj Blackburn Hall, 20 Jul 1921  
Maj Henry J. F. Miller, 30 Oct 1921  
Maj Blackburn Hall, 7 Mar 1922  
Capt Walter R. Lawson, 5 Sep 1922  
Maj John N. Reynolds, 16 Feb 1923  
Maj John H. Pirie, 10 Oct 1923  
Maj Lewis H. Brereton, 24 Aug 1925  
Capt Edward C. Black, 21 Jan 1926  
Capt Richard J. Kirkpatrick, 24 Feb 1926  
Maj Lewis H. Brereton, 1 Mar 1926  
Capt Willis H. Hale, 27 Jun 1927  
Maj Hugh J. Knerr, 2 Jul 1927  
Capt Asa A. Duncan, 28 Nov 1927  
Capt James F. Doherty, 30 Jan 1928  
Maj Hugh J. Knerr, Feb 1928  
Capt Henry Pascale, 5 Aug 1930  
Maj Herbert A. Dargue, 24 Sep 1930  
Capt Robert Olds, 31 Mar 1932  
Maj Herbert A. Dargue, 2 Apr 1932  
Capt Eugene L. Eubank, 13 Dec 1933  
Capt Edward C. Black, 9 May 1934  
Maj Willis H. Hale, 21 Jun 1934  
Maj Charles B. Oldfield, 1 Apr 1935  
Lt Col Robert Olds, 6 Mar 1937  
Maj Clyde V. Finter, 1 Jan 1940  
Lt Col Harold L. George, Feb 1940  
Col Darr H. Alkire, May 1941  
Col Dale O. Smith, Sep 1942  
Col Ford J. Lauer, 29 Oct 1942  
Lt Col Joseph H. Thomas, 20 Apr 1943  
Col Herbert E. Rice, 5 Sep 1943  
Col John D. Ryan, 8 Jul 1944  
Col Paul T. Cullen, 25 Sep 1944  
Col John D. Ryan, 9 Feb 1945  
Col Richard R. Waugh, 28 Feb 1945  
Col Paul T. Cullen, 16 Mar 1945  
Col Robert K. Martin, 23 May 1945-20 Feb 1946  
None (not manned), 21-28 Feb 1946  
None (not manned), 1 Jul-23 Sep 1947  
Col Dalene E. Bailey, 24 Sep 1947  
Col William E. Eubank Jr., 3 Aug 1948  
Col James B. Knapp, Jan 1950  
Col Earl R. Tash, Jan-10 Feb 1951  
None (not manned), 10 Feb 1951-16 Jun 1952

Col James G. Phillips, 1 Sep 1991  
Col James E. Williams, 6 Aug 1992  
Col James A. Hawkins, 16 Feb 1993  
Col James R. Macon, 27 Feb 1995  
Col David R. Evans, 21 Sep 1995  
Col Wendell L. Griffin, 24 Jun 1997  
Col Robert A. Bruley Jr., 6 Feb 1999  
Col James M. Kowalski, 5 May 1999  
Col Stephen L. Wolborsky, 7 Dec 2000  
Col William P. Rushing III, 2 Oct 2001 (Interim)  
Col Stephen L. Wolborsky, 11 Nov 2001  
Col William P. Rushing III, 26 Dec 2001 (Interim)  
Col Stephen L. Wolborsky, 26 Apr 2002  
Col George R. Gagnon, 20 Sep 2002  
Lt Col James A. Dunn, 29 Nov 2002 (Interim)  
Col George R. Gagnon, 7 Jun 2003  
Col Roderick E. Gillis, 7 May 2004  
Col Gerald P. Plourde, 31 Aug 2004 (Interim)  
Col Roderick E. Gillis, 14 Jan 2005  
Col Mick R. Guthals, 16 Aug 2005 (Interim)  
Lt Col Kurt H. Mittmann, 8 Dec 2005 (Interim)  
Col Roderick E. Gillis, 15 Jan 2006  
Lt Col Kurt H. Mittman, 30 Apr 2006 (Interim)  
Col Roderick E. Gillis, 22 May 2006  
Col Todd C. Westhauser, 2 Jun 2006

## **HONERS**

### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

World War I

St. Mihiel

Lorraine

Meuse-Argonne

World War II

Antisubmarine, American Theater

Air Offensive, Europe

Tunisia

Sicily

Naples-Foggia

Anzio

Rome-Arno

Normandy

Northern France  
Southern France  
North Apennines  
Rhineland  
Central Europe  
Po Valley  
Air Combat, EAME Theater

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
Steyr, Austria, 24 Feb 1944  
Germany, 25 Feb 1944

#### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards**

1 Oct 1993-31 May 1995  
1 Jun 1995-31 May 1996  
1 Jun 1996-31 May 1997  
1 Jun 1998-31 May 2000  
1 Jun 2000-31 May 2002

#### **EMBLEM**



#### **MOTTO**

#### **OPERATIONS**

Equipped with DH-4 and Breguet aircraft, the Group entered combat on 12 Sep 1918. Attacked troop concentrations and communications to interfere with the enemy's movement of reinforcements and supplies to the front during the Allied offensive at St. Mihiel. Group attacked troop concentrations and communications to interfere with the enemy's movement of

reinforcements and supplies to the front. Inadequate defensive weapons, slow aircraft speed combined with the use of small formations contributed to the group's heavy losses at the hands of experienced German fighter pilots. Group also took part in the Meuse-Argonne campaign, attacking the enemy behind the line, and conducting bombing operations that helped to protect Allied ground forces by diverting German pursuit planes from the battle zone. Participated in one of the great bombing raids of the war on 9 Oct when 353 Allied planes (including 200 bombers) under the command of William Mitchell struck a concentration point where German troops were preparing for a counterattack against the Allied offensive in the Meuse-Argonne area.

On Oct. 9, 1918, the group participated in one of the great bombing raids of the war when 353 Allied planes (including 200 bombers) under the command of BG William Mitchell struck a concentration point where German troops were preparing for a counterattack against the Allied offensive in the Meuse-Argonne area.

Although accurate records do not exist, the group dropped at least 116.57 tons of bombs and shot down at least 40 to 50 enemy aircraft during World War I.

In November 1918, shortly after the Armistice was signed, the group was disbanded in France and the headquarters detachment demobilized at Mitchel Field, New York, in February 1919. On Sept. 18, 1919, the 1 Day Bombardment Group was reactivated at Ellington Field, Texas. One week later, the group and its assigned squadrons (11th, 20th, 49th, and 96th Aero Squadrons) moved to Kelly Field, Texas. Prior to and after the activation of the 1 Day Bombardment Group Headquarters, the 11th, 20th, and 96th Aero Squadrons participated in Mexican border patrol duties from 1919 to 1920. The three squadrons patrolled the border from Texas to California to counter possible incursions by the Mexican rebel Pancho Villa as well as cross border smuggling.

From July 13-21, 1921, elements of the group (49th and 96th Squadrons) were detached to General Mitchell's 1 Provisional Air Brigade at Langley Field, Va., to conduct tests to determine the efficiency of aircraft against naval warships. The group's Martin MB-2 and Handley-Page HP 0/400 aircraft led by Capt. Walter R. Lawson successfully bombed and sank three ex-German warships, including the 22,437-ton battleship Ostfriesland, off the coast of Virginia. On Sep. 27, 1921, still operating with Mitchell's provisional air brigade, the group's MB-2 aircraft bombed and sank the ex-U.S. Navy battleship Alabama (BB-08) in Tangier Bay, Chesapeake Bay, Md.

On Sept. 5, 1923, operating from an improvised airdrome on the sands near Cape Hatteras, N.C., the group's Curtiss NBS-1 aircraft from the 11th, 20th and 96th Bombardment Squadrons sank the ex-U.S. Navy battleships Virginia (BB-13) and New Jersey (BB-16) off Cape Hatteras in further bombing tests. With the training and experience gained during these final tests, the group had evolved into America's premier aerial bombardment unit.

In the 1920s and 1930s, engaged in routine training; tested and experimented with equipment and tactics; participated in maneuvers; took part in demonstrations of the effectiveness of

aerial bombardment on battleships; flew mercy missions; and made good-will flights to South America in the late 1930s.

In addition to its combat training activities, the 2d Bombardment Group flew mercy missions to aid victims of a flood in Pennsylvania and marooned inhabitants on islands in the frozen Chesapeake Bay in 1936.

The group further honed its skills when, from Feb. 6-9, 1937, nine B-10B bombers flew a training mission from Miami, Florida to Albrook Field, Panama and back—a round trip, over water flight of 4,216 miles.

On March 1, 1937, the group made history when it received the first Boeing Y1B-17 Flying Fortress bomber delivered to the U.S. Army. Goodwill tours to Buenos Aires, Argentina by six Y1B-17s in February 1938 and a flight to Bogota, Colombia by three Y1B-17s in August of the same year highlighted the late 1930s. The trip to Buenos Aires represented the longest distance performance flight of its kind on record and won the entire group the 1938 Mackay Trophy.

On May 12, 1938, the group demonstrated the long-range capabilities of the Y1B-17 by intercepting the Italian liner Rex 725 miles at sea during a training exercise. In August 1938, the group received the first and only Boeing XB-15 bomber ever built. An 11-man crew led by Maj. Caleb V. Haynes flew the XB-15 on a mercy mission to Chile following an earthquake in February 1938. The crew later received the 1939 Mackay Trophy for delivering the sorely needed medical supplies.

Served on antisubmarine duty for several months after the U.S. entered World War II. Moved to North Africa, Mar-May 1943 and initially assigned to Twelfth Air Force, the group flew many support and interdiction missions, bombing such targets as marshaling yards, airdromes, troop concentrations, bridges, docks, and shipping. Participated in the defeat of Axis forces in Tunisia, Apr-May 1943; the reduction of Pantelleria and the preparations for the invasion of Sicily, May-Jul 1943; and the invasion of Italy, Sep 1943.

Moved to Italy in Dec 1943 and continued operations as part of Fifteenth Air Force. Engaged primarily in long-range bombardment of strategic targets in Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Rumania, and Greece. Participated in the drive toward Rome, Jan-Jun 1944; the invasion of Southern France, Aug 1944, and the campaigns against German forces in northern Italy, Jun 1944-May 1945.

En route to bomb an aircraft factory at Steyr, Austria on 24 Feb 1944, the group was greatly outnumbered by enemy interceptors, but it maintained its formation and bombed the target, receiving a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for the performance. On the following day, while on a mission to attack aircraft factories at Regensburg, it met similar opposition equally well and was awarded a second DUC.

Served as part of the occupation force in Italy after V-E Day.



Trained for bombardment missions and deployed to England, Aug-Nov 1948 and Feb-May 1950.

On 10 Feb 1951 the group was made a "paper organization" and its squadron components were attached directly to the 2d Bombardment Wing.

Activated on 1 Sep 1991, again part of the 2d Wing. Trained for global conventional bombardment missions as well as maintaining nuclear operational readiness. Briefly controlled the wing's air refueling mission until it transferred to Air Mobility Command.

Provided combat crew training for all USAF B-52 aircrews, beginning Nov 1994.

Continued to deploy aircraft and personnel to southwest Asia to support the Allied watch on the southern and northern "no-fly" zones in Iraq. Flew combat missions against targets in Iraq, 17-18 Dec 1998, in response to Iraq's refusal to allow UN weapons inspectors to continue work. Flew combat missions against targets in Yugoslavia, 24 Mar-9 Jun 1999, in support of NATO Operation Allied Force.

In Oct 1999 began deploying personnel in support of aerospace expeditionary forces worldwide and maintaining on-call elements at home. After the terrorist attacks against the U.S. on 11 Sep 2001, group elements deployed to the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

On 7 Oct flew early attacks on targets in Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom to rid that country of terrorist bases and its extremist Taliban rulers. Later flew airborne alert missions over Afghanistan and in Operation Anaconda, flew bombing missions against targets in eastern Afghanistan, 1-18 Mar 2002.

In the invasion of Iraq beginning Mar 2003, flew missions on 21 Mar in strikes against command and control targets.

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USAF UNIT HISTORIES

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#### Sources

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.