

# 146<sup>th</sup> TACTICAL AIRLIFT GROUP

## LINEAGE

373<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Group constituted, 25 May 1943  
Activated, 15 Aug 1943  
Inactivated, 7 Nov 1945  
Redesignated 146<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group  
Allotted to ANG (CA), 24 May 1946  
Extended federal recognition, 14 Sep 1946  
Redesignated 146<sup>th</sup> Composite Group, Nov 1950  
146<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group in Feb 1951  
Ordered into active service, 1 Apr 1951  
Redesignated 146<sup>th</sup> Fighter Bomber Group, Jun 1951  
Relieved from active duty, 1 Jan 1953  
Redesignated 146<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Group  
Inactivated, 9 Feb 1975

## STATIONS

Westover Field, MA, 15 Aug 1943  
Norfolk, VA, 23 Oct 1943  
Richmond AAB, VA, 15 Feb-15 Mar 1944  
Woodchurch, England, 4 Apr-4 Jul 1944  
Tour-en-Bassin, France, 19 Jul 1944  
St-James, France, 19 Aug 1944  
Reims, France, 19 Sep 1944  
Le Culot, Belgium, 22 Oct 1944  
Venlo, Holland, 11 Mar 1945  
Lippstadt, Germany, 20 Apr 1945  
Illesheim, Germany, 20 May-Jul 1945  
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 4 Aug 1945  
Seymour Johnson Field, NC, 20 Aug 1945  
Mitchel Field, NY, 28 Sep-7 Nov 1945  
Lockheed Air Terminal, CA, 1 Apr 1951  
Moody AFB, GA, 10 May 1951  
George AFB, CA, 25 Oct 1951-1 Jan 1953

## ASSIGNMENTS

Ninth AF  
Strategic Air Command

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

### **Mission Aircraft**

P-47, 1944

F-51

C-130

### **Support Aircraft**

## **COMMANDERS**

Maj Ansel J Wheeler, 23 Aug 1943

Col William H Schwartz Jr, 25 Aug 1943

Col James C McGehee, 17 Nov 1944

LTC James F McCarthy, May 1945-unkn

LTC Jack D Blanchard, 1 Apr 1951

Col Cecil E West, Jun 1951

Col Earl H Dunham, 22 Jun 1951

LTC Jack D Blanchard, 7 Jan 1952

Col Amos F Riha, 4 Apr 1952

Col Paul P Douglas, 27 Oct 1952-1 Jan 1953

LTC Oscar A. Hurt, #1974

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation

Rhine River, 20 Mar 1945

French Croix de Guerre with Palm

Aug 1944

Cited in the Order of the Day, Belgian Army

**1 Oct 1944**

**18 Dec 1944-15 Jan 1945**

Belgian Fourragere

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jul 1965-30 Jun 1967

### **EMBLEM**

Azure (light blue), on a pale or, a futuristic interceptor aircraft sable, highlighted white, overall in saltire a sword piercing a vulture's wing both argent, detailed and outlined of the third. (Approved, 21 Jun 1957)

### **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

### **MOTTO**

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

Flew first combat mission, a fighter sweep over Normandy, on 8 May 1944, and then took part in preinvasion activities by escorting B-26's to attack airdromes, bridges, and railroads in France. Patrolled the air over the beachhead when the Allies launched the Normandy invasion on 6 Jun 1944, and hit troops, tanks, roads, fuel depots, and other targets in the assault area until the end of the month. Moved to the Continent in Jul 1944; struck railroads, hangars, boxcars, warehouses, and other objectives to prevent enemy reinforcements from reaching the front at St Lo, where the Allies broke through on 25 Jul 1944. Bombed such targets as troops, gun emplacements, and armored vehicles to aid ground troops in the Falaise-Argen-tan area in Aug 1944. During the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945, concentrated on the destruction of bridges, marshalling yards, and highways. Flew armed reconnaissance missions to support ground operations in the Rhine Valley in Mar 1945, hitting airfields, motor transports, and other objectives. Received a DUG for a mission, 20 Mar 1945, that greatly facilitated the crossing of the Rhine by Allied ground forces: without losing any planes, the group repeatedly dived through barrages of antiaircraft fire to bomb vital airfields east of the river; also attacked rail lines and highways leading to the Rhine, hitting rolling stock, motor transports, and other objectives. Continued tactical air operations until 4 May.

---

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 12 Oct 2010

Updated:

Sources

