

303 AERONAUTICAL SYSTEMS GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

303 Bombardment Group (Heavy) constituted, 28 Jan 1942

Activated, 3 Feb 1942

Inactivated, 25 Jul 1945

Redesignated 303 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy and activated, 1 Jul 1947

Inactivated, 6 Sep 1948

Redesignated 303 Bombardment Group, Medium and activated, 4 Sep 1951

Inactivated, 16 Jun 1952

Global Hawk Systems Group constituted, 23 Nov 2004

Activated, 18 Jan 2005

303 Bombardment Group, Medium and Global Hawk Systems Group consolidated, 23 Jun 2006

Redesignated 303 Aeronautical Systems Group, 14 Jul 2006

Inactivated, 30 Jun 2010

Redesignated 303 Air Expeditionary Group, and converted to provisional status, 8 Mar 2011

STATIONS

Pendleton Field, OR, 3 Feb 1942

Gowen Field, ID, 11 Feb 1942

Alamogordo, NM, 17 Jun 1942

Biggs Field, TX, 7-23 Aug 1942
Molesworth, England, 12 Sep 1942
Casablanca, French Morocco, 31 May-25 Jul 1945
Andrews Field, MD, 1 Jul 1947-6 Sep 1948
Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, 4 Sep 1951-16 Jun 1952
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, 18 Jan 2005

ASSIGNMENTS

Second Air Force, 3 Feb-28 Aug 1942
1 Bombardment Wing, 10 Sep 1942
41 Combat Bombardment Wing, 13 Sep 1943
Air Transport Command, North African Division, 15 Jun-25 Jul 1945
Strategic Air Command, 1 Jul 1947-6 Sep 1948
303 Bombardment Wing, 4 Sep 1951-16 Jun 1952
Reconnaissance Systems (later, 303 Aeronautical Systems) Wing, 18 Jan 2005
United States Air Forces in Europe, to activate or inactivate, at any time on or after, 8 Mar 2011

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17
B-29

COMMANDERS

Lt Col John R. Sutherland, 3 Feb 1942
Col Ford J. Lauer, 17 Feb 1942
Col Warren H. Higgins, 29 May 1942
Col James H. Wallace, 13 Jul 1942
Col Charles E. Marion, 23 Jan 1943
Col Kermit D. Stevens, 19 Jul 1943
Lt Col Lewis E. Lyle, 1 Sep 1944
Lt Col Richard H. Cole 11 Oct 1944
Col William S. Raper, 29 Oct 1944
Capt Bernard Thompson, 11 Jun-25 Jul 1945
Probably unmanned, 1 Jul 1947-6 Sep 1948
Maj Joe Maddalena Jr., Sep 1951
Col David Wade, 9 Oct 1951 (additional duty)
Col John K. Hester, Jan-16 Jun 1952 (additional duty)

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France

Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
Germany, 11 Jan 1944

EMBLEM



Azure, a diminutive pile between four flashes of lightning, two issuant palewise from chief and one from dexter and sinister chief sides chevronwise inverted, issuant from base a burst of five rays, all or.



Azure, a diminutive pile between four flashes of lightning, two is-suant palewise from chief and one from dexter and sinister chief sides chevron-wise inverted, issuant from base a burst of five rays, all or. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The four lines of lightning are emblematic of the striking power of the

group and are representative of the four squadrons of the Group: 358, 359, 360, and 427 Bombardment Squadrons. The flash at the bottom of blue shield is emblematic of the functions of the Group, the placing of fire on the objective. (Approved, 9 Jan 1943)



MOTTO

MIGHT IN FLIGHT

OPERATIONS

Activated 3 Feb. 42 at Pendleton Fd, Oregon. Assembled at Gowan Fd, Idaho, 11 Feb. 42 where it trained until 12 Jun. 42. Advanced training at Alamogordo Fd, NM. until 7 Aug, 42, when Group moved to Biggs Fd, Texas, to be readied for overseas duty. Ground echelon moved fort Dix, NJ. on 24 Aug. 42. Sailed on Queen Mary 5 Sep. 42, arriving Greenock 10 Sep. 42. Air echelon flew to Kellogg Fd, Mich then Dow Fd, Maine to start its flight to the UK.

Entered combat in Nov 1942. Raided targets such as airdromes, railroads, and submarine pens in France until 1943. Began bombardment of industries, marshalling yards, cities, and other strategic targets in Germany Jan 1943 through V-E Day.

Received a DUC for an operation on 11 Jan 1944, when in spite of attacks by enemy fighters in weather that prevented effective fighter cover from reaching the group, it successfully struck an aircraft assembly plant at Oschersleben.

Attacked gun emplacements and bridges in the Pas de Calais area during the Normand invasion in Jun 1944. Struck airfields, oil depots and other targets during the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945.

Flew last combat mission against armament works in Pilsen on 25 Apr 1945. Trained in heavy bombardment to meet Strategic Air Command commitments, Sep 1951- Jun 1952.

First Mission: 17 Nov 1942

Last Mission: 25 Apr 1945

Total Missions: 364
Total Credit Sorties: 10,721
Total Bomb Tonnage: 24,918 tons (176.3 tons leaflets)
Aircraft MIA: 165
Enemy aircraft claims: 379-92-174

USAF 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.
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.