

## 368 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, MEDIUM



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

368 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 28 Jan 1942  
Activated, 1 Mar 1942  
Inactivated, 25 Dec 1946  
Redesignated 368 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 11 Jun 1947  
Activated, 1 Jul 1947  
Redesignated 368 Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 11 Aug 1948  
Inactivated, 1 Apr 1963

#### STATIONS

Gowen Field, ID, 1 Mar 1942  
Wendover Field, UT, 6 Apr-1 Aug 1942  
Thurleigh, England, 6 Sep 1942 (detachment operated from Gibraltar, 18 Aug 1945-Jan 1946; Port  
Lyautey, French Morocco, Feb-15 Jul 1946)  
Giebelstadt, Germany, 25 Dec 1945  
Istres, France, 24 Feb 1946 (detachment operated from Dakar, West Africa, Jan-Mar 1946)  
Furstenfeldbruck, Germany, 16 Aug 1946  
Lechfeld, Germany, 13 Sep-25 Dec 1946  
Andrews Field, MD, 1 Jul 1947  
MacDill AFB, FL, 1 Aug 1948

#### ASSIGNMENTS

306 Bombardment Group, 1 Mar 1942-25 Dec 1946

306 Bombardment Group, 1 Jul 1947  
306 Bombardment Wing, 16 Jun 1952

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-17, 1942-1946  
B-29, 1948-1951  
B-50, 1950-1951  
B-47, 1951

### **COMMANDERS**

LTC B. B. Shields, #1954

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

Air Offensive, Europe  
Normandy  
Northern France  
Rhineland  
Ardennes-Alsace  
Central Europe  
Air Combat, EAME Theater

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

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
Germany, 11 Jan 1944  
Germany, 22 Feb 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award  
22 Jan 1953-8 Dec 1956

### **EMBLEM**

On a white cloud the representation of the Norse mythological god Thor issuant, habited in a red cloak, a gold cap with black horns, casting with his upraised right arm a black chain mace. The representation of Thor, the caster of thunderbolts is symbolic of the bombardment functions of the squadron. Rising from a clod, he is emblematic of the connection with the Air Forces. (Approved, 26 August 1942) The 368 emblem was designed by B-17 gunner Thomas Albert Donlon, Jr., of the bomber "Lady Winifred".

## MOTTO

## OPERATIONS

Combat in ETO, 9 Oct 1942-19 Apr 1945. Photo-mapping, Europe and Africa, Jun 1945-Jul 1946. Apparently not manned, 1 Jul 1947-1 Aug 1948.

Reactivated as a Strategic Air Command B-29 Superfortress squadron at MacDill Field, Florida in 1948, the squadron began upgrading to the new B-50 Superfortress, an advanced version of the B-29, in 1950. The B-50 gave the unit the capability to carry heavy loads of conventional weapons faster and farther; it was also designed for atomic bomb missions if necessary.

The squadron began receiving the first production models of the new Boeing B-47 in 1951 and despite initial difficulties, the Stratojet became the mainstay of the medium-bombing strength of SAC all throughout the 1950s.

1958 31 January During simulated Strategic take-off from Sidi Slimane Air Base, French Morocco, a USAF B-47E-25-LM Stratojet suffers failure of left-rear landing gear casting, tail strikes ground, rupturing fuel tank. Aircraft burns for seven hours. Fortunately, Mk. 36, Mod 1 TN nuclear weapon on board, in strike configuration, does not detonate, although weapon burns to slag within the confines of the wreckage.

It began sending its B-47s to AMARC at Davis-Monthan in 1963 when the aircraft was deemed no longer capable of penetrating Soviet airspace. The 368 was inactivated in 1963 with phaseout of the B-47.

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USAF Unit Histories  
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### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
Unit yearbook. *306 Bombardment Wing (M), 1954*. Army and Navy Publishing Co., Baton Rouge, LA. 1954.