

416th AIR EXPEDITONARY GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

416th Bombardment Group (Light) established, 25 Jan 1943

Activated, 5 Feb 1943

Redesignated 416th Bombardment Group, Light, 20 Aug 1943

Inactivated, 24 Oct 1945

416th Bombardment Wing, Heavy established and activated, 15 Nov 1962

Organized, 1 Feb 1963

416th Bombardment Group, Light and 416th Bombardment Wing, Heavy consolidated, 31 Jan 1984

Redesignated 416th Wing, 1 Sep 1991

Redesignated 416th Bomb Wing, 1 Jun 1992

Inactivated, 30 Sep 1995

Redesignated 416th Air Expeditionary Group, and converted to provisional status, 3 May 2002

Redesignated 416 Air Expeditionary Wing, 23 Feb 2010

STATIONS

Will Rogers Field, OK, 5 Feb 1943

Lake Charles AAFld, LA, 4 Jun 1943

Laurel AAFld, MS, 1 Nov 1943-1 Jan 1944

Wethersfield, England, 1 Feb 1944

Melun, France, 23 Sep 1944

Laon/Athies, France, 12 Feb 1945

Cormeilles-en-Vexin, France, 24 May 1945

Cambrai, France, 15 Jul 1945
Camp Chicago (near Laon), France, 27 Jul-Sep 1945
Camp Myles Standish, MA, 23-24 Oct 1945
Griffiss AFB, NY, 1 Feb 1963-30 Sep 1995

ASSIGNMENTS

III Air Support Command, 5 Feb 1943
III Bomber Command, 6 Aug 1943-Jan 1944
IX Bomber Command, 1 Feb 1944
97th Combat Bombardment (later, 97th Bombardment) Wing, 4 Feb 1944 (under operational control of 99th Combat bombardment Wing, 4 Feb-20 Mar 1944; IX Bomber Command, 11-18 Sep 1944; and 99th Combat Bombardment Wing, 19-28 Sep 1944)
Assembly Area command, 27 Jul-Oct 1945
Strategic Air Command, 15 Nov 1962
6th Air Division, 1 Feb 1963
57th Air Division, 2 Jul 1966
817th Air Division, 2 Sep 1966
45th Air Division, 2 Jul 1969
40th Air Division, 30 Jun 1971
45th Air Division, 1 Jul 1973
40th Air Division, 1 Dec 1982
Eighth Air Force, 8 Jun 1988
Ninth Air Force, 1 Jun 1992-30 Sep 1995
Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate at any time after 3 May 2002

ATTACHMENTS

II Tactical Air Division, 1-22 Nov 1943

WEAPON SYSTEMS

A-20, 1943, 1944-1945
A-26, 1944-1945
KC-135, 1963-1991
B-52G, 1963-1994

COMMANDERS

None (not manned), 5-14 Feb 1943
LTC Richard D. Dick, 15 Feb 1943
Col Harold L. Mace, 22 Oct 1943
Col Theodore R. Aylesworth, 3 Aug 1944
LTC James W. Townsend, 22 Jul 1945-unkn
None (not manned), 15 Nov 1962-31 Jan 1963
Col Robert G. David, 1 Feb 1963
Col William M. Shy, 31 Jul 1964
Col Clifford W. Hargrove, 8 Jul 1966

Col Eugene Q. Steffes Jr., 12 Jul 1966
Col Salvador E. Felices, 28 Jun 1967
Col Hilding L. Jacobson Jr., 24 May 1968
Col William A. Temple, 10 Apr 1969
Col Charles L. Britton, 21 Apr 1970
Col Bruce K. Brown, 23 Jun 1972
Col Richard Y. Newton Jr., 30 Apr 1973
Col William B. Maxson, 11 Jun 1973
Col Caryl W. Calhoun, 30 May 1974
Col Jack L. Watkins, 3 Jul 1974
Col George P. Tynan, 1 Aug 1975
Col Richard J. Kiefer, 15 Jul 1977
Col Harry G. Rudolph Jr., 1 Mar 1979
Col Frank R. Wink, 14 Mar 1980
Col Frederick J. Tillman, 28 Sep 1981
Col Walter E. Webb III, 9 May 1983
Col Brett M. Dula, 2 Jul 1985
Col James L. Vick, 20 Jan 1987
Col James M. Richards III, 5 Aug 1988
Col Michael F. Loughran, 11 Sep 1990
Col Michael S. Kudlacz, 27 Jul 1993
Col William E. Thiel, 12 May-30 Sep 1995

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Air Combat EAME Theater

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia

Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
France, 6-9 Aug 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

15 Sep 1981-31 Oct 1982

1 Jul 1984-30 Jun 1986

1 Jul 1989-30 Jun 1991

EMBLEM



416th Bombardment Group, Light emblem



416th Bombardment Wing, Heavy emblem

On a shield divided diagonally from the viewer's lower right to upper left, light blue on the viewer's left, a bend convergent to sinister base blue, black on the viewer's right, in the lower right an Air Force blue demi-sphere with diagonal axis, grid lined and rimmed white below two stylized yellow aircraft outlined Air Force blue ascending to the viewer's upper left. In the top of the shield, arched to the viewer's right, three white stars, one on the blue portion and two on the black. Around the shield a narrow yellow border. (Approved, 2 Mar 1964)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Activated on 5 Feb 1943 as a replacement training unit. Trained with A-20s and changed to an operational training unit in Sep 1943. Sailed to England, arriving at Wethersfield, England, on 1 Feb 1944. Assigned to Ninth Air Force, entered combat in early March, and during the next several weeks directed most of its attacks against V-weapon sites in France. Flew a number of missions against airfields and coastal defenses to help prepare for the invasion of Normandy. Supported the invasion in Jun 1944 by striking road junctions, marshalling yards, bridges, and railways. Assisted ground forces at Caen and St Lo in July and Brest later in the summer, hitting transportation facilities, supply dumps, radar installations, and other targets. In spite of intense resistance, the group bombed bridges, railways, rolling stock, and a radar station to disrupt the enemy's retreat through the Falaise Gap, 6-9 Aug 1944, and received a Distinguished Unit Citation for the missions.

Assisted the airborne attack on Holland in September. Supported the assault on the Siegfried Line by attacking transportation targets, warehouses, supply dumps, and defended villages in Germany. Moved to France in late Sep 1944 and began receiving A-26s. Used both types of aircraft until Feb 1945, after which only A-26s were used. Attacked transportation facilities, strong points, communications centers, and troop concentrations during the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945. Aided the Allied thrust into Germany by continuing strikes against transportation, communications, airfields, storage depots, and other objectives, Feb-May 1945. Bombed flak positions in support of the airborne assault across the Rhine in Mar 1945.

Flew its last operational mission of WW II against the Stod ammunitions dump in Czechoslovakia on 3 May 1945. Following the end of hostilities with Germany, trained for a move to the Pacific Theater. In late Jul 1945, ferried A-26 aircraft to US, intending to receive new aircraft and meet the ground echelon in the Pacific, but the end of the war with Japan resulted in a change in the Group's plans. The Group headquarters left France on 9 Oct 1945, inactivating at Camp Myles Standish, MA, on 24 Oct 1945.

The 416th Bombardment Wing replaced, and absorbed the resources of the 4039th Strategic Wing at Griffiss AFB, NY, on 1 Feb 1963.

Conducted strategic bombardment training and air refueling operations on a global scale to meet Air Force commitments, Feb 1963-Sep 1994. Supported SAC operations in the Far East and Southeast Asia with tankers and crews, Dec 1964-Dec 1975, and with B-52 crews, Jun 1968-1975. Assumed host wing responsibility at Griffiss AFB on 1 Jul 1970.

Began preparing for a conventional warfare role in 1988, but maintained a standing B-52 alert force until Sep 1991. Deployed KC-135 tankers to Seeb IAP, Oman, Aug 1990-Apr 1991 and B-52s to Spain, Diego Garcia, and England and flew combat missions in Southwest Asia, Jan-Apr 1991.

Ended worldwide refueling tanker support in Sep 1991. Prepared Griffiss AFB for realignment and closure 1994-1995. Inactivated on 30 Sep 1995.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 26 Aug 2011

Updated: 11 Jan 2013

Sources

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

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