

## 444<sup>th</sup> AIR EXPEDITIONARY SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

444<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium) constituted, 19 Jun 1942

Activated, 1 Jul 1942

Redesignated 444<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 9 Oct 1944

Inactivated, 8 Dec 1945

Redesignated 444<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Light, 26 May 1947

Activated in the Reserve, 9 Jul 1947

Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

Redesignated 444<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 6 Oct 1958

Activated, 1 Jan 1959

Discontinued, 15 Sep 1960

Redesignated 444<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Squadron, and converted to provisional status, 13 May 2011

#### STATIONS

MacDill Field, FL, 1 Jul 1942

Drane Field, FL, 8-27 Aug 1942

Hethel, England, 4 Oct 1942

La Senia, Algeria, 8 Jan 1943

Tafaraoui, Algeria, 28 Jan 1943

Montesquieu, Algeria, 14 Apr 1943

Massicault, Tunisia, 29 Jun 1943

El Bathan, Tunisia, 29 Jul 1943

Decimomannu, Sardinia, 9 Nov 1943  
Alto, Corsica, 19 Sep 1944  
Dijon/Longvic, France, 11 Nov 1944  
Dole/Tavaux, France, 2 Apr 1945  
Berghof, Germany, 19 Jun 1945  
Herzogenaurack, Germany, 23 Sep 1945  
Clastres, France, Oct-28 Nov 1945  
Camp Kilmer, NJ, 5-8 Dec 1945  
Mitchel Field (later Mitchel AFB), NY, 9 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949  
March AFB, CA, 1 Jan 1959-15 Sep 1960

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

320<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 1 Jul 1942-8 Dec 1945  
320<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 9 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949  
320<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, 1 Jan 1959-15 Sep 1960  
Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate at any time on or after 13 May 2011

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-26, 1942-1945  
B-26B  
B-26G  
B-26C  
B-47, 1959-1960

### **COMMANDERS**

Unkn, 1 Jul 1942  
Maj Richard E. Polk, 1 Jul 1943  
Cpt Theodore N. Dorman, 22 Jul 1943  
Maj Jack A. Sims, 7 Aug 1943-unkn  
LTC Robert A. Zaiser, unkn  
Maj James L. McCrory, 21 Dec 1943  
Lt J. C. Edwards, 16 Jan 1944  
Maj Edwin H. Brewer, 22 Jan 1944  
Cpt Hue E. Nunnallee, 6 Jun 1944  
Maj Ralph I. Berge, 31 Aug 1944  
Maj H. G. Cahan, 1 Jan 1945  
Maj C. W. McDonald, 6 May 1945-unkn  
Unkn, 9 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949  
LTC Gail D. Roberts, Jan 1959-unkn

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

None

## **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

Tunisia

Sicily

Naples-Foggia

Anzio

Rome-Arno

Northern France

Southern France

North Apennines

Rhineland

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Antisubmarine, EAME Theater

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

## **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations

Italy, 12 May 1944

France, 15 Mar 1945

French Croix de Guerre with Palm

Apr, May, and Jun 1944

## **EMBLEM**

Rabbit in foot-stomping pose was the original 444th Squadron emblem. Later the Squadron changed the design by having the rabbit riding on a shark mouth painted bomb, wearing long johns, helmet, goggles and scarf and holding a blunderbuss. The 444th Squadron adopted the famous shark-mouth insignia while stationed at Tafaraoui early in 1943. This marking continued with the squadron through V-E day.

On an Air Force blue disc bordered white, a red lightning flash bend-sinisterwise edged white, surmounted by a fierce and animated tiger in proper colors, balancing on his right hind foot, his left hind foot raised to strike, his jaws wide apart and menacing, a black cigar trimmed red and white falling from between his teeth; grasped in the tiger's right forepaw, a white bomb, shaded silver-gray, clutched tightly under his left foreleg a black book, pages white. (

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Antisubmarine patrols in the Mediterranean, Feb-Mar 1943; combat in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations and the European Theater of Operations, 22 Apr 1943-1 May 1945. Received a Distinguished Unit Citation for the 12 May 1944 bombing of enemy concentrations near Fondi, Italy in support of Fifth Army's advance toward Rome. Received a second DUC for participating in a dawn-to-dusk attack on the Siegfried Line, 15 Mar 1945. Conducted global bombardment training, 1959-1960.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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