

## 461<sup>st</sup> OPERATIONS GROUP



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

461<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (Heavy) constituted, 19 May 1943  
Activated, 1 Jul 1943  
Inactivated, 28 Aug 1945  
Redesignated 461<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group, Light  
Activated, 23 Dec 1953  
Redesignated 461<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group, Tactical, Oct 1955  
Inactivated, 8 Jan 1958  
Redesignated 461<sup>st</sup> Operations Group, 1 Sep 2011  
Activated, 1 Oct 2011

#### STATIONS

Wendover Field, UT, 1 Jul 1943  
Gowen Field, ID, 29 Jul 1943  
Kearns, UT, 11 Sep 1943  
Wendover Field, UT, 30 Sep 1943  
Hammer Field, CA, 30 Oct 1943-Jan 1944  
Torretto Airfield, Italy, 20 Feb 1944-Jul 1945  
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 22 Jul-28 Aug 1945  
Hill AFB, UT, 23 Dec 1953-8 Apr 1956  
Blythville AFB, AR, 1956-1958  
Robins AFB, GA, 1 Oct 2011

#### ASSIGNMENTS

Second Air Force, 1 Jul 1943  
Fourth Air Force, 30 Oct 1943

IV Fighter Command, 7 Nov 1943  
55<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, 5 Feb 1944  
49<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, 14 Mar 1944-Jul 1945  
Second Air Force, c. 22 Jul-28 Aug 1945  
461<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Wing, 23 Dec 1953-8 Jan 1958  
461<sup>st</sup> Air Control Wing, 1 Oct 2011

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-24, 1943-1945  
B-26, 1953-1955  
B-57, 1955-1958

### **COMMANDERS**

Unkn, 1 Jul-12 Aug 1943  
LTC Col Willis G. Carter, 12 Aug 1943  
Col Frederic E. Glantzberg, 25 Oct 1943  
Col Philip R. Hawes, 22 Sep 1944  
Col Brooks A. Lawhon, 20 Dec 1944  
Col Craven C Rogers, 16 Apr 1945-unkn  
Maj Gordon Baker, Dec 1953  
LTC Donald F. Blake, 4 Feb 1954  
LTC Robert F. Price, 20 Feb 1954  
Col Maxwell W. Roman, 14 Jul 1954  
LTC John A. McVey, 16 May 1955  
LTC William F. Furman, 1 Aug 1955  
Col Robert W. Paulson, 1 Jul 1956  
LTC Lawrence M. McNally, 10 Jun 1957  
Maj William K. Bush, 12 Jun 1957  
Col John D. Bridges, 20 Jun 1957  
Maj Charles F. Wolfe, 21 Jun 1957  
Col John D. Bridges, 29 Jun 1957  
LTC Charles Cook, 16 Sep 1957  
Col John D. Bridges, 25 Sep 1957-unkn

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

None

#### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Air Combat, EAME Theater  
Air Offensive, Europe  
Rome-Arno; Normandy  
Northern France

Southern France  
North Apennines  
Rhineland  
Central Europe  
Po Valley

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
Budapest, Hungary, 13 Apr 1944  
Ploesti, Rumania, 15 Jul 1944

### **EMBLEM**

Per bend Azure and Celeste, a lightning bolt as a bend point to sinister base Or, in sinister chief a decrescent Argent, in dexter base a sun in splendor of the third, detailed Old Gold, all within a diminished bordure of the third. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "461ST OPERATIONS GROUP" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The lightning bolt is symbolic of power from the sky, able to destroy any aggressor. It also represents command of the electromagnetic spectrum. The moon and sun indicate the capability to carry out the Wing's mission in any weather, day or night.

### **MOTTO**

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

Combat in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations (MTO) and the European Theater of Operations (ETO), Apr 1944-Apr 1945. Received two Distinguished Unit Citations (DUCs): on 13 Apr 1944 for attacking an aircraft components factory in Budapest, Hungary; and on 15 Jul 1944 for attacking oil facilities at Ploesti, Rumania. Dropped supplies to prisoner of war (POW) camps in Austria, May 1945.

Moved to the Mediterranean theater, Jan-Feb 1944, the air echelon flying B-24's via the South Atlantic and stopping in North Africa before joining the ground echelon in Italy. Began combat with Fifteenth AF in Apr 1944. Engaged chiefly in bombardment of communications, industries, and other strategic objectives in Italy, France, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Austria, Rumania, Yugoslavia, and Greece. Supported Fifteenth AF's counter-air operations by bombing enemy airdromes and aircraft centers, receiving a DUG for a mission on 13 Apr 1944 when the group battled its way through enemy defenses to attack an aircraft components plant in Budapest. Participated in the effort against the enemy's oil supply by flying missions to such oil

centers as Brux, Blech-hammer, Moosbierbaum, Vienna, and Ploesti. Received second DUG for a mission against oil facilities at Ploesti in Jul 1944 when, despite flak, clouds, smoke, and fighter attacks, the group bombed its objective. Also operated in support of ground forces and flew some interdiction missions. Hit artillery positions in support of the invasion of Southern France in Aug 1944 and flew supply missions to France in Sep. Aided the Allied offensive in Italy in Apr 1945 by attacking gun emplacements and troop concentrations. Dropped supplies to prisoner-of-war camps in Austria during May 1945.

Conducted combat training in B-26s before converting to B-57s, 1953-1958.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

Sources

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