

## 482 OPERATIONS GROUP



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

482 Bombardment Group (Pathfinder) established, 10 Aug 1943  
Activated, 20 Aug 1943  
Redesignated 482 Bombardment Group, Heavy, 11 Nov 1944  
Inactivated, 1 Sep 1945  
Redesignated 482 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, 3 Jun 1947  
Activated in the Reserve, 26 Jun 1947  
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949  
Redesignated 482 Troop Carrier Group, Medium, 26 May 1952  
Activated in the Reserve, 14 Jun 1952  
Inactivated, 1 Dec 1952  
Redesignated 482 Fighter-Bomber Group, 12 Aug 1955  
Activated in the Reserve, 18 May 1955  
Inactivated, 16 Nov 1957  
Redesignated 482 Tactical Fighter Group, 31 Jul 1985  
Redesignated 482 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992  
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Aug 1992

#### STATIONS

Alconbury, England, 20 Aug 1943-21 May 1945  
Victorville AAFld, CA, 5 Jul-1 Sep 1945  
New Orleans Muni Aprt, LA, 26 Jun 1947-27 Jun 1949  
Miami Intl Aprt, FL, 14 Jun-1 Dec 1952  
Dobbins AFB, GA, 18 May 1955-16 Nov 1957

Homestead AFB (later, ARS), FL, 1 Aug 1992

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

1 Bombardment Division, 20 Aug 1943

VIII Air Force Composite Command, 14 Feb 1944

VIII Fighter Command, 1 Oct 1944

1 Air Division, 1 Jan 1945

AAF Western Flying Training Command, 5 Jul-1 Sep 1945

Tenth Air Force, 26 Jun 1947

307 Bombardment Wing (later, 307 Air Division) 17 Oct 1947-27 Jun 1949

482 Troop Carrier Wing, 14 Jun-1 Dec 1952

482 Fighter-Bomber Wing, 18 May 1955-16 Nov 1957

482 Fighter Wing, 1 Aug 1992

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-17, 1943-1945

B-24, 1943-1945

Unkn, 1947-1949

C-46, 1952

F-80, 1955

F-84, 1955-1957

T-28, 1955-1957

T-33, 1955-1957

F-86, 1957

C-119, 1957

F-16, 1992

### **COMMANDERS**

Col Baskin R. Lawrence Jr., 20 Aug 1943

Col Howard Moore, 1 Dec 1943

LTC Clement W. Bird, 15 Dec 1944-unkn

Unkn, 26 Jun 1947-27 Jun 1949

Unkn, 14 Jun-1 Dec 1952

Unkn, 18 May 1955-16 Nov 1957

Col Thomas F. Oatmeyer, 1 Aug 1992

Col Steven R. Fulghum, 26 Sep 1993

Col Michael J. Weininger, Sep 1999

Col Derek P. Rydholm, Mar 2000

Lt Col Scott Goodfellow, 1 May 2001

Lt Col Mark S. Meeks, 1 Apr 2004

Lt Col Ross R. Anderson, 13 Jul 2008

Lt Col Michael F. Hernandez, 23 Oct 2011

Col Michael F. Lesman, 1 Dec 2015

Col Mark D. Van Brunt, 25 Apr 2019

Col Craig R. Simmons, 1 Jul 2021

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Air Offensive, Europe  
Normandy  
Northern France  
Rhineland  
Ardennes-Alsace  
Central Europe

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation  
Germany, 11 Jan 1944

#### Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Aug 1992-1 Oct 1993  
1 Nov 1993-30 Aug 1995  
1 Oct 1999-30 Sep 2001  
1 Oct 2004-30 Sep 2006  
1 Oct 2006-30 Sep 2008  
1 Oct 2008-30 Sep 2009  
1 Oct 2009-30 Sep 2010

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Activated 20 Aug. 43 at Alconbury. Original personnel specially selected crews from VIII BC plus a few key men who had been involved with 329BS Gee experiments earlier in year. Ground crews from disbanded 479th Anti-Sub. Group. Initial experiments under auspices of 92BG, which also provided personnel. Had three-fold mission, combat operations; to develop technique and test radar devices; train pathfinder crews. As lead aircraft, 482BG B-17s and B-24s usually flew missions from stations of other groups, and some key personnel of host group flying in the PFF a/c. Ceased regular operations late March but continued to undertake special operations, notably D-Day when 18 crews were provided to lead bomb groups. Transferred Composite Command Feb. 44 when emphasis shifted to training radar operators. Initially RAF instructors, and courses begun 21 Feb. 44. Training and experimentation remained its chief role for the remainder of war. From Aug. 44 to

April 45 conducted 202 radar scope and 'nickling' sorties over hostile territory without loss: 45 tons bombs.

Provided a pathfinder force of radar-equipped aircraft that preceded bomber formations flying from England to Germany and indicated targets such as airfields, submarine installations, and marshalling yards obscured by weather. Earned a Distinguished Unit Citation for 11 Jan 1944 mission leading Eighth Air Force bombers to targets such as aircraft factories in central Germany. Although weather prevented effective fighter protection against enemy aircraft, the group bombed assigned targets and destroyed many enemy airplanes. Individual aircraft and crews led Eighth Air Force elements on attacks against factories at Gotha, Brunswick, Schweinfurt, and other German industrial centers during Big Week, 20-25 Feb. Removed from combat status in Mar to operate a school for pathfinder crews of Eighth Air Force. With radar, photographed parts of France, the Low Countries, and Germany for training and briefing combat crews. The group also tested radar and other navigational equipment. While on experimental flights, often bombed bridges, fuel depots, power plants, and railroad stations. On 6 Jun, supported the Allied invasion of Normandy by flying a pathfinder mission to bomb coastal defenses and by leading attacks on traffic centers behind the beachhead.

Redeployed USA May/Jun 1945. Air echelon between 27-30 May 1945 Ground echelon sailed on Queen Elizabeth from Gourock 24 Jun 1945.

First Mission: 27 Sep 1943

Last Mission: 22 Mar 1944

Total Sorties:

Total Bomb Tonnage: 4967 tons

Aircraft missing aircraft: 7

Enemy aircraft claims: 14-1-12

Trained in the Reserve as a heavy bombardment group, Jun 1947-Jun 1949; as a troop carrier group, Jun-Dec 1952; and as a fighter-bomber group flying various fighter and trainer aircraft, May 1955-Nov 1957.

From Aug 1992 controlled the 482 Fighter Wing's flying and aerial port operations.

When Hurricane Andrew devastated Homestead later that month, flying operations moved to Wright-Patterson AFB, Sep-Dec 1992 and to MacDill AFB, Feb 1993-Mar 1994, before returning to Homestead.

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USAF Unit Histories

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Sources

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