

# 502<sup>nd</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP, VERY HEAVY

## MISSION

## LINEAGE

502<sup>nd</sup> Bombardment Group, Very Heavy constituted, 25 May 1944

Activated, 1 Jun 1944

Inactivated, 15 Apr 1946

## STATIONS

Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 1 Jun 1944

Dalhart AAFld, TX, 5 Jun 1944

Grand Island AAFld, NE, 26 Sep 1944-7 Apr 1945

Northwest Field, Guam, 12 May 1945-15 Apr 1946

## ASSIGNMENTS

## WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-29

## COMMANDERS

LTC Estley R. Farley, 9 Jul 1944

LTC Robert C. McBride, 1 Aug 1944

Col Kenneth O. Sanborn, 6 Oct 1944-15 Apr 1946

## HONORS

### Service Streamers

### Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Japan

Eastern Mandates

Western Pacific

### Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

### Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation  
Japan, 5-15 Aug 1945

**EMBLEM**

None

**MOTTO**

**NICKNAME**

**OPERATIONS**

Entered combat on 30 Jun 1945 when the group bombed enemy installations on Rota. Bombed Japanese-held Truk early in Jul 1945. Flew its first mission against the Japanese home islands on 15 Jul 1945, and afterward operated principally against the enemy's petroleum industry. Awarded a DUC for attacks on the coal liquefaction plant at Ube, the tank farm at Amagasaki, and the Nippon oil refinery at Tsuchizaki, in Aug 1945. After the war, dropped food and supplies to Allied prisoners in Japan and participated in several show-of-force missions over Japan.