

46 EXPEDITIONARY SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

46 Bombardment Squadron, Light constituted, 10 Mar 1947
Activated in the Reserve, 16 Apr 1947
Inactivated, 2 Sep 1949
Activated in the Reserve, 10 Oct 1949
Ordered to active service, 10 Mar 1951
Inactivated, 22 Mar 1951
Redesignated 46 Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 12 Apr 1955
Activated in the Reserve, 18 May 1955
Inactivated, 16 Nov 1957
Redesignated 46 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy and activated, 15 Nov 1962
Organized, 1 Feb 1963
Redesignated 46 Bomb Squadron, 1 Sep 1991
Inactivated, 16 Jul 1994
Redesignated 46 Expeditionary Special Operations Squadron, and converted to provisional status, 24 Jan 2005

STATIONS

Mitchel Field (later, Mitchel AFB), NY, 16 Apr 1947
Reading Municipal Airport, PA, 27 Jun-2 Sep 1949

Birmingham Municipal Airport, AL, 10 Oct 1949-22 Mar 1951
Memphis Municipal Airport, TN, 18 May 1955-16 Nov 1957
Grand Forks AFB, ND, 1 Feb 1963-16 Jul 1994

ASSIGNMENTS

319 Bombardment Group, 16 Apr 1947-2 Sep 1949
319 Bombardment Group, 10 Oct 1949-22 Mar 1951
319 Fighter-Bomber Group, 18 May 1955-16 Nov 1957
319 Bombardment Wing, 1 Feb 1963
319 Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991
319 Bomb Group, 1 Oct 1993-16 Jul 1994
Air Force Special Operations Command to activate or inactivate at any time after 24 Jan 2005

WEAPON SYSTEMS

F-84, 1955-1957
F-86 1957
B-52, 1963-1986
B-1, 1987-1994

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 16 Apr 1947-2 Sep 1949
Unkn, 10 Oct 1949-22 Mar 1951
Unkn, 18 May 1955-16 Nov 1957
Lt Col Robert J. Horrigan, 1 Feb 1963
Lt Col Richard A. Bosworth, Jul 1963
Lt Col Milton J. Jones, Mar 1964
Lt Col Robert C. Flanders, 15 Nov 1965
Lt Col William D. Coleman, 15 Mar 1966
Lt Col John N. Hoffman, 1 Aug 1966
Lt Col Henry D. Rauchenstein, 28 Mar 1968
Lt Col Thomas H. Meyers, 9 Jun 1969 (Temporary)
Lt Col Donald L. Puckett, 25 Aug 1969
Lt Col Maynard L. Park, 2 Feb 1970
Lt Col John H. Thigpen Jr., 2 Feb 1971
Lt Col Oliver J. Cook Jr., 1 Apr 1972
Lt Col Elmer Funderburk Jr., 6 Nov 1972
Lt Col Donald S. Aunapu, 17 Jul 1973
Lt Col Tim T. Daugherty, 1 Sep 1974
Lt Col Robert L. Hraby, 1 Dec 1975
Lt Col John R. Allen, 28 Feb 1977
Lt Col Robert H. Zannini, 5 Jul 1978
Lt Col Kenneth A. Anderson, 14 Oct 1980
Lt Col Douglas B. Aitken, 2 Oct 1981
Lt Col Terry A. Burke, 27 May 1983

Lt Col Alvin W. Jorgensen, 22 Jun 1984
Lt Col William R. Hodges, 8 Jul 1985
Lt Col Silas R. Johnson, Jr., 3 17 Jun 1986
Lt Col William D. Currence, 13 Apr 1987
Lt Col John P. Priecko, 15 Jun 1988
Lt Col Ross H. Younkin, 11 Oct 1989
Lt Col William J. Moran, 14 Jun 1991
Lt Col Jack A. Wylie Jr., 26 Feb 1993
Unkn 1 Oct 1993-16 Jul 1994

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1977-30 Jun 1979

1 Jul 1987-30 Jun 1989

1 Jul 1991-30 Jun 1993

EMBLEM



46 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy emblem approved, 19 Sep 1983

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Active in the Reserve from 1947-1949 and 1949-1951, the 46 participated in routine training activities. Activated in the Reserve again in May 1955, the squadron evidently trained in and flew the F-84, placing emphasis on gunnery and flying training. Its primary mission became one of air defense of Memphis and the mid-South. In June 1957, the squadron underwent transition training to fly the F-86. USAF changeover to troop carrier functions led to the 46's inactivation in Nov 1957. From 1968, the squadron provided aircraft and personnel to participate in Arc Light combat mission in Southeast Asia, and over the years participated in exercises such as Bar None, Top Rung, Snowtime, Big Blast, High Noon, and Red Flag. In Sep 1987 the squadron acquired the B-1B which it flew until inactivation in 1994.

46 Bombardment Squadron supplied crews and support to tactical war in Southeast Asia 1969

46 Bombardment Squadron flew eighty-seven sorties in support of Operation Hardhead. 1964

Members of 46 Bombardment Squadron participated in mock attack against carrier group at Miramar Naval Air Station CA. 1989

Crews from 46 BS deployed to Pease AFB MA for COMLANT fleet exercise. 319 BW crews participated in Red Flag, Copper Flag and two joint exercises with navy. 1989

Acquired B-52Hs previously used by the 30 BS/4133 SW on 1/2/63 and operated this model until 1982 when re-equipped with the B-52G. Disposed of B-52G in 1986 and subsequently gained the B-1B in 1987.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

Created: 25 Jan 2025

Updated:

Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. *319 BMW and 18th FIS, Grand Forks AFB, ND.* @1964.