

9th OPERATIONS GROUP



LINEAGE

9th Group (Observation) established, 19 Jul 1922
Organized, 1 Aug 1922
Redesignated 9th Observation Group, 25 Jan 1923
Redesignated 9th Bombardment Group, 1 Mar 1935
Redesignated 9th Bombardment Group (Medium), 6 Dec 1939
Redesignated 9th Bombardment Group (Heavy), 20 Nov 1940
Redesignated 9th Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, 28 Mar 1944
Inactivated, 20 Oct 1948
Redesignated 9th Strategic Reconnaissance Group, and activated, 1 May 1949
Redesignated 9th Bombardment Group, Heavy, 1 Apr 1950
Redesignated 9th Bombardment Group, Medium, 2 Oct 1950
Inactivated, 16 Jun 1952
Redesignated 9th Strategic Reconnaissance Group, 31 Jul 1985
Redesignated 9th Operations Group, 29 Aug 1991
Activated, 1 Sep 1991

STATIONS

Mitchel Field, NY, 1 Aug 1922-6 Nov 1940
Rio Hato, Panama, 12 Nov 1940
Waller Field, Trinidad, 30 Oct 1941-31 Oct 1942
Orlando AB, FL, 31 Oct 1942
Dalhart AAFld, TX, 9 Mar 1944
McCook AAFld, NE, 19 May-18 Nov 1944
North Field, Tinian, 28 Dec 1944
Clark Field, Luzon, 15 Apr 1946
Harmon Field, Guam, 9 Jun 1947-20 Oct 1948
Fairfield-Suisun (later, Travis) AFB, CA, 1 May 1949-16 Jun 1952

Beale AFB, CA, 1 Sep 1991

ASSIGNMENTS

II Corps Area, 1 Aug 1922

19th Composite Wing, 1 Apr 1931

II Corps Area, c. 25 Jan 1933

2nd Wing, 1 Mar 1935

19th Bombardment Wing, 12 Nov 1940

VI Bomber Command, 25 Oct 1941

AAF School of Applied Tactics (later, AAF Tactical Center), 31 Oct 1942

Second Air Force, 9 Mar 1944

313th Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy, c. 28 Dec 1944

Twentieth Air Force, 9 Jun 1947-20 Oct 1948

9th Strategic Reconnaissance (later, 9th Bombardment) Wing, 1 May 1949-16 Jun 1952

9th (later, 9th Reconnaissance) Wing, 1 Sep 1991

ATTACHMENTS

VI Interceptor [later, VI Fighter] Command, 28 Jan 1942-unkn 1942

WEAPON SYSTEMS

O-1

O-11

O-13

O-25

O-31

O-38

O-39

O-40

O-43

YO-31

YO-35

YO-40

OA-2

A-3

B-6

C-8, 1922-1936

B-10, 1936-1938

B-18, 1938-1942

B-17, 1942-1944

B-24, 1942-1944

B-25, 1943-1944

B-26, 1943-1944

C-73, 1943-1944

B-29, 1944-1947

RB-17, 1949-1950

B-29, 1949-1951

RB-29, 1949-1950
B-36, 1949-1950
KC-135, 1991-1993
U-2, 1991
T-38, 1991
TR-1, 1991-1993
SR-71, 1995-1999

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 1922-1929
Maj William O. Ryan, 1929-unkn
Col Follett Bradley, Jun 1933-May 1934
Col Walter H. Frank, 1934-1936
LTC Carl W. Connell, 1 Sep 1936
Col Ross F. Cole, Apr 1940
Maj Charles F. Born, Aug 1941
LTC Stuart P. Wright, Jan 1942
LTC Gerald E. Williams, 1942
Col Harry G. Montgomery, 10 Nov 1942
Col James T. Connally, 15 Dec 1942
Col Donald W. Eisenhower, 1 May 1944
Col Henry C. Huglin, 6 Mar 1945
Col David Wade, 17 Sep 1945-c. 25 Apr 1947
None (not manned), 25 Apr 1947-20 Oct 1948
LTC Walter Y. Lucas, 1 May 1949
Col Donald W. Eisenhower, 24 Aug 1949
Col William P Brett, 27 Mar 1950
LTC Walter Y. Lucas, 24 Jun 1950
Col Clifford J. Heflin, 6 Jul 1950-10 Feb 1951
None (not manned), 10 Feb 1951-16 Jun 1952
Col Robert F. Behler, 22 Nov 1991
Col George A. Lafferty, 30 Jul 1993
Col James F. Shambo, 3 Jan 1995
Col James P. Hunt, 3 Sep 1996
Col R. Kent Traylor, 25 Jun 1998
Col Alan L. Vogel, 23 Aug 2000
Col Gregory D. Augst, 16 Jul 2002
Col Gregory A. Kern, 8 Jun 2004
Col Harry D. Polumbo, 15 May 2006

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Antisubmarine, American Theater
Eastern Mandates
Western Pacific
Air Offensive, Japan

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Kawasaki, Japan, 15-16 Apr 1945
Japan, 13-28 May 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Sep 1991-30 Jun 1993
1 Jul 1994-30 Jun 1995
1 Jun 1996-31 May 1998
1 Jun 1998-31 May 2000
1 Jun 2000-31 May 2002
1 Jun 2002-31 May 2004

EMBLEM

Group will use the wing emblem with the group designation in the scroll.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The group's mission is global high-altitude manned aerial reconnaissance and surveillance.

Trained, took part in maneuvers, and participated in air shows, 1922-1940. Performed antisubmarine patrols and reconnaissance of the Vichy French fleet at Martinique, Dec 1941-Oct 1942, using B-18 aircraft from a base in Trinidad. Returned without personnel or equipment to the United States on 31 Oct 1942. The group trained cadres for heavy and medium bombardment units that had received ground instruction at the AAF School of Applied Tactics in Orlando, Florida. Developed operational bombardment tactics and tested special devices and equipment. After Mar 1944, prepared for combat. Moved to the Pacific theater at the end of the year and commenced operations late in Jan 1945 with attacks against Japanese-held Maug Island in the northern Marianas. After that, struck targets in Japan, at first flying high-altitude daylight missions against industrial targets. In Mar 1945, began incendiary raids at night. Earned a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for bombing the industrial area of Kawasaki in Apr 1945. In Apr and May, assisted the Allied assault on Okinawa by striking airfields that the Japanese were using to launch aircraft against the invasion force. Dropped mines in Japan's Inland Sea to disrupt enemy shipping, earning a second DUC in May 1945. Immediately after the war, dropped food and supplies to former Allied prisoners and took part in show-of-force missions over the Japanese home islands. After redesignation as a strategic

reconnaissance group on 1 May 1949, flew missions from California, 1949-1950. Resumed a strategic bombardment mission in Apr 1950, training until Feb 1951. U.S. military operations in Afghanistan in late 2001 and Iraq in early 2003, the group also flew the unmanned RQ-4 Global Hawk aircraft.

The 9th Operations Group includes the squadrons tasked to execute the 9th Reconnaissance Wing's operational mission. The group has six squadrons totaling more than 500 personnel. It is responsible as the Department of Defense's single-point manager for the U-2 Dragon Lady and RQ-4 Global Hawk high-altitude reconnaissance fleets. It organizes, trains and equips U-2 and RQ-4 combat elements for worldwide employment to include peacetime intelligence gathering, contingency operations, conventional war fighting and Emergency War Order support.



Air Force Order of Battle
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.