

## **28 OPERATIONS GROUP**

### **MISSION**

The 28 Operations Group develops the best B-IB operations team to provide rapid, sustainable combat power anywhere, anytime in the world. Its mission is to provide combat-ready aircrew to project global power anytime in support of the Combatant Commander's objectives of maintaining combat ready aircrew and planning/ executing training missions essential to attain versatile power projection and global reach.

### **LINEAGE**

28 Composite Group established, 22 Dec 1939  
Activated, 1 Feb 1940  
Redesignated 28 Bombardment Group (Composite), 11 Dec 1943  
Inactivated, 20 Oct 1945  
Redesignated 28 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, 15 Jul 1946  
Activated, 4 Aug 1946  
Redesignated 28 Bombardment Group, Medium, 28 May 1948  
Redesignated 28 Bombardment Group, Heavy, 16 May 1949  
Redesignated 28 Strategic Reconnaissance Group, 1 Apr 1950  
Redesignated 28 Strategic Reconnaissance Group, Heavy, 16 Jul 1950  
Inactivated, 16 Jun 1952  
Redesignated 28 Bombardment Group, Heavy, 31 Jul 1985  
Redesignated 28 Operations Group, 29 Aug 1991  
Activated, 1 Sep 1991

### **STATIONS**

March Field, CA, 1 Feb 1940  
Moffett Field, CA, 10 Dec 1940-12 Feb 1941  
Elmendorf Field, Alaska, 23 Feb 1941  
Adak, Aleutian Islands, 14 Mar 1943  
Shemya, Aleutian Islands, 26 Feb 1944-20 Oct 1945

Grand Island AAFld, NE, 4 Aug-6 Oct 1946  
Elmendorf Field, Alaska, 20 Oct 1946-25 Apr 1947  
Rapid City AAB (later, Rapid City Afld; Rapid City AFB), SD, 3 May 1947-16 Jun 1952  
Ellsworth AFB, SD, 1 Sep 1991

### **DEPLOYED STATIONS**

RAF Station Scampton, England, 19 Jul-19 Oct 1948

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

1 Wing (later, 1<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Wing), 1 Feb 1940  
Alaska Defense Command, 23 Feb 1941 Alaskan (later, 11, Eleventh) Air Force, 15 Jan 1942  
XI Bomber Command, 19 Mar 1943  
Eleventh Air Force, 31 Mar 1944-20 Oct 1945  
Fifteenth Air Force, 4 Aug 1946  
Strategic Air Command, 1 Jan 1947  
Alaskan Air Command, 4 Feb 1947  
Fifteenth Air Force, 10 Mar 1947  
28 Bombardment (later, 28 Strategic Reconnaissance) Wing, 15 Aug 1947-16 Jun 1952  
28 Wing (later, 28 BombWing), 1 Sep 1991

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Air Field Forces, Alaska Defense Command, 21 May-16 Oct 1941  
Air Force, Alaska Defense Command, 17 Oct 1941-14 Jan 1942  
Provisional XI Bomber Command, c. 5 Feb 1942-18 Mar 1943  
Alaskan Air Command, 20 Oct 1946-3 Feb 1947  
3 Air Division, 19 Jul-18 Oct 1948

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-18, 1940-1943  
P-36, 1940, 1941-1942  
B-25, 1941-1945  
P-40, 1941-1942  
A-29, 1942-1943  
B-17, 1942-1943  
B-24, 1942-1945  
B-26, 1942-1943  
LB-30, 1942  
AT-23, 1944-1945  
RB-34, 1944  
B/TB-26, 1945  
B-29, 1946-1950  
B-36, 1949-1950  
RB-29, 1950  
RB-36, 1950-1951

B-1, 1991  
KC-135, 1991-1992  
EC-135, 1991-1992

### **COMMANDERS**

Lt Col William H. Crom, 1 Feb 1940  
Maj Lotha A. Smith, 12 Feb 1940  
Maj William O. Eareckson, 1 Sep 1940  
Maj Donald W. Titus, 21 Oct 1940  
Maj William O. Eareckson, 27 May 1941  
Maj Norman D. Sillin, 7 Nov 1941  
Lt Col William O. Eareckson, 1 Jan 1942  
Col Earl H. Deford, 23 Jan 1943  
Maj Robert C. Orth, 19 Mar 1943  
Lt Col Jack N. Donohew, 27 Mar 1943  
Lt Col Ralph W. Rodieck, 18 Apr 1943  
Lt Col John W. Massion, 27 Oct 1943  
Lt Col Alexander W. Bryant, 4 Jan 1944  
Col Robert H. Herman, 1 Apr 1944  
Lt Col John W. Massion, 24 Jul 1944  
Col Robert H. Herman, 26 Aug 1944  
Lt Col John C. Larson, 26 May 1945  
Col Robert H. Herman, 27 Jun 1945  
Col Walter L. Wheeler, 21 Jul 1945  
Lt Col John C. Larson, 27 Sep-20 Oct 1945  
Col Richard M. Montgomery, 4 Aug 1946  
Col Thomas J. Gent Jr., 23 Aug 1946  
Lt Col Donald W. Lang, 15 Aug 1947  
Lt Col Everett W. Best, 24 Dec 1947  
Lt Col Frank W. Iseman Jr., 16 Apr 1948  
Lt Col Solomon Cutcher, 27 Jun 1948  
Col John B. Henry Jr., 10 Jul 1948  
Lt Col Everett W. Best, 25 Apr 1949  
Col William P. Brett, 2 May 1949  
Lt Col Solomon Cutcher, 21 Mar 1950  
Col Donald W. Isenhardt, 3 Apr 1950  
Col Frank W. Iseman Jr., 24 Jul 1950  
Col Bertram C. Harrison, 18 Oct 1950  
Col Richard E. Ellsworth, 10 Feb 1951-16 Jun 1952 (Additional Duty)  
Col Phillip R. Lumpkin, 1 Sep 1991  
Lt Col Anthony M. Beat, 24 Apr 1992  
Col Michael A. Kenny, 8 May 1992  
Col Stephen Luebbert, 30 Jun 1995  
Col Glenn F. Spears, 19 Aug 1996

Col Richard Y. Newton Iii, 17 Jul 1998  
Unkn, 1 Jan-4 Mar 2000  
Col David W. McFaddin, 5 Mar 2000  
Col Joseph D. Brown, 17 Sep 2001  
Col Timothy Leaptrott, 12 Aug 2003  
Lt Col David B. Sumrell, 23 Nov 2004  
Col Gerald P. Plourde, 25 Mar 2005  
Col Karl J. Shawhan, 20 Jul 2007

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Air Offensive, Japan  
Aleutian Islands

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation  
Kuril Islands, 1 Apr 1944-13 Aug 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device  
1 Jun 2001-31 May 2003

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards  
1 Sep 1991-1 Jul 1993  
1 Jun-30 Nov 1994  
1 Jun 1997-31 May 1999  
1 Jun 2003-31 May 2005

### **EMBLEM**

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

### **MOTTO**

### **OPERATIONS**

Organized in Feb 1940 after outbreak of World War II in Europe. Moved to Alaska one year later, where it trained for Arctic warfare and served to defend the territory after Japan attacked the United States at the end of 1941.

Constituted in the Regular Army on 22 December 1939 as Headquarters and Headquarters

Squadron, 28 Composite Group. Activated on 1 February 1940 at March Field, CA. Transferred on 7 October 1940 to Moffett Field, CA. Departed from the port of San Francisco on the U.S.A.T. St. Mihiel for duty stations in Alaska. Arrived 23 February 1941 at Elmendorf Field, TA.

The group helped force the withdrawal of Japanese ships that attacked Dutch Harbor in Jun 1942, flew missions against Kiska until the Japanese evacuated that island in Aug 1943, bombed and strafed enemy shipping, harbor facilities, canneries, fisheries, and military installations in the Kurils, and flew photographic reconnaissance missions. Earned a Distinguished Unit Citation for attacks on the Kurils that caused Japan to divert some of her air power to that northern area, weakening Japanese opposition to Allied forces to the south, Apr 1944-Aug 1945. Flew its last World War II bombing mission on 13 Aug 1945, but continued reconnaissance operations in the Kurils into Sep 1945. Inactivated in October, but activated a few months later in Nebraska. Trained in Alaska for Arctic bombardment missions.

In October 1946, the 28 Bomb Group, a B-29 unit stationed at Grand Island Army Air Field, Nebraska, deployed to Elmendorf, Alaska, for six months temporary duty (TDY) training in arctic operations. This was the first time an entire SAC bomb group was sent outside the continental limits of the United States. In April 1947, the 28 returned to its new home at Rapid City Army Air Field, South Dakota.

In 1949, switched to a strategic reconnaissance mission. Non-operational from 10 Feb 1951 to Jun 1952, when it inactivated.

Activated in 1991 to manage 28 Bombardment Wing operations, with squadrons devoted to bombing, aerial refueling, and airborne command post missions.

In 1992, it gave up its aerial refueling and airborne command and control squadrons. In 1993, the group operated the first B-1s to fly around the world. Engaged in a series of training exercises during the 1990s, deploying elements globally. Deployed B-1 crews and aircraft to Southwest Asia for show of force and combat operations against Iraq in 1997 and 1998.

After terrorist attacks against the United States in Sep 2001, deployed B-1s and crews to Diego Garcia, an island in the Indian Ocean, for bombing missions against targets in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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