

## 47 OPERATIONS GROUP



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

47 Bombardment Group (Light) established, 20 Nov 1940  
Activated, 15 Jan 1941  
Redesignated 47 Bombardment Group, Light, Night Attack, 1 May 1946  
Redesignated 47 Bombardment Group, Light, 22 Aug 1948  
Inactivated, 2 Oct 1949  
Activated, 12 Mar 1951  
Inactivated, 8 Feb 1955  
Redesignated 47 Operations Group, 9 Dec 1991  
Activated, 15 Dec 1991

#### STATIONS

McChord Field, WA, 15 Jan 1941  
Fresno, CA, 14 Aug 1941  
Will Rogers Field, OK, 16 Feb 1942  
Greensboro, NC, 16 Jul-18 Oct 1942  
Langley Field, VA, 18 Oct 1942-27 Oct 1942  
Mediouna, French Morocco, 18 Nov 1942  
Youks-les-Bains, Algeria, 7 Jan 1943  
Canrobert, Algeria, 6 Mar 1943  
Thelepte, Tunisia, 30 Mar 1943

Souk-el-Arba, Tunisia, 13 Apr 1943  
Soliman, Tunisia, 1 Jul 1943  
Ta Kali Airdrome, Malta, 21 Jul 1943  
Torrente Comunelli, Sicily, 9 Aug 1943  
Gerbini, Sicily, 20 Aug 1943  
Grottaglie, Italy, 24 Sep 1943  
Vicenzo Airfield, Italy, 15 Oct 1943  
Vesuvius Airfield, Italy, 10 Jan 1944  
Capodichino, Italy, 22 Mar 1944  
Vesuvius Airfield, Italy, 25 Apr 1944  
Ponte Galeria, Italy, 10 Jun 1944  
Ombrone Airfield, Italy, 27 Jun 1944  
Poretta Airfield, Corsica, 11 Jul 1944  
Salon, France, 7 Sep 1944  
Follonica, Italy, 18 Sep 1944  
Rosignano Airfield, Italy, Oct 1944  
Grosseto, Italy, 11 Dec 1944  
Pisa, Italy, Jun-24 Jun 1945  
Seymour Johnson Field, NC, 14 Jul 1945  
Lake Charles AAFld, LA, 9 Sep 1945  
Biggs Field (later, AFB), TX, 20 Oct 1946  
Barksdale AFB, LA, 19 Nov 1948-2 Oct 1949  
Langley AFB, VA, 12 Mar 1951-21 May 1952  
Sculthorpe RAF Station (later, RAF Sculthorpe), England, 1 Jun 1952-8 Feb 1955  
Laughlin AFB, TX, 15 Dec 1991

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

General Headquarters Air Force (later, Air Force Combat Command), 15 Jan 1941  
15<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing (Light), 14 Aug 1941  
IV Air Support Command, 1 Sep 1941  
Second Air Force, 15 Feb 1942  
III Bomber Command, 1 May 1942  
III Ground Air Support Command, 10 Aug 1942  
XII Air Support Command, 27 Sep 1942  
Moroccan Composite Wing, 31 Dec 1942  
XII Air Support Command, 22 Jan 1943  
Twelfth Air Force, 18 Feb 1943  
I Bomber Command, 11 Jul 1945  
Third Air Force, 7 Feb 1946  
Tactical Air Command, 21 Mar 1946  
Ninth Air Force, 29 May 1946  
Twelfth Air Force, 1 Nov 1946  
47 Bombardment Wing, Light, 15 Aug 1947-2 Oct 1949  
47 Bombardment Wing, Light, 12 Mar 1951-8 Feb 1955

47 Flying Training Wing, 15 Dec 1991

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Northwest Air District [later, Second Air Force], 15 Jan-14 Aug 1941

IV Bomber Command, 17 Dec 1941-15 Feb 1942

III Ground Air Support Command, 29 Jun-10 Aug 1942

Northwest African Tactical Air Force, 18 Feb-20 Mar 1943

Northwest African Tactical Bomber Force, 20 Mar-1 Sep 1943

XII Air Support Command, 1 Sep-6 Oct 1943

57 Bombardment Wing [Medium], 6 Oct-10 Dec 1943

XII Air Support [later, XII Tactical Air] Command, 10 Dec 1943-20 Jul 1944

87 Fighter Wing, 20 Jul-7 Sep 1944

XII Tactical Air Command, 7-15 Sep 1944

XII Fighter Command [later, XXII Tactical Air Command], 15 Sep 1944-7 Jun 1945

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-18

DB-7

LB-30, 1941

A-20, 1941

A-26 (later, B-26), 1945

B-45, 1949

B-45, 1951-1952

B-26

F-84, 1951

T-37, 1972

T-38, 1972

T-1, 1993

T-6, 2002

### **COMMANDERS**

Maj William A. Schulgen, 15 Jan 1941

LTC Col Hilbert M. Wittkop, 1941

Col Frederick R. Terrell, Jan 1942

Col Malcolm Green Jr., 17 May 1943

LTC Kenneth S. Wade, 1 Apr 1945

LTC Marion J. Akers, 15 Jun 1945-unkn

Col Marvin S. Zipp, 28 Aug 1945

Col Robert J. Hughey, 23 Nov 1945

LTC Broadus B. Taylor, 27 Aug 1946

Col Gerald E. Williams, 30 Aug 1946

LTC Stebbins W. Griffith, 5 Jun 1947

LTC Frederick E. Price, Aug 1947

Col Willis F. Chapman, 10 Oct 1947-2 Oct 1949

Col Benjamin C. Willis, 12 Mar 1951  
Col David M. Jones, 17 Sep 1951  
Col Galen B. Price, 20 Feb 1952-17 Nov 1952  
None (not manned), 17 Nov 1952-8 Feb 1955  
Col Tome H. Walters, 15 Dec 1991  
Col Michael G. Lee, 29 Jan 1993  
Col James A. McClure, 15 Aug 1994  
Col Robertus C. N. Remkes, 12 Jun 1996  
Col Lawrence A. Stutzriem, 5 Jun 1998  
Col George T. Doran, 18 Jul 2000  
Col Roberto J. Duran, by Jul 2001  
Col Paul R. Ackerly, 30 Oct 2001  
Col Steven L. Kwast, 29 Sep 2003  
Lt Col Martin G. Gearhart, 4 Feb 2005  
Col David E. Petersen, 6 May 2005  
Col Martin J. Schans, 2 Aug 2007  
Col Craig D. Wills, 17 Jul 2009  
Col Andrew R. Brabson, 2011  
Col Timothy B. MacGregor, 2013

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Antisubmarine, American Theater  
Air Combat, EAME Theater  
Algeria-French Morocco  
Tunisia  
Sicily  
Naples-Foggia  
Anzio  
Rome-Arno  
North Apennines  
Po Valley  
Southern France

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
North Africa, 22 Feb 1943  
Po Valley, 21-24 Apr 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

[15 Dec] 1991-30 Jun 1993

1 Jul 1997-30 Jun 1999

1 Sep 2003-30 Jun 2005

1 Jul 2005-30 Jun 2007

1 Jul 2010-30 Jun 2012

1 Jul 2012-30 Jun 2013

## **EMBLEM**



47 Bombardment Group, Light emblem

## **MOTTO**

### **OPERATIONS**

The 47 Bombardment Group (L) Night Attack was activated on 15 January 1941 at McChord Field, Washington with a cadre drawn from the 17th Bombardment Group and the 89th Reconnaissance Squadron.

From activation until 1946 the Group was composed of four squadrons, the 84th, 85th, 86th, and 97th (formerly the 20th Reconnaissance Squadron). The 47 Bombardment Group was initially equipped with two B-18s per squadron. The Bombardment Group moved to Fresno, California in August 1941 where it participated in anti-submarine patrol. Later, the group was fully equipped with A-20s and withdrawn from anti-sub patrol. They were moved to Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma on 15 February 1942 where a new training program was initiated.

After extensive training in low-level and medium altitude bombing, formation flying and aerial gunnery the Bombardment Group departed for Greensboro-Highpoint airfield in North Carolina. During July and August 1942 the 47 participated in the Carolina Army maneuvers.

The advanced echelon of the Group went overseas to England in September 1942. The remainder

of the Group followed, and from England the Group moved to North Africa where it participated in the following campaigns: French Moroccan, Tunisian, Pantellarian-Lampadusan, and in July of 1943 the Sicilian Campaign.

The 47 Bomb Group moved to Guetarraglio Base near Taranto, Italy. Three campaigns were fought in Italy, and from there the Group moved to Corsica in July 1944.

In September 1944, a portion of the 47 moved into Southern France and was stationed at La Jasse Airfield. Armed reconnaissance and intruder raids, as well as supply flights to the forward areas, were mainly flown in this sector of operations. In the same month this portion of the 47 Bomb Group returned to Italy to resume operations there. By April 1945 the Bomb Group was completely reequipped with A-26s and several missions were flown prior to the close of the war in the ETO. In June 1945 the 47 Bomb Group was headed for the U. S., and a happy day it was when the boys got home.

Most of the original personnel reported back to Seymour Johnson Field, North Carolina for processing and separation, or reassignment at this point. The Group was re-staffed with personnel after the high point men were discharged. On 7 September 1945 the Group moved to its station at Lake Charles, Louisiana.

There was an extensive personnel reshuffling during the balance of this year due to discharges and a program to encourage reenlistments. Training continued with strafing and bombing.

Change of station to Biggs Air Force Base, El Paso, Texas, was accomplished on 20 October, 1946, and the Group was assigned to the 12th Air Force on 14 Nov 1946. The Group participated in Amphibious Training Exercises on the West Coast from 15 November to 29 November 1946. This was a combined Army, Navy and Air Force maneuver.

Early in 1947 overseas commitments greatly depleted the number of key personnel, necessitating many substitutions and changes in job assignments.

In February 1947 the Group went on maneuvers to Greenville, South Carolina for 3 months. Missions were flown for demonstrations before the Armed Forces Staff College on 26 February 1947. Return to Biggs was accomplished in May 1947.

During the three-month period from July to September 1947 the Group suffered a high percentage of losses in its personnel, due to overseas commitments, etc. This situation was partially relieved when a group of newly integrated Regular Army Officers arrived to bolster the strength of the flying personnel.

The deployment of America's first jet bomber was a momentous occasion for the U.S. Air Force and for the unit assigned new B-45s which, by necessity, had to be among the best in service. The honors fell upon the 47 Bomb Group, then based at Biggs AFB, Texas, and to whom the distinction

was well-merited.

On November 8, 1948, the 47 Bomb Group finally received orders to transfer all B-45 operations to Barksdale AFB, Louisiana. A bomber facility with a 10,000-foot runway, it was also under the jurisdiction of the Air Training Command.

Trained USAF and Allied pilots after activation in Dec 1991, using various types of trainer aircraft.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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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.

Steven E. Clay. *US Army Order of Battle 1919-1941*. Combat Studies Institute Press. US Army Combined Arms Center. Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Nd.

Unit yearbook. *Biggs AFB, TX, El Paso, TX, @1948*.