

332nd EXPEDITIONARY OPERATIONS GROUP



MISSION

The 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group is responsible for all of the expeditionary flying operations squadrons at the 332nd. The group oversees the day to day operations of three F-16 fighter squadrons (two active and one Guard or Reserve), a Predator UAV squadron, a C-130 squadron and a combat search and rescue squadron (HH-60s). In addition, the operations group oversees a range of support functions such as airfield management, air traffic control, intelligence, weather and an expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation flight.

LINEAGE

332nd Fighter Group established, 4 Jul 1942

Activated, 13 Oct 1942

Inactivated, 19 Oct 1945

Activated, 1 Jul 1947

Inactivated, 1 Jul 1949

Redesignated 332nd Air Expeditionary Group, and converted to provisional status, 19 Nov 1998

Activated, 1 Dec 1998

Redesignated 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group, 12 Aug 2002

STATIONS

Tuskegee, AL, 13 Oct 1942

Selfridge Field, MI, 29 Mar 1943

Oscoda, MI, 12 Apr 1943

Selfridge Field, MI, 9 Jul-22 Dec 1943

Montecorvino, Italy, 8 Feb 1944

Capodichino, Italy, 15 Apr 1944

Ramitelli Airfield, Italy, 28 May 1944

Cattolica, Italy, c. 4 May 1945

Lucera, Italy, c. 18 Jul-Sep 1945

Camp Kilmer, NJ, 17-19 Oct 1945

Lockbourne AAB (later, AFB), OH, 1 Jul 1947-1 Jul 1949
Al Jaber, Kuwait, 1 Dec 1998

ASSIGNMENTS

Third Air Force, 13 Oct 1942
First Air Force, 23 Jul 1943
Twelfth Air Force, 27 Jan 1944
XII Air Force Training and Replacement Command (Provisional), 3 Feb 1944
XII Fighter Command, 10 Feb 1944
62nd Fighter Wing, 10 Feb 1944
Fifteenth Air Force, 22 May 1944
306th Fighter Wing, 22 May 1944
305th Bombardment Wing, 12 Jun-Sep 1945
unkn, Sep-19 Oct 1945. Ninth Air Force, 1 Jul 1947
332nd Fighter Wing, 15 Aug 1947-1 Jul 1949
9th Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force-Southern Watch, 1 Dec 1998

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-40, 1943-1944
P-39, 1943-1944
P-47, 1944
P-51, 1944-1945
P(later F)-47, 1947-1949

COMMANDERS

LTC Sam W. Westbrook, Jr., 19 Oct 1942
Col Robert R. Selway, Jr., 16 May 1943
Col Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., 8 Oct 1943
Maj George S. Roberts, 3 Nov 1944
Col Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., 24 Dec 1944
Maj George S. Roberts, 9 Jun 1945-unkn
Unkn, 1 Jul-27 Aug 1947
Maj William A. Campbell, 28 Aug 1947-1 Jul 1949

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II
American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Rome-Arno
Normandy
Northern France

Southern France
North Apennines
Rhineland
Central Europe
Po Valley
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
Germany, 24 Mar 1945

EMBLEM



Azure, on a fess nebuly Or, a panther passant Sable, armed and incensed Gules, all within a diminished bordure of the second. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "332D EXPEDITIONARY OPERATIONS GROUP" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The panther symbolizes the Squadron's strength, dedication and devotion to duty. The flames emitting from its mouth represent the unit's capability to accomplish the Air Force mission worldwide. The blue and yellow nebule connotes day and night operations.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Trained for combat at Tuskegee, Alabama and bases in Michigan with P-39 and P-40 aircraft. Moved to Italy, January-early February 1944. Began combat with Twelfth Air Force on 5 February. Used P-39s to escort convoys, protect harbors, and fly armed reconnaissance missions. Converted

to P-47s during April-May 1944 and to P-51s in June. Operated with Fifteenth Air Force from May 1944 to April 1945, being engaged primarily in protecting bombers that struck such objectives as oil refineries, factories, airfields, and marshalling yards in Italy, France, Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Bulgaria, and Greece. Also made strafing attacks on airdromes, railroads, highways, bridges, river traffic, troop concentrations, radar facilities, power stations, and other targets. Received a DUC for a mission on 24 March 1945 when the group escorted B-17s during a raid on a tank factory at Berlin, fought the interceptors that attacked the formation, and strafed transportation facilities while flying back to the base in Italy. Returned to the U.S. in October and inactivated on 19 Oct 1945.

Activated again in July 1947 as a part of Tactical Air Command (TAC). Trained with P(later F)-47s, ferried aircraft, and took part in TAC exercises. Inactivated two years later on 1 July 1949.

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.