

388th OPERATIONS GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

388th Bombardment Group (Heavy) established, 19 Dec 1942
Activated, 24 Dec 1942
Redesignated 388th Bombardment Group, Heavy, 20 Aug 1943
Inactivated, 28 Aug 1945
Redesignated 388th Fighter-Bomber Group, 5 Nov 1953
Activated, 23 Nov 1953
Inactivated, 10 Dec 1957
Redesignated 388th Tactical Fighter Group, 31 July 1985
Redesignated 388th Operations Group and activated, 1 Dec 1991

STATIONS

Gowen Field, ID, 24 Dec 1942
Wendover Field, UT, 1 Feb 1943
Sioux City AAB, IA, 29 Apr-10 Jun 1943
Knettishall, England, c. 6 Jul 1943-4 Aug 1945
Sioux Falls AAF, SD, 13-28 Aug 1945
Clovis AFB, NM, 23 Nov 1953-28 Nov 1954
Etain-Rouvres AB, France, 12 Dec 1954-10 Dec 1957
Hill AFB, UT, 1 Dec 1991

ASSIGNMENTS

II Bomber Command, 24 Dec 1942
Eighth Air Force, 6 Jul 1943
VIII Bomber Command, 10 Jul 1943
4th Bombardment Wing (attached to 403rd Provisional Combat Wing Bombardment), 13 Jul 1943

3rd Bombardment Division, 13 Sep 1943
45th Combat Bombardment Wing, 14 Sep 1943
20TH Bombardment Wing, 18 Jun 1945
Second Air Force, 13-28 Aug 1945
388th Fighter Bomber Wing, 23 Nov 1953-10 Dec 1957
388th Fighter Wing, 1 Dec 1991

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17, 1943-1945
B-17F
B-17G
F-86, 1954-1956
F-86H
F-100, 1957
F-16, 1991

COMMANDERS

None (not manned), 24 Dec 1942-31 Jan 1943
Col William B. David, 1 Feb 1943
Col Chester C. Cox, 7 Oct 1944-28 Aug 1945
Maj Charles M. Read, 23 Nov 1953
Col Clayton L. Peterson, 11 Jan 1954
Col William E. Bethea, 11 Feb 1956
Col Allan P. Rankin, 12 Jan 1957-10 Dec 1957
Col Timothy A. Mueller, 1 Dec 1991
Col Michael J. Koerner, 21 Jun 1993
Col Timothy G. Murphy, 31 May 1995
Col Stephen E. Bozarth, 22 Jul 1996
Col Charles B. Oltman, 2 Jul 1998
Col William C. Coutts, 7 Jul 2000
Col D. Lee Hall Jr., 7 Jul 2002
Col Jeffrey G. Lofgren, 7 Jun 2004

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Regensburg, Germany, 17 Aug 1943

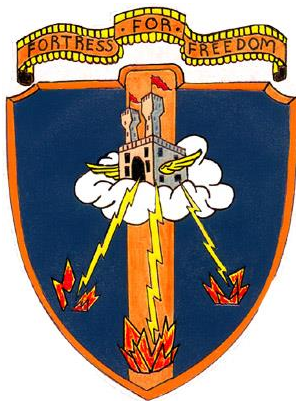
Hanover, Germany (26 Jul 1943), Brux, Czechoslovakia (12 May 1944), and from England to Russia (21 Jun 1944)

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

[1 Dec 1991]-30 Apr 1993

1 May 2002-31 May 2003

EMBLEM



388th Bombardment Group emblem

388th Operations Group emblem: Per bend Azure and Gules, on a bend Or, a lightning flash Sable, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "388TH 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 thunderbolt represents the speed and power of the unit's aircraft. The unit shares the emblem of its parent organization, the 399th Fighter Wing. (Approved, 11 Mar 1955)

MOTTO

LIBERTAS VEL MORS—Liberty or Death

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Trained for combat with B-17s. Activated 24 Dec. 42 at Gowen Fd, Idaho. Nucleus from Gowen moved Wendover Fd, Utah, early Feb. 43 where formation proper began. Final training at Sioux City AAFd, SD. early May 43 to 1 Jun. 43. Air echelon began overseas movement taking northern route via Newfoundland or Greenland, Iceland to Prestwick. Ground echelon left Sioux City 12 Jun. 43 for Camp Kilmer, NJ. and sailed on Queen Elizabeth 1 Jul. 43, arriving Clyde 7 Jul. 43.

Moved to England in Jun 1943. Began operations on 17 Jul 1943 by attacking an aircraft factory in Amsterdam. Functioned primarily as a strategic bombardment organization until the war ended. Targets included industries, naval installations, oil storage plants, refineries, and communications centers in Germany, France, Poland, Belgium, Norway, Rumania, and Holland. Received a DUC for withstanding heavy opposition to bomb a vital aircraft factory at Regensburg on 17 Aug 1943. Received another DUC for three outstanding missions: an attack against a tire and rubber factory in Hannover on 26 Jul 1943; the bombardment of a synthetic oil refinery in Brux on 12 May 1944; and a strike against a synthetic oil refinery at Ruhland on 21 Jun 1944, during a shuttle raid from England to Russia. Attacked many other significant targets, including aircraft factories in Kassel, Reims, and Brunswick; airfields in Bordeaux, Paris, and Berlin; naval works at La Pallice, Emden, and Kiel; chemical industries in Ludwigshafen; ball-bearing plants in Schweinfurt; and marshalling yards in Brussels, Osnabruck, and Bielefeld. Operations also included support and interdiction missions. Helped prepare for the invasion of Normandy by attacking military installations in France, and on D-Day struck coastal guns, field batteries, and transportation. Continued to support ground forces during the campaign that followed, hitting such objectives as supply depots and troop concentrations. Bombed in support of ground forces at St Lo in Jul 1944 and at Caen in Aug. Covered the airborne assault on Holland in Sep 1944 by attacking military installations and airfields at Arnhem. Aided the final drive through Germany during the early months of 1945 by striking targets such as marshalling yards, rail bridges, and road junctions. After V-E Day, flew food to Holland to relieve flood-stricken areas. Returned to the US in Aug.

Redeployed USA Jun./Aug. 45. A/c left Knettishall between 9 Jun. 45-5 Jul. 45. Ground echelon sailed on Queen Elizabeth from Greenock 5 Aug. 45, arriving New York 11 Aug. 45. Personnel 30 days R & R. Group established at Sioux Falls AAFd, SD. and inactivated there 28 Aug. 45. Activated as a fighter-bomber group in 1953 and equipped with F-86. Later existences as F-100 wing in France and F-106 wing in USA Established Thailand in 1965 as F-105 wing and conducted operations over North Vietnam.

Trained for fighter operations, Nov 1953-Nov 1954. Moved to France, Nov-Dec 1954, and supported NATO operations and exercises until Dec 1957. Assumed control of the 388 Fighter Wing's operational squadrons from Dec 1991-.

Conducted APHRODITE radio-controlled bomber project "guided missiles"

First Mission: 17 Jul 43

Last Mission: Apr 45

Total Missions: 306 (plus 19 Aphrodite and 6 Batty).

Total Credit Sorties: 8,051.

Total Bomb Tonnage: 18,162.4 tons (264.7 tons supplies, etc.).

Aircraft Missing in action: 142

Other Operational losses: 37

Enemy aircraft claims: 222.5-80-116

The 34th Fighter Squadron and 34th Aircraft Maintenance Unit at Hill Air Force Base accepted its final two combat-coded F-35A Lightning IIs June 21, 2017. The addition of the 24th and final aircraft means the units have their full component of operational jets. "Gaining the 24th F-35A here is another outstanding milestone for the 388th and 419th wings," said Col. Jason Rueschhoff, the 388th Operations Group commander. "This allows both operations and maintenance to fine-tune our tactics, techniques and procedures with a focus on maximizing our combat lethality." This is a pivotal point for combat-capability development said Col. Michael Miles, the 388th Maintenance Group commander. "Having the full number of aircraft in one FS/AMU means we'll soon receive our full personnel and equipment," Miles said. "This allows us to meet all potential combat taskings." The 388th Fighter Wing received its first F-35A in November 2015. Since that time, the unit has developed the best tactics, techniques and procedures, shaping how the F-35A operates in the Air Force, said Capt. Christina Merritt, the 34th AMU officer in charge. Merritt said receiving the 24th aircraft pushes the threshold and helps Airmen further test the limits of the F-35A. The 4th FS and 4th AMU are expected to receive the next F-35A this summer. A total of 78 jets will be delivered to two additional F-35A squadrons in the 388th FW through 2019. 2017

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 18 Nov 2010

Updated:

Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.