

## 404 AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

100 Fighter Wing established, 8 Nov 1943

Activated, 24 Nov 1943

Inactivated, 7 Nov 1945

Disestablished, 15 Jun 1983

704 Strategic Missile Wing established, 20 May 1957

Activated, 1 Jul 1957

Redesignated 704 Strategic Missile Wing (ICBM), 1 Apr 1958

Inactivated, 1 Jul 1959

100 Fighter Wing reestablished, and consolidated with 704 Strategic Missile Wing (ICBM),  
redesignated 404<sup>th</sup> Tactical Missile Wing, 31 Jul 1985

Redesignated 404 Air Expeditionary Group and converted to provisional status, 24 Mar 2003

Activated, 16 Jun 2003

Inactivated, 8 Jul 2003

Activated, 27 Aug 2003

Inactivated, 19 Sep 2003

Activated, 27 May 2005

Inactivated, 22 Jun 2005

Activated, 28 Jun 2007

Inactivated, 30 Jul 2007

Activated, 14 Mar 2008

Inactivated, 30 Apr 2008

Activated, 21 Aug 2008

Inactivated, 15 Sep 2008

Activated, 1 Oct 2008

## **STATIONS**

Boxted, England, 24 Nov 1943  
Greenham Common, England, 6 Dec 1943  
Ibsley, England, 13 Jan 1944  
Lashenden, England, 15 Apr 1944  
Cricqueville, France, 2 Jul 1944  
St Pierre-Eglise, France, 10 Jul 1944  
Rennes, France, 8 Aug 1944  
Montfort Le Rotrou (near LeMans), France, 30 Aug 1944  
Lisle-en-Rigault (near St Dizier), France, 19 Sep 1944  
Metz, France, 29 Dec 1944  
Konigstein, Germany, 14 Apr 1945  
Laon, France, 2 Jul 1945  
Marseille, France, 18-24 Aug 1945  
Seymour Johnson, NC, 6 Sep-7 Nov 1945  
Cooke (later, Vandenberg) AFB, CA, 1 Jul 1957-1 Jul 1959  
RAF Mildenhall, England, 16 Jun-8 Jul 2003  
Graf AB, Bulgaria, 27 Aug-19 Sep 2003  
Krzesiny, Poland, 27 May-22 Jun 2005  
Ramstein, AB, Germany, 28 Jun-30 Jul 2007  
Campia Turzii, Romania, 14 Mar-30 Apr 2008  
Keflavik AS, Iceland, 21 Aug-15 Sep 2008  
Ramstein AB, Germany, 1 Oct 2008

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

Ninth Air Force, 24 Nov 1943  
IX Fighter Command, 27 Nov 1943  
IX Air Support Command, 12 Dec 1943  
IX Fighter Command, 4 Jan 1944  
IX Air Support Command, 1 Feb 1944  
IX Fighter Command, 1 Mar 1944  
XIX Air Support (later, XIX Tactical Air) Command, 15 Apr 1944-28 Jun 1945 (under operational control of IX Fighter Command, 15 Apr-31 Jul 1944)  
First Air Force, 6 Sep-7 Nov 1945  
Air Research and Development Command, 1 Jul 1957  
1 Missile Division, 1 Aug 1957-1 Jul 1959  
United States Air Forces in Europe (attached to Third Air Force), 16 Jun-8 Jul 2003  
United States Air Forces in Europe (attached to Sixteenth Air Force), 27 Aug-19 Sep 2003  
United States Air Forces in Europe (attached to Sixteenth Air Force), 27 May-22 Jun 2005  
United States Air Forces in Europe (attached to Third Air Force [Air Forces Europe]), 28 Jun-30 Jul 2007  
323 Air Expeditionary Wing (attached to Third Air Force [Air Forces Europe]), 14 Mar-30 Apr

2008

United States Air Forces in Europe (attached to 48 Fighter Wing), 21 Aug-15 Sep 2008  
United States Air Forces in Europe (attached to Seventeenth Air Force [Air Forces Africa]), 1  
Oct 2008

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Air Force Ballistic Missile Division, 1-31 Jul 1957

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

P-38, 1944-1945

P-47, 1944-1945

P-51, 1944-1945

Atlas, 1958-1959

Jupiter, 1958

Thor, 1958-1959

Titan, 1959

Unkn, 2003

Unkn, 2005

Unkn, 2007

C-130, 2008

### **COMMANDERS**

Col David B. Lancaster, Nov 1943

Brig Gen Homer L. Sanders, 2 Jan 1944

Col Harry B. Young, 23 May 1945-unkn

Col Francis B. Howes Jr., 1 Jul 1957 (acting)

Col David K. Lyster Jr., 16 Jul 1957 (additional duty)

Col William S. Rader, 26 Aug 1957 (additional duty)

Col David K. Lyster Jr., 27 Aug 1957 (additional duty)

Col William S. Rader, 20 Sep 1957 (additional duty), 13 Nov 1957-5 Apr 1959 (permanent), 6  
Apr 1959-unkn (additional duty)

Col John P. Proctor #1959

Unkn, 10 Jun-1 Jul 1959

Unkn, 27 Aug-19 Sep 2003

Unkn, 27 May-22 Jun 2005

Unkn, 28 Jun-30 Jul 2007

Unkn, 21 Aug-15 Sep 2008

Col Robert S. Holba, 1 Oct 2008

Col Lida D. Dahnke, 26 Nov 2008

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

None

## Campaign Streamers

World War II  
Normandy  
Northern France  
Rhineland  
Ardennes-Alsace  
Central Europe

## Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

## Decorations

## EMBLEM



704<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Wing emblem: Per fess enhanced azure and light blue, the chief strewn with stars argent, between two clouds issuant one from sinister chief the other from dexter base of the last and issuant bendwise from sinister base a demisphere with grid lines of the first, land masses brown and seas of the third with overall a torch or enflamed proper between two lightning flashes radiant from its base gules, in bend a missile with enflamed trail of the fifth and surmounted in chief by a segment of a star overall of the third, all within a diminished bordure of the last. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The divided dark blue and light blue field represents the 24-hour around-the-clock capability of the wing to perform its operational mission. The dark blue strip of sky spattered with stars symbolizes the Air Research and Development Command (ARDC) which activated this wing, and space which will be conquered through missile flight. The star surmounting the missile indicates ARDC's contribution in developing the missile. The light blue sky and clouds represent the Strategic Air Command, now developing combat capability and training crews for missile operation readiness. The torch symbolizes our training mission and the lightning indicates our striking power. The missile represents the type of weapon assigned to the wing (Approved, 26 Jun 1958) The emblem was designed by MSgt A.R. Orlandella of the 1<sup>st</sup> Missile Division.

404<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Group emblem: Azure, in chief a seme of mullets above two clouds issuant one from dexter chief and one from sinister chief Argent, detailed of the field, overall two swords terminating in stylized jet hilts in saltire points to base Or, suppressed by an African shield pointed palewise of the second, bordure Sable, debruising two chevrons reversed one per pale Gules and of the fourth, one counterchanged to the other, all within a narrow bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "404TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY 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 strewn stars represent the numerous partner nations and multiple organizations supporting security development. The clouds denote cleanly developing economies. The swords with jet hilts, "sky swords," symbolize extreme speed, movement and military power combined. The African shield represents the strength of the unit's personnel. The two counterchanged reversed chevrons depict the ability to meet the changing demands of any contingency. (Approved, 26 Jun 1958)

## **MOTTO**

LEADERSHIP-KNOWLEDGE-DYNAMIC APPLICATION

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 100 Fighter Wing activated in England in late Nov 1943, assigned to Ninth Air Force. Controlled fighter groups in combat, Apr 1944-May 1945. During the wing's move to the European continent, its assigned fighter groups were under the operational control of the IX Tactical Air Command. The wing regained control of the 363 Fighter Group upon arrival in France. Provided air defense for the Normandy landing areas, June through Jul 1944. Regained rest of tactical groups in mid-Aug, then controlled armed reconnaissance, interdiction, and air ground support missions of its assigned fighter groups. Provided air ground support and armored column escort in support of Patton's U.S. Third Army during its drive across France, north to Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge (Dec 1944-Jan 1945) and across the Rhine. Moved to the U.S. Aug-Sep 1945, and inactivated on 7 Nov 1945. The 704 Strategic Missile Wing activated on 1 Jul 1957, but was not operational until mid-Nov 1957. Trained ICBM and IRBM missile units, Nov 1957-Apr 1959. Not operational 6 Apr-1 Jul 1959. 404 Tactical Missile Wing converted to provisional status in 2003. Provided intertheater airlift in support of US Africa Command (USAFRICOM) taskings, 1 Oct 2008.

Airmen of the newly activated 17th Air Force, headquartered at Ramstein AB, Germany, have continued supporting aerial missions in Africa even as they have been fashioning the new numbered air force during its first 30 days of operational activity. One of their first jobs was to create an organizational structure, namely the 404th Air Expeditionary Group, to employ aircraft and crews deployed to the NAF. "The mission of the 404th is simple—provide dedicated intratheater airlift in support of US Africa Command taskings," explained Col. Bob Holba, the 404th AEG's first commander. So far, though, the 404th has no staff so has been "leveraging

great support," said Holba, from 17th AF—itself still building to a planned 400-strong headquarters—and US Air Forces in Europe, 3rd Air Force, host wings at Ramstein, and the 19th Airlift Wing at Little Rock AFB, Ark., which deployed two C-130s to the 404th AEG. The fledgling 17th AF staff also has coordinated more than 30 theater security cooperation events for Fiscal 2009, events Maj. Gen. Ronald Ladnier, 17th AF commander, describes as providing the "hands-on training and personal interaction" needed to help Africans build "sustainable air safety and security" capabilities. He said that the NAF is "continuing to march toward full operational capability this time next year, but noted that already 17th AF airmen are "beginning to make a difference on the continent, and that is our ultimate objective." There are no plans to shift 17th AF of the new US Africa Command to Africa, but AFRICOM commander, Army Gen. William Ward said last month AFRICOM would seek to establish new cooperative security locations.

Not operational, 1 Jul-12 Nov 1957. Training of ICBM and IRBM units, Nov 1957-Apr 1959. Not operational, 6 Apr-1 Jul 1959.

ARDC activated the 704th Strategic Missile Wing at Cooke AFB, California. This was the first Air Force ballistic missile wing. 1 JUL 1957

1st Missile Division Assigned to SAC - Through exhaustive and successful testing in 1957, the Air Force's strategic missiles developed to the point where they could start the transition from the research and development to the operational stage. As part of this transition, the 1st Missile Division, located at Cooke AFB, was transferred from Air Research and Development Command to SAC. The transfer was affected on 1 January, and MG David Wade assumed command of the division on the following day. Included in the transfer was the 704th Strategic Missile Wing, which had been activated as USAF's first missile wing on 1 July 1957. The 704th had a dual mission of training missile crews for other units and attaining an operational capability with the Atlas ICBM. It had one Atlas D squadron, the 576th Strategic Missile Squadron, assigned. Activated on 1 April, the 576th had a dual responsibility of maintaining an Atlas D alert force and providing training for other SAC Atlas units.

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USAF Unit Histories  
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#### Sources

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The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.  
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.  
Unit yearbook. *Lowery Technical Training Center, Colorado, Lowry AFB, 1959.*