

452 OPERATIONS GROUP



MISSION

The Group's mission is to organize, train and equip aircrews to provide air refueling and strategic airlift any time, any place. The Group's aircraft operate under widely varying situations ranging from small movements in battle to large movements over long distances. The Group also has a medical squadron which augments joint forces with qualified, professional, aeromedical evacuation aircrews who provide medical care for sick and injured patients transported by air in peacetime and wartime

LINEAGE

452 Bombardment Group (Heavy) established, 14 May 1943
Activated, 1 Jun 1943
Redesignated 452 Bombardment Group, Heavy, 20 Aug 1943
Inactivated, 28 Aug 1945
Redesignated 452 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, 11 Mar 1947
Activated in the Reserve, 19 Apr 1947
Redesignated 452 Bombardment Group, Light, 27 Jun 1949
Ordered to Active Duty, 10 Aug 1950
Inactivated, 10 May 1952
Redesignated 452 Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 6 Jun 1952
Activated in the Reserve, 13 Jun 1952
Redesignated 452 Bombardment Group, Tactical, 22 May 1955
Redesignated 452 Troop Carrier Group, Medium, 1 Jul 1957
Inactivated, 14 Apr 1959
Redesignated 452 Air Refueling Group, Heavy, 31 Jul 1985
Redesignated 452 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992

Activated in the Reserve, 1 Aug 1992

STATIONS

Geiger Field, WA, 1 Jun 1943
Rapid City AAB, SD, 13 Jun 1943
Pendleton Field, OR, 10 Oct 1943
Walla Walla AAFld, WA, 4 Nov-Dec 1943
Deopham Green, England, 8 Jan 1944-6 Aug 1945
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 12-28 Aug 1945
Long Beach AAFld (later, Long Beach Muni Aprt), CA, 19 Apr 1947
George AFB, CA, 10 Aug-Oct 1950
Itazuke AB, Japan, 26 Oct 1950
Miho AB, Japan, 10 Dec 1950
Pusan-East AB, South Korea, 17 May 1951-10 May 1952
Long Beach Muni Aprt, CA, 13 Jun 1952-14 Apr 1959
March AFB (later, ARB), CA, 1 Aug 1992

ASSIGNMENTS

II Bomber Command, 1 Jun 1943
Second Air Force, 6 Oct 1943
Eighth Air Force, 8 Jan 1944
VIII Bomber Command, Jan 1944
3 Bombardment Division, Jan 1944
45 Combat Bombardment Wing, Jan 1944
20 Bombardment Wing, 18 Jun 1945
Second Air Force, 12-18 Aug 1945
304 Bombardment Wing (later, 304 Air Division), 19 Apr 1947
452 Bombardment Wing, 27 Jun 1949-10 May 1952
452 Tactical Reconnaissance (later, 452 Bombardment; 452 Troop Carrier) Wing, 13 Jun 1952-14 Apr 1959
452 Air Refueling (later, 452 Air Mobility) Wing, 1 Aug 1992

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17, 1943-1945
B-17G
T-6, 1947-1949
T-7, 1947-1949
C-45, 1948-1949
C-47, 1948-1949
T-11, 1948-1950
B-26, 1948-1952
F/TF-51, 1953-1954
B-26, 1953-1957
F/TF-80, 1954-1955

TB-26, 1954-1957
C-46, 1957-1958
C-119, 1958-1959
T-6, 1952-1954
C-46, 1952-1954
T-28, 1953-1955
T-33, 1953-1955
FB-26, 1953-1954
C-45, 1953-1955, 1957-1958
TB-25, 1954-1955
C-47, 1957-1958
KC-135, 1992
KC-10, 1992-1995
C-141, 1994

COMMANDERS

Maj Horace G. Oliver, 13 Jun 1943
Lt Col Herbert O. Wangeman, 18 Jun 1943
Lt Col Robert B. Satterwhite, 8 Feb 1944
Lt Col Marvin F. Stalder, 28 Feb 1944
Col Thetus C. Odom, 30 Mar 1944
Col Archibald Y. Smith, 24 Jul 1944
Col William D. Eckert, 30 Jul 1944
Lt Col Charles W. Sherburne, 12 Sep 1944
Col Burnham L. Batson, 25 Sep 1944
Col Jack E. Shuck, 5 Jun 1945-unkn
Unkn, 19 Apr 1947-Aug 1950
Col Charles W. Howe, 10 Aug 1950
Col Frank L. Wood Jr., 17 May 1951
Lt Col John A. Herrington, 24 May 1951
Lt Col Harry C. Mailey, Dec 1951
Col James D. Kemp, 28 Mar-10 May 1952
Col D. H. Dean, 1954
Col Robert J. Dodson, by 1956
Lt Col Karl W. Thompson, Dec 1957-14 Apr 1959
Col Jack G. Essex, 1 Aug 1992
Col David B. Walker, 1 Apr 1994
Col Jeffrey T. Pennington 2007
Col Mark Sigler, 23 Dec 2010
Col Gerard P. Malloy, 22 Feb 2015
Col Charles D. Assumma, 29 Aug 2016

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Korea
UN Offensive
CCF Intervention
First UN Counteroffensive
CCF Spring Offensive
UN Summer-Fall Offensive
Second Korean Winter
Korea, Summer-Fall 1952

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Germany, 7 Apr 1945
Korea, 9 Jul-27 Nov 1951
Korea, 28 Nov 1951-30 Apr 1952

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Aug 1992-30 Jun 1993
1 Sep 1995-31 Aug 1996
1 Sep 1997-31 Aug 1999

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation
27 Oct 1950-27 Oct 1951

EMBLEM



Azure, fimbriated Or, a bomb Gules, point downward superimposed on lightning flashes Or, shaded Gules, in saltire. (Approved for 452d Wing and assigned groups, 11 Oct 1951)

MOTTO

LABOR AD FUTURUM—Work for the Future

OPERATIONS

Trained in the U.S. with B-17s before moving to England, Dec 1943-Jan 1944. Assigned to Eighth Air Force, the 452 entered combat on 5 Feb with an attack against aircraft assembly plants at Brunswick, Germany. Engaged primarily in bombardment of strategic targets, including marshalling yards, aircraft assembly plants and component works, the ball-bearing industry, synthetic rubber plants, and oil installations. Also, supported ground forces and carried out interdiction operations.

Helped prepare for the Normandy invasion by hitting airfields, V-weapon sites, bridges, and other objectives in France; struck coastal defenses on D-Day, 6 Jun 1944.

Bombed enemy positions in support of the breakthrough at St Lo in Jul and the offensive against Brest in Aug and Sep. Later in Sep, assisted the airborne attack on Holland. Hit enemy communications in and near the combat zone during the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945. Bombed an airfield in support of the airborne assault across the Rhine in Mar.

Received a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for action on 7 Apr when, despite vigorous fighter attacks and heavy flak, it accurately bombed a jet fighter base at Kaltenkirchen. Flew last combat mission of World War II on 21 Apr, striking marshalling yards at Ingolstadt.

Trained as a bombardment group under supervision of the 2347th Air Force Reserve Training Center.

Ordered to active duty effective 10 Aug 1950 for duty in the Korean War. Moved to Japan, Oct-Nov 1950.

On October 27, 1950, the 452d BG with its B 26s entered combat against communist forces, flying medium-level armed reconnaissance, interdiction bombing, and close air support sorties. The group bombed and strafed buildings, tunnels, rail lines, switching centers, bridges, vehicles, supply dumps, and airfields. In one of its most important missions, the 452d BG supported the 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment's mass parachute drop over North Korean lines at Munsan-ni on March 23, 1951. Leading the troop carrier aircraft over the target area, the group dropped 500-pound bombs, fired rockets, and strafed the CCF front line. After the enemy launched its spring 1951 offensive, it added night missions, then it converted in early June solely to such operations until its inactivation on May 10, 1952.

Remanned and trained as a tactical reconnaissance group, 1952-1955; as a tactical bombardment group, 1955-1957; and as a troop carrier group, 1957-1959.

From Aug 1992, flew aerial refueling missions worldwide as a Reserve group.

On 1 May 1994 added a strategic airlift mission.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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