

## 32<sup>nd</sup> AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

32<sup>nd</sup> Pursuit Group established, 22 Nov 1940

Activated, 1 Jan 1941

Redesignated 32<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group (Twin Engine), 15 May 1942

Redesignated 32<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group (Single Engine), 28 Sep 1942

Disbanded, 1 Nov 1943

Reestablished and redesignated 32<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group (Air Defense), 11 Dec 1956

Activated, 8 Feb 1957

Discontinued and inactivated, 1 Feb 1961

32<sup>nd</sup> Composite Wing established, 10 Aug 1948

Activated, 24 Aug 1948

Inactivated, 1 Apr 1949

Redesignated 32<sup>nd</sup> Fighter-Bomber Wing, 23 Mar 1953

Redesignated 32<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing (Air Defense), 28 Dec 1960

Activated, 28 Dec 1960

Organized, 1 Feb 1961

Discontinued and inactivated, 1 Jul 1962

Organized, 1 Apr 1964

Redesignated 32<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing and activated, 6 Apr 1964

Discontinued and inactivated, 25 Jul 1964

32<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group (Air Defense) and 32<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing consolidated, 31 Jan 1984

Redesignated 32<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Fighter Group on 1 Nov 1989

Activated, 16 Nov 1989  
Redesignated 32<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group, 30 Nov 1991  
Redesignated 32<sup>nd</sup> Air Operations Group, 1 Jul 1994  
Redesignated 32<sup>nd</sup> Air and Space Operations Center, 1 Nov 2005  
Inactivated, 1 Dec 2006  
Redesignated 32<sup>nd</sup> Air Expeditionary Group, and converted to provisional status, 8 Mar 2011

## **STATIONS**

Rio Hato, Panama, 1 Jan 1941  
France Field, Canal Zone, Dec 1941-1 Nov 1943  
Kadena Field, Okinawa, 24 Aug 1948-1 Apr 1949  
Minot AFB, ND, 8 Feb 1957-1 Jul 1962  
George AFB, CA, 1 Apr-25 Jul 1964  
Soesterberg AB, Netherlands, 16 Nov 1989  
Ramstein AB, Germany, 1 Jul 1994-1 Dec 2006

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

12<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Wing, 1 Jan 1941  
26<sup>th</sup> Interceptor (later, XXVI Interceptor; XXVI Fighter) Command, 6 Mar 1942-1 Nov 1943  
1<sup>st</sup> Air Division, 24 Aug 1948  
Thirteenth Air Force, 1 Dec 1948-1 Apr 1949  
29<sup>th</sup> Air Division (Defense), 8 Feb 1957  
Minot Air Defense Sector, 1 Aug 1960-1 Jul 1962  
831<sup>st</sup> Air Division, 1 Apr-25 Jul 1964  
Seventeenth Air Force, 16 Nov 1989  
United States Air Forces in Europe, 1 Jul 1994  
United States Air Forces in Europe Aerospace-operations Support (later, United States Air Forces in Europe Theater Air and Space-operations) Center, 1 Oct 2001  
Sixteenth Air Force, 1 Nov 2005-1 Dec 2006  
United States Air Forces in Europe, to activate or inactivate, at any time on or after 8 Mar 2011

## **WESPON SYSTEMS**

P-26, 1941  
P-36, 1941  
P-38, 1941-1942  
P-40, 1942-1943  
B-17, 1948  
FB-17  
C-46, 1948  
B-29, 1948-1949  
RB-29  
T-33, 1960-1961, 1961-1962  
F-106, 1960-1961, 1961-1962  
F-4, 1964

F-15, 1989-1993

### **COMMANDERS**

Cpt Roger J. Browne, 1 Jan 1941  
Cpt James B. Buck, 16 Apr 1941  
LTC Roger J. Browne, 4 Aug 1941  
LTC William R. Robertson Jr., 23 Aug 1942-1 Nov 1943  
Col Edwin M. Day, 24 Aug 1948  
Col Walter E. Arnold, 22 Jan 1949  
Col Charles P. Prime, 1 Feb 1949  
Col Walter E. Arnold, 21 Mar-1 Apr 1949  
Maj Joe E. Roberts, 8 Feb 1957  
LTC John B. May, 11 Aug 1958  
Col Frank Q. O'Conner, 23 Jun 1959  
Col Richard F. Weltzin, 11 Oct 1960-1 Jul 1962  
Col John L. Gregory, Jr., 1 Apr-25 Jul 1964  
Col Richard H. Hagelin III, 16 Nov 1989  
Col John Graham, Jr., 14 Jun 1991  
Col William F. Hodgkins, 29 Jul 1993  
Col Steven A. Caine, 19 Aug 1994  
Col Michael J. Malone, 9 Jun 1995  
Col James L. Ruttler Jr., 28 Apr 1997  
Col Allen G. Peck, 13 Jun 1998  
Col Keith G. Monteith, 3 Apr 2000  
Col Steven J. DePalmer, May 2003  
Col Jay B. Silveria, 16 Jun 2005  
Col Peter H. Castor, 30 Dec 2005-1 Dec 2006

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

World War II American Theater

#### **Campaign Streamers**

Southwest Asia  
Defense of Saudi Arabia  
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

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

None

#### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards  
1 Jul 1990-30 Jun 1991  
30 Sep 1992-29 Sep 1994

1 Jul 1994-1 Jun 1996  
1 Oct 1996-30 Sep 1998  
1 Sep 1997-31 Aug 1999  
1 Oct 1998-30 Jun 2000  
30 Jun 2000-31 May 2002  
1 Jun 2002-1 Nov 2003  
1 Jan-30 Nov 2006

**EMBLEM**





32<sup>nd</sup> Air and Space Operations Center emblem: Argent, a flight symbol bendwise Azure bearing a stylized aircraft Or, in sinister chief a globe per pale Sable and of the third, grid lines counterchanged, in dexter base a lion rampant of the fourth, all within a diminished bordure of the third fimbriated Gules. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "32nd AIR AND SPACE OPERATIONS CENTER" in Blue letters. 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 counterchanged gridlined globe is significant to the unit's parent group and symbolizes its role in NATO, in the Netherlands, as fighter interceptors. The stylized aircraft symbolizes the fighter interceptor capabilities of the unit. The lion rampant symbolizes dauntless courage in the battle against evil. (Approved, 8 Aug 1960; newest rendition approved, 24 Mar 2006)

#### **MOTTO**

#### **NICKNAME**

#### **OPERATIONS**

32nd Pursuit (later, 32nd Fighter) Group assumed the mission of defending the Panama Canal with interceptor and fighter sweeps to protect Panama Canal installations and surrounding areas. Because of the diminished threat, the group disbanded on 1 Nov 1943.

Replaced the 71 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing at Kadena AB, Okinawa in Aug 1948 and provided photographic reconnaissance and search and rescue support services until it inactivated 1 Apr 1949

Activated as 32nd Fighter Group in Dec 1956; trained air defense combat crews, 1957-1960, and provided air defense for a segment of the north-central United States, 1960-1962.

Redesignated as 32nd Tactical Fighter Group and activated at Soesterberg AB, Netherlands on 16 Nov 1989.

Equipped with F-15, the group performed air defense and interception missions in coordination with units of the Royal Netherlands Air Force and other NATO air forces. Deployed aircrew and ground support personnel to Southwest Asia during OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM, Aug 1990-Mar 1991 and continued to support air activities in theater as a part of OPERATION PROVIDE COMFORT, Apr 1991-Apr 1993.

A major force drawdown occurred in Europe associated with the end of the Cold War resulted in the group's F-15s moving to the United States and the return of Soesterberg AB to the Dutch.

Redesignated as 32nd Air Operations Group on 1 Jul 1994 and moved to Ramstein AB, Germany. Since 1994, supported OPERATIONS DENY FLIGHT, DELIBERATE FORCE, DECISIVE ENDEAVOR, GUARDIAN ASSISTANCE, GUARDIAN RETRIEVAL, ASSURED LIFT, and SILVER WAKE with deployed air operations, communications, and intelligence support. Inactivated at the end of 2006.

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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.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.