

40 AIR DIVISION



MISSION

LINEAGE

40 Bombardment Wing established, 15 Jan 1943
Activated, 21 Jan 1943
Redesignated 40 Bombardment Wing (Heavy), 3 May 1943
Redesignated 40 Combat Bombardment Wing (Heavy), 30 Aug 1943
Redesignated 40 Combat Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 13 Aug 1944
Redesignated 40 Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 9 Jun 1945
Inactivated, 25 Dec 1946
Redesignated 40 Air Division, 2 Mar 1951
Organized, 14 Mar 1951
Discontinued, 1 Jul 1952
Activated, 1 Jul 1952
Inactivated, 1 Apr 1957
Activated, 1 Jul 1959
Inactivated, 8 Jun 1988
Activated, 7 Jul 1989
Inactivated, 14 Jun 1991

STATIONS

MacDill Field, FL, 21 Jan-May 1943
Brampton Grange, England, 6 Jun 1943
Thurleigh, England, 16 Sep 1943
Istres, France, 26 Jun 1945
Erlangen, Germany, 15 Nov 1945-25 Dec 1946

Turner AFB, GA, 14 Mar 1951-1 Jul 1952
Turner AFB, GA, 1 Jul 1952-1 Apr 1957
Wurtsmith AFB, MI, 1 Jul 1959-8 Jun 1988
Malmstrom AFB, MT, 7 Jul 1989-14 Jun 1991

ASSIGNMENTS

Third Air Force, 21 Jan 1943
Eighth Air Force, 6 Jun 1943
VIII Bomber Command, 8 Jun 1943
1 Bombardment (later, 1 Air) Division, 13 Sep 1943
U.S. Air Forces in Europe, 31 Oct 1945
European Air Materiel Command, 20-25 Dec 1946
Second Air Force, 14 Mar 1951-1 Jul 1952
Second Air Force, 1 Jul 1952-1 Apr 1957
Second Air Force, 1 Jul 1959
Eighth Air Force, 1 Jan 1975-8 Jun 1988
Fifteenth Air Force, 7 Jul 1989-14 Jun 1991

COMMANDERS

Maj Charles Normand, 1 Jan 1943
Brig Gen Howard M. Turner, 16 Sep 1943
Col Anthony Q. Mustoe, 22 Oct 1944
Brig Gen Emil C. Kiel, 1 Mar 1946
Col Hilbert M. Wittkop, 1 Jun 1946
Brig Gen Emil C. Kiel, 1 Jul-25 Dec 1946
Col Eugene H. Snavelly, 14 Mar 1951
Col Thayer S. Olds, 1 Jun 1951
Col Hubert Zemke, 11 Oct 1955-1 Apr 1957
Lt Col C. Hunter Smith, 1 Jul 1959
Lt Col Clare H. Royce, 10 Feb 1960
Lt Col Warner F. Gardner, 21 Mar 1960
Mg Harold E. Humfeld, 1 Apr 1960
Brig Gen John A. Roberts, 3 Jul 1963
Brig Gen Albert J. Bowley, 15 Aug 1966
Brig Gen James E. Hill, 11 Jul 1967
Col Frederick R. Ramputi, 10 Jun 1968
Brig Gen Carlton L. Lee, 5 Aug 1968
Col Colin C. Hamilton, 25 Feb-7 Mar 1970
No Commander Assigned, 8 Mar-30 Apr 1970
Brig Gen Eugene L. Hudson, 1 May 1970
Brig Gen Billy J. Ellis, 22 Feb 1972
Col Richard A. Campbell, 20 Jan 1973
Brig Gen Donald M. Davis, 7 Mar 1973
Brig Gen Walter B. Ratliff, 12 Feb 1975

Brig Gen William E. Masterson, 5 Aug 1977
Col Paul F. Cottrell, 8 Mar 1979
Brig Gen Walter C. Schrupp, 29 May 1979
Brig Gen Robert E. Messerli, 26 Jun 1980
Brig Gen William M. Constantine, 28 Feb 1982
Brig Gen Richard B. Goetze Jr., 13 Feb 1984
Brig Gen Orthus K. Lewis Jr., 25 Jun 1985
Brig Gen Ramund E. O'mara, 15 Jan-8 Jun 1988
Brig Gen Teddy E. Rinebarger, 7 Jul 1989-Unkn

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II

European African Middle Eastern Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

Germany, 11 Jan 1944

EMBLEM



40 Air Division emblem: On a shield of blue, a stylized comet, red and white, in the upper right, with a tail, curved toward the base, of red, white, and red stripes alternating; overall four lightning flashes yellow, slanting, points to right, one above the other. (Approved, 14 Apr 1952)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

In May 1943, the 40 deployed to Brampton Grange, England. In Sep 1943, the wing received three bombardment groups and began combat operations against Nazi Germany, striking such targets as Nantes, Emden, Wilhelmshaven and Bremen. Its units participated in a mission to Schweinfurt on 14 Oct 1943 that resulted in the loss of over half of the aircraft dispatched. For the remainder of World War II, the wing flew numerous missions against military targets throughout occupied Europe and Germany. Redesignated 40 Air Division in March 1951, it assumed a supervisory role over assigned units of the Strategic Air Command, ensuring that they were manned, trained, and equipped to conduct long range bombardment missions using either nuclear or conventional weapons. It also developed and maintained the capability for effective air refueling and Minuteman II (intercontinental ballistic missile) operations. In these roles the division conducted staff assistance visits and participated in numerous exercises such as Buy None, Buckskin Rider and Busy Player. After Jul 1989, the 40 Air Division established policies to ensure support for wartime execution of a strategic ICBM wing and a strategic air refueling wing in accordance with the Single Integrated Operational Plan (SIOP) and Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) directed conventional war-fighting commitments.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

Created: 1 Jan 2025

Updated:

Sources

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

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