

## 45 AIR DIVISION



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

45 Bombardment Wing (Medium) established 15 Feb 1943  
Activated, 1 Apr 1943  
Redesignated 45 Bombardment Wing (Heavy), 6 Apr 1943  
Redesignated 45 Combat Bombardment Wing (Heavy), 30 Aug 1943  
Redesignated 45 Combat Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 24 Aug 1944  
Disestablished, 18 Jun 1945  
Reestablished and redesignated 45 Air Division, 24 Sep 1954  
Activated, 8 Oct 1954  
Inactivated, 18 Jan 1958  
Activated, 20 Nov 1958  
Inactivated, 15 Jun 1989

#### STATIONS

MacDill Field, FL, 1 Apr-4 Aug 1943  
Brampton Grange, England, 25 Aug 1943  
Snetterton Heath, England, 13 Sep 1943-18 Jun 1945  
Loring AFB, ME, 8 Oct 1954-18 Jan 1958  
Loring AFB, ME, 20 Nov 1958  
Pease AFB, NH, 30 Jun 1971-15 Jun 1989

#### ASSIGNMENTS

Third Air Force, 1 Apr 1943-5 Aug 1943

Eighth Air Force, 25 Aug 1943  
3 Bombardment Division, (by 18 Aug 1944)-18 Jun 1945  
Eighth Air Force, 8 Oct 1954-18 Jan 1958  
Eighth Air Force, 20 Nov 1958  
Second Air Force, 31 Mar 1970  
Eighth Air Force, 1 Jan 1975-15 Jun 1989

## **COMMANDERS**

Maj Carl L. Liles, C. Apr 1943  
Col Archie J. Old Jr., 14 Sep 1943  
Brig Gen Charles P. Cabell, 1 Dec 1943  
Brig Gen Archie J. Old Jr., 12 Apr 1944-18 Jun 1945  
Brig Gen Bertram C. Harrison, 8 Oct 1954  
Brig Gen William K. Martin, 18 Jun 1955-18 Jan 1958  
Brig Gen Selmon W. Wells, 20 Nov 1958  
Brig Gen William B. Kieffer, 1 Jul 1960  
Brig Gen John C. Meyer, 7 Sep 1961  
Brig Gen William E. Creer, 1 Aug 1962  
Brig Gen Frank B. Elliott, 6 May 1964  
Brig Gen Robert J. Dixon, 18 Sep 1965  
Brig Gen Albert J. Bowley, 15 Jul 1967  
Brig Gen Madison M. Mcbrayer, 16 Oct 1968  
Brig Gen Harry C. Bayne, 18 Apr 1970  
Brig Gen Eugene Q. Steffes Jr., 1 Jul 1971  
Brig Gen Harold E. Confer, 15 Jun 1972  
Brig Gen Richard M. Baughn, 13 Feb 1973  
Brig Gen Thomas F. Rew, 24 May 1974  
Brig Gen Jack L. Watkins, 28 Jul 1975  
Col Edward Batchelor, 30 Nov 1977  
Brig Gen Guy L. Hecker Jr., 11 Jan 1978  
Col Edward Batchelor, 4 Dec 1978  
Brig Gen Robert E. Messerli, 30 Mar 1979  
Brig Gen Gerald D. Larson, 23 Jun 1980  
Brig Gen Thomas G. Tobin, 29 Jun 1982  
Brig Gen Martin J. Ryan Jr., Nov 1983  
Brig Gen John R. Allen Jr., 4 Jun 1986  
Brig Gen Stanley O. Smith, 17 Sep 1987  
Col Jimmie R. Campbell, 10 Apr-15 Jun 1989

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

World War II  
European Africa  
Middle Eastern Theater

## Campaign Streamers

## Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

## Decorations

## EMBLEM



Argent, a bend azure charged in dexter chief with the Big Dipper of the first, over all centered in nombril point a compass rose palewise or, in middle chief the Polaris of the like, in sinister chief a stylized aircraft and missile bendwise volant of the second, each emitting two vapor trails of the last and all within a diminished border of the third. (Approved, 12 May 1960)

## MOTTO

## OPERATIONS

The 45 Bombardment Wing began bombing operations against German occupied Europe on 14 Sep 1943. Its bombers attacked targets in Bremen, Emden, Kiel, Ludwigshafen, Munster, Saarbrucken, Schweinfurt, and Wilhelmshaven. In Jun 1944 the 45 supported the Allied invasion of Normandy, France, with tactical missions, against enemy airdromes, airfields, bridges, coastal defenses, field batteries, gun positions, and railway junctions. On 21 Jun 1944, Col Archie J. Old, commanding officer of the 45 Combat Bombardment Wing, served as the task force commander of a shuttle bombing mission to the Soviet Union. The task force raided a synthetic oil plant just south of Berlin, and then proceeded to Poltava in the Soviet Union, where a large number of the 45's bombers were destroyed on the ground during a raid by German bomber and fighter aircraft. The surviving bombers bombed an oil plant at Drohobycz, Poland, while returning from Poltava to Foggia, Italy. Shortly before the German surrender, in late Apr 1945, the wing flew five "Chow Hound" mercy missions, dropping food and other supplies to the people in occupied Holland. After the German

surrender on 8 May 1945, it helped transport displaced Europeans back to their respective native countries. The 45, reestablished as an Air Division, in Oct 1954, assumed responsibility for the training and combat readiness of its assigned units. It achieved this goal through staff assistance visits and supervising or participating in exercises such as Golden Hour Tango, Rubber Ball, and Sky Shield.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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

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