

6 OPERATIONS GROUP



MISSION

6 Operations Group mission is planning and executing global aerial refueling, combatant commander airlift, and specialized missions for US and allied combat and support aircraft. We extend US global power and global reach through employment of a mix of KC-135R and C-37 aircraft.

LINEAGE

3 Observation Group established and organized, 30 Sep 1919
Redesignated 6 Group (Observation), 14 Mar 1921
Redesignated 6 Group (Composite), Jun 1922
Redesignated 6 Composite Group, 25 Jan 1923
Redesignated 6 Bombardment Group, 1 Sep 1937
Redesignated 6 Bombardment Group (Medium), 6 Dec 1939
Redesignated 6 Bombardment Group (Heavy), 12 Dec 1940
Disestablished, 1 Nov 1943

6 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, established, 28 Mar 1944
Activated, 1 Apr 1944

6 Bombardment Group (Heavy) and 6 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy consolidated, 29 Jun 1944. Consolidated unit designated 6 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy

Inactivated, 18 Oct 1948
Redesignated 6 Bombardment Group, Medium, 20 Dec 1950
Activated, 2 Jan 1951

Inactivated, 16 Jun 1952
Redesignated 6 Strategic Group, 31 Jul 1985
Redesignated 6 Operations Group, 1 Jul 1996
Activated, 1 Oct 1996

STATIONS

France Field, Canal Zone, 30 Sep 1919
Rio Hato AB, Panama, 9 Dec 1941
Albrook Field, Canal Zone, 14 Jan 1943
Howard Field, Canal Zone, Oct-1 Nov 1943
Dalhart AAFld, TX, 1 Apr 1944
Grand Island AAFld, NE, 19 May-18 Nov 1944
North Field, Tinian, 28 Dec 1944
Clark Field, Luzon, c. Feb 1946
Kadena AB, Okinawa, 1 Jun 1947-18 Oct 1948
Walker AFB, NM, 2 Jan 1951-16 Jun 1952
MacDill AFB, FL, 1 Oct 1996

ASSIGNMENTS

Panama Canal Department, 30 Sep 1919
19 Composite Wing (later, 19 Wing; 19 Bombardment Wing), 25 Jan 1933
VI Bomber Command, 25 Oct 1941-1 Nov 1943
Second Air Force, 1 Apr 1944
313 Bombardment Wing, 23 Apr 1944
1 Air Division, 1 Jun 1947-18 Oct 1948
6 Bombardment Wing, 2 Jan 1951-16 Jun 1952
6 Air Refueling (later, 6 Air Mobility) Wing, 1 Oct 1996

WEAPON SYSTEMS

JN-4
R-3 (R-9)
R-4
JN-4
DH-4
HS2L
OA-1
O-2
NBS-1
P-12
SE-5
MB-3
PW-9
LB-5
LB-6

LB-7
OA-4
O-19, 1930-1937
B-3, 1931-1936
B-6, 1936-1937
B-10, 1936-1939
B-18, 1938-1943
B-17, 1941-1943
LB-30, 1942-1943
B-24, 1942-1943
A-17, 1942-1943
L-4, 1943
RB-17, 1943
B-17, 1944
B-29, 1944-1947
KC-135, 1996
EC-135, 1997
CT-43, 1997-2001
C-37, 2001

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 1919-1921
Maj Raycroft Walsh, 14 Mar 1921
Maj Norman J. Boots, Apr 1922
1lt Perry Wainer, 19 Aug 1922
Maj Follett Bradley, 2 Oct 1922
Maj Roy M. Jones, 14 Jul 1926
Lt Col Arthur G. Fisher, 24 Aug 1926
Maj Edwin B. Lyon, 5 Jun 1929
Lt Col James A. Mars, 20 Jul 1929
Maj Leo G. Heffernan, 4 Jul 1931-7 Dec 1931
Lt Col Lewis H. Brereton, Aug 1931
Lt Col Junius H. Houghton, 20 Jun 1935
Lt Col William O. Butler, 18 Jul 1936
Lt Col Vernon L. Burge, 7 Jun 1939
Lt Col Edwin J. House, 30 Aug 1939
Lt Col Samuel M. Connell, Feb 1941
Lt Col Henry K. Mooney, 15 Sep 1941-20 Jan 1943
Unkn, 20 Jan-1 Nov 1943
None (Not Manned), 1-18 Apr 1944
Maj William E. Taylor, 19 Apr 1944
Lt Col Howard D. Kenzie, 28 Apr 1944
Col Kenneth H. Gibson, 17 Jun 1944
Lt Col Theodore W. Tucker, 31 Aug 1945

Col John P. Kenny, 29 Aug 1946
Col Frank P. Sturdivant, 4 Dec 1946-Unkn
None (Not Manned), 15 Jan 1951-16 Jun 1952
Col Patrick T. Sakole, 1 Oct 1996
Col Vern M. Findley II, 2 Aug 1997
Col Timothy D. Gann, 13 May 1998
Col Alfred J. Stewart, 17 Apr 2000
Col Robert C. Kane, 15 Apr 2002
Col Brian Kelly, 22 Jul 2003
Col Scott A. Brumbaugh, 22 Apr 2005
Col Jon D. Klaus, 4 May 2007
Col James Morgan, 17 Jul 2009
Col Matthew C. Molineaux, 13 Jun 2011
Col Brian N. Smith, 14 May 2013

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Antisubmarine, American Theater
Air Offensive, Japan
Eastern Mandates
Western Pacific

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Tokyo, Japan, 25 May 1945
Japanese Empire, 9-19 Jul 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

[1 Oct] 1996-30 Jun 1998
1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 2000
1 Jul 2004-30 Jun 2006
1 Jul 2007-30 Jun 2009
1 Jul 2009-30 Jun 2010

EMBLEM



6 Bombardment Group emblem



6 Operations Group emblem: Or, pily of twelve Gules, overall a base Azure supporting a sailing ship with sails set affronte Sable, sails Argent, between two mounts issuing from dexter and sinister Vert, below a shooting star in dexter chief and a bi-wing aircraft, viewed from below Argent, garnished Sable, in sinister chief; all within a diminished bordure of the first. Attached below a scroll edged in Air Force yellow, on a white field background, inscribed "6 OPERATIONS GROUP" in Air Force blue lettering." **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater for Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The biplane symbolizes the 6's first aircraft, the R-4, as well as past reconnaissance missions. The sailing ship represents the 6's service in the Caribbean. The water and shore reflect the past mission of protecting the Panama Canal and World War II operations in the Pacific. The falling star indicates the 6's past bombardment mission. The yellow and red sun rays symbolize peace maintained through vigilance and military strength. (Approved for the 6 Group on 22 Jan 1924 and adopted by the 6 Wing on 18 Mar 1955; replaced by emblem approved on 21 Oct 1980; original emblem reinstated on 20 Sep 1988)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Participated in training exercises, maneuvers, and patrols in defense of the Panama Canal, 1919-1943. During this period, the group also took part in aerial photography missions, aerial reviews, and good will flights to Central and South American countries. In Jan 1939, it flew mercy missions to Santiago, Chile, for the relief of earthquake victims.

Antisubmarine patrols, 7 Dec 1941-12 Sep 1943. Trained for heavy bombardment combat operations, first with B-17s and then with B-29s, Apr-Nov 1944. It moved to the Mariana Islands in Nov 1944, from where it raided Iwo Jima, Truk, and Japan. At first the group flew high altitude daylight missions, but in Mar 1945, it began to fly low level night incendiary raids against Japanese cities. Earned a DUC for a 25 May mission against Tokyo. Earned a second DUC for mining missions around Japan and the Japanese-occupied Korean peninsula in Jul 1945. To support the American invasion of Okinawa in Apr 1945, the group bombed Kamikaze airfields in Kyushu. Immediately after the war, it participated in show-of-force flights over Japan and dropped food and other relief

supplies to newly freed Allied prisoners of war.

Moved to Philippines between Jan and Mar 1946 and to Ryukyu Islands in Jun 1947.

Inactivated in Okinawa in Oct 1948.

During a brief period of activation between 2 Jan 1951 and 16 Jun 1952, the group had only one officer and one airman assigned.

Activated again on 1 Oct 1996 with an air refueling mission. Elements deployed to Southwest Asia in Jul 1998 to refuel aircraft engaged in no-fly operations over northern Iraq. After Jan 2001, the group also provided airlift for the commanders of U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command. It also refueled fighters providing security over the southeastern United States as part of homeland security after terrorist attacks against the United States in Sep 2001.

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.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.