

306th FLYING TRAINING GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

306th Bombardment Group (Heavy) established, 28 Jan 1942
Activated, 1 Mar 1942
Redesignated 306th Bombardment Group, Heavy, 20 Aug 1943
Inactivated, 25 Dec 1946
Redesignated 306th Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, 11 Jun 1947
Activated, 1 Jul 1947
Redesignated 306th Bombardment Group, Medium, 11 Aug 1948
Inactivated, 16 Jun 1952
Redesignated 306th Flying Training Group, 30 Sep 2004
Activated, 4 Oct 2004

STATIONS

Gowen Field, ID, 1 Mar 1942
Wendover Field, UT, 6 Apr-1 Aug 1942
Thurleigh, England, 6 Sep 1942
Giebelstadt, Germany, 25 Dec 1945
Istres, France, 26 Feb 1946
Fürstentfeldbruck, Germany, 16 Aug 1946
Lechfeld, Germany, 13 Sep-25 Dec 1946
Andrews Field (later, AFB), MD, 1 Jul 1947
MacDill AFB, FL, 1 Aug 1948-16 Jun 1952
USAF Academy, CO, 4 Oct 2004

ASSIGNMENTS

Second Air Force, 1 Mar 1942
1st Bombardment Wing, 6 Sep 1942
40th Combat Bombardment Wing, Sep 1943
9th Air Division, 16 May 1945
98th Bombardment Wing, Sep 1945
40th Bombardment Wing, 15 Nov 1945
128th Replacement Battalion (AAF/ET Replacement Depot), 22 Aug 1946
40th Bombardment Wing, 13 Sep 1946
European Air Materiel Command, 20-25 Dec 1946
Strategic Air Command, 1 Jul 1947
Fifteenth Air Force, 16 Dec 1948
Second Air Force, 1 Apr 1950
306th Bombardment Wing, 1 Sep 1950-16 Jun 1952
Nineteenth Air Force, 4 Oct 2004

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17, 1942-1946
B-17F
B-29, 1948-1951
B-50, 1950-1951
B-47, 1951-1952
KC-97, 1951-1952

COMMANDERS

Col Charles B. Overacker Jr., 16 Mar 1942
Col Frank A. Armstrong Jr., 3 Jan 1943
Col Claude E. Putnam, 17 Feb 1943
Col George L. Robinson, 20 Jun 1943
Col James S. Sutton, Sep 1944
Col Hudson H. Upham, 16 Apr 1945
Col Robert F. Harris, May 1946
LTC Earl W. Kesling, Jun 1946-unkn
LTC Charles R. Heffner, 13 Aug 1948
LTC Loran D. Briggs, 1 Nov 1948
Col John A. Hilger, 1 Sep 1949
Col Michael N. W. McCoy, Mar 1950-16 Jun 1952
Col Kendall, 2004

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

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

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Germany, 11 Jan 1944
Germany, 22 Feb 1944

EMBLEM



Per fess dancette Azure and Or, in base the Indian design for the jaws of a rattlesnake Gules, all within a diminished bordure of the second. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "ABUNDANCE OF STRENGTH" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** 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 dancette is the Indian ideogram representing mountains and meaning "Abundance." The semi-circular design in base is the Indian sign for the jaws of a rattlesnake, meaning strength. (Approved, 6 Jan 1943; modified version approved, 21 Oct 2004)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

306th Bombardment Wing, was first activated at Boise, Idaho, on 1 March 1942. Later that month, the Group, with its full complement of three squadrons, the 367th, 368th, and 369th, moved to Wendover Field, Utah, for a period of intensive training.

Left Wendover 1 Aug. 42 to begin movement to UK. Ground echelon first moved Richmond AAB, Va. remained a week, leaving for Fort Dix, NJ. 13 Aug. 42. Sailed Queen Elizabeth 30 Aug. 42 arriving 5 Sep. 42 at Greenock, Scotland. Air echelon flew from Wendover to Westover Fd, Mass. 2 Aug. 42. Departed for UK, 1 Sep. 42 via Gander-Prestwick ferry route.

Moved to England, Aug-Sep 1942 and entered combat in Oct. Between then and Apr 1945, bombed a variety of enemy targets in Europe, including railroad facilities and submarine pens in France and ball-bearing works, oil plants, marshalling yards, chemical plants, aircraft factories, and foundries in Germany.

Took part in the first penetration into Germany by heavy bombers of the Eighth Air Force on 27 Jan 1943 by attacking U-boat yards at Wilhelmshaven. Sgt. Maynard H. Smith received the Medal of Honor for his actions on 1 May 1943. When the aircraft on which he was a gunner was hit by the enemy and set on fire, the sergeant threw explosive ammunition overboard, manned a gun until the German fighters were driven off, administered first aid to the wounded tail gunner, and extinguished the fire. Without fighter escort and in the face of powerful opposition, the group completed an assault against aircraft factories in central Germany on 11 Jan 1944, earning a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for the mission.

Participated in the Big Week intensive campaign against the German aircraft industry, 20-25 Feb 1944. The group earned another DUC for effectively bombing an aircraft assembly plant at Bernberg, Germany on 22 Feb, even though escort fighters had abandoned the mission because of weather. Often supported ground forces and attacked interdiction targets in addition to its strategic operations. Hit airfields and marshalling yards in France, Belgium, and Germany in preparation for Normandy. On D-Day, 6 Jun 1944, raided railroad bridges and coastal guns in support of the assault. Assisted ground forces during the St. Lo breakthrough in Jul. Covered the airborne invasion of Holland in Sep.

During the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945, attacked airfields and marshalling yards to help stop the German advance. Bombed enemy positions in support of the airborne assault across the Rhine in Mar 1945. Remained in the theater after V-E Day and engaged in special photographic mapping duty in western Europe and North Africa, 1945-1946.

First Mission: 9 Oct 42

Last Mission: 19 Apr 45

Total Missions 342.

Total Credit Sorties 9,614

Total Bomb Tonnage: 22,574 6 tons (248.9 tons leaf lets)
A/C MIA: 171
E/A Claims: 332-97-185

Selected for duty with occupational air forces in Germany. Engaged in "Casey Jones" mapping photography project. Moved Giebelstadt, Germany, 1 Dec. 45 and on 28 Feb. 46 to Istres, France, where it absorbed remnants of 92 and 384BGs. In Aug. 46, re-established in Germany at Furstenfeldbruck and in Sep. 46 located at Lechfeld. Inactivated 25 Dec. 46, although the group had virtually ceased to exist as flying unit in the late summer of that year.

In the early 1950s, MacDill became home of the SAC Lead Crew School first established at Walker AFB, New Mexico. The 306th Bomb Group trained top B-29 and B-50 crews designated to lead bombing raids over enemy positions.

When the USAF's jet bomber program got under way in 1950 the 306th was picked to be the first organization to receive Boeing's new six-jet B-47. Late in the year plans were formulated for the conversion to the B-47 program. Some of the 306th personnel began departing for school and transition at the Boeing plant in Wichita, Kansas, for practical and theoretical training on the B-47. In August 1950, another unit was added to the Group, the 306th Air Refueling Squadron, This squadron, equipped with Boeing KC-97's, gave the Group global range.

Early in 1951 the 306th transitioned from Group to Wing level and came under the command of the newly activated 6th Air Division. While the problems arising from this new move were being worked on, an all-out B-47 indoctrination program was begun. The programming of personnel flow to Ground School, Survival Courses, Bomb Commander, and transition was smoothly effected.

The first B-47 was delivered to the Wing in October 1951, and an instructor pilot program was scheduled and full scale operational training began.

Information was received in March 1953, to make preparation for rotation to the United Kingdom for a period of ninety days. Purpose of the move was to expand the mobility and capabilities of the Wing toward its ultimate mission, combat readiness.

The 306th made aviation history on 3 June 1953, when the first B-47, with Colonel Michael N. W. McCoy at the controls, departed MacDill Air Force Base for Fairford RAF Station, England. The much publicized overseas deployment, the first of its kind, vividly portrayed to the world the potentialities and capabilities of the 306th Bomb Wing and the Strategic Air Command.

Taking over McCoy AFB from the 4047th Strategic Wing, on 1 April 1963, the 306th, now flying B-52's and KC-135's, has continued to maintain its superior performance and today ranks as one of the foremost units of SAC's deterrent force.

The U.S. Air Force Academy's airmanship operations will realign under the Air Education and

Training Command as the newly named 306th Flying Training Group effective today. Airmanship operations are elective courses at the Colorado Springs, Colo., academy and are aimed at giving cadets first-hand knowledge and understanding of the flight environment. "Airmanship operations allow them to develop an 'airsense,'" said Mr. Alan Becker, the AETC Plans and Programs project officer and 1977 academy graduate. Cadets can enroll in a soaring course, learning to pilot a sailplane, or do free-fall parachuting, earning their basic military parachute jump wings. Cadets also have the chance to become instructors in various aviation and airmanship programs.

The realignment should be fairly transparent to the rest of the Air Force, Mr. Becker said. "It's mostly paperwork and transfer of responsibilities." The assets, to include the AETC people already at the academy, will remain in place. "What will change is a few more folks at headquarters AETC and 19th Air Force focusing their attention on the academy." The realignment allows the academy to capitalize on AETC's experiences. "The change comes in an effort to form a big brother partnership," Mr. Becker said. "The academy has successfully run airmanship operations for more than 30 years. By realigning the management of cadet airmanship operations under AETC's flying training experts, the academy can now devote more time and focus on the leadership and training of cadets."

"It just makes sense to align the (airmanship operations) under these functional experts," said Lt. Col. Kyle M. Lampela, the academy's 34th Operations Support Squadron commander. "We're the trainers of the Air Force," said Col. Bryon Mills, AETC Plans and Programs division chief. AETC has extensive expertise in what works and what doesn't work in training, maintenance, aircraft acquisition and managing day-to-day operations. AETC, however, will not be accomplishing this new initiative solo. The airmanship operations at the academy will be AETC's to fund and manage, but the airfield real estate remains the academy's, Colonel Mills said. Maintaining the facilities will be the job of the academy, but AETC personnel will be operating them.

"The whole purpose of the airmanship program is leadership through flying," said Colonel Mills. "So, we end up basically sharing a mission with the Academy. Although the Academy is providing us support to run the facilities, we are in-turn providing support back to them." The transformation to a full-up AETC organization will not be immediate. It may take up to two years, said Mr. Becker, before the transition is complete. "There are lots and lots of little things to get right - network connectivity, cadet management systems, syllabi... We're peeling back the layers of the onion. We can't do it too quickly or we'll miss something very important."

The 306 FTG's organizational structure will mirror that of other geographically separated units, like the 479th Flying Training Group at Moody Air Force Base, Ga. The 306th FTG will report directly to Maj. Gen. Edward R. Ellis, 19th Air Force commander.

General Ellis deliberately chose "306" as the designator for the newest addition to the command. When looking for a unit designation, the Air Force Historical Research Agency at Maxwell AFB, Ala., is called on to look at what designations are available, said Mr. Thomas Manning, AETC's command historian. The agency then provides a list of the top contenders based on mission similarities to the one that's standing up and lineage scores (points awarded for campaign streamers, tune active, medals, etc.). "(The AETC History Office) initially requested a unit that had a good tie to flying training, but there wasn't much to choose from," Mr. Manning said. So they returned to the AFHRA with a request for other designations with good

lineage - the 306th was on the list.

After researching the 306th, the history office found the group had strong connections to the movie "Twelve O'clock High," Mr. Manning said. The 1949 movie is said to have modeled its famed and fictitious 918th Bomb Group after the 306th, known for its participation in the major European air raids over Germany, Mr. Manning said. They simply multiplied the group's designator by three. The book was used for many years in leadership classes at the academy and other professional military education schools, Mr. Manning said. Compiled book critiques characterize the book as depicting a group of citizen soldiers turning into a proud, disciplined unit, "the point of the Air Force's aerial spear."

On 4 October 2004, AETC officially took control of flight operations at the Academy, activating the 306th Flying Training Group (FTG), which comprised the 557 FTS's IFT light plane programs, the 94 FTS's soaring programs, and the 98 FTS's jump curriculum. Ultimately, the transition allowed the Academy's leadership to deal with their fundamental purpose of training young men and women to become future officers in the United States Air Force.

9/29/2006 - PUEBLO, Colo. The 306th Flying Training Group, Detachment 1, the military arm of the new Initial Flight Screening school, gained its introductory commander here Monday under the Colorado skies that will witness the newest Air Force aviators. Lt. Col. John Tomjack, the Air Force's newest detachment commander, accepted command from Col. Paul Ackerman, 306th Flying Training Group commander. Colonel Tomjack is overseeing construction of the new facilities that will be used to train the Air Force's future warfighters. In addition to standing up the unit, Colonel Tomjack will command all permanent party instructors and students who pass through the school.

"When Colonel Ackerman first spoke to me about the possibility of this command, I must admit that I was awestruck," said Colonel Tomjack. "The opportunity to work directly with Doss Aviation in the construction of a mini Air Force base was an opportunity I never dreamed possible." Doss Aviation is the civilian company awarded the contract in May to conduct the Initial Flight Screening program. IFS, scheduled to begin Oct. 13, will eventually train between 1,300 and 1,800 students each year and evaluates candidates hoping to enter undergraduate flight training either as pilots or combat systems officers at one of several Air Force bases throughout the United States. Maj. Gen. Marc Rogers, 19th Air Force commander, also attended the ceremony marking the beginning of IFS1 training transformation to provide standardized flight instruction with Air Force oversight at one central location.

Air Force Academy Alters Flying Patterns The Air Force Academy has begun altering takeoff routes in an effort to decrease air traffic over nearby densely populated neighborhoods. The changes took place as a result of concerned residents who raised the issue during a town hall meeting late last year. "Aircraft taking off to the north now have more time to climb to a higher altitude before turning east, which allows our pilots to throttle back the engine and minimize the noise impacts on the surrounding community," Capt. Richard Ricciardi, a USAFA spokesman told Air Force Magazine. "We've looked at as many options as we could look at and selected the

best options to reduce impact to neighborhoods, while keeping the safety of our pilots, cadets, and you as our primary focus," said Col. Joseph Rizzuto, commander of the 306th Flying Training Group. However, "I want to emphasize there will be still be aircraft flying over those neighborhoods," he said. The Academy will also will reopen Bullseye Auxiliary Airfield, a nearby airstrip that closed last year due to budget cuts, to help mitigate noise pollution. 2014

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.