

Lineage and Honors History  
of the  
**40 Air Expeditionary Wing (PACAF)**

**Lineage.** Established as 40 Bombardment Group (Medium) on 22 Nov 1940. Activated on 1 Apr 1941. Redesignated: 40 Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 7 May 1942; 40 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy on 19 Nov 1943. Inactivated on 1 Oct 1946. Redesignated 40 Tactical Group, and activated, on 14 Mar 1966. Organized on 1 Apr 1966. Consolidated (31 Jan 1984) with 40 Bombardment Group, Medium, which was established on 9 May 1952. Activated on 28 May 1952. Redesignated 40 Strategic Aerospace Wing on 1 Feb 1964. Discontinued, and inactivated, on 1 Sep 1964. Consolidated organization redesignated: 40 Tactical Support Wing on 30 Jul 1990; 40 Support Wing on 1 Oct 1991. Inactivated on 4 May 1992. Redesignated 40 Air Expeditionary Wing, and converted to provisional status, on 31 Jan 2002.

**Assignments.** 13 Composite Wing, 1 Apr 1941; VI Bomber Command, 25 Oct 1941 (attached to VI Interceptor Command, 15 Jan-5 Apr 1942); VI Interceptor Command, 6 Apr 1942; VI Bomber Command, 22 Jun 1942; 58 Bombardment Operational Training (later, 58 Bombardment) Wing, 9 Jul 1943; XX Bomber Command, 12 Oct 1944; 58 Bombardment Wing, 8 Feb 1945-1 Oct 1946. 802 Air Division, 28 May 1952 (attached to: 310 Bombardment Wing, 6 Feb-1 May 1953; 7 Air Division, 9 Jun-9 Sep 1955 and c. 1 Jul-c. 1 Oct 1957); 21 Air (later, 21 Strategic Aerospace) Division, 20 Jun 1960-1 Sep 1964. United States Air Forces in Europe, 14 Mar 1966; Seventeenth Air Force, 1 Apr 1966; Sixteenth Air Force, 1 Dec 1968-4 May 1992. Pacific Air Forces to activate or inactivate at any time after 31 Jan 2002.

**Components. Squadrons.** **5** Reconnaissance (later, 395 Bombardment): attached 1 Apr 1941-24 Feb 1942, assigned 25 Feb-9 Aug 1942; assigned 12 May 1943-20 Oct 1944. **25** Bombardment: 12 May 1943-1 Oct 1946 (not operational, 21 Sep-1 Oct 1946); 28 May 1952-1 Sep 1964 (not operational, 28 May 1952-c. 3 Apr 1953 and 15 Aug-1 Sep 1964). **29**: 1 Apr 1941-12 May 1943. **32** Tactical Fighter: attached 2-24 Jun 1972. **40** Air Refueling: 8 Jul 1952-1 Jun 1960 (not operational, 8 Jul-7 Sep 1952; detached 8 Sep 1952-30 Apr 1953, 1-10 Mar 1954, 4 May-27 Jun 1954, 25 Jun-5 Sep 1956, c. 1 Jul-c. 1 Oct 1957, and c. 1 Oct 1958-10 Jan 1959). **44** Bombardment: 1 Apr 1941-1 Oct 1946 (not operational 21 Sep-1 Oct 1946); 28 May 1952-1 Sep 1964 (not operational, 28 May 1952-31 May 1953 and 15 Aug-1 Sep 1964). **45** Bombardment: 1 Apr 1941-1 Oct 1946 (not operational, 21 Sep-1 Oct 1946); 28 May 1952-1 Sep 1964 (not operational, 28 May 1952-30 Sep 1953 and 15 Aug-1 Sep 1964). **74**: 9 Aug 1942-12 May 1943. **90** Air Refueling: 20 Jun 1960-15 Nov 1962. **343**: 10 Nov 1945-27 Mar 1946 (not operational, 10 Nov 1945-27 Mar 1946). **548** Strategic Missile: 1 Jan-1 Sep 1964 (detached 1 Aug-1 Sep 1964). **660**: 1 Feb 1959-1 Jan 1962.

**Stations.** Borinquen Field, Puerto Rico, 1 Apr 1941; Howard Field, Panama Canal Zone, 16 Jun 1942; Albrook Field, Panama Canal Zone, 16 Sep 1942; Howard Field, Panama Canal Zone, 2-15 Jun 1943; Pratt AAFld, KS, 1 Jul 1943-Mar 1944; Chakulia, India, 2 Apr 1944-25 Feb 1945; West Field, Tinian, 4 Apr-7 Nov 1945; March Field, CA, 27 Nov 1945; Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 8 May-1 Oct 1946. Smoky Hill (later, Schilling) AFB, KS, 28 May 1952; Forbes AFB, KS, 20 Jun 1960-1 Sep 1964. Aviano AB, Italy, 1 Apr 1966-4 May 1992.

**Commanders.** Lt Col William B. Sousa, 1 Apr 1941; Maj George W. McGregor, 29 Apr 1941; Col Ivan M. Palmer, 26 Nov 1941; Col Vernon C. Smith, 19 Jan 1943; Col Henry K. Mooney, 16 May 1943; Col Lewis R. Parker, 1 Jul 1943; Lt Col Louis E. Coira, 24 Feb 1944; Col Leonard F. Harman, 10 Apr 1944; Col William H., Blanchard, 4 Aug 1944; Col Henry R. Sullivan Jr., 16 Feb 1945; Col William K. Skaer, 27 Feb 1945; Lt Col Oscar R. Schaaf, 21 Mar 1946; Col Alva L. Harvey, 4 May 1946; Lt Col Oscar R. Schaaf, 21 Aug 1946; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt William F. Seith, 21 Sep-1 Oct 1946. None (not manned), 28 May 1952-5 Feb 1953; Col Stanley J. Donovan, 6 Feb 1953; Col David A. Burchinal, 2 May 1953; Col Robert J. Nolan, 26 Oct 1953; Col Berton H. Burns, 11 Jun 1954; Col Charles L. Wimberly, 15 Jul 1954; Col Robert J. Nolan, 27 Jul 1954; Col Berton H. Burns, 16 Sep 1954; Col Andrew S. Low Jr., 1 Jun 1957; Col George Y. Jumper, 4 Jul 1958; Col Woodward B. Carpenter, 7 Jul 1959; Col Norman J. McGowan, 20 Jun 1960; Col Joel A. Carroll Jr., 8 Jul 1961-10 Aug 1964; unkn, 11 Aug-1 Sep 1964. None (not manned), 14-31 Mar 1966; Col Carl E. Lovell, 1 Apr 1966; Lt Col George M. Dwight Jr., 18 May 1966 (temporary); Col Robert R. Fowler, 3 Jun 1966 (temporary); Col Richard L. Hamilton, 27 Jun 1966; Col Glyn W. Ramsey, 31 Mar 1967; Col Thomas A. Barr, 7 Jul 1969; Col Morton C. Mumma III, 10 May 1971; Col John L. Piotrowski, 7 Jan 1972; Col Robert L. Miller III, 16 Mar 1974; Col William L. Gibson, 9 Jul 1976; Col James W. Dearborn, 15 Jun 1978; Col Henry M. Yochum II, 22 May 1980; Col Dean F. Vikan, 8 Jul 1981; Col Lester P. Brown Jr., 1 Jul 1982; Col Frederick A. Zehrer III, 16 Mar 1984; Col George W. McKenna, 20 Apr 1985 (temporary); Col James T. Hannam, 19 Jun 1985; Col Frank Plescha, 25 Jun 1986; Col John W. Hawley, 28 Jan 1988; Lt Col Wayne Mayfield, 15 May 1989 (temporary); Col James C. Evans, 6 Jul 1989; Col Wayne

Mayfield, 10 Mar 1990 (temporary); Col Thomas K. Speelman, 30 Jul 1990; unkn, Jul 1991-4 May 1992.

**Aircraft and Missiles.** Primarily B-18, 1941-1942; B-17, 1942-1943, 1946; B-24, 1943; B-29, 1943-1946. B-29, 1953-1954; KC-97, 1953-1960, 1960-1962; B-47, 1954-1964; Atlas "E", 1964. None assigned, 1966-1992, but organization exercised operational control over many different kinds of aircraft from squadron detachments that rotated periodically to Aviano.

**Operations.** Flew antisubmarine patrol missions around Puerto Rico from Apr 1941 to Jun 1942 and the Panama Canal Zone from Jun 1942 to Jun 1943, when it moved to the continental United States to train to become the first Army Air Forces group to be assigned the B-29 Superfortress. Moved to India and set up a staging base in China in Apr 1944, to which it shuttled fuel and oil over the Himalaya Mountains (the "Hump"). Entered combat on 5 Jun 1944 with a raid on railroad shops at Bangkok, Thailand. On 15 Jun the group took part in the first Army Air Forces air raid on Japan since the Doolittle raid of April 1942. Operating from bases in India, and at times staging through China, the group struck transportation centers, naval installations, iron works, and aircraft plants in Burma, Thailand, China, Japan, Indonesia, and Formosa. On August 10, 1944, the group took part with three other groups on the longest single-stage bombing mission of World War II, flying from a staging base in Ceylon to Palembang, Sumatra, to bomb a refinery and mine a river (Operation BOOMERANG). The group earned a Distinguished Unit Citation for bombing iron and steel plants at Yawata, Japan, on 20 Aug 1944. Moved to Tinian in the Marianas Islands in April 1945 for high altitude daylight attacks on strategic targets in Japan. Took part in lower-level night incendiary raids on urban

areas and mined waters around Japan. Earned a second Distinguished Unit Citation for attacking naval aircraft factories at Kure, oil storage facilities at Oshima, and the industrial city of Nagoya, in May 1945. Received a third Distinguished Unit Citation for a 24 Jul 1945 air raid on light metal industries in Osaka. After victory over Japan, dropped food and supplies to Allied prisoners of war and took part in show-of-force missions over Japan. Returned to the United States in Nov 1945. Conducted air sampling missions for the Operation CROSSROADS atomic bomb tests, Jun-Aug 1946, and inactivated in Oct. Although activated in May 1952, the group was not manned until early Feb 1953. In 1954, it converted from propeller-driven B-29s to jet B-47 bombers. Deployed at Lakenheath RAF Station, England, 9 Jun-9 Sep 1955. Performed bombardment training and air refueling missions to meet global commitments of Strategic Air Command, 1955-1964. Deployed at Greenham Common RAF Station, England, Jul-Oct 1957. Gained an Atlas missile squadron in Jan 1964, but inactivated in Sep of that year. From Apr 1966 through May 1992, maintained readiness of Aviano AB, Italy and managed and supported squadron detachments that deployed there temporarily for training, exercises, humanitarian operations, or contingencies. During that period, however, the organization had no assigned aircraft and no assigned flying units.

**Service Streamers.** None.

**Campaign Streamers.** *World War II:* Antisubmarine, American Theater; Western Pacific; Air Offensive, Japan; India-Burma; China Defensive; Central Burma.

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers.** None.

**Decorations.** Distinguished Unit Citations (Japan): 20 Aug 1944; 5-14 May 1945; 24 Jul 1945. Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards: 1 Oct 1972-30 Apr 1973; 6 May-31 Dec 1976; 1 Jul 1982-30 Jun 1984; 1 Jul 1989-30 Jun 1991.

**Lineage, Assignments, Components, Stations, and Honors through** 31 Jan 2002.

**Commanders, Aircraft, and Operations through** 4 May 1992.

**Supersedes** statement prepared on 8 Feb 1985.

**Emblem.** Approved on 18 Mar 1942.

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