

## 451 AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP



### MISSION

The 451 Air Expeditionary Group is located at Kandahar Airfield and includes an expeditionary reconnaissance squadron, an expeditionary rescue squadron and an expeditionary air control squadron.

### LINEAGE

451 Bombardment Group (Heavy) established, 6 Apr 1943

Activated, 1 May 1943

Redesignated 451 Bombardment Group, Heavy, 10 May 1943

Inactivated, 26 Sep 1945

451 Strategic Missile Wing (ICBM-Titan) established and activated, 26 Apr 1961

Organized, 1 Jul 1961

Discontinued and inactivated, 25 Jun 1965

451 Bombardment Group, Heavy and 451 Strategic Missile Wing (ICBM-Titan) consolidated,  
31 Jan 1984

Redesignated 451 Air Expeditionary Group and converted to provisional status, 3 May 2002

### STATIONS

Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 1 May 1943

Dyersburg AAFld, TN, 3 Jun 1943

Wendover Field, UT, 22 Jul 1943

Fairmont AAFld, NE, 11 Sep 1943

Camp Patrick Henry, VA, 28 Nov-2 Dec 1943 (ground echelon)

Telergma, Algeria, Dec 1943 (air echelon)  
Gioia del Colle, Italy, 3 Jan 1944 (ground echelon), 20 Jan 1944 (air echelon)  
San Pancrazio, Italy, 5 Mar 1944  
Castelluccio, Italy, 6 Apr 1944-3 Jun 1945  
Dow Field, ME, 18 Jun-26 Sep 1945  
Lowry AFB, CO, 1 Jul 1961-25 Jun 1965

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Assignments. II Bomber Command, 1 May 1943  
Second Air Force, 6 Oct 1943  
47 Bombardment Wing, 11 Dec 1943  
49 Bombardment Wing, 7 Apr 1944  
Air Transport Command, Jun-26 Sep 1945  
Strategic Air Command, 26 Apr 1961  
13 Air (later, 13 Strategic Missile) Division, 1 Jul 1961-25 Jun 1965  
Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate at any time on or after 3 May 2002

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-24, 1943-1945  
Titan I, 1962-1965

### **COMMANDERS**

Maj Donald T. Jones, May 1943  
Capt James B. Beane, Jun 1943  
Capt Linnon R. Blackmon, 15 Jun 1943  
Col Robert E. L. Eaton, 0 Jun 1943  
Col James B. Knapp, 19 Sep 1944  
Col Leroy L. Stefonowicz, Dec 1944-unkn  
Maj William H. McGuire, unkn-26 Sep 1945  
None (not manned), 26 Apr-30 Jun 1961  
Col John P. Proctor, 1 Jul 1961  
Col Julius Pickoff, 13 Mar 1962  
Col Donald W. Johnson, 9 Jan-25 Jun 1965  
Col William T. Cahoon  
Col Rhude Cherry III

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Air Offensive, Europe  
Naples-Foggia  
Anzio

Rome-Arno  
Normandy  
Northern France  
Southern France  
North Apennines  
Rhineland  
Central Europe  
Po Valley  
Air Combat, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
Regensburg, Germany, 25 Feb 1944  
Ploesti, Rumania, 5 Apr 1944  
Vienna, Austria, 23 Aug 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award  
1 Jul 1963-30 Jun 1964

#### **EMBLEM**



451 Bombardment Group (Heavy) patch



451 Strategic Missile Wing (ICBM-Titan) emblem: Azure, above a portion of a sphere in sinister base with axis bend-wise light blue, grid lines argent, an orbiting missile arras-wise in bend of the third enflamed proper, emitting to chief and to base a lightning flash gules and trailing from its point four shock waves two and two of the third, sprinkled with nine mullets of the like above in base a wreath vert, all within a diminished bordure of the third. Significance: Against a background of sky to indicate an unlimited scope of operations, a globe represents worldwide capability. A missile speeding across the emblem symbolizes the wing's function, the shock waves indicate supersonic speeds, and the lightning represents destruction to the aggressor. The stars indicate night and day operation and the olive wreath suggests peace through preparedness. (Approved, 29 Jun 1962)



451 Air Expeditionary Wing emblems

**MOTTO**

EXEMPLUM PROFERIMUS--We serve as an example

**OPERATIONS**

Prepared in the United States for bombardment operations, May-Nov 1943. Moved to

Mediterranean theater, Nov 1943-Jan 1944, the air echelon training in Algeria for a few weeks before joining the ground echelon in Italy. As an element of Fifteenth Air Force, the group conducted strategic bombardment raids against targets such as oil refineries, marshalling yards, aircraft factories, bridges, and airfields in Italy, France, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Albania, and Greece, Jan 1944-May 1945. Earned a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for each of three 1944 air raids: to an aircraft factory at Regensburg, Germany, on 25 Feb; to oil refineries and marshalling yards at Ploesti, Rumania, on 5 Apr; and to an airdrome in Vienna, Austria, on 23 Aug. Although encountering large numbers of enemy fighters and heavy anti-aircraft fire during each of these missions, the group inflicted serious damage on the assigned targets and shot down many interceptors. Flying interdiction missions, the group also helped prepare for and support the Allied invasion of southern France in Aug 1944. It transported supplies to troops in Italy in Sep 1944 and supported the final advance of Allied armies in northern Italy in Apr 1945. Returned to the United States in Jun, where it inactivated in late Sep 1945.

Replaced 703d SMW (ICBM-Titan) in Jul 1961. First wing missile complex accepted 18 Apr 1962. All wing missiles off alert status on 26 Mar 1965, and wing phased down for inactivation.

The 451 Expeditionary Group at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, inactivated two squadrons as part of its transition from a large unit involved in combat operations to a smaller organization supporting the mission of training, assisting, and advising Afghan forces, according to a unit release. The 451 Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and 451 Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron stood down in ceremonies on May 3. "On this date in 2002, we established the 451 AEG to control the air over southern Afghanistan," said Col. Rhude Cherry, 451 AEG commander, on May 3 "Over the course of time, we expanded to become a wing, and then last year back to being a group," he added in the May 21 release. The group's maintenance role now resides with the 62nd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron, which operates MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft. The group's logistics tasks realigned under the 451 Expeditionary Support Squadron, states the release. 2015

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USAF Unit Histories  
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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.