



# FACT SHEET

## 44th FIGHTER GROUP

The 44th Fighter Group is a classic association partnered with the 325th Fighter Wing at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., as well as a subordinate unit under the 301st Fighter Wing, Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas. The unit's mission involves F-22 5th generation aircraft and T-38A Adversary aircraft. The squadrons within the 44 FG are the 44th Maintenance Squadron, 301st Fighter Squadron and the 44th Aerospace Medical Flight.

### Mission

The mission of the 44th Fighter Group is to train and produce unrivaled 5th generation combat airpower through mission-ready Airmen.

### History

The long history of the 44 FG can be traced back to its establishment as 44th Bombardment Group (Heavy) on Nov. 20, 1940 and activated on Jan. 15, 1941. During this time, the 44 BG trained with B-24 Liberators and performed antisubmarine patrols over the Gulf of Mexico in early 1942. The group then began combat training in July 1942 and moved to England in Oct. 1942, flying its first combat mission Nov. 7, 1942 during WWII, thus earning its first Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for an extremely hazardous mission against naval installations at Kiel, Germany, on May 14, 1943.

Soon after the 44 BG moved to Northern Africa to support the invasion of Sicily in mid-1943. The group received their second DUC for their participation in a famous low-level raid on Ploesti, Rumania oil fields on Aug. 1, 1943. After returning to England, the group successfully attacked various targets in Western Europe, along with supporting Allied forces at Salerno, Italy in autumn, 1943.

During their stay in England, the group participated in several well-known missions during WWII, for example Big Week, Feb. 20-25, 1944; Normandy invasion, June 1944; along with the Battle of the Bulge, Dec. 1944 – Jan. 1945, and flew its final combat mission on April 25, 1945 and returned to the U.S. in June 1945.

Upon their return, the group was redesignated 44th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy) and began training in Aug. 1945. Due to restructuring, in March 1946 the group was reassigned to the Strategic Air Command was then inactivated July 12, 1946. During July 1, 1947-Sep. 6,



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1948 and Jan. 2, 1951-June 16, 1952 the group was redesignated the 44th Bombardment Group (Medium) and was not in operational status.

After almost 40 years of inactivation, the group was redesignated as 44th Operations Group on Aug. 29, 1991. During this time, they provided missile combat crew members planning, programming and managing of the LGM-30 Minutemen II weapons system, as well as assisted in the inactivation of assigned missiles between 1993-1994. Following a successful mission, the group was inactivated on July 1, 1994.

During force structure realignment in FY 2010, the Air Force Reserve activated the 44th Fighter Group as the first F-22A Raptor classic associate unit at Holloman AFB, N.M. They also activated the historical 301st Fighter Squadron, along with the 44th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. The 301 FS can trace its heritage back to the famed Tuskegee Airmen during WWII.

The group, along with its 49th Fighter Wing associate unit, was relocated to Tyndall AFB, Fla. on Feb. 5, 2014. The transition is a part of the Total Force Integration (TFI) concept, combining active-duty and reserve units. Together, the 301<sup>st</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> fighter squadrons support Air Combat Command missions.

The group deployed with their active-duty host unit in the first combat deployment of the F-22 5th generation fighter in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. The six-month deployment to Southeast Asia began Sep 2014 and concluded in April 2015.

Recently the 44 FG deployed with the 325 FW in the first-ever European Command (EUCOM) training deployment, Rapid Raptor, with minimal forces and personnel in limited transport support for the first 4-ship of F-22s deployment supporting EUCOM. This first-ever F-22 training deployment to Europe was funded by the European Reassurance Initiative and provided support to bolster the security of our NATO Allies and partners in Europe.

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