





Our Mission and Heritage

The mission of the 95th Wing is to provide civilian and military senior leaders with command-and-control capabilities over the nation's strategic forces utilizing robust communications network. This unit will also specialize in organizing, training, and equipping a dedicated team of 24/7 professionals to execute combatant commanders' taskings on a global scale.

The 95th Wing also honors its legacy with its adoption of the 95th Bomb Group's (H) original group emblem and "Square B" aircraft tail insignia from World War II. The emblem, selected by the original officer cadre of the 95th Bomb Group, was designed by Private Robert N. Robertson. Private Robertson wrote the following on the meaning behind the elements of the emblem:

"The insignia chosen goes back to the ancient symbolism of heraldry for its various parts. The shield is the shield of Justin, the early Roman ruler whose benevolent reign gave rise to many of our democratic institutions. The word 'justice' springs from the name Justin – who formed many civil courts and advanced fair administration far beyond the other administrations of the time. The cross is the Justinian cross... and the red feather is the red badge of courage. The motto 'Victory with Justice' arise from the noblest among sentiments... We are at war – not for conquest, nor for the domination of smaller nations. We are fighting for our lives, our principles... and the safeguarding of our institutions & our property. The feather is red, the cross white and the background blue... the colors of the flag aptly fitting to our battle emblem... The insignia will be our signature and calling card. It will mark our role in the fight. The group will be known by this sign wherever it goes. We are the ones who will decide its fate in the future. On us will depend on its position among the many insignia enlisted in the good cause."

The "Square B" insignia also hails from World War II when 8th Air Force units utilized shapes with letter inserts to easily distinguish aircraft from various units. Due to the immense size of bomber and fighter formations during the air war in Europe, these identification markings were crucial in ensuring mission success over enemy skies. The black square identified the aircraft as belonging to the 3rd Air Division while the white "B" signified the 95th Bomb Group.

The men and women of the 95th Wing are honored to continue the proud heritage begun so many years before the original members of this storied unit!



History of the 595th C2G

The 595th Command and Control Group was activated Oct. 6, 2016 at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, and aligned under Eighth Air Force and Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC). Its mission was to ensure U.S. strategic deterrence by providing aircrew, operators and maintenance personnel for nuclear command, control and communications (NC3) platforms enabling the National Command Authority survivable, real-time strategic assessment and global strike capabilities.

To improve central management of the nuclear enterprise, Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James and former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh directed that the Air Force create an organization with a clear line of communication between the president and members of the nuclear task forces, and Air Force Global Strike Command was designated as the Air Force lead for NC3. As a key component of the National Military Command System, which keeps the president connected to nuclear and conventional forces around the world, the E-4B fell within the restructuring initiative. Also acknowledged during the transfer ceremony was the activation of the 595th Command and Control Group, the 8th Air Force unit responsible for the E-4B.

The 595th C2G was comprised of four squadrons: the 1st Airborne Command Control Squadron, which operates the aircraft; the 595th Strategic Communication Squadron, which provides real time, secure, missile warning and C3 capabilities; the 595th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, responsible for sustainment and upkeep of the E-4B as well as the 625th Strategic Operations Squadron.

“Ultimately, the realignment of the E-4B and activation of the 595th C2G marks another step in our journey to strengthen the enterprise as our nuclear deterrent forces remain at the forefront of our nation’s security,”

- Gen Bussiere, Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command



The National Airborne Operations Center

The E-4B "Nightwatch" serves as the National Airborne Operations Center and is a key component of the National Military Command System for the President, the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In case of national emergency or destruction of ground command and control centers, the aircraft provides a highly survivable command, control and communications center to direct U.S. forces, execute emergency war orders, and coordinate actions by civil authorities. The conduct of E-4B operations encompasses all phases of the threat spectrum. Additionally, the E-4B provides outside the continental United States travel support for the Secretary of Defense and his staff to ensure Title 10 command and control connectivity.

The E-4B, a militarized version of the Boeing 747-200, is a four-engine, swept-wing, long-range, high-altitude airplane capable of refueling in flight. The main deck is divided into six functional areas: a command work area, conference room, briefing room, an operations teamwork area, communications area and rest area. An E-4B may include seating for up to 111 people, including a joint-service operations team, Air Force flight crew, maintenance and security component, communications team and selected augmentees.

The E-4B is protected against the effects of electromagnetic pulse and has an electrical system designed to support advanced electronics and a wide variety of communications equipment. An advanced satellite communications system provides worldwide communication for senior leaders through the airborne operations center. Other improvements include nuclear and thermal effects shielding, acoustic control, an improved technical control facility and an upgraded air-conditioning system for cooling electrical components.

To provide direct support to the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the JCS, at least one E-4B is always generated as a NAOC and on alert 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with a global watch team at one of many bases selected throughout the world.

In addition to its national and NC3 mission, the E-4B provides support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which provides communications and command center capability to relief efforts following natural disasters, such as hurricanes and earthquakes.

Air Force Global Strike Command is the Air Force single-resource manager for the E-4B, and provides aircrew, maintenance, security and communications support. E-4B operations are directed by the JCS and executed through U.S. Strategic Command. USSTRATCOM also provides personnel for the NAOC battle staff.



The 95th Bomb Group (H) began its storied lineage in the throes of World War II. Just fifty-two days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the 95th Bomb Group was activated at Barksdale Field, Louisiana on January 28th, 1942, with the 334th, 335th, 336th, and 412th Bombardment Squadrons assigned as its subordinate units. The newly formed group assembled at Geiger Field, Washington on August 28th, 1942, where air and ground crews began training for eventual combat operations in the European Theater. Training concluded on March 11th, 1943, at Rapid City Army Air Base, South Dakota and the 95th Bomb Group began the arduous journey to England. Arriving in theater in early May of 1943, the group was soon thrust into the chaos of the air war over Europe.

On May 14th, 1943, nineteen B-17F Flying Fortresses from the 95th Bomb Group departed RAF Alconbury to strike a Luftwaffe airfield near St. Omer, France. Results of this first raid were mixed as ordnance from the Flying Fortresses struck the St. Omer railyard in addition to the targeted airfield. However, all nineteen B-17Fs returned from the mission with only two Flying Fortresses sustaining damage. This first raid taught the men of the 95th Bomb Group many lessons that they would soon put into practice for the remainder of the war.



Army and Air Force Presidential Unit Citation (P.U.C.)

The 95th Bomb Group would go on to earn a remarkable three Distinguished Unit Citations (the only 8th Air Force unit to do so, which included the first ever daylight bombing raid over Berlin, Germany on March 4th, 1944. The following is an excerpt from the text of the citation following the raid over Berlin:

“By heroically electing the more hazardous of two equally acceptable and honorable courses of action, the 95th Bombardment Group clearly distinguished itself above and beyond all other units participating in this momentous operation.”

On May 25th, 1944, the 95th Bomb Group would fly their last combat mission over Europe. This date marked the 334 mission the group would accomplish. During these 8,625 sorties that would make up these missions, the 95th Bomb Group would drop over nineteen thousand tons of ordnance and destroy 425 enemy aircraft while also dealing crippling blows to enemy infrastructure critical to wartime mobilization.

On August 28th, 1945, the 95th Bomb Group was inactivated at Sioux Falls Army Airfield, South Dakota.