

305th EXPEDITIONARY AIRLIFT SQUADRON



MISSION

The 305th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron is a provisional United States Air Force unit. It is assigned to Air Mobility Command, and operates from New Castle Air National Guard Base, Delaware. Attached to the 89th Airlift Wing at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, the squadron operates from New Castle Air National Guard Base, Delaware with approximately eight aircrews, 60 maintenance personnel, and about a dozen operations personnel supporting five Lockheed C-130 Hercules aircraft. The squadron supports presidential airlift, through a mission known as "Banner Express". Aircraft and personnel are prepositioned to support an expected surge in airlift requirements.

LINEAGE

305th Troop Carrier Squadron constituted, 25 May 1943
Activated, 1 Sep 1943
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1946
Redesignated 305th Troop Carrier Squadron (Medium), 10 May 1949
Activated in the reserve, 27 Jun 1949
Ordered to active service, 10 Mar 1951
Inactivated, 12 Mar 1951
Activated in the reserve, 15 Jun 1952
Inactivated, 26 Jul 1955
Activated in the reserve, 16 Nov 1957
Redesignated 305th Troop Carrier Squadron (Heavy), 8 May 1961
Ordered to active service, 1 Oct 1961
Relieved from active duty, 27 Aug 1962
Redesignated 305th Air Transport Squadron, Heavy, 1 Dec 1965
Redesignated 305th Military Airlift Squadron, 1 Jan 1966

Inactivated, 20 May 1972

Redesignated 305th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron and converted to provisional status, 27 Mar 2003

Activated, 1 Dec 2011

Inactivated, Nov 2012

STATIONS

Sedalia AAFld, MO, 1 Sep 1943

Alliance AAFld, NE, 16 Dec 1943

Pope Field, NC, 26 Jan 1944

Baer Field, IN, 2-8 Mar 1944

Fulbeck, England, 27 Mar 1944

Weston Zoyland, England, 13 Jun 1944 (operated from Follonica, Italy, 18 Jul-24 Aug 1944)

Peray, France, 6 Oct 1944

St-Andre-de-L'Eure, France, 11 Nov 1944 (operated from Metz, France, May-11 Sep 1945)

Munich, Germany, 11 Sep 1945

Capodichino, Italy, 16 Jan-30 Sep 1946

Fairfax Field, KS, 27 Jun 1949

Olathe NAS, KS, 27 May 1950-12 Mar 1951

Olathe NAS, KS, 15 Jun 1952

Grandview AFB, MO, 3 Apr-26 Jul 1955

Tinker AFB, OK, 16 Nov 1957

Tinker AFB, OK, 16 Nov 1957-20 May 1972

New Castle ANGB, DE, 1 Dec 2011 –Nov 2012

ASSIGNMENTS

442nd Troop Carrier Group, 1 Sep 1943-30 Sep 1946

442nd Troop Carrier Group, 27 Jun 1949-12 Mar 1951

442nd Troop Carrier Group, 15 Jun 1952-26 Jul 1955

442nd Troop Carrier Group, 16 Nov 1957

442nd Troop Carrier Wing, 14 Apr 1959

937th Troop Carrier Group, 17 Jan 1963

937th Troop Carrier Group (later 937th Air Transport Group, 937th Military Airlift Group), 17 Jan 1963–20 May 1972

Air Mobility Command to activate or inactivate at any time after 27 Mar 2003

ATTACHMENTS

89th Airlift Wing, 1 Dec 2011-Nov 2012

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-47, 1943-1946; 1949-1950

C-47A

C-47B

CG-4A, 1944-1945

C-46, 1949, 1950-1951, 1952-1955
C-119, 1957-1961
C-124, 1961-1972
C-130, 2012

COMMANDERS

Edwin J. Angelo, #1959
LTC John C. Riley

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Rome-Arno
Southern France
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
France, [6-7] Jun 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Aug 1967–25 Oct 1968

1 Dec 2011-30 Jun 2012

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Apr 1966 – 19 May 1972

EMBLEM



On an Air Force blue disc within an Air Force golden yellow border fimbriated black, a caricatured gray whirlwind cloud, arched in dexter, wearing a merry expression on its face, eyeballs and highlights white, a handlike formation raised to chief supporting an Air Force golden yellow stylized aircraft in flight to dexter; drifting down in sinister six white parachutes; outlines and details black throughout, inscribed Air Force golden yellow. (Approved, 29 Sep 1960)

306th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron emblem: On a disc Azure, a stylized tornado as a character Silver Gray, detailed Sable, eyes Argent, grasping a stylized airplane in chief Or, in dexter side six miniature parachutes descending, canopies of the fourth, rigging lines of the third, voided space of the second, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "305 EAS" in Yellow letters. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "TORNADOES" in Yellow letters. 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 tornado is symbolic of the speed and unpredictability of the airlift mission being performed by the unit. The stylized aircraft and parachutes allude to the Squadron's airlift mission and are an important link to its history of exemplary service during WWII in the European Theater, including Operation Overlord.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

TORNADO SQUADRON

OPERATIONS

The squadron was first activated with Douglas C-47 Skytrains in September 1943 as the 305th Troop Carrier Squadron at Sedalia Army Air Field, Missouri and trained under I Troop Carrier Command. It trained in various parts of the eastern United States until early 1944. The unit then deployed to England, where it became part of IX Troop Carrier Command.

The squadron prepared for the invasion of Nazi-occupied Europe. It began operations by dropping paratroops of the 101st Airborne Division in Normandy on D-Day (6 June 1944) and releasing gliders with reinforcements on the following day. The unit received a Distinguished Unit Citation and a French citation for these missions. After the Normandy invasion the squadron ferried supplies in the United Kingdom.

After moving to France in September, the unit dropped paratroops of the 82nd Airborne Division near Nijmegen and towed gliders carrying reinforcements during Operation Market Garden, the airborne attack on the Netherlands. In December, it participated in the Battle of the Bulge by releasing gliders with supplies for the 101st Airborne Division near Bastogne.

When the Allies made the air assault across the Rhine River in March 1945, each aircraft towed two gliders with troops of the 17th Airborne Division and released them near Wesel. The squadron also hauled food, clothing, medicine, gasoline, ordnance equipment, and other supplies to the front lines and evacuated patients to rear zone hospitals. It converted from C-47s to Curtiss C-46 Commandos and used the new aircraft to transport displaced persons from Germany to France and Belgium after V-E Day. It was inactivated in Germany in September 1946.

Postwar, the squadron was activated in the Air Force reserve in 1949 at Fairfax Field, Kansas. At Fairfax, it again operated C-46 Commandos. The squadron was called to active duty during the Korean War in 1951, and its aircraft and personnel were used as fillers other units and the squadron was inactivated. The squadron was again activated in the reserve in 1952 at Olathe Naval Air Station. The unit moved to nearby Grandview Air Force Base in 1955, but was inactivated shortly thereafter. It was activated again at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma in 1957 and conducted routine reserve training operating Douglas C-124 Globemaster IIs flying worldwide transport missions beginning in 1961. The squadron was again called to active duty in 1961 due to the Berlin Crisis of 1961. The 305th returned to reserve service in the late summer of 1962. It was inactivated with the retirement of the C-124 on 20 May 1972.

The unit participated in airborne assaults on Normandy during Operation Neptune in June 1944; in Southern France during Operation Dragoon; over the Netherlands during Operation Market in September 1944; and in Germany during Operation Varsity in March 1945. It was called to active service during the Berlin Crisis, from October 1961 until August 1962. The squadron routinely flew airlift support missions to the Pacific and Southeast Asia from 1964 to 1972.

1961 Oct The 305th Troop Carrier Squadron (Reserve), a Tinker tenant unit, was called to active duty as a result of the Berlin crisis.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created 3 Apr 2012

Updated: 29 May 2017

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.

Unit history. *Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center, Tinker AFB, OK. 40th Anniversary 1982.*