

306th EXPEDITIONARY AIRLIFT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

306th Troop Carrier Squadron constituted, 25 May 1943

Activated, 1 Sep 1943

Inactivated, 30 Sep 1946

Redesignated 306th 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

Redesignated 306th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron and converted to provisional status on 27 March 2003.

STATIONS

Sedalia AAFld, MO, 1 Sep 1943

Alliance AAFld, NE, 16 Dec 1943

Pope Field, NC, 26 Jan 1944

Baer Field, IN, 2-10 Mar 1944

Fulbeck, England, 27 Mar 1944

Weston Zoyland, England, 13 Jun 1944 (operated from Ramsgate, England, 7-24 Aug 1944)

Peray, France, 4 Oct 1944

St Andre-de-L'Eure, France, 6 Nov 1944 (operated from Metz, France, May-11 Sep 1945)

Munich, Germany, 11 Sep 1945

Berlin, Germany, 5 Jan-30 Sep 1946

Fairfax Field, KS, 27 Jun 1949

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

New Castle, DE, 1 Dec 2011– Nov 2012

ASSIGNMENTS

442nd Troop Carrier Group, 1 Sep 1943

441st Troop Carrier Group, 5 Jan-30 Sep 1946

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

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

ATTACHMENTS

89th Airlift Wing, 1 Dec 2011 - Nov 2012

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-53, 1943

C-47, 1944-1946

C-47A

C-53D

C-17

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

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 Dec 2011-30 Jun 2012

EMBLEM

On a disc Azure, issuant from a demi-globe in sinister base, axis toward dexter chief Vert gridlined and edged Sable, a Pegasus Proper, all within a narrow border Black. Attached above the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "PRIDE INTEGRITY EXCELLENCE" in Black letters. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "306TH EXPEDITIONARY AIRLIFT SQ" in Black letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:**

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 Pegasus and globe represent the transparent support provided by the unit to worldwide operations.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Airborne assaults on Normandy, Holland, and Germany, and transportation of cargo and passengers in ETO, during World War II.

Attached to the 89th Airlift Wing at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, the squadron operates from New Castle Air National Guard Base, Delaware with 60 maintenance personnel, and about a dozen operations personnel supporting five four C-17 Globemaster III 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.

The squadron was expected to commence operations in April 2012 and inactivate in late November.

The squadron was first activated with Douglas C-47 Skytrains in September 1943 as the 306th 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.

Combat Operations. 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.

Air Force Order of Battle
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Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.