

315th AIR DIVISION



MISSION

LINEAGE

315th Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy established, 7 Jun 1944

Activated, 17 Jul 1944

Redesignated 315th Composite Wing, 8 Jan 1946

Inactivated, 20 Aug 1948

Redesignated 315th Air Division (Combat Cargo), 10 Jan 1951

Activated, 25 Jan 1951

Redesignated 315th Air Division, 1 Aug 1967

315th Air Division established, 13 Aug 1948

Organized on 18 Aug 1948

Discontinued, 1 Mar 1950

Inactivated, 15 Apr 1969

Both 315th Air Division consolidated, 1 Jul 1978

STATIONS

Peterson Field, CO, 17 Jul 1944

Fort Lawton, WA, 10 17 Mar 1945

Northwest Field, Guam, Marianas Islands, 5 Apr 1945

Ashiya AAB, Japan, 30 May 1946

Itazuke AAB (later, Airfield; AB), Japan, 31 May 1946-1 Mar 1950

Ashiya AS, Japan, 25 Jan 1951

Fuchu, Japan, 5 Feb 1951

Tachikawa AB, Japan, 24 Apr 1954-15 Apr 1969

ASSIGNMENTS

Second Air Force, 17 Jul 1944 (attached XXII Bomber Command, c. 14 Aug-7 Dec 1944)
Twentieth Air Force, c. 25 Mar 1945
XXI Bomber Command, 5 Apr 1945
Twentieth Air Force, 16 Jul 1945
Fifth Air Force, 30 May 1946
V Fighter Command, 30 May 1946
Fifth Air Force, 1 Jun 1946-1 Mar 1950
Far East (later, Pacific) Air Forces, 25 Jan 1951-15 Apr 1969

COMMANDERS

1LT Philip F. Locke, 17 Jul 1944
LTC Robert A. Koeper, 28 Jul 1944
LTC Stanley A. Zidiales, 11 Aug 1944
BG Frank A. Armstrong Jr., 29 May 1945
Col Leland S. Stranathan, 24 Oct 1945
BG Frank A. Armstrong Jr., Dec 1945-17 Jan 1946
Unkn, 18-24 Jan 1946
Col Leland S. Stranathan, 25 Jan 1946
Col Vincent M. Miles Jr., 15 Apr-15 May 1946
None (not manned), 16-30 May 1946
Col Hanlon H. Van Auken, 31 May 1946
Col Hugh A. Parker, 19 Jul 1946
Col Travis M. Hetherington, 10 Jun 1947
Col Joshua H. Foster Jr., 21 Jun 1948
Col Marden M. Munn, 6 Aug 1948
BG Edward J. Timberlake Jr., 14 Sep 1948
Col Leo H. Dawson, 19 Jun 1949
Col Gerry L. Mason, 22 Jun 1949
Col Leo H. Dawson, 5 Jul 1949
Col Gerry L. Mason, 12 Jul 1949
Col Marden M. Munn, 29 Sep 1949
BG Oliver S. Picher, 23 Oct 1949-1 Mar 1950
MG William H. Tunner, 25 Jan 1951
BG John P. Henebry, 8 Feb 1951
Col Cecil H. Dhildre, 26 Feb 1952
MG Chester E. McCarty, 10 Apr 1952
Col Adriel N. Williams, 15 Nov 1954
MG Russell L. Waldren, 3 Dec 1954
Col William M. Brown, 15 May 1957
BG Charles H. Pottenger, 1 Jul 1957
BG Theodore G. Kershaw, 10 Jul 1959
Col Lopez J. Mantoux, 30 Jul 1963
BG Richard H. Ellis, 1 Sep 1963

Col Lester R. Ferriss Jr., 16 Jun 1965
Col Charles W. Howe, 13 Jul 1965
Col Robert D. Brown, 26 Jul 1968-15 Apr 1969

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II Asiatic Pacific Theater Korean Service

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan-30 Jun 1961

1 Jul 1964-30 Jun 1966

1 Nov 1966-31 Oct 1968

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations

25 Jan-30 Jun 1951

1 Jul 1951-27 Jul 1953

EMBLEM

A white disc charged in base with a medium blue representation of Mt. Fujiyama, between a jagged lightning flash in dexter fesse and a like flash in sinister fesse of the last, each passing through a yellow, quarter moon, all within a border of the second, and surmounted by a large, dark red Torii pierced at center with a chevron couped inverted, above a sphere of the second outlined, marked, and charged with the Southern Cross constellation of the first, at the center of a stylized pair of golden orange wings in base. (Approved, 25 Apr 1947)



Or, within and beneath a torii gate gules a representation of a parachute argent lowering a winged cargo box in perspective, one edge to front, light brown, its top bearing overall a two

edged sword of the third, hilt azure, all outlined white, surmounted by a cross of the second, all within a diminished bordure of the fifth, fimbriated and outlined of the third. (Approved, 11 Oct 1954)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 315th flew missions against Japanese targets on Moen Island, Truk, and other points in the Carolines and Marianas. Bombing missions commenced against targets in the Japanese homeland on 26 Jun 1945 when the wing damaged the Utsube River oil refinery at Yokkaichi. Thereafter, oil targets in Japan served as its primary targets. When hostilities ended, the wing's B-29s carried relief supplies to Allied prisoner of war camps in Japan and Manchuria.

In Jan 1951 at Ashiya AB, Japan, the 315th Division replaced and absorbed the resources of the Far East Air Forces Combat Cargo Command (Provisional). During the Korean conflict, its components evacuated wounded from Korea, airdropped supplies and personnel, hauled emergency supplies, materiel, replacement troops, mail, rations and ammunition, participated in joint training exercises in Japan, took part in numerous combat missions, and operated regular transport schedules within the Far East area. Before combat operations ceased in Korea, the division began supporting French forces engaged in a war in Indo-China. From May 1953-Jul 1954, it provided C-119s to the French, trained French air crews and maintenance personnel, performed additional airlift missions in support of the French, and finally evacuated wounded French troops from Indo-China during operation Wounded Warrior.

In Jul 1954, the 315th resumed normal airlift operations and participated in training exercises in Japan. In 1962, it established airlift support for the expanding conflict in Southeast Asia. Meantime, the division continued its routine airlift in the Far East, flew humanitarian missions, and participated in training exercises when possible.

In June 1965 315th became responsible for a permanent C-130 rotation in South Vietnam and later that year would replace a C-123 mission in Thailand with C-130s. Previously, 315th C-130s had operated in South Vietnam both as needed and on "SEA Trainer" missions out of Saigon. The C-130 presence became permanent with the establishment of a rotation at Tan Son Nhut and by the end of the year 315th was providing C-130s and crews to rotational units at Vung Tau and Cam Ranh Bay as well.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 25 Aug 2010

Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.