

315 AIRLIFT WING



MISSION

The 315 Airlift Wing provides trained personnel as augmentation for active forces in any emergency expansion of the Air Force strategic and aeromedical airlift capability. Additionally, the Wing performs peacetime missions and integrates with the active-duty 437th Airlift Wing in its normal Air Mobility Command operations and logistics missions.

LINEAGE

315 Troop Carrier Wing, Medium established, 23 May 1952
Activated, 10 Jun 1952
Inactivated, 18 Jan 1955
Redesignated 315 Air Commando Wing, Troop Carrier and activated, 21 Feb 1966
Organized, 8 Mar 1966
Redesignated 315 Air Commando Wing, 1 Aug 1967
Redesignated 315 Special Operations Wing, 1 Aug 1968
Redesignated 315 Tactical Airlift Wing, 1 Jan 1970
Inactivated, 31 Mar 1972
Redesignated 315 Military Airlift Wing (Associate), 29 Jan 1973
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Jul 1973
Redesignated 315 Airlift Wing (Associate), 1 Feb 1992
Redesignated 315 Airlift Wing, 1 Oct 1994

STATIONS

Brady AB, Japan, 10 Jun 1952-18 Jan 1955
Tan Son Nhut AB, South Vietnam, 8 Mar 1966
Phan Rang AB, South Vietnam, 15 Jun 1967-31 Mar 1972
Charleston AFB, SC, 1 Jul 1973

ASSIGNMENTS

315 Air Division, 10 Jun 1952-18 Jan 1955
Pacific Air Forces, 21 Feb 1966
315 Air Division, 8 Mar 1966
834 Air Division, 15 Oct 1966
Seventh Air Force, 1 Dec 1971-31 Mar 1972
Eastern Air Force Reserve Region, 1 Jul 1973
Fourteenth Air Force, 8 Oct 1976
Twenty-Second Air Force, 1 Jul 1993

ATTACHMENTS

2 Air Division, 8-31 Mar 1966
Seventh Air Force, 1 Apr-15 Oct 1966

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-46, 1952-1955
CV-2, 1966
UC-123, 1966-1971
C-123, 1966-1972
C-130, 1966
A-37, 1971-1972
C-47, 1971-1972
O-2, 1971-1972
C-5, 1973
C-141, 1973
C-17, 1993

COMMANDERS

Col Kenneth W. Northamer, 10 Jun 1952
Col Robert O. Good, 26 Jul 1953
Col Adriel N. Williams, 29 Aug 1953
Col David B. Lancaster, 27 Feb 1954
Col Francis W. Williams, 10 Aug 1954-18 Jan 1955
None (not manned), 21 Feb-7 Mar 1966
Col George L. Hannah Jr., 8 Mar 1966
Col Robert T. Simpson, 23 Jun 1966
Col Vernon W. Froehlich, 19 Nov 1966
Col Bill M. Richardson, 9 Aug 1967
Col Robert D. Brown, 20 Nov 1967
Col Noble F. Greenhill Jr., 8 Jun 1968
Col John W. Pauly, 19 Jul 1968
Col Harry V. Bankard, 4 May 1969
Col John W. Pauly, 3 Jun 1969

Col Leslie J. Campbell, Jr., 10 Jun 1969
Col Charles S. Reed, 27 May 1970
Col Kenneth T. Blood Jr., 31 Jan 1971
Col Ray C. Staley, 19 Nov 1971-31 Mar 1972
Col Richard P. McFarland, 1 Jul 1973
Col David Guminski, c. 31 Sep 1974
Lt Col David L. Webber, 1 Dec 1974
Lt Col Kenneth O. Mann, 25 Apr 1976
Col Marc M. McClelland, 20 Jun 1976
Col Carl W. Knazik, 15 May 1979
Col John G. Sullivan, 17 Jun 1979
Col Billy R. Henderson, 26 Apr 1981
Col Michael J. Peters, 23 Apr 1988
Col Robert B. Stephens, 14 Apr 1989
Col James P. Czekanski, 1 Jul 1991
Brig Gen James D. Bankers, 11 Mar 1992
Col Edward A. Stickler, 1 Mar 1997
Brig Gen Gerald A. Black, 18 Jun 2000
Col Gary L. Cook, 7 Sep 2003
Col Timothy J. Wrighton, 29 Sep 2006
Col Steven J. Chapman, 17 Apr 2009
Col William R. Fingar, 6 May 2012
Col James J. Fontanella, 8 Aug 2012

HONORS

Service Streamers

Korean Theater

Campaign Streamers

Vietnam: Vietnam Air
Vietnam Air Offensive
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III
Vietnam Air/Ground
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV
TET 69/Counteroffensive
Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969
Vietnam Winter/Spring 1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Southwest Monsoon
Commando Hunt V
Commando Hunt VI
Commando Hunt VII
Vietnam Ceasefire

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Grenada, 1983

Panama, 1989-1990

Decorations

Presidential Unit Citations (Vietnam)

21 Jan-12 May 1968

1 Apr-30 Jun 1970

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device

15 Oct 1966-30 Apr 1967

10 Jun-31 Dec 1967

15 Jul 1968-30 Jun 1969

1 Jan 1971-31 Mar 1972

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan 1982-31 Dec 1983

1 Jul 1988-30 Jun 1989

1 Jul 1989-30 Jun 1990

21 Sep-31 Oct 1989

1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1995

1 Jul 1995-30 Jun 1997

1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 2000

1 Sep 1998-31 Aug 2000

11 Sep 2001-10 Sep 2003

1 Aug 2005-31 Jul 2007

1 September 2009 to 31 August 2011

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation

[10 Jun 1952]-27 Jul 1953

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Crosses with Palm

1 Oct 1966-30 Oct 1971

1 Jun 1969-1 Jun 1970

1 Jul 1971-11 Mar 1972

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 315 Operations Group for the periods 14 Feb 1942-31 Jul 1945, 19 May 1947-10 Sep 1948, and 9 Nov 1962-8 Mar 1966, but not for the period 10 Jun 1952-18 Jan 1955, when both the group and the wing were active.

Service Streamers

World War II
American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Sicily
Naples-Foggia
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Central Europe

Vietnam
Vietnam Advisory
Vietnam Defensive

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation: France, [6] Jun 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device

1 May 1963-30 Apr 1965

30 Jun-9 Jul 1965

EMBLEM



Per fess nebuly, light blue and argent fimbriated or on the first three mullets of five points fesswise of the third above an aircraft fesswise of the second. In base a globe per pale argent and azure grid lines counterchange, all within a diminished bordure of the third. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem is symbolic of the wings distinctive history and general function. The Air Force colors – golden yellow and ultramarine blue – appear in the design. The color blue in the upper half of the shield alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations, and the yellow

in the design to the sun and the excellence of personnel in their assigned tasks. The three yellow stars commemorate the unit's long and meritorious history in three major wars – World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. The stylized aircraft is symbolic of the means by which the Wing's assigned mission is accomplished. The globe in the lower half, half in blue, half in silver, represents the worldwide capability of the Wing to perform in daylight and darkness, and through all types of weather. Per fess nebuly, light blue and argent fimbriated or on the first three mullets of five points fesswise of the third above an aircraft fesswise of the second. In base a globe per pale argent and azure grid lines counterchange, all within a diminished bordure of the third. (Approved, 7 Nov 1973)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The C-46-equipped 315 TCW transported between Japan and Korea nearly 55,500,000 pounds of cargo, along with more than 656,000 passengers, paratroopers, and medical evacuees. It also airdropped gasoline, bombs, ammunition, propaganda leaflets, spare engines, flares, rations, fresh vegetables, and other items. It sprayed South Korean cities and installations to fight insect-borne diseases. In all, the 315 TCW flew over one million hours in combat support missions during the Korean War.

Performed tactical airlift operations within South Vietnam, 1966-1972.

In 1971, trained South Vietnamese C-123 aircrews.

Not tactically operational, 15 Jan-31 Mar 1972.

Since 1973, stationed with and used airframes of the 437th Airlift Wing.

Trained Air Force Reserve aircrews for strategic airlift, including channel, special assignment, and combat airlift missions.

In 1980s and 1990s, personnel participated in contingency and humanitarian airlift operations worldwide.

In 1994, the wing conducted the first C-17 flight with an all Air Force Reserve crew.

USAF Unit Histories
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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.