

315th OPERATIONS GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

315th Transport Group established, 2 Feb 1942
Activated, 14 Feb 1942
Redesignated 315th Troop Carrier Group, 4 Jul 1942
Inactivated, 31 Jul 1945
Activated, 19 May 1947
Inactivated, 10 Sep 1948
Redesignated 315th Troop Carrier Group, Medium, 23 May 1952
Activated, 10 Jun 1952
Inactivated, 18 Jan 1955
Redesignated 315th Troop Carrier Group, Assault and activated, 9 Nov 1962
Organized, 8 Dec 1962
Redesignated 315th Air Commando Group, Troop Carrier, 8 Mar 1965
Discontinued and inactivated, 8 Mar 1966
Redesignated 315th Military Airlift Group, 31 Jul 1985
Redesignated 315th Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Aug 1992

STATIONS

Olmsted Field, PA, 14 Feb 1942
Bowman Field, KY, 18 Jun 1942
Florence AAB, SC, 4 Aug-Oct 1942
Aldermaston, England, Dec 1942
Welford Park, England, 6 Nov 1943

Spanhoe, England, 7 Feb 1944
Ameins, France, 6 Apr-13 May 1945
Waller Field, Trinidad, c. 24 May-31 Jul 1945
Langley Field (later, AFB), VA, 19 May 1947-10 Sep 1948
Brady AB, Japan, 10 Jun 1952-18 Jan 1955
Tan Son Nhut AB, South Vietnam, 8 Dec 1962-8 Mar 1966
Charleston AFB, SC, 1 Aug 1992

ASSIGNMENTS

Air Service Command, 14 Feb 1942
50th Transport Wing, 31 Mar 1942
52nd Troop Carrier Wing, 20 Jun 1942
VIII Air Support Command, c. 29 Nov 1942
50th Troop Carrier Wing, 16 Oct 1943
52nd Troop Carrier Wing, 18 Feb 1944
Caribbean Wing, Air Transport Command, 15 May-31 Jul 1945
Tactical Air Command, 19 May 1947-10 Sep 1948
315th Troop Carrier Wing, 10 Jun 1952-18 Jan 1955
Pacific Air Forces, 9 Nov 1962
315th Air Division, 8 Dec 1962-8 Mar 1966 (attached to 2 Air Division entire period)
315th Airlift Wing, 1 Aug 1992

ATTACHMENTS

1st Fighter Division [Provisional], 30 Aug-15 Oct 1943

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-47, 1942-1945
C-60, 1942
C-53, 1942
C-46, 1945
C-46, 1952-1955
C-123, 1962-196
YC-123, 1963
CV-2, 1963, 1965-1966
HUC-123, 1964-1965
UC-123, 1965-1966
C-130, 1965-1966
C-141, 1992
C-17, 1993

COMMANDERS

Maj Thomas J. Schofield, 14 Feb 1942
Col Hamish McLelland, 17 Apr 1942
1LT William H. Sims, 25 May 1943

Cpt Russel L. Maughan, 26 Jun 1943
1LT William H. Sims, 3 Sep 1943
LTC James L. Zimmerman, 19 Sep 1943
Cpt William H. Sims, 4 Nov 1943
LTC William G. Booth, 30 Nov 1943
Col Hamish McLelland, 21 Jan 1944
LTC Howard B. Lyon, 24 Jun 1944
Col Hamish McLelland, 19 Sep 1944
LTC Howard B. Lyon, 29 Sep 1944
LTC Robert J. Gibbons, 9 Jan 1945
Col Howard B. Lyon, 23 Feb 1945
LTC Robert J. Gibbons, 25 Mar-May 1945
Unkn, May-31 Jul 1945
None (not manned), 19 May 1947-10 Sep 1948
LTC Jack L. Crawford, Jr., 10 Jun 1952
LTC Gene I. Martin, 5 Dec 1952
Col Kenneth L. Glassburn, 11 Aug 1953
LTC Jacob P. Sartz, Jr., 9 Nov 1954-18 Jan 1955
Col Lopez J. Mantoux, 8 Dec 1962
Col Lyle D. Lutton Jr., c. 27 Dec 1962
Col Leon M. Tannenbaum, 25 Mar 1963
Col Thomas B. Kennedy, 29 May 1963
Col David T. Fleming, Jun 1964
Col George L. Hannah Jr., Jul 1965-8 Mar 1966
Col Robert L. Swanson, 1 Aug 1992
LTC Michael L. Smith (acting), 7 Sep 1993
Col Charles D. Ethredge, 5 Mar 1994
Col James B. Roberts Jr., 15 Mar 1998

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II

American Theater

Campaign Streamer

World War II

Sicily

Naples-Foggia

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Central Europe

Korea

Korea, Summer-Fall 1952
Third Korean Winter
Korea, Summer 1953

Vietnam
Vietnam Advisory
Vietnam Defensive
Vietnam Air

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

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

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1995
1 Jul 1995-30 Jun 1997
1 Sep 1998-31 Aug 2000
11 Sep 2001-10 Sep 2003
1 Aug 2005-31 Jul 2007

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation
[10 Jun 1952]-27 Jul 1953

EMBLEM



315th Troop Carrier Group emblem: Azure, a winged packing box bend sinisterwise Or.

315th Operations Group 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 counterchanged, all within a diminished bordure Yellow. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border inscribed "315TH OPERATIONS GROUP" in Blue 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 stars represent service in three wars. The stylized aircraft is symbolic of the means by which the assigned mission is accomplished. The globe alludes to the worldwide capability of the Operations Group to perform in daylight or darkness and through all kinds of weather.

MOTTO

ADVENIAM—I Will Arrive

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

After training in the US, moved to England, Oct-Nov 1942, for service with Eighth Air Force. Encountering bad weather while flying the North Atlantic route, the air echelon remained for about a month in Greenland, where it searched for missing aircraft and dropped supplies to downed crews. After the air and ground echelons were united in Dec, the group began ferrying cargo in the British Isles and training with airborne troops and gliders. In May 1943 a "detachment" comprising almost all the group aircraft, aircrews, and most support personnel, deployed to North Africa to support Twelfth Air Force and other Mediterranean Theater of Operations organizations by transporting supplies during the invasions of Sicily and Italy. In Mar 1944 the detachment returned to England and rejoined the group, which had been reassigned to Ninth Air Force in Oct 1943. The 315th prepared for the invasion of the Continent and dropped paratroops near Cherbourg early on 6 Jun 1944, earning a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for its action in the Normandy invasion. Dropped paratroops of the 82d Airborne Division on 17 Sep when the Allies launched the air attack on Holland; flew reinforcement missions on succeeding days, landing at Grave on 26 Sep to unload paratroops and supplies. Airlifted gasoline and other critical supplies to Antwerp and Liege during the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945. Released British paratroops near Wesel during the airborne assault across the Rhine in Mar. Following each airborne operation, the group resumed transport activities, hauling cargo and evacuating wounded personnel. Moved to France in Apr. Transported cargo and evacuated allied former prisoners of war until after V-E Day. Moved to Trinidad in May 1945 and transported troops returning to the US until inactivation on 31 Jul 1945. The group was never manned or equipped when activated 1947-1948. During the Korean War, the group flew troop and cargo airlift and airdrop, leaflet drops, spray missions, air evacuation, search and rescue, and other aerial missions in theater. Remained in the Far East after the war to fly transport missions and paratroop training flights in Japan, Korea, French Indo-China, and other points until Dec 1954. In Dec 1962, replaced a provisional troop carrier group in South Vietnam. Exercised control over USAF airlift resources in Vietnam, using attached squadrons until permanent

squadrons were assigned in Jul 1963. Provided combat evaluation of YC-123 aircraft, Feb-Apr 1963. Exercised control of some CV-2 aircraft of US Army, Jul-Dec 1963 and of a CV-2 Royal Australian Air Force detachment, 1965-1966. Gained the Ranch Hand defoliation mission in Jul 1964. Replaced in Mar 1966 by the 315th Air Commando Wing. Activated at Charleston AFB, SC, in the Reserve in Aug 1992 to control the airlift operations of the 315th Airlift Wing. Flew contingency operation, humanitarian airlift missions, and exercises worldwide, 1992-. In 1993, the 315th was the first Air Force Reserve group to fly the C-17 Globemaster III. It took part in the first US-Russian joint military exercise in 1994.

The 315th TCG inherited C-46 Commando aircraft from the 437th TCG. Following activation on June 10, 1952, it flew troop and cargo airlift, airdrop, leaflet drop, spray, air evacuation, search-and-rescue, and other aerial missions between Japan and Korea. It transported U.S. Army units during exercises in Japan in 1952 and 1953 and airlifted the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team and other XVI Corps units to Korea in a series of major combat support operations in June and July 1953. Beginning in March 1953, when C—119s in the theater were grounded by propeller malfunctions, the C46s of the 315th TCG moved all personnel between Korea and southern Japan until the end of the war.

Activated 14 Feb. 42 at Olmsted Fd, Pa. Two other squadrons assigned but transferred in 1 942. Trained Bowman Fd, Ky. and Florence Fd, SC. Sailed on Queen Elizabeth 24 Nov. 42 arriving Clyde 30 Nov. 42. Air echelon departed Florence from 11 Oct. 42 and flew to Presque Isle, via Kellogg Fd, and Battle Creek AAB. Commenced flight to UK via northern ferry route but on reaching Bluie West 1, Greenland, weather conditions were so bad that a month elapsed before a/c could continue journey. Left 8 Dec. 42 for Iceland, and arrived UK 12 Dec. 42. While principal mission was the conveyance of airborne troops the two squadrons were employed chiefly as a transport organisation around the UK during Group's assignment to 8AF. Attrition and pressure on troop carrier groups in North African theatre during spring of 1943 saw a detachment of 31 5TCG despatched to Blida, Algeria in May 43 to carry out routine transport duties for 12AF. This was Dt 'A' consisting of 200 personnel and 16 aircraft. Six a/c remaining in UK continued transport duties until Group assigned to 9AF in Oct. 43. Two new squadrons assigned and Group returned to troop carrier mission. Moved France Apr. 45. Inactivated Trinidad Jul 45. Activated during Korean war and served on airlift duties in the far east flying C-46. Later involved in Vietnam war flying C-123s and redesignated as special operations wing.

Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 23 Nov 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.