

349 OPERATIONS GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

349 Troop Carrier Group established, 23 Oct 1943
Activated, 1 Nov 1943
Inactivated, 7 Sep 1946
Redesignated 349 Troop Carrier Group, Medium, 10 May 1949
Activated in the Reserve, 27 Jun 1949
Ordered to active service, 1 Apr 1951
Inactivated, 2 Apr 1951
Redesignated 349 Fighter Bomber Group, 26 May 1952
Activated in the Reserve, 13 Jun 1952
Redesignated 349 Troop Carrier Group, Medium, 1 Sep 1957
Inactivated, 14 Apr 1959
Redesignated 349 Military Airlift Group, 31 Jul 1985
Redesignated 349 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Aug 1992

STATIONS

Sedalia AAFld, MO, 1 Nov 1943
Alliance AAB, NE, 20 Jan 1944
Pope Fld, NC, 11 Mar 1944
Baer Fld, IN, 4-15 Mar 1945
Barkstone Heath, England, 3 Apr 1945
Roye-Amy Afld, France, Apr-13 Jul 1945
Bergstrom Fld, TX, Sep 1945-7 Sep 1946
Hamilton AFB, CA, 27 Jun 1949-2 Apr 1951

Hamilton AFB, CA, 13 Jun 1952-14 Apr 1959
Travis AFB, CA, 1 Aug 1992

ASSIGNMENTS

61 Troop Carrier Wing, 1 Nov 1943
60 Troop Carrier Wing, 11 Mar 1944
I Troop Carrier Command, Nov 1944
IX Troop Carrier Command, Apr 1945
52 Troop Carrier Wing, 30 Apr 1945
50 Troop Carrier Wing, 20 May 1945
52 Troop Carrier Wing, 31 Jan 1946
Third Air Force, 27 Aug-7 Sep 1946
349 Troop Carrier Wing, 27 Jun 1949-2 Apr 1951
349 Fighter Bomber (later, 349 Troop Carrier) Wing, 13 Jun 1952-14 Apr 1959
349 Airlift (later, 349 Air Mobility) Wing, 1 Aug 1992

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-53, 1943-1944
C-47, 1943-1946
L-3, 1943-1944
C-46, 1944-1946
CG-4, 1944-1946
CG-13, 1944-1945
L-5, 1944
B-17, 1944
B-24, 1944
L-4, 1945
C-109, 1945
C-46, 1949-1951
T-6, 1949-1950
T-7, 1949-1951
T-11, 1949-1951
C-46, 1952-1958
T-6, 1952-1954
T-28, 1953-1956
T-33, 1953-1957
F-51, 1953-1954
F-80, 1953-1956
C-45, 1954-1956
C-47, 1955-1956
F-84, 1956-1957
C-119, 1958-1959
C-141, 1992-1998
C-5, 1992

KC-10, 1994

COMMANDERS

Maj Elmer F. Estrumse, 1 Nov 1943
Col Leonard J. Barrow Jr., 26 Nov 1943
Lt Col Benjamin M. Tarver Jr., 29 Aug-7 Sep 1946
Col Frederick Knorre Jr., 27 Jun 1949-2 Apr 1951
Col Bruce H. Berryman, by Dec 1958-14 Apr 1959
Col William D. Peden, 1 Aug 1992
Col Charles K. Hammond, Jr., 15 May 1994
Col Thomas M. Gisler Jr., 1 Aug 1995
Col Kenneth Lewis



Col Albert Lupenski



Col Matthew J. Burger, 19 Nov 2011

Col Scott McLaughlin
Col Stephanie Williams

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II
American Theater

European-African-Middle Eastern Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

[1 Aug] 1992-30 Jun 1994

1 Jul 1994-15 Aug 1995

1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998

1 Aug 2000-31 Jul 2002

16 Aug 2003-17 Aug 2004

18 Aug 2004-17 Aug 2005

18 Aug 2005-17 Aug 2006

18 Aug 2006-17 Aug 2007

18 Aug 2007-17 Aug 2008

18 Aug 2008-17 Aug 2009

30 Sep 2009-30 Sep 2011

1 Oct 2011-30 Sep 2013

1 Oct 2013-31 Dec 2014

EMBLEM



Per bend sky blue and azure; in bend a lightning bolt gules, fimbriated argent, between three aircraft in flight, and a representation of the golden gate bridge or; the shield edged of the last. (Approved, 26 Jul 1956)

MOTTO

FACTA, NON VERBA— Deeds, Not Words

OPERATIONS

Trained at various bases for troop carrier operations, participating in maneuvers and practicing paratroop drops, glider towing, and flying training, until moving to Europe in Mar 1945. In western Europe, transported vehicles, gasoline, and supplies. At the end of the war, evacuated patients and allied former prisoners of war. In 1946, trained Chinese crews to operate C-46 aircraft. Between Jun 1949 and Apr 1951, trained reservists in troop carrier operations. Between Jun 1952 and Sep 1957, trained for fighter-bomber operations, but returned to troop carrier training from Sep 1957 to Apr 1959. Activated in 1992 to manage strategic airlift squadrons, and in 1994 also acquired air refueling squadrons. Since then the group has taken part in joint training exercises, channel and special assignment airlift missions, and humanitarian and contingency operations worldwide.

The 349 Air Mobility Wing dates back to November 1943, when it was activated at Sedalia Army Air Field, Missouri. At the time of activation, it was designated the 349 Troop Carrier Group and had five troop carrier squadrons assigned. One of these squadrons, the 312th Airlift Squadron, is still assigned to the Wing.

In March 1944, the 349 was sent to the European Theater of Operations and began flying combat cargo missions. Flying C-46s, the 349 was the first unit to drop paratroopers from both doors. At one time during the war in Europe, the 349 participated in the largest mass formation of C-46's ever flown in that theater.

During the last days of World War II in Europe, the 349 participated in the evacuation of wounded from France and England. After VE day, portions of the unit assisted in transporting the British First Army to Norway, in evacuating French POWs from Austria, and in shuttling passengers and equipment between the Continent and the United Kingdom. When the war in Europe ended, the 349 returned to the U.S. and began preparations to join in the Pacific war. While the Wing was still in the states, Japan surrendered and the war was over. The 349 closed out its active duty in 1946 by training Chinese troops at Bergstrom Air Force Base, Texas.

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.