

370 AIR EXPEDITIONARY ADVISORY GROUP



MISSION

The 370 Air Expeditionary Advisory Group mission is to conduct advise and assist operations to enhance the sustainability of the Iraqi Air Force, enable the Iraqi Security Forces Aviation forces and provides agile combat support to operating locations across Iraq. Advises the Iraqi forces on matters of logistics, aerial ports and aircraft maintenance.

LINEAGE

1 Transport Group constituted on the inactive list, 1 Oct 1933

10 Observation Group constituted on the inactive list, 1 Oct 1933

1 Transport Group and 10 Observation Group consolidated and redesignated 10 Transport Group and activated, 20 May 1937

Redesignated 10 Troop Carrier Group 4 Jul 1942

Disbanded, 14 Apr 1944

Reconstituted and redesignated 370 Military Airlift Group, 31 Jul 1985

Redesignated 370 Air Expeditionary Group, and converted to provisional status, 24 Oct 2005

Redesignated 370 Air Expeditionary Advisory Group, 23 Mar 2007

Activated, 29 Mar 2007

STATIONS

Not organized 1933-1934

Columbus, OH, 1934-1937

Patterson Field, OH, 20 May 1937
Wright Field, OH, 20 Jun 1938
Patterson Field, OH, 17 Jan 1941
Milwaukee County Aprt (later, General Billy Mitchell Field), WI, 25 May 1942
Pope Field (Fort Bragg), NC, 4 Oct 1942
Dunnellon AAFld, FL, 13 Feb 1943
Lawson Field (Fort Benning), GA, 30 Nov 1943
Grenada AAFld, MS, 21 Jan 1944
Alliance AAFld, NE, 12 Mar-14 Apr 1944
Baghdad, Iraq, 29 Mar 2007

ASSIGNMENTS

6 Transport Wing
Chief of the Air Corps, 20 May 1937
50 Transport (later, 50 Troop Carrier) Wing, 8 Jan 1941
52 Troop Carrier Wing, 5 Oct 1942
I Troop Carrier Command, 15 Feb 1943-14 Apr 1944
9 Aerospace Expeditionary Task Force, 29 Mar 2007

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-27, 1937-1942
C-33, 1937-1942
C-39, 1938-1942
C-47, 1941-1944
C-53, 1942-1944
C-48, 1942
C-49, 1942
L-3, 1943
L-4, 1943

COMMANDERS

Maj Leo A. Walton, 14 Feb 1934-11 May 1934
Unkn, 20 May-7 Jun 1937
Maj Hugh A. Bevins, 8 Jun 1937
Capt Lyman Whitten, Jun 1938
Maj Fred Borum, Oct 1939
Capt Murray E. Woodbury, Jan 1941
Capt Theodore Q. Graff, 2 Sep 1941
Capt Maurice Beach, 1 Apr 1942
Maj Loren Cornell, 1 Aug 1942
Maj Douglas M. Swisher, 30 Aug 1942
Lt Col Boyd R. Ertwine, 25 Oct 1942
Lt Col Erickson S. Nichols, 28 Jan 1943
Lt Col Henry P. King, 12 May 1943-14 Apr 1944

Col Bradley Bridges

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



10 Transport Group emblem: Azure, ten bendlets or surmounted by a torteau fimbriated of the second charged with a wheel winged bend sinisterwise of the like. (Approved, 9 Dec 1941)

370 Air Expeditionary Advisory Group emblem: Azure, ten bendlets issuant from dexter chief to sinister base Or charged with a torteau surmounted by a winged wheel of the second and detailed Gold Brown, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "370TH AIR EXP ADVISORY GRP" in Blue letters. 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 ten bendlets represent the number of Iraqi Air Force mission areas, and the torteau with the winged wheel signifies the function of the organization as moving the Iraqi Armed Forces from a terrain based force to the mobile Army enabled by a winged Air Force.

MOTTO

ALATUM SERVITIUM—Winged Service

OPERATIONS

1 Transport Group Constituted in the Regular Army on 1 October 1933 as Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 1 Transport Group, assigned to the 6th Transport Wing, and allotted to

the Fifth Corps Area. Organized in early 1934 with Organized Reserve personnel as a RAI unit at Columbus, OH. Organized provisionally 14 February 1934 as an active unit, less Reserve personnel, at Columbus, OH. Discontinued on 11 May 1934 as an active provisional organization. Consolidated on with the 10th Observation Group on 20 May 1937. Concurrently redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 10th Transport Group, and activated at Patterson Field, OH.

Transported high priority supplies, equipment, and personnel by air within the continental United States, 1937-1941. Trained transport and troop carrier aircrews, practicing dropping airborne troops and towing gliders, 1942-1944.

As part of the logistic organization, assigned first to Office of Chief of the Air Corps and later (1941) to Air Service Command, the group transported supplies, materiel, and personnel within the US Converted to C-47's. Trained cadres for troop carrier groups and in 1943 was given the additional duty of training replacement crews.

In a small office space at Al Muthana Air Base, U.S. Air Force 370th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group air advisors and Iraqi airmen enjoy a small cup of tea together. Iraqi Air Force Col. Yossif Halo, the base air terminal operations center commander, sits with the team and casually highlights the familiarity he has with his American counterparts. According to Halo, his airmen's confidence in their proven capabilities has only grown larger as the U.S. Air Force and Iraqi Air Force have begun to work closer together.

"To be honest, all the (U.S.) air advisors, before and now, are super good. They do an excellent job," Halo said. "Our relationship is going to get stronger with more training and more interaction." April 2018, the joint training was put to the test when critical Iraqi equipment needed to be shipped back to the U.S. for routine service. The Iraqi aerial port technicians, along with 370th AEAG air advisor observers, who are part of the Coalition Aviation Advisory and Training Team, loaded three C-130J Super Hercules engines on to a U.S. Air Force aircraft. It was a cooperation that is rarely seen, according to the U.S. air advisors and is a sign of trust between partner nations.

"They drove those loaders as well as any of the U.S. Airmen do, straight up to the plane," said Capt. M. Luke Piro, a logistics readiness air advisor deployed from the 123rd Air Wing from the Louisville Air National Guard Base, Kentucky. "To see them involved and seeing them caring was a unique experience." The C-130 flying the mission was a Kentucky ANG aircraft, manned with Piro's home station Airmen. The pre-existing relationship allowed the aerial porters and aircrew to instantly trust each other, Piro said. This trust quickly carried to the Iraqi airmen, after air advisors updated the aircrew loadmasters of the Iraqi capabilities. They had gained plenty of experience over the past few years before Iraq declared victory over the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria in December 2017.

An Iraqi Air Force aerial port technician said that the high tempo during the war with ISIS had Iraqi airmen working 24 hour days, seven days a week schedules and required them to load large objects and vehicles regularly. Since ISIS's fall, the operational pace has slowed, allowing the Iraqis to work more closely with U.S. personnel. Refining their skills and building on the foundation of knowledge the Iraqis already had, the partnership has formed a gratifying

relationship between advisors and advisees. The Iraqi airman said that the information they have been able to receive from the U.S. has allowed for greater efficiency and a safer work environment.

“You don’t want to hurt yourself or the aircraft, so they are always teaching us about safety,” the same airman said. “We were having a hard time understanding how to quickly get a vehicle inside of an aircraft but with the air advisors it became super easy for us.” Piro said that for his guys, who go over to Al Muthana Air Base every day, seeing the fruit of their efforts pay off with the recent mission, was very important and great to watch.

For many Iraqi airmen, the experience of working with U.S. Airmen has allowed them to take their gained knowledge back home to their family and friends. “I’m from a country city outside of Baghdad, so when I go to visit my family, I’m farming and taking care of my land,” the airman said. “Here (air advisors) are teaching me about the equipment and teaching me about safety. I take all this information back and try to teach my family (to be safe).”

In addition to family, conversations over tea often can be about sports, hobbies or other individual interests in addition to work, Halo explains. He hopes his unit’s close relationship with the U.S. will continue so they can grow their skills and be ready for the future.

“There is no mimicking the U.S. Air Force,” said Halo. “But we are trying, as much as we can, to reach the U.S. Air Force’s standards.”

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE 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.

Unit yearbook. *Grenada AAF, MS*. Army and Navy Publishing Co of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, LA. Nd.