

374th AIRLIFT WING



MISSION

The 374th Airlift Wing executes rapid global mobility through agile airlift operations across the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. It is responsible to the 5th Air Force commander for C-130J, UH-1N and C-12J operations including tactical air-land, airdrop, aeromedical and distinguished visitor airlift. As the primary Western Pacific airlift hub for peacetime and contingency operations, the wing provides airlift for the movement of passengers, cargo and mail to all Department of Defense agencies in the Pacific area of responsibility and provides transport for people and equipment throughout the Kanto Plain and the Tokyo metropolitan area. During peacetime, the 374th Airlift Wing maintains a constant state of readiness by participating in joint training exercises.

The wing is composed of four groups, including 17 squadrons. More than 3,500 military members alongside U.S. and Japan civilian employees make up the 374th Airlift Wing work force, which supports 32 tenant units and a base populace of approximately 12,000. The wing includes the 36th Airlift Squadron, which flies the C-130J Super Hercules, and the 459th Airlift Squadron, which flies UH-1N helicopters and the C-12J Huron. In total, the wing has more than 20 aircraft.

LINEAGE

374th Troop Carrier Wing, Heavy established, 10 Aug 1948
Activated, 17 Aug 1948
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1957
Redesignated 374th Troop Carrier Wing, and activated, 27 Jun 1966
Organized, 8 Aug 1966
Redesignated 374th Tactical Airlift Wing, 1 Aug 1967
Redesignated 374th Airlift Wing, 1 Apr 1992

STATIONS

Harmon AFB, Guam, 17 Aug 1948
Tachikawa (later, Tachikawa AB), Japan, 5 Mar 1949–1 Jul 1957
Naha AB, Okinawa, 8 Aug 1966
Ching Chaun Kang AB, Taiwan, 31 May 1971
Clark AB, Philippines, 15 Nov 1973
Yokota AB, Japan, 1 Oct 1989

ASSIGNMENTS

Marianas Air Materiel Area (Provisional), 17 Aug 1948
Marianas Air Materiel Area, 1 Feb 1949
Fifth Air Force, 5 Mar 1949
314th Air Division, 1 Dec 1950
315th Air Division (Combat Cargo), 25 Jan 1951–1 Jul 1957
Pacific Air Forces, 27 Jun 1966
315th Air Division (Combat Cargo), 8 Aug 1966
313th Air Division, 1 Nov 1968
327th Air Division, 31 May 1971
Thirteenth Air Force, 15 Nov 1973
Twenty-Second Air Force, 31 Mar 1975
834th Airlift Division, 1 Oct 1978
Fifth Air Force, 1 Apr 1992

ATTACHMENTS

Twentieth Air Force, 17 Aug 1948-5 Mar 1949)
1st Troop Carrier Task Force [Provisional], 5–9 Sep 1950
Far East Air Forces Combat Cargo Command, Provisional, 10 Sep 1950- 25 Jan 1951

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-54, 1948–1956, 1956–1957
C-46, 1949, 1950–1951, 1956–1957
C-47, 1951–1957
C-124, 1952–1957
C-119, 1951, 1956–1957
VB-17, 1951
C-130, 1966–1971; 1971
C-9, 1975–1992, 1992
C-12, 1984
C-21, 1985
UH-1, 1992

COMMANDERS

Col Charles K. Moore, 17 Aug 1948
Col James C. Jensen, Feb 1949
Col Troy W. Crawford, 19 Jun 1949

Col Charles W. Howe, Sep 1951
Col James W. Chapman, Jr., 9 Aug 1952
Col Adriel N. Williams, 1 Mar 1954
Col Francis W. Williams, 16 Jun 1956
Col James R. Haun, 22 Jun–1 Jul 1957
None (not manned), 27 Jun–7 Aug 1966
Col John R. Neal, 8 Aug 1966
Col Russell D. Crane, 16 Jun 1967
BG Kelton M. Farris, 25 Jan 1969
Col Noble F. Greenhill, Jr., 11 Jul 1970
Col Andrew P. Iosue, 31 May 1971
Col James I. Baginski, 18 May 1973
Col Albert M. Navas, 12 Feb 1975
Col James I. Baginski, 24 Apr 1975
Col Albert M. Navas, 1 Aug 1975
Col Gary G. Boettcher, 15 Aug 1977
Col Jimmy L. Maturo, 29 Aug 1977
Col James H. Mahew, 1 Oct 1978 (temporary)
Col Browning C. Wharton, Jr., 31 Oct 1978
Col James W. Alexander, 27 Jun 1980
Col Frank E. Willis, 8 Jun 1981
Col Lowell G. FATHERA, 11 Feb 1983
Col Frank Cardile, 27 Jun 1985
Col Robert Y. Foerster, 21 Apr 1988
Col George R. Durham, Jr., 25 Jul 1990
BG Michael J. McCarthy, 11 Jun 1992
BG Kenneth W. Hess, 30 Aug 1994
Col Edward L. Fountaine, 13 Nov 1995
Col Alan J. Briding, 28 Feb 1997
Col Mark A. Volcheff, 14 Aug 1998
Col Mark R. Zamzow, 11 Jan 2000
BG Mark E. Stearns, 25 Oct 2001
Col Mark O. Schisslor, 15 Jul 2003
Col Scott P. Goodwin, 1 Jun 2005
Col Kenneth Moss, Aug 2014

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

Korea

UN Defensive

UN Offensive

CCF Intervention
First UN Counteroffensive
CCF Spring Offensive
UN Summer-Fall Offensive
Second Korean Winter
Korea Summer-Fall, 1952
Third Korean Winter
Korea Summer, 1953

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamer

None

Decorations

Presidential Unit Citation
Vietnam, 8 Aug 1967–7 Aug 1968

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device
12 Feb–17 May 1975

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

8 Aug 1966–7 Aug 1967
1 Jul 1983–30 Jun 1985
30 Sep 1992–1 Oct 1994
1 Oct 1994–30 Sep 1996
1 Oct 1996–30 Sep 1997
1 Oct 1998–30 Sep 2000
1 Oct 2000–30 Sep 2002

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation

1 Jul 1951–27 Jul 1953

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Apr 1966–28 Jan 1973

Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation

21 Jul–15 Aug 1972

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display the honors earned by the 374th Operations Group prior to 17 Aug 1948

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Air Offensive, Japan
Papua
New Guinea
Northern Solomons
Bismarck Archipelago
Western Pacific
Leyte; Luzon
Southern Philippines

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Papua, [Nov] 1942–23 Jan 1943
Papua, 12 Nov–22 Dec 1942
Wau, New Guinea, 30 Jan–1 Feb 1943

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

EMBLEM

Per bend Azure and Or, in chief a hand couped in armour, holding a dagger, point upward, issuing from its handle an arrow and a wheat stalk Or, in base a winged foot Azure, all within a diminished bordure of the second. (Approved for 374th Group, 3 Jul 1951 and for 374th Wing, 20 Dec 1951)

MOTTO

CELERITER PUGNARE—Swiftly to fight

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Operated Harmon Field, Guam, Aug 1948–Mar 1949, and provided troop carrier operations in the Pacific and Far East. Moved to Japan in Mar 1949, assuming control over Tachikawa (later, Tachikawa AB), operating this facility until 1 Jan 1956.

Performed routine transport operations until the outbreak of war in Korea in Jun 1950.

In June 1950, the 374th TCW was the only air transport wing assigned to Fifth Air Force. By early September 1950, it was attached to the 1st Troop Carrier Task Force (Provisional) and then on September 10, to the FEAFF Combat Cargo Command (Provisional). Reassigned to the 315th Air Division (Combat Cargo), it served with that division from January 1951 through the end of the war. The wing's assigned and attached components flew a variety of aircraft, including C-54s, C-46s, C-47s, C-119s, and C-124s, performing combat airlift, airdrops, and aeromedical evacuation in Korea throughout the war.

With assigned and attached components, performed combat airlift, airdrops, and aeromedical evacuation in Korea throughout the war. Also flew courier flights throughout the Pacific area. Transported the first of several groups of repatriated prisoners of war from Korea to Japan in Apr 1953 (Operation LITTLE SWITCH), and subsequently transported United Nations prisoners of war (Operation BIG SWITCH) from North Korea. Following hostilities, the wing resumed its normal troop carrier and airlift operations in the Far East and Pacific area, including participation in tactical exercises and humanitarian missions.

Operated in Indo-China in 1954, flying in observers, maintenance personnel, and liaison officers and evacuating wounded French troops. Trained C-46 pilots of the Japanese Air Self Defense Force, Nov 1954–May 1955.

On 1 Jul 1957, transferred to Military Air Transport Service and inactivated, replaced in part by 1503d Air Transport Wing. Nine years later, in Aug 1966, replaced the 6315th Operations Group at Naha AB, Okinawa, and assumed a mission heavily involved in airlift to Southeast Asia, as well as intra-theater airlift for elements of the Pacific Command.

In addition, the wing supported Army Special Forces training, participated in tactical exercises, and flew search and rescue and humanitarian missions as needed. The wing phased down for inactivation in early 1971, and from 27 Apr to 31 May had no aircraft. On 31 May, the wing replaced the 314th Tactical Airlift Wing in Taiwan.

Saved from inactivation and revived with new resources, the 374th remained heavily committed in support of operations in Southeast Asia, and also continued routine airlift in other areas. One of the wing's humanitarian missions—flood relief in the Philippines—earned it a Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation in 1972.

The wing provided support in Mar 1973 for Operation HOMECOMING, the repatriation of American prisoners from Hanoi, North Vietnam. The wing maintained a forward operating location in Thailand until mid-1976, and was quite active in that area. It took part in Operation BABY LIFT (evacuation of Vietnam orphans) and Operation NEW LIFE (evacuation of Vietnamese refugees) in Apr 1975.

During the recovery of the SS Mayaguez from the Cambodians in May 1975, a wing aircraft dropped a 15,000-lb bomb on Koh Tang Island to create a helicopter landing area.

The wing became part of the Military Airlift Command on 31 Mar 1975, at which time it gained an aeromedical airlift mission in the Far East. In Oct 1978, gained a tactical airlift group to control the wing's units in Japan and South Korea.

Controlled aerial port facilities in South Korea until Nov 1983, and then in the Philippines and Japan. Began supporting US Navy elements in the Indian Ocean area in 1980. Deployed C-130s, associated aircrews and support personnel for operations in Southwest Asia, 30 Dec 1990–6 Jul

1991.

Provided airlift and aeromedical airlift for the evacuation of Clark AB, Philippines, after the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo, 8 Jun–1 Jul 1991.

Returned to control of Pacific Air Forces in Apr 1992.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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