

419 OPERATIONS GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

419 Troop Carrier Group established, 1 Dec 1944

Activated, 31 Jan 1945

Inactivated, 15 Feb 1946

Activated in the Reserve, 22 Mar 1947

Redesignated 419 Troop Carrier Group, Medium, 27 Jun 1949

Ordered to active service, 1 May 1951

Inactivated, 2 May 1951

Redesignated 419 Troop Carrier Group, Assault, Fixed Wing, 24 Feb 1956

Activated, 9 Jul 1956

Inactivated, 11 Dec 1957

Redesignated 419 Military Airlift Group, 31 Jul 1985

Redesignated 419 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992

Activated in the Reserve, 1 Aug 1992

STATIONS

Guam, 31 Jan 1945-15 Feb 1946

Richmond AAB (later, Byrd Field), VA, 22 Mar 1947

Scott AFB, IL, 27 Jun 1949-2 May 1951

Ardmore AFB, OK, 9 Jul 1956-11 Dec 1957

Hill AFB, UT, 1 Aug 1992

ASSIGNMENTS

Central Pacific Base Command, 31 Jan 1945

Twentieth Air Force, 6 Dec 1945

Pacific Air Command, U.S. Army, 1 Jan 1946
Far East Air Service Command, 1-15 Feb 1946
Eleventh Air Force, 22 Mar 1947
69 Troop Carrier Wing (later, 69 Air Division), 17 Oct 1947
419 Troop Carrier Wing, 27 Jun 1949-2 May 1951
Eighteenth Air Force, 9 Jul 1956
Ninth Air Force, 1 Sep-11 Dec 1957
419 Fighter Wing, 1 Aug 1992

ATTACHMENTS

69 Troop Carrier Wing, 22 Mar-16 Oct 1947
463 Troop Carrier Wing, 9 Jul 1956-25 Sep 1957
838 Air Division, 26 Sep-11 Dec 1957

WEAPON SYSTEMS

AT-6
AT-7
AT-11, 1947-1951
C/TC-46, 1949-1951
C-123, 1956-1957
F-16, 1992

COMMANDERS

None (not manned), 31 Jan 1945
Capt Vernon C. Dang, 1 Feb 1945
Maj Victor C. Swearingen, 5 Mar 1945
Col Frank H. Mears, 10 May 1945
Lt Col Victor C. Swearingen, 6 Aug 1945
Maj John B. Wakefield Jr., 19 Aug 1945
Capt Vernon C. Dang, 10 Nov 1945
Capt John L. Boggs, 21 Nov-11 Dec 1945
Lt Col Charles R. Mallory Jr., 22 Mar 1947
Col Billy G. Dilworth Jr., 27 Jun 1949
Lt Col Richard E. Turner, 12 Jan-Sep 1950
Unkn, Sep 1950-2 May 1951
Maj Joseph C. Hamilton Jr., 9 Jul 1956
Col Woodrow T. Merrill, 1 Aug 1956
Col George G. Norman, 27 Aug 1956
Col Frank W. Hansley, 21 Oct-11 Dec 1957
Col Glen F. Jepsen, 1 Aug 1992
Col Charles Stenner, 8 Jul 1994
Lt Col Wayne Conroy, 10 Dec 1995
Col Patrick Wade, Mar 2011 - Aug 2011
Col Bryan Cook

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Western Pacific

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Apr 1994-31 Mar 1996

EMBLEM



419th Troop Carrier Group emblem: Per pale azure and vert, on a pile argent a point in point reversed gules between the wings of an eagle volant, sable, his head and detail of the third, grasping with his talons the left hand of a Roman warrior and lowering him to base; the warrior holding a sword in his right hand; all between three stars, argent, one in chief, one in dexter base, one in sinister base. (Approved, 25 Jun 1957)



419th Operations Group will use the wing emblem with the group designation in the scroll.

Blazon. Per fess Azure and checky, alternating Argent and Sable, issuing from sinister chief a lightning bolt bend sinisterwise Gules overall in sinister flank a griffin sejant Or, head, neck and talons of the second, garnished of the third, issuing from its dexter claws three rays conjoined Argent terminating in back of three flight symbols, one fesswise between one ascending bendwise and one descending bend sinisterwise, between the upper two flight symbols in dexter chief a mullet of four points and between the lower two flight symbols a representation of a planet and in middle chief a mullet of four points with a representation of a planet between the mullet and lightning bolt all Or; all within a diminished bordure of the last. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "419TH 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 griffin en garde on upper sinister warns the enemy not to molest our freedoms or our substance lest they be ravaged by the guardian's power. The three darts released by the griffin are representative of air-to-ground and air-to-air combat. The stars and planets are symbolic of navigating the skies. The red lightning bolt striking downward from upper sinister to lower dexter characterizes the unit's military might when bestowed upon the enemy. The black and white checkered field on lower sinister denotes the tactical strategy of the unit's military might when seen as a chessboard or competition of the swift, fairly won, when seen as a flag. (Approved, 25 Mar 2022)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

From late Jan 1945 to mid-Feb 1946 the 419th Troop Carrier Group was assigned neither squadrons nor aircraft, but was composed primarily of a few detachments on Saipan, Tinian, Guam (all in the Mariana Islands), and Angaur (in the Palau Islands), the latter detachment moving to Iwo Jima in Mar 1945. The detachments operated transportation terminals that assisted in moving troops, equipment, food, and mail to, and in evacuating personnel from, combat areas. When activated again, the 419th controlled several Reserve units at five separate locations. In mid-1949 the group moved without personnel or equipment to Scott AFB, IL, where it became the combat component

of the new 419th Troop Carrier Wing. Group pilots trained in T-6, T-7, T-11, and C/TC-47 aircraft until c. Mar 1951. Beginning Jul 1956, the group (and its three squadrons) trained in C-123 assault airlift operations. For the next 16 months the group airlifted, airdropped, and airlanded troops and cargo to support tactical operations, special missions, and U.S. Army and joint airborne exercises, worldwide. From Aug 1992 it trained for and flew fighter missions. Between Dec 1994 and Feb 1995, took part patrols to enforce the no-fly zone over northern Iraq.

During the second phase of the Ardmore base, the 463rd Troop Carrier Wing (Medium), 16th Troop Carrier Squadron (Assault Fixed Wing), 309th Troop Carrier Group (Assault Fixed Wing), 456th Troop Carrier Group and 419th Troop Carrier Group of the 18th Air Force were stationed here during part or all of the activation period.

The majority of the 463rd personnel were formerly with the 516th Troop Carrier Wing stationed at Memphis Municipal Airport, Tennessee. The 516th, a reserve unit called to active duty April 16, 1951, was inactivated January 16, 1953 and replaced January 16, 1953 by the 463rd Troop Carrier Wing (Medium). Colonel Willis W. Mitchell, commander of the 516th, retired January 16 and presented Colonel George L. Holcomb as commander of the 463rd.

A year later, July 7, 1956, the second assault group, the 419th Troop Carrier Group was formed after transfer of the 309th to France where it remained until deactivated in September of 1958. The C-123B was introduced to the Europeans by the 309th. The 419th, also flying C-123Bs, consisted of three tactical squadrons, the 339th, 340th and 341st commanded by Colonel Frank W. Hansley. Most of the 419th personnel were from the 456th Troop Carrier Wing, 744, 745, and 746th squadrons, that transferred to Ardmore from Japan, June 6, 1956. The 456th, under command of Colonel James L. Daniel, Jr., was deactivated July 9, 1956, a month after arriving. The 419th was deactivated in December 1957.

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.