

446 AIRLIFT WING



MISSION

The mission of the wing is to provide citizen warriors and maintain equipment to meet America's global airlift requirements. The nearly 2,300 men and women assigned to the wing's command staff, three groups, 13 squadrons and five flights, provide transportation of personnel and equipment in support of U.S. operations worldwide.

Reservists in the 446th AW support the Air Mobility Command mission at McChord and around the world on a daily basis, performing about 25 percent of the peacetime mission of the base annually (40 percent in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom). The 446th AW is nearly a mirror image of the active-duty host wing and blends seamlessly into active-duty operations when called upon.

All volunteers, the pilots, physicians, cargo handlers, loadmaster, personnel and administrative technicians, along with many other specialists, combine their skills to make the 446th AW operation run smoothly, while balancing the demands of civilian careers and families. Aircrew, pilots and loadmasters, average 110 to 120 days a year on military duty. All reservists must maintain the same demanding professional skills as their active-duty counterparts. To prepare for the wing's global airlift mission, members of the 446th AW routinely train in the U.S. and many areas of the world — Europe, Australia, the Middle East, Africa, the Pacific Rim and the South Pole.

LINEAGE

446 Troop Carrier Wing, Medium, established, 11 Apr 1955

Activated in the Reserve, 25 May 1955

Redesignated 446 Tactical Airlift Wing, 1 Jul 1967

Inactivated, 1 Jul 1972
Redesignated 446 Military Airlift Wing (Associate), 29 Jan 1973
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Jul 1973
Redesignated 446 Airlift Wing (Associate), 1 Feb 1992
Redesignated 446 Airlift Wing, 1 Oct 1994

STATIONS

Ellington AFB, TX, 25 May 1955-1 Jul 1972
McChord AFB, WA, 1 Jul 1973

ASSIGNMENTS

Fourteenth Air Force, 25 May 1955
Tenth Air Force, 25 Mar 1958
Fourth Air Force Reserve Region, 1 Sep 1960
Central Air Force Reserve Region, 31 Dec 1969-1 Jul 1972
Western Air Force Reserve Region, 1 Jul 1973
Fourth Air Force, 8 Oct 1976

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-45, 1955-1958
C-46, 1955-1958
C-119, 1957-1968, 1969-1970
C-130, 1968-1972
RC-130, 1970-1972
C-124, 1971-1972
C-141, 1973

COMMANDERS

Col John W. Williams, 25 May 1955
Col Forrest R. Harsh, c. Jul 1955
Brig Gen Russell F. Gustke, 1 Nov 1958
Col Richard E. George, 1 Jan 1970
Brig Gen William G. Hathaway, 15 Jun 1970-1 Jul 1972
Col Donald F. Beyl, 1 Jul 1973
Col Paul A. Wriggle, 28 Aug 1975
Col Edward C. Black Jr., 10 May 1976
Col Thomas E. Burford, 26 Aug 1979
Col Dale R. Baumler, 13 Mar 1983
Col Frederick D. Walker, 24 Jun 1984
Col Charles B. Casson, 1 May 1986
Col Robert J. Winner, 14 May 1988
Col James E. Sehorn, 4 Feb 1990
Col Clayton T. Gadd, 8 Dec 1990
Col Jon S. Gingerich, 15 Nov 1992

Col William E. Thomlinson, 7 Jan 1995
Col Edward A. Stickler, 9 Sep 1996
Brig Gen Keith T. Reiling, 25 Jan 1997
Col Alan M. Mitchell, 11 Mar 1998
Col Eric Crabtree #2006
Col William Flanigan #2009

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Dec 1967-10 Jan 1972
1 Jul 1973-30 Jun 1974
1 Sep 1982-31 Aug 1984
1 Aug 1990-31 Jul 1992

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
1 Apr 1966-29 Jun 1971

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 446 Operations Group prior to 25 May 1955

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Decorations

EMBLEM



Approved, 3 Aug 1960

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Trained in troop carrier and tactical airlift operations, 1955-1972. First Air Force Reserve organization to implement the Air Reserve Technician (ART) plan, in 1958.

By 1959, the wing transported and airdropped troops and supplies during training exercises, some overseas. Flew experimental drop missions in support of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), 1962-1967. Participated in disaster relief missions.

Between 1958 and 1972, the wing operated the USAF Combat Crew Training School, the first Air Force Reserve institution that trained active duty crews. Ferried C-130s to Taiwan in 1966 and to Southeast Asia, 1968-1970. Controlled aeromedical evacuation units, 1970-1972.

Since 1973, co-located with 62 Airlift Wing and used its aircraft. Flew special assignment,

channel, and humanitarian airlift missions worldwide, and took part in joint and combined training exercises involving airlift of troops and cargo. The wing's operational squadrons took part in operations to defend Saudi Arabia and to liberate Kuwait in 1990 and 1991. Prepared for receipt of C-17 aircraft scheduled for 1999.

The 446th AW is literally the “Home Team,” with 93 percent of wing Reservists residing and working in western Washington. The other 7 percent reside in surrounding communities and states. All-volunteer aircrews have flown more than 5,000 hours on missions supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Operations Noble Eagle. In February 2003, two of the three Reserve flying squadrons were put on active duty, with the third providing volunteers to fly missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Since February 2004, the wing has an average of more the 350 people deployed at any given time.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Unit History. *Ellington Air Force Base*, 1960.