

# **581<sup>st</sup> AIR RESUPPLY AND COMMUNICATIONS WING**

## **MISSION**

## **LINEAGE**

581<sup>st</sup> Air Resupply and Communications Wing Established, 9 Jul 1951

Activated, 23 Jul 1951

Inactivated, 8 Sep 1953

## **STATIONS**

Mountain Home AFB, ID, 23 Jul 1951-26 Jun 1952

Clark AB, Philippines, 18 Jul 1952-8 Sep 1953

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

Air Resupply and Communications Service, 23 Jul 1951

Thirteenth Air Force, 18 Jul 1952-8 Sep 1953

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

C-119, 1951-1953

B-29, 1951-1953

SA-16, 1951-1953

H-19, 1952-1953

C-54, 1952

C-118, 1952-1953

## **COMMANDERS**

LTC Rupert E. Herr, 23 Jul 1951

Col John K. Arnold, Jr., 1 Aug 1951

Maj John F. Zinn, 10 Aug 1951

LTC George H. Pittman, Jr., 31 Aug 1951

Col John K. Arnold, Jr., 1 Oct 1951  
Col Lawrence C. Gilbert, 16 Jan 1952  
Col John K. Arnold, Jr., 18 Feb 1952  
Col Lawrence C. Gilbert, 12 Jan-8 Sep 1953

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

None

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

None

## **EMBLEM**

On a shield azure, a torch, base argent, flame or, flame moving toward the dexter, over the flame a quill argent bend sinister, all between three links of a chain sable, the center link couped, with one and one-half links on each side of the torch; on a chief gules two branches, of olive, surmounted by a sword in fess, hilt and pommel to the dexter, all or. (Approved, 12 Jun 1952)

## **MOTTO**

LIBERTAS PER VERITATEM—Freedom through truth

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Performed psychological warfare and unconventional operations. Conducted limited operations in French Indo-China in 1953.

The Air Force then activated, equipped, and trained the 580th, 581st, and 582<sup>nd</sup> Air Resupply and Communication Wings specifically for unconventional warfare and counterinsurgency operations. These wings possessed tremendous capabilities using a variety of aircraft such as C-47, C-54, C-118, C-119 transports, B-29 bombers, SA-16 seaplanes, and H-19 helicopters. This revitalization of special operations included the ability to recover downed airmen and the full spectrum of covert air operations. While three wings were activated, only one saw action in Korea. After the war, all three were inactivated by late 1953.

The 581st Air Resupply & Communications Wing was activated 23 July 1951 at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. Upon completion of their training, in June 1952, the Wing was deployed to Clark AFB in the Philippines.

On 8 September 1953, the Wing was reduced to Group strength and the Communications Squadron, Holding & Briefing Squadron, Maintenance Squadron, Motor Vehicle Squadron and Reproduction Squadron were inactivated.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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