

702 AIRLIFT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

702 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 20 Mar 1943
Activated, 1 Apr 1943
Inactivated, 12 Sep 1945
Redesignated 702 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 13 May 1947
Activated in the reserve, 1 Aug 1947
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949
Redesignated 702 Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 24 Jun 1952
Activated in the reserve, 8 Jul 1952
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1957
Redesignated 702 Troop Carrier Squadron (Medium), 24 Oct 1957
Activated in the reserve, 16 Nov 1957
Redesignated 702 Troop Carrier Squadron (Assault), 25 Sep 1958
Ordered to active service, 28 Oct 1962
Relieved from active duty, 28 Nov 1962
Redesignated 702 Military Airlift Squadron
Redesignated 702 Airlift Squadron

STATIONS

Gowen Field, ID, 1 Apr 1943
Wendover Field, UT, 8 Jun 1943
Sioux City AAB, IA, 8 Jul-20 Oct 1943
Tibbenham, England, 2 Nov 1943-30 May 1945
Ft Dix AAB, NJ, 9 Jun-12 Sep 1945

Hill Field, UT, 1 Aug 1947-27 Jun 1949
Buffalo, NY, 8 Jul 1952
Niagara Falls Mun Aprt, NY, 15 Jun 1955-1 Jul 1957
Memphis Mun Aprt, TN, 16 Nov 1957
McGuire AFB, NJ, 1 Apr 1971

ASSIGNMENTS

445 Bombardment Group, 1 Apr 1943-12 Sep 1945
445 Bombardment Group, 1 Aug 1947-27 Jun 1949
445 Fighter-Bomber Group, 8 Jul 199-1 Jul 1957
445 Troop Carrier Group, 16 Nov 1957
445 Troop Carrier Wing, 25 Sep 1958
920 Troop Carrier Group, 11Feb 1963

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24, 1943-1945
B-24D
B-24E
B-24H
B-24J
C-47
C-123

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

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

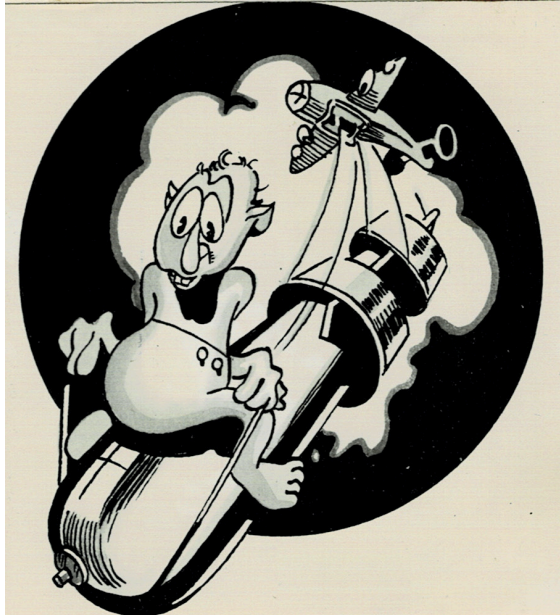
Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
Gotha, Germany, 24 Feb 194

French Croix de Guerre with Palm
Dec 1943-Feb 1945

EMBLEM



702 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) emblem: On a black disc, a large white cloud formation, edged light turquoise blue, surmounted by a light magenta, caricatured aircraft, dropping toward dexter base a very large aerial bomb, highlighted and shadowed light magenta, yellow and black, nose spinner blue, ridden by a caricatured gremlin light magenta, highlighted white, seated astride nose of bomb and steering by white reins passing around nose of bomb. (Approved, 16 Feb 1945)

702 Troop Carrier Squadron (Assault) emblem: On and over a gray bale of cotton, from which protrude wisps of white cotton, a disc bordered Air Force blue, bearing a landscape of medium blue sky and muddy, brown river water; churning through the water a side view of a paddle wheel river boat, Air Force blue, the windows lighted Air Force golden yellow, the smoke stack belching forth a cloud of gray smoke, a white flag at the prow, the side-wheel gray; all surmounted by white winged annulet; outlines and details Air Force blue throughout. (Approved, 9 Jan 1962)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan (AFNS) -- A small group of Air Guardsmen were joined by senior leaders June 18 to celebrate the completion of their deployment in support of Operation

Enduring Freedom and to honor the deactivation of the 702nd Expeditionary Airlift Squadron here. The 702nd EAS was activated here July 31, 2011, and charged to operate the C-27J Spartan in direct support of U.S. Army missions in the Regional Command - South area of operations. During this rotation, the majority of the Airmen from 702nd EAS were from the Maryland Air National Guard.

This deployment marked their third rotation to Afghanistan in five years. The squadron deactivated after flying 3,200 missions, moving 1,400 tons of cargo, transporting 25,000 passengers and executing 71 airdrops, officials said. The achievements are even more impressive since the squadron operated only two aircraft. "Persistent powerful presence-that's the mission of the 451st Air Expeditionary Wing, and the 702nd (EAS) has lived up to that statement in every respect," said Col. Robert Kiebler, the 451st Expeditionary Operations Group commander.

As the 702nd EAS becomes a part of history, the support provided to time-critical tactical airlift will not go with it. "We will continue to provide world-class tactical airlift in support of operations in Regional Command - South," said Kiebler. The U.S. Army 25th Combat Aviation Brigade served as the link for the 702nd EAS to the Army while it conducted operations in Afghanistan. The squadron flew missions that were directed and scheduled by the brigade. The 25th CAB commander praised the departing Air Guardsmen for adopting his unit's motto, "We fly for the troops," during the deactivation ceremony. "It emphasizes to every Soldier, and now every Airman, that has been in our formation that it's not about us," said Army Col. Frank W. Tate, the 25th CAB commander.

"It's not about what is convenient for us. It is about what we can do to take care of that Soldier, Marine, Airman or Sailor on the ground. They are the ones who carry that heavy burden; they are the ones with the most significant challenges." Supporting the warfighter was a constant focus of the squadron in its 10 months of operation. The squadron prided itself in providing rapid response in support of the mission. "We had folks bring in boxes of blood (to the squadron), with crews already at the plane," said Lt. Col Michael Lunt, the 702nd EAS commander. "We walked it out to the aircraft, and it went out the door to Tarin Kowt. "You can't find a better mission than tactical airlift," Lunt said. A clear sense of accomplishment prevailed among the unit and leadership. "This rotation has been for me, and the men and women of the Maryland, Ohio, Georgia, Mississippi, North Dakota and Arkansas Air National Guard, a very challenging, but, in many ways for us, the most rewarding rotation we've been on," Lunt said "We feel like we've made a difference for the young troops on the tip of the spear." 2012

The Air Force is no longer operating C-27J Spartan airlifters in Afghanistan and currently has no plans to return them to that theater, according to service officials. Earlier this week, officials at Kandahar AB, Afghanistan, inactivated the 702nd Expeditionary Airlift Squadron that had operated two C-27Js from there since last August. These Air National Guard-run mini airlifters provided direct support to Army units in southern Afghanistan, earning high marks from the operators and the soldiers whom they supported. "We feel like we've made a difference for the young troops on the tip of the spear," said Lt. Col. Michael Lunt, 702nd EAS commander at the time of the unit's June 18 inactivation. Air Force spokeswoman Jennifer Cassidy told the Daily Report June 21 that the Air Force leadership decided to pull the C-27Js at this time to avoid

having to spend another \$20 million to \$25 million on L-3 contractor support for another year in Afghanistan. The Air Force's Fiscal 2013 budget proposal included the service's plan to divest the C-27J fleet to save funds for higher priorities. However, lawmakers have thus far put the kibosh on that move in their budget mark-ups for next fiscal year. to continue to the full report.
2012

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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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.

Unit yearbook. *Fourteenth Air Force, Robins AFB, GA, Flying Tigers 1959.*