

## 708 AIRLIFT SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

708 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 6 Apr 1943  
Activated, 1 May 1943  
Inactivated, 7 Nov 1945  
Redesignated 708 Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy), 24 Oct 1947  
Activated in the reserve, 10 Nov 1947  
Redesignated 708 Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 27 Jun 1949  
Ordered to active service, 1 May 1951  
Inactivated, 16 Jun 1951  
Redesignated 708 Military Airlift Squadron and activated in the reserve, 1 Jul 1973  
Redesignated 708 Military Airlift Squadron (Associate), 1 Oct 1994  
Redesignated 708 Airlift Squadron (Associate), 1 Feb 1992  
Redesignated 708 Airlift Squadron, 1 Oct 1994  
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1996

#### STATIONS

Ephrata AAB, WA, 1 May 1943  
Rapid City AAB, SD, 13 Jun 1943  
Harvard AAFld, NE, 1 Aug-11 Nov 1943  
Rattlesden, England, 1 Dec 1943-1 Aug 1945  
Drew Field, FL, 14 Aug-7 Nov 1945  
Bergstrom Field, TX, 10 Nov 1947  
Castle AFB, CA, 27 Jun 1949-16 Jun 1951  
Travis AFB, CA, 1 Jul 1973-1 Aug 1992

#### ASSIGNMENTS

447 Bombardment Group, 1 May 1943-7 Nov 1945

447 Bombardment Group, 10 Nov 1947-16 Jun 1951  
349 Military Airlift Wing (Associate), 1 Jul 1973  
349 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992-30 Sep 1996

#### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-17, 1943-1945  
B-29, 1947-1951  
C-141, 1973-1996

#### **COMMANDERS**

Col Robert Andersen, 28 Oct 1975  
Col Clyde L. MacGowan, 20 Jul 1980  
Col Richard K. Vogel 9 Aug 1982  
Col Ralph M. Utterback, 1 Jul 1984  
LTC Horace T. Whitman, 31 Mar 1985  
LTC Lorence D. Meier, 1 Aug 1985  
Col Ralph M. Utterback, 27 Jan 1986  
LTC Ozero H. Hutchins 1 Apr 1987  
Col James L. Martin, 5 Nov 1989  
Col James B. Eustis, 7 Jun 1992; 23 May 1993  
Col Allan A. McCrary, 18 Jun 1995  
Col John C. Lowe, 30 Sep 1996  
Col Philip D. Webb, 5 May 1996  
Robert W. Marcott,

#### **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**

None

#### **EMBLEM**



708 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy emblem: Over and through a yellow-orange disc, a black silhouette four-motor aircraft in sinister chief, dropping a stick of three blue violet aerial bombs to foreground, and leaving air stream to rear shaded light blue violet. (Approved, 6 Sep 1943)



**MOTTO**

**NICKNAME**

**OPERATIONS**

Combat in ETO, 24 Dec 1943-21 Apr 1945.

The 708th Airlift Squadron is an inactive United States Air Force unit. Its last was assigned to the 349th Operations Group, stationed at Travis Air Force Base, California. It was inactivated on 30 September 1996. Activated in mid 1943 as a B-17 Flying Fortress heavy bomb squadron, trained

under Second Air Force. Deployed to England in the European Theater of Operations (ETO) during November 1943, assigned to VIII Bomber Command as a strategic bombardment squadron. Participated in the air offensive over Nazi Germany and Occupied Europe until German capitulation in May 1945. Personnel demobilized in England and returned to the United States; squadron reassigned to Third Air Force for possible re-equipping with B-29 Superfortresses and deployment to Pacific Theater. Japanese capitulation led to inactivation in November 1945.

Activated in the postwar reserve as a B-29 squadron. Trained for proficiency as part of Strategic Air Command reserve forces. Activated as a result of Korean War in 1951, squadron's aircraft and personnel reassigned to Far East Air Force Bomber Command, inactivated as a paper unit.

Reactivated as Military Airlift Command reserve strategic airlift squadron in 1973. Assigned to Travis AFB and became associate squadron of 60th Military Airlift Wing. equipped with C-141 Starlifter in 1973 and continued worldwide transport mission. Inactivated in 1996 as part of phase out of C-141s.

---

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 25 Sep 2010

Updated:

#### 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.

*A History of Travis Air Force Base, 1943-1996.* Gary Leiser. Travis Air Force Base Historical Society. Sacramento, CA. 1996.