

## 729 AIRLIFT SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

729 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 14 May 1943  
Activated, 1 Jun 1943  
Redesignated 729 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 20 Aug 1943  
Inactivated, 28 Aug 1945  
Redesignated 729 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 13 May 1947  
Activated in the Reserve, 12 Jul 1947  
Redesignated 729 Bombardment Squadron, Light, 27 Jun 1949  
Ordered to Active Service, 10 Aug 1950  
Redesignated 729 Bombardment Squadron, Light, Night Intruder, 25 Jun 1951  
Relieved from Active Duty, and inactivated, 10 May 1952  
Redesignated 729 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 6 Jun 1952  
Activated in the Reserve, 13 Jun 1952  
Redesignated 729 Bombardment Squadron, Tactical, 22 May 1955  
Redesignated 729 Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 1 Jul 1957  
Redesignated 729 Tactical Airlift Squadron, 1 Jul 1967  
Redesignated 729 Military Airlift Squadron (Associate), 25 Apr 1969  
Redesignated 729 Airlift Squadron (Associate), 1 Feb 1992  
Redesignated 729 Airlift Squadron, 1 Apr 1993

#### STATIONS

Geiger Field, WA, 1 Jun 1943  
Rapid City AAB, SD, 13 Jul 1943  
Pendleton Field, OR, 10 Oct 1943  
Walla Walla AAFld, WA, 3 Nov-Dec 1943  
Deopham Green, England, Jan 1944-6 Aug 1945

Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 14-28 Aug 1945  
Long Beach AAFld (later, Long Beach Muni Aprt), CA, 12 Jul 1947  
George AFB, CA, 10 Aug-Oct 1950  
Itazuke AB, Japan, 26 Oct 1950  
Miho AB, Japan, 10 Dec 1950  
Pusan-East AB, South Korea, 17 May 1951-10 May 1952  
Long Beach Muni Aprt, CA, 13 Jun 1952  
March AFB, CA, 14 Oct 1960  
Norton AFB, CA, 25 Apr 1969  
March AFB (later, ARB), 14 Aug 1993

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

452 Bombardment Group, 1 Jun 1943-28 Aug 1945  
452 Bombardment Group, 12 Jul 1947-10 May 1952  
452 Tactical Reconnaissance (later, 452 Bombardment; 452 Troop Carrier) Group, 13 Jun 1952  
452 Troop Carrier Wing, 14 Apr 1959  
943 Troop Carrier (later, 943 Tactical Airlift) Group, 17 Jan 1963  
944 Military Airlift Group, 25 Apr 1969  
445 Military Airlift Wing, 1 Jul 1973  
445 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992  
452 Operations Group, 1 May 1994

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-17, 1943-1945  
Unkn, 1947-1948  
T-6, 1948-1950  
T-7, 1948-1950  
T-11, 1948-1950  
B-26, 1949-1952  
T-6, 1952-1954  
F-51, 1953-1954  
T-33, 1954-1955  
F-80, 1954-1955  
B-26, 1955-1957  
C-46, 1957-1958  
C-119, 1958-1969  
C-141, 1969

### **COMMANDERS**

None (not manned), 1 Jun-8 Jul 1943  
Maj John J. Jewett, 9 Jul 1943  
Maj Archie S. Adair, by Sep 1943  
Maj Carl M. Thomajan, Oct 1944

Maj Edward A. Steedman, 11 Nov 1944  
Cpt John A. Sanda, 18 Dec 1944  
Maj Henry C. Althaus, c. 10 Jan-c. 24 Jun 1945  
Unkn, Jul-28 Aug 1945  
Unkn, 12 Jul 1947-Jun 1948  
LTC Roger B. Piles, by Jul 1948  
LTC Arthur R. Reaume, by Aug 1950  
LTC Donald J. MacLellan, 22 Dec 1950  
Cpt William W. McDannel (temporary), 7 May 1951  
Maj Floyd C. Lawrence, Jr., 16 May 1951  
Maj Stanley J. Nixon, 9 Jun 1951  
Maj Robert M. Hackney, Oct 1951  
Maj Warner M. Brundrett, 16 Nov 1951  
LTC Albert C. Hegenberger, 9 Jan-10 May 1952  
Unkn, 13 Jun 1952-Jun 1954  
LTC T. F. Rafael, Jul 1954  
LTC Samuel S. Mines, Jan 1957  
Maj William Lyon, Jun 1962-Jan 196  
Unkn, Feb 1963-Mar 1969  
LTC James E. McAdoo, 25 Apr 1969  
LTC Albert A. Sparlis, 19 Oct 1970  
LTC Charles B. Coleman III, 28 Feb 1971  
Col Donald C. Hart, 29 Sep 1974  
LTC Everett G. Orozco, 17 Sep 1978  
LTC Donald B. Dik, 22 Sep 1979  
LTC Robert M. Miranda, 27 Oct 1980  
LTC Joseph P. Moore III, by Jun 1981  
Col Fredrick L. Schuster, 10 Jul 1982  
Col John H. Heslin, 29 Jul 1985  
LTC Edwin R. Ganoung, 25 Jun 1988  
LTC Larry W. McKellar, 1 Dec 1989  
LTC Robert J. Massey, 23 Oct 1993

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace  
Central Europe  
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Korea  
UN Offensive  
CCF Intervention  
First UN Counteroffensive  
CCF Spring Offensive  
UN Summer-Fall Offensive  
Second Korean Winter  
Korea Summer-Fall, 1952

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

**Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
Germany, 7 Apr 1945  
Korea, 9 Jul-27 Nov 1951  
Korea, 28 Nov 1951-30 Apr 1952

**Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards**

1 Jul 1970-30 Jun 1971  
1 Sep 1985-31 Aug 1987  
1 Sep 1995-31 Aug 1996  
1 Sep 1997-31 Aug 1999

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation  
27 Oct 1950-27 Oct 1951

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm  
25 Jul 1968-28 Jan 1973

**EMBLEM**





Approved, 29 Apr 1980; modified, 2 May 1995

#### **MOTTO**

#### **NICKNAME**

#### **OPERATIONS**

Combat in ETO, 5 Feb 1944-21 Apr 1945. Combat in Korea, 2 Nov 1950-9 May 1952. Airlifted personnel and cargo worldwide, 1960-. Missions also included humanitarian relief, aeromedical flights, and airdrops of supplies and paratroopers.

24 August 1950 Two B-26 Invaders of the 729th Bombardment Squadron (Light), 452d Bombardment Group (Light), based at George AFB, California, collide in flight over El Mirage Dry Lake, 10 miles NW of Victorville, California. B-26B, 44-34174, piloted by Ouris H. Cuerton, and B-26B, 44-34677, piloted by Lyle N. Leavitt, both crash with crew fatalities during attempted bail-outs.

729 military airlift squadron (mas) airlifted 50 soldiers to panama for operation just cause; 730 mas participated in one of the largest army airborne operations since wwii, delivering 1300 parachutists to fort bragg, nc. Unit participated in patriot spirit,

729 airlift squadron (as) participated in ground-loading training mission at kirtland air force base (afb) nm in support of the nuclear emergency survey team from los alamos nm 12-14 jan. 729 as flew to hill afb ut and cherry point nc in support of anglico unit united states navy during a joint airborne air force training mission. Several missions flown at yuma proving grounds az. 1996

730 airlift squadron flew several missions in support of 301 fighter wing (fw) for operations deny flight and decisive edge. 729 airlift squadron flew a mission to germany, kuwait, italy and

Spain, in support of operations joint endeavor and decisive edge. March Air Force Base CA redesignated March Air Reserve Base CA. 1996

1996 729 Airlift Squadron participated in ground-loading training mission at Kirtland AFB, NM in support of the nuclear emergency survey team from Los Alamos NM 12-14 Jan. 1996

729 As Flew to Hill AFB UT and Cherry Point NC in support of Anglico Unit United States Navy during a Joint Airborne Air Force TRAINING MISSION. 1996

**26 August 2011** - A 15-person Air Force Reserve crew from the 729th Airlift Squadron, 452nd Air Mobility Wing, March AFB, California, retrieved Delta II rocket debris in Mongolia. The rocket had been launched in early 2011 and retrieval mandatory under the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 and the Rescue and Return Treaty of 1968. The Reservists loaded the rocket debris onto their C-17 aircraft upon arriving at Chinggis Khan International Airport, Mongolia. The debris included a second-stage fuel tank and two spheres that were filled with hydrogen gas. The Reservists delivered the debris to the Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles AFB, California, for further study.<sup>15</sup>

---

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 16 Jun 2020

Updated:

Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.