

902 TROOP CARRIER GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

902 Troop Carrier Group, Medium established and activated, 15 Jan 1963

Organized in the Reserve, 11 Feb 1963

Inactivated, 25 Jan 1966

Redesignated 902 Military Airlift Group, 31 Jul 1985

Inactivated

STATIONS

Grenier AFB, NH, 11 Feb 1963 – 25 Jan 1966

ASSIGNMENTS

94 Troop Carrier Wing, 11 Feb 1963 – 25 Jan 1966

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-119

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

11 Feb 63-In a command-wide reorganization, the 902nd Troop Carrier Group (TCG) was activated at Grenier AFB. The 732nd TCS became a subordinate unit to that group, and most of the other units at Grenier that supported the 732nd TCS were assigned to the 902nd TCG. Lt. Col Gardner W. Mills was appointed Commanding Officer, 902nd TCG.

During period 902nd TCG operated 16 C-119G aircraft that flew for a total of 1599 hours.

NH ANG officials announced plans to move the 157th ATG from Grenier AFB to Pease AFB, NH on same schedule as 902nd TCG. The 6594th Instrument Squadron slated to remain at Grenier and New Boston.

The 817th Combat Support Group (CSG) requested 902nd TCG to airlift 8,400 lb. of firefighting foam due to aircraft emergency at Pease AFB.

31 Mar 65-USAF decision to inactivate 43 AFR Recovery groups with 112 Recovery Squadrons caused many of the 50 members of the 9116th ARRS at Grenier AFB to be reassigned to units within the 902nd TCG.

19 Nov 65-Eight C-119s ferried from Grenier AFB to the 906 TCG at Clinton Co. AFB, OH. The 902nd borrowed a C-119 from its parent wing at Hanscom Field to maintain aircrew proficiency. All but 2 aircrew members to be reassigned to other units.

25 Jan 66-Special Order G-128 issued by CONAC officially inactivating the 902nd TCG as of this date.

30 Jan 66-Lt. Col. Gardner W. Mills departed Manchester for new assignment as Commanding Officer, 904 TCG at Stewart AFB, NY.

In October 1962, President Kennedy activated the 902nd Troop Carrier Group (TCG) of the Air Force Reserve at Grenier because of the Cuban Missile Crisis. The unit was returned to reserve status after six weeks. But for those six weeks, MHT operated without either its military or civilian manager, since both Lt. Col. Gardner Mills and William Depuy were called to active duty. Depuy heard his unit had been activated while at a restaurant Saturday night; his phone call came at three o'clock Sunday morning and, by dawn, all 18 of the 902nd TCG's aircraft, and all its personnel, were flying south to the Carolinas.

A few weeks after the assassination of President Kennedy, a phone call from the Pentagon on December 13, 1963 informed Lt. Col. Mills of plans to move the 902nd TCG to Pease Air Force Base by June 1966. The handwriting was on the wall, prompting a series of high-level meetings in Manchester and Washington, D.C., over the next couple of years to determine the fate of New Hampshire's aviation jewel.

The NHANG's 133rd Air Transport Squadron also encompassed the 133rd Aeromedical Evacuation Flight. The 6594th Instrument Squadron was spared the move east, remaining at New Boston Satellite Tracking Station. The NHANG units consisted of nearly 600 airmen and 70 officers. Meanwhile, the Air Force Reserve's 902nd TCG had 553 members assigned to its enlisted ranks and 97 assigned officers at the end of 1964.

The CONAC issued Special Order G-128 inactivating the 902nd TCG at Grenier Field on January 25, 1966. Five days later, Lt. Col. Gardner w. Mills left to assume command of the 904th TCG at Stewart Air Force Base in Newburgh, NY.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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