

12 AIRLIFT FLIGHT



MISSION

LINEAGE

12 Transport Squadron constituted, 1 Jan 1938
Activated, 1 Dec 1940
Redesignated 12 Troop Carrier Squadron, 5 Jul 1942
Inactivated, 31 Jul 1945
Activated, 30 Sep 1946
Redesignated 12 Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 1 Jul 1948
Redesignated 12 Troop Carrier Squadron, Heavy, 5 Nov 1948
Redesignated 12 Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 16 Nov 1949
Discontinued and inactivated, 8 Jan 1961
Redesignated 12 Airlift Flight, 1 Apr 1993
Activated, 1 May 1993
Inactivated, 31 Jul 2005

STATIONS

Olmsted Field, PA, 1 Dec 1940
Mitchel Field, NY, 20 May 1941
Westover Field, MA, 16 Dec 1941-20 May 1942
Chelveston, England, 10 Jun 1942
Aldermaston, England, 7 Aug 1942
Tafaraoui, Algeria, 8 Nov 1942
Relizane, Algeria, 30 Nov 1942
Thiersville, Algeria, 20 May 1943

El Djem, Tunisia, 29 Jun 1943
Gela, Sicily, 6 Sep 1943 (air echelon operated from Comiso, Sicily, 22 Oct-9 Nov 1943)
Gerbini, Sicily, 9 Nov 1943
Brindisi, Italy, 29 Mar 1944
Pomigliano, Italy, 7 Oct 1944-May 1945
Waller Field, Trinidad, 4 Jun-31 Jul 1945
Rhein/Main AB, Germany, 30 Sep 1946
Munich, Germany, 1 Nov 1946
Templehof AB, Germany, 5 May 1947
Rhein/Main AB, Germany, 20 Jan 1948
Kaufbeuren AB, Germany, 17 Apr 1948
Wiesbaden AB, Germany, 24 Dec 1948
Rhein/Main AB, Germany, 26 Sep 1949
Wiesbaden, Germany, 20 Oct 1949
Rhein/Main AB, Germany, 7 Jul 1950
Dreux AB, France, 13 Sep 1955-8 Jan 1961
Langley AFB, VA, 1 May 1993

ASSIGNMENTS

60 Transport (later 60 Troop Carrier) Group, 1 Dec 1940-31 Jul 1945
60 Troop Carrier Group, 30 Sep 1946
60 Troop Carrier Wing, 12 Mar 1957
322 Air Division, 25 Sep 1958-8 Jan 1961
1 Operations Group, 1 May 1993

ATTACHMENTS

60 Troop Carrier Wing, 15 Nov 1956-11 Mar 1957

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-47A, 1942-1945
C-47, 1946-1948
C-54, 1948-1949
C-82A, 1949-1953
C-119G, 1953-1960
C-21, 1993

COMMANDERS

1st Lt Arthur L. Logan, 1 Dec 1940-16 May 1941

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II
American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Algeria-French Morocco with Arrowhead
Tunisia
Sicily
Naples-Foggia
Rome-Arno
North Apennines
Po Valley
Air Combat
EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
MTO, [2 Apr]-15 Sep 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
8 Jul-10 Aug 1960
[1 May] 1993-30 Apr 1994

EMBLEM



12 Troop Carrier Squadron emblem

12 Airlift Flight approved, 7 Feb 1994

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

During World War II, participated in airborne invasions of North Africa, Sicily, and Greece; airlifted supplies to partisans in the Balkans; and transported personnel and equipment in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations.

Took part in the Berlin Airlift, 1948-1949.

Provided airlift service for USAFE, 1946-1960.

C-119 53-8140 Damaged, ground collision with B-26 at RAF Prestwick, Scotland, 14 OCT 55, no fatalities.

5 March 1960 A C-119G, 53-8152A, departed Adana, Turkey with 3 crew, 15 passengers and 7,614 lbs. of cargo, made a fuelling stop at Athens, Greece, departing at 1600 hrs. for Naples, Italy. Two hours into an expected 3:02 flight, the port engine began to over-speed. Attempts to cut off and/or feather the propeller failed and the aircraft lost altitude. The pilot elected to shut down the engine by turning off the fire wall shut off. The engine did stop, but the propeller shaft sheared with the propeller wind-milling at an increased rate. The aircraft began to descend at a rate of 500 feet per minute. Realizing that the aircraft will not reach the chosen emergency airfield, at Crotone, Italy, the pilot circled the aircraft over the small town of Botricello ordering the passengers and radio operator to bail out - all landing safely with only minor injuries. Pilot Harold Clifton Hardesty and co-pilot Harry Francis Dawley, Jr. then landed the C-119 on the nearby beach at 1830 hrs. (dusk) with gear down, full flaps, landing light on, with an approach speed of 120 kts. and touch-down at 90 kts. The roll out was straight for 800-1,000 feet before the C-119 veered to the right and into the water, with the cockpit filling to about the level of the side window. The two crew evacuated through the top hatch, sliding off the left wing and swam ashore. Although the plane had stopped basically intact, the wave action overnight destroyed the airframe.

C-119 53-8152 - Crashed, engine failure near Nova Siri, Italy, 13 MAR 60, no fatalities.

C-21 operational support aircraft were assigned to the Wing on 1 April 1993 with the establishment of Detachment 1, 1st Operations Group. On 1 May, the detachment inactivated and the 12 Airlift Flight, with the same mission, activated.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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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.