

18th AIRLIFT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

18th Ferrying Squadron constituted, 18 Feb 1942

Activated, 27 Apr 1942

Redesignated 18th Transport Squadron, 19 Mar 1943

Disbanded, 31 Oct 1943

Reconstituted and redesignated 18th Air Transport Squadron, Medium, 22 Mar 1954

Activated, 18 Jul 1954

Redesignated 18th Air Transport Squadron, Heavy, 1 Jan 1962

Redesignated 18th Military Airlift Squadron, 8 Jan 1966

Discontinued and inactivated, 15 Jun 1966

Activated, 11 Jul 1968

Organized, 1 Aug 1968

Redesignated 18th Airlift Squadron, 1992

Inactivated, 1 July 1995

STATIONS

March Field, CA, 10 Jul 1941-6 Jun 1942

Hamilton Field, Ca, 27 Apr 1942-31 Oct 1943

McGuire AFB, NJ, 18 Jul 1954-8 Jun 1966

McGuire AFB, NJ, 1 Aug 1968 - 1995

ASSIGNMENTS

Pacific Sector, Air Corps Ferrying Command, 27 Apr 1942

25th Wing, Army Air Forces Ferrying Command (later, South Pacific Wing, Air Transport Command), 23 Jun 1942

11th Ferrying Group, 28 Jul 1942-31 Oct 1943

1611th Air Transport Group, 18 Jul 1954

1611th Air Transport Wing, 18 Jan 1963

438th Military Airlift Wing, 8 Jan-8 Jun 1966

Military Airlift Command, 11 Jul 1968

438th Military Airlift Wing, 1 Aug 1968

438th Military Airlift Group, 1 Oct 1978

438th Military Airlift Wing, 1 Jun 1980–30 Sep 1994

305th Operations group, 1 Oct 1994–1 Jul 1995

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-118, 1954-1961

C-135A, 1961

C-135B

C-141, 1968-1995

COMMANDERS

Capt Ralph B Tew, 27 Apr-unkn 1942

Unkn, 1942-24 Jun 1943

1LT G C Hopkins, 25 Jun-unkn 1943

LTC Augustin Rapisardi, 18 Jul 1954

Maj Ralph I Leslie, 13 Feb. 1956

Maj Wallace G Matthews, unkn-1959

LTC Charles G Dennis, Unkn-1961

LTC Kenneth P Christiansen, 1 Jun 1962

LTC Roy W Coffman, 1 Feb – 8 Jun 1966

LTC Vernon N Luber, 1 Aug 1968

LTC Raymond E Johnson, 23 Aug 1969

LTC Ralph R Ruyle Jr. 4 Mar 1971

LTC Kenneth A. Anderson, 10 May 1971

LTC John J McGuire, Jr. 13 May 1974

LTC Donald A Logeais. 1 Feb 1976

LTC Jackie D Bryant, 1 Jul 1976

LTC Charles W Hardie, 1 Dec 1978

LTC John A Jackson, Jr., 3 Mar 1980
LTC Edwin E Tenoso, 23 Feb 1981
LTC William B Morrison III, 23 Apr 1982

HONORS

Service Streamers

American Theater (WWII)

Campaign Streamers

Southwest Asia: Defense of Saudi Arabia
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Panama, 1989-1990

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1966-30 Jun 1967

1 Jul 1967-[8] Jun 1968

1 Jul 1982-30 Jun 1984

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Aug 1968 – 28 Jan 1973

EMBLEM



A light blue lozenge (diamond shape) within a narrow yellow border. The lower half bearing a

white cloud formation shaded gray and outlined black, surmounted by a blue demi-sphere with a diagonal, to viewer's upper left, white grid lines and black rim. In the upper half of the lozenge a stylized black dart trailing a wedge-shaped white and black vapor trail. Below the lozenge a black blank scroll. The Globe alludes to global mission the clouds represent all-weather capability. The dart plane form symbolizes modern and projected aerospace vehicles. The blue background indicates sky and space. (Approved, 22 Oct 1963)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

From activation in April until July 1942 the 18th ferried aircraft from the United States to the South Pacific and Southwest Pacific theaters of operations. Most flights originated from McClellan field and proceeded via the Hawaiian Islands, Christmas Island, Canton Island, Fiji Islands, and New Caledonia, to Australia. From July 1942 until disbandment in October 1943, the 18th serviced outbound aircraft, briefed crews of these aircraft and controlled flights until they reached Hawaii.

Reactivated on 18 Jul 1954, at McGuire AFB, NJ, under the Military Air Transport Service (MATs). Became operational in September, flying C-118's to transport passengers cargo, and mail to South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia, as well as within the U.S.. Participated in operations, exercises, and maneuvers of the U.S. armed services; transported important U.S. and foreign officials: and provided airlift support for the United Nations (UN). In December 1956 and January 1957 airlifted over 9,700 Hungarian refugees from Rhein Main AB, West Germany to the United States.

In 1961 began flying C-135's. The first major airlift with these new aircraft was to the Arctic with 2,300 Army personnel for cold weather training.

In 1963 participated in the airlift of UN forces and cargo to the Congo and airlifted personnel and cargo to New Zealand in support of Antarctic operations. Changed in 1965 from mostly European flights to airlift support of forces in Vietnam. Participated in an airlift to the Dominican Republic in March 1965 with US forces to preserve order. On 1 Feb 1966, shortly after being designated the 18th Military Airlift Squadron (MAS), all personnel were reassigned, and on 15 Jun 1966 the squadron inactivated.

Became a C-141 squadron when activated in July and organized in August 1968. On 15 August, flew its first mission--to Southeast Asia (SEA). Most regularly scheduled flights through 1969 were to SEA in support of the Vietnam Conflict. Typically, the trip from McGuire AFB and back took from five to seven days. Again in March-June 1972, flights to SEA took a major share of C-141 missions. With the exception of SEA missions, the 18th MAS usually flew transatlantic missions to Greenland, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Each year from activation in 1968 to 1974, resupplied scientific stations in the Antarctic involved in Operation Deep Freeze. For three or four

months each year, between October and February, flew to New Zealand from McGuire, and then shuttled from New Zealand to the Antarctic.

Provided airlift support for Presidential and Vice-Presidential trips within the U.S. and overseas. Supported NASA's Apollo program through 1971. Frequently flew humanitarian missions for relief of victims of earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, and snowstorms; including flights to Pakistan in 1970 and 1971; Managua, Nicaragua, in 1972 and 1973; Guatemala, Italy, and Turkey in 1976; the Dominican Republic in 1978; and the Yemen Arab Republic in December 1982. Provided, on occasion, airlift for the U.S. State Department and in April 1972 transported two musk oxen to China in exchange for two giant pandas. Airlifted supplies to Israel, 13 October-14 November, in support of that country's defense against its Arab neighbors. Provided airlift of UN peace Keeping forces to the Middle East after the ceasefire, between 19 November and 16 December 1973. Participated, April-June 1975, in airlift of Vietnamese refugees from SEA to the United States. Airlifted French and Belgian troops to Zaire in May and June 1978 to protect and evacuate Europeans threatened by civil war. In July-October 1980, helped airlift an F-4 wing to Egypt in support of first joint USAF/Egyptian Air Force exercise.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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