

19th MILITARY AIRLIFT SQUADRON (SPECIAL)



MISSION

LINEAGE

19th Logistics Support Squadron established, 1 Sep 1952
Activated, 23 Sep 1952
Redesignated 19th Air Transport Squadron (Special), 8 Jul 1964
Redesignated 19th Military Airlift Squadron (Special), 1 Jan 1966
Inactivated, 22 Dec 1969

STATIONS

Kelly AFB, TX,

ASSIGNMENTS

San Antonio Air Materiel Area, 24 Nov 1952
3079th Aviation Depot Wing, 6 Feb 1955
39th Logistics Support Group, 1 Jul 1962
62nd Air Transport Wing, 1 Jan 1965
62nd Military Airlift Wing, 8 Jan 1966-22 Dec 1969

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-124A
C-124C

COMMANDERS

LTC T. J. Witt, #1954

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The first C-124 assigned at Kelly arrived in September 1952 for the new organization. Within just a year, the pilots and crews of the 19th Logistics Support Squadron were hauling more cargo than any other freight-hauling unit on Kelly. In September 1953, the squadron ferried 662 thousand pounds of cargo in just thirty-two hours of flying time.

Effective 6 Feb 1955, the 19th LSS was removed from the jurisdiction of the San Antonio Air Materiel Area and assigned to the 3079th Aviation Depot Wing at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. For logistical support, the squadron was attached to the 2851st Air Base Wing at Kelly AFB.

The 19th's safety record was truly amazing. In over thirteen years, it had only one accident. Flying relief supplies to hurricane and flood victims in the British West Indies in August 1956, one of its C-124 aircraft landed short of the runway, crashed and burned. One crew member died, but the others received only minor injuries.

During the first half of 1957, the squadron participated, under AMC Operations Orders, in "Rear Door", "Down Beat", "Leap Frog", "Boot Heel", "Dum Dum", "Rat Tail", "Hop Toad", "Low Tide", and "Total Rest".

The last half of 1957 saw the squadron participating in several other AMC Operations Orders, details of which were still classified when the historical data were written. The only information given other than the names of the Operations, was the fact that all were completed without incident.

The first half of 1958 saw the squadron participate in AMC Operations "Big Dog", "Blow Out", and "Pony Boy". Once again, the details were classified at the time the history was documented. All were completed without incident.

In late 1960, the squadron traded its 13 C-124A aircraft for "C" models, the first arriving from the 28th LSS on 15 November. The change from 13 to 18 airplanes complicated operations somewhat in that the unit didn't have as much ramp space as it needed to accommodate the airplanes.

On April 18, 1962, as part of an effort to reduce personnel at the headquarters level, AFLC announced the inactivation of the 3097th; Kelly's Directorate of Special Weapons would pick up its responsibilities on July 1. On that date, SAAMA activated the 39th Logistics Support Group, assigning to it the two logistics support squadrons which provided airlift support (the 7th at Robins AFB, Georgia, and the 19th at Kelly) and the two aviation depot squadrons. The 39th was short-lived; on July 1, 1963, SAAMA deactivated the group; the 7th and 19th Logistics Support Squadrons were reassigned to the Military Airlift Transportation Service.

The squadron received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, for its participation in the Cuban Missile Crisis, in April 1963. This was followed by a letter of appreciation from the Secretary of Defense for the squadron's efforts during Project Dominic.

As a part of the Military Airlift Command, successor to Military Air Transport Service, the 19th's job was to provide military airlift of personnel and cargo in either a wartime or peacetime environment in support of MAC'S global mission.

As a result, the Kelly-based squadron saw service during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1963, earning an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, and hauled cargo to Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War.

On November 13, 1969, the last C-124, carrying helicopters to Tan Son Nhut Air Base in South Vietnam, "lunged" from Kelly's concrete runway on the final mission flown by the 19th Military Airlift Squadron.

The 19th, a victim of defense cutbacks, was inactivated on December 22, 1969. The deactivation of the unit, and its final C-124 flight, marked an end to another year of Kelly history.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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

Unit Yearbook. San Antonio Air Materiel Area, *Hq And Misc Personnel, Kelly Air Force Base, 1954*. Army and Navy Publishing Co. Baton Rouge, LA. 1954.