

## 1254 AIR TRANSPORT WING



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

*1254 Air Transport Group (Special Missions)*

*Redesignated 1254 Air Transport Group (Heavy), 20 Sep 1954*

*Redesignated 1254 Air Transport Wing, 1 Dec 1960*

Inactivated 8 Jan 1966

### STATIONS

Washington National Airport, WA DC

Andrews AFB, MD, 10 Jul 1961

### ASSIGNMENTS

### WEAPON SYSTEMS

### COMMANDERS

Col Philip H. Best, 31 Jul 1953

Col Howard E. Kreidler

Col Grover J. Dunkleberg, 28 Jun 1958

Col Clare T. Ireland, 29 Jul 1961

Col Harland C. Wilder, 4 Aug 1964

### HONORS

**Service Streamers**

## Campaign Streamers

## Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

## Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jan 1962-31 Dec 1963

## EMBLEM



A shield azure, issuing from base, clouds proper supporting a sphere of the last, encircle with an orbit argent, lined vert, surmounted by an eagle volant or, wings, tail feathers and legs highlighted. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The eagle encircling the world represents the Wing mission service. The eagle was primarily chosen because of its symbolism of the United States as well as its natural with flight.

A competitive contest was held in November 1954, and A/2C Harold C. Shaug, Jr., (a sign painter in the 1254th's Air Installations Section) was selected from four others by Colonel Philip H. Best, Commander of the 1254th Air Transport Group, Washington National Airport, Washington, D. C., and his staff. A/2C Shaug's entry won him \$15.00. The emblem shows a bald eagle centered on a ribbon-encircled globe. The ribbon bears the 1254th's slogan, "Experto Credo." Translated freely, the slogan means, "Trust One Who Has Had Experience." The eagle is, of course, symbolic of flight. The unit emblem of the 1254th Air Transport Group was later adopted by the 89th Military Airlift Wing on 28 March 1966. The original emblem was approved in 1955. Today, (1988), the same emblem is proudly used by the 89th Military Airlift Wing, Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland.

On the emblem, the eagle encircling the world represents the Group's mission of global service.

On 28 March 1966, the 89th Military Airlift Wing was granted approval to use the emblem of the

1254th Air Transport Group, the former unit who flew Special Air Missions.

### **MOTTO**

EXPERTO CREDE - Trust One Who Has Had Experience

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

1 August 1952 As air travel gained greater acceptance, there were more and more high level requests for domestic VIP airlift support. To make room for its expanded operation, the 1254th Air Transport Squadron was redesignated the 1254th Air Transport Group (Special Missions). The new Group was divided into two squadrons. The 1298th ATS was given the responsibility for overseas missions and continued to operate its four-engine aircraft at National Airport. The 1299th Air Transport Squadron moved across the Potomac River to Boiling AFB and handled domestic missions with its twin engine Convairs.

The 1254th Air Transport Group was advised by Headquarters USAF that three multi-engined, Boeing 707, jet transports had been ordered for assignment to the special mission fleet as replacements for three C-121A aircraft. The military designation of these jets would be VC-137A and were programmed for delivery, one each in April, May and June 1959. Since adequate facilities for jet aircraft did not exist at Washington National Airport, these three new aircraft would be based at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland. As a result of this program, liaison was established with Andrews Air Force Base, Headquarters Command, Headquarters USAF, and Headquarters MATS for the development of adequate facilities. An agreement involving base support functions was drawn up and agreed to by both this headquarters and Andrews Air Force Base.

The 1254th Air Transport Group, Medium (Special Mission) provided aerial transport for the President of the United States and other high ranking dignitaries of the United States and foreign governments.

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USAF Unit Histories  
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#### Sources

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

Unit history. *89<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Wing, "Flight of Excellence, A Chronology of SAM FOX, a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary."* 29 Sep 1988.