

1812 AIRWAYS AND AIR COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

1812 Airways and Air Communications Service Group

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The Soviets frequently delayed and harassed Allied supply shipments along the land routes to Berlin. Finally, on 24 June 1948, the Soviets blockaded the land routes to Berlin in an attempt to force the Allies to abandon the city and its 2.5 million Germans residing in the free zones. Lt Gen Lucius D. Clay, the American high commissioner in Germany, remained firm. He telephoned General LeMay, commanding the United States Air Forces in Europe, to ask him if he could fly in 45 tons of emergency supplies. General LeMay managed to round up a handful of C-47 transport aircraft which flew in 80 tons of food and medicines. When it became apparent that the blockade was going to last more than several days, a Combined Airlift Task Force was formed with the British. The French did not participate since they had no available transport aircraft. Aircraft flying supplies to Berlin were loaded at the air bases at Rhein-Main and Wiesbaden in the American

Zone and Fassberg and Celle in the British Zone of West Germany. The heavily laden aircraft then flew to Tempelhof in the American Zone and Gatow in the British Zone of Berlin. The 1946th **AACS Squadron, a unit of the 1812th AACS Group**, handled all air operations in the Berlin area. A third airfield, called Tegel, was built in the French Zone of Berlin and began operations in November 1948. The task for personnel of the 1946th AACS Squadron was no easier. Theirs was the crucial job of providing the airways communications and the air traffic control services, which enabled each aircraft to land safely despite poor weather conditions and difficult approaches. Other factors further complicated AACS's job. The airfields lacked adequate equipment and personnel to handle the volume of traffic precipitated by the airlift.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.